

Healthy Women Program. STD Outreach and Investigation.

Data Analysis. Lead Remediation. Food Borne Illnesses. Radon. Influenza Vaccines.

Emergency Preparedness. Extreme Heat. Travel Immunization Clinic. Health Equity.



POLK COUNTY
Health Department
2017- 2018 Annual Report

Communicable Disease Prevention. Laboratory Services.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

New look. New faces. Same Mission.

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DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL LETTER

This was a year of transition for the Polk County Health Department. Rick Kozin, a 17 year veteran of the Health Department, who served 5 years as director, retired in February 2018. Rick's legacy is a health department of strong programs and employees dedicated to the Department's mission: To create the conditions for all people to live healthy lives by engaging residents, reducing health disparities, and attending to the needs of our most vulnerable families.

I have spent my first months as the Director learning from and listening to the community and the Health Department staff. From those conversations, I have established priorities that will guide the work of the Polk County Health Department. They build on our legacy, but also offer new opportunities.

Sexual Health and Wellbeing

STD's are at an epidemic level in Polk County. While improved testing and appropriate treatment are part of the strategy, we also need to start a new conversation in Polk County about sexual health. We will partner with the medical community to normalize appropriate testing protocols and accurate sexual histories. We will empower individuals to advocate for their sexual health and wellbeing, both with their sexual partners and health providers. We will explore the attitudes and behaviors of specific demographic groups toward sexual wellbeing and tailor our approach to meet their needs. We will expand the education we provide and add family planning services in our clinic.

Community Outreach and Collaboration

The Polk County Health Department will build and strengthen our relationships across the community. We will increase our visibility in an effort to grow Polk County residents' knowledge of and participation in our programs. We also need to listen to our neighbors and learn what matters to them. This will shape our work moving forward. The Polk County Health Department will be an active, visible and trusted partner in our community.



Health Equity

We will continue to ensure that our programs and efforts reduce health disparities and improve health equity. Our vision compels us "to be a leader in building the kind of society that supports and enables ALL of us to live healthier lives." Examples of our work actively supporting that vision include lead remediation, Vaccines For Children Program, and the Polk County Healthy Women Program. In fact, all of our current work seeks to provide individuals what they need to achieve their full health potential. We also have new opportunities to affect health equity by becoming trauma-informed and understanding links between trauma, both childhood and environmental and the health of the people we serve.

Our legacy is strong at the Polk County Health Department. I am proud of our past accomplishments and look forward to our new challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Eddy', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Helen Eddy, Director

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



John Mauro



Robert Brownell



Tom Hockensmith



Angela Connolly



Steve Van Oort

BOARD OF HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Anne Bacon, Executive Director - IMPACT Community Action Partnership

Dr. Simon Geletta, Ph.D. (Vice Chair), Public Health Professor - Des Moines University

Reylon Meeks (Chair), Nurse Manager for General Pediatrics - Blank Children's Hospital

Tom Newton, Vice President of Network Engagement - Wellmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield

Dr. Yogi Shah, Geriatrician and Director of Palliative Care - Broadlawns Medical Center

LEAD REMEDIATION: A CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

This summer, Jack and Marilyn Corbin had their home remediated for lead based paint hazards. "Our neighbors down the street had lead abatement done on their home," said Jack Corbin. "We were worried because our grandsons, who are three and one-and-a-half years old, visit us three to five times a week. We contacted the Health Department to see if we were eligible and we met the requirements." The Health Department's lead program works with families who have a home built before 1978, children under the age of six and meet income eligibility, to remove interior and exterior lead hazards from the home.

Jack and Marilyn were enrolled in our lead program within a month. The lead team from the Health Department inspected the home for lead hazards. It was determined there was lead based paint in the bathroom and the exterior of the home. "The contractors were very professional and worked on the home six to seven days a week until it was finished," said Marilyn Corbin. When the remediation was completed, the contractors renovated the bathroom including lowering the bathroom ceiling and adding an exhaust fan. "The contractors even added a rain showerhead and a curved shower rod," said Marilyn. The exterior of the house included new siding that now makes the house lead safe.

