



Jasper County Board of Health Agenda

Thursday, March 12, 2026, 11:00 AM

Jasper County Office Building, 315 W. 3rd St. N., Large Conference Room, Newton, Iowa
A hybrid option is available via Zoom link at the end of the agenda.

1. Call to Order. Time: _____
2. Roll Call of Jasper County Board of Health members:
 - Julie Smith, Chair
 - Dr. Andrew Cope, Medical Director
 - Donna Akins
 - Jody Eaton
 - Doug Cupples, Board of Supervisors
3. Introduction of others present:
4. Minutes: (Action) January 8, 2026, minutes (Attachment, 1 page)
5. Agenda Approval: (Action) Consider and approve the agenda (Attachment, 2 pages)
6. Citizen Comments: The public may comment on public health items (Limit: 3 minutes)
7. Outside Agency Reports: (Information Only)
 - ◆ Environmental Health: Kevin Luettens, Community Development Director
 - January and February reports (Attachment, 2 pages)

Old Business:

8. [IHHS Updates](#) (Discussion)
 - a. Public Health Legislation [SF2432](#)
9. Board of Supervisors, budget hearing on 1/19/2026. Raises 2027: (Action)
 - a. BOS budget hearings on 1/19/2026. They approved salaried positions receive a 2%.

New Business:

10. IHHS System Snapshot-
 - a. State of Iowa 2026 (Attachment, 3 pages)
 - b. Jasper County HHS System Snapshot 2026. Note: Dental is all dentists, not those who accept Medicaid. (Attachment, 2 pages)
11. Home Care Reimbursement Program to end 6/30/2027 (Action)
12. FY 27 Grants (Action)
 - Local Public Health Services (LPHS): \$85576
 - IHHS, Immunization, \$11200
 - Grants to Counties, same
13. Employee Reports: (Information Only)
 - Health Department Report. (Attachment, 1-page)
 - [Jasper County Cares Coalition](#)
 - Community Health Needs Assessment
 - Public Health: Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
 - Office: Healthy Kids Day, April 25, 2026; Car Seat event

14. Next meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2026, 11:00 AM

15. Motion to adjourn the meeting: (Action) Time:

While a hybrid/virtual option is available for convenience, access cannot be guaranteed. In-person attendance is recommended to ensure full participation. Require authentication to join: Sign in to Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/95554784668>

Contact: bpryor@jasperia.org

Jasper County Board of Health Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2026, 11:00 AM

Jasper County Office Building, 315 W. 3rd St. N., Large Conference Room, Newton, Iowa

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1. Call to Order. Time: 11:01 AM
2. Roll Call of Jasper County Board of Health members: Present: Julie Smith (Chair), Dr. Andrew Cope (Medical Director), Donna Akins, Jody Eaton
Absent: Doug Cupples, Board of Supervisors.
3. Introduction of others present: Staff: Becky Pryor, Kristina Winfield, and Melissa Gary.
Others: Lauren Asman: EFR
4. Minutes: **Motion** to approve the November 13, 2025, minutes. See 2-page attachment.
Motion by Jody Eaton, Second: Donna Akins In Favor: All Passed: unanimously
5. Agenda Approval: **Motion** to approve the agenda. See 2-page attachment.
Motion by Jody Eaton Second: Dr. Cope In Favor: All Passed: unanimously
6. Citizen Comments: None
7. Outside Agency Reports: Information Only
Environmental Health: Kevin Luetters, Community Development Director. Not present.
 - a. November and December reports. See 2-page attachment.EFR: Lauren Asman.
 - a. Update on a new opioid grant to educate students about medication safety.
 - b. Information on new curriculum-based programming at Newton High School.

Old Business:

8. [IHHS Updates](#) Information Local Public Health Services: October 2025. See 2-page attachment.
9. Jody Eaton was reappointed to a 3-year term. 1/1/2026-12/31/2028. Information Only.

