



## For Your Information – February 2008

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

#### March 2008

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

#### April 2008

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

## September 2008

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
Sep. 9-12	<b>ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Conference</b> Sacramento, CA For information: <a href="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</a>
Sep. 28 - Oct. 1	<b>ESRI Health GIS Conference: Shaping Global Health</b> Washington, DC For information: <a href="http://www.esri.com/healthgis">www.esri.com/healthgis</a>

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## Correspondence

### Correspondence from the Board

**To: The Honorable Brian Blake, Chair, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee**

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, January 23, 2008

*Letter supporting the concept of HB 2798 which would create a grant program to help at least 75 schools purchase Washington-grown fresh fruits and vegetables.*

**To: The Honorable Eileen Cody, Chair, House Health Care & Wellness Committee**

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, January 16, 2008

*Letter supporting the concept of HB 2549 which would establish pilot projects to promote patient-centered care.*

**To: The Honorable Karen Keiser, Chair, Health & Long-Term Care Committee**

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, January 22, 2008

*Letter supporting the concept of SB 6282 which would establish pilot projects to promote patient-centered care.*

**To: The Honorable Rosemary McAuliffe, Chair, Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee**

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, January 14, 2008

*Letter supporting SB 6042 which would require that each school district provide a daily recess period for elementary school students.*

**To: The Honorable Dave Quall Chair, Education Committee**

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, January 31, 2008

*Letter supporting the concept of HB 2722 which would require the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's Center for the Improvement of Student Learning to convene an advisory committee to develop a strategic plan to address the academic achievement gap for African American students.*

**To: The Honorable Marilyn Rasmussen, Chair, Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee**

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, Washington State Board of Health, January 23, 2008

*Letter supporting the concept of SB 6483 which would create a grant program to help at least 75 schools purchase Washington-grown fresh fruits and vegetables.*

**Correspondence to the Board**

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

**From: Emma Johnson, The PH:ARM Team, Department of Ecology, December 6, 2007**

*Letter updating the Board and thanking them for their support of Ecology's Pharmaceuticals from Households: A Return Mechanism (PH:ARM) pilot project to securely take-back unwanted medicines for environmentally-safe disposal.*

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

**From: Julia Patterson, Chair, King County Board of Health, December 20, 2007**

*Letter thanking the Board for holding joint meeting with the King County Board of Health on December 13, 2007.*

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**General Interest**

**Gov. Gregoire announces boards and commissions appointments**

**State Board of Health**

**Mel Tonasket** of Omak has been reappointed to a term effective Dec. 6, 2007, ending July 1, 2010. Tonasket is a member of the Colville Confederated Tribal Council, the Public Health Improvement Plan steering committee and the State Advisory Committee for the Department of Social and Health Services and is on the board of directors for United Indians of All Tribes Foundation and for Okanogan Regional Home Health and Hospice. He was Paschal Sherman Indian School chairman of the board and was president (two terms) and vice president (one term) of the National Congress of American Indians. Tonasket was a member of the congressional American Indian Policy Review Commission and represented U.S. tribal governments at the World Council of Indigenous Peoples and at the Inter-American Indigenous Conference in Brazil.

The board is the primary entity for state health policy development. It is required to produce a biennial report delineating the state's health priorities.

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**Public Health Leadership Positions Available**

**Director**

American Indian Health Commission for Washington State

Closes: When Filled

For information: Christine at 360-681-4636 or [ckiehl@jamestowntribe.org](mailto:ckiehl@jamestowntribe.org)

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

Chelan-Douglas Health District

Closes: When Filled

For information:

<http://www.cdhd.wa.gov/docs/EHS%20I-II%20Position%20Recruitment.pdf>

### **Public Health Nurse I**

Yakima Health District

Closes: February 14, 2008

For information:

[ellie.navarrete@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:ellie.navarrete@co.yakima.wa.us)

### **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**

### **Bills ask: What's on the menu?**

*Seattle Times, February 1, 2008*

OLYMPIA — Some state lawmakers want to expand a new King County regulation that requires certain chain restaurants to provide nutrition information to their customers. Others look to study the issue or adopt a softer version of the regulation. Two bills in the state Senate would require chain restaurants to provide nutrition information, including calories, for all standard menu items. The bills differ on the number of restaurants affected and how the information would be displayed. A third bill calls for more study.

