

# 2016 Top Health Issues in Iowa\*

- Health Equity & the Social Determinants of Health
- Life Course
- Health System Improvement & Evidence-Based Decision Making



\* Based on Iowa's State Health Assessment coordinated by the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Planning Services. The size of text represents the number of counties that mentioned the issue in their Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) & the number of times the issue was identified as a priority by statewide committees, organizations, or state agencies.

## Overarching Themes



**Health Equity** is the principle that all people deserve the opportunity to achieve their optimal health. It involves the reduction of health disparities within population groups such as people with disabilities, minorities, or rural/urban populations. Achieving health equity also requires addressing the various **Social Determinants of Health**, including economic stability, education, health services access, neighborhood and the built environment, & the social & community context (e.g., community awareness of health issues/health literacy).



**Life Course** approaches address health throughout the various stages of life including maternal, infant & child health, early & middle childhood, adolescence, early & middle adulthood, & older adulthood.

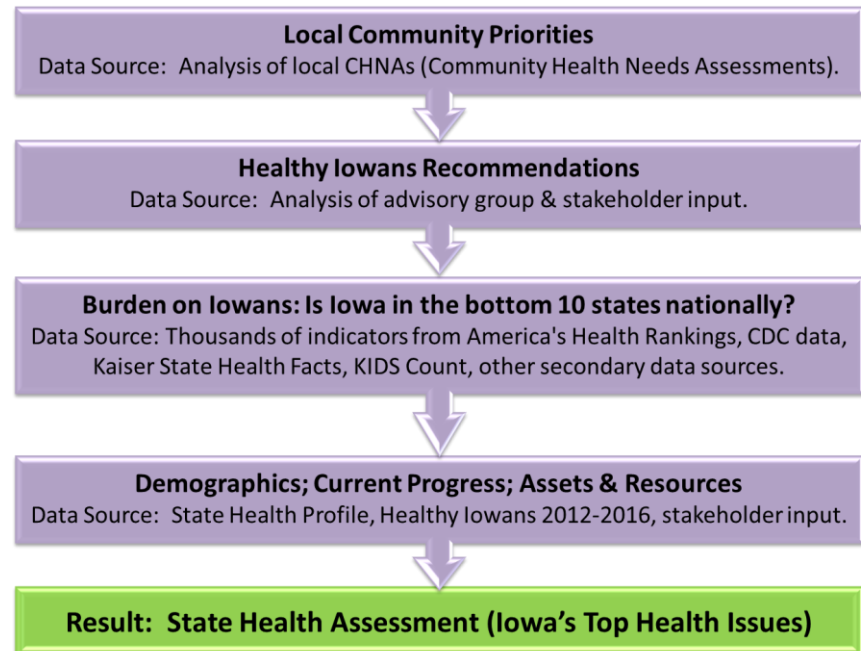


**Health System Improvement & Evidence-Based Decision Making** as described by Iowans during the assessment process include care coordination, partnerships, patient engagement, accreditation, care transitions, workforce development (recruitment, training, retention, succession), & the use of data, information technology, & best practices.

## Top Health Issues

- **Obesity, Nutrition & Physical Activity:** weight status, healthy eating, access to healthy food, food security, levels of physical activity, & access to outlets for physical activity
- **Mental Health, Illness & Suicide:** general mental health, illnesses such as depression & Alzheimer's disease, access to mental health services (providers/facilities), & suicide
- **Substance Abuse:** alcohol & binge drinking, prescription, illegal, & other drugs
- **Tobacco/Nicotine Use:** smoking & other tobacco use
- **Transportation:** transportation to health services & to other daily activities
- **Water Quality:** surface & ground water/storm & waste water
- **Cancer:** all types, breast, & colorectal
- **Diabetes:** prevention, education, & living with it
- **Lack of Oral Health/Dental Services:** providers/facilities
- **Falls:** prevention & older adults
- **Adolescent Immunizations:** recommended vaccines (Human papillomavirus [HPV] & others)
- **Motor Vehicle Crashes:** all, alcohol-related, & rural
- **Disaster Preparedness:** network infrastructure, planning, & notification
- **Income/Poverty:** all ages
- **Sexually Transmitted Diseases:** chlamydia, gonorrhea, & syphilis
- **Radon:** awareness & mitigation, rural
- **Adverse Childhood Experiences:** foster care & juvenile detention rates, child abuse, domestic violence, & trauma-informed care
- **Heart Disease:** prevention & living with it
- **Safe, Affordable Housing:** dilapidated/nuisance properties & affordability
- **Insurance Affordability & Coverage:** uninsured & underinsured
- **Lack of Primary Care Services:** providers/facilities
- **Flu Immunizations:** all ages
- **Occupational & Farm Safety:** work-related injuries/deaths & safety in agricultural settings

## State Health Assessment Methods:



To learn more about Iowa's state health assessment, visit <http://idph.iowa.gov/healthy-iowans> or contact the Healthy Iowans program at [HealthyIowans@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:HealthyIowans@idph.iowa.gov)