

# Minority Health Update

Fall 2000

For the members of the Resource Persons Network

## Connect With Your Colleagues: Join the RPN Listserv

**Y**vonne Fry, M.D., recently contacted the Office of Minority Health Resource Center (OMHRC) to access the Resource Persons Network (RPN). As a coordinator for a violence prevention program sponsored by the American Psychological Association, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Mental Health Services, and several Universities, Dr. Fry needed liaisons who could connect her to community-based organizations throughout the country.

"She was working to set up focus groups with minority youth to discuss violence prevention," said Lisa Williams, RPN Coordinator. Members of our network were able to put her in touch with people at the community level who could help her set up the groups. "We are excited that our members were able to make this connection for her," Ms. Williams added.

This is something OMHRC put on the listserv because she needed several people and she needed them quickly. "Usually members will receive phone calls from individuals who have contacted OMHRC. But the resource center often receives requests for assistance via e-mails. Many of these requests are searching for last minute help," Williams said.

The listserv is a way OMHRC can quickly get the word out to members about upcoming opportunities. "Members who join have immediate access to time-sensitive technical assistance (TA) opportunities," said Williams. Members can also post their own messages to inform colleagues of recently published works, ongoing research, or new projects.

"I have gotten many phone calls and e-mails from members in the last month who are really excited about being a part of the network," said Williams. "I want our members to feel as though they are staying connected to the OMHRC."

### How to sign up for the listserv

1. To join the listserv, go to <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/RPN> and click on the *New Member?* button.
2. To send announcements to other members of the network, send an e-mail to [RPN@egroups.com](mailto:RPN@egroups.com).

## Thanks to Members Who Provided Technical Assistance

OMHRC would like to thank the following RPN members who provided TA for Dr. Yvonne Fry's violence prevention project.

**Daniel Bibeau, Ph.D.** - Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

**George Board, DrPh.** - Vice President of Government Relations, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center System

**Martha Hackett, CNM** - Director, OB/GYN Department, South Cove Community Health Center, Boston

**Daniel Lam** - Director of Behavioral Health at South Cove Community Center, Boston

**Edward H. Peeples, Ph.D.** - Director, Research and Information Services, Richmond, VA.

**Beverly Hector Smith** - Director of Student Health, Massachusetts College of Art

**Henrie M. Treadwell, Ph.D.** - Program Director, Health Programming, WK Kellogg Foundation—Michigan

**Billy Weiss, MPH** - Director, Injury and Violence Prevention Program, Los Angeles County, Department of Health Services



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Office of Minority Health Resource Center

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## New York Study Predicts Growing Nurse Shortage

New York joins California as the second state to confirm a growing shortage of registered nurses (RN), according to a recently published Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)-supported study.

Researchers found a 25 percent decline in RN graduates – about 1,900 per year—from New York nursing schools between 1995 and 2000. The researchers reported that health care providers in the state are beginning to experience difficulty in meeting their service delivery needs because of the decreasing nurse supply, and that demand is likely to remain steady or increase.

The study, *Meeting Future Nursing Needs of New Yorkers: A Study of Registered Nursing in New York State*, was conducted by researchers at the Center for Health Workforce Information and Analysis in HRSA's Bureau of Health Professions.

Other findings from the study include:

- Of the recently licensed RNs in New York: 12.7 percent were African Americans and 4.9 percent were Hispanic/Latino. These percentages fell short of their representation in the general population of 17.7 percent and 14.4 percent respectively.
- While the total supply of RNs may have been adequate in 1998 and 1999, there were unfilled vacancies for nurses with specific skills or experience. For example, hospitals in New York City reported significant difficulty in recruiting peri-operative, critical care and emergency room nurses.
- Because the number of new RNs is decreasing while the demand appears to be constant or increasing, the RN shortage is likely to grow over the next few years.
- Of the recently licensed RNs from New York State programs, the average age was 32 years. The average age is 34 for recently licensed RNs from associate degree programs and 29 for RNs from baccalaureate nursing programs. The age of entry into nursing has increased over the past decade, which in the long run may reduce the supply of active RNs.

