



**E-NEWS – September 2007
VOL. 7, NO. 9**

**Department of Population Health Sciences
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health**

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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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- Satellite Broadcast & Webcast: Current Challenges & Successes in HIV Prevention with Hispanics/Latinos – November 15th, 2007
- UW Population Health Institute Biennial Conference: Improving Wisconsin's Health: Prevention, Policy, Priorities for Research – November 29-30. Pewaukee, WI

READING ROOM

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STATE NEWS

State Budget remains stalled in conference committee – health plans central

The budget for the 2007-09 biennium, which began on July 1, 2007, remains mired in debate within the conference committee. The Committee is charged with ironing out an agreement between the Senate and Assembly versions of the budget. Much of the debate centers on the debate over Healthy Wisconsin, the Senate Democrats' proposed comprehensive health reform package inserted in the Senate version of the budget. Also, disagreement remains over Governor Doyle's proposed coverage expansions under BadgerCare Plus.

Legislative Fiscal Bureau Comparative Summary of Senate and Assembly Health and Insurance Provisions:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/2007-09budget/Senate%20and%20Assembly/dhfs.pdf>

Legislative Fiscal Bureau: Budget Recommendations of The Joint Committee on Finance Adopted by the Senate and Assembly (8/01/07)

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/2007-09budget/080107%20%20%20571.pdf>

BadgerCare Plus Expansion likely to survive federal coverage limits

Gov. Jim Doyle's proposal to expand BadgerCare coverage to pregnant women and children up to 300% FPL faces a challenge with new Bush Administration rules. The new rules attempt to limit coverage to lower income children and further restrict coverage of adults. However, Wisconsin Medicaid officials have designed the plan so that it should be able to go forward with by redirecting federal funding to eligible groups and substituting state GPR (general revenue) in areas where federal funding is prohibited.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=650480>

Healthy Wisconsin plan - Costs and Benefits debated

Towns, counties, and municipalities across the state are calculating the savings they would experience under the Healthy Wisconsin proposal. Senate Democrats have posted a list of savings projected by various local governments. Cost estimates coming out of some Wisconsin counties look favorable. Some county leaders are skeptical of the figure, while others have embraced them.

<http://senatedemocrats.legis.wisconsin.gov/Issues/HealthyWisconsin.asp>

Projected Savings by Counties under Healthy Wisconsin:

Milwaukee: <http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug2/0802milwaukeehealthywi.pdf>

Brown: <http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug2/0802brownhealthywi.pdf>

LaCrosse: <http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug2/0802lacrossehealthywi.pdf>

Eau Claire: <http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug2/0802eauclairehealthywi.pdf>

Wall Street Journal editorializes on Healthy Wisconsin, Erpenbach responds

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=46874

Milwaukee J-S Editorial: Start working together on needed health care reform.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=645287>

Other "Healthy Wisconsin" Activism Pro and Con

AARP Wisconsin, Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics:

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug15/0815aarphealthcare.pdf>

Americans for Prosperity, a national organization that promotes "limited government and market-based economic policies":

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070828/WDH0101/708280527/1981>

The Big Tent Coalition of 34 statewide organizations:

<http://www.wiscnews.com/wde/news/206040>

National uninsured rate rises to 15.8%. Wisconsin at 9.4% with 81,000 uninsured kids

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 47 million people in the U.S. were without health insurance last year, up from 2005 when an estimated 44.8 million people were uninsured. Wisconsin's rate stands at 9.4%. The estimate is higher than that found in the most recent Wisconsin Family Health Survey, which estimates about 7% of Wisconsin's population uninsured in 2005. The percent of the population with employer-sponsored health insurance continues to drop.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=653950>

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB118830544284610885.html?mod=hps_us_whats_news

The number of Wisconsin's children without health insurance continues to decline, though 81,000 Wisconsin kids still lack health insurance.

http://wccf.org/pdf/healthcareforchildren_censusdata_083007pr.pdf

Margins fall in Wisconsin hospitals – Charity care increases by nearly 30 percent

The Wisconsin Hospital Association reports that Wisconsin hospital patient care margins dropped to 3.1 percent in 2006, the lowest in eight years, and a decrease of 39 percent from 2005. At the same time, charity care provided by Wisconsin's not-for-profit hospitals rose by 27 percent, to a total of \$202 million. The 2006 Wisconsin Hospital Fiscal Survey, reports that "government payment shortfalls" – the difference between what hospitals bill and what they get paid by government programs -- topped \$1.6 billion in 2006, the highest ever. Hospital are increasingly treating patients less acute settings, as reflected by a slight drop in admissions between 2005 to 2006 along with a 13% increase in outpatient services.

