

# Radiological Health

Phone: 515-281-3478

<http://idph.iowa.gov/radiological-health>

Protecting & Improving  
the Health of Iowans



You can't see, smell, hear or feel it. It can save lives, but also endanger lives. The use of radiation must be carefully monitored. The IDPH Bureau of Radiological Health protects Iowans from unnecessary and potentially harmful exposure to radiation.

Radioactive materials and radiation machines are used for many industrial and medical uses. The Bureau of Radiological Health registers and inspects the use of these devices to ensure both the operators and public nearby are safe. One example is medical radiation machines (like x-ray or mammography machines) and the people who use them, both of which are tested and inspected to ensure qualified professionals with safe equipment are treating Iowans.

You've probably heard of radon – a naturally occurring gas that seeps into homes and can cause lung cancer. The Bureau of Radiological Health licenses experts who can stop radon from getting into a home. IDPH works each day to protect the health of Iowans – even when the “enemy” is invisible!

## Did you know?

In 1986, the state of Iowa entered into an agreement with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to protect the health and safety of Iowans by allowing IDPH to regulate radioactive material in Iowa.

## Why is Radiological Health important to protecting and improving the health of Iowans?

- Exposure to radiation in large amounts can cause immediate and long-term health effects, including cancer and death.
- Iowans could be exposed to radiation at any time each day due to normal background radiation in the environment and the common use of industrial and medical radioactive materials and machines.
- Radiation occurs naturally in the environment; however, anything beyond this natural exposure may be unnecessary and could be harmful.
- Iowa has one of the highest rates of indoor radon levels in the country.
- High quality mammography machines and images are essential to finding breast cancer early.
- Iowans of all ages are at risk for over-exposure to ultraviolet light from tanning beds and natural sunlight.

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

- Protect against environmental hazards
- Strengthen the health infrastructure
- Prepare for, respond to & recover from emergencies
- Promote healthy living

## What do we do?

- Inspect, test, accredit and certify mammography facilities, machines, radiologists and technologists.
- Issue Permits to Practice for individuals who operate or use ionizing radiation producing machines or administer radioactive material for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.
- Coordinate radiation emergency response by working with local, county, state and federal agencies in case of an accident.
- License, register and inspect facilities that use radioactive materials.
- Educate Iowans about radon gas and credential radon measurement and mitigation specialists.
- Register tanning bed facilities and post health information about the risks of tanning.
- Register X-ray producing machines.
- Investigate allegations and complaints regarding radioactive material and radiation producing machines.

## How do we measure our progress?

- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) oversees the Iowa radioactive material (RAM) program and conducts an Integrated Material Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) review every four years. The Iowa RAM program successfully completed three consecutive IMPEP reviews, receiving the highest score of SATISFACTORY for all performance indicators.

Due to the outstanding score of the IMPEP reviews, the Iowa RAM program was the first agreement state program to receive two one-year extensions by the NRC for the next IMPEP review. Iowa underwent its last IMPEP review in August 2017.

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees the Iowa mammography program and conducts an annual review. The Iowa mammography program consistently meets or exceeds the requirements set by the FDA.

The Iowa program annually inspects 142 mammography facilities, including 166 mammography units and 25 stereotactic facilities. To continue providing services to Iowans, the facilities must correct all non-compliances that are found.

### What can Iowans do to help?

- All Iowans can make themselves aware of the possibility of exposure to radiation, especially from medical procedures.
- All Iowans can report any misuse of radioactive materials or ionizing radiation producing machines by contacting the Bureau of Radiological Health at 515-281-3478 or [angela.leek@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:angela.leek@idph.iowa.gov).
- All Iowans should learn about radon gas and how to test for it in their homes. For more information about radon, visit <http://idph.iowa.gov/radon>.

## Expenditures

Federal funds, intra state receipts\* (Dept of Public Defense), private grants\*, & retained fees\*: K19-1901/1915/1920; 0153-1922/1926

	State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2017 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2018 Estimate
State funds	\$122,971	\$115,617	\$116,424
Federal funds	\$169,192	\$166,752	\$180,558
Other funds*	\$1,577,166	\$2,085,731	\$1,660,369
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$1,869,329</b>	<b>\$2,368,100</b>	<b>\$1,957,351</b>
FTEs	11.24	9.98	11.82

**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.

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Mammography – Phone: 515-281-0405

Radioactive Materials – Phone: 515-281-0419

Tanning Facilities – Phone: 515-281-3478

Permits to Practice – Phone: 515-281-3478

Radon – Phone: 1-800-383-5992 or 515-281-4928

X-Ray Machines – Phone: 515-281-3478

Radiation Emergency Response – Phone: 515-281-3478