Copies of the study are available from HRSA's Bureau of Health Professions' National Center for Health Workforce Information and Analysis, (301) 443-6920 ; or from the State University of New York-Albany Center for Health Workforce Studies, (518) 402-0250 or <http://chws.albany.edu>



**O M H R C**  
**Resource Persons Network**  
*Connecting with Communities*

## HRSA Awards \$7.7 Million for HIV/AIDS Oral Health Care

Health Resources and Services Administration Administrator, Claude Earl Fox, M.D., M.P.H., recently announced \$7.7 million in grants to dental schools, hospitals and institutions that provide oral health services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

“Oral health care is an essential part of total care for people living with HIV and AIDS – particularly for those with limited access to health care,” said Fox. “These awards help bridge the gap in health care access by providing comprehensive oral health services so important to people living with HIV disease.”

The grants go to 85 applicants in 28 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico under the HIV/AIDS Dental Reimbursement Program, which pays dental schools and post-doctoral dental education programs for unreimbursed costs they incur in treating patients with HIV/AIDS. In 1999, HRSA's Dental Reimbursement Program served almost 44,000 individuals.

The program is funded under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act, which provides clinical care and support services to poor and uninsured people living with HIV/AIDS. The CARE Act is administered by HRSA through its HIV/AIDS Bureau.

Under the CARE Act, the Dental Reimbursement Program was first funded in fiscal year 1997. Since that time, Congress has appropriated \$31 million to assist dental schools, hospitals and other institutions with dental education programs in providing oral health care to persons with HIV disease.

A list of fiscal year 2000 grantees and awards is available on HRSA's website at <http://www.hrsa.gov/newsroom> or by contacting Tom Flavin at (301) 443-1745.

## New HRSA Publication Focus' on Women and HIV/AIDS

HRSA recently developed a 400-page guide for the clinical care of women with HIV. The book, *A Guide to the Clinical Care of Women with HIV*, includes 14 chapters written by women care providers. Topics include: primary medical care and prevention, HIV and reproduction, gynecologic problems, psychiatric issues, substance abuse, adolescents, and palliative and end-of-life care. The guide also includes an extensive list of resources. *The guide is available online at <http://www.hrsa.gov/hab> or by calling (800) 275-4772.*

## “You Mean You’re Going to Quote Me?” Tips for Making the Most of Media Interviews

If the thought of talking to the media makes you sweat, you’re not alone. But the fact remains that getting messages about minority health into print and on the airways is an effective way to reach large numbers of people and improve minority health status.

The Office of Minority Health Resource Center (OMHRC) sometimes refers reporters and writers to members of the Resource Persons Network (RPN) for interviews and information. Most of our requests for expert sources come from the print media.

We recently searched our RPN database in response to requests for experts from *Hispanic* magazine and the *Star Ledger* newspaper in New Jersey. And when a writer from *E-the Environmental Magazine* called us looking for someone who could talk about cultural issues and the Women, Infants, and Children program, we passed along the names and numbers of a few Network members who specialize in nutrition and maternal/child health.

Your phone just might ring one day with a similar request, so here are some tips for smooth interviews. Remember that you are not expected to make statements to the media on behalf of the Office of Minority Health or OMHRC.

### 1 **Ask the reporter about the audience.**

This is especially important if you receive a call from a publication you aren’t familiar with. Knowing the audience will help you shape your answers.

### 2 **Take the opportunity to talk about your work.**

Good reporters look for specific examples to weave into their articles. Offer examples from your experience and your work to help make your point *and* to increase awareness about your minority health efforts.

### 3 **Ask for the questions.**

Don’t feel that you have to answer questions on the spot. If a reporter calls and you’re unsure about whether you want to do an interview, feel free to ask the reporter to tell you about

or e-mail over some sample questions if there is time. This will help you decide if you are the appropriate person for an interview. You could also review the questions, think about them, and call the reporter back.

### 4 **Decline the interview if you aren’t comfortable.**

If you feel you are not the appropriate person, decline the interview. If possible, refer the reporter on to a colleague or another organization that would be a better match.

### 5 **Know the media policy of your employer.**

It’s not an issue for RPN members who are self-employed, but some employers like for you to notify the public relations department before you talk to the media. Other employers have no policy at all.

Most of the time, media calls that OMHRC refers to you will be routine. A reporter writing about breast cancer among Asians simply wants to talk with a cancer expert who has experience with Asian populations, for example. The reporter may want general comments on the problem of breast cancer in that group or advice on where to look for recent studies. But if a reporter asks you about a controversial issue, it would be wise to notify the public relations department where you work for guidance.

