



## For Your Information – April 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. 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	<b>Health Equity Summit</b>

## 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><br>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><br>For information: (253) 597-4550   |
| Apr. 18     | <b>Health Disparities and Inequities: Mobilizing a Regional Response</b><br>Washington State University Vancouver Campus<br>Vancouver, Washington<br>For information: <a href="http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/events/health/">http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/events/health/</a> |
| Apr. 21-23  | <b>5th Annual World Health Care Congress</b><br>For information: <a href="http://www.whcc2008.com">www.whcc2008.com</a>   |

## May 2008

- | <b>Date</b> | <b>Name and Location</b>  |
|-------------|---|
| May 1-2     | <b>Health Literacy in Primary Care: Best Practices and Skill Building</b><br>Irvine, California<br>For information: <a href="http://www.iha4health.org/index.cfm/MenuItemID/226.htm">http://www.iha4health.org/index.cfm/MenuItemID/226.htm</a>                     |
| May 5-6     | <b>Washington State Tribal Healing &amp; Wellness Conference</b><br>Kiana Lodge, Port Madison Indian Reservation<br>Poulsbo, Washington<br>For information: <a href="http://adai.washington.edu/TribalConference/">http://adai.washington.edu/TribalConference/</a> |
| May 14      | <b>Making Connections for Health 2008 Luncheon</b><br>The Sheraton Hotel<br>Seattle, Washington<br>For information: <a href="http://www.withinreachwa.org">www.withinreachwa.org</a>  |
| May 18-21   | <b>7th UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters</b><br>Torrance, California<br>For information: <a href="http://www.cphd.ucla.edu">www.cphd.ucla.edu</a>  |
| May 15-17   | <b>26th Annual WREN Conference - Western Regional Epidemiology Network</b><br>Ashland, Oregon   |

May 29     **Healthy Schools Summit**  
University of Puget Sound  
Tacoma, WA

## September 2008

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
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Sep. 9-12	<b>ASTHO-NACCHO 2008 Joint Conference</b> Sacramento, CA
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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)

Sep. 21-24	<b>Sixth National Conference on Quality Health Care for Culturally Diverse Populations</b> Minneapolis, Minnesota
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For information: <http://www.diversityrxconference.com/>

Sep. 28 -	<b>ESRI Health GIS Conference: Shaping Global Health</b>
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Oct. 1	Washington, DC
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For information: [www.esri.com/healthgis](http://www.esri.com/healthgis)

## October 2008

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name and Location</b>
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Oct. 25-29	<b>Public Health without Borders - APHA 136th Annual Meeting and Exposition</b> San Diego, California
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For information: <http://www.apha.org/meetings/>

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## Correspondence

### Correspondence from the Board

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

From: Treuman Katz, Chair, March 19, 2008

*Letter transmitting the proposed 2008 Washington State Health Report for her consideration.*

### Correspondence to the Board

None.

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## General Interest

### Unnatural Causes: Is inequality making us sick?

A four hour documentary series exploring America's racial and socioeconomic inequities in health.

KCTS Channel 9 will broadcast one hour of the series each week for four weeks. The first broadcast is scheduled for April 2, 2008 at 11 p.m.

### Latest *Health Affairs* Issue Devoted to Disparities in Health

Read Select Articles from the RWJF-Sponsored Issue of *Health Affairs*—"Disparities in Health: Expanding the Focus" Pay special attention this week to the new March/April issue of the journal *Health Affairs*. The entire issue, which RWJF sponsored, is devoted to disparities. The findings presented—and they are striking—reveal in specific detail from a range of important perspectives how factors such as social determinants, disparities in the health care system, and the lack of diversity in the health professions coalesce to undermine the quality and fairness of our health and health care. Start with the prologue on "The Social Determinants of Health" and the first article analyzing "Geographic and Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Child Health." Dolores Acevedo-Garcia and colleagues—including David R. Williams, director of the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America—paint a disturbing picture of an "unequal geography of opportunity."

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## Public Health Leadership Positions Available

### Assistant Secretary

Washington State Department of Health, Division of Community and Family Health  
Closes: When Filled

### Director

Washington State Department of Health, Public Health Systems Planning and Development  
Closes: When Filled

### 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>

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## **Publications - General Media**

### **City OKs ban on trans fat in '09: Council vote forbids use in food sold in restaurants, delis**

*Baltimore Sun, March 18, 2008*

French fries, pastries and pie crusts still won't be healthy - but in Baltimore, at least, they will no longer contain trans fats. Baltimore joined a growing number of cities that have banished trans fats from prepared food after the City Council approved a ban last night that received little opposition from either residents or restaurateurs. The unanimous vote to ban trans fats - which are common in margarine, shortening and deep-fried foods - was cheered by supporters who say the oils can clog arteries, cause heart disease and expand waistlines.

