



# Early Childhood

Phone: 1-800-383-3826 or 515-281-4911

<http://idph.iowa.gov/family-health>

Protecting & Improving  
the Health of Iowans



## Ellen's Story...

Our daughter, Ellen, was attending preschool at Heartland Child Development Center. They indicated that the Lions Club would be giving a free vision screening at the school and asked for permission to have her screened. We hadn't noticed any problems with her vision whatsoever, but thought it was a good idea to have her vision checked. Even though I am a nurse, I never detected any problems. I would not have had her vision checked until just before kindergarten.

Her results suggested that she be evaluated for a possible astigmatism. I made an appointment and her doctor was very surprised that her left eye had not turned in, as her vision was so poor in that eye. She wanted her in corrective lenses immediately to prevent any strabismus. When Ellen got her first pair of glasses, she cried; so did we! She was so surprised that she could see things that were far away. It was just before Christmas and when she saw the Christmas lights on the trees during the ride home, she said, "I never knew there were separate lights on the trees!" Initially, her vision would only correct to 20/40 with lenses. During the next year, we began patching her right eye in an effort to force the left eye to work harder. She progressed well and under the constant direction of her doctor, she was finally able to correct to 20/20. Also, both eyes have remained conjugate. She looks so cute in her little glasses.

Thank you for the work the Iowa KidSight Program does. If not for the screening, we may have waited too long, and her vision would have been forever impaired.

**Did you know?** In Iowa, there are more than 237,000 young children ages 0-5. Of these approximately:

- 16% live below the federal poverty level<sup>1</sup>.
- 35% have ever received a developmental screening<sup>1</sup>.
- 75% have all available parents in the workforce<sup>1</sup>.

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

- Research shows that the first five years of a child's life have a profound and lifelong impact on physical and emotional wellbeing, readiness to learn and succeed, and ability to become a productive citizen.
- Child abuse disproportionately impacts young children. In 2015, 49.3% of child abuse victims were less than 6 years old.<sup>2</sup>
- Poverty is one of the greatest barriers to healthy child development. Poverty can negatively impact young children's cognitive development and ability to learn, can lead to behavioral, social and emotional problems, and can result in poor health.<sup>1</sup>
- Unintended injury is the leading cause of death and disability for children over age 1. Preventing injuries in early child care and education settings has a large impact on the health, school readiness, and lifelong potential of Iowa's children.

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

Strengthen the health infrastructure

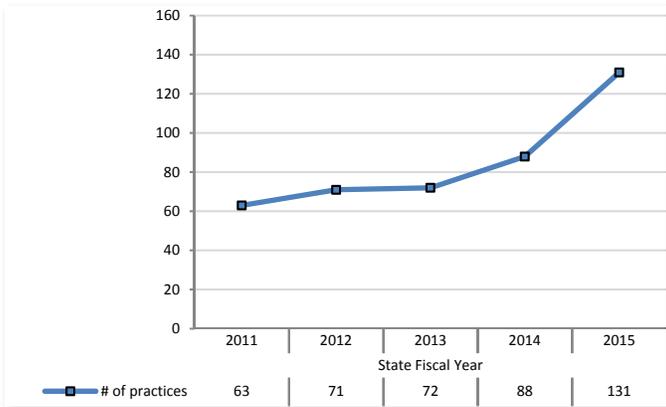
Promote healthy living

## What do we do?

- Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) has developed a comprehensive plan that serves as the framework for Iowa's early childhood system.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Five program partners with primary healthcare providers to ensure quality social, emotional, and developmental screenings of children under age 5 and helps practices by offering enhanced care coordination to families in need of diverse community resources.
- Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) supports the health and safety of children enrolled in early care and education programs through nurse consultation, health education, and facilitating health services referrals.
- IDPH collaborates with community partners to implement Iowa's Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health. This initiative supports early childhood professionals with resources and opportunities to promote healthy mental development among children age birth through five.
- With the Iowa Department of Education, IDPH coordinates the Early ACCESS program, providing developmental evaluations and services for children from birth to age 3, and coordinates services for children with or at risk for developmental delays.

