



## For Your Information – March 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.

- [Events and Conferences](#)
- [Correspondence](#)
- [General Interest](#)
- [Public Health Leadership Positions Available](#)
- Publications
  - [General Media](#)
  - [Highlighted Journal Articles](#)
  - [Inside this Issue](#)
  - [Reports](#)

### Events and Conferences

#### March 2008

Date	Name and Location
------	-------------------

Mar. 13	<b>Ron Sims Town Hall: Equity &amp; Social Justice Initiative</b> Seattle Central Library Seattle, Washington For information: <a href="http://www.kingcounty.gov/equity">http://www.kingcounty.gov/equity</a>
---------	---

Mar. 19	<b>6th NW Regional Critical Access Hospital Conference: Creating a Thriving Rural Workforce, Health System, and Community</b> Spokane, Washington For information: <a href="http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/">http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/</a>
---------	--

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>
------------	---

Mar. 28     **Health Equity Summit**  
University of Washington, Carwein (Keystone) Auditorium  
Tacoma, Washington

## 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>
--------	--

Apr. 15	<b>Community Health Care's Annual Luncheon</b> For information: (253) 597-4550
---------	---

Apr. 21-23	<b>5th Annual World Health Care Congress</b> For information: <a href="http://www.whcc2008.com">www.whcc2008.com</a>
------------	---

## May 2008

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
-------------	--------------------------

May 15-17	<b>26th Annual WREN Conference - Western Regional Epidemiology Network</b> Ashland, Oregon
-----------	---

May 29	<b>Healthy Schools Summit</b> University of Puget Sound Tacoma, WA
--------	--

## 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>
---------------------	---

[Index](#)

## Correspondence

### Correspondence from the Board

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

From: Vickie Ybarra, Chair, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, February 8, 2008

*Letter of transmittal for the 2008 Progress Report from the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.*

**To: The Honorable Rosa Franklin, Co-chair, Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities, Washington State Senate**

From: Vickie Ybarra, Chair, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, February 8, 2008

*Letter of transmittal for the 2008 Progress Report from the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.*

**To: The Honorable Bill Fromhold, Chair, House Capital Budget Committee, Washington House of Representatives**

From: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, February 18, 2008

*Letter regarding the Board's school environmental health and safety rule.*

**To: The Honorable Christine O. Gregoire, Governor**

From: Vickie Ybarra, Chair, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, February 8, 2008

*Letter of transmittal for the 2008 Progress Report from the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.*

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

From: Vickie Ybarra, Chair, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, February 8, 2008

*Letter of transmittal for the 2008 Progress Report from the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.*

**To: The Honorable Joyce McDonald, Ranking Minority Member, House Capital Budget Committee, Washington House of Representatives**

From: Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director, February 18, 2008

*Letter regarding the Board's school environmental health and safety rule.*

**To: The Honorable Dawn Morrell, Co-chair, Joint Select Committee on Health Disparities, Washington House of Representatives**

From: Vickie Ybarra, Chair, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, February 8, 2008

*Letter of transmittal for the 2008 Progress Report from the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.*

**To: The Honorable Sharon Tomiko Santos, Majority Whip, Washington House of Representatives**

From: Vickie Ybarra, Chair, Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, February 8, 2008

*Letter of transmittal for the 2008 Progress Report from the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities.*

## **Correspondence to the Board**

None.

[Index](#)

## **General Interest**

### **New: CDC's Immunization Safety Office Launches Web Site to Help Public Understand the Basics of Vaccine Safety**

CDC's Immunization Safety Office (ISO) recently launched a new website intended to reach the public with scientifically accurate messages that address widespread myths about the dangers of vaccines. Designed and organized for easy navigation, the new site helps the public understand the basics of vaccine safety, describes ISO's public health activities, and directs visitors to a variety of CDC resources about vaccines.

Some of the updated information includes concerns about vaccine safety relating to sudden infant death syndrome, fainting after vaccination, and vaccine recalls. Future plans include posting the number of reports to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) quarterly, adding links to scientific articles as they are published, and addressing vaccine safety concerns as they come up in the press.

