



## For Your Information – October 2007

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

#### September 2007

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
Sept. 18-21	<b>Prevent, Promote, and Protect: Building Board of Health Capacity ~ National Association of Local Boards of Health 15th Annual Conference</b> The Hotel Captain Cook Anchorage, Alaska For information: <a href="http://www.nalboh.org">www.nalboh.org</a>
Sept. 19	<b>Food for Thought Training of Trainers Workshop</b> Catholic Community Services Seattle, Washington For information: King County STEPS to Health 206-205-0525
Sept. 22	<b>Third Regional Conference - National Federation of Filipino American Associations</b> White River Amphitheater Auburn, Washington For information: <a href="http://www.naffaar7.org">www.naffaar7.org</a>

## October 2007

- | <b>Date</b> | <b>Name and Location</b>  |
|-------------|---|
| Oct. 2-3    | <b>The Stem Cell Summit: Revolutionary Science and the Hope for Cures</b><br>Hynes Convention Center<br>Boston, Massachusetts<br>For information: <a href="http://www.thestemcellsummit.com">www.thestemcellsummit.com</a>  |
| Oct. 2-5    | <b>ASTHO 2007 Annual Meeting</b><br>St. Louis, Missouri<br>For information: <a href="http://www.astho.org/">http://www.astho.org/</a>   |
| Oct. 3      | <b>Healthiest State Policy Forum</b><br>Washington State Convention & Trade Center<br>Seattle, Washington<br>For information: <a href="mailto:heatherp@whf.org">heatherp@whf.org</a>  |
| Oct. 4      | <b>Health Care Cost and Access Challenges Persist</b><br>Grand Hyatt<br>Washington, DC<br>For information: <a href="http://www.hschange.org/index.cgi?conf=show&amp;what=22">http://www.hschange.org/index.cgi?conf=show&amp;what=22</a>                            |
| Oct. 4      | <b>Smoking Cessation Policy Summit</b><br>The Westin Hotel<br>Seattle, Washington<br>For information: <a href="http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/registerwa.htm">http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/registerwa.htm</a>   |
| Oct. 5-7    | <b>Washington State Medical Association Annual Meeting "Call to Professionalism"</b><br>Tacoma Sheraton Hotel<br>Tacoma, Washington<br>For information: <a href="http://www.wsma.org/memresources/calendar.html">http://www.wsma.org/memresources/calendar.html</a> |
| Oct. 6      | <b>5th Annual Conference on Children's Health and the Environment</b><br>Hyatt Reston<br>Virginia<br>For information: <a href="http://www.gwu.edu/~macche/restonconference07/">http://www.gwu.edu/~macche/restonconference07/</a>                                   |
| Oct. 8-10   | <b>Washington State Joint Conference on Health</b><br>Yakima Convention Center<br>Yakima, Washington<br>For information: <a href="http://www.wspha.org/JCH1.html">http://www.wspha.org/JCH1.html</a>  |
| Oct. 14-16  | <b>NASHP's 20th Annual State Health Policy Conference</b><br>Marriott Denver City Center<br>Denver, Colorado<br>For information: <a href="http://www.nashp.org/_conferences.cfm?LID=CON">http://www.nashp.org/_conferences.cfm?LID=CON</a>                          |

Oct. 24-27 **2007 National Conference on Tobacco or Health**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
For information: <http://www.tobaccocontrolconference.org/2007/conference/index.cfm>

Oct. 25 **Update on Moisture Detection and Drying**  
Seattle, Washington  
For information: Mike Smith at [mike.s.smith@amec.com](mailto:mike.s.smith@amec.com) or (425) 820-4669

## November 2007

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
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Nov. 1	<b>2007 Health Policy Summit &amp; Silver Anniversary Gala Honoring John K. Iglehart</b> The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center Washington D.C. For information: <a href="http://www.healthaffairs.org/summit.php">http://www.healthaffairs.org/summit.php</a>
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Nov. 3-7	<b>Politics Policy &amp; Public Health: APHA 2007 Annual Meeting</b> Washington D.C. For information: <a href="http://www.apha.org/meetings/">http://www.apha.org/meetings/</a>
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Nov. 12	<b>Working with the Media in High Stress and High Concern Situations: A Journalist and Risk Communicator's Perspective</b> Sheraton National Hotel Arlington, Virginia For information: Contact Katie Smith at (703) 807-2758
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Nov. 13-14	<b>2007 Preparing for Pandemic Influenza Conference</b> Sheraton National Hotel Arlington, Virginia For information: Contact Katie Smith at (703) 807-2758
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## December 2007