### **County, restaurants strike deal on menus: Nutrition data required only at largest chains**

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 13, 2008*

Nutritional information on chain restaurant menus in King County won't be required for nearly nine more months, and then only for the largest chains, the local health board decided Wednesday in a compromise that also promises to keep the issue out of court. Consumers will have nutritional information on drive-through menu boards, too, the board decided. Julia Patterson, chairwoman of the King County Board of Health and the King County Council, said King County is the first jurisdiction in the nation to negotiate an agreement with the restaurant industry.

### **County budget outlook dims**

*Seattle Times, March 13, 2008*

King County services — potentially ranging from public health to court operations — could face deep cuts next year in the face of rising costs and declining revenue growth, county officials said Wednesday. After telling the Metropolitan King County Council that spending must be trimmed by about \$45 million to avoid a 2009 budget deficit, Budget Director Bob Cowan said the problem might be worse than that. Asked by council Chair Julia Patterson about his confidence in the \$45 million estimate, Cowan said it was developed during a quarterly budget review and that economic conditions, including inflation, have

worsened since then. The 2009 shortfall in the general fund could be anywhere between \$40 million and \$70 million, he said.

### **Girl's case reignites autism-vaccine debate**

*The Seattle Times, March 7, 2008*

Officials with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) scrambled Thursday to reassure the public that childhood vaccines are safe after news spread of another agency acknowledging a link between a child's autism and the shots she received as a toddler. "Our message to parents is that immunization is lifesaving," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, CDC's director. "There's nothing changed." Over the years, despite a small group of parents who insist otherwise, studies have shown no credible link between vaccines and autism.

### **Health Disparities Report Seeks to Inform Future Intervention Strategies**

*RWJF, March 17, 2008*

The Commonwealth Fund on Thursday released a collection of data and discussions designed to help policy-makers, researchers, practitioners and teachers better understand health disparities and develop interventions, AHA News Now reports. Targeting a broad audience, the chart book includes chapters on population demographics, health status and mortality, access to care, health insurance coverage and care quality, as well as suggested strategies for closing health care gaps.

### **Hub health board to restaurants: Hold the trans fat**

*Boston Globe, March 14, 2008*

Now banned in Boston: artery-clogging trans fat. The city's health board gave final, unanimous approval yesterday to a ban on the artificial substance in french fries, doughnuts, and other dishes made in restaurants and grocery stores. "It's the right thing to do," said Harold Cox, a member of the Boston Public Health Commission. Boston joins a growing number of cities, including New York and Philadelphia, and the town of Brookline in banning the ingredient. Trans fat has been linked to heart disease in humans and to diabetes in experimental animals. The first phase of the ban goes into effect in September and will apply to the use of cooking oils, shortening, and margarine containing artificial trans fat. The makers of baked goods will have a year to eliminate trans fat from their products.

### **Legislature OKs bill to put state-grown food in schools: Governor expected to sign it into law**

*Seattle Post-Intelligencer, March 11, 2008*

OLYMPIA -- It may not make school lunch taste any better, but the Legislature approved a bill Tuesday that will put Washington-grown produce on the menu in school cafeterias around the state. Senate Bill 6483 relaxes food-purchasing regulations to allow schools and state-run institutions to buy fresh produce and meats from Washington farmers -- even if locally grown products cost a little more than their processed or canned counterparts. Additionally, the measure creates a number of pilot programs and grants that would allow food banks to accept local produce, allow farmers markets to accept food-stamp cards, and pay for Washington-grown fruits and vegetables to be served at schools where more than half of students get free or reduced lunch.

### **Minorities, whites see health care differently**

*Associated Press, March 11, 2008*

WASHINGTON – Minorities are more likely than white patients to rate their health care as fair or poor, a view that is particularly true among Chinese-Americans, blacks born in Africa and Vietnamese-Americans. Researchers have long stressed that improving patients' perceptions of their care is important to improving outcomes. That's because negative experiences can lead to less time spent with a physician and poor communication between doctor and patient. To get a more detailed view of differing

perceptions patients have, researchers at Harvard University and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation surveyed 4,334 adults last year. The researchers asked patients such questions as how quickly they were able to get an appointment the last time they were sick and whether their doctor explained things in a way the patient could understand. The researchers found that whites routinely rated their experience higher than did the minority patients, who still had largely favorable views of their care.