### **Boston moves toward trans fats ban: Rule to take effect later this year if OK'd**

*Boston Globe, January 11, 2008*

Following the lead of New York City and Brookline, health regulators in Boston last night took the first step toward banning artery-clogging trans fat from French fries, doughnuts, and other food sold in restaurants and corner stores. The Boston Public Health Commission voted unanimously, after little discussion, to give preliminary approval to a ban that would take effect late this year if it receives another thumbs-up in the spring. Commission members were spurred to action by scientific evidence linking artificial trans fat to heart disease in humans and to diabetes and obesity in animal studies. Brookline approved a similar ban last May.

### **Flu shots urged for children already in hospital**

*Vaccination against the virus could prevent another visit, study says*

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, February 4, 2008

A study conducted by Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center shows that many children hospitalized for influenza had already been in the hospital at least once before during a flu season, which would have been a good time to vaccinate them against the virus. The national study, published in the February 2008 issue of *Pediatrics*, suggests that providing flu shots for children who happen to be in the hospital during flu-vaccine season could help prevent more hospitalizations and complications from the flu.

### **Genetic mutations boost autism risk, study says**

*USA Today, January 9, 2008*

Scientists have discovered a pair of genetic mutations that markedly boost a child's risk of autism, researchers report Thursday. The mutations — missing or duplicated snippets of DNA on chromosome 16 — may raise a child's risk of autism 100-fold, the study says. Although the genetic errors occur in just 1% of autism cases, that amounts to a lot of children. "There are probably a million kids in this country with autism. About 10,000 of them have this mutation," says David Miller of Children's Hospital Boston, where a diagnostic test was developed and is available. The research marks a major turning point. Scientists no longer are simply describing the many facets of autism but are probing its biological roots. Previous studies show 90% of cases result from genetic abnormalities, but those found so far explain autism-related disorders in only 10% of patients.

### **Infant study casts doubt on vaccine-autism link**

*Reuters, January 30, 2008*

WASHINGTON, Jan 30 (Reuters) - The mercury in a vaccine preservative is pumped out of a baby's body too quickly for it to do any damage, researchers reported on Wednesday in a study they say should further absolve shots of causing autism. The study in the journal *Pediatrics* reinforces what many vaccine experts have said for years -- that the form of mercury found in the preservative is handled differently by the body than the kind found in pollution and contaminated fish. "It takes a certain amount of time and a certain concentration ... to make it into the brain," Dr. Michael Pichichero of the University of Rochester in New York, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

### **NYC again votes for calories on menus**

*Yahoo News, January 22, 2008*

NEW YORK - Want 300-calorie fries with that? The city Board of Health voted Tuesday to approve a new version of a law requiring fast-food outlets to display calorie counts on their menus, hoping the fat-filled truth will shock New Yorkers into eating healthier. The regulation, which takes effect March 31, was altered slightly after a judge rejected the city's first attempt last year.

### **New York Payers Launch Medical Home Pilot Project**

*RWJF, January 14, 2008*

Two affiliated health plans in the New York metropolitan region have secured a Commonwealth Fund grant for a two-year pilot project testing patient care coordination under the medical home model, Health Data Management reports. Relying heavily on the use of health information technology, the medical home model seeks to maximize and track coordination across providers and care settings, encourage evidence-based practices and facilitate performance measurement. Group Health Inc. and Health Plan of New York will create the Medical Home High Value Network to help adult primary care practices become Medical Home Practices.

## **Plan Would Nationalize Schools to End Disparities**

*NPR, February 2, 2008*

Matt Miller has a radical but simple proposal to improve the nation's public schools: federalize funding to eliminate disparities in per-pupil funding between poor and affluent communities. He also proposes a single set of federal standards for math, science and reading, instead of letting each state set its own standards. Scott Simon speaks with Miller, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress.

## **Recess: time well spent or time for restructure?**

*Seattle Times, January 17, 2008*

A version of this story ran in The Times of Snohomish County on Wednesday. Recess, the source of rejoicing among generations of schoolchildren, may need legislative protection from school administrators trying to find more time for academics. The traditional three playground breaks a day — morning, lunchtime and afternoon — have been reduced to two at many schools in the county, and some districts around the state have considered eliminating them altogether. State Rep. John McCoy, D-Tulalip, is reintroducing a bill he sponsored last year, House Bill 1188, to require K-12 schools to provide at least 30 minutes of physical activity during the school day, either from recess or physical education.

