



Iowa Department of Public Health

February 1, 2008

FACT SHEET

Redesigning Public Health in Iowa

Why is Redesign Needed?

- A national movement to establish standards and accreditation for public health is underway. National partners: CDC, National Association of County & City Health Officials, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Accreditation may influence future public health funding.
- There are at least 21 states engaged in performance improvement, e.g., Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and North Carolina. This places Iowa in a key position for national accreditation.
- Public health has increased responsibilities, i.e., managing new and emerging diseases, the growing rate of chronic diseases, disaster preparedness, and assuring services for diverse populations.
- Public health infrastructure has not kept pace with the increased responsibilities. Iowa ranks last in the nation for per capita public health funding (United Health Foundation, 2007).
- No two local public health agencies in Iowa provide identical services. In Iowa, the public health services available are determined entirely by what county an individual lives in.
- The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) provides technical support, consultation, and funding to Iowa's 98 county boards of health, two city boards of health, and one district board of health.
- The Iowa Code grants broad authority to local boards of health (LBOH) to determine what services to provide and how to provide them within their jurisdictions.

What is Redesigning Public Health in Iowa?

- Collaborative initiative of local and state public health partners to establish an equitable public health system available to all Iowans.
- Focuses on improving the quality and performance of public health in Iowa and ensuring a sustainable public health system. This is accomplished through statewide criteria and standards for the public health system.

Redesign Partners

- IDPH convened a work group to redesign public health in Iowa in 2004. This group has met regularly since its inception.
- The work group and committees consist of local and state public health professionals, representatives from professional organizations, governing bodies, and academia.
- More than 150 key stakeholders have been involved in developing the Iowa Public Health Standards.

Status of Redesign

- Iowa Public Health Standards have been finalized.
- An implementation plan has been initiated.
- The majority of local public health departments (89/99) have completed an assessment of their ability to meet the local criteria of the Iowa Public Health Standards.
- Three pilot projects are currently underway to further validate the Iowa Public Health Standards.

Next Steps for Redesigning Public Health in Iowa

- Complete an assessment of the department's ability to meet the state criteria of the Iowa Public Health Standards.
- Prepare for a public health accreditation system for Iowa.

To learn more about Redesigning Public Health in Iowa, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/rphi