



WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH UPDATE

August 15, 2005

Topics in this update:

1. [NIHCM Foundation Awarded 5-year Maternal and Child Health Grant](#)
 2. [New Tools from Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness Initiative](#)
 3. [New Knowledge Path Released from the MCH Library](#)
 4. [AHRQ Presents Recent Findings on Child, Adolescent and Women's Health](#)
 5. [NACCHO Brief Supports Mental Health and Public Health Collaboration](#)
 6. [NAMI Produces a Guide on Adolescent Depression](#)
 7. [RWJF Report Finds Uninsured Children Lacking Medical Care Across U.S.](#)
 8. [Health Plans Form Partnerships on Initiatives to Improve Child Health](#)
-

1. [NIHCM Foundation Awarded 5-year Maternal and Child Health Grant](#)

The **National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation** was awarded a 5-year grant from the **Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)** entitled, **"Improving Understanding of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and Health Care Issues (IUMCH) Among Health Plan Decision Makers."** NIHCM Foundation collaborated with MCHB for the past eight years under two consecutive cooperative agreements to provide information and foster communication to improve maternal and child health. NIHCM Foundation will continue to facilitate informational and collaborative activities between the public and private sectors under the IUMCH grant, including distributing the quarterly "Women's and Children's Health Update," conducting conferences and commissioning papers on maternal and child health topics, and expanding the "MCH Health Corner" on the Foundation website. More information about the grant can found on the NIHCM Foundation website at www.nihcm.org.

[TOP](#)

[2. New Tools from Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness Initiative](#)

New tools available online from **HRSA's Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness Initiative** include a self-assessment guide and wallet card on physical activity and healthy eating targeted to adolescent females ages 11-20. The self-assessment guide provides young women with a personal questionnaire to assess their current levels of activity and eating habits, questions for discussion with their health care provider, and educational resources on nutrition and physical activity. The pocket guide provides a quick reference to information on nutrition and physical activity ideas for young women. Both tools can be downloaded at: <http://www.hrsa.gov/WomensHealth/mybrightfuture/menu.html>.

[TOP](#)

[3. Knowledge Paths Released from the MCH Library](#)

- A new edition of the Knowledge Path, **Overweight in Children and Adolescents** has been released by the MCH Library. This electronic guide provides updated information on (and links to) websites and electronic publications, databases, electronic newsletters, and information for families about the identification, prevention, management, and treatment of overweight in children and adolescents. The path is available at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_overweight.html.
- The MCH Library has also produced a new index page, **Non-English Language Materials and Resources**, which provides easy access to information in the MCH Library in over 60 languages. The page lists each language for which information is available and provides automated searching of library databases. The index is available at <http://www.mchlibrary.info/nonenglish.html>.
- A new Knowledge Path, **Locating Community-Based Services to Support Children and Families**, has been produced by the MCH library, in collaboration with the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University. The electronic guide is intended to assist service providers and families in finding resources within their communities to address child and family needs. The knowledge path offers information and links to websites, electronic publications, databases and toll-free telephone lines, and covers topics

such as education and special needs, mental health and well-being, family support, parent education, child care and early education, health and wellness, and financial support. The path is available at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_community.html.

[TOP](#)

4. [AHRQ Presents Recent Findings on Child, Adolescent and Women's Health](#)

- The **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)** has released selected findings on health care quality, access, and utilization for children, adolescents and women from the 2004 *National Healthcare Quality Report (NHQR)* and *National Healthcare Disparities Report (NHDR)*. A fact sheet on child and adolescent health care presents key findings on overweight prevention, antibiotic prescribing for the common cold, hospitalization for pediatric asthma, and insurance coverage. The fact sheet is available at <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhqrchild/nhqrchild.htm>. A fact sheet on women's health care in the U.S. also presents key findings from the NHQR and NHDR by examining disparities in care among women by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status; disparities for women compared with men; and trends and variation in women's health care over time. The fact sheet can be viewed at <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhqrwomen/nhqrwomen.htm>.
- AHRQ has also published a program brief, "**Women's Health Highlights: Recent Findings,**" which provides an overview of recent findings from a cross-section of AHRQ-supported research projects on conditions especially important to women's health. Examples of topics included in the brief are: cardiovascular disease, cancer screening and treatment, reproductive health, women and medications, and prevention. The brief is available at <http://www.ahrq.gov/research.womenh1.htm>.

