



E-NEWS – MAY 2007

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Department of Population Health Sciences

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

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 [Judy Knutson](mailto:jknutson@pophealth.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, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, *The New York Times*, *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, *Milwaukee Business Journal*, *Wisconsin State Journal* and others.

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STATE NEWS

Hospitals Revise Billing Guidelines for Uninsured Patients

The Wisconsin Hospital Association is recommending that all of its member hospitals give uninsured patients discounts similar to those given to health plans. Newly revised billing and collection guidelines suggest income eligibility levels for financial assistance, ways to address catastrophic hospital bills, and reasonable collection practices. The new guidelines reflect practices already put in place by most Milwaukee-area health care systems in recent years. But the guidelines could provide more clarity and consistency to billing policies that often are confusing and frustrating for patients.

<http://www.wha.org/newsCenter/pdf/nr5-1-07billingandcollection.pdf>

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=601574>

SeniorCare Prescription Drug Program Extended through Dec. 31

Federal officials have agreed to extend Wisconsin's SeniorCare program beyond its June 30 expiration date, allowing it to run until the end of this year. The announcement gives Governor In the extension period, Wisconsin official will need to help more than 106,000 SeniorCare participants, all of whom are over 65, enroll in the federal Medicare Part D program and design a new package of state assistance to help cover some of the higher out-of-pocket costs seniors face under Medicare Part D.

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/May07/may4/0504ryanseniorc.pdf>

<http://www.jsonline.com/watch/?watch=1&date=5/4/2007&id=23017>

Assembly Republicans Propose Health Care Reforms

Assembly Republicans offered a health care reform package that they said would introduce greater consumerism and price sensitivity. Republican leaders in the Assembly said the market-

based reforms would put consumers in charge of how their health care dollars are spent. Provisions include:

- Remove state taxes from contributions to health savings accounts
- Offer to state employees high-deductible health care plans along with pre-funded HSAs.
- Make health insurance premiums tax deductible.
- Provide tax incentives to encourage companies to establish wellness programs and to promote the use of electronic medical records.
- Create a "health court" system to handle medical malpractice cases.

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Apr07/apr18/0418gophealth.pdf>

<http://www.jsonline.com/watch/?watch=1&date=4/18/2007&id=22224>

Farmer's Health Insurance Cooperative Showing Success, Responding to Need

The Farmer's Health Cooperative began offering health insurance for Wisconsin farmers on April 1, and demand has exceeded expectations. Organizers are now working with other groups in the state to launch similar co-ops and fielding phone calls from people all over the country interested in organizing co-ops to control insurance costs.

The health insurance purchasing cooperative is addressing the need that has been further documented by recent data from the UW's Program on Agricultural Technology Studies (PATS). A survey of a representative sample of dairy farms indicates that almost 20% of Wisconsin dairy farm families are completely uninsured. About another 25% of Wisconsin dairy farm families have at least one uninsured family member.

PATS report: <http://www.pats.wisc.edu/pdf%20documents/healthstatus.pdf>

Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel article about Farmer's Health Cooperative.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=597323>

Growing Need for Free Clinics in Wisconsin

An increasing number of Waukesha County residents are without basic health care services. The demand at Oconomowoc's Lake Area Free Clinic from people without health insurance has risen so dramatically that the clinic is adding another evening of operation and is looking for larger quarters. Nearby in Watertown, in eastern Jefferson County, a community group is raising money and expects to open a free clinic there early next year that also will serve low-income people without health insurance. In the past 20 months, the number of patients using the Oconomowoc clinic has increased by 62%. The clinic serves uninsured patients whose incomes are no higher than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=591496>

New Wisconsin Law Recognizes Lay Midwives

Wisconsin now legalizes home birth and licenses midwives who do not hold nursing degrees. The law brings Wisconsin in line with 24 other states that recognize and license lay midwives who attend home births. In 2005, about 1,100 Wisconsin babies were born outside a hospital; that number will undoubtedly grow under the new law. The move should also help certified nurse midwives, nurses who hold master's degrees and can already deliver babies under the auspices of a hospital or physician. The law frees them from having to have a written agreement with a health care authority, allows them to mentor and train lay midwives and recognizes home birth. Governor Doyle declared May 5 "International Midwives' Day" in Wisconsin.

<http://www.madison.com/wsj/home/local/index.php?ntid=131752&ntpid=4>

Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) Screening Academy

Wisconsin is one of 18 states selected by the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), along with Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, to participate in a Commonwealth Fund-supported national consortium, to improve early identification of young children with developmental problems. Public-private partnerships in each location will improve policy and clinical practice so that children's developmental and behavioral disorders are identified and treated at as early an age as possible.

