

# PRESERVING PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY BY PROTECTING THE WORKFORCE AND AUTHORITY



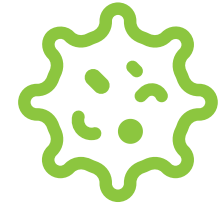
“Uniting and strengthening the voice for public health in Iowa”

## Health Impact

Public health officials play an essential role in community and population health.



Public health departments can respond to disease outbreaks through monitoring, interventional programs, and policies created.



If officials cannot do their job it can lead to higher rates of preventable diseases and waste taxpayer money on ineffective health programs.

## Health Equity Impact

Public health helps to mitigate disparities among racial and ethnic minorities.

### Disparities Can Include:

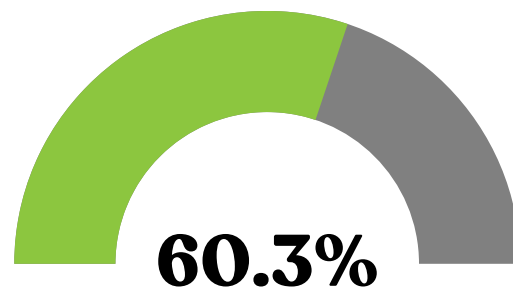
- Higher risk of lacking health insurance
- Limited access to healthcare
- Poor health outcomes for preventable and treatable conditions



## Iowa Data

# 4.7%

Public health workforce has decreased 4.7% in full time employees between fiscal years 2021 and 2022.



Only **60.3%** of the population is fully vaccinated.

Policies such as **House File 902** can lead to negative impacts on the health of the community.

When public health officials are unable to share science-based public health directives and initiatives, community health declines.

## Actions and Strategies Supported by IPHA

- Defense of existing statutes allowing public health officials to act within their full capacity.
- Adoption of policies by the state and local governments condemning the harassment and threats directed at public health officials.
- Implementation of legislation to safeguard public health officials.
- Increased state and local funding for public health infrastructure.



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