### 6 **Help the reporter get the story right.**

Fax or mail any factual information such as data to help ensure accuracy of information. Also, invite the reporter to call you back to verify information. Typically, reporters have their own policies against showing you a copy of an article before it’s published. But some publications may be more open to this than others. If that request fails and you feel uneasy about waiting until press time, ask the reporter to read your quotes back to you.

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## Health Data for all 3,082 US Counties Now Available on New Website

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the Public Health Foundation, recently unveiled a new website that makes available health data for all 3,082 US counties.

The Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) Project has compiled pre-existing data from a variety of sources and created a report for each county. The reports offer data on population characteristics, leading causes of death, vulnerable populations, environmental health, and access to care.

To access reports, users can either enter a county or they can search for a county by selecting a state and/or population range. Searches can also be limited to those counties with the highest percentage of non-white or Hispanic inhabitants. Reports can be downloaded and data can be compared to that of “peer” counties, which share similar demographics. The site also provides supplemental material to make the reports more understandable and usable. Go to <http://www.communityhealth.hrsa.gov/>

**HIV/AIDS Resources:** CDC’s Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention has the following publications available on the web:

HIV Infection and AIDS: Are You at Risk? - Go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/brochure/atrisk.pdf>

Bright Ideas: Innovative or Promising Practices in HIV Prevention and HIV Community Planning - Go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/>

# Get Ready for Winter: Upcoming Conferences

## National Conference on Chronic Disease Prevention and Control

**November 29- December 11**

5<sup>th</sup> Washington Hilton and Towers. Washington, D.C.

**Contact:** Contact Estella Lazenby, (301) 588-6000. Sponsored by the CDC, Association of State and Territorial Chronic Disease Program Directors, and Prevention Research Centers Program.

## Health Workforce 2000: Building a Foundation for Health Care In the 21st Century

**December 10-12**

Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC

**Contact:** Herb Traxler, 301-443-3148 or e-mail [htraxler@hrsa.gov](mailto:htraxler@hrsa.gov). Sponsored by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Will cover racial/ethnic composition of the health workforce; graduate medical education training, nursing shortages and training, and discussion of how public workforce policy can improve access for the disadvantaged.

## Health Disparities in Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases **December 15-16**

Natcher Conference Center Bethesda, Maryland.

**Contact:** For registration information, go to <http://www.nih.gov/naims/news/hdreg.htm>

Will highlight current knowledge on genetic and environmental factors that play a role in the marked differences in the prevalence, morbidity and disability associated with specific rheumatic, musculoskeletal and skin conditions in various populations. Sponsored by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, National Institutes of Health.

## The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, Inc. (NRI) 11th Annual Conference - *Moving mental health services, research, and policy forward: How do we stop having the same conversations?*

**February 10-13, 2001**

Washington, D.C.

**Contact:** Vera Hollen, (703) 739-9333, ext. 16 or e-mail [vera.hollen@nasmhpd.org](mailto:vera.hollen@nasmhpd.org)

## Publications

*1999 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.* From the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Reports on national estimates of illicit drug, tobacco, and alcohol use; highlights trends in substance abuse prevalence; and estimates substance use for each state and the District of Columbia. The full report is available on SAMHSA's website at <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/household99.htm>

*Health, United States, 2000 with Adolescent Chartbook.* From the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). This annual report details a variety of health statistics, such as birth and death rates, infant mortality, life expectancy, morbidity, and health status, risk factors. The 450-page report is available on the web at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/pubs/pubd/hs/hs.htm>

*Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being.* From the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, a consortium of US government agencies responsible for improving the quality and usefulness of data on older Americans. The report features 31 indicators divided into five sections: population, economics, health status, health risks and behaviors, and health care. Available on the web at <http://www.aginstats.gov/chartbook2000/OlderAmericans2000.pdf>

*Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Access to Health Insurance and Health Care. August 2000.* From the Kaiser Family Foundation. Produced in collaboration with the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, this report examines health insurance coverage and access to physician services among African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaska Natives. Available on the web at <http://www.kff.org/content/2000/1525/> or by calling the Kaiser Family Foundation's publication request line at (800) 656-4533.

### HRSA Publications

The following publications are available from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). To order call (888) ASK-HRSA.

MCHK145 Research Priorities in Adolescent Health: An Analysis and Synthesis of Research Recommendations. 1999

MCHL104 Adolescents and State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP): Healthy Options for Meeting the Needs of Adolescents. 1999