



Bright Futures: Family Matters

Formerly *PIcture This*

"Health inequities describe differences between actual and optimal health . . .that are avoidable and unfair." Rajiv Bhatia, MD, MPH, San Francisco Department of Public Health, NACCHO Exchange, Winter, 2003 - www.naccho.org

Health disparities have become a high priority and are being addressed at local, state, and national levels. Of particular concern for children: **oral health; asthma; diabetes; overweight; infant deaths; and teen pregnancy.** Lack of - or inadequate - health coverage and care, as well as cultural, language, logistic, psychosocial, economic and environmental barriers cause or add to these problems. And while there are multiple causes for each of these conditions, children of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds are affected significantly more than other children.

1. Carry out good health habits. Learn if your child or family is at special risk for any health problems. (Let your extended family know.)
2. Raise issues in your community - let others know about resources or strategies.
3. If you are part of a parent group or work with families, share ideas and encouragement.
4. Work with community health care providers and local or state health departments. They are all good places to look for resources and handout material. There may be special initiatives you can join. (You might contact the department that covers Minority Health.)

"You cannot build a strong Nation on the backs of sick people. If we are to be strong economically, socially, spiritually, and militarily, all of our citizens- all of our people- must be healthy." - Participant, Grantmakers in Health 2000 Dialogue, *Strategies for Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health*

Positive steps and strategies are being carried out across the U.S. Key resources and reports:

- ◆ US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health - references; information in English and Spanish; Resource Center (800) 444-6472. www.omhrc.gov/omhrc/sbabout.htm
- ◆ National Institutes of Health, Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Information and publications, web links with a minority focus (BlackHealth.com) and more. <http://ncmhd.nih.gov/>
- ◆ *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, Institute of Medicine Report (2002). <http://www.nap.edu/books/030908265X/html/>
- ◆ *Kaiser Compendium of Cultural Competence Initiatives in Health Care*, Feb 2003. A wealth of resources, divided into public and private sections. This site offers many additional resources including state -by- state data. www.kff.org/sections.cgi?section=minority



- ◆ **Health Finder** is a great resource for people to learn about their own health- how to find a doctor, insurance information, and links to related organizations. Go to: www.healthfinder.gov for English, www.healthfinder.gov/espanol for Spanish, <http://www.healthfinder.gov/kids/> for kids.

Family Voices is a national grassroots network of families and friends speaking on behalf of children with special health needs. Our children are also part of the wider world of children. With a Partners in Information and Communication (PIC) Cooperative Agreement from the MCH Bureau - DHHS, Family Voices is working to encourage partnerships between families and professionals for children's good health.

Bright Futures: Family Matters is a digest of articles and news clips to share with families, family organizations, and our professional partners to offer a flavor of activities in maternal and child health. We hope to encourage flourishing partnerships!

Partners...



The Genetic Alliance is the largest genetics coalition encompassing both consumer and professional health organizations worldwide. By bringing consumers' perspectives to public education, policy and genetics information, the Alliance works to improve the lives of everyone impacted by genetics. The Genetic Alliance is very involved with public education and outreach to underserved and underrepresented communities. Currently, the Genetic Alliance is working on two such efforts the GENE Project and Project CONNECT with Family Voices. For more information contact Ken Kelly, Director of Outreach by email at kkelly@geneticalliance.org, phone at 202.966.5557 ext. 211 or by mail at: 4301 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 404 Washington, DC 20008-2304

Family Resource Corner

Family Voices of Tennessee has several brochures for families! Topics include: Working with Caregivers in your Home, Planning for Medical Emergencies and Meeting Your Child's Health Care and Related Needs at School. Go to: www.tndisability.org/familyvoices

New electronic resource about Children and Adolescents' Oral Health! There are several types of information available: publications, electronic newsletters, discussion groups, reports, related research and books, and links to other sites. Go to: http://www.mchlibrary.info/KnowledgePaths/kp_oralhealth.html

There is a new web site for children with and without Sickle Cell. The site is very child friendly and provides information and activities for children. Go to: www.sicklecellkids.org



What's new in research?



A recent study found errors in pediatric health visits with a translator present. Over a 7 month period, 13 pediatric visits were taped and analyzed. The families, with limited English, were using Spanish interpreters. The research found that many errors occurred that could have had negative consequences. The average number of errors was 30.5 per visit (altered information about present illness, medical history, diagnosis, understanding the medical condition and future health visits). The authors encourage additional research and policy work to determine the type of medical interpreter training most effective in reducing interpreter errors.

Flores G, Laws B, et al. 2002. Errors in medical interpretation and their potential clinical consequences in pediatric encounters. *Pediatrics* 111 (1):6-14

Tidbits for the Month

Cover the Uninsured Week: This national grassroots endeavor is taking place across the U.S. the week of March 10-16 2003. Several



organizations are organizing activities to help inform people and increase the level of awareness about the uninsured. Go to: www.covertheuninsuredweek.org to find out more!!

Highlights for the next **Bright Futures: Family Matters ...**

Child Care



Share your news with others!

We're always looking for news and activities about family organization and programs to post. Share exciting events and activities about your organization that will be interesting to others. Email Lindsey Pope at lpope@fcsn.org or fax at (617) 572-2094 with your tidbits. To subscribe to the newsletter, email or call Lindsey at (617) 236-7210 •

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