

# Governmental Local Public Health Snapshot

## Public Health Implementation

Local boards of health (LBOH) are independent county boards. They have the authority over public health matters in the county and can either directly employ staff or contract with an entity to provide public health activities and direct services.

### County-Based Agencies

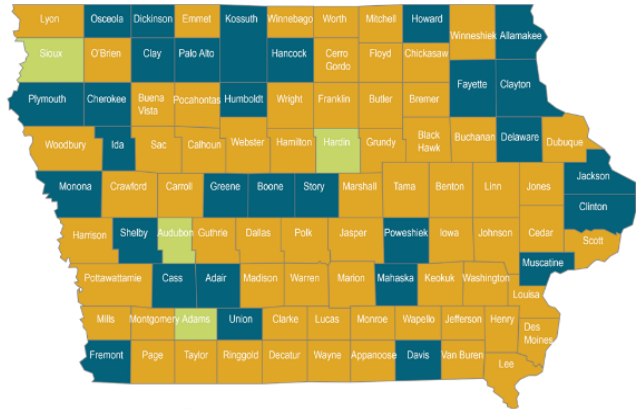
Local boards of health directly employ staff to provide public health activities and direct services in **65 counties**.

### Health System-Based Agencies

Local boards of health contract with hospitals or health systems to provide public health activities and direct services in **30 counties**.

### Other Agencies

Local boards of health contract with other entities to provide public health activities and direct services in **4 counties**.



## Public Health Workforce



**1,306** people provided activities and services on behalf of a local board of health



**A little more than half** of local public health agencies (52) employ **less than 10 people**

The majority of the public health workforce consists of administration and leadership, nurses, licensed practical nurses (LPNs), home health aides, environmental health specialists, health educators, and community health workers.

## Local Investment

Approximately **\$40 million** was invested by boards of supervisors (BOS) in state fiscal year 24 (SFY24) to support population health (public health services) and non-population health (direct services).

## Leadership Experience



In SFY24, **522 volunteer members** served on a local board of health



**Half (50%)** of LBOH members have **served less than 5 years**.



In just the past 6 years, **almost two-thirds (62%)** of local public health agencies have **experienced a turnover in their administrator**. **Twenty-two** of the 62 agencies had a change in administrator **two or more times**.

## Delivery of Activities and Services



**100%**  
of counties provided  
Emergency Preparedness  
and Response



**97%**  
of counties provided  
Immunization and  
Tuberculosis



**99%**  
of counties provided  
Disease Follow-up,  
Surveillance, and Control



**97%**  
of counties provided  
Public Information, Health  
Education, and Community  
Engagement

Although these four public health services are extremely important to the health of a community, the majority of public health activities associated within these four services do not directly address Iowa's leading health concerns.

## Iowa's Leading Health Concerns

### Identified Health Needs

vs.

### Services Provided



**Behavioral Health**  
**93 Counties**



**Behavioral Health**  
**9 Counties**



**Obesity**  
**76 Counties**



**Nutrition & Physical Activity**  
**42 Counties**



**Chronic Disease**  
(including Cancer)  
**51 Counties**



**Chronic Disease Prevention  
and Management**  
**49 Counties**

In their community health needs assessment, counties identify their top health needs for their county. However, most local public health agencies are not providing services to address those needs.

Sources: Iowa Local Governmental Public Health System: Results of the 2024 Local Public Health Systems Survey (self-reported data from Iowa's local public health agencies); Community Health Improvement Plans submitted to Iowa HHS in November 2023