<http://www.wha.org/newsCenter/pdf/nr8-22-07fiscsurvdata06.pdf>

Medicaid-paid births on rise - State attributes increase to economic downturn

Nearly half of all births in Wisconsin were paid for by the state's Medicaid program in 2005, rising 26% since 2000. In 2005, the most recent year for which figures are available, five of the top 10 hospitals that delivered babies paid for by Medicaid were in Milwaukee.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=642722>

Wisconsin ETF recognized as a national leader in Value Driven Purchasing

Rhe Commonwealth Fund reports on efforts at public-private value-based purchasing (VBP) initiatives that emphasize collection of quality-of-care data, transparency of quality and cost information, and incentives. Massachusetts, Minnesota, Washington, and Wisconsin are identified as leading states, with Wisconsin ETF keeping premium rate increases in the single digits for the third straight year. The authors find that tiered premiums, pay-for-performance measures, and the designation of high-performance providers as "centers of excellence" are paying off.

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=515778

Rural Health Information Technology/Exchange receives \$1.6M Federal Grant

The Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC), in partnership with the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health, has received a \$1.6 million grant to build a shared hospital information system for rural hospitals in Wisconsin. The grant was awarded by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration as part of their Critical Access Hospital (CAH) HIT Network program. The Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative Information Technology Network (RWHC ITN) will serve hospitals and physicians by providing: (1) unified, integrated electronic information to

support healthcare, (2) systems to reduce avoidable medication errors, and (3) robust and affordable electronic health record (EHR) applications and quality support to ensure their appropriate use. www.rwhc.com

Public health groups campaign on smoking ban and \$1.25 cigarette tax increase

American Cancer Society (ACS), American Lung Association (ALA), American Heart Association (AHA), and SmokeFree Wisconsin today announced details of its massive statewide campaign already underway which promotes investments in smoking prevention and cessation, a \$1.25 increase in the cigarette tax, and a statewide workplace smoking ban.

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug13/0813smokefree.pdf>

<http://www.postcrescent.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070814/APC0101/708140555/1979>

Bridge repairs could cost Wisconsin over \$2 billion

Wisconsin's bridges are considered safer than the national average, but the state still has more than 2,100 bridges that fall short of federal standards for carrying loads and providing wide lanes for cars, according to a *Wisconsin State Journal* review of state and federal records.

<http://www.madison.com/wsj/topstories/index.php?ntid=204016>

Wisconsin's first human case of West Nile Virus reported

State and local health officials are advising residents to protect themselves against mosquito bites as they announced the first confirmed human case of West Nile virus in 2007 in Wisconsin. The adult woman from Dane County was hospitalized with symptoms typical of WNV, including fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, nausea, vomiting, rash, and fatigue.

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug8/0808dhfswestnile.pdf>

UW, clinic create program to train rural doctors

The University of Wisconsin medical school and Marshfield Clinic will start a new program this fall to increase the number of graduating physicians trained in rural hospitals and clinics. Leaders of the medical school and clinic said that the new Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine will prepare up to 25 medical school students a year in the next few years for practice in small-town settings. The first class of five students is entering this fall.

<http://www.marshfieldnewsherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070814/MNH0101/708140353/1980><http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070814/WDH0101/708140640/1981>

Study asserts economic benefits of Wisconsin's Community Health Centers

A report released by the National Association of Community Health Centers reports that health centers provide high quality care while controlling costs and pumping money and jobs into Wisconsin's economy. *Access Granted: The Primary Care Payoff* reports that Wisconsin's CHCs boosted the state's economy in 2006 by \$240 million and supported almost 2,400 full-time jobs.

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug6/0806primaryhealthcenters.pdf>

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug7/0807primaryhealthcenters.pdf>

Grants made to community clinics to provide dental, primary care

Governor Doyle awarded Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc. a \$400,487 grant to help equip the new 14 chair dental facility in Park Falls.

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug15/0815govdental.pdf>

http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?locid=19&prid=2851

New CHC Receives \$600,000 Federal Grant in Bayfield County

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/News/PressReleases/2007/082707bayfield.htm>

RESEARCH AND PROGRAM TOOLS

WI Bureau of Health Information and Policy – Product Catalog

An updated Products and Services Catalog from the Bureau of Health Information and Policy is now available on the Department of Health and Family Services Web site. The catalog is a Portable Document Format (PDF) file: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/stats/index.htm>.

What is crowd-out, how big is it and does it matter for SCHIP?

Briefing Transcript from the Alliance for Health Reform: How much private coverage is displaced (crowded-out) when public programs like SCHIP and Medicaid are expanded? This briefing, supported by the United Health Foundation, explored the issue, including the types of crowd-out, anticipated crowd-out effects of recently passed House and Senate legislation, and how to minimize these effects.

