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<https://idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Occupational-Health-and-Safety-Surveillance>



## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Three Iowa counties were identified as having the most adults with elevated blood lead levels (EBL). Data analysis shows that from 2012 to 2017, the percentage of those tested with an EBL at 20 µg/dL or higher dropped from 34% to 24%, those with an EBL of 10 µg/dL or higher dropped from 71% to 58% and those with an EBL of 5 µg/dL or higher dropped from 85% to 73%.
- Legislation was passed in the 2018 Iowa session addressing impaired driving, requiring the use of ignition interlock devices (IID) for first offenses. Legislation that went into effect July 1, 2017 increased the number of citations issued for texting and driving to 1,131 in the first year compared to 182 citations issued in the prior 12 months. Both legislative changes utilized strategies previously presented in reports authored by task groups in which the Iowa OHSSP actively participated.

## CORE (FUNDAMENTAL) SURVEILLANCE AND PROGRAM

The mission of the Iowa Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program (OHSSP) is protecting and improving the health and safety of Iowans in the workplace. The program explores options to improve surveillance and data translation capacity, and provides analysis, dissemination, outreach and evaluation functions to support each project.

### Occupational Health Indicators (OHI)

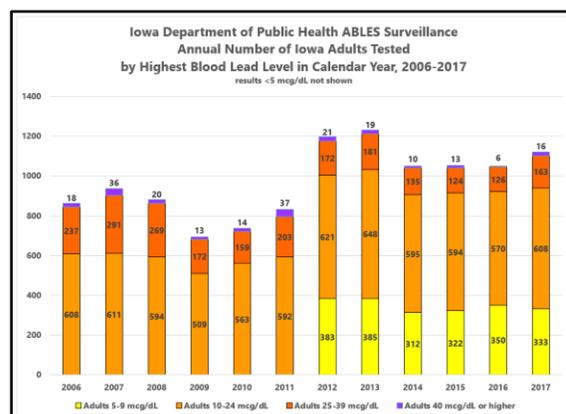
OHSSP uses Iowa data gathered annually for the calculation of nationally established occupational health indicators (OHI). Iowa OHI data is tracked to review state-level trends and comparison (when appropriate) to U.S. indicators and data from surrounding states. This information is reported through program outreach activities and outputs to highlight gaps or opportunities for improvement in worker safety. The Program Manager annually submits her recommendations for updates to the national OHI guidance document as the state-level lead contact for indicators one and four.

### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- OHI data was used in trainings, including medical students during grand rounds and certification training for elevated blood lead inspectors and case managers.
- Data was used by external partners, including professors at the University of Iowa College of Public Health.
- Data findings were used in the development of exhibit materials for the Prevent Childhood Injuries Conference and at the Midwest Regional Agricultural Safety and Health Conference.
- Data findings were used to update the Healthy Iowans report.
- OHSSP provided fatal occupational injury surveillance findings to the Iowa Division of Labor to improve identification of worker deaths, especially deaths of self-employed workers. These findings ultimately become part of the Iowa Census of Fatal Occupational Injury (CFOI) report to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Iowa Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES)

OHSSP ABLES surveillance involved the review of incoming adult BLL data. Elevated reports were given additional follow-up to determine if the report was for a known case or a newly reported exposure; follow-back was done to gather missing or incomplete data and determine whether the exposure was work-related or from another exposure source. Work-related cases were coded by industry. Educational materials were provided to medical providers and new cases. Referrals were made by OHSSP to the Iowa OSHA enforcement program regarding elevated blood lead results when appropriate.



### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- Six years of de-identified adult blood lead data (2012-2017) was submitted to the NIOSH ABLES program following the implementation of a Data Sharing Agreement in March 2017. 2012-2016 data was submitted in September 2017 and 2017 data was submitted in June 2018.
- Data analysis was performed and continues to be shared with stakeholders:
  - 787 Iowa adults had at least one blood lead level of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher in 2017, with 743 exposures (94%) identified as work related, 30 (3.8%) identified as non-work related, and 14 people (1.7%) where the source of exposure was not reported.
  - 329 Iowa adults had at least one blood lead level of 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher in 2017.
  - 16 Iowa adults had at least one blood lead level of 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher in 2017.
- A formal agreement was completed between IDPH and Veterans Affairs (VA) health care providers located in Iowa to allow the reporting of VA adult blood lead test results to IDPH OHSSP.
- OHSSP exhibited at the Iowa Governor's Conference for Public Health April 3-4, 2018.
- The Program Manager was a speaker (requested) for a National Center for Environmental Health webinar regarding linkage of child and adult lead programming in March 2018.