New Business:

1. Chair Election: **Motion** to reappoint Julie Smith.
Motion by Jody Eaton Second: Donna Akins In Favor: All Passed: unanimously
2. Budget: FY26 changes and FY27 for Board of Supervisors: **Motion** to approve the budget with the recommendation of a 3% raise for all staff, and for the Administrator to present to the Board of Supervisors at budget hearings. Motion by Dr. Cope, Second: Donna Akins, In favor: All, Passed: unanimously
10. Employee Reports: Information Only.
Health Department Report. See 1-page report.
[Jasper County Cares Coalition](#): 12/10/2025. Becky spoke about the success of the awards presented at the meeting. Seventy-two people attended the meeting.
Public Health: Immunizations and Communicable Diseases. Kristina spoke about reports of influenza A, pertussis, and potential other communicable disease cases in Jasper County and provided information on data loggers for the immunization refrigerator/freezer.
Office: Homecare and Car Seats. A discussion was held on the future of the Homecare program.
11. Next meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2026, 11:00 AM
12. Motion to adjourn the meeting. Time: 11:55 AM
By: Donna Akins Second: Dr. Cope In Favor: All Passed: unanimously

Board Member's Signature

Date

Minutes taken by Melissa Gary on 1/8/2026.

Environmental Report for Jasper County Board of Health
 7/1/2025 to 6/30/2026

Environmental Reporting	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Septic Eval & Inspections	15	12	12	10	8	5	2	2					
New Water Wells	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0					
Plugged Water Wells	2	2	5	2	2	1	0	0					
Water Tests	4	3	3	4	1	1	0	0					
Pool/Spa Inspections	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	0					
Tanning Facility Inspections	0	0	0	0	6	7	0	0					
Tattoo Facility Inspections	1	0	0	0	5	8	0	0					
Septic Tank Pumper Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Nuisance Complaints	5	3	3	6	3	3	5	5					
Rabies / Dog Bites	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	2					
Radon Test Kits Sold	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Any Issues or Complaints	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Totals	27	21	25	24	31	35	8	9					

State of Iowa

Population	3,241,488
Life Expectancy	78.2 years

The five counties with the **highest** life expectancy:

- Sioux: 82.9 years
- Dallas: 82.5 years
- Johnson: 82.2 years
- Lyon: 82.0 years
- Winneshiek: 81.9 years

United States

Population	340,110,988
Life Expectancy	76.4 years

The five counties with the **lowest** life expectancy:

- Wapello: 74.5 years
- Lee: 74.7 years
- Webster: 75.1 years
- Marshall: 75.2 years
- Monroe: 75.2 years

(Population: [\(U.S. Census Bureau, 2024\)](#); Life Expectancy: [County Health Rankings 2025 Edition, 2021-2023](#))

Access to Care



54 counties have a shortage of Primary Care Physicians throughout the county. ([HPSA Find, 2026](#))



32 counties have a shortage of Dental Care Providers throughout the county. ([HPSA Find, 2026](#))

Access to care includes the ability to navigate the health care system, find care locally, and pay for services. When someone lacks one or more of these abilities, disparities may emerge.

Mental Health and Addictive Disorders

Mental Health



5.0 poor mental health days/month
U.S avg: 5.1 days/mo.
([CDC, BRFSS, 2024, age-adjusted](#))

Poor mental health is linked to smoking, physical inactivity, housing and food insecurity, and poor sleep. Disorders like depression and anxiety can affect people's ability to take part in healthy behaviors.



81 counties have a shortage of Mental Health Care Providers throughout the county. ([HPSA Find, 2026](#))

Iowa has fewer mental health providers than the national average. Access to mental health providers varies widely across the state.

Trends & Disparities

Nearly **one in four (23.5%) young adults ages 18-24** report frequent mental health distress.

([CDC, BRFSS, 2024, age-adjusted](#))



Mental health challenges are becoming more common in Iowa.

- On average, adults now experience **5 days of poor mental health each month, up from 3.5 days in 2018.**
- The share of adults who feel **mentally distressed for half the month or more has grown from 9% in 2011 to nearly 15% today.**
- The gap is bigger in rural areas, where **27% of young adults report frequent mental health distress** compared to 22% in metro areas.

Key takeaway: Young people and rural communities are facing unique mental health challenges and may need extra support and resources.

Addictive Disorders



22.1% of adults report binge drinking.

More than 500,000 Iowa adults

U.S. avg.: 16.7%

([CDC, BRFSS, 2024, age-adjusted](#))

Alcohol is the most misused substance in Iowa. Iowa's alcohol use rates for almost every demographic are among the highest in the nation.



20,198 residents received substance use treatment in SFY25.

