



Quick Reads

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Budget cuts

Earlier this month, Governor Branstad released his revised [FY17 budget and proposals for fiscal years 2018 and 2019](#). FY17 state revenues are \$110 million below projected increases and state agencies are revising budgets for the remainder of the current fiscal year. The requested IDPH [FY17 budget](#) reduction is 4.25 percent, or about \$2.5 million. Earlier this week, it was reported the Governor and legislative leadership arrived at an agreement that may reduce the impact of the proposed reductions to the department. SF 130 passed the Senate on 1/26/17 by vote of 28-19. The House will take the bill up next week.

Legislative priorities

The [2017 Iowa Legislative Session](#) began Monday, January 9. IDPH is working with the Legislature on a department omnibus bill, which seeks several general updates to the chapter that governs the department, Iowa Code [Chapter 135](#). The bill proposes elimination of non-implemented programs, as well as services or organizations that no longer exist and the removal of outdated language. In addition, IDPH is working with [Iowa Workforce Development](#) to create a 'one-stop' point of state licensing and registration for Iowa plumbers, which is the result of a legislative request two years ago.

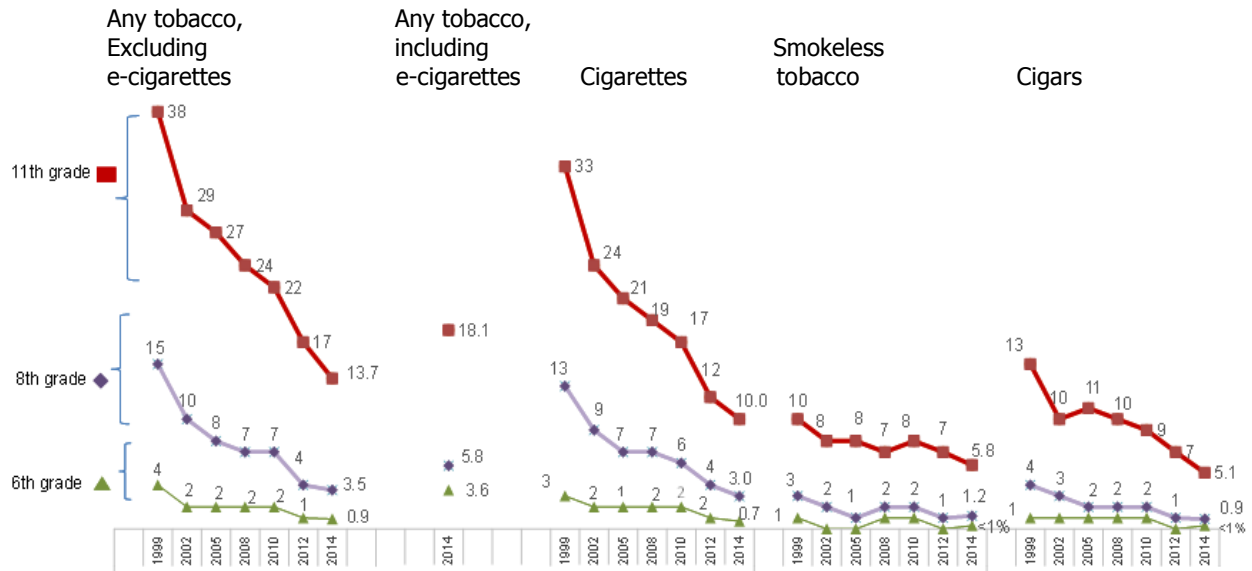
Service contractor training

The IDPH Data Management and Finance programs have recorded a training for data use and subcontracting in service agreements. Service contractors and IDPH program contract managers may view the [video](#) to assist with these 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.

Trends in Youth Tobacco Use*



*Iowa Youth Survey, 1999-2014 (2016 IYS is currently being compiled)

All forms of tobacco use, exclusive of e-cigarette use, fell among all grade levels surveyed between 1999 and 2014. 2014 was the first year data was collected on e-cigarette use.

Strategic Plan

In October of last year, IDPH's leadership began meeting to create a vision for the department's future. With a focus on improving inter-department collaboration, reducing costs, and continuing our work toward making Iowa the healthiest state in the nation, the team created the [2017-2021 IDPH Strategic Plan](#). I encourage you to review the new plan.

Along with updating the Strategic Plan, the team updated the departmental mission statement. Our mission statement now reads 'Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans'. After much discussion, leadership agreed that the word 'improving' is stronger, more active, and more representative of the department's goals. Thank you for your work as we begin a new year with a renewed mission, Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans.

Congrats and kudos

IDPH presented its first annual Employee Recognition awards at a departmental staff meeting last month. Congratulations to staff honored in the following categories:
Customer Service: Nancy Aleccia, Diana Von Stein, and Shalome Lynch.
Quality Improvement: Melissa Bird and the Professional Licensing Kaizen Team (Tony Alden, Judy Manning, Paulette Lappe, Vicky Winter-Clearman)

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.

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

— Gerd