

Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness



Why is this program important to Iowans?

Iowa is no stranger to disaster. Between 2008 and September 30, 2019, there have been 283 governor's disaster proclamations in Iowa. Of those, 25 were presidentially-declared.

From human threats, such as terrorism, to natural disasters, like floods and tornadoes, to highly infectious disease outbreaks, disasters and emergencies don't discriminate based on where Iowans live or their socio-economic status. During such emergencies, public health and health care professionals are among the first responders.

Coordinating communications, plans, systems and resources helps make disaster response more effective at all levels of government and ensures the greatest needs are met for the most people possible with the available resources.

No one can predict the next disaster, but IDPH helps to enhance Iowans' ability to quickly return to normal when something bad happens.

Did you know?

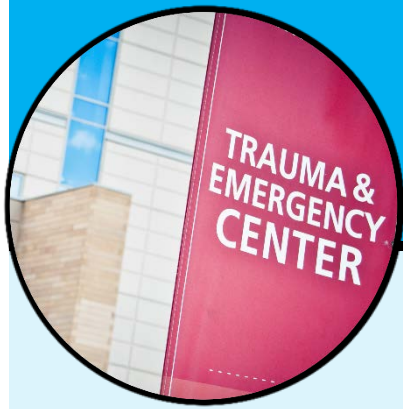
All of Iowa's 99 health departments and 118 hospitals are linked through a two-way communication system that allows response agencies to maintain voice communication in a disaster when landlines and email or other links may not be operational.

A focus on health equity

The needs of special and at-risk populations in disasters are the basis of emergency preparedness planning.

What does the department do?

- Partners with regional service areas across the state to carry out the federal public health and hospital emergency preparedness programs and the state EMS system standards. These service areas represent Iowa's 99 local health departments, 118 hospitals, and more than 900 local emergency medical service programs. IDPH staff meet with these areas on a routine basis.
- Administers the [i-SERV program](#), Iowa's secure online registry for individuals wishing to volunteer in the event of a large-scale disaster or public health emergency. As of April 1, 2020 there are 3,524 volunteers registered. i-SERV is part of a federal effort to coordinate and assemble volunteers for all types of emergencies.
- Conducts quarterly tests of the statewide bed availability system that helps to find available hospital beds in the event of a public health emergency when health care systems are overwhelmed. All 118 Iowa hospitals routinely submit data to this system.
- Maintains a statewide two-way communication network linking hospitals, health departments, and other emergency responders. This system is tested monthly.
- Maintains a medical countermeasure stockpile for distribution to affected areas of the state when local resources are depleted or not available.
- Maintains 19 supply caches placed in secure locations across Iowa to allow rapid response to a chemical incident. These medications treat the symptoms of nerve agent exposure and can be used even when the actual agent is unknown. (cont.)



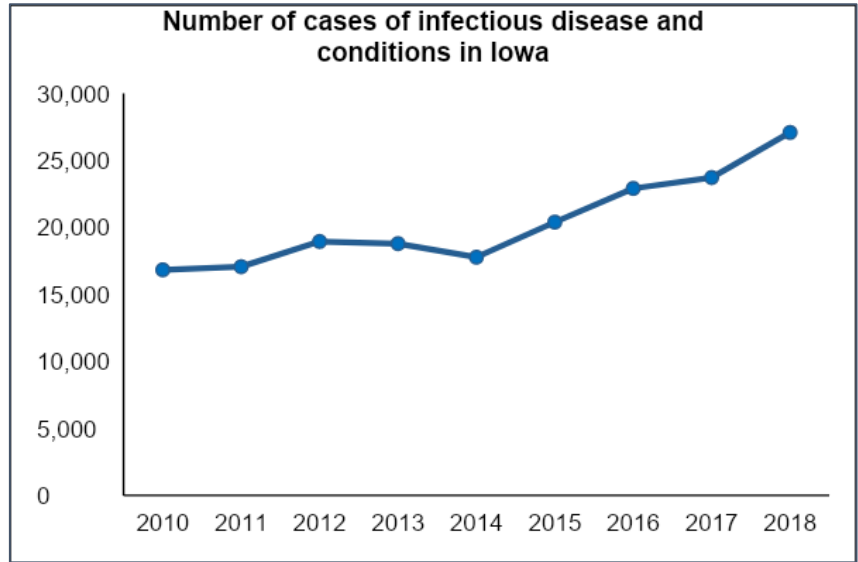
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What does the department do? (cont.)

- Coordinates [four public health response teams](#) that can be called in to provide support when local health infrastructure is overwhelmed. Teams include the Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Environmental Health Response Team, Mortuary Operational Response Team and Logistical Support Response Team. These teams meet on a regular basis and participate in routine training and exercises to test their capabilities.
- Maintains a series of nine modular, self-contained medical shelters to be used when local health infrastructure is overwhelmed or not available. These shelters can be set up anywhere in the state in a matter of hours.

How do we measure our progress?



What can Iowans do to help?

- Create a family disaster plan and family disaster kit. Review the plan at least once a year. For help creating a disaster plan and more information on what should be included in the kit, go to www.ready.gov/kit.
- Become involved with public health and hospital volunteer programs in your community to assist in exercises and actual incidents.
- Health care and public health professionals should remain vigilant with emerging infectious diseases that pose a threat to the public's health.

Resources	SFY 2019 Actual	SFY 2020 Actual	SFY 2021 Estimate
State Funds	\$73,114	\$73,081	\$73,081
Federal Funds	\$8,349,976	\$11,349,234	\$18,060,547
Total Funds	\$8,423,090	\$11,422,315	\$18,133,628
FTEs	15.87	17.08	16.55