

UW POPULATION HEALTH INSTITUTE
formerly Wisconsin Public Health & Health Policy Institute
E-NEWS - December 2005
Vol. 5, No. 9

The UW Population Health Institute's E-News is delivered monthly. Check our web site for additional information and updates: <http://www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/index.html>. To subscribe or unsubscribe, reply to jaknutso@wisc.edu with the word "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Information for E-news is compiled from several sources, including websites and lists from the *Wheeler Report*, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Kaiser Family Foundation, Commonwealth Fund, *Milbank Quarterly*, *Health Affairs*, Urban Institute, *Wisconsin Medical Journal*, Wispolitics.com, Handsnet, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, *The New York Times*, *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, *Milwaukee Business Journal*, *Wisconsin State Journal* and others.

In This Issue

STATE NEWS

- Wisconsin Health Benefit Costs Outpace National Average
- Payers, Purchasers, and Providers Collaborate on Data Warehouse
- Governor Doyle Creates Electronic Health Records Board
- Juvenile Justice Commission Reports on Best Practices
- Hospitals Accused of Charging Uninsured Patients Higher Prices
- Drunken Driving Arrests on the Rise
- Smoking Ordinance Adopted in Little Chute
- UW Medical School Agrees to Fund Milwaukee Health Initiatives
- Doctors and Nurse Midwives Opt Out of Aurora Transfer
- Center for Global Health Established at UW-Madison

RESEARCH AND PROGRAM TOOLS

- Wisconsin Council on Children & Families Kids Count Data Book
- Developmental Services for Low-Income Children
- "A Closer Look" at Health Policy Issues
- Medicare Drug Plan Comparison Site
- Webcasts from Six Nation Health Care Policy Symposium

- Emergency Contraception Fact Sheet and Issue Module
- Assuring Better Child Health and Development II Webcast
- Physician Performance Measurement Reviewed

EVENTS

- UWPHI Seminar December 5
- UW Cardiovascular Research Center Poster Fair: December 6
- "Community-Based Participatory Research" Brownbag Lunch: December 7
- WCCF 2005 Giraffe Awards: December 9
- Annual Award for UW's Best Rural Health Paper

READING ROOM

- Illinois Extends Coverage to Uninsured Children
- NICE Response to Clinical Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness
- Declining Sales for Drug Companies
- Personalized Medicine Predicted to Increase
- New Principles for Clinical Trials
- Role of Academic Medical Centers in US Health Care
- Polio Outbreak in an Amish Community
- Caffeine and the Risk of Hypertension in Women
- Minority Smokers Less Likely to Try the Patch, Gum
- FDA Rejects Next Day Pill Prior to Scientific Review
- Native Foods Nourish Again

STATE NEWS

Wisconsin Health Benefit Costs Outpace National Average

Nationally in 2005, health benefit costs increased 6.1%, to \$7,089 per employee. In Wisconsin these costs increased 9.2%, for an average of \$9,321 for each employee. The shifting of costs by employers to employees via increased co-pays and deductibles was cited as a cause of the slowing rate of increase in costs nationally. Other strategies mentioned were wellness programs, disease management and risk assessment.

<http://www.jsonline.com/bym/news/nov05/372342.asp>

Health Maintenance Organization revenue increases in Wisconsin dropped below 10% in 2004, for the first time since 2001. Also, the number of people enrolled in HMOs in the state continued to drop.

http://www.bizjournals.com/industries/health_care/health_insurance/2005/11/14/milwaukee_story2.html

Payers, Purchasers, and Providers Collaborate on Data Warehouse

Wisconsin's major health insurance payers, purchasers, and providers are building the most extensive warehouse of health care data in Wisconsin, which will be used to evaluate the quality and efficiency of care provided by physicians, hospitals, and other providers. The Wisconsin Health Information Organization (WHIO) will allow confidential tracking, analysis and measurement of complete episodes of care from initial visit to the doctor's office to follow-up care, lab work, outpatient services, hospitalization, and medications. Press release:

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Nov05/Nov11/1111healthinformation.pdf>

Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel coverage: <http://www.jsonline.com/by/news/nov05/371762.asp>

Governor Doyle Creates Electronic Health Records Board

The new state board will work to cut rising health care costs and improve efficiency by coordinating Wisconsin's electronic health records. Marshfield Clinic hopes to be paper-free by 2007, and Doyle is aiming for statewide coordination of medical records within five years.

