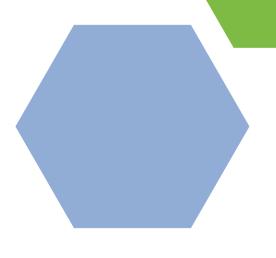


# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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# **Washington County Public Health Staff 2020-2021**

Administrator Clinical Nurse Manager Fiscal AdministratorDanielle Pettit-Majewski, MPH Karri Fisher, RN, MSN, CNM Peggy Wood, BA8Public Health NurseErin James, RN, BSN2Home Health NursesVirginia Miller, LPN Jenifer Roberts, RN, BSN Diane Waldschmidt, RN, BSN Megan Waterhouse, RN, BSN2Home Health AidesJackie Brown, CNA Cindy Johnson, CNA Bonnie Lins, CNA Irene McDowell, CNA2Administrative Support StaffSusie Beatty29Maxine Hervey Jessica Janecek9Social WorkerJen Weidman, BSW20Dental Assistant I-Smile™ CoordinatorLori Hobscheidt, RDA Martha Hernandez-Lopez, RDH23The Family CouncitionChris Classer, Coordinator21			<b>Years of Service</b>
Peggy Wood, BA  15  Public Health Nurse  Erin James, RN, BSN  2  Home Health Nurses  Virginia Miller, LPN  Jenifer Roberts, RN, BSN  2  Diane Waldschmidt, RN, BSN  9  Megan Waterhouse, RN, BSN  6  Home Health Aides  Jackie Brown, CNA  2  Cindy Johnson, CNA  3  Bonnie Lins, CNA  6  Irene McDowell, CNA  Administrative Support  Staff  Maxine Hervey  Jessica Janecek  Social Worker  Jen Weidman, BSW  20  Dental Assistant  I-Smile™ Coordinator  Roberta Sloat  1st Five Coordinator  Roberta Sloat	Administrator	Danielle Pettit-Majewski, MPH	8
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Washington County Board of Health 2020-2021
Cathy Buffington, RN, Chairperson
Jack Seward, Vice Chairperson
Chris Grier, DC, Secretary
Trevor Martin, DO
Connie Larsen

# **Staff News**



In April, 2021, Jen Weidman celebrated her 20 year anniversary with Washington County Public Health.

Thank you for your service and support of children and families in our local communities.

# **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

# **DNA Testing**

The DNA testing program provides accurate and confidential paternity testing to families seeking answers to pressing questions in their lives. Washington County Public Health and Home Care have offered DNA testing (paternity testing) since June, 2006. Currently, the agency collaborates with a nationally recognized DNA testing laboratory, the DNA Diagnostics Center, which is based in Fairfield, Ohio. The testing laboratory schedules the appointment dates and times and provides the agency



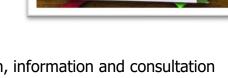
with specimen collection supplies and specimen processing. Immigration cases from surrounding communities have also been referred to the health department for genetic testing.

# **Emergency Preparedness**

Washington County Public Health is prepared to respond to public health emergencies and has detailed response plans that guide planning, operations, logistics, and communications during emergencies.

#### Activities completed this year:

- Health Alert Network (HAN) test participation and completion of related activities.
- Participated in monthly tests of the 800 MgHz radio, assuring a redundant communication method.
- Continuous revision of the Public Health Emergency Plan
- Assurance of the required staff competency in accordance with the Federal National Incident Management System (NIMS) standards.



- Provision of clear, concise and effective education, information and consultation about the prevention, management and control of communicable disease to the public and health care community.
- Continued planning and preparation to respond to pandemic influenza.
- Worked within a nine-county service area to plan, prepare and coordinate with Service Area Region 5A activities and trainings.

# **Communicable Disease Surveillance**

Communicable disease surveillance is in place to protect Washington County residents from infectious diseases. Washington County Public Health's purpose and responsibility

in communicable disease investigation is to provide prompt investigation of possible outbreaks and to start control measures to contain further spread of disease to others. Communicable diseases are reported to local public health departments through a state-wide mandatory reporting system. This system of surveillance and reporting is maintained through communication channels between public health, private physicians, hospitals, labs, schools, nursing homes, and the Iowa



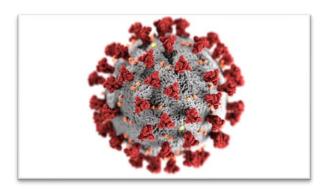
Department of Public Health. In addition, the nursing staff at Washington County Public Health fields dozens of telephone calls over the course of the year on topics ranging from pinworms and head lice to influenza and measles.

