



PEDIATRICS INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

August 26, 2002

Issue 6

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@nhchc.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@nhchc.org, and put Leave Pediatric Interest Group in the Subject line of your message.

Warmest regards,
Brenda Proffitt

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KIDS INTO HEALTH CAREERS INITIATIVE (KIHC)

The pace of student enrollment in many of the health professions is not keeping up with demand, particularly in terms of under-represented minorities and individuals from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. To help change that trend, HRSA developed the KIHC program to reach out to students from kindergarten through grade 12. The goal is to generate youngsters' interest in health professions careers very early on. The Bureau of Health Professions has developed an information kit to use in working with local schools or community-based organizations. The kit contains resource information on the health professions, financial aid; all of the material can be used as visual aids for your presentation and can be customized. For more information, contact the Bureau of Health Professions at 301 443-0734 or go to <http://www.hrsa.gov/bhpr/kidscareers>.

LEAVING NO CHILD BEHIND

The Department of Health and Human Services is updating its strategic plan to reflect new priorities for fiscal years 2003 - 08. You may make comments on the plan's draft goals and objectives, and members of the Pediatrics Interest Group will be especially interested in Goal 7: Improve the stability and healthy development of our Nation's children and youth. An electronic copy of the draft plan can be obtained at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hhsplan/draft> or by calling 202 401-8277.

STUDY EXAMINES RELATION BETWEEN WOMEN'S HEALTH AND THAT OF THEIR CHILDREN

A recent study examined the persistence and co-morbidity of women's physical and mental health conditions after pregnancy and the association of these conditions with child outcomes. The research showed that women's poor physical health and smoking had strong, graded associations with children's physical health and behavior problems, whereas women's depressive symptoms were associated with children's delayed language and behavior problems. Child health professionals are urged to support services and policies that promote women's health outside the context of pregnancy. The study is reported in the August issue of the American Journal of Public Health, vol. 92, no. 8, pp. 1312 - 1322.

ACTIVE PARENTING PUBLISHERS RESOURCE GUIDE 2003

Active Parenting Publishers has just released their new catalog of award-winning, video-based education programs for helping professionals. Topics include successful parenting toddler to teen, substance-abuse prevention, divorce and step-parenting, school success, violence prevention, loss, and character education. Extensive Spanish resources are also featured. To learn more or request a catalog, call 1 800 825-0060 or visit online at <http://www.activeparenting.com>.

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

This book by Dona Schneider and Natalie Freeman provides information about environmental threats and what can be done to prevent them. Chapters include infectious diseases in the environment; injuries and child health; environmental chemicals and pests; childhood asthma; and an appendix of activities to do with children. The book is intended for pediatricians, child health care practitioners and parents. 2000, 149 pages, soft cover, \$19.95. Available from the American Public Health Association; call 301 893-1894 or go to <http://www.apha.org>.

IMPROVING CHILDHOOD ASTHMA OUTCOMES IN THE U.S.: A BLUEPRINT FOR POLICY ACTION

The Rand research institution convened a panel of health experts to identify and outline future directions for policies on childhood asthma. The 11 policy recommendations focus on implementations that would improve the quality of life for the 5 million U.S. children who suffer from asthma. The recommendations were reported in the May issue of Pediatrics; a copy of the report can be accessed online at <http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1330>.

SOURCE: The Nation's Health, August 2002, p. 16