



Iowa Department of Public Health

Hazardous Waste Site Health Assessment Program

Hazardous Waste Site Health Assessment Program

Overview

The **Hazardous Waste Site Health Assessment Program** is a program within the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) that identifies and evaluates environmental health threats to communities. Most of these health threats are found at hazardous waste sites. This program is supported by federal funds from the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Program Services

There are several **services** offered by this program. Included in these services are: Health Assessments, Health Consultations, and Health Education and Promotion. The following is a summary of each of these services.

Health Assessments

A Health Assessment reviews all available information about hazardous substances at a site and evaluates whether exposure to them might cause any harm to people. Anyone can request a health assessment be completed.

Public Health Assessments consider:

- The levels (or “concentrations”) of all hazardous substances
- Whether people are being exposed to the hazardous substances
- What harm the substances might cause to people
- Whether working or living near hazardous substances might affect people’s health

Health Consultations

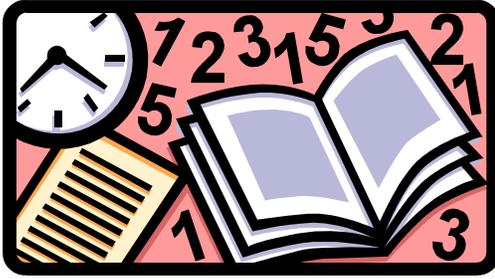
A Health Consultation reviews available information on a public health issue to determine if people are being exposed to unsafe levels of a hazardous substance. Most health consultation requests come from Federal, State, and Local environmental agencies, although citizens can request one also.

A Health Consultation allows IDPH to respond quickly and provide health information on hazardous substances and to make recommendations for actions to protect the public’s health.

For example, recommendations in a Health Consultation can contribute to:

- Site Cleanup
- Keeping people away from contamination and physical dangers – for example, by fencing the site.
- Giving residents acceptable drinking water.
- Health education for residents and health care providers regarding ways to reduce or prevent health effects.





Health Education and Promotion

Health Education and Promotion services provide health-related information, promote public awareness and health, and inform people of ways to reduce their exposure to hazardous substances. Health Education and Promotion services include:

- Coordination and implementation of community outreach activities related to hazardous waste sites and hazardous substances.
- Education of community members and health care providers about hazards posed by hazardous waste sites.
- Preparation of chemical and site-specific fact sheets that address community health concerns in a timely manner.

Staff

The following individuals are assigned to the Iowa Hazardous Waste Site Health Assessment Program.

**Charles Barton, Ph.D., DABT
State Toxicologist, Principal
Investigator**

Phone: (515) 281-6881

Email: cbarton@idph.state.ia.us

Dr. Barton is a board certified toxicologist. He serves as a statewide public health resource to provide health consultation and advice to environmental and health-related agencies, health care providers, and business and industry representatives. He has published articles in numerous journals and publications.

**Stuart Schmitz, P.E.
Health Assessor / Environmental
Engineer**

Phone: (515) 281-8707

Email: sschmitz@idph.state.ia.us

Mr. Schmitz is a registered professional chemical engineer who writes health assessments and consultations. He has almost 20 years experience in environmental engineering projects involving hazardous and solid waste. Prior to working for the Iowa Department of Public Health, he worked as a private consultant and for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

**Sara Colboth
Health Educator**

Phone: (515) 281-5894

Email: scolboth@idph.state.ia.us

Mrs. Colboth has a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resource Management. She has experience in Environmental and Science education. Prior to working for the Iowa Department of Public Health, she worked for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in their Hazardous Waste Site Program as a Health Assessor.

**For more information, contact the
program staff listed above.**



**Written requests for services should
be made to:**

Charles Barton, Ph.D., DBAT
Hazardous Waste Site Health
Assessment Program
Iowa Department of Public Health
321 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075