#### **Washington County Reportable Diseases 2020-2021**

Campy 13	
Cryptosporidium 3	
E. Coli 5	
COVID-19 2,209	
Mumps 2	
Hep C 4	
Salmonella 1	
Lyme 3	
Total 2,240	

#### COVID-19

At the beginning of 2021, we were finally able to take a bit of a breath as cases started to slow a bit in the summer months. However, once school started, our cases began to increase. Luckily, the Iowa Department of Public Health allowed us to utilize staff funded through state grants to assist in COVID-19 response. That helped us increase our capacity significantly.



We worked very closely with our school administration to assist them on their back to school plans, and spoke with our school nurses on a daily basis. They were incredibly helpful in our contact tracing efforts and we wouldn't have been able to do our jobs without them.

In November 2020, our new contact tracing system, DOMO, was implemented at the same time we saw our cases skyrocket. We started getting anywhere from 50-85 cases a day and we had a difficult time keeping up. We attempted to have the state contact tracers assist us, however, DOMO did not allow us to go back and look at the information our partners needed for their response, so we went back to handling our own cases. We saw our deaths double in November, and it was a very bleak time in our office.

At the end of December, we got a ray of hope with our first delivery of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. We were only given 300 doses per week and we collaborated with Washington County Hospitals and Clinics to vaccinate healthcare workers.

The guidance and phases for vaccine implementation were a constantly moving target, and we did our best to adapt. Our mass vaccination clinic plans didn't have guidance on scheduling vaccines. We implemented various processes through trial and error as we worked to vaccinate our community.

The mass vaccine clinics were incredibly effective and we were able to vaccinate four people every five minutes. We couldn't have done it without the flood of volunteers and we are incredibly grateful for all of the nurses, greeters, traffic control volunteers, and community partners that helped us accomplish this feat. Because of your efforts, we were able to meet the vaccine needs of hundreds of community members.



This pandemic has given us a front row seat to the scientific process; which made things challenging and frustrating as we learned more and got new guidance and recommendations.

The pandemic also highlighted the importance of investing in public health infrastructure. Our work is often invisible and focuses on prevention, which makes it easy to undervalue the importance of it all. But when faced with a global pandemic, it's impossible to ignore. At the end of the fiscal year, Washington County had tallied 2,209 cases and 51 deaths.











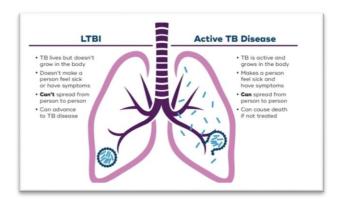






# **Latent TB Infection Program**

Early detection of tuberculosis infection and public education to reduce the risks of becoming active with TB infection is crucial. While most people diagnosed with Latent TB infection do not progress into active TB disease, there is a potential for this to occur. For this reason, people who have a positive TB skin test and have risk factors that increase their risk for developing active TB are provided with preventive antibiotics for 9 months. Washington



County Public Health Department works with the state of Iowa TB program, the client, and the client's physician to provide these medications *free of charge*. The local public health nurse provides ongoing monitoring on a monthly basis to assure the entire prescribed course of antibiotics is taken. A total of three clients were case-managed through Washington County Public Health's Latent TB program this fiscal year.

### **Immunization**

Immunization is one of the most important public health accomplishments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, sharply reducing or eliminating diseases such as Small pox, Polio, and Pertussis. However, many viruses and bacteria could re-emerge and increase if vaccination levels should decrease. The Washington County Public Health Department's immunization program provides immunizations to both children and adults. In addition, the health department provides guidance and consultation to the medical community and the community at large.

The state sponsored Vaccines for Children Program allows Washington County Public Health to provide immunizations free of charge for children who meet certain guidelines, including enrolled in Medicaid, uninsured, underinsured, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 0-18 years of age. In addition, the immunization program provides seasonal influenza vaccinations during public influenza clinics and influenza clinics held at county businesses and worksites.



Washington County Public Health provides services to improve vaccination compliance in Washington County, including reminding patients of appointments, recalling children who are behind schedule with immunizations, as well as encouraging medical providers to use the Immunization Registry Information System (statewide database).

