

People live 30 years longer than they did 100 years ago and 25 of those years can be attributed to public health.

- *Vaccinations*
- *Motor-vehicle safety*
- *Safer workplaces*
- *Control of infectious diseases*
- *Decline in deaths from coronary artery disease and stroke*
- *Safer and healthier foods*
- *Healthier mothers and babies*
- *Family planning*
- *Fluoridation of drinking water*
- *Recognition of tobacco as a health hazard*

—Iowa Department of Public Health

NOTE ON SOURCES FOR THIS ISSUE

Several books on the overall subject of public health have been useful in providing context for this entire issue. One of the more fascinating and accessible is Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life* (Cambridge: Harvard, 1998). Others consulted include: Fitzhugh Mullan, *Plagues and Politics: The Story of the United States Public Health Service* (New York: Basic Books, 1989); George Rosen, *A History of Public Health*, expanded ed. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1958); and William G. Rothstein, *Public Health and the Risk Factor: A History of an Uneven Medical Revolution* (Woodbridge, Suffolk, U.K.: University of Rochester, 2003).

Essential sources on the history of public health in Iowa include the biennial reports and health bulletins of the State Board of Health (later, Iowa Department of Health; today, the Iowa Department of Public Health); Susan C. Lawrence, "Iowa Physicians, Institutions, and the Practice of Medicine: Establishing a Professional Identity, 1883–1886," *Annals of Iowa* part 1, 62:2 (Spring 2003); Susan C. Lawrence, "Iowa Physicians, Institutions, and the Practice of Medicine: Putting Science into Practice, 1887–1928," *Annals of Iowa* part 2, 63:1 (Winter 2004); Walter M. Bierring, "History (1880–1960) Iowa State Department of Health," unpublished paper; Lee Anderson, "'Headlights Upon Sanitary Medicine': Public Health and Medical Reform in Late Nineteenth-Century Iowa," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Inc.* 46 (April 1991); and Philip L. Frana, "Smallpox: Local Epidemics and the Iowa State Board of Health, 1880–1900," *Annals of Iowa* 54:2 (Spring 1995).

Besides the sources above, additional sources for specific articles follow.

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Marilyn Irvin Holt, *Linoleum, Better Babies, and the Modern Farm Woman, 1890–1930* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1995); Louise R. Noun, *Iowa Women in the WPA* (Ames: Iowa State University, 1999); Pamela Riney-Kehrberg, "Helping Ma and Helping Pa: Iowa's Turn-of-the-Century Farm Children," *Annals of Iowa* 59:2 (Spring 2000); *Proceedings of the Iowa White House Conference on Child Health and Protection* (Des Moines: Planning Commission, Iowa White House Conference, 1932); Dorothy Schwieder, *75 Years of Service: Cooperative Extension in Iowa* (Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1993); and State University of Iowa, "Operation of Sheppard-Towner Law in Iowa," *University of Iowa Extension Bulletin*, No. 14 (Dec. 15, 1924).

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Influenza: Opening quotation by Bess Burrows from *Her Own Story*; Ten Benton County Women Collection at Iowa Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City; quotation by Claude Davis from Iowa Labor History Oral Project, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City. Article sources: John M. Barry, *The Great Influenza—The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History* (New York: Viking, 2004); Gina Kolata, *Flu—The Story of the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and Search for the Virus That Caused It* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999); Alfred W. Crosby, *America's Forgotten Pandemic—The Influenza of 1918* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003); J. K. Taubenberger, A. H. Reid, and T. G. Fanning, "Capturing a Killer Flu Virus," *Scientific American* 292:1 (Jan. 2005). The author thanks John Carlson, *Des Moines Register* reporter; Richard Shope, Jr., University of Minnesota emeritus professor of veterinary virology; and Johan Hultin, retired San Francisco Bay area pathologist, for technical details, and the State Library of Medicine for assistance.

Polio: Quotations of Barbara Burrell Nichols and Gladys Talcott Rife from their papers at the Iowa Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City; quotation of Charles Harvey, Iowa Labor History Oral Project, State Historical Society of Iowa (Iowa City).

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