

Iowa Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

***Our mission:** to support the optimal health of children by addressing the needs of children, their families, their communities, and their health care.*

What is the Iowa AAP? The Iowa AAP is a professional association of nearly 400 general pediatricians and pediatric specialists and subspecialists dedicated to caring for children across the state.

How can we help in the policymaking process? As experts in child health, we can help policymakers, professionals, and advocates identify policies, strategies, and resources to:

- Promote healthcare including mental health and dental care access, for all children & families
- Eliminate disparities in under-resourced communities
- Support early identification and treatment for children with developmental delays or disabilities
- Reduce the impact of childhood trauma and incorporate trauma-informed practices
- Increase prevention measures and reduce the incidence and impact of infectious diseases
- Recognize the unique health needs of adolescents to reduce the risk of infections and substance use
- Enhance childhood obesity prevention, assessment, and treatment



Iowa AAP 2025 Priorities:

We urge Iowa policymakers to act in these four areas:

Access

Ensure children's access to health care through:

- A comprehensive Medicaid program covering all medically necessary services
- Addressing barriers to care for children, including the social drivers of health
- Addressing workforce shortages and promoting environments conducive to recruit and retain pediatric providers

Mental Health

Maintain sustainable funding for comprehensive children's mental health systems to:

- Ensure access to crisis services and treatment
- Expand early identification and prevention, including the 1st Five Healthy Mental Development initiative statewide
- Promote from infancy to adulthood across the continuum of care

Immunization

Improve Iowa immunization by:

- Protect all Iowans by supporting immunization standards
- Supporting efforts to both equitably distribute and improve routine vaccination rates for all

Safety

Expand protections and resources to maintain childhood safety through:

- Prevention and responding to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Identification and prevention of child abuse and neglect
- Promoting safe firearm storage to prevent child injuries and deaths