"We feel a lot safer in our home," said Jack. "We don't have to worry about our grandsons popping paint chips in their mouths or finding the chips in our backyard." The final advice Jack and Marilyn had for individuals or families worried if their home has lead based hazards: "Do it. It will make your home safer, make your home appear better and improve the neighborhood," said Marilyn. Jack offered the same sentiment. "Call your local health department if you think you have lead based paint. They will come out and inspect your home." The Corbin's house was remediated by a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This grant will help us remediate 150 homes in Polk and Dallas Counties over a three-year period.



Jack L. Corbin in front on his newly remediated lead safe home.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Since 2017, the Health Department has been engaged in an intentional process of building and sustaining relationships with key individuals (including doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, quality experts, informaticians, laboratory staff) whom we can count on to help us navigate and effect changes inside medical institutions. As partners, we can offer value to each other (we offer best practices, information, planning expertise; they offer implementation skills and data), and can be honest about what we need.

We have used this effectively for two years in the meningitis campaign. The Polk County Health Department put considerable effort into building relationships with all major medical systems in Polk County (UnityPoint, Mercy, Broadlawns, The Iowa Clinic, Primary Health Care and VA Clinic), and were able to identify one or more key individuals within each system who could solve problems and push out best practices to many clinics. As the result of our provider relationships, we were able to communicate with school nurses exactly how many appointments were being kept open for immunizations, day by day and provider by provider. We have partners who can be reached immediately to solve problems. We've had several examples of office staff telling families that appointments aren't available, but problem solvers within that system can get to the source of that problem and correct it.

SPOTLIGHT ON COLLABORATION

In 2018, we created a new role at the Health Department: community health medical outreach coordinator. This position specifically engages to medical providers and provides additional community outreach. One of the initiatives in this current role is to expand our condom outreach. We reached out to specific partners because they serve a population that is at higher risk, does not have access to health care or because the organization is located in a "hot spot." A "hot spot" is where we are seeing the highest rate of reported STD's. The community health medical outreach coordinator would meet with community partners, to explain what we see in STD numbers throughout the county and explore if there are other potential partners that may benefit from this program. The community health medical outreach coordinator worked to expand current partnerships and challenged how they are currently distributing condoms to expand the number of condoms distributed. We are also exploring if there are better ways to do this and what other resources we may be able to assist with (educational opportunities & outreach testing). Iowa Homeless Youth Center, IMPACT Program, DMARC Mobile Food Pantry and Drake University Greek Life are just a few condom partnerships we have gained this year.

This outreach has helped to distribute over 76,000 condoms with a goal of 100,000 distributed by the end of the year.



Above is a photo of a condom dispenser on the DMARC mobile food pantry.

IMPROVING SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION DATA

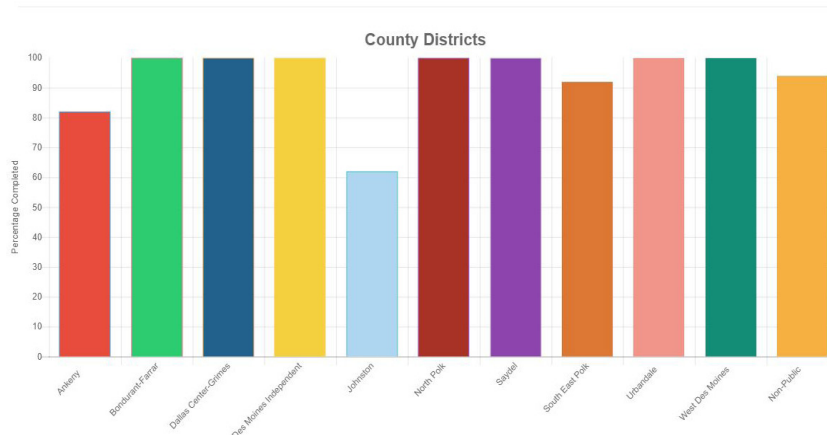
Every year, the Polk County Health Department conducts a school immunization audit of over 148 public and private schools located within county limits. Thousands of documents are reviewed and recorded by audit field staff in each school. The current data intake use for this process has been time consuming, prone to data entry error and it did not allow Health Department staff to generate automatic reports that could provide information in a timely manner.

Health Department audit staff looked for ways to improve the data entry process and be able to produce reports that could be distributed among school principals and nurses before mid-school year. For this reason, the Health Department contacted staff from the Polk County IT Department to discuss the creation of a data entry/management application.