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

Teen childbearing costs Wisconsin taxpayers \$156 million

The Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health reports that, despite a 31% decline in the state teen birth rate between 1991 and 2004, teen childbearing in WI cost taxpayers at least \$156 million in 2004. The Alliance also notes the progress WI has made reducing teen childbearing, saving taxpayers an estimated \$97 million in 2004.

<http://www.wiawh.org/media/documents/pressreleases/WAWH%20Value%20of%20Prevention%20News%20Release%2004-16-07.pdf>

Wisconsin Smoke-Free Ordinances Associated with Health Improvements

A study on the health effects of smoke free bars was conducted by researchers at the UW Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center. Pre- and post- ordinance data was collected from bartenders in Madison and Appleton. The prevalence of eight upper respiratory symptoms was significantly reduced among non-smoking bartenders, while two symptoms were significantly reduced for smoking bartenders.

http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/mep/downloads/Documents/programbriefs/SurvBr_v3n1_final21_4%2013%2007.pdf

Soda Tax Proposed for Funding Dental Care

The Wisconsin Dental Association proposes that the State raise funds to improve Medicaid reimbursement rates for dentists by implementing a fee on distributors, manufacturers and wholesale dealers of soda. This would include two dollars per gallon of soft drink syrup and 21 cents per gallon of bottled soft drinks or soft drinks produced from powder. The estimated impact of the program, titled, Two Cents for Tooth Sense™ (Tooth Cents™), is less than two cents per 12-ounce can of soda. WDA estimates that it would generate approximately \$70 million in additional revenue each year. The WDA further recommends the new funds be placed in trust for the specific purpose of reimbursing all dental MA procedures at a fair rate and that any Tooth Cents™ revenue not used to improve the dental MA program be spent on dental education projects affiliated with Marquette Dental School and public health groups.

<http://www.wda.org/categories/8-community-activities/subcategories/68-access-to-dental-care/documents/89-medicaid-two-cents-for-tooth-sense->

Milwaukee-Journal Sentinel editorial <http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=596874>

Two Wisconsin Swine Herds Test Positive for Pseudorabies

Now that a second swine herd in Clark County has tested positive for pseudorabies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is considering whether Wisconsin can retain its status as pseudorabies-free for trade purposes. Michigan has already banned the importation of hogs from Wisconsin

because of the outbreaks. State veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt said 11 animals on a Loyal farm tested positive, leading officials to quarantine the 20-animal herd. Earlier, another Clark County herd near Greenwood tested positive. Cattle, goats, sheep, horses, cats and dogs can contract the disease from pigs, usually by being bitten.

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070427/GPG03/704270557/1247>

RESEARCH AND PROGRAM TOOLS

New Tools on Children's Health and Disparities from Statehealthfacts.org

- State Laws Addressing Childhood Obesity: new 2006 data on state laws addressing childhood obesity have been added from the American Academy of Pediatrics' Division of State Government Affairs. <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?action=compare&category=Health+Status&subcategory=Children&topic=Childhood+Obesity+Laws>
- Firearms and Children Legislation: 2006 information on state firearm legislation designed to protect children has been added from the American Academy of Pediatrics' Division of State Government Affairs. <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?action=compare&category=Health+Status&subcategory=Firearms+and+Children&topic=Firearms+and+Children+Legislation>
- Children's Health Insurance Timeline: this new interactive timeline presents enrollment and major policy developments in health insurance coverage for children in public programs during the last 40+ years. As major developments occur, the timeline will be updated. http://www.kff.org/medicaid/childrenshealth_timeline.cfm?CFID=13149092&CFTOKEN=75543451
- Children's Health Data and Customized Fact Sheets: this interactive tool provides easy online access to the latest children's health coverage and health status information, as well as Medicaid and SCHIP eligibility, enrollment and spending data for children from the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?action=children>
- Key Health and Health Care Indicators by Race/Ethnicity: the data update provides a quick glance at disparities in rates of infant mortality, diabetes-related mortality and AIDS cases among whites, African Americans and Hispanics in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. It also provides similar breakdowns showing the percentage of each group in each state that is uninsured, enrolled in Medicaid, and living in poverty. <http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/7633.cfm>.

Progress toward Healthy People 2010 Maternal and Child Health Goals

Healthy People 2010 Midcourse Review: Maternal, Infant and Child Health highlights results from an assessment of progress toward achieving the Healthy People (HP) 2010 maternal, infant, and child health goals and objectives through the first half of the decade. The purpose of the midcourse review is to assess data trends; consider new science and available data; and, if appropriate, revise the objectives to ensure that HP 2010 remains current, accurate, and relevant to public health priorities.