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
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Dec. 11	<b>Washington Health Legislative Conference</b> <b>The Changing Face(s) of Health Care: New People, New Ideas</b> SeaTac Hilton Conference Center SeaTac, Washington For information: <a href="http://www.depts.washington.edu/rchpol">www.depts.washington.edu/rchpol</a>
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## March 2008

**Date**            **Name and Location**  
Mar. 20-21    **21st Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference**  
Spokane, Washington  
For information: <http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/>

## April 2008

**Date**            **Name and Location**  
Apr. 4        **Institute of Medicine's Future of Public Health 20 Years Later ~ NALBOH's 9th Annual Lecture in Public Health**  
For information: <http://www.nalboh.org/lecture/lecture.htm>

## September 2008

**Date**            **Name and Location**  
Sep. 9-12    **ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Conference**  
Sacramento, CA  
For information: [http://www.naccho.org/conferences/NACCHOannual06/documents/NA\\_Conf\\_Guide\\_Back\\_Page.pdf](http://www.naccho.org/conferences/NACCHOannual06/documents/NA_Conf_Guide_Back_Page.pdf)

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## Correspondence

### Correspondence from the Board

None.

### Correspondence to the Board

To: Tara Wolff, Policy Advisor, Washington State Board of Health  
**From: The Honorable Gary C. Alexander, State Representative, September 12, 2007**  
*Letter supporting adding pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) to the daycare immunization requirement.*

To: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health  
**From: Nancy Auer, Washington Health Foundation, September 6, 2007**  
*Invitation to the Heroes of Health Gala on Saturday, November 17, 2007*

To: Tara Wolff, Policy Advisor, Washington State Board of Health  
**From: David Caulfield, MS, ARNP, Squaxin Island Tribal Clinic, September 18, 2007**  
*Letter supporting adding pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) to the daycare immunization requirement.*

To: Tara Wolff, Policy Advisor, Washington State Board of Health

**From: Neil Kaneshiro, July 9, 2007**

*Letter supporting adding pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) to the daycare immunization requirement.*

To: Tara Wolff, Policy Advisor, Washington State Board of Health

**From: The Honorable Karen Keiser, Washington State Senator, September 14, 2007**

*Letter supporting adding pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) to the daycare immunization requirement.*

To: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health

**From: Frankie Millie, September 2007**

*Letter supporting adding pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) to the daycare immunization requirement.*

To: Tara Wolff, Policy Advisor, Washington State Board of Health

**From: Stephen J. Pearson, MD, FAAP, June 29, 2007**

*Letter supporting adding pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) to the daycare immunization requirement.*

To: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health

**From: The Honorable Eric Pettigrew, Washington House of Representatives, September 25, 2007**

*Letter supporting adding pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) to the daycare immunization requirement.*

To: Tara Wolff, Policy Advisor, Washington State Board of Health

**From: Alexis Uhri, Director, Cedar Ridge Children's Center, September 6, 2007**

*Letter supporting adding pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) to the daycare immunization requirement.*

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## General Interest

### IAQ Asthma Triggers Workshop

NEHA is currently in the process of collecting letters of intent for their upcoming IAQ Asthma Triggers Workshop, occurring [October 30 - November 1, 2007](#) in Washington, DC. NEHA will be selecting up to 30 individuals to attend via sponsorship, all-expenses-paid. The [September 24th submittal deadline](#) is rapidly approaching.

Again, note that letters of interest must be received no later than the close of business on Monday, September 24, 2007.

Please note: Only first-time attendees may apply. Due to space availability and to broaden the range of our trainees, we are not able to accept letters of intent from those whom have previously gone through this particular training.

## **Improving Quality of Health Care Relies on Effective Language Services**

RWJF, October 1, 2007

In order to achieve the outcomes that doctors want—and patients expect—all parties must be able to communicate effectively and clearly understand each other—from explaining symptoms and potential treatments, to relaying medication allergies and instructions for follow-up care. Many health care experts believe that assessing and improving the language services offered to patients in America's hospitals will not only improve communications, but can significantly improve the quality of patient care.

Speaking Together: National Language Services Network, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation national program, is helping 10 hospitals nationwide identify, test and assess strategies to effectively provide language services to patients with limited English proficiency (LEP). This issue brief highlights how data are helping hospitals improve the way they provide language services to America's increasingly diverse patient populations.

