



PEDIATRICS INTEREST GROUP UPDATE

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Issue 8

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AAP/HRSA HEALTHY TOMORROW FUNDING AVAILABLE

Application deadline: November 1, 2002

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau announced the availability of funds for the Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program (HTPCP). The intent of the program is to support the development of family-centered, community-based initiatives which:

- 1) plan and implement innovative and cost-effective approaches to promote community defined preventive child health and developmental objectives for vulnerable children and their families, especially those with limited access to quality health services;
- 2) foster cooperation among community organizations, individuals, agencies, businesses and families;
- 3) involve pediatricians and other pediatric health professionals in community-based service programs; and
- 4) build community and statewide partnerships among professionals in health, education, social services, government, and business to achieve self-sustaining programs to assure healthy children and families.

The HTPCP provides grants of \$50,000 for a five-year period. The application deadline is November 1, 2002. Additional information is available at

<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm#http>.

SOURCE: Primary Care Network News, The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials, vol 6, no. 18, Aug 30, 2002

NEW BRIGHT FUTURES NUTRITION MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Two new publications from the Bright Futures series are now available. The first publication is the second edition of "Bright Futures in Practice: Nutrition," a guide that emphasizes prevention and early recognition of nutrition concerns, provides developmentally appropriate nutrition supervision guidelines for infancy through adolescence, and contains strategies and tools to help health professionals provide nutrition supervision (including screening, assessment and counseling) and promote partnerships with families and communities. This edition includes recent changes in practice and policy, a chapter on HIV and the CDC growth charts. The second publication is the "Bright Futures in Practice: Nutrition Pocket Guide," which presents key information from "Bright Futures in Practice: Nutrition" and serves as a quick reference and training resource for health professionals and students. Electronic versions can be downloaded from the Bright Futures Web site at <http://www.brightfutures.org> or ordered from the Bright Futures Distribution Center at 301 279-8890.

SOURCE: Primary Care Network News, The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials, vol 6, no. 18, Aug 30, 2002

NEAT SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN

Nutrition Education Resources for Children has released its 2002 catalog, which features curriculum resources, children's literature, cookbooks, learning activities, music, posters, bulletin board kits and more. There's a section on body awareness, nutrition and fitness for teens. Spanish and bilingual resources are featured as is Chinese-American and Native American cultures.

One book that may be of special interest to Pediatric Interest Group members is **Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen**, the story of a boy who wonders about the people he sees on the streets until Uncle Willie invites him to spend the day helping him at the soup kitchen. Suitable for ages 5 - 9; \$5.95.

To request a catalog, call toll-free 888 577-NEAT or visit the Web site at <http://www.neatsolutions.com>.

JOURNAL OF CHILDREN & POVERTY

The Journal of Children and Poverty seeks to promote intellectual debate and new ideas that will impact policy and practice in the field of child and family welfare. Recent issues have included articles that probe an array of topics: the forgotten role of child care in welfare reform; effective models of education for at-risk youth; and an extensive survey on the demographics of homeless families in the U.S., which provides quantitative data on this inadequately addressed public policy issue. The Journal is a publication of the Institute for Children and Poverty, the research and training division of Homes for the Homeless. The target audience includes service providers, advocates, educators and community leaders. The individual subscription rate is \$50.00 To request a sample copy, visit <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals>.

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

Channing Bete Company publishes easy-to-read, easy-to-understand materials to help families raise healthy children. The current catalog includes materials on

- maternal health;
- infant care;
- child development;
- discipline;
- immunization;
- lead poisoning;
- child safety;
- child health; and
- child and family nutrition.

Many materials are also available in Spanish. To request a free catalog, call 800 628-7733.

STATE-BY-STATE CHILDREN & MEDICAID FACT SHEETS OFFERED

The National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI), together with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), have produced a series of one-page, state specific fact sheets about the issue of children and Medicaid. Medicaid provides health insurance for one in every five American children, making it the largest children's health program in the country. The fact sheets have been provided to candidates for Congress and Governor and are available at

http://www.childrenshospitals.net/nachri/resources/mfs_index.html

SOURCE: Primary Care Network News, The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials, vol 6, no. 18, Aug 30, 2002

NEW ASTHO ACCESS BRIEF FOCUSES ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials announces the release of a new **Access Brief** entitled "Where's the Public Health in Early Childhood Development?" This brief discusses the importance of early childhood development on children's outcomes, examines opportunities for state public health agencies to strengthen and expand their roles in early childhood development, and includes examples of how state public health agencies are involved in early childhood development. It is attached to this e-mail message, and will be circulated in print and posted to the ASTHO Web site soon.

SOURCE: Primary Care Network News, The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials, vol 6, no. 18, Aug 30, 2002

GAO REPORT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT APPROVED SCHIP WAIVERS

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has "wrongly let states use money allocated for CHIP to help adults without children," according to a General Accounting Office (GAO) report on the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid waivers.

Entitled, "Medicaid and SCHIP: Recent HHS Approvals of Demonstration Waiver Projects Raise Concerns," the report examines recently approved waivers; waiver proposals; whether these approvals meet the goals of CHIP; and if there is public input in the process. According to the GAO, HHS' decision to approve some waivers "is not consistent" with the CHIP program's "statutory objective" to cover uninsured low-income children, and thus "is not authorized." The GAO report also concluded that HHS is approving state changes in CHIP while inadequately allowing for public input and that some of the state programs have not been required to be budget neutral. The report is available at <http://www.gao.gov> ; go to GAO Reports, click on Find GAO Reports, and then enter GAO-02-817 (the report identification number).

