



Health Care Safety Net

Phone: 1-800-308-5986
<https://idph.iowa.gov/ohds>

Protecting & Improving
the Health of Iowans



If you watch a high-wire circus act closely, you'll notice that not only do the performers have a cable attached from the wire to their body, but there's also a safety net below. If the performer falls and the cable malfunctions, the safety net is there to protect the performer. That's a lot like the way the Health Care Safety Net works. It is intended to "catch" Iowans in danger of falling through the cracks in the health care system.

By focusing on community health centers, rural health clinics, small rural hospitals, and free clinics, IDPH Safety Net partners are able to reach over 420,000 Iowans who would otherwise lack access to health care because of where they live, cultural differences, or having little or no health insurance. Iowa has 14 federally qualified community health centers, 163 Certified Rural Health Clinics, 31 free clinics and 92 small rural hospitals across the state.

Good health should not be a tightrope walk for any Iowan. The IDPH Safety Net partners provide the assurance of access to care.

Did you know? According to American Community Survey (ACS) 5 Year 2011 – 2015 estimate data, 43% of Iowans live in rural areas with 79 of the 99 Iowa counties considered rural.

Why is the Health Care Safety Net important to protecting and improving the health of Iowans?

- All Iowans need to be able to get health care within a reasonable time, using primary care services in a timely fashion to prevent more serious health consequences and reduce unnecessary emergency room visits.
- Safety Net services increase access to qualified health professionals and to quality health services for underserved and uninsured Iowans. Safety Net providers, such as community health centers and free clinics, provide needed comprehensive health care services to all Iowans, regardless of ability to pay.
- In the past, free clinics in Iowa were unable to recruit enough professionals to provide free services due to the lack of professional insurance coverage. The Volunteer Health Care Provider program (VHCPP) offers indemnification to volunteer health care providers serving Iowa's free clinics. VHCPP free clinics have served more than 110,000 Iowans since 2010.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

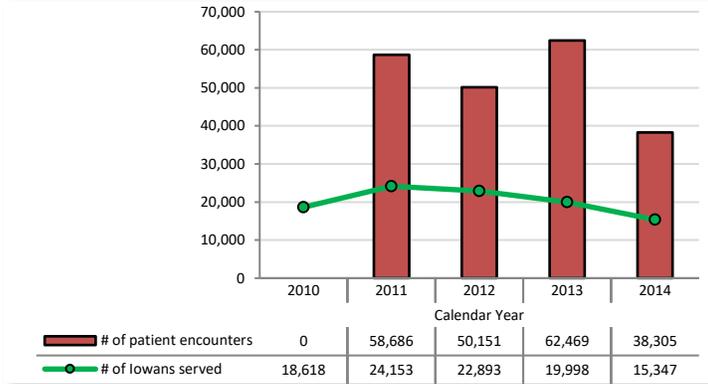
Strengthen the health infrastructure

What do we do?

- Provide funding to and contract management of Health Care Safety Net programs and activities.
- Assist physician assistants and advanced registered nurse practitioners to participate in a postgraduate medical training program so they can provide services in Iowa's mental health shortage areas.
- Provide loan repayment opportunities to primary care providers working in designated underserved areas.
- Analyze geographic areas of Iowa eligible for CMS-certified Rural Health Clinics.
- Provide indemnification to health care professionals and free clinics through the Volunteer Health Care Provider program. As of April 2017, 306 professionals are enrolled.
- Analyze and identify areas of Iowa for Health Professional Shortage Areas leading to eligibility for loan repayment and enhanced reimbursement from Medicare.

How do we measure our progress?

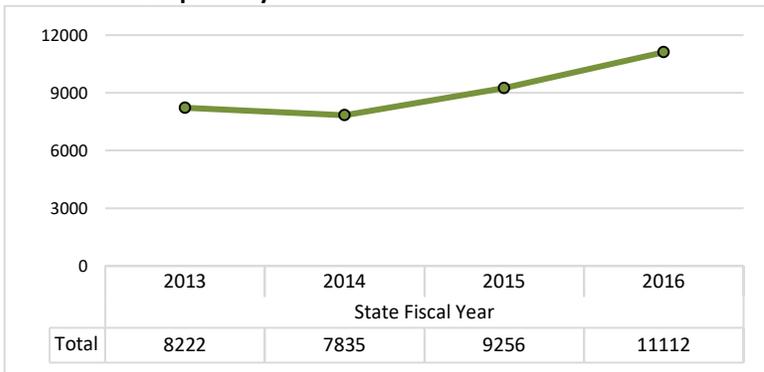
1 Number of Iowans served and encounters by VHCPP professionals.



Data Source: <http://www.iowapca.org> Numbers above are approximate numbers provided to IDPH

How are we doing? Approximately 41% of visits to free clinics are for treatment of chronic illness, 50% for treatment of illnesses that are not chronic, and 9% for preventative care.

2 Number of Iowans served with donations from the Iowa Drug Donation Repository.



How are we doing? During FY 2016, the Iowa Drug donation Repository received donated medications valued at **\$3,807,617.79** and shipped donated medications valued at **\$3,478,690.28**. Also in FY 2016, the Iowa Drug Donation Repository served **11,112 patients**.

What can Iowans do to help?

1. If you or someone you know needs health care services, go to <http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/> to find the health center nearest you.
2. All Iowans can volunteer to help free clinics with grant-writing, fundraising, and any general tasks needed to run the clinic.
3. Health care professionals wanting to volunteer at free clinics can visit the VHCPP Web site at <https://idph.iowa.gov/ohds/iowa-health-workforce/vhcpp>.

Expenditures

General fund & RIIF (Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funds)*: K09-0971/0981/1001/1003/1013/1015; KA8-KA80

	State Fiscal Year 2015 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual	State Fiscal Year 2017 Estimate
State funds	\$2,231,717	\$866,832	\$870,623
Other funds*	\$0	\$0	\$75,000
Total funds	\$2,231,717	\$866,832	\$945,623
FTEs	0.60	0.55	0.60

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 ♦ Bureau of Oral & Health Delivery Systems ♦ Health Care Safety Net

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VHCPP – Phone: 515-242-6879 ♦ <https://idph.iowa.gov/ohds/iowa-health-workforce/vhcpp>

Iowa Drug Donation Repository Program – Phone: 515-327-5405 ♦ <https://safenetrx.org/>

Free Clinics of Iowa – Phone: 515-954-7508 ♦ <http://www.freeclinicsofiowa.org/>