

# Emergency Medical Services and Trauma

Phone: 515-281-0620

<http://idph.iowa.gov/BETS/EMS> and <http://idph.iowa.gov/BETS/Trauma>

Protecting & Improving  
the Health of Iowans



A broken leg, a heart attack, a stroke or an injured child – whatever the emergency, Iowa’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system is ready to respond. Iowans rely on the EMS system to provide efficient, well-trained and reliable out-of-hospital care. The EMS system must ensure this care is available to all Iowans, whether urban or rural, even when resources are scarce. The Trauma system works hand-in-hand with EMS to provide timely, specialized care by matching trauma patient needs to appropriate resources in the state.

The Emergency Medical Services system works to ensure medical help is there when Iowans need it.

## Did you know?

In 2016, 72% of authorized EMS services in Iowa described themselves as volunteer, and responded to approximately 10% of calls for service. The 28% of EMS services staffed by paid EMS providers respond to the remaining 90% of calls for service.

Iowa has an inclusive Trauma System. If an injury occurs anywhere in Iowa, there are thousands of trained providers ready to respond in a timely manner and take the victim to one of the 118 trauma care facilities where life-saving care is immediately available.

In 2016, 17,393 pediatric patients used the EMS system for either a medical or trauma emergency.

## Why are EMS programs important to protecting and improving the health of Iowans?

- In 2016, Iowa ambulance services received 289,582 calls, resulting in 228,735 patients transported to a health care facility.
- According to the web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for Iowans from age 1 to 17, and the fourth leading cause of death for all age groups combined (CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2015).
- Iowa’s Trauma System works to decrease the incidence and severity of trauma and prevent unnecessary deaths and disabilities.
- Iowa’s Trauma System works to keep costs down while improving efficiency.
- Early CPR and defibrillation usually result in a greater than 50% long-term survival rate for witnessed cardiac arrests.

## Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Prevent injuries & violence

Strengthen the health infrastructure

Prepare for, respond to & recover from emergencies

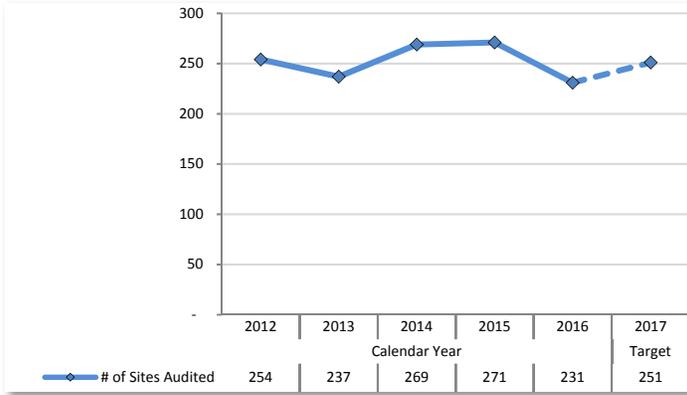
Promote healthy living

## What do we do?

- Regulate EMS training programs, individual providers and patient care services. Regulation ensures baseline standards for training, certification and service authorizations are met.
- Help county EMS associations by providing funds for training and system development, and by serving as a resource for local EMS services.
- Iowa’s Trauma System certifies hospitals at a level of trauma care based on what resources are available in the community.
- Administer the Lucas Automated CPR Device program, which provides automatic chest compression devices to EMS services and hospitals across Iowa.

## How do we measure our progress?

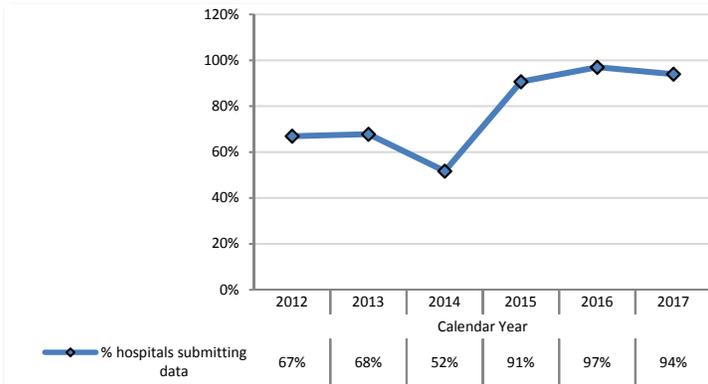
### 1 Number of EMS service onsite inspections



Data Source: Onsite inspection reports. Data are available annually.

**How are we doing?** The bureau inspects each of Iowa's 900+ emergency medical services every three years, or more often when deficiencies are found.

### 2 Percent of Iowa hospitals submitting data to the state trauma registry.



Data Source: Iowa Trauma Registry.

**How are we doing?** Each of the 118 trauma facilities in Iowa is required to submit data to the state trauma registry. The data is used in the re-verification of the facilities to ensure standards and benchmarks are being met, and to support performance improvement. In addition, the state and associated trauma committees can look at trends at trauma facilities to identify weaknesses in the trauma program and respond to the needs of the facilities. After switching to the ImageTrend registry software, more hospitals are submitting data because of the relative ease compared to the previously used software. The increase from 2015 is due to ongoing registry training, as well as deficiencies issued to non-participating hospitals. The decrease from 2016 to 2017 is likely due to delay of data entry, as we still anticipate the data will be entered. Staff changes/shortages and delay of submission from hospitals using third party software are the primary reason.

## What can Iowans do to help?

1. Authorized EMS service providers should make sure that all required data is submitted to the bureau.
2. Emergency medical care providers must understand the EMS system and the rules that regulate providing emergency medical care.
3. Understand the signs and symptoms of stroke such as trouble walking and talking, and numbness or paralysis in the face, arms or legs, and summon emergency care.
4. All Iowans can help create public access defibrillation programs in their communities.
5. All Iowans can learn how to keep children safe from injury, including learning how to properly install child safety seats, and the importance of wearing bicycle helmets.

## Expenditures

General fund and federal funds: General funds are used for maintenance of effort match for the PHS Block Grant: K19-1941/1943; 0153-1942; Lucas Automated CPR Device Grant\*: 0153-1992; EMS for Children: 0153-1714; Injury Prevention "Love Our Kids" license plate sales\*: K19-1948; 0153-1722; Critical Access FLEX Funding: 0153-0914-CA16.

|                    | State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual | State Fiscal Year 2017 Actual | State Fiscal Year 2018 Estimate |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| State funds        | \$1,324,578                   | \$1,276,074                   | \$1,173,285                     |
| Federal funds      | \$483,419                     | \$468,166                     | \$589,697                       |
| Other*             | \$118,451                     | \$2,612,612                   | \$2,125,927                     |
| <b>Total funds</b> | <b>\$1,926,448</b>            | <b>\$4,356,851</b>            | <b>\$3,888,909</b>              |
| FTEs               | 10.16                         | 13.08                         | 14.50                           |

**Note:** Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.

Iowa Department of Public Health  Division of Acute Disease Prevention & Emergency Response and Environmental Health

 Emergency Medical Services and Trauma

Phone: 1-800-728-3367  Fax: 515-281-0488  <http://idph.iowa.gov/BETS/EMS>

5th Floor, Lucas Building  321 E. 12th Street  Des Moines, IA 50319-0075