## **Resistance of Superbug Grows: New MRSA Strain Hits Communities of Gay Men Hardest**

*Wall Street Journal, January 15, 2008*

A highly drug-resistant superbug is gaining resistance to more drugs and burrowing deeply into the gay communities of San Francisco and Boston, researchers said. Sexually active gay men are 13 times as likely to have this strain of the highly resistant bacterium, known as MRSA, or methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus. More worrisome still, the new strain of MRSA called USA300 is growing resistant -- or unresponsive -- to three or even four classes of widely used antibiotics. MRSA causes deep and stubborn skin infections and has been called the most common cause of skin infections treated in the nation's emergency rooms. It also more rarely can cause lethal invasive infections such as pneumonia or sepsis (blood poisoning).

## **Septic hearing turns hostile, then it's postponed after crowd fills room**

*Peninsula Daily News, January 18, 2008*

PORT TOWNSEND — The Jefferson County Board of Health directors faced a hostile crowd Thursday, as people jammed into the health department conference room to protest costs attached to proposed on-site septic systems regulations. Changes could increase the cost of monitoring privately-owned septic systems from \$50 per visit to \$200, and would encourage homeowners to monitor their own septic systems. Hearing complaints about tight quarters for the meeting and strong suggestions for a delay, the board voted to postpone the public hearing until an evening time at a larger location could be scheduled.

## **Should recess be a required course?**

Tulalip legislator says it would fight obesity

*Everett Herald, February 1, 2008*

OLYMPIA -- Deja Fisher is a curly-haired, bright-eyed 7-year-old in second grade at Boze Elementary in Tacoma. She said she likes to play games, such as four square outside with her friends. Right now, Fisher only has one recess period -- after lunch -- but she said she would like to spend more time on the playground. Fisher is not the only one who thinks so. Rep. John McCoy, D-Tulalip, has sponsored a bill that would require schools to set aside at least 40 minutes a day for recess.

### **States combat global warming**

*USA TODAY, January 21, 2008*

With proposals to cap greenhouse gas emissions stalled in Congress, more than half the states are moving aggressively to combat the pollution that causes global warming. This year, eight states are slated to release plans to slash emissions of the heat-trapping gases and at least several are likely to recommend specific reduction targets, say state officials and the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Seventeen states already have such targets in place. States are deploying an array of strategies to reduce pollution. Among them: capping the carbon dioxide emissions of power plants or vehicles, and promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy.

### **Study: Mercury fades quickly from blood**

*USA Today, January 31, 2008*

CHICAGO — Mercury from vaccines seems to disappear rapidly from the blood, returning to pre-vaccination levels in one month, according to a small study of children in Argentina. The findings bolster the argument that a mercury-based vaccine preservative does not cause autism in children, although it is unclear from the study whether some mercury may linger elsewhere in the body. The research addresses an unanswered question about the safety of thimerosal, a preservative that has been eliminated from routine U.S. vaccines, and breaks down as ethyl mercury in the body. It is still used in other countries, including Argentina.

### **Vaccine rates in adults low, CDC says: Shingles, HPV, pertussis cited**

*Associated Press, January 24, 2008*

WASHINGTON - Vaccines are not just for children, but far too few adults are rolling up their sleeves, federal health officials reported yesterday. more stories like thisThe numbers of newly vaccinated adults are surprisingly low, considering how much public attention a trio of new shots - which protect against shingles, whooping cough, and cervical cancer - received in recent years. A survey by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases indicated that aside from the flu, most adults have trouble even naming diseases that they could prevent with a simple inoculation.

### **Web site offers medical advice in multiple languages**

*News-Leader.com, January 17, 2008*

Missouri hospitals and health care providers have an enhanced Web site that helps them communicate better with their culturally diverse or non-English-speaking patients. The redesigned site at [www.HealthTranslations.com](http://www.HealthTranslations.com) has intuitive menus that help users quickly search for documents by language or topic, and is provided through the Missouri Hospital Association, or MHA. It is a not-for-profit association in Jefferson City that represents 151 Missouri hospitals. The Web site contains 650 translated documents and 70 resources for non-English-speaking individuals that are available for free to health providers and the public.

