



For Your Information – November 2005

At the State Board of Health (SBOH), we believe information is essential. For several years we have been making SBOH and health-related information available through the distribution of our Board meeting agendas with an attached segment simply called, "FYI". To make this information more accessible we have created this Web page. This page will be updated on a regular basis and should be considered the go-to source for current information on correspondence to and from the Board, a selection of health publications, and health-related conferences.

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Announcements and Press Releases

- **Office of Governor Christine Gregoire**

Release date: November 2, 2005

Gov. Gregoire: President's flu strategy lacks adequate funding

Gov. Chris Gregoire today said the president's strategy to prepare the nation for pandemic flu is "woefully lacking." "We are pleased that the federal government is making pandemic flu preparedness a priority, but this plan focuses too heavily on purchasing medication and vaccines and not enough on funding the enormous amount of work that must happen on the state and local level," Gov. Gregoire said.

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Events and Conferences

November 2005

Date	Name and Location
Nov. 1	Welcome Home! A Symposium on the Needs of Returning War Zone Veterans and Their Families For information: www.fpc.wa.gov Hilton Vancouver Hotel

Vancouver, Washington

- Nov. 1-3 A Partnership of HOPE: Building Resilience for a Promising Tomorrow
The 2005 Family Policy Council Network Partners' Summit
For information: www.fpc.wa.gov
Hilton Vancouver Hotel
Vancouver, Washington
- Nov. 4-8 The American Public Health Association's 134th Annual Meeting and Exposition
The New Boston Convention and Exposition Center
Boston, Massachusetts
- Nov. 5-9 American Public Health Association's 133rd Annual Meeting & Exposition
For information: <http://apha.org/meetings/>
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
New Orleans, Louisiana
- Nov. 29 Medicines and Your Health: Prescriptions for Safe and Effective Drugs
For information: www.fosep.org/forum2005/index.htm
University of Washington
Kane Hall, Room 130

December 2005

- | Date | Name and Location |
|-------------|--|
| Dec. 1 | World AIDS Day Dialogue with Dan Savage and Tina Podlodowski
For information: aniab@lifelongaidsalliance.org
Central Lutheran Church
Parish Hall Building--Fellowship Hall
Seattle, Washington |
| Dec. 5 | Proven Practices: Improving Community Health through Physical Activity
For information: jrobins@u.washington.edu
Center for Urban Horticulture
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington |
| Dec. 6 | 20th Annual Washington Health Legislative Conference: "Health or Health Care?
Reframing the Discussion"
For information: http://depts.washington.edu/rchpol/events/
legcon05index.htm
SeaTac Hilton Conference Center
SeaTac, Washington |
| Dec. 6-9 | 2005 National Conference of State Legislators Fall Forum
For information: registration@ncsl.org
Hilton Chicago
Chicago, Illinois |

- Dec. 7 Accreditation of Public Health Agencies: Lessons from Three States
For information: www.academyhealth.org/phsr/
- Dec. 8-9 2nd Annual Joint Commission National Conference on Behavioral Health Care:
Focusing on Outcomes Research and Using Data
For information: www.jcrinc.com
Le Meridien
Chicago, Illinois
- Dec. 10-14 American Public Health Association 133rd Annual Meeting
For information: apha@laser-registration.com
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Dec. 12 & 13 Stakeholder Meeting: Names Retention of Asymptomatic HIV Case Reports and
Expanded HIV Laboratory Test Reporting
For information: john.peppert@doh.wa.gov
December 12:
Seattle Central Community College
Third Floor, Room 3211
Seattle, Washington
December 13:
WestCoast Ridpath Hotel
Terrace Rooms A and B
Spokane, Washington

February 2006

- | Date | Name and Location |
|-------------|--|
| Feb. 6-7 | National Health Policy Conference
For information: registrations@academyhealth.org
Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel
Washington, DC |
| Feb. 22-24 | 2006 Local, State, and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit
For information: http://www.naccho.org
Washington Hilton
Washington, DC |
| Feb. 22-24 | National Health Policy Conference
For information: www.academyhealth.org/nhpc
Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel
Washington, DC |