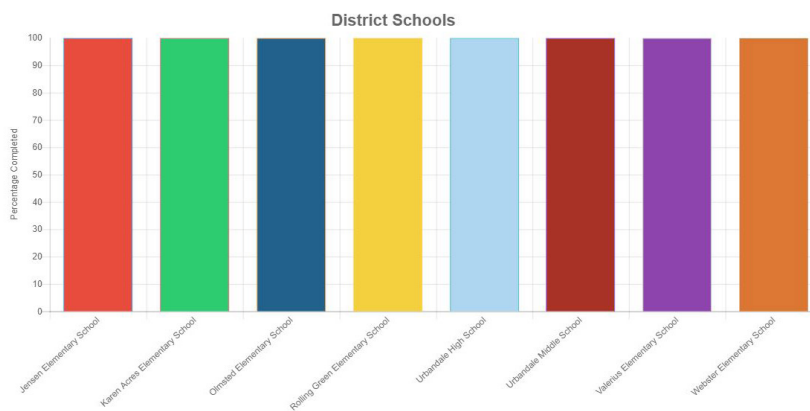
Using feedback from the Health Department, staff from IT Department was able to create an online application that audit field staff can use during the school audit process. Portable devices are used by field staff to enter the information for each school.

This application helps to assist data intake by allowing staff to enter all data electronically and by producing all calculations that previously were done by hand. The data entered is stored electronically in the Polk County IT cloud, which minimizes the use of paper and allows Health Department staff to store and retrieve any documentation in the future.

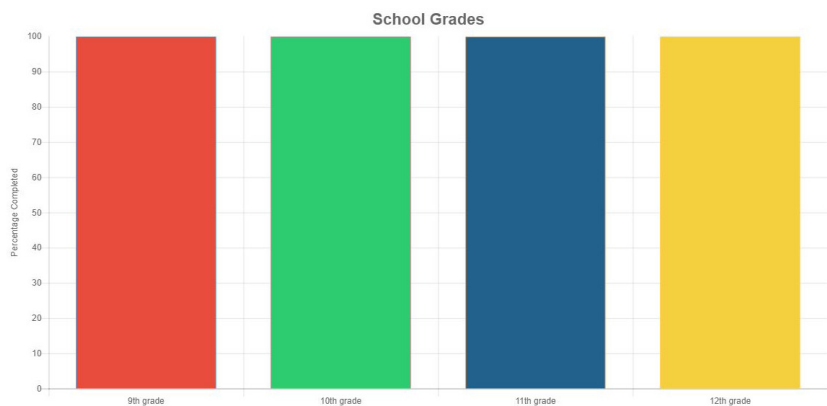
The school audit application includes a tool that allows Health Department staff to identify the status of the audit process at any time. Staff is able to monitor the progress of the audit process and to minimize any potential delays. Another great benefit of this application is the use of technology to improve a public health practice. By making our data entry process more efficient, we can focus our energy and time on exploring ways to improve immunization practices and to reduce the number of not-fully vaccinated students in schools.



Polk County school immunization data from 2017-2018.



Polk County 2017-2018 immunization data broken down by Urbandale Community Schools.



Polk County 2017-2018 immunization data broken down by Urbandale High School.

