

HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2015

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2012/2013 Pulse of Pennsylvania's Registered Nurse Workforce Report

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has released the [2012/2013 Pulse of Pennsylvania's Registered Nurse Workforce report](#). This report, created by the Bureau of Health Planning, Division of Plan Development, provides objective information about the demographic, educational, employment, and other characteristics of Pennsylvania's registered nurse (RN) workforce. Data for the report was obtained through surveys conducted at the time of RN licensure renewal during 2012 and 2013. To view this report and other workforce reports, go to the [Department of Health website](#), or contact the workforce reports program administrator at ra-workforce@pa.gov.

Pennsylvania Nutrition And Physical Activity Self-Assessment For Child Care

The Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity, in partnership with the Department of Education and Tuscarora Intermediate Unit, invited licensed Early Childhood Education centers (ECEs) across the state to participate in the [Pennsylvania Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care](#) (PA NAP SACC). This initiative provides a Web-based tool for centers to assess and improve upon their nutrition environment and determine ways to increase the amount of daily physical activity for children. Enrolled centers are offered a \$500 mini-grant incentive to assist them in improving food service guidelines, nutrition standards, and physical education and activity. As of fall 2014, the PA NAP SACC mini-grant project, has enrolled 117 ECEs, impacting 7,500 children attending the centers.



Department of Health Launches Facebook and Twitter Social Media Accounts

DOH is now on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). The department will provide information on healthy living, news stories, emergency preparedness tips, upcoming events and clinics, videos, and photos from DOH. To receive these updates, please remember to like or follow us.

OTHER NEWS

Hospital Compare Just Got Easier

Medicare.gov made it easier to use the information on [Hospital Compare](#) by adding star ratings. Compare websites are a valuable source of information about the quality of health care providers and facilities. The Hospital Compare star ratings relate to patients' experience of care at more than 3,500 Medicare-certified acute care hospitals. The ratings are based on data from the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Survey measures that are included on Hospital Compare. HCAHPS has been in use since 2006 to measure patients' perspectives of hospital care, and it includes topics such as: how well nurses and doctors communicated with patients, how responsive hospital staff were to patient needs, how clean and quiet hospital environments were, and how well patients were prepared when they were discharged from the hospital. Medicare.gov plans to have an overall hospital star rating in 2016 to include the full range of quality measures reported on [Hospital Compare](#).



July is Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

Nearly 300,000 children in America have been diagnosed with juvenile arthritis. Juvenile arthritis normally appears in children as young as 6 months and as old as 18 years. Young adults still suffer the pain of the juvenile forms of arthritis. Joint pain, reddened joints, and swelling that simply refuses to dissipate are the key

symptoms. Rheumatologists are finding that the number of joints affected has a parallel connection to the severity of the disease and the likelihood of achieving total remission. These children suffer from an autoimmune form of arthritis. Their body's immune system is attacking their joints, causing swelling, stiffness, and permanent damage. This condition is extremely serious; if left untreated it can result in death. [Arthritis National Research Foundation](#) encourages you to join the team to support more research towards finding a cure.

EVENTS AND TRAININGS

National Association of County and City Health Officials 2015 Conference

July 7 – July 9, 2015, the [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\) Annual Conference](#) will be held in Kansas City, Mo. The conference offers valuable access to local public health leaders across the country. This year's theme is Envisioning the Future: Creating Our Path. There will be learning and networking opportunities for local health officials and their public health partners to share perspectives and engage in dialogue on public health practice issues. For questions about registration, contact the registration department at 703-964-1240 ext.31 or NACCHOREG@conferencemanagers.com.



Medical and Dental Integration Summit

July 30 – July 31, 2015, the [Fourth Annual Medical and Dental Health Integration Summit](#) will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pa. Hosted by the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC), this year's summit features dynamic national presenters, high quality training, the latest integration innovations, promising practices, networking, and roundtable discussions. For information or questions, contact [Cheryl Bumgardner](#), PACHC's Manager of Clinical and Quality Improvement or [Ed Franchi](#), PACHC's Special Projects Consultant.

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity: Data, Trends, and Maps

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity's [Data, Trends, and Maps online tool](#) allows you to search for and view indicators related to nutrition, physical activity, and obesity. A search can be done on the basis of a specific location or an indicator. These indicators include: weight status, fruit and vegetable consumption, physical activity, sugar drink consumption, television viewing, and breastfeeding.



Baby's First Test

[Baby's First Test \(BFT\)](#) website houses the newborn screening clearinghouse, resources, and newborn screening information at the local, [state](#), or national level. This website provides educational and family resources about newborn screening for expectant and new parents, health professionals, industry representatives, and the public. BFT connects state and regional public health groups, facilitates data and resource sharing, and responds to emerging technologies and corresponding public health challenges. Newborn screening clearinghouse is run by a cooperative agreement from the Genetic Services Branch of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. BFT resources are available in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#). Information on newborn screening in Pennsylvania is also available at the [DOH website](#).