## **Notice to Readers: Clinical Vaccinology Course --- November 9--11, 2007**

*MMWR, Vol. 56, No. 38, September 28, 2007*

CDC and four other national organizations are collaborating with the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), Emory University School of Medicine, and the Emory Vaccine Center to sponsor a Clinical Vaccinology Course, November 9--11, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda Hotel in Bethesda, Maryland. Through lectures and interactive presentations, the course will focus on new developments and concerns related to the use of vaccines in pediatric, adolescent, and adult populations. Leading infectious-disease experts, including pediatricians, internists, and family physicians will present information on newly available vaccines, vaccines under development, and older vaccines whose continued administration is essential to improving disease prevention.

This course is specifically designed for physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, vaccine-program administrators, and other health-care professionals interested in the clinical aspects of vaccinology. The course also might be useful for health-care professionals involved in prevention and control of infectious diseases, including federal, state, and local public health officials.

Continuing education credits will be offered. Information regarding the preliminary program, registration, and hotel accommodations is available at <http://www.nfid.org/conferences/idcourse07>, or by e-mail ([idcourse@nfid.org](mailto:idcourse@nfid.org)), fax (301-907-0878), telephone (301-656-0003, ext. 19), or mail (NFID, 4733 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 750, Bethesda, MD 20814-5228).

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## Public Health Leadership Positions Available

### **Environmental Health Specialist I/II**

Chelan-Douglas Health District

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.cdhd.wa.gov/docs/Full%20EHS%20Recruitment.pdf>

### **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>

### **Senior Analyst - Operational Definition and Exploring Accreditation**

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.naccho.org/careers/headquarters/HQ45.cfm>

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## Publications - General Media

### **All in a day's work: State's Public Health Lab opens its doors to the public**

*The Enterprise Newspaper, September 18, 2007*

One of the first things Tim Davis of the Public Health Lab in Shoreline does everyday when he goes to work in the Newborn Screening Laboratory is look for red dots. The dots help Davis determine if any of the approximately 82,000 babies born every year in the state are at risk of serious disorders that while treatable, may not always be apparent at birth. "Typically they're all benign but we report them for genetic counseling," Davis said while looking at test results during a Public Health Lab open house on Aug. 31. "Most of them we see and they don't cause any ill effects. Almost everything we do is a metabolic disorder, we're looking for enzymes that have gone awry."

### **Calories underestimated in "healthy" restaurants**

*September 14, 2007*

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - People who opt for a meal at a "healthy" restaurant often consume more calories than they would dining at fast food joints that make no health claims, a new study shows. The researchers found that individuals underestimate the calorie content of foods served at restaurants they see as healthier, to a degree that could easily lead to weight gain.

### **Collecting Data on Patient Race, Ethnicity and Primary Language is Helping Hospitals Improve the Quality of Care**

*RWJF, September 24, 2007*

To address concerns about the poor quality—and equality—of American health care, Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care, is helping 10 hospitals measure the quality of cardiac treatment

they provide to patients based on their race, ethnicity and primary language. While simultaneously working to improve the quality of care for all heart patients, the hospitals are, for the first time, tracking and analyzing data to learn more about their patients and determine whether disparities exist in the care they provide.

### **Eliminating Health Inequities: Comprehensive Health Education Foundation Awards Grants**

*CHEF, August 21, 2007*

One of the most pressing health issues facing our society today is the fact that not everyone has an equal opportunity for health. Statistics show that levels of disease, disability, and death are higher across ethnic, racial, and economic groups that often do not have viable opportunities for regular physical activity or access to healthy food. To address this serious inequity, Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (C.H.E.F.®), long known for its mission to promote health and quality of life through education, has initiated a grant program to make it easier for people to move more and eat healthier. With an emphasis on increasing physical activity and improving nutrition, C.H.E.F. has selected seven organizations as award recipients, all within Clark, Pierce, and Spokane counties in Washington State.

### **Hayes named winner of Rodriguez-Trias award**

*The Nation's Health, September 2007*

Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH, FAAP, state health officer for the Washington State Department of Health will be honored with the 2007 Helen Riodriguez-Trias Award for Social Justice at APHA's 135th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Hayes has worked to help the medically underserved and the nation's vulnerable populations. Over the past three decades, she has given voice to issues such as hunger, pediatric AIDS, health caer for the homeless, smoking bans, child labor and pregnancy planning, continually working to improve the health of women and children.

