



# PEDIATRICS INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

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March 5, 2002

Issue 2

Welcome to the Pediatrics Interest Group free e-mail update geared specifically to those working with homeless children and adolescents. Each issue will feature announcements, resources, news and events, and is brought to you by the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network.

We invite you to share your opinion on issues of concern to the pediatrics community. We welcome your feedback. If you have comments or suggestions for improvements to the newsletter, please send them to the Pediatrics Interest Group newsletter editor, Brenda Proffitt, at [bproffitt@nhhc.org](mailto:bproffitt@nhhc.org).

We're happy to have you as a member of our online community of clinicians working in health care for the homeless. We think that you'll look forward to each issue. If, however, you do not want to receive the Pediatrics Interest Group update, please send a blank e-mail to [network@nhhc.org](mailto:network@nhhc.org), and put Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the Subject line of your message.

Warmest regards,  
Brenda Proffitt

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**Dear Colleague,**

I am a pediatric resident working on a project for the HCH Clinicians' Network. In collaboration with the Network's Pediatric Work Group, I am developing a presentation on health care for homeless children and youth. The purpose of the presentation will be to educate and inform health care providers including pediatric and family practice residents, primary care providers, community health nurses, medical students and others, about the extent of the problem; how to recognize homeless and at-risk families; health issues and how to adapt the care plan; and how to find local resources.

You are the experts, and I would appreciate any guidance, materials, and insights you might be able to share. I have completed a medical literature review, and a Web search for related materials. I'm certain that there are other presentations out there that may be similar to the one I am developing, and I would like to learn from those and/or be able to incorporate this information into my presentation.

Our goal is to have a PowerPoint presentation that you and others can use locally to increase understanding of the issues and challenges surrounding homeless children and youth. I welcome any advice or resources you may have, and look forward to hearing from you.

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**LOOKING TOWARD A BETTER FUTURE ...**

On January 8, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act. This legislation reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act's Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program, along with other federal elementary and secondary education programs.

The McKinney-Vento Act is the federal law that entitles children who are homeless to a free, appropriate public education, and requires schools to remove barriers to their enrollment, attendance and success in school. The full text of the legislation may be found at [www.nationalhomeless.org/ehcylaw.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/ehcylaw.html).

The new law recognizes that students in many different living situations are homeless, and includes a definition of homelessness. Many policies and practices

that have proven successful at local and state levels are incorporated in the legislation. In addition, the amendments to the McKinney-Vento Act's EHCY program are an essential part of the overall mission of the No Child Left Behind Act, which is to ensure that every child in the U.S. is successful in school, and to close the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their wealthier peers.

Now the real work begins: Raising awareness among schools, service providers, families, youth and advocates of the changes in the law. It also includes helping schools and communities learn both effective strategies for complying with the new legislation, and the benefits to student, school and community of doing so.

Toward this end, five national organizations are collaborating to produce a series of issue briefs that explain the new legislative provisions in detail, and offer strategies for implementing them. These materials may be printed directly from the Web page or downloaded as camera-ready PDF documents for printing and distribution. Each issue brief will include space for local contact information to be included. The issue briefs will be online at [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org) or at [www.nlchp.org](http://www.nlchp.org).

SOURCE: SAFETY NETWORK, THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS, WINTER 2002

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## **CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN**

Dear Colleagues, This [information] came to me through a list-serve that I'm on, and I thought it would be a good thing to share with the Pediatrics Interest Group. Many of us provide care at child care centers, and some shelters have child care on site, and our providers could share this with them. Finally, for providers with little health or pediatric experience, this could be a useful resource.

Susan Kline, ARNP, Coordinator of Children and Family Services, Health Care for the Homeless Network, Public Health - Seattle & King County; e-mail: [susan.kline@metrokc.gov](mailto:susan.kline@metrokc.gov)

Today, the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care (NRCHSCC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Public Health Association (APHA), and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, released *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care*, 2nd edition. *Caring for Our Children*, 1st edition, published in 1992, is recognized as the

leading authoritative tool for health and safety guidelines for child care in centers and in family homes.