DATA AND STATISTICS



Be the First to Know with Health e-Stats

[Health e-Stats](#) is an email bulletin produced six to eight times per year by the DOH, Bureau of Informatics and Information Technology, Division of Health Informatics. The bulletins provide the newest county health profiles, Healthy People 2020, birth, death, behavioral health risk, cancer, population, EpiQMS, and other health data and reports. The bulletin also announces new issues of the quarterly

newsletter, [Statistical News](#). The newsletter's articles cover the latest available publications and statistics, data updates on the Healthy People objectives, and special statistical reports on health-related topics. If you are interested in Pennsylvania's health data, [subscribe](#) to Health e-Stats and have your email address added to the e-stats list serve. The [Health Statistics website](#) provides access to a wide variety of health statistics for Pennsylvania.

Guaranteed Access To Free Preventive Services

According to a [news release](#) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on May 14, 2015, about 137 million men, women, and children, nationwide, have private insurance that guarantees access to free preventive care. Under the Affordable Care Act, most health plans are required to provide coverage for recommended preventive health care services without copays. Increased access to preventive services can reduce and prevent costly chronic diseases and help Americans live healthier lives. Using the data analyzed from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), estimates were calculated by sex, race, and age. The estimated number of privately insured Pennsylvanians who have preventive services coverage with zero cost sharing is 6,127,383, including 1,170,391 children, 14 years old and younger.

Hispanics' Health in the United States

The first national study on Hispanic health risks and leading causes of death in the United States by the CDC was released on May 8, 2015, in the [Morbidity and Mortality Report](#). This report showed that, similar to non-Hispanic whites, the two leading causes of death in Hispanics are heart disease and cancer, accounting for about two of five deaths. Fewer Hispanics than non-Hispanic whites die from the 10 leading causes of death, but Hispanics had higher death rates than non-Hispanic whites from diabetes, chronic liver disease, and cirrhosis. Hispanics are about 50 percent more likely to die from diabetes and liver disease than non-Hispanic whites. Hispanics in the United States are, on average, nearly 15 years younger than non-Hispanic whites, so early intervention might have a broader impact on Hispanics in preventing chronic diseases that can manifest decades later.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

American Dental Association Foundation Semi-annual Grant Program: Access to Care

Application deadline: July 31, 2015

Through the Semi-annual Grants Program, the [American Dental Association Foundation \(ADAF\)](#) periodically invites 501(c)(3) organizations whose charitable activities within or without the United States further the ADAF's purpose of access to care, as further described in the [Applications and Guidelines](#). Grants will be awarded up to \$10,000 for projects that improve access to oral health care. Examples include screening programs, treatment programs, and dental clinics within a community health care facility. **Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.**

Disaster Health Information Outreach and Collaboration Project 2015

Application deadline: July 6, 2015

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) announced a funding opportunity for small projects to improve access to disaster medicine and public health information for health care professionals, first responders, and others that play a role in health-related disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. NLM is soliciting proposals from partnerships in the U.S. that include at least one library and at least one organization that has disaster-related responsibilities. These disaster-related organizations can be: health departments, public safety departments, emergency management departments, emergency medical services, fire/rescue, hospitals, voluntary organizations active in disaster, and others. NLM encourages submission of innovative proposals that enhance mutually beneficial collaboration among libraries and disaster-related agencies. Contract awards will be offered for a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$30,000 each for a one-year project. The solicitation notice can be found on FedBizOpps.gov: [RFQ No. NIHLM2015383](#). **Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.**

Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program

Application cycle for Pennsylvania: September 14, 2015 – September 18, 2015

[The Wal-Mart State Giving Program](#) provides grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000 to 501(c)(3) organizations. The program has two priority initiatives, Focused Giving and Community Engagement Giving. The Focused Giving provides grants in the areas of hunger relief, healthy eating, and career opportunity. The Community Engagement Giving provides grants to programs working to meet the unmet needs of low-income, underserved populations. Examples of programs that fall within this category include: education, health care access, and human service programs. **Please contact the funder directly for the most complete and current information, including eligibility criteria.**

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Bridges Out of Poverty

The Health Improvement Partnership Program partnership in Monroe County, [Pocono Alliance](#), provides the program Bridges Out of Poverty. This program connects families in poverty with resources and relationships to develop self-sufficiency and stabilization while strengthening the social and economic fabric of Monroe County. Approximately 60 families with over 120 children have participated in the Bridges Out of Poverty program. One of the projects in this program is providing organic produce to residents that are under-resourced. For these families, eating healthy is not affordable. It is cheaper to buy processed food rather than fresh organic ingredients. This low-budget diet often leads to obesity and further health problems in the family. For the past three years, Josie Porter Farm has donated their unsold produce to the Bridges Out of Poverty program. By supplying residents who are under-resourced with fresh produce, Pocono Alliance is able to contribute to the health improvement in their community.

COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please send any comments or suggestions for this and future newsletters to ra-dhhipp@pa.gov. Your input is valued and appreciated.

Disclaimer:

The information provided in this newsletter is intended to be of general information to Pennsylvania's HIPP partnerships. It is not intended as an endorsement or recommendation of any specific process, service, product, company, or funding source outside of the Department of Health auspices. Further examination and research of information is recommended.

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