### **Hospitals shoot for employees to get flu vaccine**

*USA Today, September 16, 2007*

When it comes to getting a yearly flu vaccine, you might expect that doctors and nurses would be first in line. But health care workers have among the lowest immunization rates for flu vaccine, to the endless frustration of public health advocates. Doctors and nurses say they're too busy. Some health workers believe the myths about flu shots, that they cause flu and don't work. Health workers often say they've been exposed to so many germs that they're immune to everything.

### **Judge Throws Out New York Rule Requiring Restaurants to Post Calories**

*New York Times, September 12, 2007*

A federal judge struck down a city health regulation yesterday that would have required more than 2,000 restaurants around New York — including chain restaurants like McDonald's — to post the calorie content of their dishes on their menus. The ruling by the judge, Richard J. Holwell of United States District Court in Manhattan, was a victory, albeit a narrow one, for the New York State Restaurant Association, which had sued the city Board of Health to challenge the regulation. In his ruling, Judge Holwell said he had banned the city from enacting the regulation because federal law already covers some of the same provisions it sought to put in place.

### **Overweight? Blame your ZIP code: Property value beats income and education as obesity predictor**

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, September 12, 2007*

In 98103, one of Seattle's skinniest ZIP codes, a woman pedals barefoot in well-marked bike lanes along Linden Avenue North, her basket overflowing with fresh chard. The neighborhoods around Green Lake have P-patches, destination parks, crosswalks, corner groceries and one of the densest concentrations of

farmers markets in the city. Those niceties account for some of the most sought-after real estate in Seattle and some of the city's least obese residents. University of Washington researchers recently found wide disparities in obesity rates among King County ZIP codes. The rates range from less than 10 percent in parts of central Seattle and Bellevue to more than 25 percent in some south county neighborhoods.

### **UM gets \$7M for Hispanic health studies**

*South Florida Business Journal, September 12, 2007*

The University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies received a \$7 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to study health issues that strongly affect Hispanics, the university said. The money will be used to create El Centro, a National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) University of Miami Center of Excellence for Hispanic Health Disparities Research. The center will be one of 16 nationwide established with NIH funds.

### **Unpasteurized milk gets new color, labeling in NC**

*The News & Observer, September 7, 2007*

RALEIGH, N.C. - Unpasteurized milk sold as pet food must now be dyed a charcoal-gray color and labeled as not for human consumption under a new rule approved Friday by the state Board of Agriculture. North Carolina farmers are allowed to sell raw milk only for consumption by pets and other animals, not for humans to drink. Public health officials say pasteurization is necessary to kill harmful pathogens. Raw milk advocates say the process removes the beverage's natural health benefits, and they want to be allowed to openly buy untreated milk.

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## **Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles**

### **Journals Reviewed**

#### **American Journal of Preventive Medicine**

<http://www.ajpm-online.net/>

- Vol. 33, No. 4, October 2007
- Vol. 33, No. 3, September 2007

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

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

- Vol. 97, No. 10, October 1, 2007

#### **Environmental Health Perspectives**

*Journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health*

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

#### **Health Affairs**

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

- Vol. 26, No. 5, September/October 2007

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

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

- Vol. 298, No. 12, September 26, 2007
- Vol. 298, No. 11, September 19, 2007
- Vol. 298, No. 10, September 12, 2007

### **The Journal of Environmental Health**

National Environmental Health Association

<http://www.neha.org/JEH/>

- Vol. 70, No. 5, October 2007, Climate Change: Measuring the Consequences for Human Health

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

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

- Vol. 32, No. 5, October 2007

### **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report**

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

- Vol. 56, No. 38, September 28, 2007
- Vol. 56, No. 37, September 21, 2007
- Vol. 56, No. 36, September 14, 2007
- Vol. 56, No. 35, September 7, 2007

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

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

- Vol. 357, No. 13, September 27, 2007
- Vol. 357, No. 12, September 20, 2007
- Vol. 357, No. 11, September 13, 2007
- Vol. 357, No. 10, September 6, 2007

### **Preventing Chronic Disease**

CDC

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

- Vol. 4, No. 4, October 2007

## **Highlighted Journal Articles**

### **Cases in Vaccine Court — Legal Battles over Vaccines and Autism**

*New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 357, No. 13, September 27, 2007*

Do childhood vaccines cause autism? This scientific question has now become a legal one — perhaps inevitable in our society. Some families with autistic children are pursuing legal channels in an effort to prove that vaccines are responsible for their children's condition. Most of them allege that the cause is the mercury-containing preservative thimerosal, which was formerly used in many vaccines in the United States and elsewhere. Others argue that the culprit is the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine itself or perhaps the vaccine in combination with thimerosal.

