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<https://idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Occupational-Health-and-Safety-Surveillance>



## Key Accomplishments



- IDPH OHSSP coordinated and hosted the 2018 Farm Progress Show Health & Safety Tent area in August 2018, recruiting 25 partnering agencies and programs to provide demonstrations, PPE samples, and safety and health resource materials to over 1,000 direct contacts during the two and a half day event.
- Annual Occupational Health Indicators were submitted to NIOSH as scheduled in June 2019 (2016 OHI data).
- IDPH OHSSP continues to partner with the NIOSH

ABLES program regarding options for integration of an adult and child lead surveillance database. Work has included multiple teleconferences and presentations.

## Core (Fundamental) Surveillance Program

The mission of the Iowa Occupational Health & Safety Surveillance Program (OHSSP) is protecting and improving the health and safety of Iowans in the workplace. The program explores options to improve surveillance and data translation capacity, and provides analysis, dissemination, outreach and evaluation functions to support each project.

## Occupational Health Indicators (OHI)

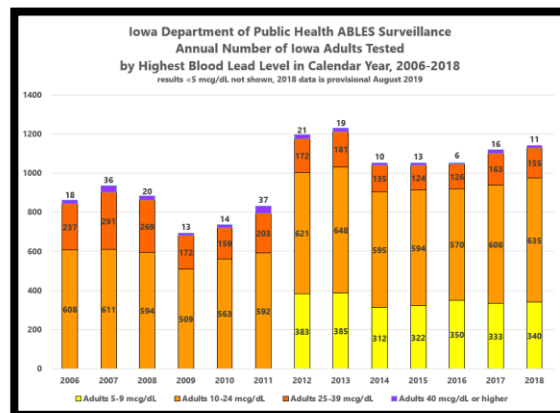
OHSSP uses Iowa data gathered annually for the calculation of nationally established occupational health indicators (OHI). Iowa OHI using 2016 data was reported to NIOSH (June 2019) as scheduled. OHI data is tracked to review state-level trends and comparison (when appropriate) to U.S. indicators and data from surrounding states. This information is reported through program outreach activities and outputs to highlight gaps or opportunities for improvement in worker safety. The Program Manager annually submits (February 2019) her recommendations for updates to the national OHI guidance document as the state-level lead contact for indicators one and four.

## Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- OHI data was used in multiple trainings, including grand rounds for veterinary, medical and pharmacy students and certification training for elevated blood lead inspectors and case managers.
- Data was used by external partners, including professors and students at the University of Iowa College of Public Health.
- Data findings were used in the development of exhibit materials and presentations as listed below.
- Data findings were used to update the Healthy Iowans report.
- OHSSP provided fatal occupational injury surveillance findings to the Iowa Division of Labor to improve identification of worker deaths, especially deaths of self-employed workers. These findings ultimately become part of the Iowa Census of Fatal Occupational Injury (CFOI) report to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Iowa Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance (ABLES)

OHSSP ABLES surveillance involved the review of incoming adult BLL data. Elevated reports were given additional follow-up to determine if the report was for a known case or a newly reported exposure; follow-back was done to gather missing or incomplete data and determine whether the exposure was work-related or from another exposure source. Work-related cases were coded by industry. Educational materials were provided to medical providers and new cases. Referrals were made by OHSSP to the Iowa OSHA enforcement program regarding elevated blood lead results when appropriate.



### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- An increased number of cases were identified involving a child and adult family member with elevated blood lead levels. These cases were evaluated for take-home lead exposure. One manufacturing company was referred to Iowa OSHA for inspection because of multiple cases involving their employees.
- OHSSP recruited one of three major battery manufacturing sites in the state to present at the Iowa Environmental Health Association Conference regarding methods they are implementing to reduce worker exposure to lead and the risk of take-home lead following a site visit by the ABLES program.
- The Iowa ABLES project manager worked with the NIOSH ABLES and CDC NCEH throughout the year regarding options for integrating child and adult lead surveillance databases. She was also a presenter at the 2019 CSTE Environmental Health Workshop regarding this issue.
- OHSSP exhibited at the Iowa Governor's Conference for Public Health April 23-24, 2019.
- OHSSP presented at the 2019 Iowa CLMA/ASCLS (laboratory professionals) joint conference regarding blood lead testing and reporting, April 16, 2019.

## Beyond ABLES

The Beyond ABLES campaign is an ongoing strategy. The goal of the campaign is to provide community-level targeted education, outreach and awareness activities to the workers and medical providers in Iowa counties with the highest number of adults with elevated blood lead levels, while building capacity at the local public health level because there are no funded local adult lead programs in the state. This is a multi-year project. Key messaging focuses on take-home lead risks, medical impacts from long-term chronic lead exposure, and risks to young adults entering the workforce who may be starting families.

### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- From January to May 2019, an occupational medicine resident working on his Master of Public Health practicum worked on the community-level outreach and awareness work plan for the Beyond ABLES project. This resulted in a presentation at an occupational health conference, a poster presentation at the University of Iowa, and development of two trifold brochures targeting workers and medical providers, local public health or community groups. The brochures are used at conference displays, trainings and mailings to targeted contacts.



