



## **PHAB accreditation application filed**

I am pleased to tell you that March 31, 2017, IDPH submitted our application to the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) (PHAB) for national accreditation. We have been working strategically towards this goal for the last year and a half and teams are already collecting the documentation we will submit. Through the process, we've found some things we are doing very well, some things we need to document more clearly, and other things we need to start doing. This work is part of a journey towards a culture of quality and we consider accreditation a demonstration of our ability to meet best practices. The department plans to submit all documentation to PHAB in December 2017.

## **West Union on the move**

[Gundersen Palmer Community Health](#) is a nonprofit hospital-based public health department serving the residents of Fayette County. With a 40 percent adult obesity rate, the county's 2015 CHNA-HIP survey showed the number one concern among adult residents was obesity. To address this issue, the county collaborated with local city government, regional stakeholders, and schools to launch the West Union Walkability Initiative this month. The partnership includes daily Walking School Buses, Whistle Walks, five new Little Libraries, and a community Walking Map.

## **Opioid workshop for community health workers**

CDC and [HRSA](#) are sponsoring a free workshop on opioid addiction and abuse May 22, 2017, for public health workers. Space is limited for the workshop in Kansas City, Missouri. Registration and more information are available [here](#).

## **Healthy Iowans 2017-2021**

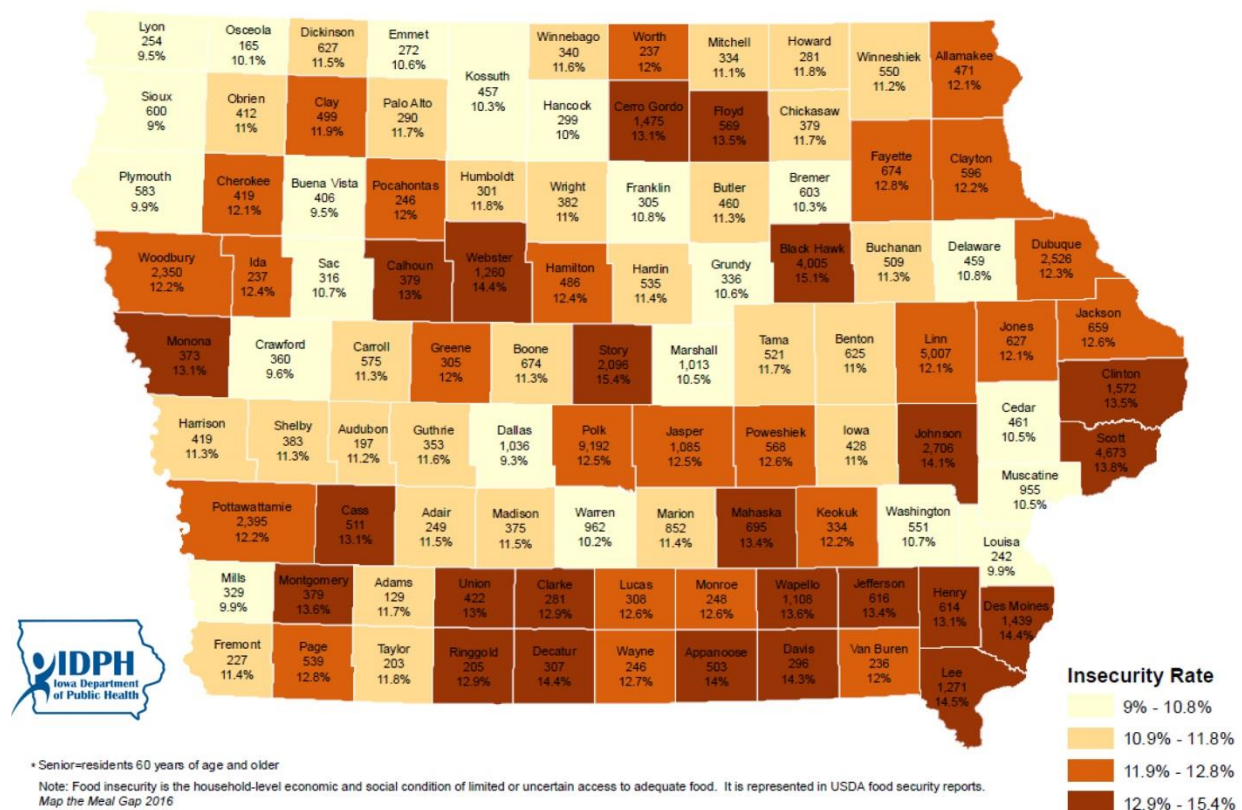
The [Healthy Iowans: Iowa's Health Improvement Plan 2017-2021](#) includes goals, objectives, strategies, and resources to protect and improve the health of Iowans over the next five years. An assessment process in every county determined the top 26

health issues in the state. Each year, progress on the plan will be tracked and revisions will be made to account for changes and emerging issues.

## Monthly data snapshot

Data are essential to the practice of public health. Each month, Quick Reads highlights selected tidbits to help create awareness of IDPH data and epidemiology. Explore more data with the [IDPH Public Health Tracking Portal](#).

### County-level Rates of Senior Food Insecurity\*



Food insecurity (as represented in the USDA Food Security Report) is the household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. The percent represented in each county is the county-level rate of food insecurity (Map the Meal Gap, 2016). That percent was then applied to the number of seniors in each county to obtain the percent of food insecure seniors in each county.

To obtain the food insecurity estimates the following variables were used: unemployment rate, poverty rate, home ownership rate, and other demographic variables that are publicly available at both the county and state level. County-level estimates were derived from the state-level relationships that exist between these variables and food insecurity. Food-insecurity estimates at the county level may be less stable from year to year than those at the state or national level due to smaller geographies, particularly in counties with very small populations.

## **Congrats and kudos**

Congratulations to Iowa Public Health Veterinarian and Deputy State Epidemiologist, Dr. Ann Garvey, on selection to receive the [2017 University of Iowa College of Public Health Outstanding Alumni Award](#). Dr. Garvey will be recognized at the College of Public Health Graduation Reception and Honors ceremony on May 12, 2017.

Congratulations to former Director Amy Marlow, BA, RN, on her retirement after 28 years with [Buchanan County Public Health](#). Tai Burkhart, MPH, BSN, RN, has transitioned into the director's role.

The IDPH [Ryan White Part B](#) team is featured in the HRSA biennial report [The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Highlights 2016: Improving Health Outcomes Through Data Utilization](#).

Congratulations to Ellen Maahs of the [IDPH Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Management](#), who submitted the winning entry in the department's internal National Public Health Week hashtag contest. IDPH's social media campaign celebrating National Public Health week featured Ellen's entry, "#WeArePublicHealth," throughout the observance (April 3-9).

The [CDC National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB](#) identified the IDPH Viral Hepatitis Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan (part of the CDC hepatitis grant) as one of the best in the nation. It will be shared with other states as a model.

## **Stay informed, share your story**

To contribute a news item or smart practice, please write to Polly Carver-Kimm at [Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov).

*To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!*

— Gerd