### **Disparities In Health: Perspectives Of A Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Racial America**

*Health Affairs, Vol. 26, No. 5, September/October 2007*

This 2006 survey of 4,157 randomly selected U.S. adults compared perceptions of health care disparities among fourteen racial and ethnic groups to those of whites. Findings suggest that many ethnic minority groups view their health care situations differently and, often, more negatively than whites. A substantial

proportion perceived discrimination in receiving health care, and many felt that they would not receive the best care if they were sick. Most differences remained when socioeconomic characteristics were controlled for. The variety of responses across racial groups demonstrates the importance of examining ethnic subgroups separately rather than combined into a single category.

### **Early Thimerosal Exposure and Neuropsychological Outcomes at 7 to 10 Years**

*New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 357, No. 13, September 27, 2007*

Background: It has been hypothesized that early exposure to thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative used in vaccines and immune globulin preparations, is associated with neuropsychological deficits in children.

Methods: We enrolled 1047 children between the ages of 7 and 10 years and administered standardized tests assessing 42 neuropsychological outcomes. (We did not assess autism-spectrum disorders.) Exposure to mercury from thimerosal was determined from computerized immunization records, medical records, personal immunization records, and parent interviews. Information on potential confounding factors was obtained from the interviews and medical charts. We assessed the association between current neuropsychological performance and exposure to mercury during the prenatal period, the neonatal period (birth to 28 days), and the first 7 months of life.

### **Estimating the Proportion of Children Who Can Walk to School**

*American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Vol. 33, No. 4, October 2007*

Background: Walking to school can be an important contributor to the daily physical activity of children. However, little is known about the percentage of children who could reasonably be expected to walk to school. The purpose of this study was to estimate the percentage of children in Georgia who live within a safe and reasonable walking distance from school and to identify demographic, school, and neighborhood connectivity characteristics associated with the potential to walk to school.

### **Improving Population Health And Reducing Health Care Disparities**

*Health Affairs, Vol. 26, No. 5, September/October 2007*

The first goal of Healthy People 2010, to increase quality and years of healthy life, does not necessarily coincide with the second goal, to eliminate disparities among population groups. Improvement in the health of the total population without any reduction in relative disparities among racial and ethnic groups was the most frequent outcome at mid-decade for population-based Healthy People objectives. Strategies to maximize improvement in overall population health may have little or no impact on relative disparities or, indeed, may cause them to increase. An independent commitment to eliminating disparities may be necessary.

### **Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Children Aged 6--23 Months --- United States, 2005--06 Influenza Season**

*MMWR, Vol. 56, No. 37, September 21, 2007*

Children aged <2 years are at increased risk for influenza-related hospitalizations, and those aged <5 years have more influenza-related health-care visits than older children (1). In 2004, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended annual influenza vaccination of children aged 6--23 months (2). Two doses, at least 4 weeks apart, were recommended to fully vaccinate children aged <9 years who were receiving influenza vaccination for the first time. To assess influenza vaccination coverage among children aged 6--23 months during the 2005--06 influenza season, data from the 2006 National Immunization Survey (NIS) were analyzed. This report describes the results of that analysis, which indicated that 31.9% of children in this age group received at least 1 dose of influenza vaccine and 20.6% were fully vaccinated according to ACIP recommendations; however,

results varied substantially among states. The results underscore the need to continue to monitor influenza vaccination coverage among young children, develop systems to provide childhood influenza vaccination services more efficiently, and increase awareness among health-care providers and caregivers about the effectiveness of influenza vaccination among young children.

### **Making A Difference In Differences For The Health Inequalities Of Individuals**

*Health Affairs, Vol. 26, No. 5, September/October 2007*

Policy interventions should focus on the degree to which health conditions are persistent, avoidable, and treatable. Assistance should be targeted to people who are at greater risk for such conditions amid the most pronounced gaps between their available resources and likely economic needs. The highest-yield interventions should address prenatal and early childhood care and reformation of destructive lifestyle practices. Improving outreach, education, convenience of access, and service delivery represents a more important factor than expanding the level and scope of insurance coverage. Vulnerable people are better served by more pluralistic social processes that facilitate, but do not mandate, more effective choices and trade-offs.

