



# *Quick Reads*

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## **Public comments requested**

The draft [Healthy Iowans 2017-2021: Iowa's Health Improvement Plan](#) is now posted and public comments are being solicited. The plan sets an actionable public health agenda that will affect every person living in Iowa. An estimated 20,000 Iowans from across the state participated in the process that identified 26 issues and themes in the plan. The health issues topping the list in the 2017-2021 plan include obesity, nutrition and physical activity, mental health, illness and suicide, and substance abuse. [Comments](#) are due by March 29, 2017.

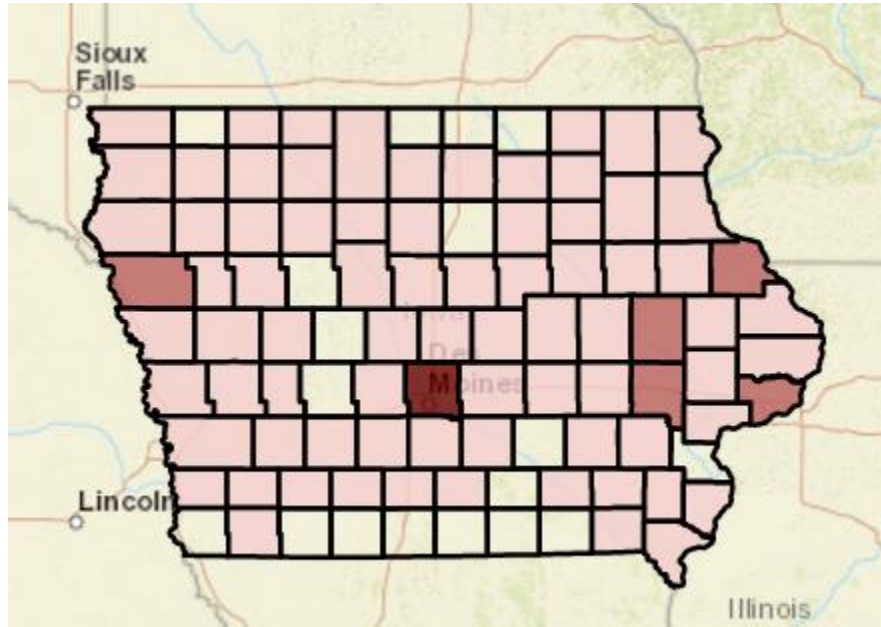
## **Public Health Advisory Council**

As mentioned last month, the [Public Health Advisory Council](#) is undertaking a review of Iowa's governmental public health system based on the [Foundational Public Health Services](#). Council members have been looking at various data sources that describe the current state of service delivery in the areas of outbreaks and individual case follow-up (Communicable Disease Control). Process maps are being developed to tell the story visually. These maps also highlight the various players necessary in this important work; for example, in the event of an outbreak there are roles for local public health, IDPH, the State Hygienic Laboratory, and the Department of Inspections and Appeals.

In addition to the process maps, a state map loaded with data on outbreaks per year/per county has been created so the Public Health Advisory Council might look for trends in where outbreaks occur. I invite you to look at this map as well, highlighted in this month's Data Snapshot.

## **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](#).



The 2011-2015 Outbreak Map was developed using CADE annual reports data. This five-year compilation map shows there are some counties (the ones without color) who have not had outbreaks within that period. Light red counties experienced fewer than 10 outbreaks. Those in medium red experienced 25 or fewer outbreaks. Polk County, the darkest red, experienced the most outbreaks, with over 25.

### **Congrats and kudos**

Congratulations to the men and women honored as the [2017 100 Great Iowa Nurses](#).

### **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](mailto:Polly.Carver-Kimm@idph.iowa.gov).

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

— Gerd