

**Iowa Association of Local Public Health Agencies
University of Iowa College of Public Health, Institute for Public Practice
Public Health Workforce Enumeration Survey
Report**

Background

The Iowa Association of Local Public Health Agencies and the University of Iowa College of Public Health, Institute for Public Health Practice collaborated on a project to enumerate the public health workforce in Iowa. The goal of the survey was to better understand the composition of the public health workforce in Iowa, specifically those employed by local public health agencies.

Methodology

The survey was sent to 101 public health agencies in January 2005 and data collection was completed in April 2005. Data were requested as of December 31, 2004. Approximately 85 surveys were completed and e-mailed/faxed back to the Institute for Public Health Practice. The remaining sixteen (16) agencies were contacted via phone by the Iowa Association of Local Public Health Agencies. A response rate of 100% was achieved. It should be noted that not all agencies were able to provide data for each survey question. Therefore, the “n” for each question does not total 101.

In regard to the occupational titles, please note that respondents could write in additional occupational titles in an “other” category. Approximately one hundred occupational titles were written in. To aid in synthesizing the data, these additional occupational titles were either recoded into existing categories (e.g., support staff, environmental health specialist) or new categories were created (e.g., dental hygienist, case manager).

The occupational title “Administrative Staff” was changed to “Administrative/Clinical Staff” to better differentiate it from the category of “Administrator.” The category of “Administrative/Clinical Staff” includes individuals who serve either in a supervisor/manager capacity or are in charge of a specific program. It should be noted that “Support Staff” includes occupational titles such as secretaries, clerks, office assistant, etc.

Survey Questions

The survey provides data on the number of full-time equivalents (FTEs), full-time employees, part-time employees, principal occupational titles of personnel (broken down by # of employees and # of FTEs), and other agencies that the local public health agency contracts with to provide a portion or all of the public health services (including occupational title, # of employees, # of FTEs). The final question requested information on the Prepare Iowa Learning Management

Table 1: Full-time equivalents, full-time employees and part-time employees

	FTEs (n=88 agencies)	Full-time Employees (n=99 agencies)	Part-time Employees (n=92 agencies)
Total across all responding agencies	1728	1405	899
Average per agency	19	14	10
Minimum per agency	1	1	1
Maximum per agency	91	69	56

Table 2: Occupational titles by number of employees and number of full-time equivalents:

Occupational Title	Total # of employees across reporting agencies	Total # of FTEs across reporting agencies
Registered Nurse	681 (n = 96)	560 (n = 95)
Home Care Aide	631 (n = 72)	467 (n = 72)
Administrative/Clinical Staff	374 (n = 87)	332 (n = 87)
Support Staff	193 (n = 41)	164 (n = 40)
Administrator	108 (n = 98)	104 (n = 97)
Environmental Health Specialist	71 (n = 38)	65 (n = 35)
Licensed Practical Nurse	38 (n = 23)	32 (n = 22)
Social Worker	32 (n = 18)	24 (n = 18)
Medical Assistant	27 (n = 7)	23 (n = 7)
Case Manager	25 (n = 9)	25 (n = 9)
Health Educator	23 (n = 12)	19 (n = 12)
Disease Prevention Specialist	18 (n = 10)	16 (n = 9)
Nutritionist	14 (n = 8)	11 (n = 8)
Epidemiologist	12 (n = 4)	12 (n = 4)
Public Health Laboratory	12 (n = 5)	12 (n = 5)
Therapist	12 (n = 3)	11 (n = 3)
Health Planner	10 (n = 7)	11 (n = 7)
Dental Hygienists	9 (n = 9)	5 (n = 9)
Animal Control	7 (n = 1)	6 (n = 2)
Physical Therapist	4 (n = 2)	3 (n = 2)
Information Technology	3 (n = 2)	2 (n = 2)
HIV Outreach worker	2 (n = 1)	2 (n = 1)
Occupational Therapist	2 (n = 1)	1 (n = 1)
Physician	1 (n = 1)	-
Speech Therapist	1 (n = 1)	1 (n = 1)
Other-unspecified	14 (n = 4)	13 (n = 4)
TOTAL	2,324	1,921

Table 3: Services provided on a contract basis to the local public health agency by other organizations.

Occupational Title	Total # of employees across reporting agencies	Total # of FTEs across reporting agencies
Home care aides	218	113
Environmental health/ sanitarians	33	20
Registered nurses	31	25
Support staff	20	7
Administrative staff	12	9
Physical therapists	7	4
Public health laboratory technicians	6	5
Occupational therapists	5	1
Health Educators	4	2
Social workers	2	1
Speech therapists	2	1
Epidemiologists	1	1
TOTAL	341	189

Table 4: Use of Prepare Iowa Learning Management System website and calendar function

	Yes (%)	No (%)
The Institute for Public Health Practice and the Iowa Department of Public Health are using the PrepareIowa.com website to list public health or emergency response training and education opportunities. Have you used this website yet?	81 (85%)	14 (15%)
If yes, do you use the calendar function?	20 (23.3%)	67 (77%)