



Quick Reads

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Gaining ground

[Gaining Ground](#) is a national initiative designed to enhance performance and quality improvement of governmental health departments and advance national accreditation by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) (PHAB). This month, the Gaining Ground Coalition will release more videos in the series [12 Domains to PHABulous!](#) to assist local public health departments prepare for accreditation. IDPH's Gaining Ground Coalition partners include the Iowa Counties Public Health Association (ICPHA), the Iowa Environmental Health Association (IEHA), Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA), Midwestern Public Health Training Center (MPHTC), and the Public Health Advisory Council (PHAC).

Medicaid modernization

The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) is working to modernize the Iowa Medicaid program with a focus on better care coordination to improve Medicaid members' health. IDPH is helping DHS share information about this important new initiative, called the [IA Health Link](#), which will be implemented January 1, 2016.

More than a half a million Iowans are currently enrolled in Medicaid and we want members and those involved in their care to understand this effort and the new choices they have regarding their health coverage. A [toolkit](#) for stakeholders has been developed and a series of [community and enrollment events](#) are scheduled.

If you'd like to subscribe to Iowa Medicaid's email notifications, please send an [email](#) with your name, organization and contact information.

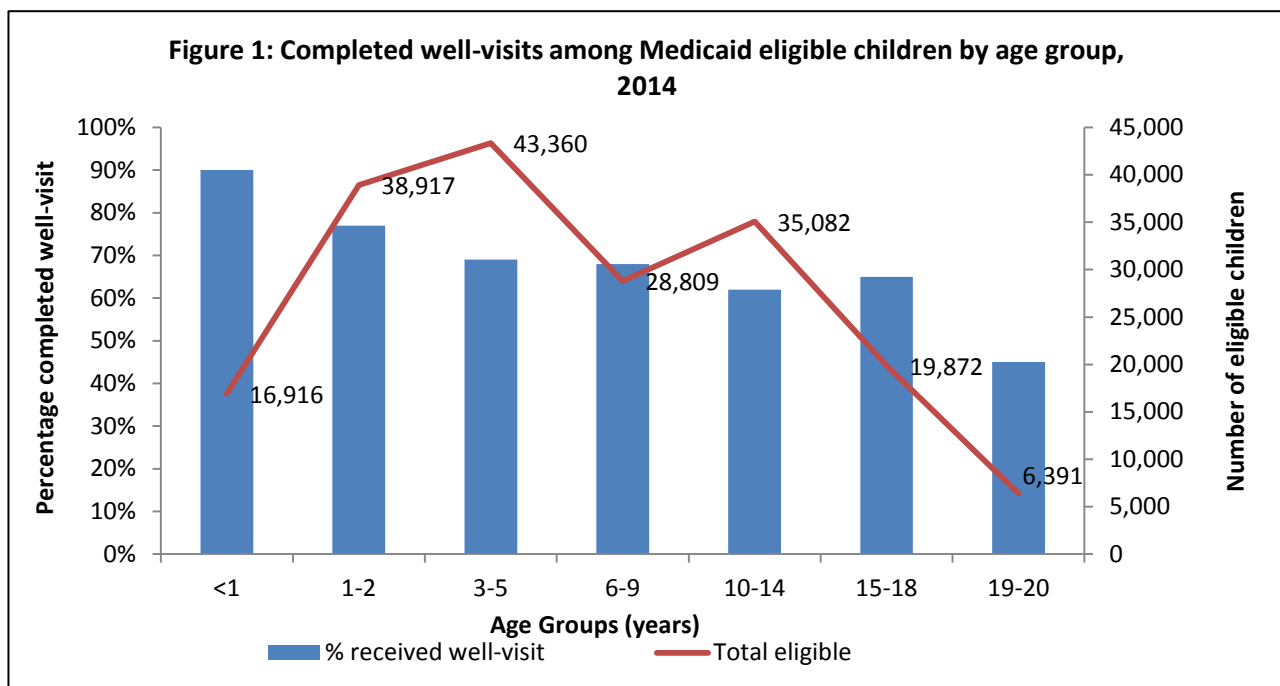
Creating successful futures

The 16th Annual Iowa Public Health Practice Colloquium will be held November 17 at the University of Iowa College of Public Health. [Envisioning Public Health & Primary Care in 2030 – Exploring Strategies to Create Successful Futures Together](#) is sponsored by IDPH, the Iowa Counties Public Health Association (ICPHA), Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA), and the Midwestern Public Health Training Center – Institute for Public Health Practice.

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](#).

Adolescent Well-Visits



Federal mandate requires 80 percent of children eligible for Medicaid to receive an annual well-visit. For all age groups, 70 percent of eligible Iowa children (189,347) received a well-visit in 2014. Among teens and young adults ages 10 to 20 years, only 61 percent received a well-visit.

IDPH and five other states have been selected to participate in the Adolescent and Young Adult Health Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (AYAH CoIIN) to increase the number of adolescents and young adults who receive a well-visit, and to improve the quality of those visits. These efforts address one of the goals of the Title V block grant for Maternal and Child Health.

For more information, contact [Sarah Mauch](#).

Congrats and kudos

The collaboration between IDPH's [I-Smile](#) initiative and [Head Start](#) is showing success. In 2015, 72 percent of children in Head Start had seen a dentist in the past six months, compared to 66 percent in 2009. In addition, 30 percent of children had at least one restored tooth in 2015, compared to 19 percent in 2009.

Congratulations to Binnie LeHew of the IDPH [Office of Disability, Injury and Violence Prevention](#), who has begun her two-year term as President of the Safe States Alliance.

The IDPH [Problem Gambling Treatment Program](#) is seeing dramatic success in a quality improvement project to improve wait times for clients from contact to their first appointment (evaluation). In SFY 2015, 70 percent of clients were seen within five days for evaluation, with an average wait time of 4.57 days. So far in SFY 2016 (July/August) 81 percent of clients were seen for evaluation within five days, with an average wait time of 2.1 days.

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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