### **Rise in vaccination rate a boost for state**

*Seattle Times, March 19, 2008*

Washington state won national plaudits this week for boosting its vaccination rate — all the way up to 42nd best when stacked against the other 49 states and the District of Columbia. In 2006, 71.4 percent of children under 3 in Washington received the complete set of six vaccines, including polio and measles-mumps-rubella. The state had nowhere to go but up: Washington ranked dead last in 2003 with a rate of 56.2 percent. The turnaround qualified Washington for the nation's most-improved-state award Monday during the National Immunization Conference in Atlanta, sponsored by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### **S.F. supes require posting of nutrition info**

*San Francisco Chronicle, March 12, 2008*

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a law Tuesday that requires chain restaurants to post nutrition information on their menus - but whether that will turn diners off of Big Macs remains to be seen, nutritionists say. The legislation is aimed at curbing the fallout from Americans' unhealthy eating habits, seen in rising rates of obesity and Type 2 diabetes. The hope is that the labels will help people make healthier choices when they're eating out. But dozens of studies have produced mixed results on whether nutrition labeling improves consumers' eating habits. It can't hurt to make the information available, nutritionists say, however, the truth is, if people want a Big Mac for lunch, knowing that it has 540 calories and 29 grams of fat probably isn't going to stop them.

### **State program labels healthy menu items**

*AzStarBiz, March 25, 2008*

PHOENIX — Unable to force nutrition labeling by restaurants, a Yuma Democrat has instead agreed to a purely voluntary program — and only for the items the food servers want. The new Arizona Smart Choice program, launched Monday with the help of the state Department of Health Services, will allow participating restaurants to label some of their individual items and combinations as "healthy." Four chains — Macayo's Mexican Kitchen, McDonald's, Outback Steakhouse and Subway Restaurants of Arizona — already have signed up. Sen. Amanda Aguirre, D-Yuma, who had sought the labeling mandate by chain restaurants last year, said this program, negotiated in cooperation with the restaurant industry, still provides helpful information to diners.

### **Study highlights language barriers faced in healthcare**

*Los Angeles Times, March 21, 2008*

Limited English skills of many in L.A. County can impede access to healthcare. Activists say delays, misdiagnoses and unnecessary procedures can result when patients are not provided interpreters. Edna Gutierrez said she was biopsied for cancer on the wrong breast. Martha Castro recalled helplessly watching her daughter's uncontrollable seizures, unable to understand the doctor's English. And Lian Zhen Li, suffering from excruciating abdominal pain that turned out to be ovarian cancer, said Los Angeles County hospital staff told her to come back with someone who could interpret for her. The three Southern California immigrants reflect the widespread problem -- and the potentially devastating consequences -- of language barriers in healthcare. The problem's massive scope was illuminated Thursday, when the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles released a new study

documenting the language barriers faced by nearly one in three Los Angeles County residents, or 2.5 million people.

### **U.S. health agencies stand behind safety of vaccines**

*USA Today, March 7, 2008*

Federal health officials restated their belief in the safety of childhood vaccines Thursday, reacting to questions raised by a government settlement with the family of a 9-year-old Georgia girl, who developed neurological problems shortly after receiving childhood shots. The government agreed to pay the family from the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program in November. The issue has rekindled the autism and vaccine debate — on the Internet and in the media — in the past few days. The Associated Press obtained documents about the case from the Department of Health and Human Services, where the vaccine-compensation program is located. The amount of the settlement hasn't been set yet. U.S. officials have not said vaccines caused the girl's autism-like symptoms. Instead, officials said the shots exacerbated the girl's underlying medical condition, an extremely rare disorder of the mitochondria, which are energy-producing structures inside the cell.