<http://healthypeople.gov/Data/midcourse/pdf/FA16.pdf>

New Edition of Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Knowledge Path

In recognition of National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (May 2, 2007), the MCH Library has released a new edition of Knowledge Path: Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention. The knowledge path is an electronic guide to current, high-quality resources that measure, document, and monitor the problem; identify risk and protective factors; and report on promising intervention strategies.

http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_adolpreg.html

New Perinatal Depression Web Site

Depression During and After Pregnancy: A Resource for Women, Their Families, and Friends contains tips on identifying depression in mothers and offers steps to help treat it successfully. The Web site was launched by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau to increase awareness among women and health professionals of the impact and pervasiveness of perinatal depression. A section of the Web site is devoted to information for families and friends. <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/pregnancyandbeyond/depression/>

Care Coordination and Transitions Podcasts

AHRQ's Healthcare 411 series produced two audio podcasts on quality during health care transitions. Both are interviews with AHRQ Director Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D., discussing patient transitions in care from one setting to another, from one clinician to another, sometimes referred to as handoffs. The consumer program, dubbed the "Consumer Insider," is 10 minutes and provides some tips for patients and their families. The provider version, dubbed the "Provider Insider," is 14 minutes and gives providers some ways to improve the problems with handoffs, including sending care reports to the patient's primary care provider and using non-medical terms with patients.

Consumer: <http://www.healthcare411.ahrq.gov/podcast.aspx?id=203>

Provider: <http://www.healthcare411.ahrq.gov/podcast.aspx?id=202>

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

"A New Health Care Model for Africa": May 9

Presenter Ernest Darkoh is the founder and chairman of Broadreach Healthcare, a company dedicated to expanding access to health care across the globe. A reception will follow in the building's atrium. Darkoh will receive the UW-Madison Distinguished Alumni Award on May 10. [1325 Health Sciences Learning Center](#), 5 p.m. Information: 262-3862, teigland@wisc.edu.

Wisconsin Association on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Spring Conference: May 14-16

The WAAODA 41st annual spring conference titled "Bridging the Gap between Science and Service: Best Practices for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery," will be held at the Alliant Energy Center—Exhibition Hall in Madison. For information on how to register, contact the WAAODA by phone, 608-829-1032, by fax, 608-829-3473, or by email, waaoda@tds.net.

Health Care and Policy: Leadership for a Change: May 18

The Health Innovation Program Seminar Series presents former Minnesota Senator David Durenberger, JD, Chair, National Institute for Health Policy; Senior Health Policy Fellow, University of St. Thomas. 12:00 – 1:00 PM, Health Sciences Learning Center, Room 1335. For information about the Health Innovation Program, please visit: www.hip.wisc.edu, or contact Inna Larsen at 262-1301, contact@hip.wisc.edu

Health Wisconsin Leadership Institute Events: May 22

Advanced Leadership Skills Enhancement Series: Developing Future Leaders: Who's *Growing in Your Garden?*

Developing Future Leaders: Tools for Success Workshop: May 22, 1:00-5:00 at the Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI

Registration is required. For more information, contact Peggy Ore at pore@wisc.edu or 608-265-8625.

Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute Training Opportunity: Applications due July 27

The Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute (HWLI) is a continuing education and training resource, funded through the Wisconsin Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future and the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment. The Community Teams Program is a yearlong educational offering that supports the development of collaborative leadership and public health skills among teams that are mobilizing communities to address health problems. Application materials will be available beginning May 1 and will be due July 27.

http://www.pophealth.wisc.edu/UWPHI/education/leadership/ldrshp_cover_page.htm

“Translating Research into Policy and Practice”: Nov. 29-30, 2007

The UW Population Health Institute conference—Monona Terrace in Madison, WI.

Check www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi for updates.

READING ROOM

New Evidence-Based Payment Model Proposed

The Commonwealth Fund has published a proposed new payment model developed by the nonprofit Prometheus Payment. The model is based on the "evidence-informed case rate"—a single, risk-adjusted payment given to providers across health care settings to care for a patient diagnosed with a specific condition, like colon cancer, or for a specific procedure, like knee replacement. Payment amounts are based on the resources required to provide care as recommended in the best available clinical guidelines. The model calls for a portion of the payment to be withheld and distributed according to various performance measures.

http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=478278&#doc478278

Cost of Healthcare-Associated Infections

The Association of Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC) have released a report titled “Dispelling the Myths: The True Costs of Healthcare-Associated Infections.” The study of 1.69 million admissions from 77 hospitals found that patients with a healthcare-acquired infection reduced overall net inpatient margins by \$286 million or **\$5,018 per infected patient**. The average additional incremental direct cost for patients with an HAI was \$8,832.

http://www.apic.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PracticeGuidance/Reports/hai_whitepaper.pdf

U.N. Agency Launches Effort against Medical Errors

The World Health Organization (WHO) unveiled nine recommendations to help medical facilities worldwide avoid preventable deaths and injuries. The WHO said medical errors affect one in 10 patients worldwide and that at any given time more than 1.4 million people suffer from infections acquired in hospitals. The recommendations were drafted with feedback from experts from more than 100 nations and include, among others: improved hand hygiene, proper patient identification, double-checking similar-sounding medication names, banning reuse of needles, improving patient communication.