Caring for Our Children is a nine-chapter volume covering topics such as health promotion and protection, nutrition and food services, safe play environment, and program activities for healthy development. The standards are guidelines for child care providers, parents of children in child care, health professionals serving child care, and state officials responsible for watching over health and safety in child care. NRCHSCC supervised the update of the new edition, which was co-developed and revised by experts from AAP and APHA to include standards based on new knowledge such as infant sleep position, infectious diseases, chronic illness, and nutrition requirements. Rationale accompanies each standard and explains why the guideline is important to protect a child from harm. Suggested forms, policies and recommended procedures appear in the appendices.

Caring for Our Children is available in a variety of formats. Softbound print copies are available from the American Academy of Pediatrics (phone: 1 888 227-1770) or the American Public Health Association (phone: 1 301 893-1894) for \$34.95 plus shipping and handling. For ordering information see <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/seconded.htm>. Searchable and downloadable versions are available on the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care's Web site at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/CFOC/index.html>.

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## **CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION RESOURCES**

A Public Health Training Network Satellite Broadcast Program Web site:

<http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn/child-env>  
Thursday, March 21, 2002 1:00 - 3:00 PM ET

Environmental health and safety risks disproportionately affect children. From pesticides in schools and playgrounds to nitrates in the water, children are at increased risk for a variety of adverse health effects such as developmental delays and asthma. The 1997 Presidential Executive Order on the Protection of Children to Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks states that each Federal agency shall make it a high priority to identify and assess these risks. Access to information is vital for understanding environmental hazards and ensuring the safety of children.

There are numerous resources on the World Wide Web that address the environmental health risks of children, however, it often is difficult to locate and identify high quality, accurate and authoritative sources. This live interactive program will demonstrate selected online resources in the context of important

children's environmental health issues. Topics include pesticide exposure, environmental triggers of asthma, and lead poisoning prevention funding resources.

The Partnership for Information Access for Public Health Professionals is a joint venture among several public health agencies and associations. This program is just one of many ways the Partnership actively assists public health departments in accessing information <http://nmlm.gov/partners>.

**Goal** To increase the knowledge of public health professionals to locate and evaluate electronic information resources on children's environmental health.

**Objectives** Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Identify at least three environmental health issues affecting children.
- Describe why environmental health risks have a greater effect on children than adults.
- Choose electronic information resources on the issues
- Perform basic searches in several National Library of Medicine databases including the Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB), TOXLINE, and MEDLINE/PubMed
- Identify major children's environmental health resources available from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), other government agencies, educational institutions, associations and organizations

**Target Audience** Physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, epidemiologists, public health educators, counselors, administrators, librarians, or anyone else providing environmental health-related services.

Continuing Education Credit Continuing education credit will be offered for a variety of professions, based on 2 hours of instruction.

Course Materials Visit <http://nmlm.gov/partners/children> to print materials to refer to during the broadcast.

### **Presenters**

- Stacey J. Arnesen, M.S., Advisor for Special Projects, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD
- Greg P. Bodin, M.L.I.S., Technology Coordinator, South Central Region, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Houston Academy of Medicine, Texas Medical Center Library, Houston, TX
- Rose S. Foster, B.S., Group Manager, Oak Ridge Institute for Science

## **Satellite Technical Specifications**

This broadcast will be available on C and Ku-bands. See below for coordinates for this broadcast. Call 888-232-3299 (or 877-232-1010 for the hearing/speech impaired) and enter document number 130030 when prompted.

## **Registration and Viewing Instructions**

Visit <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtnonline/> to register online for this course. Site registration will begin December 10, 2001. Individual registration will begin January 2, 2002. Individuals who have questions about registration should call 1-800-41-TRAIN.

Partners in Information Access for Public Health Professionals  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Library of Medicine  
National Network of Libraries of Medicine  
Public Health Foundation

Visit the PHTN Web site at <http://www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn> for information on other distance learning events.

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## **STATE SCHIP ANNUAL ENROLLMENT REPORT**

The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services recently released the annual enrollment report for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The report finds that 4.6 million children were enrolled in SCHIP in 2001. This represents an increase of 1.3 million children, or 38 percent, over total enrollment in 2000. Other highlights of the report include:

- Over 230,000 adults were enrolled in SCHIP under approved Section 1115 demonstration projects;
- Primary drivers of this increase are attributed to state coverage expansions, program maturity and streamlined enrollment procedures; and
- More than 75 percent of the children ever enrolled in SCHIP in FY 2001 were between ages 6 and 18. Medicaid generally covers younger children at higher income levels.