To visit the site, go to: [www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety)

[Index](#)

## Public Health Leadership Positions Available

### **Assistant Secretary**

Washington State Department of Health, Division of Community and Family Health

Closes: When Filled

[More information](#)

### **Director**

Washington State Department of Health, Public Health Systems Planning and Development

Closes: When Filled

[More information](#)

### **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>

### **Health Policy Associate**

Children's Health Alliance

Closes: March 1, 2008

For information: <http://www.childrensalliance.org/joinus/jobopenings.cfm>.

### **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>

[Index](#)

### **All children need flu vaccine, panel says: Wants coverage expanded by 30 million**

*Boston Globe, February 28, 2008*

ATLANTA - All children - not just those under 5 - should get vaccinated against the flu, a federal advisory panel said yesterday. The panel voted to expand annual flu shots to virtually all children except infants younger than 6 months and those with serious egg allergies. If heeded, the decision could bring about one of the largest expansions in flu vaccination coverage in US history, with about 30 million more children vaccinated. The flu vaccine has been available since the 1940s.

### **Be deliberate about vaccination choices: Boost your child's health through common sense**

*The Olympian, February 23, 2008*

Vaccines are an important tool in the fight against some dangerous, contagious, infectious diseases. Before vaccines were available, thousands of children became deaf, blind and crippled - or they died - from diseases that no longer plague us. In some countries, when many people choose not to be vaccinated against measles or polio or Pertussis (whooping cough), the disease re-emerges, followed by serious complications. Life is a balancing act, from our first breath to our last. It is human nature to want the best for ourselves and our loved ones. As a public health professional, it is my job to look out for our community. By state law, it is my responsibility to protect the public from communicable and contagious diseases.

### **Bill aims to end health care barrier: Legislators want funding that will ensure translators at hospitals**

*Albany Times Union, February 14, 2008*

ALBANY -- State legislators introduced a bill Wednesday that would reimburse hospitals and health care providers for language interpretation services to non-English speakers.

A coalition of lawmakers, immigrants and health organizations also unveiled a policy brief that advocates for competency standards for interpreters. "Language and culture barriers prevent many New Yorkers from receiving needed health care," said JoAnne Smith, president and CEO of Family Planning Advocates of New York State.

### **A 'Call to conscience' - Black History Month event discusses health disparities**

*The News Tribune, February 25, 2008*

Increasing access to medical care is only one aspect of reducing health disparities for African Americans, panelists said at a Black History Month event Sunday. Other inequities, especially in education, widen the health gap between blacks and whites, panelist Dr. Ben Danielson told an audience of about 60 people at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. The discussion was part of an event called "Call to Conscience," a yearly Black History Month celebration aimed at raising awareness about health issues affecting the black community. "Disparities is not a strong enough term," said Danielson, medical director of the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic in Seattle. "We're talking about racial injustice."

### **Group offers doctors bonuses for better care**

*Wall Street Journal, January 31, 2008*

In an ambitious effort to shore up U.S. primary-care medicine, a coalition including General Electric Co., International Business Machines Corp. and Verizon Communications Inc. is launching an

initiative to pay doctors hefty bonuses for creating "medical homes" for patients. The initiative is the latest and perhaps most far-reaching effort by Bridges to Excellence, a program backed by big employers and health plans and a big player in the movement to provide physicians with financial incentives for taking better care of patients. Last year, the program paid out roughly \$10 million in bonuses to doctors in the 18 states where it is active.

### **Lawmakers look at ban on smoking in cars with kids**

*The Olympian, February 7, 2008*

Arguing that exposure to cigarette smoke is especially harmful to children, some lawmakers are backing bills that would make it illegal to smoke in cars when children are present. Scientists set a pair of laptop computers on top of a Pontiac Grand Am on Wednesday and had someone inside light up in hopes of showing evidence of that harm. Sensors monitored the number of particles in the air inside the car, showing a spike on the computers' displays. "That would be about 40 times the hazardous level," said David Kalman, a chemist from the University of Washington.