Immunization services are offered in conjunction with Washington WIC clinics four times a month. In addition, an evening immunization clinic is held once monthly at Washington County Public Health and once monthly in Kalona at the Kalona Community Center. Washington County Public Health also offers community vaccination clinics and onsite business immunization services, particularly during influenza vaccination season. The Immunization program is vital to the overall health of the community.

**Total Doses Administered by Vaccine Type Comparison** 

	2019-20	2020-21		2019-20	2020-21
DTap	70	70	Hep B, adult	42	10
Tdap	96	84	Hep A, adult	3	2
Tdap (Adult)	30	2	Hep A, child	139	160
DTap-Hep B-IPV	217	208	HPV	129	128
DTap-IPV	58	58	Varicella	84	82
Td (total doses)	6	2	PCV13	241	252
IPV (Polio)	26	27	Seasonal Influenza, adult	664	565
MMR	77	77	Seasonal Influenza, child	315	424
MMRV	58	62	Meningitis (MCV4)	141	142
Hib	201	213	Meningitis B	78	81
Hep B, Child	29	9	Rotavirus	108	91
			Total	2,817	2,749

#### **School Immunization Audit Data**

Each year, Washington County Public Health staff audits the immunization records of all students enrolled in the school system and all registered day cares and pre-schools in the county. School immunization audits ensure compliance with Iowa Immunization Law and assure protection for all children from communicable diseases.

	2019-20	2020-21
Number of schools audited	19	13
Records reviewed	4,336	4,221
Medical exemptions	12	15
Religious exemptions	255	200
Non-valid records	81	58
Provisional certificates	109	131

# **Home Health Services**

# **Skilled Nursing**

As the life expectancy continues to lengthen across the nation, Iowa continues to boast a growing percentage of adults over the age of 85 years. Many of these elders are making

the choice to remain in their homes and inviting Washington County Public Health and Home Care to partner with them and their families to make this happen. Our agency continues to provide care through a Medicare certified home health program and servina the county residents regardless of their ability to pay. Home Health nurses provide care using a team Home health continues to approach. provide chronic disease management, complicated wound care, medication



teaching and management along with maintenance care designed to enhance a patient's ability to remain in their home and age in place with enhanced precautions and no interruption in services. The total number of skilled nursing visits for 2019-2020 was 2,110.

# **Contracted Therapy**

Washington County Public Health contracts with three therapy companies to provide our patients with options for in-home services. Home Health nurses work closely with the therapists and physicians to establish an individualized plan of care that meets the needs of the patient. Third party payers and insurances are billed whenever possible to cover the costs of these services. In fiscal year 2021, there were 516 physical therapy visits, 157 occupational therapy visits, and 54 speech therapy visits.

### **Home Health Aide/Homemaker**

This program provides personal care and light housekeeping tasks to the residents of Washington County enabling them to remain safely in their homes. Services include: showers, bed baths, skin care, assistance with physician prescribed home exercise programs, dressing/undressing, and laundry. Home Health Aides completed 3,856 visits for 56 patients over the past fiscal year; Homemakers completed 1,883 visits for 61 patients over the past fiscal year.

The physical condition of our clients often improves over time and many of them now live independently in their own homes after discharge from our services.

# **Maternal Child Health/WIC Services**

#### **Maternal Health**

The Maternal Health Program is a supportive service to encourage optimal health for women and infants in Washington County. The program is available to women who have Title 19, no insurance, are underinsured, or a sliding fee scale based on income. This program experienced changes in services offered in 2021 due to changes in grant requirements.



#### Revised services include:

#### Public health nurse

- Assists client to find a medical home to start prenatal care in the 1st trimester
- Supplies prenatal vitamins if needed
- Educates and supports infant feeding practices
- Provides breastfeeding support
- Screens for prenatal and postpartum depression with referral to provider if needed

#### Social work

- Informs of available resources
- Assists in obtaining an appropriate payment source

#### Dental services provided by Registered Dental Hygienist

- Dental screening
- Fluoride varnish application
- Oral health education
- Referral to local dentists for treatment as needed

### Women Infant and Children (WIC) Program

WIC (Women Infants, & Children) is a supplemental nutrition program for babies, children under the age of 5, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and women who have had a baby in the last 6 months. WIC helps families by providing healthy foods, nutrition education, and referrals to other health care agencies. Income guidelines must be met for eligibility for the program. This program utilizes an EBT system which is an efficient method for families to utilize their benefits. WIC services are available four days per month in Washington, Iowa with services provided by Johnson County Public Health. Beginning in July 2020 – June 2021 WIC services took on a different look due to the pandemic. Johnson County Public Health received a waiver through the USDA that

allowed them to not meet with families face to face but to provide all counseling for WIC services telephonically.