[TOP](#)

5. [NACCHO Brief Supports Mental Health and Public Health Collaboration](#)

The **National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)** published an issue brief that is the first in a series of steps they are taking to call attention to the links between public health and mental health. The brief provides background on the connection between practice and systems of public health and mental health and offers recommendations for incorporating mental health into public health practice at the federal, state and local level. The action steps

include identifying best practices of mental health and public health communities that already work together and supporting integration of mental health and public health services in order to improve access to mental health services. The brief can be accessed at http://archive.naccho.org/documents/Issue_Brief.pdf. NACCHO has also developed *Guiding Principles for Collaboration between Mental Health and Public Health* based on the results of a consensus meeting that the issue brief was based on and the subsequent recommendations that were developed from the meeting, which are also available online at http://archive.naccho.org/documents/MHGP_proof5_20_051.pdf.

[TOP](#)

[6. NAMI Produces a Guide on Adolescent Depression](#)

What Families Should Know about Adolescent Depression and Treatment Options: A Family Guide, published by **NAMI**, discusses the causes and symptoms of adolescent depression. The brochure outlines current options for treatment and the risks of not treating adolescent depression, and offers resources for families to become effective advocates for their child in determining the appropriate treatment. The guide is available online at http://www.nami.org/Content/ContentGroups/CAAC/Family_Guide_final.pdf.

[TOP](#)

[7. RWJF Report Finds Uninsured Children Lacking Medical Care Across U.S.](#)

A recently released **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**-sponsored report found that one in three uninsured children in the U.S. did not receive any medical care in the past year, and seven out of ten uninsured children eligible for public program health insurance coverage are not enrolled. The report is part of the RWJF Covering Kids & Families Back to School Campaign, a nationwide effort to enroll eligible children in public programs as the fall school term begins. The report also includes state-by-state information on what coverage is available to children. The report can be found at <http://coveringkidsandfamilies.org/press/docs/2005BTSResearchReport.pdf>.

[TOP](#)

[8. Health Plans Form Partnerships on Initiatives to Improve Child Health](#)

- **Premera Blue Cross, Swedish Medical Center** and the **March of Dimes** have partnered to implement a three-year Neonatal Intensive

Care Unit (NICU) Family Support Program in Washington state. The medical center is the first in the state to implement the program providing enhanced information and comfort to families of premature or otherwise critically ill newborns. Program components include a part-time NICU Family Support Specialist interfacing with families and staff at the medical center; a volunteer parent-professional action committee; a base of direct service volunteers helping support and comfort NICU families; educational materials in the Parent Care kit; and continuing education training for nurses. More information on the partnership is available at http://www.premera.com/stellant/groups/public/documents/xcpproject/newsroom_4_15_05.asp.

- **Blue Cross of California Foundation** joined **California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger** to launch the **California Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports** at the "**Get Active California Celebration**" and presented the Governor's Council with a two-year grant totaling \$300,000. The mission of the nonprofit Governor's Council is to promote the health benefits of physical fitness, exercise and sports for all Californians, especially among children. The Blue Cross of California Foundation supports family health through a multi-faceted educational approach, and provided copies of their educational materials, including **Healthy Habits for Healthy Kids** and **Healthy Habits for Healthy Hearts**, for the event. More information on the event is available at http://www.bluecrossca.com/NewsRoom/Intro_Frame.htm. The Healthy Habits for Healthy Kids materials are available at http://www.wellpoint.com/commitments/healthy_habits_for_healthy_kids/index.asp.

[TOP](#)

TO SUBSCRIBE to the Women's and Children's Health Update, please send an e-mail to nihcm@nihcm.org with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

TO UNSUBSCRIBE to the Women's and Children's Health Update, please send an e-mail to nihcm@nihcm.org with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

The Women's and Children's Health Update is produced by NIHCM Foundation under its cooperative agreement (5U93MC00143) with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Please send questions and comments to nihcm@nihcm.org or call Kathryn Kushner at (202) 296-4426.

NIHCM Foundation
1225 19th Street, NW, Suite 710
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. 202.296.4426
Fax 202.296.4319
<http://www.nihcm.org>