### **Meningitis vaccine requirement reduced**

*The Associated Press, February 23, 2008*

TUMWATER — The number of required inoculations to protect young children from bacterial meningitis in Washington state has been reduced because a recall has left supplies of the vaccine tight nationwide. The state Health Board voted 9-0 in a special meeting Thursday to cut the number of required doses of haemophilus influenzae serotype b vaccine, known as Hib vaccine, from four to three, following recommendations of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Diana T. Yu, Thurston County public health officer and a member of the state panel, said the remaining shots would provide 95 percent immunity from the disease, which afflicts mainly children younger than 5.

### **National Business Group on Health and HHS Office of Minority Health Launch Initiative to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: New Project to Engage Business Sector in Improving Health Care for Minorities**

*DHHS Press Release, Monday February 11, 2008*

WASHINGTON, DC, February 11, 2008 – The National Business Group on Health (NBGH) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health (OMH) today announced a new two-year effort to strengthen ongoing partnerships and build new business-community coalitions to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities and improve the quality of health care for minority populations. This collaboration is part of the National Partnership for Action, a broader effort by HHS and OMH to bring continued national emphasis on ending health disparities. The NPA is designed to mobilize and connect individuals and organizations across the country to create quality health outcomes for all people.

### **St. Louis Cancer Center Receives Grant for Efforts to Curb Cancer Care Disparities**

*RWJF, January 31, 2008*

Casino giant Harrah's has donated \$100,000 to support the Program for the Elimination of Cancer Disparities (PECaD) at the Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis, the St. Louis Business Journal reports. Part of Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University's School of Medicine, the cancer center aims to develop a national model for eradicating racial, ethnic, gender and income disparities in cancer care using a three-tiered approach focused on professional education, research and community outreach.

## **State looks to lead way on climate change**

Our views

*The Olympian, February 6, 2008*

Can Washington state be the national leader on climate change? Can this state develop new technology to substantially reduce carbon emissions globally? Can Washington state create thousands of new “green” jobs, build energy-efficient homes and businesses, convince motorists to convert to mass transit and boost recycling efforts — all in an effort to preserve natural resources and improve the environment?

## **'Superbug' staph reports required: California wants data on severe MRSA cases contracted outside of hospitals and nursing homes.**

*Los Angeles Times, February 15, 2008*

Responding to concerns about antibiotic-resistant "superbug" staph infections, California will now require local health departments to report all severe infections originating outside healthcare facilities, but not cases contracted in hospitals or nursing homes. The policy, announced Thursday by the California Department of Public Health, attempts to track severe staph infections including methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, that result in the hospitalization or death of healthy people.

## **UMass Boston, Harvard to start disparities research center**

*Boston Globe, February 22, 2008*

The University of Massachusetts at Boston and the Harvard School of Public Health will create a research center devoted to health and healthcare disparities, the institutions said today. A five-year, \$7.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities will fund the HORIZON Center, named for its goal of providing healthy options, research, interventions, and community organizing, the schools said. The center will work with the Cherishing our Hearts and Souls Coalition, a group that has collaborated with the Harvard School of Public Health on efforts to close health gaps in Roxbury, which has the youngest, poorest, least educated, and least employed people among Boston's neighborhoods, the school said.

## **Vaccine dearth means fewer shots: State to mandate 3 Hib inoculations**

*The Olympian, February 22, 2008*

TUMWATER — In response to a national shortage of vaccine for childhood bacterial meningitis, state health officials voted unanimously Thursday to reduce the number of required vaccine doses from four to three. Dr. Diana Yu, Thurston County's public health officer and a member of the state Board of Health, said the remaining series of three doses of Haemophilus influenzae Serotype b, or Hib vaccine, still will provide 95 percent immunity from the infection, which affects children younger than 5.

## **WA measure would encourage farm-to-school relationships**

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 1, 2008*

TUMWATER, Wash. -- The potatoes still need to be planted, as do the squash, but at Kirsop Farm, Genine Bradwin and Colin Barricklow are readying their land for the abundance of vegetables that will go to farmers markets, co-ops and local schools. A small portion of their bounty - mostly potatoes, squash and salad mix - goes to the Olympia School District, which uses fresh fruit and vegetables from about eight local farmers for lunches in its 18 schools.

