

# Toxicology

Phone: 515-281-8707  
<http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs/toxicology>  
<http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs/hazardous-waste>

Protecting & Improving  
the Health of Iowans



Toxicology is the study of the health impacts from exposure to chemicals and other toxic substances. The Toxicology Program at IDPH provides health consultations evaluating the health significance of exposures to chemicals and substances associated with environmentally contaminated areas, outside air, surface and drinking water, and any other sources of exposure to potentially toxic substances in the environment.

The Toxicology Program at IDPH is a resource for all citizens in the State of Iowa. In addition, the Toxicology Program at IDPH assists other state agencies such as the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in the establishment of environmental standards. IDPH also provides funding to the Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center, which works to reduce illness, deaths, and costs associated with poisoning through providing statewide around-the-clock emergency telephone advice.

## Did you know?

Several factors play a key role in whether you will get sick from a chemical exposure. These factors are – the type of chemical, the amount of chemical, the duration of exposure (how long the exposure was), and the frequency of exposure (how many times you were exposed). If you prevent exposure to chemicals, you won't get sick or have any harmful effects on your health from chemicals.

## Why is Toxicology programming important to protecting and improving the health of Iowans?

- Improper management of hazardous wastes, chemical spills and accidents, and previous industrial use of land may expose Iowans to dangerous chemicals.
- Iowans are concerned about environmental exposures to chemicals that can affect their health or the health of their children.
- Exposure to toxins associated with harmful algal blooms can impact the health of individuals.
- Iowans need trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and disease-related exposures to toxic substances. The program responds to approximately 150 information requests from Iowans and local health department officials annually.
- People of all ages are at risk of exposure to poisons. In 2015, 47 percent of the calls to the Iowa Statewide Poison Control Center were concerned with a child less than 6-years old.

## Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Protect against environmental hazards

Prevent injuries & violence

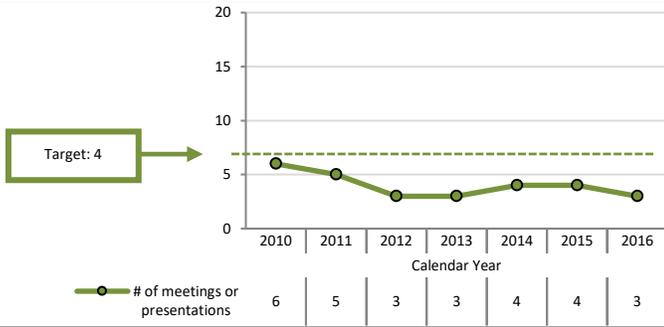
Prepare for, respond to, & recover from emergencies

## What do we do?

- Prepare health assessments and health consultations for state and federal agencies and for communities regarding exposure to chemicals in water, soil, and air.
- Develop fact sheets and informational documents for state agencies and communities summarizing health effects from exposure to specific sites and specific chemicals.
- Provide reliable toxicological and medical information for healthcare providers and the public.
- Provide advice and information to local officials, medical professionals, and the public about potential chemical exposures during natural disasters or other emergencies.
- Work with the Department of Natural Resources to monitor exposure to toxins in recreational waters, and the levels of chemicals present in fish caught within Iowa.
- Provide statewide around-the-clock emergency telephone advice regarding poisoning from toxic substances.

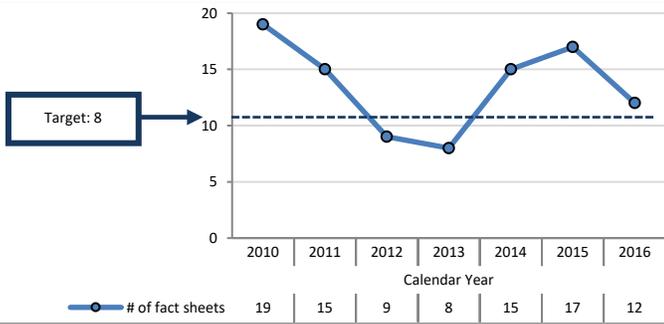
## How do we measure our progress?

### 1 Number of community meetings attended or presentations made to communities.



Data Source: Evaluation by ATSDR and program records. Data are available annually.

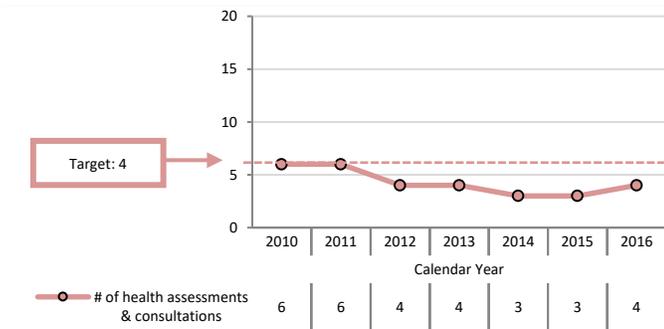
### 2 Number of fact sheets developed or revised.



Data Source: Evaluation by ATSDR and program records. Data are available annually.

**How are we doing?** Our fact sheets provide the public and health professionals with a summary of the health impacts from exposure to the more common chemicals and identify sources where additional trusted information can be obtained

### 3 Number of written health assessments and health consultations completed.



**How are we doing?** The written health assessments and consultations are created to answer all pertinent health questions that communities have regarding their exposure to chemicals in their environment. Most of these written consultations are presented at public meetings to make sure our conclusions are understood and all questions from the public are addressed.

## What can Iowans do to help?

1. All Iowans can learn about existing or potential exposure to hazardous chemicals and how to protect themselves by assessing the Toxicology Manual at <http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs/toxicology>.
2. Physicians and healthcare providers need to get accurate information about the health risks from exposure to environmental chemicals and how these exposures can be diagnosed in their patients. For more information, go to [www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov).
3. Industry and emergency response workers can learn how to prevent chemical spills by going to [www.csb.gov/](http://www.csb.gov/).
4. All Iowans need to be aware of potential poisons in their homes and how they can keep themselves and their children safe. To learn more, visit [www.iowapoisson.org](http://www.iowapoisson.org)

## Expenditures

General fund, federal funds, & intra state receipts\*: K19-1911; 0153-1318.

	State Fiscal Year 2015 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2017 Estimate
State funds	\$598,751	\$678,045	\$598,751
Federal funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other*	\$683,290	\$683,290	\$1,024,719
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$1,282,041</b>	<b>\$1,361,335</b>	<b>\$1,623,470</b>
FTEs	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Note:** Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.