### **Measuring Racial And Ethnic Health Care Disparities In Massachusetts**

*Health Affairs, Vol. 26, No. 5, September/October 2007*

Reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the quality of health care is a national policy priority; collecting race and ethnicity data from patients is a necessary first step in identifying and addressing these disparities. Recognizing this, Boston and Massachusetts recently enacted race and ethnicity data collection regulations affecting all acute care hospitals in the city and state. This paper describes the regulations and early lessons learned from implementing these data collection efforts in three areas: the design of data collection tools, uses of the data for eliminating disparities, and the role of the policy process in such efforts.

### **Onions and Bubbles: Models of the Social Determinants of Health**

*Preventing Chronic Disease, Vol. 4, No. 4, October 2007*

The discussion of society and health is complex and sometimes confusing. What is social medicine? What is community medicine? What is the socioecologic model? All these terms have been used to describe the relationship between health and other social conditions. Even public health professionals may find the differences blurred. The previous issue of Preventing Chronic Disease discussed community health and community-based participatory research (1). Multiple factors affect a community's function and, in turn, the health of its citizens, and our October issue examines the broader context in which communities operate. For this issue, we welcome Marilyn Metzler of McKing Consulting as our guest editor.

### **Separate And Unequal: Racial Segregation And Disparities In Quality Across U.S. Nursing Homes**

*Health Affairs, Vol. 26, No. 5, September/October 2007*

We describe the racial segregation in U.S. nursing homes and its relationship to racial disparities in the quality of care. Nursing homes remain relatively segregated, roughly mirroring the residential segregation within metropolitan areas. As a result, blacks are much more likely than whites to be located in nursing homes that have serious deficiencies, lower staffing ratios, and greater financial vulnerability. Changing health care providers' behavior will not be sufficient to eliminate disparities in medical treatment in nursing homes. Persistent segregation among homes poses a substantial barrier to progress.

### **Social Determinants of Health: What, How, Why, and Now**

*Preventing Chronic Disease, Vol. 4, No. 4, October 2007*

Healthy People 2010 (1), the U.S. blueprint for improving population health, captured the attention of public health practitioners across the world with its bold and explicit commitment to eliminating health disparities. The document outlines a compendium of health care system and individual behavioral change objectives to be achieved toward this end. However, one of the more insightful statements in the document is often overlooked: Healthy People 2010 recognizes that communities, States, and national organizations will need to take a multidisciplinary approach to achieving health equity — an approach that involves improving health, education, housing, labor, justice, transportation, agriculture, and the environment, as well as data collection itself.

### **Thimerosal and Vaccines — A Cautionary Tale**

*New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 357, No. 13, September 27, 2007*

In 1997, Frank Pallone, a U.S. congressman from New Jersey, attached a simple, 133-word amendment to a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reauthorization bill. This amendment gave the FDA 2 years to "compile a list of drugs and foods that contain intentionally introduced mercury compounds and [to] provide a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the mercury compounds in the list."<sup>1</sup> The bill — the FDA Modernization Act of 1997 — was signed into law on November 21, 1997. Neither the press nor the public took notice.

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## **Publications - Inside this Issue**

### **Advances**

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, September 2007*

<http://www.rwjf.org/publications/newsletterlist.jsp>

- Research Shows Most TV Food Ads Seen by Kids Promote Unhealthy Products
- New Studies Show Children Surrounded by Unhealthy Options
- Health and Business Groups Launch Ad Campaign About Need for Comprehensive Smoke-Free Law in Pennsylvania
- Survey Shows Churches Count Health Care as a Priority Ministry
- Why the Undervalued Playtime May be America's Best Investment for Healthy Kids and Healthy Schools
- Online Competition Seeks Dynamic Product Ideas to Get Kids Moving
- Winners Announced in Competition to Discover Disruptive Innovations in Health and Health Care
- Transforming the Workplace: Study Aims to Better Understand Nursing Turnover Rates in America's Hospitals
- Report Highlights Policy Implications of Disparities in Access and Quality
- RWJF Program Helps Hospitals Decrease Disparities, Increase Patient-Centeredness in Heart Care
- National Voluntary Consensus Standards for the Treatment of Substance Use Conditions
- Director of RWJF's Healthy Eating Research Program Honored as a University of Minnesota Researcher