March 2006

Date	Name and Location
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March 16-18	National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality 5th Annual Forum For information: information@laser-options.com Royal Pacific Resort Orlando, Florida
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March 22-24	19th Annual NW Regional Rural Health Conference: Dare to Prepare For information: Contact Charlotte Hardt at 509-358-7643 Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington
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April 2006

Date	Name and Location
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April 26-28	61st Annual Educational Conference Environmental Health: Building the Future, Honoring the Past, Expanding Today's Horizons, and Developing Tomorrow's Leaders For information: kathy@wseha.org Red Lion Vancouver at the Quay Vancouver, Washington
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May 2006

Date	Name and Location
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May 5-6	23rd Annual Primary Care Update For information: www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu Red Lion Hotel at the Park Spokane, Washington
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May 22-24	2006 National Farmworker Health Conference For information: www.nachc.com Westin Riverwalk San Antonio, Texas
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June 2006

Date	Name and Location
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June 25-27	AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting 2006 For information: www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts Washington State Convention & Trade Center Seattle, Washington
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July 2006

Date	Name and Location
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July 26-29	The National Association of Local Boards of Health's 14th Annual Conference For information: tiffany@nalboh.org San Antonio, Texas
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October 2006

Date Name and Location

October 26-27 Blood Borne: A Silent Epidemic

For information: amy.shaeffer@commonhealthcenter.org

Hyatt Regency

Chicago, Illinois

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Correspondence

Correspondence to the Board

- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Ms. Michelle De Marco
E-mail from Ms. De Marco thanking the Board for its work and for responding to concerns about Oxycontin and other opiates and the statistics which were presented to it on October 21, 2005.
- **Dr. Kim Thorburn, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**
Source: Tina Podlodowski, Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Letter from Ms. Podlodowski regarding the Washington's conversion of the names-based HIV reporting system from the current name-to-code system.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Don D. Lovell, Washington State Penitentiary
Letter from Mr. Lovell requesting public records regarding WAC 137-08-090.
- **Washington State Board of Health Members**
Source: Mr. Kurt Angelone, Stafford Creek Correction Center
Letter from Mr. Angelone wanting information on how to file a complaint against a medical provider.
- **Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health**
Source: The Honorable Ken Jacobsen, Washington State Senate
Letter from Senator Jacobsen endorsing the rules proposed by the School Rule Development Committee regarding drinking water standards and mold regulations for Washington State's K-12 schools.

Correspondence from the Board

- **Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**
Response letter to Ms. Tina Podlodowski, Executive Director, Lifelong AIDS Alliance regarding community forums being held in Seattle and Spokane in December.
- **Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health**
Response letter to Mr. Don D. Lovell regarding his request for public record. Mr. Lovell's letter was forwarded to the Department of Health.

- **Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health**
Letter to interested parties regarding the filing of public notice to review rules adopted in 1999 requiring public health officials to convert the names of asymptomatic HIV cases to a code within 90 days of a receipt of a complete case report.
- **Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, Chair, Washington State Board of Health**
Letters to selected individuals and organizations regarding the Board's Immunization Advisory Committee. The Board has responsibility for determining which vaccines to require for child care center and/or school entry. The Board is establishing an advisory committee to provide recommendations on which criteria should be used to inform this decision. Advisory Committee members will include immunization stakeholders from the fields of public health, school health, medicine, child advocacy, and medical ethics as well as consumers.
- **Mr. Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health**
Response letter to Mr. Kurt Angelone regarding his request for information on how to file a complaint against a medical provider. Mr. Angelone's request was sent to the Department of Health.

Other Correspondence

- **Nursing Facility/Home Administrators**
Source: Department of Social and Health Services
Letter from DSHS to nursing facility/home administrators regarding Initiative 901. The letter reiterates that smoking is not just banned in bars, taverns, bowling alleys, etc., but it also applies to nursing homes, boarding homes, adult family homes, and Intermediate Care for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) facilities.