<http://www.wisinfo.com/news/erald/mnhlocal/286832806270494.shtml>

Juvenile Justice Commission Releases Report on Best Practices

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission and the Office of Justice Assistance commissioned a study of cost-effective programs for juvenile delinquency prevention. The report, "What Works, Wisconsin: What Science Tells Us about Cost-Effective Programs for Juvenile Delinquency Programs," was completed by Stephen Small and Arthur Reynolds of UW-Madison. It concludes that the most cost-effective programs were implemented in the early-childhood years and include diversion or community accountability programs and intensive therapeutic programs.

<http://oja.state.wi.us/jj/docview.asp?docid=5077&locid=80>

Hospitals Accused of Charging Uninsured Patients Higher Prices

The Wisconsin Attorney General's office filed complaints against St. Joseph Regional Medical Center and the Wisconsin Heart Hospital. They are accused of charging uninsured patients higher prices than they charge managed care companies. Managed care companies are able to negotiate group discounts with hospitals. The uninsured who do not qualify for charitable care are charged full price, which can end up being twice as much as a health plan would pay for the same care.

<http://www.jsonline.com/by/news/nov05/368734.asp>

Drunken Driving Arrests on the Rise

Wisconsin drunken driving arrests hit an all-time high in 2004, increasing 10.7% over the previous year. This rise is partially attributed to more aggressive law enforcement, and partially to cell phone tips. There has been a great increase in the number of people reporting offenders from their cars. Furthermore, statistics indicate that the reduction in the legal threshold from a 0.10 to a 0.08 blood-alcohol concentration could be responsible for up to 1,700 additional arrests

annually.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/nov05/371511.asp>

Smoking Ordinance Adopted in Little Chute

The Little Chute Village Board approved an ordinance which would ban smoking in the dining sections of restaurants, but allow smoking in bar areas. The ordinance was seen by some as a way to prevent the call for a smoking ban referendum.

<http://www.postcrescent.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051117/APC0101/511170477/1003>

UW Medical School Agrees to Fund Milwaukee Health Initiatives

A committee of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents accepted an agreement in which the UW Medical School would spend an additional \$920,000 per year on health initiatives in Milwaukee. The Education Committee then approved a resolution enabling the medical school to change its name to the School of Medicine and Public Health.

<http://www.jsonline.com/bym/news/nov05/369686.asp>

Doctors and Nurse Midwives Opt Out of Aurora Transfer

Sixteen of the 49 doctors and two of the nine nurse midwives at the UW Medical School's Milwaukee campus turned down contracts with Aurora Health Care. The doctors and nurse midwives split their time between teaching medical students and residents, doing research, and seeing patients at Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center and other clinics in or near downtown Milwaukee. Some feared Aurora would force them to cut back on services for the city's poor.

<http://www.jsonline.com/bym/news/nov05/372376.asp>

Center for Global Health Established at UW-Madison

A joint initiative of the UW's schools of medicine, nursing, pharmacy and veterinary medicine, and the Division of International Studies has established the Center for Global Health. The center plans to develop and support global health education, research and partnerships.

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/11759.html>

RESEARCH AND PROGRAM TOOLS

Wisconsin Council on Children & Families Kids Count Data Book

Wiskids Count 2005 Data Book provides county and state level data for the state of children's health in Wisconsin.

http://www.wccf.org/projects/wiskids/2005/KC2005_fullbook.pdf

Developmental Services for Low-Income Children

Enhancing Child Development Services in Medicaid Managed Care is a best clinical and

administrative practices toolkit. This resource is intended to assist in the early identification and treatment of developmental delays by providing a framework of strategies for improving well-child care and developmental services.

http://www.cmwf.org/tools/tools_show.htm?doc_id=313133&#doc313133

"A Closer Look" at Health Policy Issues

A new interview series called *A Closer Look* provides ten-minute interviews that are available on-line or for download to an MP3 player. The series encompasses four programs: From the Journals, From the States, From the Bookshelves, and From the Media.

www.kaisernet.org/closerlook

Medicare Drug Plan Comparison Site

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services launched a site that shows beneficiaries how much they will pay in premiums and drug costs under each plan.