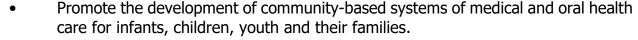
Washington County Public Health provides a nurse during these clinics that can screen all children that may need lead testing. WCPH also provides a social worker for vision screenings, referral to The Family Connection, resource and referral and a dental hygienist for oral screenings and referral, and developmental screenings at all WIC clinics in Washington County. When Johnson County Public Health began providing telephonic counseling to clients due to the pandemic, our agency had to look at new ways to provide enhanced services to families. Johnson County Public Health provided confidential referrals to the Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health (MCAH) program so that follow up could occur. MCAH staff continues to look at new and innovative ways that these important enhanced services can be provided within the community.

#### **Child Health**

The goals of the child health program are to:

- Promote the health of infants and children by ensuring access to quality preventive health service, especially for low-income families or families with limited access to health services.
- Reduce infant mortality and the incidence of preventable diseases and disabling conditions.





Screening services for children through age 21 years are available in conjunction with the WIC program. Children may receive a developmental screening, vision screening, dental screening, lead screening and social assessment. Medical and dental homes are found for children needing services. Assistance is also provided in making sure that all children have access to health insurance.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative



The 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative was developed to promote earlier identification of developmental delay and social-emotional stressors in children ages 0-5. Research indicates when delays are identified and addressed at an early age, children have better outcomes in both school and throughout their lives. The initiative promotes the use of screening tools approved, by the American Academy of Pediatrics, to assist in identification of delays and social-emotional issues by primary medical care providers. 1st Five works with medical providers and clinic staff to provide



education about the importance of screening, as well as training in the use of the AAP recommended tools. 1<sup>st</sup> Five provides care coordination for identified children and their families by connecting them with resources that best fit their individual needs. Additionally, 1<sup>st</sup> Five closes the loop with providers by informing them of the results of their 1<sup>st</sup> Five referral.

1<sup>st</sup> Five experienced both successes and challenges in fiscal year 2021. Due to the pandemic, in-person visits and trainings at medical clinics were temporarily suspended, but 1<sup>st</sup> Five maintained contact with providers through phone, email, and the postal service. The pandemic also caused a significant decrease in the number of children seen for well-child visits in both Henry and Washington counties. This caused an overall decrease in the number of children referred to 1<sup>st</sup> Five. Additionally, we saw a shift in the most frequent reason for referral to the program. Prior to the pandemic, most children were referred due to concern about development. As the pandemic progressed, there was an increase in referrals of children with behavioral and emotional concerns. There is a limited amount of behavioral health providers for children in ages 0-5 both Henry and Washington counties which caused difficulty, as well as some delay, in connecting families with appropriate services.

Despite the obstacles presented by the pandemic, 1<sup>st</sup> Five was able to connect with a new single provider clinic, Moeller Family Practice. 1<sup>st</sup> Five met with the provider to share information about the benefits that the 1<sup>st</sup> Five model can bring to both the clinic and the families they serve. As a result of this meeting, the clinic incorporated the use of the ASQ-3 developmental screening tool, at all three times recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, into their practice. Additionally, 1<sup>st</sup> Five met with new providers at 3 clinics to provide training in the model and the use of the screening tools.

1<sup>st</sup> Five is looking forward to an increase in referrals during fiscal year 2022 while continuing our work with providers and families.

# **Lead Monitoring**

The lead monitoring program in Washington County is primarily carried out during WIC clinics which are held four times a month throughout the year. Our agency is also available by appointment to provide lead testing to any child who needs a lead level before entering kindergarten. As a result of the pandemic, many of the WIC clinics were held virtually.

All children on the WIC program are assessed for possible lead exposure risks and are also screened for lead toxicity and anemia through a finger-stick blood sample starting at one year of age. The State of Iowa recommendations for childhood blood lead testing and case management are followed for screening follow up and referral. Lead education information is provided to each family. Any child with a venous lead level greater than 20 mg/dl will be offered a referral to receive Early Access services. In 2020-2021, 24 children were screened for lead toxicity.