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## Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles

### Journals Reviewed

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

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

- Vol. 34, No. 2, February 2008

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

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

- Vol. 98, No. 2, February 1, 2008

#### **Health Affairs**

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

- Vol. 27, No. 1, January/February 2008

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

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

- Vol. 299, No. 5, February 6, 2008
- Vol. 299, No. 4, January 30, 2008
- Vol. 299, No. 3, January 23, 2008
- Vol. 299, No. 2, January 9/16, 2008

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

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

- Vol. 33, No. 1, February 2008

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

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

- Vol. 57, No. 4, February 1, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 3, January 25, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 2, January 18, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 1, January 11, 2008

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

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

- Vol. 358, No. 5, January 31, 2008
- Vol. 358, No. 4, January 24, 2008
- Vol. 358, No. 3, January 17, 2008
- Vol. 358, No. 2, January 10, 2008

#### **Preventing Chronic Disease**

*CDC*

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

- Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2008

## Highlighted Journal Articles

### **A Comprehensive Assessment of the Difficulty Level and Cultural Sensitivity of Online Cancer Prevention Resources for Older Minority Men**

*Preventing Chronic Disease, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2008*

Introduction: Older men are at increased risk for prostate cancer. As seniors turn to the Internet for cancer information, it is important that the resources they locate about lifestyle behaviors and screening are culturally appropriate and easy to understand. This study was a comprehensive analysis of prostate cancer risk as portrayed on the Internet with assessment of content readability and cultural sensitivity. Conclusion: Online cancer resources are targeting appropriate age groups (high-risk older adults). However, the pages required fairly high-level reading skills and had limited cultural sensitivity. These factors make the pages unsuitable for diverse Internet users.

### **Making the Case for School-Based Health: Where Do We Stand?**

*Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law, Vol. 33, No. 1, February 2008*

School-based health centers (SBHCs) have proliferated rapidly nation-wide and remain politically popular. This article explores the disconnect between the evidence and the discourse on SBHCs, drawing upon the authors' evaluation of SBHCs in Newark, New Jersey, and a critical assessment of the evaluative literature and public discourse on school clinics to argue that a number of important issues are being overlooked by both research and advocacy. These issues include variations in the health needs and health care resources of different communities and the questions of whether and how SBHCs can best integrate with existing resources to fill unmet local needs. Furthermore, despite the cautions of experts that third-party reimbursement (via traditional fee-for-service insurance or participation in health maintenance organizations) cannot cover clinic expenses and is difficult to obtain, pursuit of reimbursement continues to be a goal of some SBHC sponsors, helping to promote a clinic model that in some communities is very likely not to be the best way to address student needs or to build on clinic strengths. Discussion around SBHCs should focus on diagnosing specific community needs, identifying the best approach to meeting those needs, and seeking funding sources that match the work that needs to be done.

### **Transcending the Known in Public Health Practice: The Inequality Paradox: The Population Approach and Vulnerable Populations**

*American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 98, No. 2, February 1, 2008*

Using the concept of vulnerable populations, we examine how disparities in health may be exacerbated by population-approach interventions. We show, from an etiologic perspective, how life-course epidemiology, the concentration of risk factors, and the concept of fundamental causes of diseases may explain the differential capacity, throughout the risk-exposure distribution, to transform resources provided through population-approach interventions into health. From an intervention perspective, we argue that population-approach interventions may be compromised by inconsistencies between the social and cultural assumptions of public health practitioners and targeted groups.

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## Publications - Inside this Issue

### Advances

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, January 2008*

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

- RWJF Program to Support the Next Generation of Academic Nurse Leaders
- RWJF-Supported Study Details Children's Easy Access to Unhealthy Foods
- NewsHour Reports on the Green House Project
- Ready or Not? Interactive Chart Shows How Well States are Prepared for Emergencies
- RWJF President and CEO Risa Lavizzo-Mourey Comments on IOM's Road Map for the Nation's Health Care
- Foundation Awards Six Investigator-Initiated Research Grants in Public Health Systems Research
- Regina Benjamin, Juliet García and Eugene Washington Join RWJF Board of Trustees

### Alliance

*Western Washington Area Health Education Center, Fall 2007*

- Project HOPE: my internship experience
- WWAHEC: Connection students to careers, professionals to communities, and communities to better health for twenty years!
- RUOP - Twenty years of success
- Latest version of Medicare remit east print is now available!
- Rewarding opportunity available!
- Save the Date!