## Agricultural Safety Outreach

Iowa OHSSP collaborated throughout the year with partners to network our agricultural safety outreach projects. Iowa OHSSP represented the Iowa Department of Public Health on the board of Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH), a multi-organizational group working to improve farm safety.

### Project Outputs and Outcomes Highlights:

- **Farm Progress Show Health & Safety Tent:** The IDPH OHSSP was the coordinator and host of the 2018 Farm Progress Show (FPS) Health & Safety Tent area (HST) held August 28-30, 2018. This biennial agricultural event attracts over 100,000 farmers and agricultural producers from around the Midwest and beyond. OHSSP worked with 25 other agencies or programs to offer displays and materials to those in attendance. Those participating included the Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota Ag Centers, the National AgrAbility Project from Purdue University, the Grain Handling Safety Coalition, AgriSafe Network, Healthier Workforce Center of the Midwest, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Pesticide Bureau, the Iowa Department of Transportation Zero Fatalities project, the Iowa Stop the Bleed project, and others. Topics covered included responding to injuries, business safety, best practices for agriculture, rural roadway safety, healthy living, and resources related to poisonings, stress, suicide, opioids and more. In addition, the business that runs the FPS donated over \$55,000 of in-kind services, space, and materials for the HST and a regional grocery chain donated \$900 for coffee offered in the tent. Exhibitors in the tent estimated over 1,000 direct contacts over the two and a half days of the show. OHSSP displayed information on multiple topics including ag worker stress, suicide, opioids and hand washing to prevent zoonotic disease – August 2018
- OHSSP exhibited and presented at the annual Midwest Regional Agricultural Safety and Health Conference November 27-28, 2018
- OHSSP exhibited and presented at the 2019 International Society of Agricultural Safety and Health



### Communication, Dissemination of Information and Activities Completed

- Newspaper interview resulting in a story: *For Farmers Harvest Time Poses Greater Safety Threats*. The Cedar Rapids Gazette, September 30, 2018
- Provided Iowa adult lead exposure information as part of two state Elevated Blood Lead (EBL) Investigator Training sessions – October 2018, June 2019
- *Burden of Occupational Injury in Iowa, 2009-2013* Full Report - October 2018; posted to web, shared by multiple electronic mail lists including the Healthy Iowans contacts. Presented overview to local environmental health contacts during quarterly webinar December 2018
- Grand Rounds for medical, veterinarian, pharmacy and public health students – 5 sessions, approximately 30 participants throughout the budget period
- EpiUpdates newsletter article (distributed to over 1,300 medical providers, local public health and other contacts): Change in OSHA requirements for worker blood lead testing laboratories - February 2019
- Display at the Prevent Kids Injury (young worker safety) – September 2018
- Display and presentation at the Iowa Environmental Health Conference – October 2018
- Display at the Iowa Governor's Safety Conference – November 2018
- Master of Public Health intern project at Farm Progress Show Health & Safety Tent regarding farmers accessing medical care – August 2018. Poster presentation given at MRASH conference – November 2018

- Presentation and exhibit at the annual Midwest Regional Agricultural Safety and Health Conference November 27-28, 2018
- Display at the 2019 Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health – April 2019.
- Presentation at the Iowa CLMA/ASCLS (laboratory professionals) conference – April 2019.
- Display and presentation at the International Society for Agricultural Safety and Health annual conference – June 2019
- University of Iowa Master Public Health practicum project intern developed and disseminated materials targeting medical providers, workers and their families and local public health in four counties with the highest numbers of adult lead poisoning – January through May 2019
- OHSSP and ABLES web page postings and updates
- Presented at the CSTE Environmental Health Workshop panel – child and adult lead surveillance merged database – June 2019

**Collaboration Activities Accomplished (not previously mentioned):**

- OHSSP Participation in IDPH Public Health Accreditation Board process throughout year, materials submission and on the site visit interview team. PHAB awarded to department November 2018
- Met with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Pesticide Bureau personnel to discuss future opportunities to partner – July 2018
- CSTE OH/NIOSH Grantee Meeting December 3-4, 2018, Denver CO attendance
- Reviewed and provided comments for NIOSH draft "Workplace Solutions: Preventing Occupational Exposure to Legionella" - December 2018
- Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau – Impaired Drivers Task Group participation
- Healthy Iowans participation, data update provided – February 2019
- IDPH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program collaboration and input as a subject matter expert, including participation in the MCEH CoIIN (Maternal and Child Environmental Health Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network) project in Iowa.
- I-CASH (Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health) Board of Directors member, quarterly meetings, annual conference (MRASH) planning committee
- Lead in Spices, Herbs & Ayurvedics national teleconferencing workgroup participation
- NIOSH Surveillance Coordinating Group monthly call co-liaison for CSTE Occupational Health subcommittee
- University of Iowa Ag Safety & Health Grad Program External Advisory Group member
- University of Iowa DOT study; Cost of Unbelted Drivers, Technical Advisory Group member