

Quick Reads

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Public health hero

The University of Iowa College of Public Health has named Denise Wheeler, IDPH Family Planning Coordinator and Title X director, a [2017 Iowa Public Health Hero](#). Each year, the college recognizes up to four individuals who have worked to promote a healthier state through wellness and disease prevention initiatives, and demonstrated the values of the College of Public Health, including community engagement, integrity, continuing learning, quality, responsibility and social justice. Denise has guided family planning services for Iowa families during a period of major change in the health system. Congratulations to the other 2017 public health heroes, [Iowa Poison Control Center](#) Executive Director Linda Kalin of Sioux City and Julie Stephens of Cedar Rapids, public health emergency preparedness and disaster recovery specialist at [Linn County Public Health](#).



Pictured above (L-R): Denise Wheeler, Julie Stephens and Linda Kalin

Local public health success story

[Dallas County Public Health](#) received the Model Practice Award at the 2017 Annual Conference of the [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO) in Pittsburgh, PA. The award celebrates local health departments for developing programs that demonstrate exemplary and replicable best practices in response to a critical local public health need.

Dallas County's [Health Navigation Program](#) was one of 41 local health department programs to receive NACCHO's prestigious award. The Health Navigation Program is a component of Dallas County's Iowa SIM Community and Clinical Care (C3) initiative. "This award puts Dallas County Public Health in special company with a select group of health departments that exemplify a forward-thinking, proactive approach toward protecting and promoting the health of communities nationwide," said NACCHO Interim Executive Director and Chief of Government Affairs Laura Hanen, MPP.

The Health Navigation Program is now part of an online, searchable [database](#) of successful public health practices.

Congrats and kudos

Congrats to Pat Markham on more than 30 years of service on the [Cass County](#) Board of Health.

This year's IDPH silent auction raised \$4,500 for the Food Bank of Iowa; additionally, staff donated \$730 and many toys for the Toys for Tots campaign.



IDPH spotlight: BETS



Rebecca Curtiss

The [Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services](#) (BETS) works to prepare for, respond to and recover from medical and public health emergencies. The bureau works with every local public health

agency, all 118 hospitals and trauma centers, over 900 EMS services, and nearly 12,000 EMS providers.

With 26 staff, BETS serves as the lead for the development, implementation, coordination, regulation and evaluation of Iowa's Trauma and EMS system that includes trauma facilities, and EMS providers, programs and training centers.

This year, in collaboration with the Iowa [Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma](#) (ACS-COT) and the [Trauma System Advisory Council](#) (TSAC), BETS implemented the [Stop the Bleed](#) campaign in Iowa. To date, the bureau has trained over 300 Stop the Bleed educators.

Rebecca joined IDPH in 2005 as an emergency planner working with local public health and hospitals. In 2006, she was named bureau chief. Prior to her work at IDPH, Rebecca was the public health administrator for [Warren County](#) and worked as a critical care nurse. She is an original member of the [Blank Children's Hospital Pediatric Transport Team](#).

Rebecca and her husband are avid golfers and she and her father have re-built several vintage Ford Mustangs.

WIC quality improvement

A large part of the [WIC](#) program is providing families with healthy, nutritious foods. In order for participants to know what to buy and for grocery stores to know what they can sell, the WIC state office staff must develop an approved [food list](#). This involves lengthy federal regulations requiring staff to obtain information from food manufacturers to ensure that nutritional requirements are met.

Historically completed every three years, this process resulted in long approval delays for many foods, even though they could be an eligible item. WIC staff wanted to find a way to approve foods more often without creating a huge burden on food manufacturers and staff.

In June 2017, representatives from the [IDPH QI Council](#) assisted WIC staff in evaluating their current approval process. They identified improvements needed to achieve the goal of a quarterly, rather than three-year, review schedule. The QI process included input from manufacturers to incorporate their needs into the process.

Since July 2017, staff have approved 44 new food products. The new process continues to be tested, but it is off to a great start.

