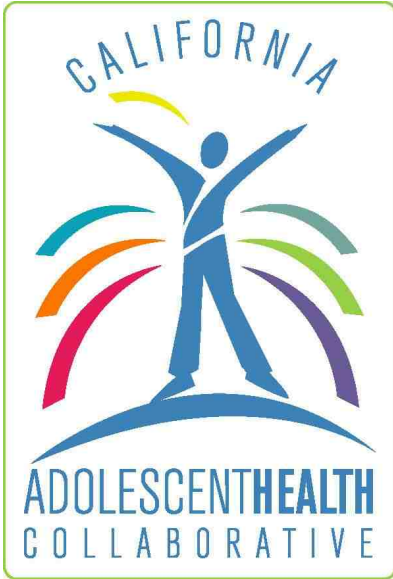


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California Adolescent Health Collaborative

AHC NEWS

FALL 2007

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California Adolescent Health Collaborative

Fall 2007 Newsletter

AHC Update and Survey

As we head into the fall, things are getting busy here at AHC. We are excited to welcome several new members to our Steering Committee. These members will bring additional breadth and strength to our group of committed adolescent health advocates.

We are also currently surveying our members in an effort to better tailor our services to your needs. Please take this opportunity to share your thoughts and insights with us as we move into the next chapter of our organization. To complete the survey click here. [AHC](#)

California Adolescent Health Collaborative
National Center for Youth Law
National Adolescent Health Information
Center (NAHIC) at UCSF
Adolescent Health Working Group

In The News

CDC Reports 'Significant' Increase in Youth Suicides

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the biggest annual increase in 15 years in suicides by females 10 to 19 years old and males 15 to 19 years old. The increase occurred between 2003 and 2004, and officials said they do not know if the rise in number of suicides was short-lived or represents the beginning of a trend. [CDC](#)

Article Documents Widespread Parental Support for Comprehensive Sex Education

A recent study from the Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development, Public Health Institute, published in the journal *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* found that 89% of California parents surveyed preferred comprehensive sex education versus abstinence-only education.

Support was high across all regions of the state and all demographic subgroups suggesting that such support may be generalizable to communities and school districts both in California and around the country.

Visit the Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development website. [CRAD](#)

CASA's 2007 Teen Survey Reveals America's Schools Infested with Drugs; Popular Kids at Drug-Infested Schools Much Likelier to Get Drunk and Use Drugs

Eleven million high school students (80 percent) and five million middle school students (44 percent) attend drug-infested schools. According to the National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XII: Teens and Parents, this means that they have personally witnessed illegal drug use, illegal drug dealing, illegal drug possession, students drunk and/or students high on the grounds of their school. This is the twelfth annual back-to-school survey conducted by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. To view the full report click here. [CASA report](#)

Los Angeles Launches Gang Reduction Initiative based on OJJDP Model

In April of this year, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa announced the launch of a \$168 million anti-gang initiative modeled on the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Gang Reduction Program (GRP). Los Angeles was one of four cities selected by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2003 to implement the GRP model in pilot communities

OJJDP's GRP model incorporates a broad spectrum of research-based interventions to address the range of personal, family, and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity. In addition, the model integrates local, State, and Federal resources to incorporate state-of-the-art practices in prevention, intervention, and suppression in program activities. For further information click here: [Gang Reduction Initiative](#)

Adolescents Behind in Vaccines

For the first time this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) looked at how many adolescents had ever received the full range of vaccinations and found that rates for 13- to 17-year-olds were lowest for the most recently recommended vaccines; only 11.7 percent had received a meningococcal vaccination, for example. "We have more work to do to protect older children from vaccine preventable diseases," said Dr. Melinda Wharton, deputy director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. [Teen Immunizations](#)

Resources

Award Winning Mental Health/Depression DVD Available

The DVD, titled "Eternal High," was produced by student, Bryce Mackie, who captured his true-life battle with depression and suicide. It includes a short film made while unaware he was clinically depressed followed by a speech to his school after receiving treatment (discussing his experience with depression, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, self-injury, self-medicating substance abuse, and his treatment).

The DVD is distributed by Aquarius Health Care Media (888-440-2963). A preview clip of the film and the accompanying discussion guide is provided on their web site via this link. [Eternal High](#)

New Publication On Out-Of-School Time: Research Update

Harvard Family Research Project's (HFRP) Out-of-School Time Program Research and Evaluation Database and Bibliography provide accessible and timely information about out-of-school time programs to researchers, evaluators, practitioners, and policymakers. The searchable database includes narrative profiles of select evaluations and research studies, while the bibliography contains citations for all the evaluations and research studies that we are currently tracking.

HFRP has created a series of Research Updates, which cull key insights from each update to the database, enabling you to quickly get up to speed on the latest on research and evaluation in the out-of-school time field.

