



Quick Reads

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National Survey on Drug Use and Health

[The 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) (NSDUH) is underway in Iowa and across the nation. Sponsored by the [Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration](#), an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NSDUH is a scientific, national survey of the U.S. population aged 12 and older. Conducted annually, the purpose of the study is to provide up-to-date information on alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, mental health and other health-related issues. Approximately 200,000 randomly-selected households across the nation will receive a letter in the mail explaining the study and advising that an interviewer will be visiting their home. The interview takes about an hour; no names are collected and complete confidentiality is assured. I urge your participation to help increase accuracy and reliability of data results.

Public Health Advisory Council system evaluation

The Public Health Advisory Council, established through the Public Health Modernization Act, has begun work on an evaluation of the governmental public health system based on the [Foundational Public Health Services model](#). The council began its work in the area of communicable disease control. The second and third areas of evaluation include Maternal, Child, and Family Health and Environmental Health. Council members will review a significant program within each of the three areas, assist in evaluating data necessary to tell the story of current practice in that area, and finally make recommendations about any changes to consider improving performance. As the process develops, IDPH will be sharing with you the data presented to the Advisory Council and recommendations that come from the work. I plan to update you regularly

through Quick Reads on the progress of the evaluation. Thanks to the [members](#) of the Advisory Council for their efforts supporting this important work.

Retirement announced

Congratulations to [State Hygienic Lab Director](#) Chris Atchison, who recently announced his intention to retire this June. Director Atchison's career, which included eight years as IDPH Director from 1991 to 1999, has included participation in AIDS policy, flood response, health reform, early childhood development and public health preparedness and education. Best wishes to Chris as he moves on to his next challenges and sincere thanks for his commitment to and passion for public health.

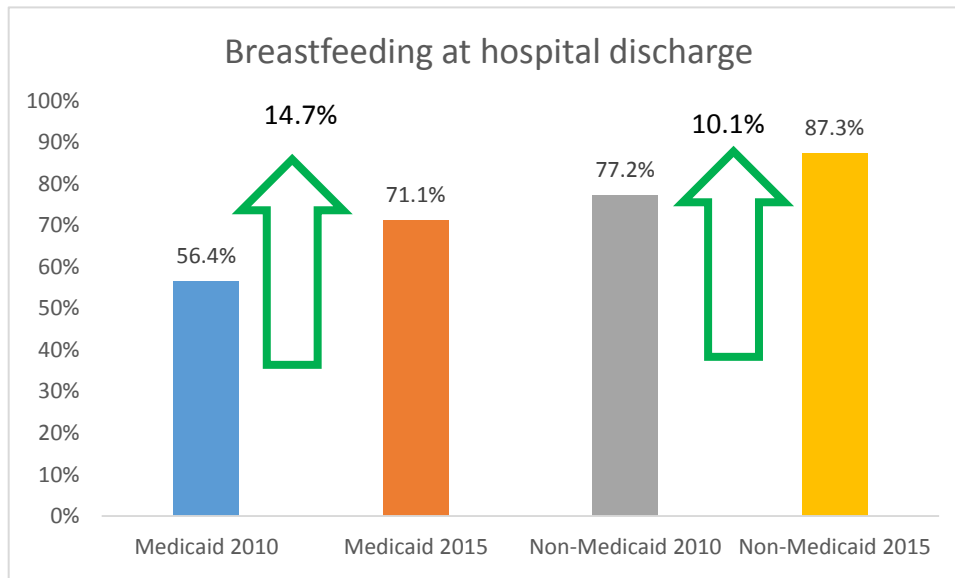
Promising practice

The IDPH [1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative](#) has been selected as a Promising Practice by the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs and posted online within [AMCHP's Innovation Station](#). AMCHP defines 'best practices' as a continuum of practices, programs and policies that range from cutting edge to those that have been extensively evaluated and proven effective.

1st Five builds partnerships between physician practices and public service providers to enhance high quality well-child care. 1st Five promotes the use of developmental tools that support healthy mental development for young children during the first five years. By using a tool for all children that includes social-emotional development and family risk factors, providers are able to identify children at risk for developmental concerns that, if left untreated, could play out later in life.

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 percent of women who reported that they were breastfeeding their infant at hospital discharge increased by 14.7 percent between 2010 and 2015 among women with Medicaid reimbursed deliveries and by 10.1 percent among women with non-Medicaid reimbursed deliveries.

Data sources: Bureau of Health Statistics. Medicaid status was determined by a data linkage of the Medicaid paid claims and the birth certificate data.

Congrats and kudos

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics recently achieved [Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#) (HIMSS) Analytics Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model ([EMRAM](#)) Stage 7 revalidation. Only an elite group of organizations achieve HIMSS Analytics EMRAM Stage 7, which indicates the top tier of adoption and utilization of healthcare information technology (HIT) in the country. This revalidation of EMRAM Stage 7 recognizes that UI Hospitals and Clinics is ahead of the curve in efforts to reduce costs and improve the quality of care in its facilities through the implementation of an Electronic Health Record. This is a great example of how HIT is being used to transform healthcare in Iowa.

IDPH [Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Management](#) chief Jill Myers Gadelmann has been selected to participate in the [National Association of Chronic Disease Directors](#) (NACDD) 2017 Generate, Educate, Activate and Respond (GEAR)

Group series on 'Communicating the Value of Public Health through Data and Surveillance'. Bureau staff member Victoria Brenton will participate in the 'Communicating the Value of Public Health through Community-Clinical Linkages' group. The groups are designed to promote networking and relationship building; provide mentoring and leadership opportunities; and facilitate problem solving and peer-to-peer sharing.

The city of Oskaloosa has resumed providing [optimally-fluoridated water](#) to the community after a five-year gap in service. The water system had discontinued fluoridating in 2011. IDPH staff provided educational information on the safety, effectiveness, and cost effectiveness of water fluoridation to aid in the community's decision-making. Over 12,000 Iowans gained access to optimally-fluoridated water.

Last year, the Iowa [Women, Infants and Children](#) (WIC) supplemental nutrition program transitioned from issuing paper checks to eWIC (EBT) cards for WIC participants. A survey of 5,373 Iowa WIC participants found 95.5 percent indicated that compared to using paper checks, the use of the eWIC card improved their shopping experience.

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.

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

— Gerd