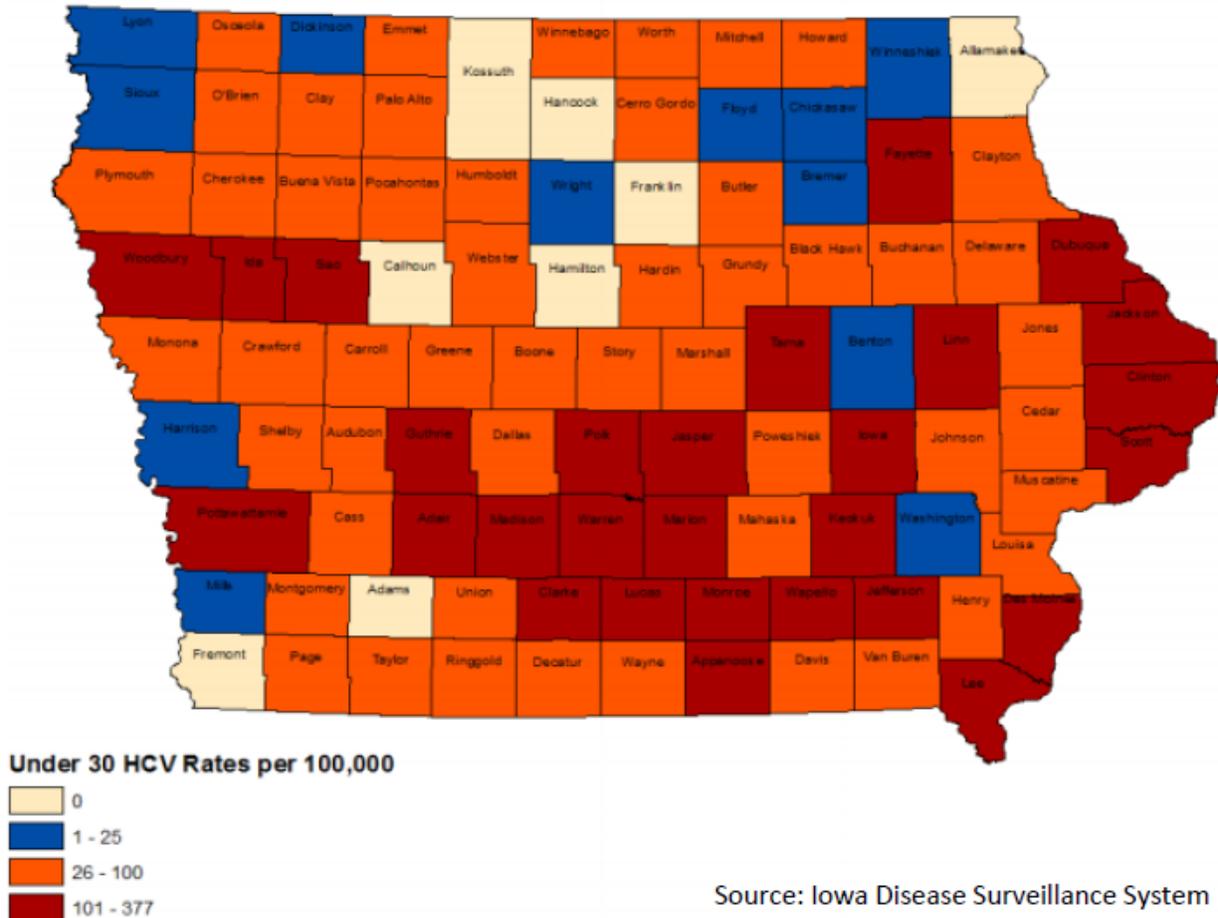


Members of the bureau of [Oral Health & Delivery Systems](#) (pictured) and [Family Health](#) volunteered recently to package meals for [Meals from the Heartland](#).

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](#).

**Rates of HCV in Iowans Under 30 Years Old per 100,000 Population
County of Residence at Diagnosis**



According to the [Iowa Hepatitis C End-of-year 2016 Surveillance Report](#), 23,588 Iowans have ever been reported with Hepatitis C virus (HCV). CDC estimates 45 to 85 percent of people are undiagnosed; therefore, there are potentially between 39,215 and 149,143 Iowans who have hepatitis C. In 2016, there were 2,287 Iowans reported with HCV, which was the largest number of people diagnosed with hepatitis C since reporting began. For more information, subscribe to receive the Bureau of HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Data and Epidemiological [reports](#).

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.

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