## **We need to know what we ingest: Should chain restaurants give you nutrition information?**

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, February 13, 2008*

The King County Board of Health, which passed regulation requiring the posting of calories on the menus and menu boards of chains, thinks they should. Two of every three King County residents want the information, and nutrition experts agree this knowledge is important. The restaurant industry talks like it supports the idea, but does it really? If it is true to form, the industry will sue the county right before the regulation takes effect, just as it has in New York City.

## **Would you like a side of guilt with that? (Editorial)**

*Seattle Times, February 15, 2008*

The be-healthy menus demanded by the King County Board of Health are still slated to arrive on restaurant tables in August. We think they will not be welcomed by the public, and it is a shame that the Legislature seems to be passing up a chance to pre-empt them with something more reasonable. The Board of Health is demanding that chain restaurants disclose on menus how many calories each item has, a measure of total fat, saturated fat and trans fat, a measure of carbohydrates and one of salt. The average restaurant customer has no objection to having this information available. In fact, it is useful. What is indigestible is a government agency requiring that the information be printed as part of the menu item, in the same typeface as the item.

[Index](#)

## **Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles**

### **Journals Reviewed**

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

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

- Vol. 34, No. 3, March 2008

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

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

- Vol. 98, No. 3, March 2008

#### **Health Affairs**

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

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

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

- Vol. 299, No. 9, March 5, 2008
- Vol. 299, No. 8, February 27, 2008
- Vol. 299, No. 7, February 20, 2008
- Vol. 299, No. 6, February 13, 2008

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

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

## **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report**

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

- Vol. 57, No. 8, February 29, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 7, February 22, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 5, February 8, 2008

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

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

- Vol. 358, No. 10, March 6, 2008
- Vol. 358, No. 9, February 28, 2008
- Vol. 358, No. 8, February 21, 2008
- Vol. 358, No. 7, February 14, 2008
- Vol. 358, No. 6, February 7, 2008

## **Preventing Chronic Disease**

CDC

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

## **Highlighted Journal Articles**

### **Climate Change: The Public Health Response**

*American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 98, No. 3, March 2008*

There is scientific consensus that the global climate is changing, with rising surface temperatures, melting ice and snow, rising sea levels, and increasing climate variability. These changes are expected to have substantial impacts on human health. There are known, effective public health responses for many of these impacts, but the scope, timeline, and complexity of climate change are unprecedented. We propose a public health approach to climate change, based on the essential public health services, that extends to both clinical and population health services and emphasizes the coordination of government agencies (federal, state, and local), academia, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations.

### **Interim Recommendations for the Use of Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib) Conjugate Vaccines Related to the Recall of Certain Lots of Hib-Containing Vaccines (PedvaxHIB® and Comvax®)**

*JAMA, Vol. 299, No. 9, March 5, 2008*

On December 19, this report was posted as an MMWR Dispatch on the MMWR website (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>). On December 13, 2007, Merck & Co., Inc. (West Point, Pennsylvania) announced a voluntary recall of certain lots of two Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) conjugate vaccines, PedvaxHIB® (monovalent Hib vaccine) and Comvax® (Hib/hepatitis B vaccine). Providers should return unused vaccine from these recalled lots using procedures outlined on the Merck website at <http://www.merckvaccines.com/PCHRecall.pdf>. Additional information regarding the affected lots is available online from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at <http://www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/hib121307.html>. Merck has suspended production of its Hib conjugate vaccines and does not expect to resume distribution of these vaccines until the fourth quarter of 2008. The recall of PedvaxHIB and Comvax and suspension of production are expected to result in short-term disruption to the Hib vaccine supply in the United States.

## **The Public Health Approach to Eliminating Disparities in Health**

*American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 98, No. 3, March 2008*

Reducing and eliminating disparities in health is a matter of life and death. Each year in the United States, thousands of individuals die unnecessarily from easily preventable diseases and conditions. It is critical that we approach this problem from a broad public health perspective, attacking all of the determinants of health: access to care, behavior, social and physical environments, and overriding policies of universal access to care, physical education in schools, and restricted exposure to toxic substances. We describe the historical background for recognizing and addressing disparities in health, various factors that contribute to disparities, how the public health approach addresses such challenges, and two successful programs that apply the public health approach to reducing disparities in health. Public health leaders must advocate for public health solutions to eliminate disparities in health.