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General Interest

- **Northwest Public Health Leadership Institute**
The NWPHLI offers a year-long experience to increase participants' collaborative leadership skills through onsite and distance learning opportunities guided by practice-based faculty. Scholars from diverse backgrounds work together to develop collaborative leadership skills to apply personally, in their organizations, and in their communities with a goal of creating integrated and innovative approaches to fostering healthy communities.
- **Federal Register Part II: Department of Health and Human Services**
42 CFR Parts 70 and 71 Control of Communicable Diseases; Proposed Rule

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Local Boards of Health: Agendas and Meeting Minutes

Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health

November 2, 2005

- Strengthening Families/Reducing Violence Program Staff Recognition and Presentation of Award
- Comments by the Public
- Consent Agenda
- Regular Agenda
- Director of Health Comments
- Comments by Board of Health Members
- Executive Session

Grant County Board of Health

November 9, 2005

- Approval of October 12, 2005 Minutes
- Public Forum for Citizen's Comments and Applications
- Environmental Health Report
- Personal Health/Administrator Report
- Health Officer's Report
- Approval of Vouchers for October 31, 2005
- Other Business

Jefferson County Board of Health

November 17, 2005

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of Meetings of October 20, 2005 Board of Health Meeting
- Public Comments
- Old Business and Informational Items
- New Business
- Activity Update
- Agenda Planning in December--Presentation of Healthy Youth School Data

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Publications - General Media

- **NewsBrief**

Third Quarter 2005

Articles of interest: "National Public Health Performance Standards: Helping You Learn About Your Health Department and Jurisdiction," "Report from Washington," "NALBOH's 13th Annual Conference," "Nashville--More Than A Tale of Two Cities," "NACCHO Operational Definition," "Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)," "How Does Your State Rate with Tobacco Control Laws?" "Updated Cigarette Taxes Information," "Tobacco Industry's Campaign

Contributions," "Finding Data and Resources for Your Smokefree Activities," "Association of Illinois Boards of Health (IBOH) Survey Report," "Massachusetts Association of Health Boards (MAHB)," "Critical Findings when Assessing the Environmental Health Workforce Capacity," "Flu Pandemic: Are We Prepared?" "Boards of Health Role in Disasters Such as Hurricane Katrina," and "Infection Control and Emergency Shelters."

- **WSPHA Newsletter**

Fall 2005

Articles of interest: "Gregoire Tells Joint Conference Audience: 'No Quick Fixes' on Health Care," "Tom Locke Receives Award," "JCH Plenary on Environmental Health," "WSPHA Members Consider Resolutions," "Is Your City Walkable?" "Thank You to JCH Sponsors," "APHA President Fighting for Public Health," "Welcome New Members," "State Board of Health Meets in Yakima," "CDC Prevention Fellows," "News & Views from Dr. Robertson," and "Info & Training Needs for Public Health Practitioners."

- **WSMA Reports**

November/December 2005

Articles of interest: "Lessons on Initiative 330, what's ahead for WSMA," "DOH says flu vaccine shortages not anticipated," "Local medical groups singled out for patient safety efforts," "Washington among leaders in reducing smoking rates," "WSMA Web site for all your WSMA needs," "More on responding to subpoenas," "Compliance programs: Cornerstone of practice protection," "Hopkins model mischaracterized," and "'Poisonings,' missed fracture, no obstetrician available to perform C-section at community hospital."

- **Elaborations**

November/December 2005

Articles of interest: "Proficiency Testing--Time to Enroll for 2006," "Approved Cytology Proficiency Testing Providers," "Chemical Terrorism: Lung Damaging Agents," and "Proficiency Testing Providers/Calendar of Events."

- **EPI-LOG**

November 2005

Articles of interest: "Avian Influenza A (H5N1): Recommendations for Screening & Initial Management of Suspect Human Cases," "Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Update," and "Frequently Asked Questions About Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine."

- **State Asthma Program Email Newsletter**

November 1, 2005

Articles of interest: "Washington Asthma Initiative Summit Right Around the Corner--November 16th," "American Lung Association of Washington (ALAW) Welcomes Kathy Kiwala!" "Yakima ALAW gets \$50,000 to Fight Asthma on the Yakima Reservation," "Department of Health/Washington State University Tools for Schools Trainings," "Cost Estimates Developed for the Washington State Asthma Plan," "Research Grant Available--\$700,000," and "Resources/New Articles."

- **CDC Public Health Law News**

November 2, 2005

Articles of interest: "Moves to hire, mold healthier workforce are limited by law, experts say," "Lawmakers target shaken baby syndrome," "New tool at truck stops lets drivers take breaks without idling engines," "Bush unveils \$7.1 billion plan to prepare for flu pandemic," "McDonald's to add facts on nutrition to packaging," "More complex cars and stricter rules lead to more recalls," "Quarantine stressing voluntary compliance," and "Schools use Web to teach about booze."

- **While allaying flu fears, officer ponders pandemic**
Source: The Spokesman Review, November 4, 2005
 Bird flu is a serious issue that deserves the attention of public health officials, but people in the Inland Northwest don't need to give up their scrambled eggs or fried chicken. That's the message Dr. Kim Thorburn, Spokane Regional Health District's health officer, gave participants in an online chat about bird flu on Thursday.
- **Sudden infant death syndrome rates decline**
Source: The Spokesman Review, November 8, 2005
 When my kids were born, 17 and 20 years ago, we were told in no uncertain terms to lay our children on their little tummies when it was time for a nap or what we gratefully called "the big sleep" at the end of the day. We did this to protect them from aspiration--inadvertently sucking stomach contents into their lungs. Doctors thought aspiration might have something to do with sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS.
- **Amid a Lawsuit, Keeping Track of Candy Wrapper's Fine Print**
Source: The New York Times, November 9, 2005
 How did a candy wrapper get so complex? Amid accusations of false labeling, Russell Stover, the candy company, has changed the label on its "low carb" line of candy, now calling it "net carb."
- **Benton man convicted for exposing another to the HIV virus**
Source: The Benton Courier, November 11, 2005
 Bobby Ray Mezzell could say nothing more than "get tested" following the conviction Wednesday of Steven Turbyfill, who exposed the HIV virus to Mezzell. Mezzell, 51, who now has AIDS, said he feels "validated" that Turbyfill, 49, of Benton, admitted in court on Wednesday that he knowingly exposed Mezzell to the HIV virus.
- **Prisons open tattoo parlours**
Source: National Post, November 11, 2005
 The government has opened tattoo parlours in federal prisons and is looking at handing out clean needles to inmates who inject drugs. For \$5, federal prisoners can now get their favourite design or phrase--but nothing racist or gang-related--etched into their skin by a fellow inmate. The project is the first of its kind in Canada and believed by some to be the only one in the world.
- **Groups to protest naming patients with HIV**
Source: The Seattle Times, November 12, 2005
 AIDS advocacy groups are preparing to protest a change in federal rules that will soon mean state records of certain people infected with HIV won't be encoded for privacy. State health officials to the State Board of Health last week that starting in June, federal funding for some patient care will be withheld if physicians and clinics do not report HIV-infected residents by name.
- **Living Well: We're learning what a difference a healthy meal makes in a student's day**
Source: Seattle Post-Intelligencer, November 14, 2005
 Even as a nutritionist at the University of Washington, Judy Simon isn't afraid to admit it: She has been putting candy in her children's packed lunches during the past few weeks. "Those teeny Halloween bars," said Simon, who is a dietician at the UW Medical Center's Roosevelt Clinic and gets many of the pediatric referrals. "It is something small but sweet."
- **Reins on mercury may tighten**
Source: The Birmingham News, November 14, 2005
 Environmental and health officials are planning to strengthen Alabama's mercury rules to ensure they protect people from the toxic metal found in fish throughout the state.

- **Police, health officials: Quarantines for bird flu would need public's help**

Source: Foster's Online, November 14, 2005

If a deadly strain of avian flu comes to New Hampshire and Maine and quarantines are used to slow its spread, only the public's willingness to stay home will make the protective measure work, police and health officials say. Both states have laws that give police the authority to order people to stay home and arrest those who violate quarantine orders.

- **Good health paying off for state workers**

Source: The Barre Montpelier Times Argus, November 14, 2005

Vermont state employees will receive an unexpected holiday bonus: They won't have to pay health insurance premiums in December. It's the third year in a row that state workers will get a premium "holiday" because of their better-than-expected collective health.

- **Allergies put schools on alert**

Source: The Honolulu Advertiser, November 14, 2005

Every day at lunch at 'Aina Haina Elementary School, parent volunteers peer into the bags of students' home lunches, looking for a potential killer--peanuts. With five students severely allergic to the common peanut--so severely that even a particle could cause their windpipes to close in minutes--the school has taken extraordinary precautions, to the point of declaring itself a "peanut-free zone."

- **Breathing easy**

Source: The Washington Times, November 14, 2005

The Hartford County School District learned its lesson about addressing air quality issues in its buildings after the fact. The Bel Air, Md., district battled back mold in its Edgewood Middle School in 2001, convincing it to team up with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stave off any future breathing concerns. It's a message the EPA began shouting in earnest a decade ago with the release of its Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools initiative. The program teaches schools how to address potential problems before they hit district coffers, and leave children wheezing for air.

- **Temple cites religious freedom to fight Bellevue tent-city limits**

Source: The Seattle Times, November 15, 2005

A Bellevue synagogue Monday appealed the city's tough new restrictions on hosting Tent City 4, claiming the limits on length of stay and number of people violate the synagogue's religious freedoms. The lawsuit, citing the First Amendment and a 2000 federal law that protects religious groups in land-use decisions, is the first local challenge on religious grounds of a city's homeless-camp law.

- **HIV-positive man faces murder trial**

Source: Toronto Star, November 15, 2005

An HIV-positive man who allegedly infected two of his sexual partners will stand trial on first-degree murder charges, a judge ruled yesterday in a decision denounced by AIDS activists as the criminalization of a serious disease. Ontario Court Justice Norman Bennett ruled there was enough evidence to commit Johnson Aziga, 49, to stand trial for first-degree murder in the deaths of two women he allegedly infected through unprotected sex. The women, from Toronto, died in 2003 and 2004.

- **Smoking ban set to take effect Tuesday in Louisville, the former heart of tobacco country**

Source: Cedar Falls Courier, November 15, 2005

Smokers got in a few last puffs in restaurants and other businesses on the eve of a partial smoking ban in a city that once was a home to top cigarette makers. The ban approved by Louisville's Metro Council takes effect Tuesday and will cover thousands of businesses. Exempt are bars, private clubs, hotel rooms, and the famed Churchill Downs racetrack, among others.

- **Fast food is often the only option in poor areas**

Herald News, November 15, 2005

When Maurice Wade walks home from school, he's not thinking about looming public health crises or how much the waistlines of Americans have grown over the last half-century. No, the lean 16-year-old is thinking about filling his belly with something tasty in the four hours before his mom cooks dinner. He's thinking of fried chicken strips--namely, the ones McDonald's calls Chicken Select.

- **Surveillance system links hospitals**

The News & Observer, November 16, 2005

Today the state will unveil a powerful new tool for safeguarding public health: a statewide electronic surveillance system that will monitor hospital emergency-room data for early signs of disease outbreaks and bioterrorism threats. North Carolina hospitals with round-the-clock emergency departments will submit information to the state every 12 hours about symptoms in patients seen at their facilities. If needed, the state could get data as often as every 15 minutes.

- **The CDC Public Health Law News**

November 16, 2005

Articles of interest: "Allergies put schools on alert," "Little matchboxes," "Model house built considering wind, rain of hurricane country," "Police, health officials: Quarantine for bird flu would need public's help," "Initiative 901: Smoking ban sails to victory," "Backup health records are a help after storms," "Hidden cost in wood burning: pollution," "Breathing easy," "HIV-positive man faces murder trial," and "Prisons open tattoo parlours."

- **Laws unable to cow raw-milk fans**

The Arizona Republic, November 17, 2005

Fans of organic raw milk are going to extremes to get their fix. Months after the state's only raw organic dairy was shut down, black-market buyer groups have emerged, drophouses are cropping up, and FedEx is making special deliveries to the Valley from California.

- **Pandemic fears may bring law changes**

The Salt Lake Tribune, November 19, 2005

Potentially facing threats from bioterrorism to avian influenza, public health officials want to revise Utah's quarantine law. The Utah Department of Health, which now has the power to quarantine only one person at a time, is seeking to expand its quarantine authority to groups of people.

- **Better fire safety in hotels saves lives**

USA Today, November 21, 2005

Thick smoke rolled through the New York Hilton near Rockefeller Center on the afternoon of Oct. 1, the result of a garbage fire in the basement. Hundreds of guests were evacuated from the 46-story hotel, Manhattan traffic was tied up for hours and 33 people were treated at the hospital for smoke inhalation. But, most importantly, no one died.