([Iowa HHS, Behavioral Health, December 2025](#))

Substance use disorders involve misuse of one or more substances and may lead to social, physical, mental, and public health problems. Drug use rates in Iowa are similar to the rest of the nation.

Trends & Disparities

31% of Young adults from Metro areas reported Binge Drinking



Iowa has ranked among the worst states for binge drinking for over a decade, never better than US Rank 45th since 2011.

- **Young adults (18 - 24) in metro areas binge drink the most, about 31%**, compared to 25% in rural areas.
- Among adults in metro areas, Iowa has the highest rates in the nation.
 - Ages 18 - 44: **29% binge drink**
 - Ages 45 - 64: **22% binge drink**

Key takeaway: Iowa's binge drinking rates are consistently high, especially for young adults and metro communities.

Social, Economic and Environmental Factors

Economic Stability & Income

Economic stability is the connection between the financial resources people have and their physical and mental health. People living in poverty are at greater risk for mental illness and chronic diseases.



11.3% live below the rate of poverty.

Approx 355,000 Iowans; U.S. avg: 12.1%

([U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024](#))



697,587 are enrolled in Medicaid.

([Iowa HHS, Iowa Medicaid Dashboard, June 2025](#))

Housing & Transportation

Cost-burden, spending more than 30% of income on housing costs, is the most common housing problem in Iowa. Unstable, unsafe, unhealthy or unaffordable housing can harm a person's health, while transportation problems can delay care, be costly, and worsen health outcomes.



23.8% of households spend 30% or more on housing.

Approx 319,000 households; U.S. avg: 32.0%

([U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024](#))



5.8% of households do not have a vehicle.

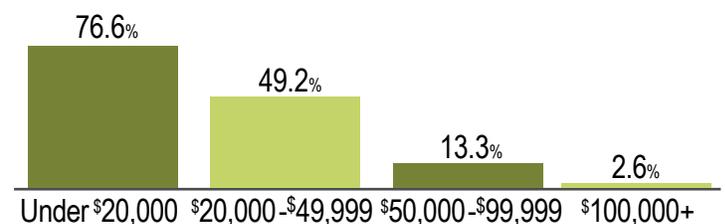
Approx 77,000 households; U.S. avg: 8.5%

([U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024](#))

Trends & Disparities

Housing cost burden is higher for households with lower annual incomes than for those with higher incomes and more than twice as high for renters (40%) compared with homeowners (17%). Cost burden for households with incomes less than \$50,000 has increased from 49% in 2018 to 58% in 2024.

Housing Cost Burden by Household Income (2024)



([U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024](#))

Healthy Behaviors and Outcomes

Active Living & Healthy Eating

A lack of consistent access to healthy food can lead to chronic diseases, obesity, or developmental problems. Being overweight or obese can lead to serious health issues like heart disease, diabetes, stroke, depression, and some cancers.



36.5% of adults have an unhealthy body weight (BMI of 30.0 or higher).

More than 800,000 Iowa adults.

U.S. avg: 34.0%

(CDC, BRFSS, 2024, age-adjusted)



375,420 individuals experiencing food insecurity.

(Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2023)

Cancer

Many unhealthy behaviors linked to cancer can be prevented such as excessive drinking, using tobacco products, physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and ultraviolet light exposure. Cancer screening tests can detect cancer early, making treatment easier and improving survival.



498.0 Iowa incidence rate for cancer (per 100,000 people).

An estimated 21,200 new diagnoses in 2025.

U.S. avg: 439.1; *(National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles, 2017-2021)*



145.5 Iowa death rate from cancer (per 100,000 people).

An estimated 6,300 deaths in 2025.

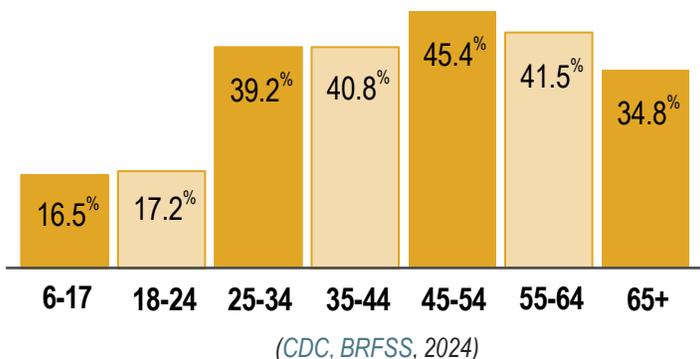
U.S. avg: 142.0; *(National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles, 2018-2022)*

Trends & Disparities

Obesity rates in Iowa keep climbing.