# **Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)**

EPSDT is the Early Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program for children who are enrolled in Medicaid. The focus of this program is to assure that eligible children ages birth through 20 years receive preventive health care services, including oral health care. In Iowa, the EPSDT program is called Care for Kids. EPSDT Care for Kids services are free to children enrolled in Medicaid.

The acronym EPSDT stands for:

**Early** Children should receive quality health care beginning at birth and continuing throughout childhood and adolescence including the identification, diagnosis and treatment of medical conditions as early as possible.

**Periodic** Children should receive well child check-ups at regular intervals throughout childhood according to standards set by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Health care may be provided between regularly scheduled check-ups.

**Screening** Children should be screened for health and developmental problems. Services shall include health history, developmental assessment, physical exam, immunizations, lab tests, health education, dental exam, and vision and hearing screenings.

**Diagnosis** Children should receive further evaluation of health or developmental problems identified during check-ups that may require treatment.

**Treatment** Children should receive treatment for health or developmental problems identified during check-ups.

Washington County Public Health has a social worker available to assist with referrals, follow-up or setting up of appointments.

# **Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (Hawki)**

Hawki (Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa) is Iowa's effort to make affordable health insurance coverage available to children in working families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to afford private family coverage. If a family's income meets certain guidelines, and the family does not qualify for Medicaid, the uninsured children may be eligible for coverage under a plan sponsored by United Healthcare or AmeriGroup. The amount a family pays for the insurance is based on their income. Some families pay nothing. Other families may have to pay between \$0



and \$40 a month for Hawki coverage. Hawki will provide coverage for children and teens under the age of 19. Hawki does not provide insurance for other family members.

All children deserve to start life with healthy bodies and healthy minds. To do this, children need access to health and mental services that can provide them with preventive care and treatment for illness. Washington County Public Health provides assistance to families in answering questions about the program and providing assistance in the application process. Our agency serves as an advocate for families to ensure their children receive necessary coverage.

# **Vision Screening**

Vision disability is the single most prevalent disabling condition among children. Our agency has been able to incorporate vision screenings into our Child Health programming.

The Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener is an acceptable child vision screening method approved by the Iowa Department of Public Health to meet the child vision screening



requirements pursuant to Iowa code for kindergarten and 3rd graders. This screener can be used on all patients regardless of age, eye color, disability, or other limiting factors. WCPH was able to provide 191 vision screens to children ages 0-5 years of age at WIC clinics.

While vision charts are subjective, the Sure Spot Vision Screener provides reliable, objective, automatic screenings so we are able to reliably refer patients on for necessary follow up care. The Sure Spot Vision Screener ensures children get appropriate and timely referral to an optometrist if necessary. Failing to detect

and treat vision disorders has been shown to negatively impact child development, academic achievement, self-esteem, social-emotional behavior and juvenile delinquency. Providing the screening during the provision of other services improves accessibility for low-income children.

# **The Family Connection**

The mission of The Family Connection is to provide the information, support, and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life. In order to achieve this mission, TFC promotes strong connections of love, trust, and respect between parents and their children. In addition, TFC encourages connections between the families served by our program and the community in which they live.



Connecting families to a variety of local resources as well as to other families with young children strengthens families, children, and our community. Our vision is for all children to learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential and we believe that, in order for this to be possible, strong relationships are essential.

The Family Connection is an Affiliate and Model Certified with Parents as Teachers National Center which allows the staff, or Parent Educators, to utilize the Parents as Teachers Foundational Curriculum as a base to help parents learn more about how to provide a healthy, safe, and educational environment for their child in order to help each child reach his/her potential. Services are provided in the homes of the families served and are available to any Washington County parent with a child from conception through age 4 years. Priority is given to families who meet one of three criteria: low income, low education, or a child with a delay or disability. 100% of the funding for The Family Connection program is provided through the Des Moines, Henry, Louisa, Washington Early Childhood Iowa Board.

Parents who enroll in TFC are paired with a Parent Educator who works with the family to establish individualized family and child-centered goals that utilize the family's strengths while focusing on areas they would like to address. There is a bilingual Parent Educator, who is fluent in both English and Spanish. Visits include a time to share information and discuss questions about child development, or other family issues, and are enhanced with age appropriate books and activities to promote parent-child attachment as well as school readiness. Developmental screening is conducted for each child within the first 90 days of enrollment and at least annually thereafter to determine if children are meeting their milestones and identify possible delays. Children who are identified with a possible delay are referred for additional services to help them assess and address the identified area of need. All of these elements are combined to create an in-home visitation service that is tailored to the unique needs of each family that is served.

