



Quick Reads

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May 25, 2016

Zika

Public health agencies at every level are being challenged by the highly-reported outbreak of the [Zika](#) virus, a mosquito-borne virus which has been scientifically linked to babies born with [microcephaly](#) (abnormally small head) and [Guillain Barre Syndrome](#) (GBS) – a rare neurological disorder that can cause partial to complete paralysis, and even death.

While Zika appears to be a low risk public health concern in Iowa, except for individuals traveling to areas of ongoing Zika transmission, the state and local public health agencies will continue to study the emerging health information from CDC and modify our response efforts appropriately, including the education of the public and medical community.

CHNA/HIP

The [Community Health Needs Assessments and Health Improvement Planning](#) (CHNA & HIP) 2016-2020 reports have been analyzed, resulting in the identification of Iowa's top 10 [critical health issues](#):

1. Obesity, Nutrition & Physical Activity
2. Mental Health, Illness & Suicide
3. Access to Mental Health Services
4. Immunizations
5. Alcohol & Binge Drinking
6. Tobacco/Nicotine Use
7. Transportation
8. Access to Physical Activity; Food Access

- 9. Access to Oral/Dental Health
- 10. Diabetes.

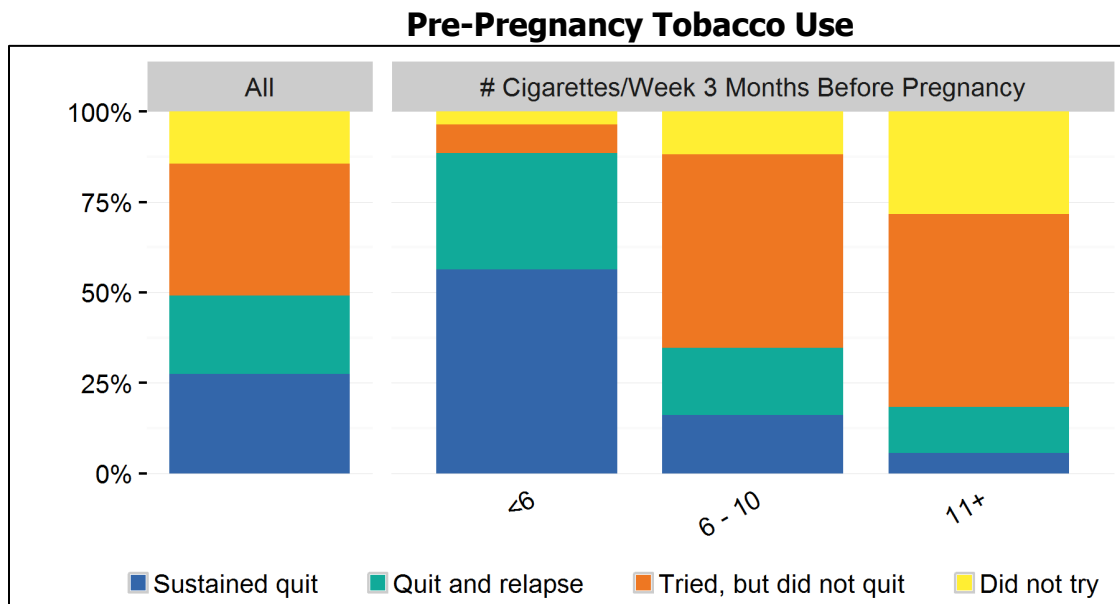
These issues can be considered building blocks for [Healthy Iowans](#) 2017-2021, Iowa’s statewide health improvement plan. Drafting of this plan begins this fall, with the final plan completed in January, 2017.

Legislature adjourns

The end of [Iowa Legislative Session](#) brought many successes for IDPH. First, we achieved our budget goals for FY 2017, which included reallocations to increase funding to the [PRIMECARRE](#) and [Certificate of Need](#) programs, as well as the [Office of Minority and Multicultural Health](#). IDPH also received requested funding for the maternal and child health and oral health data integration project that will benefit eight programs in the bureaus of Family Health and Oral and Health Delivery Systems. Additionally, our [policy bill](#) was signed into law by the Governor March 24. Thank you to everyone who made its passage possible. A complete legislative wrap-up will be coming soon.

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](#).



According to the 2013 PRAMS survey, nearly 25 percent of pregnant women in Iowa smoked at least one cigarette in the three months before their pregnancy. As a major life event, pregnancy offers motivation for women who wish to

quit smoking to successfully do so; however, the associated stress of pregnancy may make quitting more difficult. The more a woman smoked before the pregnancy, the less likely she was to quit during pregnancy and remain smoke-free.

Congrats and kudos

Best wishes to Barb Baker, RN, who has served as an Iowa public health leader for more than 40 years. As Public Health Administrator for over 20 of those years, Barb has led a team of staff dedicated to the health and well-being of [Des Moines County](#). Barb was instrumental in working with the school, community, local and state agencies to implement a successful STD testing event in a high school setting.

Congratulations to the IDPH [Bureau of Professional Licensure](#), whose staff renewed 8,905 licenses and answered 5,113 phone calls during the bureau's busiest renewal cycle of the year, February 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016.

The University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center has been honored with the [2016 Safe States Alliance President's Award](#).

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

— Gerd