The report points out that states continue to be committed to SCHIP while facing new challenges. The SCHIP enrollment report is available online at

[www.hcfa.gov/init/children.htm](http://www.hcfa.gov/init/children.htm).

The press release is available at

[www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/20020206.html](http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/20020206.html).

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PRIMARY CARE NETWORK NEWS, VOL. 6, NUMBER 4, FEBRUARY 2002

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### **SCHIP BENEFICIARIES LEAVE BECAUSE OF INELIGIBILITY OR PRIVATE COVERAGE, STUDY FINDS**

A study released by the National Academy for State Health Policy reports that more than two-thirds of families who disenroll from CHIP programs do so because they are no longer eligible or because they have found private insurance. The study found that contrary to states' beliefs, only 31 percent of the disenrolled did so because they were unaware that they had to renew their enrollment, forgot to renew, or could not pay the premiums. The study recommends five ways that CHIP program retention could be improved. To order a copy of the full report visit [www.nashp.org/pubs/chip.htm#CHIP17](http://www.nashp.org/pubs/chip.htm#CHIP17). The press release is available at [www.nashp.org/press/prs0009.htm](http://www.nashp.org/press/prs0009.htm).

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PRIMARY CARE NETWORK NEWS, VOL. 6, NUMBER 4, FEBRUARY 2002

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### **TITLE V INFORMATION SYSTEM RELEASES NEW 2000 - 02 DATA**

State Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant data from the 2000 annual reports and 2002 applications have been posted on the Title V Information System (Title V IS) Web site at [www.mchdata.net](http://www.mchdata.net). Data are from all U.S. states, territories and jurisdictions, and are available via interactive data tables that allow the user to search and sort results. Data tables cover areas such as national performance and outcome measures; state performance measures, budgets and expenditures; numbers served; and state program capabilities. Electronic copies of state narratives are also available.

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PRIMARY CARE NETWORK NEWS, VOL. 6, NUMBER 4, FEBRUARY 2002

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### **NATIONAL POISON CONTROL CENTER NUMBER LAUNCHED**

Poison Help, the new nationwide number for information and advice in the event of a poison exposure was launched in February. For the first time, callers

across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands can quickly reach U.S. poison control centers through one hotline. Callers are automatically connected to the poison center for their area. The hotline operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The national number is 1-800-222-1222. For additional information visit [www.1-800-222-1222.info/](http://www.1-800-222-1222.info/).

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PRIMARY CARE NETWORK NEWS, VOL. 6, NUMBER 4, FEBRUARY 2002

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### **KIDS COUNT AND CHILD TRENDS RELEASE REPORT ON HEALTH OF NATION'S NEWBORNS**

The U.S. has made important strides in improving the lives of newborns, but many areas need improvement, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Child Trends in a new report examining births from 1990 - 99. "The Right Start for America's Newborns: A Decade of City and State Trends," highlights eight measures of healthy births throughout the nation and in the 50 largest U.S. cities. The report uses birth certificate data from the National Center for Health Statistics. The eight measures studied are teen births; repeat teen births; births to unmarried women; births to mothers with low educational attainment; late or no prenatal care; smoking during pregnancy; low-birth weight births; and pre-term births.

Among the reports findings are:

- From 1990 - 98, improvements were noted in five of the eight measures: teen births, repeat teen births, births to mothers with low educational attainment, late or no prenatal care, and smoking during pregnancy. Specifically, births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care declined from 6.1 percent to 3.8 percent, and births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy declined from 18.4 percent to 12.6 percent.
- Two of the indicators did not show improvement. Nearly 8 percent of all births in 1999 were low- birth weight, which represents a slight increase from 7.0 percent in 1990, and the national percent of pre-term babies increased from 11 percent to 12 percent.

The report and state and city profiles are available at

[www.aecf.org/kidscount/rightstart2002/](http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/rightstart2002/).

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, PRIMARY CARE NETWORK NEWS, VOL. 6, NUMBER 4, FEBRUARY 2002