



**Iowa's Health Improvement Plan 2012-2016**  
**2015 Revisions**

*Environmental Health*

# Environmental Health

## What Critical Needs Are Included

Air Quality  
Healthy Homes  
Lead Poisoning and Screening  
Water Quality



## Measures of Progress

- 5-1 An increase in the number of lives saved from fires by smoke detectors.**  
Target: 204 Lives Saved.  
Revised Baseline: 186 Lives Saved (2011).  
Most Recent Data: 217 Lives Saved (2012).  
Data Source: [Reports to the State Fire Marshal](#).
- 5-2 A decrease in the number of children who have had at least one confirmed elevated blood-lead test before age 6.**  
Revised Target: 421.  
Revised Baseline: 468 (2004 Birth Cohort).  
Most Recent Data: 252 (2008 Birth Cohort).  
Data Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, [Public Health Tracking portal](#).
- 5-3 An increase in the number of private drinking water wells tested for arsenic.**  
Target: 150 wells tested per year.  
Baseline: 473 wells tested from 2006 to 2008.  
Most recent data: 568 wells tested in 2014.  
Baseline Data Source: [Arsenic in Iowa's Water Sources: Surveillance, Research, Education, and Policy](#).  
Recent Data Source: State Hygienic Laboratory, OpenELIS database (unpublished data).

## What Our State Is Doing to Improve (by 2016 unless otherwise indicated)

### Air Quality

### Lead Organizations

- 5-1.1 Assure that the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM2.5<sup>1</sup> are met statewide. Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
(Revised from original 5-1.1)

### Healthy Homes

### Lead Organizations

- 5-1.2 Continue developing viable Iowa communities with decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities primarily for persons of low and moderate incomes. Iowa Economic Development Authority
- 5-1.3 Maintain the current number of homes with a lead-poisoned child where remediation is completed to the current number of 118 each year. (Revised from original 5-1.5) Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Advisory Committee
- 5-1.4 Engage the scientific community in developing a comprehensive understanding of the quality of radon data and develop a plan to communicate and address radon health risks. Iowa Department of Public Health

### Lead Poisoning and Screening

### Lead Organizations

- 5-1.5 Continue the blood lead-testing rate of 98% for the 2004 birth cohort<sup>2</sup> through the 2009 birth cohort. Iowa Department of Public Health

<sup>1</sup> PM2.5 refers to fine particles in the air. At 11 of the 17 fine particle air-monitoring sites in Iowa, air pollution levels are at or exceed 80% of the federal public health air pollution [standards](#) for fine particles.

<sup>2</sup> A birth cohort is a group of children born during a given period of time; e.g., children born in 2004 are part of the 2004 birth cohort.

5-1.6 Investigate and establish a database to assess potential environmental exposure to other metals, such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium and mercury beyond lead by analyzing all venous blood lead specimens submitted between 2012 and 2016 for these additional metals; compare the Iowa database with baseline data from CDC.

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## Water Quality

## Lead Organizations

5-1.7 Reduce exposure to elevated nitrate levels in drinking water among an estimated 25,000 to 68,000 persons relying on private wells and for 1,387 persons who rely on public water systems through education and information dissemination.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources;  
Iowa Department of Public Health

5-1.8 Continue funding sanitary sewer system improvements, water system improvements, water and wastewater treatment facilities, storm water projects related to sanitary system improvements, and rural water connections.

Iowa Economic Development Authority

5-1.9 Assess exposure to emerging contaminants such as new classes of herbicides and insecticides, pesticide degradates, perfluorinated compounds (e.g., fabric protectors), polychlorinated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs or flame-retardants) in surface and ground water by establishing a sustainable monitoring/surveillance program and subsequent related educational information for dissemination to mitigate and minimize exposure. *(Revised from 2014 objective 5-1.10)*

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5-1.10 Reduce exposure to arsenic to persons who rely on drinking water from private wells by establishing a monitoring program and subsequent education and information dissemination to mitigate and minimize exposure.

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## Other Plans Relating to Environmental Health:

[Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development](#)

[Iowa Cancer Plan](#)