## **Recommended Immunization Schedules for Persons Aged 0-18 Years—United States, 2008**

*JAMA, Vol. 299, No. 7, February 20, 2008*

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) annually publishes a recommended immunization schedule for persons aged 0-18 years to reflect changes in vaccine formulations and current recommendations for the use of licensed vaccines...The recommended immunization schedules for persons aged 0-18 years and the catch-up immunization schedule for 2008 have been approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. The standard MMWR footnote format has been modified for publication of this schedule.

## **Research Reveals Low Immunization Rates and Vaccination Awareness Among Adults**

*JAMA, Vol. 299, No. 9, March 5, 2008*

A new US survey reports unacceptably low adult immunization rates and a lack of public awareness of the threat of infectious diseases, say public health officials. The most recent National Immunization Survey from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that while most individuals are familiar with the benefits of influenza vaccination, they are unaware of the many other diseases that are preventable by immunization (<http://www.cdc.gov/nis/>). In the United States alone, there are more than 1 million cases of shingles, more than 6 million new human papillomavirus (HPV) infections, and nearly 10 000 cases of cervical cancer detected annually. Incidence of pertussis also has risen significantly over the past few decades.

## **Who Is Accountable for Racial Equity in Health Care?**

*JAMA, Vol. 299, No. 7, February 20, 2008*

Racial disparities are a ubiquitous feature of the US medical landscape, with health care delivery substantially segregated by race/ethnicity. Recent evidence from hospitals,1-3 nursing homes,4-5 and physicians' offices6 suggests that those caring for minority patients do not perform as well as those who care for nonminority patients, on average. This evidence is troubling but hardly surprising because the limited resources of those who care for the poor have helped to create and sustain racial disparities. As the United States enters an era of accountability in health care, it is time to consider these familiar circumstances from a new perspective.

[Index](#)

## Publications - Inside this Issue

### Advances

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, February 2008*

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

- RWJF Launches Commission to Look Beyond Medical Care System to Improve the Health of All Americans
- How Big Tobacco Recruits Kids and Discourages Quitting
- Health Coverage Tax Credits: A Small Program Offering Large Policy Lessons
- Toolkit Provides Hospitals, Health Plans and Others Guidance for Collecting Patient Data
- The Building Blocks of Personal Health Records
- New Initiative for Building Healthy Teen Relationships
- Foundations to Strengthen State Health Care Reform Advocacy
- New Grantees to Advance Public Health Practice and Policy Solutions
- IOM Accepting Nominations for the Lienhard Award

### Alliance

*Western Washington Area Health Education Center*

### Elaborations

*Department of Health, February/March 2008*

[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 II
- Tips for Shipping Infectious Substances
- Chemical Incident Specimen Collection
- News You Can Use!
- Laboratory Quality Assurance Website
- Approved PT Providers/Calendar of Events

### EpiLog

*Public Health Seattle & King County, January 2008*

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

- You Know It's Pertussis—Now What Do You Do?
- *Chlamydomytila psittaci* in Birds Sold in the U.S.
- Influenza Monthly Update
- Communicable Disease and Epidemiology contact information
- Reported Cases of Selected Diseases in Seattle and King County

### EpiTrends

*Department of Health, Vol. 13, No. 2, February 2008*

- Leptospirosis reported in Washington State

## **The Nation's Health**

*American Public Health Association, February 2008*

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

### **Nation**

- States sue EPA over California emissions decision: Regulation of vehicle emissions, clean air standards at issue
- 2008 appropriations bills set funding for CDC, SCHIP, health
- Report: Disabled Americans need more supportive policies
- New plan to assist in tracking animals, preventing disease
- Health care still too expensive for many residents, CDC reports
- State public health preparedness improving, but not at finish line
- Nation in Brief