### **Alliance**

*Western Washington Area Health Education Center, Summer 2007*

- Technology initiatives to recruit and retain healthcare workforce
- New resources: H-Cup adds new interactive overview course on HCUP-US website

- New resources: National provider identifier data dissemination information
- Provail Dental Clinic: Expanding space, expanding service
- 2007 Project Hope students participate in internships and mini camp
- Photos from the Project Hope mini camp July 17 & 18, 2007
- A healthier US starts here campaign launched
- Shop for Cause Saturday, October 13, 2007
- Washington Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers' new chief executive officer
- Health care careers in Washington State brochure has been updated
- Scholarship opportunities through the FNSNA

### **Elaborations**

*Department of Health*

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

### **Environmental Health News**

*Association of State and Territory Health Officials*

<http://www.astho.org/newsletter/newsletters/3/archives.php?u=Jmk9Mw%3D%3D>

### **EpiLog**

*Public Health Seattle & King County, Vol. 47, No. 8, August 2007*

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/epilog/index.htm>

- Partners in Disease Control and Prevention
- A Missed Opportunity to Prevent Perinatal Hepatitis B Infection
- West Nile Virus Monthly Update

### **Foundation News**

*Washington Dental Service Foundation, Fall 2007*

- Preventing cavities in the doctor's office
- Cavity Free Kids expands to child care
- The SmileMobile hosts 4th year dental student
- New clinic provides reduced cost dental services to seniors
- Skagit County moves forward on water fluoridation

### **The Nation's Health**

*American Public Health Association, September 2007*

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

### **Affiliates**

- Affiliate presidents-elect meet at APHA headquarters
- Arizona Affiliate releases updated state health report
- Nebraska Affiliate highlighting perinatal depression screenings

### **APHA News**

- APHA applauds House, Senate for passing SCHIP legislation: Tobacco tax increase would aid kids
- Disparities film to be screened at APHA Annual Meeting: Discussions, previews, sessions planned for November
- Akhter to be presented with APHA's 2007 Sedgwick award
- Havas to receive APHA Award for Excellence
- Hayes named winner of Rodriguez-Trias award

- Snowe, Solis chosen as APHA's 2007 Legislators of the Year
- Melnick earns Rall award for work in health advocacy
- Win a chance to attend the Annual Meeting for free
- APHA Executive Board holds telemeeting
- APHA Help Us Help Them campaign aids nutritional outreach for ill
- The Nation's Health's Healthy You page wins national writing award
- New employees join APHA staff

### **General**

- Registration open for first-ever public health credentialing exam
- Public health credentialing supporters refute AMA concerns
- Study suggests 'medical homes' key to promoting health equity
- Campaign touts Medicare for Hispanic seniors
- New 'healthy home' credential available for public health workers
- SororsCaring takes diabetes prevention to Washington, D.C.: Grassroots efforts promote healthy living

### **Globe**

- HIV prevention, treatment not reaching those in need

### **Health Findings**

### **Healthy You**

- Tips for creating a 'Home Safe Home' Members Only

### **Job Openings**

### **Journal Watch**

### **Nation**

- Employers making room for health promotion in workplace: Incentives, support yield health results
- Retail-based health clinics grow in popularity nationwide: Benefits, risks debated by health groups
- Bonus: Q&A with HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt: 'The threat of an influenza pandemic is real'
- Surgeons general testify to facing political pressure while in office
- U.S. surgeon general candidate speaks at hearing, faces criticism
- National child health report finds success, looming gaps
- Nation in brief
- Progress reported on U.S. pandemic flu preparations: Federal report card highlights areas still in need of improvement
- Health care, presidential campaigns focus of new election Web site
- APHA, AMA working together to improve responses to disasters
- CDC reports Lyme disease rates have more than doubled since 1991
- Antibiotic ban in poultry may not be enough to stop bacteria