Transcript: <http://www.allhealth.org/briefingmaterials/CrowdOutandSCHIP-879.pdf>

Webcast: http://www.kaisernet.org/health_cast/hcast_index.cfm?display=detail&hc=2299

Materials: http://www.allhealth.org/briefing_detail.asp?bi=112

Issue Brief Identifies Practical Strategies to Reduce Health Care Disparities

A new issue brief from the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) outlines practical strategies that states and managed care organizations are implementing to reduce health care disparities and improve quality. The brief highlights the need for standardized collection of race, ethnicity and language data, culturally competent approaches, as well as the involvement and commitment of multiple stakeholders to advance the quality and value of health care services.

<http://www.rwjf.org/programareas/resources/product.jsp?id=20413&pid=1142&c=EMC-CA142>

Women and HIV/AIDS in the U.S. – Tutorial

Alicia Carbaugh, M.H.S., senior policy analyst, Kaiser Family Foundation HIV Policy Program, discusses the growing impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on women in the U.S. Carbaugh presents key trends and discusses which groups of women are at higher risk for HIV, regional differences in the epidemic, perinatal transmission, and access to treatment and testing.

<http://www.kaiseredu.org/tutorials/womenhiv/player.html>

Health Policy Video Library updated

KaiserEDU.org's video library is a unique collection of links to documentaries, news segments, and other videos on a wide range of health policy issues. Find links to the following HIV/AIDS videos and others on kaiserEDU.org: ADAP in the Age of Living with HIV/AIDS, Kaiser

Family Foundation; The Age of AIDS, Frontline; Absolutely Positive, PBS; Changing Faces, Discovery Channel; Life Support, HBO Films.

http://www.kaiseredu.org/picks/documentary_search.aspx

Policy Brief Examines Medicaid's Rehabilitation Services Option

In 2007, President Bush reintroduced a plan to place new restrictions on the types of services allowable under the Medicaid rehabilitation services option. Currently, 47 states plus the District of Columbia provide at least some type of services under the option. This new brief from the Foundation's KCMU provides an overview and explores current policy issues.

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7682.cfm>

Statehealthfacts.org Updates Data on Medicare Advantage, Employer-Based Health Premiums, Diabetes, SSDI, SSI, and More

Statehealthfacts.org has updated information on Medicare Advantage (MA) plans for 2007 based on analysis of the latest Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data. Other updates include: the latest data from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)'s Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) on employer-based health insurance premiums, 2004 diabetes mortality rates by gender and race/ethnicity from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the number of beneficiaries receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) for 2005 and the number of Social Security Income (SSI) recipients by eligibility category and age for 2006 from the Social Security Administration (SSA).

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/whatsnew.jsp>

Kaiser Tutorial: Race, Ethnicity, and Health Care

An overview of health care disparities, with a focus on health status, insurance coverage, and access to health services. The tutorial also summarizes major national proposals to eliminate disparities.

<http://www.kaiseredu.org/tutorials/REHealthcare/player.html>

Kaiser Issue Module: HPV Vaccine

This issue module has been updated to provide access to the latest research and information on the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The module summarizes research and data on HPV and cervical cancer and addresses issues related to vaccine provision, such as financing, state-level mandates, and public education.

http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics_im.asp?id=609&imID=1&parentID=72

New Edition of Child Health USA Released

Child Health USA 2006 reports on the health status and service needs for the target population of Title V funding: infants, children, adolescents, children with special health care needs, and women of childbearing age. The book, published by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, comprises secondary data for more than 50 health status and health care indicators, provides both graphical and textual summaries of relevant data, and addresses long-term trends where applicable and feasible.

http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa_06/pages/pdf/c06.pdf

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services, September 12-14
Best Western Inn on the Park, Madison, WI.

Persons interested in attending any portion of the meeting should contact Michele Pray-Gibson at 301-443-0835.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-14927.htm>

Wisconsin Hospital Association Annual Convention, September 19-21
Madison Marriott West

<http://www.wha.org/education/pdf/2007annualconvention.pdf>

Health Care Purchasing & Utilization Decisions: Challenges Facing Consumers and Employers

Wednesday October 3rd, 1-3pm at 411 South Capital

RSVP by Sept 14th at segustafson@wisc.edu or 608-262-6318

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Aug07/aug15/0815healthpolicyfly.pdf>

<http://www.pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/publications/forums/events.htm>

2007 Wisconsin Quality and Safety Forum

October 22-23, Country Springs Hotel, Waukesha

<http://www.wha.org/qualityAndPatientSafety/pdf/2007QSFbrochure.pdf>

Satellite Broadcast and Webcast: Current Challenges and Successes in HIV Prevention with Hispanics/Latinos – November 15, 2007

CDC and the Public Health Training Network will present the 2-hour satellite broadcast and live webcast at 1:00 p.m. EST.