- **Adults ages 45–54 have the highest rates.**
- While youth and younger adults (18–24) report lower rates, **the rates more than double for ages 25–34.**
- The increase is even bigger in rural areas: ages 25–34 in non-metro areas, **43% vs. 37% in metro areas.**

Obesity rates for different age groups, 2024

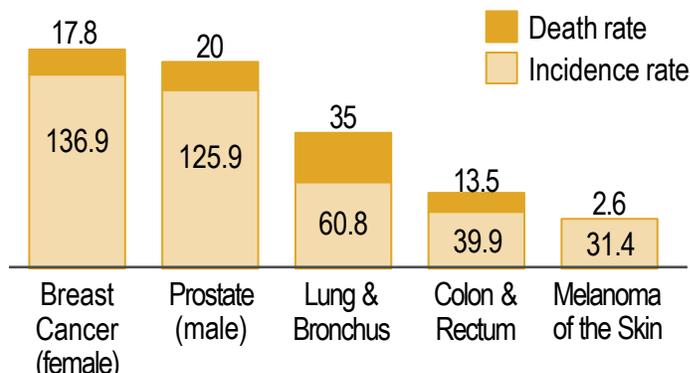


Cancer rates in Iowa remain a serious concern.

- **Iowa has the second highest rate** of new cancer diagnoses in the country and is one of only two states where rates are still rising.
- **The good news:** cancer deaths are declining, thanks to better detection, treatment, and support, dropping from 169 per 100,000 in 2013 to 146 in 2022.

Key takeaway: More people are surviving cancer and need long-term support from healthcare providers, communities, and caregivers. (Iowa Cancer Registry, 2025 Cancer in Iowa).

Top 5 Cancer types in Iowa by Incidence and related Death rates



(National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles)

HHS System Snapshot

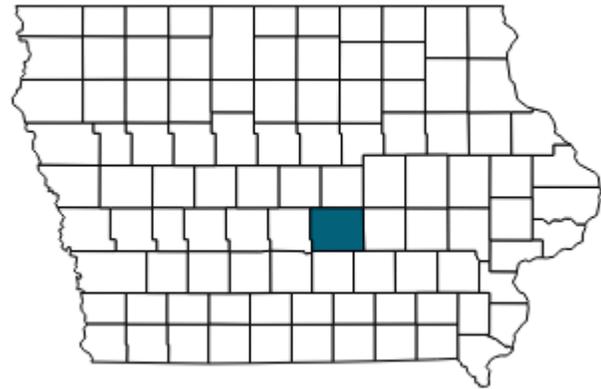
Jasper County

Population	38,107
Life Expectancy	78.7 years
County Classification	Micro

State of Iowa

Population	3,241,488
Life Expectancy	78.2 years

(Population: [\(U.S. Census Bureau, 2024\)](#); Life Expectancy: [County Health Rankings 2025 Edition, 2021-2023](#))



Access to Care



Part of the county is a **shortage** area for **Primary Care Physicians**
([HPSA Find, 2026](#))



No part of the county is a **shortage** area for **Dental Care Providers**
([HPSA Find, 2026](#))

Access to care includes the ability to navigate the health care system, find care locally, and pay for services. When someone lacks one or more of these abilities, disparities may emerge.

Mental Health

4.7 poor mental health days per month

Iowa avg: 4.7 days/mo.
([County Health Rankings 2025 Edition, 2022](#))

Poor mental health is linked to **smoking, physical inactivity, housing and food insecurity, and poor sleep**. Disorders like **depression and anxiety** can affect people's ability to take part in healthy behaviors.

The whole county is a **shortage** area for **Mental Health Care Providers**. ([HPSA Find, 2026](#))

Iowa has fewer mental health providers than the national average. Access to mental health providers **varies widely** across the state.

Addictive Disorders

22.3% of adults report binge drinking

Iowa avg: 22.5%
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [PLACES, 2023](#))

Alcohol is the most commonly misused substance in Iowa. **Iowa's alcohol use rates** for almost every demographic **are among the highest in the nation**.