## How do we measure our progress?

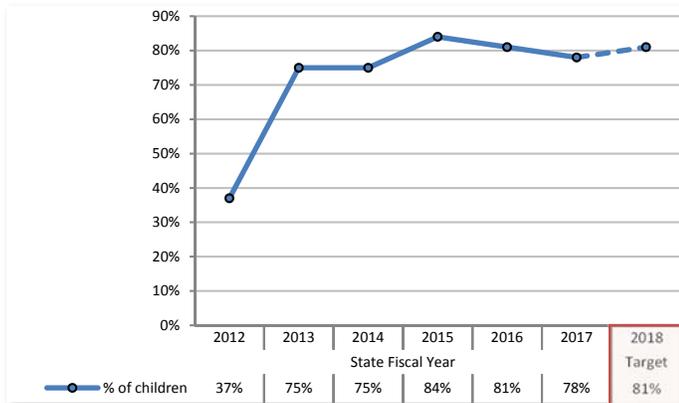
### 1 Number of medical practices engaged in 1<sup>st</sup> Five surveillance.



Data source: 1<sup>st</sup> Five Title V Child Health Agencies. Data are available annually.

**How are we doing?** Between FY06 to FY16, the number of known practices in Iowa working to integrate a standardized surveillance tool during well child exams that includes assessing for social/emotional development and family risk factors increased from 2 to more than 200. Evaluation of referrals shows that for every one referral from a medical practice, three additional referrals are identified when care coordinators work with families.

### 2 Percent of children with special health care needs who have a special needs care plan in the early care and education setting.



Data Source: ECI Annual Reports and HCCI records. Data are available annually.

**How are we doing?** In SFY2017, the percentage of children with special needs that had a care plan fell to 78%. Care plans, such as asthma action plans, diabetic care plans, allergy and anaphylaxis plans; ensure caregivers are aware of the health needs of the infants and young children in their care and how to care for these children on a daily and emergency basis.

## What can Iowans do to help?

1. Go to [www.earlychildhoodiowa.org](http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org) to learn more about Early Childhood Iowa.
2. Check <http://idph.iowa.gov/1stfive> for information on children's social-emotional development and to search a current statewide map of clinics partnering with 1<sup>st</sup> Five.
3. All Iowans can make sure their babies are screened for hearing loss. Iowa law requires screening all babies before leaving the hospital. To learn more, go to <http://idph.iowa.gov/ehdj>.
4. If you have a concern about a child's development, make a referral to Early ACCESS by calling 1-888-IAKIDS1 or sending an email to [jafamilysupportnetwork@vnsia.org](mailto:jafamilysupportnetwork@vnsia.org).
5. All Iowans can support and encourage funding for quality evidence-based early childhood programs.

## Expenditures

Federal funds & intra state receipts\* (Dept of Human Services & Education): 0153-0548/0669/0676. 1st Five: general fund & intra state receipts\* (Dept of Human Services): K05-0691. Early ACCESS: federal funds & intra state receipts\* (Dept of Education): 0153-0708. HCCI: intra state receipts\* (Dept of Human Services & Management): 0153-0662. Vision Screening: general fund: K09-0931

	State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2017 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2018 Estimate
State funds	\$2,338,753	\$3,210,826	\$3,195,676
Federal funds	\$115,229	\$11,277	\$0
Other funds*	\$1,238,666	\$1,450,980	\$1,651,961
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>\$3,692,648</b>	<b>\$4,673,084</b>	<b>\$4,847,637</b>
FTEs	7.03	5.60	5.55

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 Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention Early Childhood

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Early ACCESS (5th floor)

Phone: 515-201-5282 Fax: 515-725-1760

[www.jafamilysupportnetwork.org/early-access-iowa/what-is-early-access](http://www.jafamilysupportnetwork.org/early-access-iowa/what-is-early-access)

1st Five (5th floor)

Phone: 515-281-7721 Fax: 515-725-1760

<http://idph.iowa.gov/1stfive>

Healthy Child Care Iowa (5th floor)

Phone: 281-7519 Fax: 515-725-1760

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

<sup>1</sup> 2015 Kids Count Data Center, Annie E. Casey Foundation

<sup>2</sup> Prevent Child Abuse Iowa