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## **Publications - Highlighted Journal Articles**

### **Journals Reviewed**

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

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

- Vol. 34, No. 4, April 2008

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

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

- Vol. 98, No. 4, April 1, 2008

#### **Health Affairs**

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

- Vol. 27, No. 2, March/April 2008 - Disparities: Expanding the Focus

##### **From the Editor**

- Disparities In Health: Expanding The Focus
- Social Determinants
- PROLOGUE: The Social Determinants Of Health
- Toward A Policy-Relevant Analysis Of Geographic And Racial/Ethnic Disparities In Child Health
- Targeting Health Disparities: A Model Linking Upstream Determinants To Downstream Interventions
- The Gap Gets Bigger: Changes In Mortality And Life Expectancy, By Education, 1981–2000
- Race, Ethnicity, And The Education Gradient In Health

##### **Perspective**

- PERSPECTIVE: Challenges To Using A Business Case For Addressing Health Disparities

##### **Definitions & Data**

- PROLOGUE: Health Disparities: Definitions And Data
- When Does A Difference Become A Disparity? Conceptualizing Racial And Ethnic Disparities In Health

- Collecting Adequate Data On Racial And Ethnic Disparities In Health: The Challenges Continue

### **Specific Disparities**

- PROLOGUE: Addressing Specific Disparities
- New Evidence Regarding Racial And Ethnic Disparities In Mental Health: Policy Implications
- Giving Policy Some Teeth: Routes To Reducing Disparities In Oral Health
- Disparities In Human Resources: Addressing The Lack Of Diversity In The Health Professions

### **States' Role**

- PROLOGUE: States' Role In Addressing Disparities
- The Medical Tongue: U.S. Laws And Policies On Language Access

### **Role Of States**

- State Variation In Health Insurance Coverage For U.S. Citizen Children Of Immigrants
- Moving Beyond Access: Achieving Equity In State Health Care Reform

### **Commentary**

- Reducing Racial And Social-Class Inequalities In Health: The Need For A New Approach

### **Health Tracking**

- MARKETWATCH: The Chinese Health System At A Crossroads
- MARKETWATCH: Medigap Coverage And Medicare Spending: A Second Look
- TRENDS: Health Insurance Coverage In Central And Eastern Europe: Trends And Challenges
- FROM THE FIELD: Immunization And The Millennium Development Goals: Progress And Challenges In Latin America And The Caribbean

### **Narrative Matters**

- Duality
- Crossing The Atlantic

### **DataWatch**

- Disparities In Physician Care: Experiences And Perceptions Of A Multi-Ethnic America
- Do Hospitals Provide Lower-Quality Care To Minorities Than To Whites?
- The Characteristics And Performance Of Hospitals That Care For Elderly Hispanic Americans
- Community Variation: Disparities In Health Care Quality Between Asian And White Medicare Beneficiaries
- Improving Coverage And Access For Immigrant Latino Children: The Los Angeles Healthy Kids Program
- Rejections Of Drug Claims For Nursing Home Residents Under Medicare Part D

### **GrantWatch**

- GRANTWATCH REPORT: Evaluating Interventions To Reduce Health Care Disparities: An RWJF Program
- GrantWatch: Outcomes

### **Book Reviews**

- BOOK REVIEWS: Get Well—Then (Maybe) Get Rich
- Are Health Economists Fools—Or Worse?
- Fair Testing: The Science And Politics Of Effective Health Care
- Still Marching In A White Coat

### **Letters**

- Reform, Then Better Financing
- Looking Back At Health Surveys

- Looking Back: The Authors Respond
- AHRQ And Data Collection
- AHRQ And Data Collection: The Authors Respond
- The Uninsured And Affordability
- The Uninsured: An Author Responds
- Protecting The Veracity Of Practice Guidelines
- Practice Guidelines: The Authors Respond
- Caring About Geriatric Care
- Caring About Geriatric Care: The Author Responds
- Piping A Different Tune
- Piping: The Author Responds
- Self-Sufficiency In A Complex Society
- Integrated Practice Units Are Bridges, Not ‘Archipelagoes’
- Integrated Practice Units: An Author Responds
- Poland’s Nursing Brain Drain To The West

## Errata

## Acknowledgments

## Web Exclusives

- TRENDS: Waits To See An Emergency Department Physician: U.S. Trends And Predictors, 1997–2004
- MARKETWATCH: Benefits And Costs Of Immunizing Children Against Influenza At School: An Economic Analysis Based On A Large-Cluster Controlled Clinical Trial
- A Progress Report On State Health Access Reform
- TRENDS: Hospital Pricing And The Uninsured: Do The Uninsured Pay Higher Prices?
- Variations In Hospital Resource Use For Medicare And Privately Insured Populations In California
- TRENDS: The U.S. Economy And Changes In Health Insurance Coverage, 2000–2006
- TRENDS: Health Spending Projections Through 2017: The Baby-Boom Generation Is Coming To Medicare
- From Politics To Policy: A New Payment Approach In Medicare Advantage