This second Research Update synthesizes findings from the profiles of 13 research and evaluation reports added to the database this month. It highlights innovations and developments in the field and looks at the important benefits that out-of-school time programs can provide to youth, their families, and their communities. You can download a copy of the update at the link below. [After School Programs](#)

California's Rank Falls to 19th in KIDS COUNT Overall Well-Being Indicator

The Annie E. Casey Foundation released the 18th annual KIDS COUNT Data Book, a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the U.S. This year's essay examines the child welfare system and challenges the country to make lifelong connections for children and youth in foster care a national priority.

California slipped to 19th place among the states in overall child well-being. Particularly alarming are the state's scores against key measures of education and health. View the Data Book, essay, and state-level data about children and families at [KIDS COUNT](#)

NAHIC Updates Reproductive Health Fact Sheet

An updated version of this popular fact sheet from the National Adolescent Health Information Center (NAHIC) at UCSF provides the latest data on reproductive health, including topics such as pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, with breakdowns by age, gender, and race/ethnicity, as well as trends. To view the fact sheet, visit [NAHIC](#).

Policy Briefs

Special Session Called for Health Care Reform

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) ordered a special legislative session to seek a compromise with lawmakers on efforts to overhaul California's health care system, the San Francisco Chronicle reports (Chorneau, San Francisco Chronicle, 9/12).

The announcement came one day after the governor said he would veto a health care reform measure (AB 8) by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles) and Senate President Pro Tempore Don Perata (D-Oakland) that was approved by the Legislature. Even if legislation can be agreed upon, the funding mechanism would likely need to be decided on with a ballot initiative. Stay tuned on this important issue!

The Sexual Health Education Accountability Act- AB 629

This bill requires that any program providing education to prevent unintended pregnancy or to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STI's) must adhere to a certain criteria to ensure that the information is medically accurate. AB 629 has passed in the Senate; the next step for the bill is the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

For more information visit the American Civil Liberties Union website. (ACLU) at <http://www.aclunc.org>

Restructuring Medicaid to Promote Adolescent Health

This brief examines what Medicaid and payment policies do for youth. It concludes that they are insufficient in providing the types of care adolescents may need. It proposes a set of primary care benefits specifically for adolescents that may be offered during early or periodic screenings as well as diagnostic and treatment visits. The brief makes suggestions for potential payment policies to support primary care and preventative service for adolescents.

For the full policy brief visit: http://www.incenterstrategies.org/jan07/issue_brief1.pdf

Upcoming Events

School Wellness Conference October 1st-2nd, 2007 Anaheim, CA.

The California School Boards Association, California Department of Education and the Department of Health Services are partnering to present a two-day event highlighting what school districts need to know about creating a healthier school environment. For more information visit: [CSBA](#).

Alliance for Children and Families National Conference October 17th-19th, 2007 in Anaheim, CA

This conference is geared towards professionals who are interested in expanding their peer connections and gaining pertinent knowledge about the nonprofit human services sector. For more information visit: <http://www.alliance1.org/Conferences/National2007/natl-conf.html>

Centerforce and The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice: Critical Juncture - Innovative Solutions for Addressing the Impact of Youth and Adult Incarceration in Our Communities October 22nd and 23rd, 2007 in San Francisco

The Summit is geared toward social support services and community based organization personnel, ex-prisoners, public health & healthcare professionals, prison reform advocates, government officials and corrections personnel from around the country. The Summit seeks to collectively discover positive solutions to crucial issues surrounding incarcerated populations. For more information visit: [Centerforce](#)

California School Health Centers Association National Conference October 29th, 2007 in Los Angeles, CA.

This conference is for individuals who work in school based health centers or are interested in starting a school based health center. For more information visit: http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org/Annual_Conference_07.asp

The 2nd National Summit on Preconception Health and Health Care will be held in Oakland, California on Monday October 29 through Wednesday October 31, 2007

The Summit is being planned and hosted by the Preconception Care Council of California, March of Dimes California Chapter, and the California Department of Health Services, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Inaugural STD/HIV Prevention Conference Focusing on Youth and Technology Jan 22-23 2008 San Francisco, CA

Sex::Tech is the first ever conference to focus on youth sexual health and technology! Join us at SFSU's Institute for next Generation Internet in Downtown San Francisco, to explore these exciting intersections from a youth perspective, with input from public health professionals, educators, researchers, and technology developers. Visit the website to submit abstracts, to register for the conference, and to find out more about Fresh Focus, our Sex education video contest. [Sex::Tech](#)

Preteen Vaccine Week is Back! Jan 20-26 2008

Mark your calendars! Preteen Vaccine Week is January 20-26, 2008. