



## For Your Information – April 2009

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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### Events and Conferences

#### May 2009

Date	Name and Location
1-2	<b>26th Annual Conference - Primary Care Update</b> Red Lion Hotel at the Park, Spokane, Washington For information: Kaarin Appel at <a href="mailto:kappel@wsu.edu">kappel@wsu.edu</a>

#### June 2009

Date	Name and Location
21-24	<b>National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) 73rd Annual Education Conference</b> Atlanta, Georgia For information: <a href="http://www.neha.org">www.neha.org</a>

**June 2010**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
5-9	<b>National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) 74th Annual Education Conference</b> Albuquerque, New Mexico For information: <a href="http://www.neha.org">www.neha.org</a>

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## **Correspondence**

### **Correspondence from the Board**

**To: The Honorable Frank Chopp, Chair, Rules Committee, Washington House of Representatives, March 26, 2009**

From: Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair

Letter regarding proposed school environmental health and safety rule.

**To: The Honorable Rosemary McAuliffe Chair, Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education, Washington State Senate, March 26, 2009**

From: Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair

Letter regarding 2SHB 2167 and ESSB 5889 which are intended to reduce administrative burdens on schools.

**To: The Honorable Rosemary McAuliffe Chair, Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education, Washington State Senate, March 23, 2009**

From: Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair

Letter supporting the concept in section 4 of ESHB 2261 regarding the state's education system.

**To: The Honorable Dave Quall Chair, Committee on Education, Washington House of Representatives, March 19, 2009**

From: Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair

Letter commenting on ESSB 5889 which is intended to reduce administrative burdens in schools.

**To: The Honorable Dave Quall Chair, Committee on Education, Washington House of Representatives, March 19, 2009**

From: Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair

Letter supporting the concept of SSSB 5973 regarding the academic achievement gap.

**To: The Honorable Rosemary McAuliffe Chair, Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education, Washington State Senate, March 17, 2009**

From: Mr. Treuman Katz, Chair

Letter supporting the concept of SHB 2147 regarding the academic achievement gap.

## Correspondence to the Board

None.

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## Public Health Leadership Positions Available

### Public Health Nurse II - First Steps Program

Kittitas County Health Department

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/hr/jobs.asp?jobID=348>

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## Publications - General Media

### Kids Who Live Near Green Spaces Seem to Walk More: Experts urge urban planners to heed study's finding and help fight obesity

*HealthDay, March 12, 2009*

Living close to parks and other play areas may keep children more active and help combat the continued increase in childhood obesity, Canadian researchers report. For every park found within a half-mile of home, a girl's likelihood of walking to school doubled and a boy's odds of taking part in leisure walking increased by 60 percent, according to the findings, scheduled to be presented at an American Heart Association conference in Palm Harbor, Fla.

### Native American death rates soar as most people are living longer: Babies die at a rate 44% higher than decade ago

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 12, 2009*

On the Okanogan plains in northeast Washington, the Colville tribes recently buried a man who died after facing a bleak decision: spend his money on trips into town for dialysis, or buy food for his family. It was a variant of a fate that has doomed many people on the stark, remote reservation, causing the timber-dependent tribes to increasingly spend their money on burials.

### School near fast-food joint? Expect fatter kids

*Reuters, March 13, 2009*

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A fast-food restaurant within about 500 feet of a school may lead to at least a 5 percent increase in the obesity rate at that school, according to a study released on Friday. The study, conducted by economists at Columbia University and the University California, Berkeley, suggests that "a ban on fast foods in the immediate proximity of schools could have a sizable effect on obesity rates among affected students." The researchers looked at how proximity to the restaurants affected obesity rates among 3 million ninth graders at California schools, and more than 1 million pregnant women in Michigan, New Jersey and Texas.

### Senate approves bill to cut unfunded mandates

*Seattle Times, March 11, 2009*

The Senate approved a package of bills designed to free cash-strapped school districts from "unfunded mandates" on Tuesday. Over time, the Legislature has passed laws requiring school districts to do

everything from exclusively feed children nutritious food, to requiring AIDS awareness education. Now lawmakers want to repeal or suspend many of those requirements unless there is money to pay for them. Supporters of the package say the proposals may free up some money and allow schools to shift it over to essential services. The package now heads to the House.

### **States consider trans fat bans, menu labeling**

*Stateline.org, March 12, 2009*

California lawmaker Tony Mendoza, a former public school teacher, worried about the increasing number of overweight young people he saw. So the Democratic assemblyman introduced legislation last year to ban “bad fats” from restaurant food, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) signed it into law. A second California law will force restaurants beginning July 1 to disclose calorie counts and other nutritional information to customers. "This legislation will help Californians make more informed, healthier choices by making calorie information easily accessible at thousands of restaurants throughout our state," said Schwarzenegger when he signed the bill. "By being the first state to provide this information to consumers, California is continuing to lead the nation with programs and policies that promote health and nutrition."

### **Study links fitness to academic, behavioral improvement in Texas students**

*Dallas Morning News, Tuesday, March 10, 2009*

AUSTIN – Texas students who are physically fit are more likely to do well on achievement tests and less likely to have disciplinary problems, according to a study released Monday by the Texas Education Agency. Based on annual physical fitness assessments of more than 2.4 million students in the public schools, the study found that increased exercise enhances the ability to learn, as evidenced by the higher scores of physically fit children on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.

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## **Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles**

### **Journals Reviewed**

#### **American Journal of Public Health**

<http://www.ajph.org/current.shtml>

- Vol. 99, No. 4, April 1, 2009

#### **Environmental Health Perspectives**

<http://www.ehponline.org/>

#### **Health Affairs**

<http://www.healthaffairs.org/>

- Vol. 28, No. 2, March/April 2009

#### **The Journal of the American Medical Association**

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/>

- Vol. 301, No. 13, April 1, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 12, March 25, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 11, March 18, 2009
- Vol. 301, No. 10, March 11, 2009

## **The Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law**

<http://jhpppl.dukejournals.org/archive/>

- Vol. 34, No. 2, April 2009

## **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report**

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr\\_wk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html)

- Vol. 58, No. 12, April 3, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 11, March 27, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 10, March 20, 2009
- Vol. 58, No. 9, March 13, 2009

## **The New England Journal of Medicine**

<http://content.nejm.org/current.shtml>

- Vol. 360, No. 14, April 2, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 13, March 26, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 12, March 19, 2009
- Vol. 360, No. 11, March 12, 2009

## **Preventing Chronic Disease**

CDC

<http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/>

- Vol. 6, No. 2, April 2009

## **Journal Articles**

### **Action on Health Disparities in the United States: Commission on Social Determinants of Health**

*JAMA*, Vol. 301, No. 11, March 18, 2009

Here are 2 truisms. Rich countries have better health than poor countries, and medical care improves health. Consider, then, the case of the United States, which is among the richest countries in the world and spends more than any other country on medical care, US \$6350 per person in 2005.<sup>1</sup> Does the United States then have the best health? Not quite. Life expectancy from birth to age 65 years is one useful measure of premature mortality: the United States ranks 36th in the world for men and 42nd for women.<sup>2</sup> If not by greater national income or more spending on medical care, how should the task of improving health in the United States be approached? Pay attention to the social determinants of health.

### **Don't Forget About The Social Determinants Of Health**

*Health Affairs*, Vol. 28, No. 2, March/April 2009

The Obama administration faces daunting challenges to reform health care. The authors, commissioners on the World Health Organization's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, believe that strategies to improve health by affecting the social determinants may gain bipartisan support. These determinants—including the effects of poverty, education, the treatment of women, employment opportunities, and limited access to medical care for some—are as important in promoting health, if not more so, than the direct medical determinants of health. Focusing on these determinants makes more sense than waiting until people become sick and seek care, and it often costs much less.

### **Trends in Perinatal and Infant Health Disparities Between Rural American Indians and Alaska Natives and Rural Whites**

*AJPH*, Vol. 99, No. 4, April 2009

Objectives: We examined disparities in perinatal care, birth outcomes, and infant health between rural American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) persons and rural Whites over time.

Conclusions: Despite significant decreases in inadequate prenatal care and postneonatal death among American Indians and Alaska Natives, additional measures are needed to close persistent health gaps for this group.

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## Publications - Inside this Issue

### Advances

*RWJF, March 2009*

- Shortchanging America's Health 2009
- New Study on Hospital Use of Electronic Health Records Shows Formidable Barriers Remain to Higher Adoption Rates
- RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America to Release Recommendations Report in April
- What Has Happened with Coverage Trends Since the 1994 Federal Health Reform Debate?
- Heart Failure Strikes Younger African Americans at the Same Rate as Older Caucasians
- CDC Analysis Finds Unique Social and Behavior Intervention Helps Reduce MRSA Rates Up to 62 Percent
- Report Outlines Opportunities to Strengthen Safe Routes to School
- RWJF Announces Hospitals Chosen to Participate in New Nurse-Led Quality Improvement Collaborative
- RWJF Selects Meharry Medical College for Historic Multimillion-Dollar Endowment to Establish National Health Policy Center

### Alliance

*Western Washington Area Health Education Center, Winter 2009*

- Western Washington AHEC Receives Regence Foundation Grant for RONE
- New Resources
- 2009 Project H.O.P.E. Season Begins
- Highline Community College Gives Immigrants an Assist with Job Credentials
- In Memorial: Dr. John B. Coombs
- Health Care Education at the Seattle Community Colleges
- Treating the Whole Person in Yakima: Wellness House

### Elaborations

*Department of Health, Vol. XIV, No. 2, March/April 2009*

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/lqa\\_newsletters.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/lqa_newsletters.htm)

- Medical Test Site Licensing Update
- Basic Courses in Parasitology: A Four-Part Series

### EpiLog

*Public Health Seattle & King County, Vol. 49, No. 2, February 2009*

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/epilog.aspx>

- Epi-Log Reader Survey
- Sexually Transmitted Shigellosis among Men Who Have Sex with Men
- Erratum

## EpiTrends

Department of Health

[http://ww2.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/epitrends/08-epitrends/2008\\_trend.htm](http://ww2.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/epitrends/08-epitrends/2008_trend.htm)

## The Nation's Health

American Public Health Association, March 2009

<http://www.apha.org/publications/tnh/>

- Nation
  - RU healthy? Public health efforts take on text messaging: Campaigns adapting to new technology
  - U.S. economic crisis having worrisome effect on health: States, individuals struggling with cuts
  - Free offers of antibiotics raise concern for some in public health: Resistance feared
  - Gaps found in pandemic plans; preparedness faces funding woes
  - Public health support sought for bone, joint health: U.S. Bone and Joint Decade highlights musculoskeletal disorders
  - Business, environmental coalition offers blueprint to face climate change
  - Georgia peanut plant linked to nationwide salmonella outbreak
  - Nation in Brief
- State/Local
  - Florida health department raises awareness using storytelling
  - States making little progress on passage of traffic safety laws
  - New York health department links with hair salons to offer HIV tests
  - States in brief
- Globe
  - Q&A with WHO leader David Heymann: Healthier world requires U.S. leadership: Global health advocate highlights infectious disease challenges
  - Global health workers urged to focus on health, trade link
  - Obama repeals 'global gag rule,' restores U.S. funds to UNFPA
  - Globe in Brief
- General
  - Annual Cover the Uninsured Week coming up March 22–28
  - Campaign highlights hearing loss prevention among youth, parents
  - Disco song could have lifesaving properties, new study finds
  - Early elective Caesarean section deliveries a risk
  - EPA offers online consumer tool that calculates energy impact
  - Report: Federal government, seven states fail tobacco control in 2008
  - In memoriam
- Healthy You
  - Getting enough sleep can often be the best medicine
- Health Findings
  - APHA News
  - APHA's National Public Health Week is April 6–12: Focus is on "Building the Foundation for a Healthy America"
  - APHA institute teams improving traffic safety: Year-long institute focusing on pedestrian, motorcycle safety
  - APHA celebrates reauthorization of SCHIP program
  - New booklet highlights U.S. progress on asthma control

- APHA says check your stockpile with the March 8 clock change: Ice storms a preparedness reminder
- 2009 APHA fellow to begin public health work on D.C.'s Capitol Hill
- APHA Advocates
- Four new APHA staff have joined the Association in recent months, including two new additions to APHA's Center for Public Health Policy.
- APHA Sections
  - Submissions sought by April 1 for APHA public health film festival
- Affiliates
  - Kansas Affiliate brings health to preschoolers through reading
  - Washington, D.C., Affiliate rolls out HIV/AIDS awareness video contest
- Journal Watch
- President's Column
  - Modern slavery: Persistence of a global ancient wrong
- Letters
- Job Openings
- Web Exclusive
  - Smokeless tobacco use increasing among teenage boys
  - Weight loss in overweight women reduces urinary incontinence
  - New program steers vets toward safe driving
  - U.S. inmates not getting needed substance abuse treatment
  - Heart-healthy, reduced-calorie diets promote long-term weight loss
  - Big Tobacco takes aim at women and girls
  - Outpatient surgeries on the rise
  - Folic acid supplements linked to higher risk of prostate cancer
  - Global measles deaths drop by 74 percent
  - Swimming lessons do not increase drowning risk in young children
  - Non-food factors as important as food in most bacterial intestinal infections
  - New research shows how cranberry products prevent urinary tract infections
- Newsmakers
- Resources

### **State Health Notes**

*National Conference of State Legislators, Volume 30, Issue 536, March 30, 2009*

- State News
  - States that Enroll More Kids in Medicaid to Get Federal Bonuses
  - Medical Marijuana Bills Growing, As Feds Indicate New Attitude
- Highlights
  - Pennsylvania plans to expand "adultBasic,"...New York prescription drug discount card will provide discounts at more than 2,500 pharmacies...West Virginia considers taxing methadone
- Graphically Speaking
  - From 2004 through 2007, HIV diagnoses across the nation increased by 15 percent in the 34 states that have long-term, name-based HIV reporting, according to the CDC. Another report says that 3 percent of residents in the nation's capitol are found to be living with HIV/AIDS.

### **Thrive!**

*Washington Health Foundation*

<http://www.whf.org/News/ThriveMagazine.aspx>

## **Zoonotic Disease Newsletter**

*Washington State Department of Health*

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/zdnewsletter.html>

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## **Publications - Reports**

### **Family Planning: A Public Health Success Story, 2008 Summary**

*Washington State Department of Health, 2008*

More than birth control; comprehensive primary prevention; family planning facts; almost everyone needs family planning; Washington State family planning clinic sites;

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