

CHRONIC DISEASE CONNECTIONS

Chronic Disease Connections is an e-bulletin created for healthcare systems and providers working to prevent and manage chronic disease with a particular focus on blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol control.

New Brain Health Strategies and Activities from the Iowa Department of Public Health

Inside this Issue:

- The Hidden Cost of Tooth Decay
- Connect to Wellness Program
- New Funding Opportunities

Some cognitive decline can occur naturally with age, but forgetting how to perform routine tasks in daily life is not a normal part of aging. Individuals with chronic health conditions are more likely to report worsening or more frequent memory problems. Early diagnosis of memory loss is especially important for people with chronic health conditions.

The new **Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Program** puts focus on increasing early detection, diagnosis and risk reduction for Alzheimer's Disease and dementias, prevention of avoidable hospitalizations related to these diseases and conditions, and providing support for dementia-related caregiving. Visit our recently-launched website to find out more.

Health Promotion in the News

Demographic and social factors associated with COVID-19 vaccination – Adults 65+ have experienced higher risk for COVID-19 and therefore have been prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination.

FDA commits to evidence-based actions at saving lives and preventing future generations of smokers – Efforts to ban menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars mark significant steps to reduce addiction and youth experimentation, improve quitting, and address health disparities.

Diabetes, depending on age of onset, may raise risk for dementia - Onset of type 2 diabetes at younger ages appeared to play a role in the risk for dementia, according to results from a longitudinal cohort study published in JAMA.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal health – The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating concerns about maternal health in the United States, which has the highest maternal mortality rate of industrialized countries and is the only nation where the rate is rising.

Plan Clinic Activities for Upcoming Health Observations

May

National Stroke Awareness Month

Older Americans Month

National Senior Health and Fitness Day – May 27

World No Tobacco Day – May 31

June

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

National Cancer Survivor's Day – June 6

Men's Health Week – June 14-20

PTSD Awareness Month

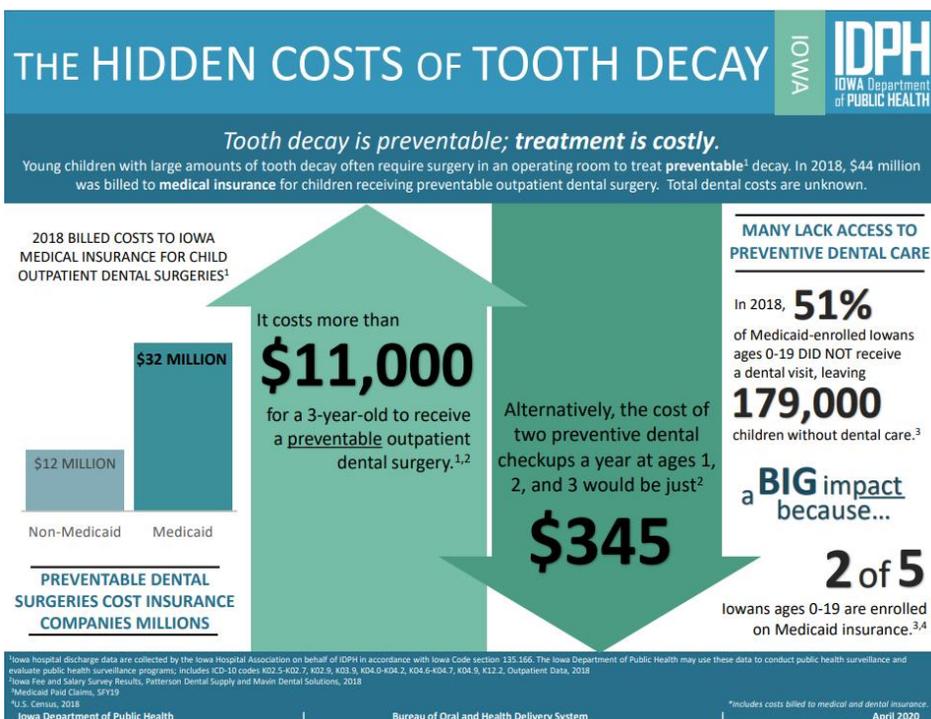
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Funding Opportunities on IowaGrants.gov

- **58822006 Clinical Innovations for Prediabetes Assessment and Referral.** This RFP seeks applicants who will plan and implement sustainable policy and systems change(s) to assess patients with prediabetes or patients who are at high risk for developing type 2 diabetes through screening and testing and to increase referrals to diabetes prevention programs (DPP). Applications will be accepted until 4:00PM on **June 1, 2021**.
- **RFP 58822010 for WISEWOMAN Protocols for Identifying Undiagnosed Hypertension** is accepting applications through **May 20, 2021**. The purpose of the RFP is to provide funding to a WISEWOMAN enrolled health care provider clinic to implement protocols for the identification of undiagnosed hypertension. WISEWOMAN health care provider clinics that screened at least 20 WISEWOMAN participants in Fiscal Year 2020, are eligible to submit an application.

The Hidden Costs of Tooth Decay

Restorative treatment for tooth decay is costly and more invasive than preventive dental care. This graphic depicts Iowa's medical costs for dental disease reinforcing the importance of reducing preventable decay through early preventive care. [Visit the Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems](#) for more information.



Click Image to Enlarge

Podcasts and Webinars

- **Make It OK Stories: The Podcast**
- **Clots & Coffee with Alicia and Cesar: Creative Stroke Education** – May 19th
- **Emerging Lessons from COVID Response: Action Towards Equity** – May 19th
- **Identifying the Behavioral Health Needs of LGBTQ+ Midlife & Older Adults** – May 26th
- **FAQs: Digital Health Credentials** – June 1st
- **Purpose Built Communities and the Role of Public Health** – On Demand
- **HeartBEATS from Lifelong Learning™ Professionalism and Ethics Podcast Series**

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CONNECT TO Wellness

A free workplace wellness program for small to midsize employers, developed by the University of Washington

Iowa Department of Public Health
Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Management
Ali.grossman@idph.iowa.gov, 515-371-7768

What can Connect to Wellness do for my organization?

If you enroll in this workplace wellness program, I will work with you for 12 months **for free** as a local health department official. This program will not interrupt the flow of work at your organization. Local health departments work with you to find solutions that adapt to your unique work environment.

I will provide:

- **Expert consultation** and a comprehensive assessment of your current health and wellness practices.
- **Detailed recommendations** and **proven strategies** for improvements that integrate into your existing workplace practices.
- **Online access** to health and wellness toolkits that include flyers, policy and communication templates, and guidance documents.
- **Technical assistance**, resources, and turnkey solutions **tailored to your needs**.

What does your organization have to do?

If you chose to enroll in Connect to Wellness (for free), I will meet with a representative of your organization to complete an assessment of your current workplace wellness policies, programs, and communications.

After that, I'll work with your organization representative to recommend materials (we have multiple toolkits available for you) and next steps, as well as support you with creating an implementation plan.

I will continue to meet with your representative regularly or as needed to provide on-going support. I'll also work with that representative to complete an assessment after 12 months. At this point, your organization should be self-sufficient and able to continue your tailored workplace wellness program as you see fit.

How can Connect to Wellness improve your organization?

It can show your employees and the community your commitment to their health and well-being by building a healthier workplace that is tailored to the needs and desires of your employees.