## Beyond ABLES

The Beyond ABLES campaign is an ongoing strategy. The goal of the campaign is to provide community-level targeted education, outreach and awareness activities to the workers and medical providers in Iowa counties with the highest number of adults with elevated blood lead levels, while building capacity at the local public health level because there are no funded local adult lead programs in the state. This is a multi-year project. Key messaging focuses on take-home lead risks, medical impacts from long-term chronic lead exposure, and risks to young adults entering the workforce who may be starting families.

### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- Three Iowa counties were identified for Phase One as having the most adults with elevated blood lead levels (EBL). Data analysis shows that from 2012 to 2017, the percentage of those tested with an EBL at 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher dropped from 34% to 24%, EBLs of 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher dropped from 71% to 58% and EBLs of 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or higher dropped from 85% to 73%.

## Upper Midwest States Occupational Health Collaborative with Minnesota and Wisconsin

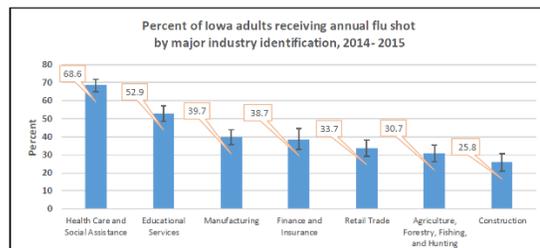
The upper Midwest collaboration of the Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa Occupational Health and Safety state-based surveillance programs aims to address issues of occupational health and safety at a regional level. This year the three programs have had 3 meetings, one in person and two via conference call.

### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- Preliminary work on a regional report of the descriptive epidemiology of occupational safety and health indicators, which may assist in expanding this partnership to other entities with addressing occupational safety and health, such as the ERC's and Ag Centers.

### Analysis of the Iowa 2014 – 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System industry and occupation data.

A fact sheet regarding influenza vaccination rates by industry was developed. The information was posted to the program web page, shared by electronic newsletter to over 1,300 medical providers and public health contacts in the state, and highlighted in a newsletter sent out by the IDPH director to more than 500 subscribers.

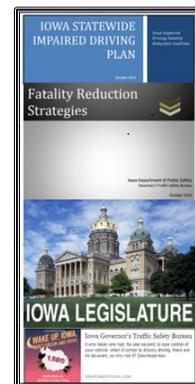


### Transportation Safety

OHSSP continues to work in partnership with the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau and the Iowa Department of Transportation as a member of a number of advisory groups, task force groups and implementation teams. This partnership allows the program to gain synergy on projects that impact transportation safety and reduce transportation injuries and fatalities for Iowa workers as well as the general public. OHSSP does not have the capacity to generate these types of outputs alone, but by being involved as a representative of occupational health and safety, strategies that impact workers are included.

### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- Legislation was passed in the 2018 Iowa session addressing impaired driving, requiring the use of ignition interlock devices (IID) for first offenses.
- Legislation that went into effect July 1, 2017 increased the number of citations issued for texting and driving to 1,131 in the first year compared to 182 citations issued in the prior 12 months.
- Both legislative changes utilized strategies previously presented in reports authored by task groups in which the Iowa OHSSP actively participated.



### Agricultural Safety Outreach

Iowa OHSSP collaborated throughout the year with partners to network our agricultural safety outreach projects. Iowa OHSSP represented the Iowa Department of Public Health on the board of Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH), a multi-organizational group working to improve farm safety.

### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- OHSSP exhibited at the annual Midwest Regional Agricultural Safety and Health Conference November 14-15, 2017.
- I-CASH developed and distributed seasonal materials that are linked from the OHSSP web page.

### Falls Prevention Campaign

The OHSSP promoted materials developed by the national Falls Prevention Campaign through social media.

### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- End outcome: as a result of documentation and reporting of unsafe work practices (shown, 2017), state maintenance workers received additional training and were observed using appropriate ladder safety one year later.