<http://bcbshealthissues.com/proactive/newsroom/release.vtml?id=186762>

Webcasts from Six Nation Health Care Policy Symposium

The Commonwealth Fund's 2005 International Symposium on Health Care Policy included discussions on quality of care and patient safety by health ministers and officials from six countries. Webcast sessions available are: the 2005 International Health Policy Survey of Sicker adults, a panel discussion among health ministers from the U.K., Australia and New Zealand, and *What Other Nations Can Teach Us About a More Patient-Centered Health Care System*.

http://www.cmwf.org/General/General_show.htm?doc_id=312882&#doc312882

Emergency Contraception Fact Sheet and Issue Module

This issue module contains information on research studies on use and awareness, presentations, policy analysis on efficacy, over-the-counter status, issues for youth, and research on policy. The fact sheet highlights trends and policies on women's access to emergency contraception.

http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics_im.asp?id=400&imID=1&parentID=72

<http://www.kff.org/womenshealth/3344-03.cfm>

Assuring Better Child Health and Development II Webcast

Webcast of the National Academy for State Health Policy conference on the ABCDII initiative. The ABCD Program is designed to assist states in improving the delivery of early childhood development services for low income children and their families.

http://www.nashp.org/_catdisp_page.cfm?LID=2A78988D-5310-11D6-BCF000A0CC558925

Physician Performance Measurement Reviewed

[Advancing Physician Performance Measurement: Using Administrative Data to Assess Physician Quality and Efficiency](#), describes the science of measuring physician performance, data issues,

and measurement initiatives currently under way. The report, a product of a recent meeting supported by the Commonwealth Fund and co-sponsored by Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH), a purchaser coalition focused on improving health care quality and value. The also considers a research and policy agenda.

http://www.pbgh.org/news/eletters/documents/PBGHP3Report_09-01-05final.pdf

EVENTS

Seminar December 5:

UW Population Health Institute, Monday Seminar Series Presents Stephen Hargarten, MD, MPH, Director, Injury Research Center, Medical College of Wisconsin

“To Be or Not to Be: Case Studies in Injury Research and Advocacy”

Monday, December 5, 2005, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Room 1345 Health Sciences Learning Center, 750 Highland Avenue

UW Cardiovascular Research Center Poster Fair: December 6

11th Annual Scientific Poster Fair. Topics include Heart Failure, Gene Regulation and Development, Ion Channels and Arrhythmias, Vascular Biology, Stroke, and Excitation-Contraction Coupling. 3:00-5:00 pm, Health Sciences Learning Center Atrium

For information contact: info@cvrc.wisc.edu

http://www.cvrc.wisc.edu/events/poster_05_flyer.pdf

"Community-Based Participatory Research" Brownbag Lunch: December 7

The Center for the Study of Cultural Diversity in Healthcare is hosting a brownbag lunch entitled "Community-Based Participatory Research: Engaging Communities to Eliminate Health Disparities." Speaker: Joseph F. West, MSc, ScD. UW-Madison, Health Sciences Learning Center Room 1335. 12:00-1:00 pm.

WCCF 2005 Giraffe Awards: December 9

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families' Annual Meeting and Giraffe Awards presentation, celebrating those who have "Stuck Their Neck Out" for kids.

4:00-6:00 pm, US Bank Building Boardman Atrium

http://www.wccf.org/pdf/AM_2005_RSVP.pdf

Annual Award for UW's Best Rural Health Paper

Hermes Monato, Jr. Memorial Fund \$1,000 Prize. Submit a copy of a rural health paper as an entry by April 15th, 2006.

<https://wisemail.wisc.edu/attach/Poster.pdf>

READING ROOM

Illinois Expands Coverage to Uninsured Children

Gov. Rod R. Blagojevich signed a measure to ensure health insurance coverage for all children in Illinois, including those in working-class and middle-class families. Under the All Kids program, families premiums and co-pays would vary, depending on number of children and household income. Costs will be paid for by shifting the management of 1.7 million Medicaid recipients. Critics say the measure could further strain Illinois state budget, and could draw families from other states.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/16/national/16children.html?th&emc=th>

The program will not require co-pays for immunizations and other preventive care physician visits, or for vision, hearing, development and preventive dental tests.