- **Health insurance: mandatory in Massachusetts?**

The Christian Science Monitor, November 21, 2005

For thousands of families here struggling to make ends meet, the difficult decision of whether to buy health insurance may soon get easier: They won't have a choice. Under two major proposals that aim to cover the estimated half million uninsured in Massachusetts, the state would require all residents who can afford it to purchase some type of individual plan or face penalties, such as losing their driver's licenses.

- **CDC Proposes New Rules in Effort to Prevent Disease Outbreak**

The New York Times, November 23, 2005

Federal officials yesterday proposed the first significant changes in quarantine rules in 25 years in an effort to broaden the definition of reportable illnesses, to centralize their reporting to the federal government, and to require the airline and shipping industries to keep passenger manifests electronically for 60 days.

- ***The CDC Public Health Law News***
November 23, 2005

Articles of interest: "Laws unable to cow raw-milk fans," "Supervisors vote to require neutering of pit bulls, mixes," "Health insurance: Mandatory in Massachusetts?" "Regulations readied for research labs," "Surveillance system links hospitals," "Better fire safety in hotels saves lives," "CDC proposes new rules in effort to prevent disease outbreak," "Colleges are reaching their limit on alcohol," "Fast food is often the only option in poor areas," and "The doctor won't see you now."

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Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

- ***American Journal of Public Health***
November 1, 2005; Vol. 95, No. 11
<http://www.ajph.org/content/vol95/issue11/?etoc>
- **Controlling Tuberculosis in the United States**
Source: MMWR Recommendations and Reports, November 4, 2005, Volume 54, No. RR-12
During 1993-2003, incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in the United States decreased 44% and is now occurring at a historic low level (14,874 cases in 2003). The Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis has called for a renewed commitment to eliminating TB in the United States, and the Institute of Medicine has published a detailed plan for achieving that goal.

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Publications - Reports

- **2005 Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drug Abuse Trends in Washington State**
The Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) first published the *Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drug Abuse Trends Report* in 1993 as an effort to document and monitor Washington State's progress toward the Healthy People 2000: National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives.

This is the 13th edition of *Tobacco, Alcohol, and Other Drug Abuse Trends*. We continue to expand and refine the report. This year, we have added a new section, "Prevention Works!" to begin to document more fully the use and effectiveness of evidence-based prevention practices among Washington communities. There is a new section on treatment provided under the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA), and profiles of patients with co-occurring chemical dependency and mental health disorders. Data regarding the extent of substance use, substance use disorders, and need for treatment is updated based on findings from the 2003 Washington State Needs Assessment Household Survey. Areas where new or changed trends are now being identified are clearly marked. Finally, there are two new essays on policy issues confronting Washington State. They are: (1) The Use of Medications in Addiction Treatment and (2) College

Drinking: Questioning the Myths. There is also a new "DASA in Brief" section, providing an update on the division's budget and the results of the most recent Legislative session.

- **Eastern Washington University Institute for Public Policy & Economic Analysis 2004-05 Annual Report**

The genesis for the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis dates at least to the start of this decade. Behind the vision was the conviction that this University can and should contribute critical insights for the region it has traditionally served. We welcome all comments. You can contact Dr. D. Patrick Jones at 509-358-2266 or dpjones@ewu.edu. At our interim Web site, <http://www.ewu.edu/x4901.xml>, you can also access most of the studies that the Institute has commissioned or completed for others.

- **Stand on Guard for Thee: Ethical considerations in preparedness planning for pandemic influenza**

This report is a comprehensive ethical guide for planning for and dealing with major communicable disease outbreaks, such as pandemic influenza. The guide was developed with expertise from clinical, organizational, and public health ethics, and validated through a stakeholder engagement process. It includes both substantive and procedural elements for ethical pandemic influenza planning. This can form the basis for applying the framework that the WHO has recommended. It can be a key planning tool for pandemic readiness.

- **Task Force 2005 Final Report: Operation: "Allied Against Meth"**

The production, distribution, and abuse of methamphetamine has become the number one illegal drug threat in our state and region. While crack cocaine and heroin abuse are still a problem, especially in urban areas, methamphetamine has taken root in nearly every community in the state. It is cheap, easy to manufacture, and produces an intense and long-lasting high for the user. Unfortunately, users can also become addicted almost immediately and the side affects of methamphetamine use make this one of the most toxic synthetic drugs available.

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