### Elaborations

*Department of Health*

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

- Patient Safety: Lab Pre-Analytic Errors - Part 1
- Tips for Shipping Infectious Substances: What is a Secondary Container?
- 2008 PHL Training Course Calendar

### EpiLog

*Public Health Seattle & King County*

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

### EpiTrends

*Department of Health*

## **The Nation's Health**

*American Public Health Association*

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

### **Affiliates**

- Colorado association named Affiliate of the year: Affiliate recognized for role in developing statewide alliance
- Affiliate members honored for contributions to public health
- 2007 Roemer prize presented to Laker
- Capacity-building grants awarded to 31 state Affiliates
- D.C. Affiliate organizes speak-out, march on city's HIV/AIDS epidemic

### **APHA News**

- APHA Annual Meeting attendees examine politics, policy, health: About 14,000 public health workers gather
- Easley elected as next president of APHA: Treasurer, speaker, three Executive Board members also chosen
- Governing Council adopts 20 new APHA policies: Council passes measures on APHA Bylaws, joint dues pilot
- Notice: APHA member-wide vote on Constitution, Bylaws merger scheduled
- APHA brings together Ethiopian, U.S. health workers: Maternal and Child Health Leadership Institute offers training
- Climate change a popular draw at APHA's Washington, D.C., meeting
- Public health reaching out to new audiences with new media tools
- 'Politics, Policy and Public Health' takes center stage: APHA Annual Meeting theme spotlighted via scientific sessions
- National Public Health Week 2008 Web site, blog online now: Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance
- Underage drinking sessions promote call to take action
- Meeting attendees earn continuing education credits: Medscape offering online learning opportunities from meeting
- APHA calls for proposed 2008 policy statements: Full Association policy process now on APHA Web site
- APHA review of existing policies begins next month
- Get involved now in Association leadership: Nominations being accepted for APHA committees, boards
- Expo booths take home best in show awards: Prize winners cover gamut, from Sections to health departments
- Galson meets with APHA's leaders
- Nominations for APHA public health awards due by April 18
- Abstract submissions for 2008 APHA Annual Meeting open

### **APHA Advocates**

- APHA announces fellowship recipient, gains new staff
- Meeting Findings: Research presented at APHA's Annual Meeting
- Photos capture flavor of APHA's 135th Annual Meeting

- Summary of 2007 APHA policies adopted by the Governing Council in November: Twenty new policies address issues such as vision loss, douching, Medicare, breastfeeding, Iran, obesity
- Photos available for purchase from APHA Annual Meeting

## **APHA Sections**

- Sections, SPIGs, Caucuses gather at 135th APHA Annual Meeting
- DisAbility SPIG now Section, Genomics Forum approved
- APHA now offering multiple Section, SPIG member benefit
- Sections honor achievement at 2007 APHA meeting: Professionals, students, researchers recognized for efforts
- Nominees sought for Section, SPIG leadership elections
- APHA Caucuses sign memorandum of understanding with Association

## **General**

- New versions of public health logo available now for use
- Entries being accepted for annual food protection award

## **Globe**

- Global cancer report urges healthy weight to curb illness
- United Nations issues wake-up call for environmental future
- World AIDS Day focuses attention on continuing global epidemic
- Road safety advocates working to raise awareness: World Day of Remembrance drew attention to traffic deaths
- Globe in brief

## **Health Findings**

- Healthy You
- Playing it smart can lead to a healthier heart

## **Job Openings**

## **Journal Watch**

## **Letters**

## **Nation**

- Long fight for mental health parity continues for Americans: Senate bill gaining support from insurers
- Urban American Indians, Alaska Natives struggle with growing disparities in health status
- Screening detects alcohol, drug abuse problems: New codes for health providers released to improve reimbursement
- Community health workers call for more work force research: More study needed to advocate investment
- Tobacco still major concern as smoking declines begin to stall

- Pandemic flu preparedness lacking for children: Institute of Medicine releases report on protective equipment
- Raising ethanol production could threaten water supply
- First-ever survey addresses gay, lesbian patient policies

### **Nation in brief**

- USDA offers online pyramid tool for pregnant, nursing mothers

### **Newsmakers**

### **President's Column**

- Educate policy-makers now to make an impact on public health: APHA's new president calls for advocacy

### **Resources**

### **State/Local**

- Healthy living a community affair for residents of Fall River, Mass.
- Vermont named healthiest state in U.S., Mississippi last
- States in brief