### **Newsmakers**

### **On the Job**

- Funding concerns lead to new focus on public health finance

### **President's Column**

- End the Iraq war, invest in health, security of America

### **Resources**

## State/Local

- Virginia asthma report shows disproportionate disease burden
- States on brief

## Web Exclusive

- Antibacterial soaps show no health benefits over plain soaps
- Adverse housing conditions contribute to diabetes risk
- Incidence of metabolic syndrome higher among adults who consume soft drinks
- March of Dimes study unveils new data on the cost of having a baby
- Higher levels of growth hormones found in boys with autism
- Poor parental health literacy associated with lack of health insurance for children
- Scientists work to develop a simple bladder cancer test
- Diet foods for children may lead to obesity
- Frequency of Atlantic hurricanes doubled over last century
- Smokeless tobacco may expose user to higher level of carcinogens than cigarettes
- Most flu shot plans do not address how to vaccinate hard-to-reach populations
- Older women with high probability of lifetime exposure to HIV have little interest in being tested

## NewsBrief

*National Association of Local Boards of Health*

<http://www.nalboh.org/publications/newsbrief/newsbrief.htm>

## Public Health Preparedness

*Association of State and Territory Health Officials*

<http://www.astho.org/newsletter/newsletters/9/archives.php?u=Jmk9OQ%3D%3D>

## State Health Notes

*Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Vol. 28, Issue 500, October 1, 2007*

- States Provide Injections to Prevent Preterm Births
- Helping Seniors to Thrive: the “Green House” Model
- States Turning Microscope to Environmental Health Issues

## State Health Notes

*Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Vol. 28, Issue 499, September 17, 2007*

- Some states issuing "certificates of birth" for stillborn children ~ Some parents of stillborn children are asking lawmakers to pass bills allowing states to offer “Certificates of Birth, Resulting in Stillbirth.” The parents say the certificates help them deal with their loss, even though the fetus was not alive when born.
- High noon in the accounting department: states confront GASB 45 ~ A new accounting rule for state and local governments is forcing them to calculate how much they’ll have to pay for the health care of future retirees. The costs will be enormous, and paying for them will be difficult.
- Shock therapy makes a comeback, but remains controversial ~ After decades of being dismissed, electroconvulsive therapy has been improved and is recognized today as a “last resort” treatment for depressive illness. States are passing laws to ensure that patients who are treated are fully protected.
- Highlights ~ Auto workers train for health-care jobs...Cancer deaths among black women...Low compliance with infection prevention...Substance abuse in IL
- Graphically speaking ~ The outlook for Medicaid: “Clearing Storm, Foggy Forecast”

## Thrive!

Washington Health Foundation, Fall 2007

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

- Tribal Canoe Journey Provides Healing & Health
- 2007 Governor's Health Bowl
- Food is Elementary
- Washington Workplaces Promote Wellness
- Washington's Department of Corrections Keeps Up Its Health Kick: Goal Getters 2007
- Walla Walla's Whitehouse-Crawford Restaurant
- Safe Routes to School Help Kids put their Feet First
- The Washington State Department of Transportation Shares its Secrets of Success
- Be Fit Clinics Encourage Kids to Be Healthy

## Zoonotic Disease Newsletter

Washington State Department of Health

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

- West Nile virus confirmed in dead hawk from Mabton area
- West Nile high risk times identified - helps target control
- High-path avian influenza outbreak response workshop
- IPM helps eliminate need for adulticiding
- State focuses on cleaning up large tire piles
- First World Rabies Day observed
- Unique tool used to find woman exposed to rabid bat
- Pet Turtle Act update
- West Nile virus activity in the northwest
- Zoonoses articles from Emerging Infectious Diseases

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## Publications - Reports

### Synthesis Report: Racial and Ethnic Disparities

New Report Highlights Policy Implications of Disparities in Access and Quality

Eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health is a major national objective, one of two overall goals for *Healthy People 2010*. A new synthesis of rigorous national studies examines the prevalence and causes of disparities in access to and quality of health care, and the policy implications of these findings.

Key Findings:

- Racial and ethnic disparities in access to and quality of care are pervasive, but not universal. The largest disparities in access are for Spanish-speaking Hispanics.
- Insurance coverage, income and other factors explain a portion of the disparities, but racial and ethnic gaps in access and quality remain after accounting for these conditions.
- After adjusting for other factors, disparities in recommended processes of care—the appropriate use of screening tests, medications, and laboratory tests—tend to be small or nonexistent.

Disparities are larger for intermediate outcomes, newer therapies and invasive outcomes, even after adjusting for other factors.

The Synthesis Project is an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to produce relevant, concise and thought-provoking briefs and reports on today's most important health policy issues. By synthesizing what is known, while weighing the strength of findings and exposing gaps in knowledge, the project gives decision-makers reliable information and new insights to inform complex policy decisions.

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## Rule Development

None.

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