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?alias=un-agency-launches-effort&chanID=sa003&modsrc=reuters>

Maine's Universal Health Care Plan Stalls

When Maine became the first state in years to enact a law intended to provide universal health care, one of its goals was to cover the estimated 130,000 residents who had no insurance by 2009, starting with 31,000 of them by the end of 2005, the program's first year. So far, it has not come close to that goal. Only 18,800 people have signed up for the state's coverage and many of them already had insurance. Most insurers here no longer find it profitable to sell individual coverage, leaving one carrier, Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, with a majority of the market, a landscape that some economists said could make it harder to provide broad choices and competitive prices. Promising aspects of the program include the creation of a state watchdog group to promote better health care, and an effort to control costs by asking hospitals to rein in price increases and spending.

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/30/us/30maine.html?_r=2&ref=health&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

Women More Likely to Forgo Health Care

U.S. women with health insurance are more likely than men to go without needed care because of higher premiums and related costs. A larger percentage of women also have trouble paying their medical bills. More women didn't fill prescriptions, skipped recommended visits with specialists, failed to get tests, or just didn't seek treatment when they had a medical problem, according to a national survey by the Commonwealth Fund. Among survey participants, 33 percent of insured women and 68 percent of uninsured didn't get the health care they needed because they couldn't afford it, compared with 23 percent of insured men and 49 percent of uninsured men who went without care.

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=aWf_.fq51FrU&refer=canada

Women and Health Coverage: The Affordability Gap:

http://www.cmwf.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=478513&#doc478513

No Difference in Effectiveness between Abstinence Only and Comprehensive Sex Ed

Mathematica Policy Research Inc. reports that teenagers who took part in abstinence-only programs as elementary and middle school students were just as likely to have sex as those who did not take part in them. As well, teens who received abstinence-only programs were not less likely to use condoms or birth control. Over 2,000 teenagers with an average age of 16 ½ who lived in rural and urban communities in Florida, Wisconsin, Mississippi and Virginia were

interviewed. About 1,200 of them had taken part in abstinence-only education programs four to six years before.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070414/hl_nm/sex_abstinence_dc;_ylt=AqI_pae8wlgx2zZRIG3T_KDVJRIF

Mathematica report: <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/impactabstinence.pdf>

Infant Deaths Climb in the South

Progress in reducing infant death has stalled and in recent years the death rate has risen in Mississippi and several other states. The setbacks have raised questions about the impact of cuts in welfare and Medicaid and of poor access to doctors, and, many doctors say, the growing epidemics of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension among potential mothers.

The infant mortality rate in Mississippi jumped from 9.7 in 2004 to 11.4 in 2005. The national average in 2003, the last year for which data have been compiled, was 6.9. Smaller rises also occurred in 2005 in neighboring states. In Mississippi, infant deaths among blacks rose to 17 per thousand births in 2005 from 14.2 per thousand in 2004, while those among whites rose to 6.6 per thousand from 6.1.

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/22/health/22infant.html?_r=2&ref=health&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

American Cancer Society Launches Mass Study

The American Cancer Society said it was looking for half a million volunteers willing to let researchers watch them for the next 20 years to see if they get cancer. The aim is to match similar big studies in Europe and Asia that are looking on a large scale for the environmental and lifestyle factors that cause cancer, the second-leading cause of death in the United States after heart disease. The group will recruit men and women between the ages of 30 and 65 who have never been diagnosed with cancer. They will give blood to be tested and answer questionnaires at various times over the next 20 years.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN2546335620070426>

Tooth Decay on the Rise in Young Children

Tooth decay in young children's baby teeth is on the rise, according to the largest government study of the nation's dental health in more than 25 years. The study also noted a drop in the proportion of non-elderly adults who have visited a dentist in the past year — a possible indicator of declining dental insurance. However, older children have fewer cavities and adults have less periodontal disease than in the past, and more of the elderly are retaining their teeth. Experts are concerned about the prevalence of cavities in baby teeth of children ages 2 to 5. It increased to 28 percent in 1999-2004, from 24 percent in 1988-1994, according to the report.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070430/ap_on_he_me/diet_dental_health;_ylt=Agu7yRpjJHqaa3oKJn4BhZfVJRIF