166 county residents received substance use treatment in SFY25; **20,198** total patients admitted in Iowa (Iowa HHS, Behavioral Health, December 2025)

Substance use disorders involve misuse of one or more substances and may lead to social, physical, mental, and public health problems. Drug use rates in Iowa are similar to the rest of the nation.

Social, Economic and Environmental Factors

Economic Stability & Income

Economic stability is the connection between the financial resources people have and their physical and mental health. People living in poverty are at greater risk for mental illness and chronic diseases.



9.6%

live below the rate of poverty

Iowa avg: 11.1%

([U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-2023](#))



7,574

are enrolled in Medicaid

(Iowa HHS, Medicaid, June 2025)

Housing & Transportation

Cost-burden, spending more than 30% of income on housing costs, is the most common housing problem in Iowa. Unstable, unsafe, unhealthy or unaffordable housing can harm a person's health, while transportation problems can delay care, be costly, and worsen health outcomes.



21.8%

of households spend 30% or more on housing

Iowa avg: 23.4%

([U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-2023](#))



4.0%

of households do not have a vehicle

Iowa avg: 5.4%

([U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-2023](#))

Healthy Behaviors and Outcomes

Active Living & Healthy Eating

Being overweight or obese can lead to serious health issues like heart disease, diabetes, stroke, depression, and some cancers. A lack of consistent access to healthy food can lead to chronic diseases, obesity, or developmental problems.



38.3%

of adults have an unhealthy body weight (BMI of 30.0 or higher);

Iowa avg: 37.9%

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [PLACES](#), 2023)



4,310

Individuals experiencing food insecurity

([Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2023](#))

Cancer

Many unhealthy behaviors linked to cancer can be prevented such as excessive drinking, using tobacco products, physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and ultraviolet light exposure. Cancer screening tests can detect cancer early, making treatment easier and improving survival.



473.5

county incidence rate for cancer (*per 100,000 people)

Iowa avg: 491.8

([National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles, 2017-2021](#))



154.6

county death rate from cancer (*per 100,000 people)

Iowa avg: 149.6

([National Cancer Institute, State Cancer Profiles, 2018-2022](#))

Jasper Co. Health Dept FY26					July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026								
Public Health	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Totals
Communicable Disease	5	10	5	4	1	7	3	2					37
TB medication per day	30	55	30	31	30	6	0	0					182
Immunization given	7	71	3	17	14	13	3	3					131
School Audits			2550	2744									5294
Daycare Audits			256	198	293								747
Health Fair/Com Ed/Cares.- # approx.	310	450	305	7000	355	500	175	445					9540
Car seat installed	1	0	8	7	18	7	2	5					48
Promotions/Outreach													
Instagram impressions	209	231	119	560	202	328	101	239					1989
Instagram followers	524	525	523	522	522	524	529	528					4197
Facebook impressions: JCHD + Cares	26032	27094	27702	39675	35948	44998	211276	24655					437380
Facebook followers: JCHD + Cares	5297	5300	5307	5309	5326	5352	5369	5380					42640
Media-articles,ad,mentions	10	10	6	7	10	7	17	6					73
Media reach: appr./15,000	150000	150000	90000	105000	150000	105000	255000	90000					1095000
Website reach including resource guide	1910	2210	2417	2494	2608	2372	872	749					15632
Home Care Aide - reimbursement													
Total clients per month- duplicated	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3					27
Claims PAID in month	\$1,120	\$1,426	\$788	\$788	\$910	\$700	\$980	\$945					\$ 7,657
Referrals Made/Outreach/Resources													
# referrals- on grant tracker form	278	674	395	317	454	320	187	452					3077
Grant billed													
Local Public Health Services-3% hold	\$20,446	\$18,261	\$21,762	\$25,502			\$2,579	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$88,550
Emergency Prep- PHEP	\$3,995	\$4,305	\$894	\$2,154	\$0	\$150	\$2,046						\$13,544
Immunization grant	\$3,307	\$3,391	\$3,476	\$1,025									\$11,199
Other funding: Decat	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,899	\$601	\$0	\$0					\$3,500
Total billed for month	\$27,748	\$25,957	\$26,132	\$28,681	\$2,899	\$751	\$4,626	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$116,793

rounded

rounded