<http://bcbshealthissues.com/proactive/newsroom/release.vtml?id=187637>

NICE Response to Clinical Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) was established in 1999 to set standards for new health care technologies and the management of specific conditions. NICE attempts to balance quality, innovation, access and cost through a set of four programs called "NICE guidance." The NICE method used to assess the marginal value of a technology for different patients groups may be a useful framework for the United States to look at. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/294/20/2618>

Declining Sales for Drug Companies

The Food and Drug Administration is blocking new medicines that it may have previously approved, and doctors are writing fewer prescriptions for drugs whose safety has been challenged. Following the withdrawal of Vioxx and other drugs from the market, Insurers and some states are switching patients to older, generic drugs. Some drug manufacturers are facing stagnant sales, falling profits, layoffs and cuts in research budgets.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/14/business/14pharma.html?th&emc=th>

Personalized Medicine Predicted to Increase

Experts are predicting an increase in therapies tailored for patients based on their genetic make-up or other medical measurements. It is hoped that this will increase drug efficacy while reducing risk of serious side effects. Pharmaceutical companies fear that mandated testing for genetic markers will discourage doctors from prescribing such drugs.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/08/health/08phar.html?th&emc=th>

New Principles for Clinical Trials

The Association of American Medical Colleges issued new Principles for Protecting Integrity in the Conduct and Reporting of Clinical Trials. The new guidelines were prompted by previous

failures by industry and academic medical centers to report negative findings from clinical trials. The Principles aim to ensure that faculty involved in trials are fully responsible and accountable. Dr. David Korn, AAMC senior vice president for biomedical and health sciences research, said the AAMC believes that adoption of the Principles will restore public confidence and trust in clinical research.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/516223?src=hp30.lead>

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

Role of Academic Medical Centers in US Health Care

A commentary piece in the Journal of the American Medical Association posits that urban academic medical centers are threatened by stagnating NIH support for research, declining insurance reimbursement, malpractice, and the growing number of uninsured. Services provided by academic medical centers, as suggested in the article, should compliment and not compete with community health care providers. The argument is made that such specialized care should be broadly allocated to those who need it most, and not just those geographically surrounding the centers.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/extract/294/17/2219?etoc>

Polio Outbreak in an Amish Community

Five cases of polio have been reported in an Amish community in Long Prairie, Minnesota. Health officials are unsure how the initial case was contracted, but believe that deep-rooted suspicion of vaccination may have facilitated its spread. These new cases trouble officials involved in the WHO initiative to eradicate polio globally.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/08/national/08polio.html?th&emc=th>

Caffeine and the Risk of Hypertension in Women

A Study examining the association between caffeine consumption and hypertension in women found no linear association. While habitual coffee consumption was not associated with increased risk of hypertension, consumption of cola, both sugared and diet colas, was associated. Researchers believe that it is not caffeine, but some other compound contained in soft drinks that may be responsible.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/294/18/2330>

Minority Smokers Less Likely to Try the Patch, Gum

A new study of male patients at the Veterans Health Administration found that Hispanic and African-American smokers are less likely than white smokers to try nicotine replacement therapies. The study found that while 50% of white participants tried the nicotine patch or gum, only 34% of African-Americans and 26% of Hispanics did so. It was not determined whether factors involved for the difference were patient-level, provider level or system-level.

<http://www.cfah.org/hbns/getDocument.cfm?documentID=1166>

-
FDA Rejects Next Day Pill Prior to Scientific Review

Congressional investigators found that federal drug officials decided to reject an application to allow over-the-counter sales of the morning after pill before a government scientific review was completed. A Government Accountability Office report noted that the rejection was unusual in that top agency officials were involved in the decision and that the officials ignored the recommendations of the independent advisory committee and the agency's own scientific review staff.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/15/politics/15pill.html?th&emc=th>

-
Native Foods Nourish Again

In an effort to reverse the trend of increasing rates of diabetes and to bring sustainable economic development to American Indian communities, some are pushing for a return to traditional foods and farming methods. Communities and individual farmers are promoting tepary beans, wild rice, salmon, bison, hominy and other Native foods. If chefs at high-end restaurants are willing to purchase and use these foods, it will make them more available to the communities they originated from.

www.nytimes.com/2005/11/23/dining

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/15/politics/15pill.html?th&emc=th>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/15/politics/15pill.html?th&emc=th>

-
-

Judy Knutson

University of Wisconsin

Population Health Institute

610 Walnut Street, Suite 760

Madison, WI 53726-2397

Phone: 608-263-6294

Fax: 608-262-6404

<http://www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/>