



Access to Quality Health Services & Health Care Delivery

Why is access to health services important to Iowans?

Physical, social and mental health and well-being can be negatively affected if a person does not have access to quality health services.

Access to health care is important to:

- Promote and maintain health
- Prevent and manage disease
- Reduce disability and premature death
- Achieve health equity for all Iowans

Factors that affect a person's ability to get health care are:

1. Whether or not a person has health insurance.
2. If a person has a hard time getting to and from a health care appointment.
3. If a person can find a doctor in the area where they live.

Did you know?

Across Iowa, health care delivery services are provided through public and private hospitals and clinics to support access to health care for all Iowans. To achieve the best health outcomes, health care must be of high quality and available to everyone.

A Focus on Health Equity

Health equity is achieved when every person has the chance to be as healthy as possible, regardless of their situation. Health equity can be affected by factors such as race, age, disability, income, location, or education. The Local Public Health Services Grant funds local boards of health to improve access to health services, especially for those with no other options. [Local Public Health Services](#) staff also support local boards of health and local public health agencies in building the capacity to provide quality and effective services.

What does the Department do?

The [Bureau of Public Health Performance](#) supports local public health agencies to improve access to health services for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

The [Bureau of Policy & Workforce Services](#) coordinates many programs that address the delivery of health care services including:

- [Public Health Policy](#) efforts include the research, development, implementation and evaluation of health care policies and initiatives that impact Iowa's health.
- [Certificate of Need](#) ensures that planning for new or changed institutional health services, such as a hospital or nursing home, is cost-effective.
- [Office of Health Care Transformation](#) promotes the integration of public health and community services into the traditional health care system by building partnerships, convening stakeholders and offering technical assistance.
- [Rural Health and Primary Care](#) programs focus on improving health care systems and workforce initiatives such as rural health care infrastructure planning and development, health systems building, workforce recruitment and retention, and addressing barriers that impact access to quality health care.
- [Volunteer Health Care Provider Program](#) offers liability protection to eligible volunteer health care providers and eligible clinics providing free health care services.



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Iowa's Health Care Infrastructure

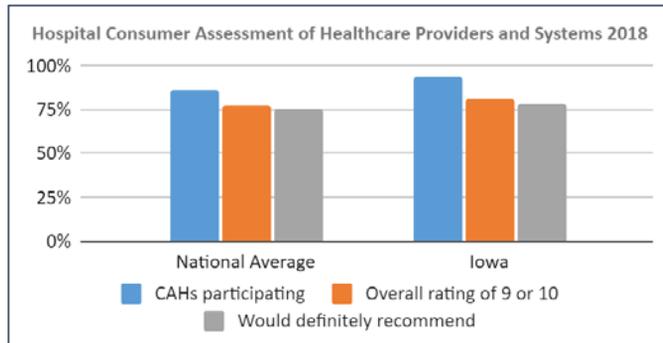
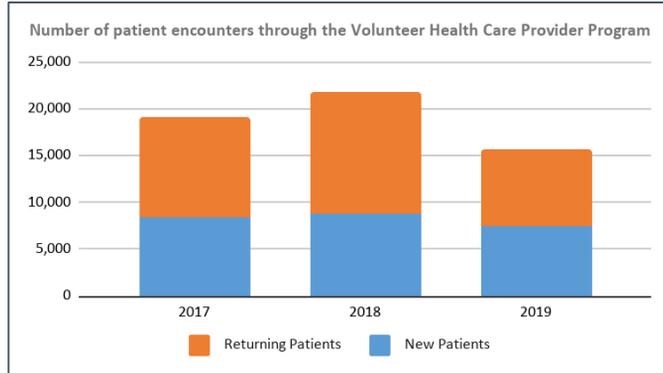
According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, as of January 2020 Iowa had:

- 82 Critical Access Hospitals
- 8 Rural Hospitals
- 26 Short-term Hospitals
- 2 Long-term Hospitals
- 190 Rural Health Clinics
- 48 Federally Qualified Health Center sites located outside of urban areas
- 29 Free Clinics

Harnessing the Power of Iowa's Libraries

IDPH was awarded funding through the Telligen Community Initiative for a project to address social determinants of health by providing tools and resources in libraries across Iowa. Two local public health agencies are currently piloting the project with local libraries in Cedar Rapids and Perry. Activities include a food recovery program, StoryWalk in a local park, healthy cooking classes, a Support Services Navigator within the library, and activity kits.

How do we measure our progress?



What can Iowans do to help?

- Be informed about current health-related initiatives, news and opportunities by visiting the [IDPH website](#) and by reading newsletters such as [The Check-Up](#) and the [Rural Health and Primary Care newsletter](#).
- Become familiar with the services provided by [local public health agencies](#).
- Engage in community activities that support rural health care such as [“National Rural Health Day”](#).

Resources	SFY 2019 Actual	SFY 2020 Actual	SFY 2021 Estimate
State Funds	\$12,555,381	\$12,814,997	\$13,046,660
Federal Funds	\$2,297,979	\$6,871,610	\$2,719,005
Other Funds	\$1,895,983	\$23,711	\$29,300
Total Funds	\$16,749,343	\$19,710,318	\$15,794,965
FTEs	16.77	16.54	25.55