Services continued to be affected by COVID-19. Visits were provided virtually, either through telephone calls or through a video conferencing platform. Some families were ready to return to in-person visits which began the third week of June 2021. It was again determined to forgo the summer picnic for TFC families; instead reusable shopping bags were filled with learning supplies and delivered to each family, while observing social distancing recommendations.

The Family Connection offers an incentive program to families who participate in TFC inhome visitation program. Diapers and baby wipes are provided to families at every second visit. Funding for diapers and baby wipes during 2020-2021 was provided through grant monies.

#### **The Family Connection 2020-2021 Program Data**

- 27 families with 44 children participated in the program
- 16 in-home visits completed
- 116 interactive video conferencing visits completed;
- 196 phone call visits completed
- 68% of families served were at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level
- 19% of families served identified as Hispanic or Latino
- 6 new families enrolled in the program
- 48% of families maintained enrollment for 1 year or longer
- 50 visits included male caregiver/guardian

#### Fluoride Varnish

Fluoride varnish has proven to be highly effective in strengthening tooth enamel and remineralizing areas of tooth enamel just beginning to show signs of tooth decay. Due to the sticky form of the varnish and the small amount used, fluoride varnish can be used on very young children. Fluoride varnish is used as an important preventive service for clients at higher risk for tooth decay.

9 preschools in Washington and Henry counties were provided education, screening, fluoride varnish, referral and care coordination as needed by the dental hygienist or social worker. Three rounds of Fluoride varnish clinics were planned for the 2020-21 school year, however, with COVID-19, only 6 schools in both Washington & Henry Counties received two rounds and all others received one round.

A total of 454 children were served. All children served received a dental screening and fluoride varnish applications. 347 students were cavity free. 79% of clients served were referred to the dentist and went to the dentist.

### I-Smile @ School

I-Smile<sup>™</sup> @ School is the Iowa Department of Public Health's preventive school-based dental program that focuses on improving the oral health of Iowa's students.

The I-Smile<sup>™</sup> @ School program uses Iowa licensed dental hygienists, Registered Dental Assistant and dentists to provide the following services:

- Dental Exam
- Fluoride varnish
- Dental sealants
- Oral health education
- Referrals to dentists
- Care coordination



Dental sealants and fluoride varnish save time, money and the discomfort often associated with tooth decay. This is especially important for the health of Iowa children because tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease. By providing onsite preventive services, the I-Smile $^{\text{TM}}$  @ School program promotes academic success and well-being for all students, regardless of their risk or ability to otherwise receive preventive dental care.

The I-Smile™ @ School program provides education and sealants to schools that meet the requirement of having at least 40% of their student population eligible for the free

and reduced lunch program. I-Smile @ School is required to serve all students in 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of qualifying schools otherwise, at least dental education should be done. Schools that qualified in Washington County are: Lincoln, Stewart and WACO Elementary. Schools in Henry County are: Winfield, Harlan, Lincoln, Van Allen, Salem and New London Elementary. Everyone received dental education, however, due to COVID-19, some schools had visitor restrictions and the I-Smile @ School program was not allowed in some locations. WACO Elementary, Winfield Mount Union Elementary, Harlan, Salem and Lincoln and Van Allen Elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders received I-Smile @ School services. With COVID-19 restrictions, a dentist was





not used to complete a comprehensive exam. All participating students were screened by the dental hygienist. This allowed the I-Smile @ School program to better coordinate clinics, save on PPE, and be more productive.

The reduction in participation decreased our services and number of kids screened in a normal year. A total of 151 students received services. 73 students received sealants and 251 sealants were placed for both Washington & Henry counties.

### **I-Smile**™



The I-Smile™ Dental Home Initiative is a program that helps Iowa's children connect with a dental home and services. A major focus has been on improving the dental support system for families. The role of the I-Smile™ Coordinator was developed for this task. There are 23 regional I-Smile™ Coordinators who are licensed dental hygienists. They serve as the point-of-contact for public health agencies, families, health care providers, school districts, and dental offices.

The outcome of the I-Smile™ Dental Home Initiative is to achieve an integrated system that provides early identification of the risks of dental disease, prevention, improved care coordination, and stronger parental involvement. Ultimately, at-risk children who are currently excluded from the dental care system will be reached and will have a dental home.