### **State/Local**

- Maryland county brings health care to thousands of uninsured
- States in brief

### **Globe**

- New international plan takes aim at global climate change: Process for new agreement moves forward

### **General**

- CDC Foundation seeking award nominations
- New videos give advice, tips for emergency preparedness
- In memoriam

### **Healthy You**

- Cold or flu? What to do when you're feeling blue

### **Health Findings**

- Overweight teenagers at higher risk for heart disease, early deaths
- Autism cases increase regardless of drop in vaccine thimerosal use

### **APHA News**

- APHA institute highlights safe teen driving tactics: Four teams from around country announced as participants
- Advocates working to improve prison health in the Americas
- APHA offers free kids' materials on pandemic flu
- Cast your vote on merger of APHA Constitution, Bylaws
- APHA Advocates
- APHA annual congressional record: How members of Congress supported public health

### **Student Focus**

- APHA's Student Assembly visits Capitol Hill offices: Public health students advocate for more health, SCHIP funding
- Businesses sponsor free APHA student memberships
- New online public health journal created by students for students
- Affiliates honor student posters on suicide rates, fruit intake

- APHA's new Facebook page ready for membership

## **Journal Watch**

### **President's Column**

- Vital Signs

## **Job Openings**

### **Web Exclusive**

- First responders face increased injuries
- Disparities linked to free drug samples
- Autism risk higher in people with gene variant
- Brief intervention helps emergency patients reduce drinking
- CDC study finds no real increase in obesity among adults
- Cough and cold medicines misused by millions of teens and young adults
- Depressed young adults more likely to start smoking
- Experimental drug for vision loss tested
- Measles deaths in Africa plunge 91 percent
- Partnership addresses childhood overweight epidemic
- Two-thirds of states get poor marks on school food report card

## **Newsmakers**

## **Resources**

### **NewsBrief**

*National Association of Local Boards of Health*

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

### **State Health Notes**

*Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Volume 29, Issue 509, March 3, 2008*

### **State News**

- Florida governor looks to bring sunshine to uninsured
- Teen pregnancy prevention
- Idling affects air quality, health

### **Highlights**

- LA SCHIP Expansion...New Medicaid Rule...HIT legislation...Disparities and Quality

### **Graphically Speaking**

- While many health care reformers and presidential candidates talk about prevention as a means to reduce health care costs, a new study indicates that this thinking may be misguided.

## State Health Notes

*Forum for State Health Policy Leadership, Volume 29, Issue 509, February 19, 2008*

### State Health

- SCHIP steers through turbulent waters
- Wisconsin expands badgercare
- SCHIP administrative funds to screen kindergartners

### Highlights

- Veterans' suicide...Insurance mandates...Primary-care doctors

### Graphically Speaking

- While some recent reports claim that employment-based coverage is disappearing, new research suggests that the percentage of workers with insurance has declined only slightly.

### 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*

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

[Index](#)

## Publications - Reports

### **Overcoming Obstacles to Health: Report from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the Commission to Build a Healthier America**

*February 2008*

Despite what many believe, a person's health is not only a product of good medical care and genes. In fact, in many cases, these may only be small pieces of a much larger puzzle.

Social and economic factors are keeping some Americans from being as healthy as they should be. Based on work conducted by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), this report outlines in stark detail how a person's health and the likelihood of becoming sick and dying prematurely are greatly influenced by powerful social factors—such as levels of education, income and the quality of neighborhood environments.

This RWJF report describes the current health profile of Americans, looking specifically at how education, income, race and ethnicity play a role in Americans' health.

**The Health of Washington State 2007: A statewide assessment of health status, health risks, and health care services**

*December 2007*

The Health of Washington State 2007 is available on the Department of Health's Web site. It's updated every five years and includes data by county; information about health disparities associated with age, gender, and race/ethnicity; and information about effective interventions. It also provides information on health status, health risks, and health care services

The report includes sections on context of health, general health status, major risk and protective factors, infectious disease, chronic disease, injury and violence, maternal and child health, occupational health, and health care services. A section on environmental health is in progress and some chapters are available online.

[Index](#)