



# *Quick Reads*

Gerd W. Clabaugh, MPA  
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health

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## **Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health**

[Registration](#) is open for the [2016 Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health](#). I invite you to join me April 12 and 13 in Des Moines for this annual event. This year's theme is Navigating a Changing Landscape: Partnerships for Population Health. Each day's agenda is full of insightful and engaging presentations on public health in Iowa.

## **Newborn screening**

The [Iowa Newborn Screening Program](#) (INSP) has launched a statewide effort to improve timeliness in newborn screening. Iowa currently has the best rates for timeliness in the country, but we want to do better. INSP has set a goal of 95 percent of newborn screening specimens be received at the State Hygienic Laboratory within 60 hours of birth. The sooner a baby can be identified with an inherited condition, the sooner life-saving interventions can be provided. INSP will be monitoring every hospital's progress toward the goal on a monthly basis, and posting infographic reports on the IDPH newborn screening web pages.

## **State partnerships**

The [Iowa Gambling Treatment Program](#) (IGTP) is partnering with the Iowa Lottery this month to highlight problem gambling during Problem Gambling Awareness Month. In an example of a successful state-level partnership, the Iowa Lottery is providing, at no cost to IGTP, statewide media outlets for billboard, radio and television [messaging](#) to "have the conversation" about problem gambling.

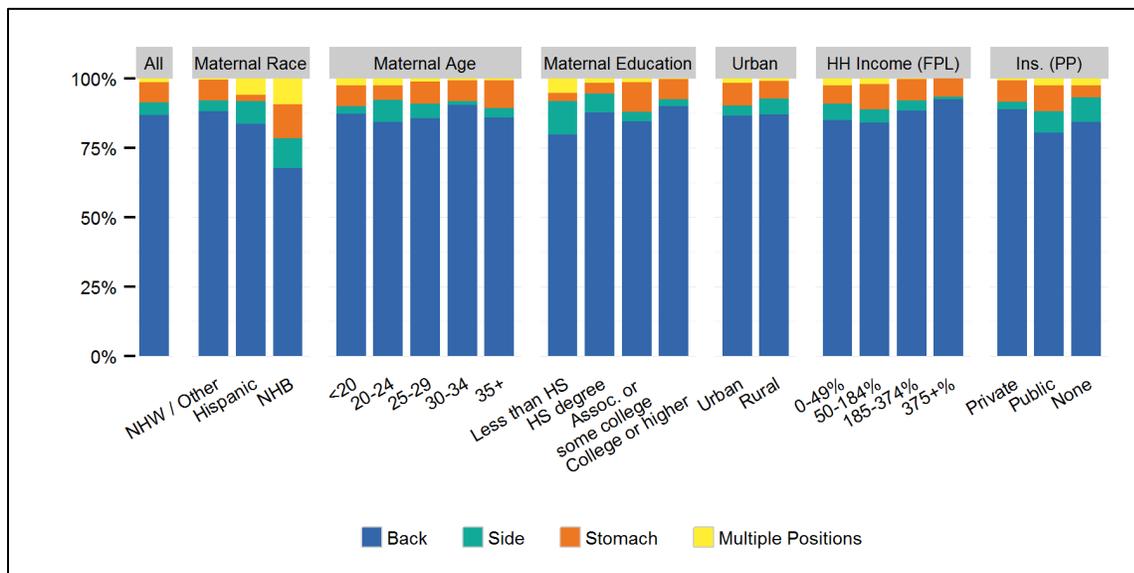
## **Legislative Funnel**

February 19 was the first funnel of the 2016 Legislative Session. The second funnel deadline is March 11. The purpose of the funnels is to assist the General Assembly in focusing on the legislative proposals that have a good chance of passage, compared to those that need additional time for discussion. Funnel deadlines provide interested parties an idea of how high a priority their bill is compared to the other approximately 2,000 bills introduced annually. A number of [public health-related bills](#) survived the first funnel and a handful did not. [Legislative updates](#) are posted weekly during the Session.

## 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](#).

Iowa PRAMS 2013 Infant Sleep Position



NHW/Other: non-Hispanic White/Other  
 NHB: non-Hispanic Black

The [2013 Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System \(PRAMS\) survey](#) asked women whose babies were alive and living with them what position their baby was most often laid down to sleep. Overall, 87 percent of babies slept primarily on their back, the recommended sleeping position for infants. Babies born to non-Hispanic Black women were the least likely (68 percent) to put their baby to sleep on their back. Maternal Age, maternal education, maternal residence, household income and postpartum insurance source were less likely than race to affect infant sleep position.

## Congrats and kudos

There are 852 smoke-free properties now listed on the [Smoke Free Homes Registry](#).

The [Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention](#) (ISTEP) program now has 2,103 youth members in grades 7-12. This represents 93 chapters in 55 counties.

The new [1-800-BETSOFF](#) website was launched this month and features a new problem gambling self-assessment, updated facility locator, and is now designed to be responsive to how it is viewed (computer, tablet, smartphone).

### **Stay informed, share your story**

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

— Gerd