SOURCE: Primary Care Network News, The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials, vol. 6, no. 17, Aug 16, 2002

NEARLY FIVE MILLION CHILDREN STILL UNINSURED, REPORTS COVERING KIDS

Nearly five million children in the United States who currently lack health insurance are eligible for low-cost and free health care coverage through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and Medicaid, reports Covering Kids in new state-by-state data compiled by the Urban Institute. Covering Kids is a national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) that works to connect uninsured children to low-cost and free health care coverage programs available in every state and the District of Columbia. The data were released during the launch of the Covering Kids Back-to-School 2002 enrollment drive on August 1, 2002.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, eight out of 10 uninsured children are in working families. Three-quarters of these families do not have access to an employer-provided health plan that covers children. In addition, 25% of Latino children and more than 13% of African-American children are uninsured. Most of these children are eligible for SCHIP and Medicaid. As part of the Back-to-School effort, Covering Kids will launch an intensified outreach effort to reach Latino and African-American parents with information about low-cost and free health care coverage for their children.

Covering Kids coalitions, along with national and local organizations, will hold more than 1,000 outreach events coast to coast to reach families as they prepare their children for a successful school year. Families can learn more about low-cost and free health care coverage for children by calling toll-free 1 877 KIDS-NOW. Additional information is available at <http://www.coveringkids.org>.

SOURCE: Primary Care Network News, The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials, vol. 6, no. 17, Aug 16, 2002

MEDICAID/CHIP: ALMOST 5M CHILDREN ELIGIBLE BUT UNENROLLED

Nearly five million children who are eligible for government-funded health programs, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, are not enrolled, according to new figures released by the Urban Institute, the AP/Baltimore Sun reports. Of the estimated 8.2 million children who lacked health coverage at the beginning of 2002, 4.7 million are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, according to the analysis (AP/Baltimore Sun, 8/1). Almost two million of the 4.7 million eligible children live in three states -- California, Texas and Florida -- which have high populations of immigrants, who often speak little English and are unaware of public health programs, the Detroit Free Press

reports (Pugh, Detroit Free Press, 8/1).

"If you could increase participation in these programs, you would deal with a large chunk of the uninsured problem," Urban Institute Health Economist John Holahan said. Experts say that there are several factors that prevent eligible children from enrolling in the programs, including the "stigma" parents often associate with Medicaid, coverage gaps created by policies that require annual re-enrollment and lack of knowledge about the programs' existence. The Urban Institute conducted the analysis for The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which today is launching its "Covering Kids" campaign for the coming school year (AP/Baltimore Sun, 8/1).

Through the campaign, the foundation, in conjunction with a group of corporate partners and more than 100 national organizations, will fund a series of television, radio and print advertisements publicizing federally funded health coverage programs. The ads will target minority communities (Detroit Free Press, 8/1). Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, incoming president of RWJF, said, "The biggest challenge to enrollment is that too many families believe that they don't qualify.... As a physician, I'm overwhelmed by the data that people without insurance live sicker and die sooner. It's critical to have insurance" (Tran, Boston Globe, 8/1).

SOURCE: Ginna Betts <vbetts@utm.edu>, Aug 1, 2002

NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY RATE DECLINES, BUT DISPARITY INCREASES

Although the overall national infant mortality rate has declined in the past 20 years, black infants are now more than twice as likely to die before their first birthdays as white infants, according to a new CDC study published in the July 12, 2002, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The report, "Infant Mortality and Low Birth Weight Among Black and White Infants: United States, 1980 - 2000" finds that the national infant mortality rate has declined by nearly 50% since 1980, dropping from 12.6 deaths per 1,000 live births to 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000. However, the racial disparity in infant mortality rates is now wider than it was 20 years ago. Specifically, the mortality rate for white infants declined by 48% since 1980, it has fallen only 37% among black infants during the same time period. The current infant mortality rate among black infants is 14 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to 5.7 deaths per 1,000 live births among white infants. The report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5127a1.htm>.

SOURCE: Primary Care Network News, The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials, vol. 6, no. 15, July 19, 2002

NUMBER OF UNINSURED CHILDREN DROPPED BETWEEN 1997 & 2001, REPORTS CDC

The percentage of uninsured U.S. children decreased by more than 20% between 1997 and 2001, according to data from the Center for Disease Control's National Health Interview Survey 2001. The report, "Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data from the 2001 National Health Interview Survey" reports that the number of children without health insurance dropped from 13.9% in 1997 to 10.8% in 2001, a decrease that the study credited to the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which was established in 1997. In addition, the study found that the percentage of American adults without health insurance decreased from 15.4% in 1997 to 14.1% in 2001. According to the report, 31.6% of Hispanics did not have health insurance in 2001, compared with 17.3% of blacks and

10.3% of whites.

The National Health Interview Survey is an annual survey conducted by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics to assess key trends in health care, including access to health insurance. Other indicators include influenza vaccination, pneumococcal vaccination, obesity, leisure time physical activity, health status, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, HIV testing, personal care needs, having a usual place for health care and failing to obtain needed medical care. The study is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhis/released200207.htm>.

SOURCE: Primary Care Network News, The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials, vol. 6, no. 15, July 19, 2002

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