<http://www.cdcnpin-broadcast.org>.

UWPHI Biennial Conference Improving Wisconsin's Health: Prevention Policy Priorities for Research – November 29-30, 2007

Country Springs Conference Center, 2810 Golf Road, Pewaukee, WI.

Topics Include Public Health Data for State and Local Decision Making, Health Promotion & Disease Prevention, Improving Population Health through Better Access to Healthcare

<http://pophealth.wisc.edu/uwphi/education/conferences.htm>

READING ROOM

Boosting Five Preventive Services Estimated to Save 100,000 Lives

More than 100,000 lives could be saved in the US each year, if use of just five preventive services were increased, according to study findings released Tuesday by the Partnership for Prevention. *Preventive Care: A National Profile on Use, Disparities, and Health Benefits* ranks 25 evidence-based clinical preventive services recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices on the basis of each service's

health benefits and economic value. The current report brings attention to high-impact, cost-effective preventive services that have the lowest utilization rates and that have the greatest potential to save lives if utilization rates were to improve.

<http://www.prevent.org/content/view/129/72>

Study: Less than Half of Americans Are Happy with Their Health Care

Less than half of Americans are fully satisfied with their medical care, according to a report released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/healthpolicyweek/healthpolicyweek_show.htm?doc_id=514368&#doc514372

WSJ Examines Coverage Options for Young Adults

The *Wall Street Journal* on Tuesday examined health insurance options available for young adults. According to the National Coalition on Health Care, in 2005, adults ages 18 to 24 were the least likely of any age group to have health insurance, and a study released in 2006 by the Commonwealth Fund found that almost two in five college graduates lack coverage at some time during the first year after they leave school. Some college graduates are unaware that they lose health insurance under the policies of their parents after they leave school, and others have concerns about the cost of coverage, according to experts.

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=46720

The Color of Health Care: Diagnosing Bias in Doctors

A new study by researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital and other institutions affiliated with Harvard University provides empirical evidence for the first time that when it comes to heart disease, bias is the central problem -- bias so deeply internalized that people are sincerely unaware that they hold it. Physicians who were more racially biased were less likely to prescribe aggressive heart-attack treatment for black patients than for whites. The study was recently published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/12/AR2007081201048.html>

U.S. Life Expectancy Below That of 41 Other Nations

Life expectancy in the U.S. has reached its highest point ever, but it is exceeded by the rates in 41 other countries, the *AP/Arizona Daily Star* reports. The U.S. has been slipping for decades in international rankings of life expectancies as other countries are improving health care, nutrition and lifestyles, according to the *AP/Daily Star*. Countries that rank above the U.S. include Japan, most of Europe, Jordan and the Cayman Islands. A U.S. resident born in 2004 has a life expectancy of 77.9 years, placing the U.S. in 42nd place, down from 11th place two decades ago.

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/health2008dr.cfm?DR_ID=46838

Studies Indicate Minorities Use Fewer Preventive Care Services Than Whites

Hispanics, among other ethnic and minority groups, are not utilizing preventive care to help prevent and detect conditions for early treatment, and socioeconomic reasons might not be the underlying factor for the disparity, according to two recent studies, the *Houston Chronicle* reports. A [study](#) released earlier this month found that 100,000 lives could be saved annually in the U.S. if residents increased their use of preventive services. The study found that Hispanics,

Asian-Americans and blacks used preventive services at the lowest rates.

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=46900

Medicare to cease payment for hospital errors

In a significant policy change, Bush administration officials say that Medicare will no longer pay the extra costs of treating preventable errors, injuries and infections that occur in hospitals, a move they say could save lives and millions of dollars.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/19/washington/19hospital.html?ref=health>

Report: States Take Initiative to Provide Health Care

With health care costs on the rise and almost 45 million Americans lacking insurance, many states have proposed initiatives to increase health care coverage for their residents and lower premiums, according to a report from the National Governors Association.

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/healthpolicyweek/healthpolicyweek_show.htm?doc_id=516546&#doc516547

Many Eligible for Child Health Plan Have No Idea

Despite a decade of marketing efforts by governments and private foundations, nearly 30 percent of children who are eligible for the health insurance program and are not covered by private plans have yet to enroll, according to a new government study.

<http://tinyurl.com/2up4eb>

U.S. Childbirth Deaths on Rise

U.S. women are dying from childbirth at the highest rate in decades, new government figures show. Though the risk of death is very small, experts believe increasing maternal obesity and a jump in Caesarean sections are partly to blame.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/24/AR2007082401321.html>