

# Environmental Health Protection

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<http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs>

Protecting & Improving  
the Health of Iowans



The Bureau of Environmental Health Services strives to ensure the protection of environmental health by providing technical assistance and services to local environmental health departments, local boards of health, and all Iowans. Bureau staff ensure the protection of environmental health in swimming pools and spas, tattoo establishments, and migrant labor camps. We verify that water treatment devices, such as water filters, perform appropriately and as claimed by the manufacturer. We also issue professional licenses and certifications.

**Did you know?** Annual inspections for tattoo establishments and pool facilities are conducted by qualified staff of local boards of health in 97 of Iowa's 99 counties.

## Why are Environmental Health Protection programs important to protecting and improving the health of Iowans?

- The Backflow Program ensures that the individuals testing and repairing backflow prevention assemblies are knowledgeable in performing these tasks to protect your drinking water supply.
- The Migrant Labor Camp program provides sanitation and health standards relating to the construction, operation, and maintenance of migrant labor camps to reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission and injury among migrant farm workers.
- The Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board licenses individuals who work on the plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration and hydronic systems and equipment, which helps eliminate the threat of contaminating city and county water supplies, and preventing major accidents associated with faulty equipment installations.
- The Swimming Pool and Spa Program works to reduce the number of recreational water illnesses transmitted through swimming pools and spas and to minimize the number of serious injuries and drowning incidents associated with swimming pools and spas throughout the state.
- The Tattoo Program ensures that all tattoo artists and establishments meet the criteria to be permitted in Iowa.
- The Water Treatment Program ensures the system you purchase performs as advertised by the manufacturer/seller to reduce the specified health related contaminants and claims are truthful and accurate.
- The Lead Professional Certification Program aims to reduce the number of lead-poisoned children in Iowa.

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

Protect against environmental hazards

Prevent epidemics & the spread of disease

Prevent injuries & violence

## What do we do?

- The Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester Registration program sets training standards for technicians who test backflow prevention devices and maintains a registry of qualified technicians.
- The IDPH Migrant Labor Camp Program permits operators providing housing to seven or more migrant agricultural workers, who travel for the purpose of seasonal employment in agriculture.
- IDPH maintains the Iowa State Plumbing Code and Iowa State Mechanical Code, the minimum standards for plumbing and mechanical work in Iowa cities.
- IDPH reviews the health-related contaminant reduction claims of water treatment systems and maintains a registry of systems that comply.
- The Swimming Pool and Spa Program registers swimming pools and spas, establishes safety and sanitation criteria for their operation and use, establishes minimum qualifications for pool operators and lifeguards, and inspects facilities to make sure they are safe.
- The tattoo program manages permits for permanent establishments, mobile establishments and temporary establishment permits while ensuring that all tattooing performed in the State of Iowa is in accordance with applicable rules.
- The Lead Professional Certification Program ensures that lead-based paint is identified and remediated according to work practice standards.

## How do we measure our progress?

### 1 Number of backflow prevention assembly testers certified.

**How are we doing?** In 2016, IDPH issued certification to 1,290 individuals conducting backflow prevention assembly tests.

### 2 Number of migrant labor camp permits issued.

**How are we doing?** In 2016, the migrant labor camp program issued 16 permits in 7 counties ensuring that 1,452 migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families live in housing that meets Iowa law.

### 3 Number of plumbing and mechanical professional licenses issued by the Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board.

Data Source: IDPH Licensing Database. Data are available annually.

**How are we doing?** As of December 2016, 11,883 plumbing and mechanical professionals and 1,783 contractors were licensed in the state.

### 4 Number of pools and spas registered.

**How are we doing?** As of December 2016, IDPH issued registrations to 2,258 pool facilities. This includes pools, spas, splash pads, and water slides.

### 5 Number of tattoo artist and tattoo establishment permits issued.

**How are we doing?** In 2016, the tattoo program issued 768 tattoo artist permits and 273 tattoo establishment permits.

### 6 Number of water treatment systems registered.

**How are we doing?** In 2016, IDPH issued 359 registrations for water treatment systems sold in Iowa.

### 7 Number of certified lead professionals.

**How are we doing?** In 2016, IDPH issued 3,422 individual certifications and 2,167 firm certifications for lead professional activities.

## What can Iowans do to help?

1. A list of licensed plumbing and mechanical contractors is available at <https://eservices.iowa.gov/pmsb/>.
2. The patron or bather shares a responsibility in maintaining a healthy swimming environment by practicing healthy swimming behaviors to improve hygiene and reduce the spread of disease: <http://idph.iowa.gov/swimmingpoolsandspas/safety>
3. Consumers and bathers also share responsibility for using aquatic facilities in a healthy and safe manner to reduce the incidence of injuries. Please always provide direct supervision of your children whenever they are in or around the water and follow all posted rules. <http://idph.iowa.gov/swimmingpoolsandspas/prevention>
4. To access the list of registered water treatment devices, visit <http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs/water-treatment>.
5. Make sure only registered professionals test or repair your backflow prevention assemblies by visiting <http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs/backflow-prevention>.
6. You can report housing concerns at migrant labor camps by filing a complaint at <http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs/migrant-labor-camp>.
7. Report non-permitted tattoo artists to <http://idph.iowa.gov/tattoo>.

## Expenditures

General fund & retained fees\*: K19-1901/1903/1905/1954/2041

	State Fiscal Year 2015 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2017 Estimate
State funds	\$157,237	\$277,320	\$276,677
Other funds*	\$1,321,644	\$1,083,568	\$1,468,369
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$1,478,881</b>	<b>\$1,360,888</b>	<b>\$1,745,046</b>
FTEs	11.78	10.97	12.36

**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.