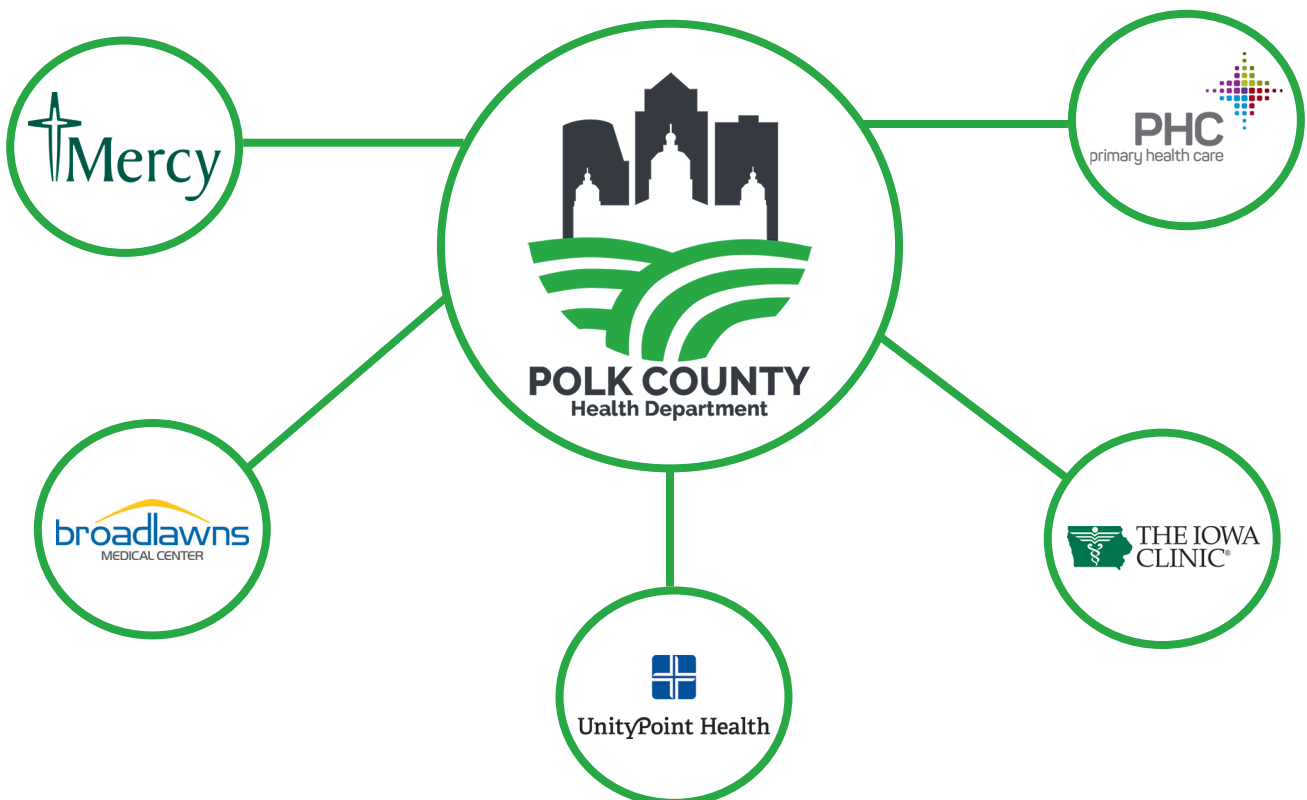
WHY CREATE MEDICAL HOMES?

Over the past years, the Health Department has worked to establish medical homes with our clients. A medical home is best described as a model or philosophy of primary care that is patient-centered, comprehensive, team-based, coordinated, accessible and focused on quality and safety. A medical home builds long-term relationships built on trust and stability with the client and provider. Patient's history is gathered and stored in one location and provider has more leverage for patient's health outcomes.

We promote medical homes at a variety of locations. We talk to clients who visit our Health Department about medical homes. We visit with school nurses and medical providers about the importance of medical homes. Throughout the summer, our staff is very active at back-to-school clinics and health events. We counsel every family about the value of a family doctor. Medical records from any back-to-school event are sent to an identified medical home. Our staff also calls participants from previous back-to-school events before next year's event to encourage them to make an appointment with their family doctor.

The Polk County Health Department focuses on patients who are uninsured. When a patient or family contacts us regarding back-to-school immunizations and physicals, we gather all the information about why they contacted us and their medical needs. In the case of families who have medical homes, we contact the provider to make sure the families go to their medical home and refer the families to that medical home.

We have built positive relationships with Polk County school nurses and medical providers. Our awareness efforts and relationships over the past two years have succeeded as most school nurses tell their students and families to visit their family doctor. One of the ways our staff helps medical providers is developing scripts for health systems staff to use to make sure they are asking families appropriate questions to make sure their health needs are met. Our goal is to make sure everyone in Polk County has a medical home.