### **Web Exclusive**

- Decentralized services can benefit HIV-infected children in sub-Saharan Africa
- Malaria remains formidable challenge in the Americas
- Antivirals reduce deaths from flu in hospitalized patients
- U.S. adults most likely to report medical errors and skip needed care due to costs
- Hispanics' health care experiences vary by region, language
- Pregnancy may slow — not accelerate — progression to AIDS
- Low maternal cholesterol tied to premature birth
- Breast milk linked to greater mental development in preterm infants, fewer re-hospitalizations
- Culture can affect access to alcohol, drug abuse treatment for rural youth
- Schools making progress in curbing junk food, promoting physical activity
- Cost of low health literacy could be as high as \$236 billion a year

### **NewsBrief**

*National Association of Local Boards of Health*

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

### **President's message**

### **Report from Washington**

- FY '08 Labor-HHSEducation Appropriations
- SCHIP Negotiations Continue

## **Advocacy Tips...**

### **NALBOH Welcomes New Staff: Yolanda Savage**

#### **Tobacco-Free USA**

- Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs
- GoingSmokeFree.org: A Toolkit for Implementing Smoke-Free Laws
- CDC Releases New State Specific Adult Smoking Rates
- The ANR Foundation announces the October 2007 quarterly update to the lists and maps of U.S. municipalities and states with 100% smokefree laws now in effect.
- The President's Veto of Bill To Increase Cigarette Tax, Fund SCHIP

#### **Environmental Health & Emergency Preparedness**

- Staph Infection on the Rise
- CDC Reports Flu Vaccine Supply Increase
- Injury Prevention
- Lead Toys - What You Need To Know
- Preventing Carbon Monoxide Exposure

#### **National Profile of Local Boards of Health Highlights from NALBOH's 15th Annual Conference**

##### **National Public Health Performance Standards Program**

- National Public Health Performance Standards Program Version 2
- You Say We Have To Do What? Quality Improvement for Boards of Health through Accreditation

##### **Medical Reserve Corps**

- We Want To Hear From YOU!
- Calling All Veterinarians...

##### **Oral Health**

##### **Community Health Status Indicators**

##### **State Association News**

- New SALBOH Taking Shape in Indiana
- IN MEMORY OF WARREN E. JENSEN
- Welcome to Madison...

## **State Health Notes**

*Forum for State Health Policy Leadership*

Volume 29, Issue 508, February 4, 2008

### **State News**

- Cloned meat and milk: lawmakers consider labeling
- New Mexico considers using anti-addiction drugs to prevent recidivism
- E-prescribing: missives from the front

### **Highlights**

- California hospital discount website...Some health clinics in pain...Premature babies getting lost

### **Graphically speaking**

- While black, white and Hispanic Americans have similar lifetime rates of problem drinking, the rate of alcohol-related health problems for African-Americans is significantly higher: a new report from RAND.

## **State Health Notes**

*Forum for State Health Policy Leadership*

Volume 29, Issue 507, January 22, 2008

### **State News**

- NJ allows families to buy into SCHIP
- VA plans an overhaul of its mental health system
- Telemedicine gets major boost from federal government

### **Highlights**

- “Worst” in prevention... "Bubble Boy" testing...Blacks get fewer pain meds...DC needle exchange

### **Graphically Speaking**

- Public health programs could benefit from educating their enrollees to use more primary—and less emergency—care.

## **State Health Notes**

*Forum for State Health Policy Leadership*

Volume 29, Issue 506, January 7, 2008

### **State News**

- Tax exemption status for hospitals
- Lessons in Medicaid managed care from Arizona

- An interview with WI senator Jon Erpenbach

## Highlights

- CA rules on health insurance policies...Retiree health benefits...MA raises penalties for those who fail to buy insurance...FL to expand drug discount program

## Graphically Speaking

- A new report warns states about unfunded liabilities nearing \$400 billion for retiring employees while offering potential solutions to staving off disaster.

## Thrive!

*Washington Health Foundation*

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

## WSMA Reports

*Washington State Medical Association*

## Zoonotic Disease Newsletter

*Washington State Department of Health, January 2008*

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

- Pet birds purchased recently may pose psittacosis risk
- Distribution of mosquitoes in Washington
- Outbreak of turtle-associated Salmonella infections
- Pet turtle act resurfaces
- Plague: past, present, and future
- Upcoming events, including the Zoonotic and Vector-borne Disease Workshop

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## Publications - Reports

### **Kitsap County Health District 2006 Annual Report**

*December 2007*

- Science-based decisions to improve public health
- 2006 health priorities
- Our community partners - 2006
- Washington Public Health Standards
- Our Programs
- 2006 expenses and revenues

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