PRAMS releases first databook

Since 2011, IDPH has worked in conjunction with the CDC on the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Survey (PRAMS), with data collection beginning in 2013. Since that time, more than 5,000 Iowa mothers have provided information about their experiences and behaviors before, during, and after pregnancy. This data is compiled in the first PRAMS databook of births to Iowa women in calendar year 2013. I encourage you to read this report for useful data regarding demographics of Iowa mothers, pregnancy intention, prenatal care visits, oral health, stress before and during pregnancy, receipt of the flu shot, breastfeeding, infant sleep position and environment, intimate partner violence, mental health care, and more.

Public health heroes

The University of Iowa College of Public Health’s 2015 Iowa Public Health Heroes are being awarded this week and I’m pleased to share two of the recipients are IDPH alumni. Dr. Russell Currier, DVM, MPH, of Clive, Iowa, is executive vice president of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. During Dr. Currier's 29-year tenure at IDPH, he pioneered Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Planning. Also being honored is Jeneane Moody, MPH, of Des Moines, Iowa, executive director of the Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA). We’re proud Ms. Moody began her public health career with IDPH in 2001, serving as a community health consultant until 2005. She has been executive director of IPHA since 2004.

Recognized along with Dr. Currier and Ms. Moody are Gerald Edgar of Garner, Iowa, environmental health and safety officer for Mitas Tires North America; and Jodi
Tomlonvic, MPA, of Des Moines, Iowa, executive director of the Family Planning Council of Iowa. These four leaders’ contributions cross a range of disciplines helping to promote better health and prevent disease throughout the state of Iowa.

Parents as teachers

Deb Weilage, a local Parent Educator at FAMILY Inc. in Council Bluffs, has been named the Parents as Teachers 2015 Parent Educator of the Year. Deb is part of Iowa’s family support program – an effort which IDPH fully supports. The program provides parenting information and support to local families throughout pregnancy until their child enters Kindergarten. In Deb’s eight years as a Parent Educator at FAMILY Inc., she has enrolled 59 families and has provided 3,445 home visits. Her commitment to ensuring the best possible outcomes for all families and children is evident in her daily actions.

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. To discover more of the important and useful data available from IDPH, please visit the Public Health Data Tracking Portal.

Percent of Students Reporting Being Bullied in the Past 30-Days, By Grade

The above figure presents the percentage of students by grade who reported being bullied at school within the last 30 days by being called names, made fun of, or teased in a hurtful way over the last four surveys.
This graph is an example of a new section added to the 2014 Iowa Youth Survey Trend Reports. Rather than only utilizing constructs, these reports now contain 25 individual variable graphs. Inquiries about the IYS may be directed to iowayouthsurvey@idph.iowa.gov.

**Congrats and kudos**

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded Million Hearts® badges to health centers that meet or exceed the Million Hearts® goal of 70 percent on each of the following performance measures: use of aspirin for heart attack and stroke treatment, blood pressure control, and tobacco cessation counseling. Congratulations to the Iowa Million Hearts badge awardees: All Care Health Center, Council Bluffs; Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa, Inc., West Burlington; Peoples Community Health Clinic, Waterloo; Proteus, Inc., Des Moines; River Hills Community Health Center, Ottumwa; Siouxland Community Health Center, Sioux City.

Audrey Klunenberg, a freshman at University of Northern Iowa, has been named a Youth Activism Fellow by Truth Initiative, the largest U.S. non-profit dedicated to inspiring tobacco-free lives. Audrey, from Denver, Iowa, is studying elementary education, special education and art education, and has served as an executive council member for Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention (ISTEP). Audrey’s goal is to develop successful tobacco control advocacy programs for schools in Iowa and help students make smart decisions about their health.

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To get Quick Reads directly in your inbox, please send a blank e-mail to join-quick_reads@lists.ia.gov. 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