A CLOSER LOOK

2017-2018 Health Department Data and Statistics

Sexually Transmitted Disease Cases Investigations

- Chlamydia 3,466
- Gonorrhea 1,467
- Syphilis 188
- HIV 41
- Total: 5,162

**These STD cases are investigated by our Public Health Investigators.*

Tuberculosis (TB) Cases

- 10 cases of active TB contacted
- 11 cases of latent TB patients exposed to an active case received directly observed treatment (DOT)
- 275 new latent TB cases contacted
- 58.3% latent TB cases closed due to patients completed Direct Observation Therapy (DOT)
- 100% active and latent TB contacts to active TB cases received case management by nurses and DOT

Communicable Disease Investigations

- 646 cases of communicable diseases investigated
- 484 contacts to pertussis and 100% of contacts reached
- 100% of pertussis contacts were educated and treated

Foodborne Investigations

- 1 E. coli
- 1 Cyclopora
- 5 Norovirus
- 4 Salmonella
- 28 Total outbreaks
- 100% of outbreaks where necessary ill/well individuals were interviewed
- 100% of substantiated foodborne complaints had stool specimens collected

Childhood Immunizations

- 3,466 Polk County children were immunized
- 70% of these children were eligible for the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)
- 2,443 of the 3,466 were immunized through the VFC Program

Adult Immunizations

- 4,109 adults were immunized
- 5,187 immunizations were given
- 1,205 of those 4,109 were to individuals wishing to adjust their immigration status

Travel Immunizations

- 2,134 individuals were immunized
- 3,927 immunizations were given

Influenza Immunizations

- 7,932 individuals were immunized for the flu
- 67 community flu clinics were provided to Polk County residents
- 14.1% of children were eligible for the Vaccines for Children Program

Overnight Cooling Shelter

- During the summer, Polk County Health Department and community partners employ many strategies to keep residents healthy and safe when the heat is dangerous hot. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the health department opened an over-night cooling shelter. The shelter was open for one night and served four individuals. Over the course of the summer, we did not see any heat related deaths.

A CLOSER LOOK

2017-2018 Health Department Data and Statistics

Sexually Transmitted Disease Outreach

- Provided STD testing at 27 outreach events
- At those 27 events, we provided 262 HIV tests,
- 99 hepatitis C tests, 2,071 urine tests for chlamydia and gonorrhea and 2,071 urine tests for trichomonas
- 100% of people tested positive did not know they were positive

Community Health Screenings

- Health Department staff hosted five screening events at community settings. Our staff tested individuals for cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure. Food pantries were visited twice a month.
- 77 individuals were screened at community events
- 76 individuals were screened at food pantries
- 341 flu immunizations were also given at two community events

Back-to-School Events

- Participated in three back-to-school events
- 95 individuals were immunized and 221 immunizations were given

Media Relations and Social Media

- 9 press releases were sent to the media and translated into Spanish for Spanish media partners
- 100% of media releases were covered by our Spanish media partners
- 66 articles were written for the media outlets
- 39 media inquiries were made by media channels and 84% were unsolicited inquiries
- 315 Facebook posts and 292 Twitter posts were posted to the Health Department's social media pages
- 5% increase in Twitter followers and 17% in Facebook likes

Polk County Healthy Women Program

- 1,034 women received services from the Polk County Health Women Program
- 333 patients received case management from nurse case manager
- 9 participants were diagnosed with breast cancer or cervical pre-cancer and initial treatment in Polk County: 8 breast cancer and 1 cervical cancer
- 56% of patients were diagnosed with cancer at an early stage and 0.87% were diagnosed with cancer
- 195 participants participated in health coaching and 89.5% reported positive health outcomes

Emergency Planning

- Health Department staff participated in one exercise to test their skills and experience related to a public health emergency
- 100% of Health Department staff completed training in incident command system to further their knowledge regarding a natural, biological or chemical disaster

Lead Remediation and Healthy Homes Program

- 69 patients received case management due to evaluated blood levels
- 50 homes were remediated for lead hazards
- 88% of those homes were completed within 20 days
- 109 additional children are now living in lead safe homes
- 44 homes were inspected for home health hazards such as insects, mold, radon and other environmental toxics

NOTICE DISCRIMINATION IS AGAINST THE LAW

Polk County will provide programs and facilities which are accessible to people with disabilities and administer its programs/services in a manner that does not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, genetic information, disability or veteran or military status.



OUR MISSION

To create the conditions for all people to live healthy lives by engaging residents, reducing health disparities and attending to the needs of our most vulnerable families.

STAY UP-TO-DATE!



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