



WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH UPDATE

March 11, 2005

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1. [NIHCM Foundation Highlights Children's Mental Health and Women's Health](#)

In May 2004, the **National Institute for Healthcare Management Foundation (NIHCM Foundation)** held a forum on new developments in policy and programs pertaining to children's mental health. An issue paper, "*Children's Mental Health: An Overview and Key Considerations for Health System Stakeholders*" produced for the forum is now available. This issue paper is an overview of important considerations for health system efforts to promote and improve the mental health of children and youth. It also presents key policy considerations for promoting and advancing comprehensive mental health systems for children and youth. A resource list highlighting numerous organizations and initiatives related to children's mental health is included, and web-based resources are also available for further guidance. An Action Brief will be available shortly.

Please check back to the NIHCM Foundation website for two publications from the December 14, 2004 meeting: "*Women's Health: Successes and Challenges in Prevention and Promotion.*" Conference proceedings and an overview paper on women's health will be published shortly.

All NIHCM Foundation materials are available at <http://www.nihcm.org>.

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2. [AHRQ, HHS and HRSA Focus on Women's Health](#)

- The *Journal of Women's Health* published a special issue devoted to improving the use and safety of medications in women. The articles in the issue were based on discussions at an expert meeting called for by the **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**'s Senior Advisor on Women's Health, Dr. Rosaly Correa-de-Araujo to highlight gender differences in medication use. The issue is available online at <http://www.liebertonline.com/toc/jwh/14/1>.
- The **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** has announced **National Women's Health Week**, scheduled for the week of May 8 - 14, 2005. The event is an opportunity to encourage women to use high-quality preventive services through the designation of May 9th as National Women's Check-up Day. Participating organizations will be listed, along with free educational and promotional materials at <http://www.4woman.gov/whw>.
- **The Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)** of the **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** released *Women's Health USA 2004*, a databook providing a profile of women's health from a variety of data sources and highlights racial and ethnic disparities as well as sex disparities. The databook presents current and historical data on some of the most pressing health challenges facing women, including health care quality, women in clinical trials, organ donation and hormone therapy. It is available at <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/whusa04/>.

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

MCH Library Knowledge Paths include information and links to websites and electronic publications, databases, electronic newsletters and online discussion groups, journal articles, and print publications. It is intended for use by health care professionals, policymakers, researchers, educators and families who are interested in tracking information on the topics. The MCH Library has released new editions of their knowledge paths on the following maternal and child health

topics:

- *Child and Adolescent Nutrition* - offers recent, high-quality resources aimed at identifying promising strategies for improving nutrition and eating behaviors within families, schools and communities. The knowledge path is available at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_childnutr.html.
- *Prenatal Care* - analyzes perinatal health statistics, describes effective prenatal care programs, and provides general pregnancy resources as well as information about pregnancy complications for consumers. The knowledge path is available at http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_pregnancy.html.
- *Oral Health and Children and Adolescents* - reports on policy and research aimed at improving access to and quality of oral health for children and adolescents. The knowledge path is available at <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/knwpathoralhealth.html>.

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4. New Tools Available for Improving Adolescent Health

- The **University of Minnesota's Leadership, Education, and Training Program in Maternal and Child Nutrition** has published *Guidelines for Adolescent Nutrition Services with support from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau*. The book focuses on the biological, psychosocial, and cognitive changes that begin during puberty and continue through adolescence and that directly affect nutritional status and nutrient needs. It is intended as a resource for health professionals and educators on nutrition and adolescent pregnancy. The book can be downloaded at http://www.epi.umn.edu/let/pubs/adol_book.shtm.
- The **National Adolescent Health Information Center at the University of California, San Francisco** has released two briefs adapted from *Improving the Health of Adolescents and Young Adults: A Guide for States and Communities*, the companion document to the Healthy People 2010 21 Critical Health Objectives. The first brief, *Using Data 2004*, reviews major data sources and offers guidance for developing a youth profile and conducting a needs-and-assets assessment based on the 21 Critical Health Objectives. The second, *Best Practices Brief*, provides an overview of Best Practices and a comprehensive listing of resources available in adolescent health. The

resources are organized according to the health areas represented by the 21 Critical Health Objectives for Adolescents and Young Adults. Both briefs can be found at http://nahic.ucsf.edu/index.php/niah/article/niah_brief_documents/.

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5. [Bright Futures Family Pocket Guide Now in Spanish](#)

The *Family Voices Family Pocket Guide* is now available for order in Spanish. All of the information found in the original English version can be found in the new guide, including information for families on how to work with health care providers, and is supplemented by additional Spanish resources. The guide prepares and reinforces families as key partners in their children's health. In addition to the pocket guide, Family Voices offers a variety of materials and resources developed specifically for families to complement the Bright Futures publications and materials used by health care professionals. All of their materials are available for download or viewing at <http://www.brightfuturesforfamilies.org/materials.shtml>.

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6. [ASTHO and NGA Offer Resources on Importance of Public Programs in Securing Child Health](#)

- **The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)** has released two publications on the role of the state in promoting child health through accessibility of services and partnerships with stakeholders. *State Policy Options to Establish Medical Homes for Children and Youth* discusses the actions taken by the states to establish medical homes for children and youth and offers additional policy options for states' consideration. *The Role of State Public Health Agencies in Child Care* describes the many opportunities for state public health agencies the partner with child care providers to improve the health and safety of young children in child care settings, which are an important venue for promoting early childhood health and development. Both publications can be found at http://www.astho.org/index.php?template=maternal_child_health.html.
- The **National Governors' Association** published a new issue brief on funding options to support mental health care for children. The brief, *Funding for Children's Mental Health Services: Making the Most of Medicaid* describes the cost of the unmet mental health needs on society and outlines the Medicaid options available to states to expand

treatment capacity for children. The brief can be downloaded at
<http://www.nga.org/cda/files/0501CHILDMENTALHEALTH.pdf>.

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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>