## The Journal of the American Medical Association

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

- Vol. 299, No. 12, March 26, 2008
- Vol. 299, No. 11, March 19, 2008
- Vol. 299, No. 10, March 12, 2008

## The Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law

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

- Vol. 33, No. 2, April 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. 12, March 28, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 11, March 21, 2008
- Vol. 57, No. 10, March 14, 2008

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

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

- Vol. 358, No. 13, March 27, 2008
- Vol. 358, No. 12, March 20, 2008
- Vol. 358, No. 11, March 13, 2008

## **Preventing Chronic Disease**

*CDC*

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

- Vol. 5, No. 2, April 2008

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## **Highlighted Journal Articles**

### **Decades of Work to Reduce Disparities in Health Care Produce Limited Success**

*JAMA, Vol. 299, No. 12, March 26, 2008*

The early weeks of 2008 brought discouraging news for advocates working to narrow health care disparities among racial and ethnic groups. In rapid succession, several studies published in January in peer-reviewed journals showed that despite decades of efforts to raise awareness about disparities and to reduce them, the gaps in some key treatment areas have not budged. The latest findings build on years of research that has established the extent of inequalities in treatment for cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and many other conditions. Cancer, for example, has been the focus of dozens of studies and a number of federal initiatives to document and reduce treatment disparities. However, a new analysis of 143 512 Medicare patients with breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate cancers shows that from 1992 to 2002, not only did treatment disparities persist, the magnitude of the disparities did not diminish (Gross CP et al. *Cancer*.2008;112[4]:900-908).

### **The Effect of Name-Based Reporting and Partner Notification on HIV Testing in New York State**

*American Journal of Public Health, Vol. 98, No. 4, April 2008*

**Objectives.** We examined the effect of New York's HIV Reporting and Partner Notification law on HIV testing levels and on the HIV testing decisions of high-risk individuals.

**Results.** High-risk individuals had limited awareness of the reporting and notification law, and few cited concern about named reporting as a reason for avoiding or delaying HIV testing. HIV testing levels, posttest counseling rates, and anonymous-to-confidential conversion rates among those who tested HIV positive were not affected by the law. Medicaid-related HIV testing rates also remained stable. HIV testing during pregnancy continued to trend upward following implementation of the law. Findings held true within demographic and risk-related subgroups.

**Conclusions.** HIV reporting has permitted improved monitoring of New York's HIV/AIDS epidemic. This benefit has not been offset by decreases in HIV testing behavior, including willingness to test among those at high risk of acquiring HIV.

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## **Publications - Inside this Issue**

### **Advances**

*Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, March 2008*

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

- RWJF-Sponsored Issue of Health Affairs Focuses on Disparities

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<http://www.sboh.wa.gov/FYI/FYI.htm>

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- Winners Announced in Global Competition to Get Kids Moving
- Sports4Kids Named Top "Changemaker" by Nike, Ashoka
- Working to Transform the Lives of a Generation of Young Men
- Seventeen Grants Awarded to Measure Health Care Equity and Patient-Centered Care
- Bridging the Gap Researchers Examine Local Agency Involvement in Drug Policy and Prevention Efforts
- A Reflection on Philanthropic Leadership

## **Alliance**

*Western Washington Area Health Education Center, Winter 2008*

- "Creating thriving rural workforce, health system, and community"
- 6th NW Regional critical access hospital conference: March 19, 2008
- 21st NW Regional rural health conference: March 20-21, 2008
- New Resources
- Dungeness Valley Health & Wellness Clinic: Six years of community contribution
- Rural outreach in nursing education (RONE)
- 2007 Project HOPE intern organizes University of Washington Medical Brigade
- Office of Community & Rural Health's Kathy McVay elected Mayor of Fircrest, Washington
- Volunteer retired providers program reorganized to be faster, sleeker, more efficient
- Global impact opportunity

## **Elaborations**

*Department of Health*

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

## **EpiLog**

*Public Health Seattle & King County*

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

## **EpiTrends**

*Department of Health, Vol. 13, No. 3, March 2008*

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

- Severe MRSA Pneumonia Association with Influenza

## **The Nation's Health**

*American Public Health Association, March 2008*

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

## **Nation**

- For youth, global climate change is about action, not debate: Children vulnerable to climate effects
- President's 2009 budget plan would set health programs back: CDC, HRSA targets
- Health workers urged to tackle low adult immunization rates: Adults lacking vaccination awareness
- CDC: School-based homicides on the decline in recent years
- CDC gathering family stories to illustrate U.S. flu pandemic history
- Community health centers can adopt performance standards
- Children's dental health still often overlooked, neglected
- Preparedness research should focus on training, effectiveness