Annually, I-Smile partners and participates in many events throughout the year. Due to the pandemic, many activities were cancelled or implemented in other ways that was safe for the community. Events cancelled this year were: Washington & Henry County Fairs, the Homecoming Parade, Latino Festival and the Safe Sitter Course in Washington,

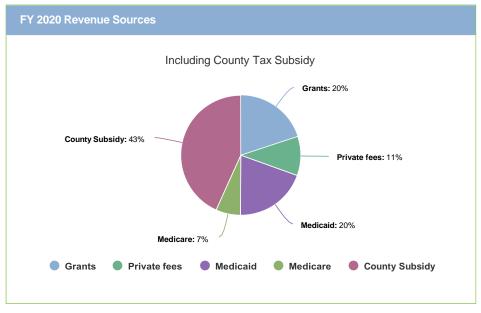
Activities completed this past year were:

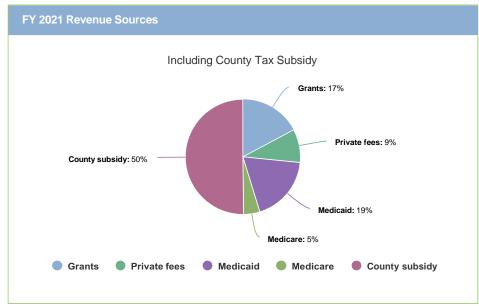
- Oral health educational update training was completed for all Family Connection staff.
- Oral health needs assessment was completed to help strategic planning for future programs.
- New information and promotional items were delivered to area physician and dental offices.
- Ongoing work with school nurse and staff (new and veteran) was completed to ensure compliance with the school dental screening mandate for Kindergarten and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. The I-Smile Coordinator trained some of the elementary school nurses how to complete a proper dental screening. Those who completed the training were able do a dental screening and complete the dental screening certificate for those kids that hasn't had a certificate turned into the school.
- The I-Smile™ Coordinator partnered with schools and the community to assist students who needed a screening or required follow-up dental care by opening a Dental Screening Clinic in Washington & Henry County. This event is held prior to school starting to provide dental screening to kids before returning to school. This allows the I-Smile Coordinator to meet with parents to assist them in finding a dental home for their child or coordinating a dental appointment for child to receive treatment prior to school starting. All Iowa kids going into Kindergarten & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade are required to have a dental screening. A total of 60 kids received dental screening during this clinic dates.

- Many of the venues that were normally utilized to provide public outreach were not available due to COVId-19.
- The Tooth Brushing Program at licensed daycares was discontinued due to COVID-19. The ISC made sure all daycares still received toothbrushes and toothpaste along with "Why Worry About Baby Teeth?" brochure to send home with kids. Normally, through this program, centers are provided with the tools they need to start training on infection control and age appropriate oral care procedures. Wall mounted units to store the toothbrush racks were also provided to all centers. All daycares stayed updated and in communication with I-Smile Coordinator for any questions or concerns from parents or caregivers.
- Visits continued with all medical providers to dispense dental promotional packets (toothbrush, I-Smile brochures, Cavity Free Iowa Initiative and I-Smile ™ coordinator contact information) to be dispensed to families during their visit.

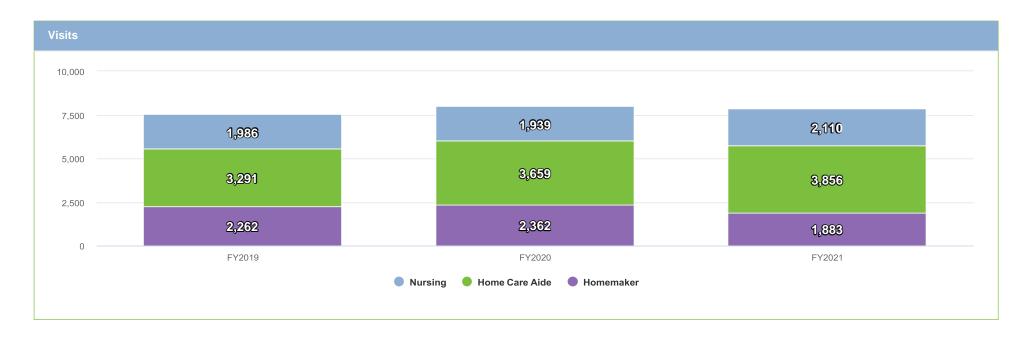
### Appendix A







Data Source: Washington County Public Health



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