



Quick Reads

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IDPH policy bill

I was proud to join many of our public health partners for Governor Branstad's formal signing of the [Public Health Flexibility](#) bill (SF 2159) late last month. The bill allows for more flexibility in local decision making, including allowing the local boards of health to make their own decision about getting accredited and it lays out a process for voluntarily merging local boards of health into district boards. It removes Code language that has become outdated, and retains the fund that state and local public health agencies use to make quality improvements.

Thank you to everyone who supported this bill, including Senator [Mary Jo Wilhelm](#) from Howard County, Senate Floor Manager; Representative [Greg Forristall](#) from Pottawattamie County, House Floor Manager; the Iowa Public Health Association; the Iowa Counties Public Health Association; the American Heart Association; and Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa.

Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse

I hope you'll be able to join me at the 39th annual [Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse](#) April 19 and 20 in Des Moines. Substance abuse, especially prescription drug and heroin use, is a particularly timely topic. Over the last decade, accidental overdose deaths due to heroin and other opioids have increased by more than 400 percent. While the majority of substance use disorders in Iowa are still due to alcohol, this dramatic increase is the reason why this year's conference will have a special focus on the growing problems of prescription drug misuse and heroin use.

Sunscreen, anyone?

Our partners at the [Iowa Cancer Consortium](#) are taking [requests](#) for gallon-size bottles of SPF 30 sunscreen for collaborative community projects that will increase sunscreen use and decrease incidence of sunburns. This opportunity is available only to Consortium members; becoming a member is quite affordable, starting at \$20 per year, with full scholarships available. Applications are due May 6, 2016.

ISTEP summit

The youth-led [Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention](#) (ISTEP) summit is April 26 on the Ankeny DMACC campus. Nearly 250 students are registered to attend this daylong event focusing on youth tobacco use prevention. ISTEP membership now stands at 2,202 statewide, the highest total since the program began in 2011. There are currently 97 ISTEP chapters in 55 counties.

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](#).

Medicaid reimbursed deliveries compared to non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries, Iowa resident births, calendar year 2014

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Medicaid reimbursed</i>		<i>Non-Medicaid reimbursed</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Gestational diabetes</i>	1,138	7.5	1,614	6.6
<i>Pregnancy related hypertension</i>	959	6.3	1,699	6.9
<i>Previous preterm birth</i>	763	5.0	853	3.5
<i>Smoked cigarettes during pregnancy</i>	1,909	20.8	1,347	5.5
<i>First trimester prenatal care initiation</i>	11,642	77.0	21,428	88.1

Because the groups are not mutually exclusive (for instance, one woman could have gestational diabetes as well as be a smoker), percentages do not total 100.

A higher percentage of women with Medicaid-reimbursed deliveries had gestational diabetes, experienced a previous pre-term birth, and smoked cigarettes during pregnancy compared to women with non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries. The percentage of women who initiated prenatal care during the first trimester was lower among women with Medicaid reimbursed deliveries compared to women with non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries.

For additional information or to obtain copies of this fact sheet, contact the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health, at 321 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, IA 50309 or toll-free at 1-800-383-3826. IDPH acknowledges the Maternal and

Child Health Epidemiology Program, Field Support Branch, Division of Reproductive Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Public Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for analytic support and preparation of this fact sheet.

Congrats and kudos

Robbyn Duchow of the IDPH Division of Tobacco Use Prevention and Control has been selected as one of 20 applicants nationwide to participate in the [CDC Leadership and Sustainability School](#) over the next year.

[Louise Lex](#) of the IDPH Bureau of Planning Services was honored by AFSCME during National Women's History month for her 37 years of public service in Iowa.

Congratulations to our partners, the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics and Delta Dental of Iowa, on being honored with the [2016 Gies Award for Outstanding Innovation by a Public or Private Partner](#) by the American Dental Education Association.

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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