- EPA calls on Americans to recycle their old cell phones
- Check your emergency stockpiles as you set your clocks, APHA advises
- Nation in brief

### **State/Local**

- Atlanta-based health program reaching youth through music
- States in brief

### **Globe**

- Millions of children die before age 5 from preventable causes
- Nutrition tied to more than one-third of child deaths
- Federation of public health associations to focus on work force issues: New grant awarded
- Globe in brief

### **General**

- Use of oral contraceptives linked to a lower risk of ovarian cancer
- Intimate partner violence screening tool effective in pediatric settings
- 'Unnatural Causes' film series on health disparities airs this month
- Corrections and clarifications to The Nation's Health

### **Healthy You**

- Make healthy teeth a lifelong habit

### **Health Findings**

### **APHA News**

- 2008 National Public Health Week observance is April 7–13
- APHA helps gain court victory for women's reproductive health care
- APHA soliciting nominations for new peace award
- APHA Advocates

### **Affiliates**

- North Carolina Affiliate gains strength from new infrastructure
- Capacity-building grants move APHA Affiliate efforts forward
- Illinois Affiliate joins fight to prevent cervical cancer
- History of Committee on Affiliates to be documented

### **Journal Watch**

### **President's Column**

- Injury: It's a growing public health problem, not an accident

### **Letters**

### **Job Openings**

### **Web Exclusive**

- Cell phones significantly impairs drivers
- Too much fructose could leave dieters sugar shocked
- Thin bones seen in boys with autism
- Studies highlight MRSA evolution and resilience
- Delayed adoption of new treatments in developing world costs lives
- Study examines heart risks of ADHD stimulants in children
- Broccoli may help boost the aging immune system
- Scientists successfully treat new mouse model of inflammatory bowel disease
- Cheap, reusable material could facilitate capture of carbon dioxide from power plants
- Cognitive health improving among older Americans

- Women more likely to work during pregnancy
- Smoking is major risk factor for stroke in China

## 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 , Issue 511, March 17, 2008*

### State News

- Legislators hope to put drowsy drivers to rest
- Screening for MRSA: Only time will tell
- The "Medical Home" gets updated

### Highlights

- OR lottery decides who gets insurance...NJ mandates paid family leave...Adolescent drivers and their passengers at risk

### 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>

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## Publications - Reports

### **2007 Annual Report: Washington WIC Nutrition Program -- Improving the lifelong health and nutrition of Washington Families**

*Department of Health, March 2008*

Focus issue this year is obesity and the role WIC plays in helping start children and families off on a healthy path.

View report at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/WIC/materials/reports/2007/annualreport07.pdf>

## **Health Disparities Report Seeks to Inform Future Intervention Strategies**

*RWJF, March 17, 2008*

The Commonwealth Fund on Thursday released a collection of data and discussions designed to help policy-makers, researchers, practitioners and teachers better understand health disparities and develop interventions, AHA News Now reports. Targeting a broad audience, the chart book includes chapters on population demographics, health status and mortality, access to care, health insurance coverage and care quality, as well as suggested strategies for closing health care gaps. The chapters outline challenges to and opportunities for improving care for all Americans, addressing not only heavily studied barriers such as miscommunication, lack of trust, financial constraints and biases but also overarching shortcomings within the nation's health system. The report suggests that policy-makers and health professionals must understand the underlying drivers of health care disparities in order to craft the most effective strategies for reducing those gaps. The authors call for "conscious, thoughtful action" by leaders to change policies and health system design to adequately address health disparities. [View report.](#)

## **Patients Speak Out-2007: Seventh annual statewide patient satisfaction survey**

*DSHS, August 2007*

This report summarizes the results of the 2007 Statewide Patient Satisfaction Survey. The survey was conducted during the week of March 19, 2007. A total of 460 agencies volunteered to participate in the survey, representing 92 percent of DASA-certified chemical dependency (CD) treatment agencies in Washington State. The survey captured 96 percent of public and 86 percent of private treatment agencies in the state. DASA received 20,252 completed surveys, which was 79 percent of the adult and youth patients receiving treatment in participating community-based and correctional treatment programs during the week of the survey.

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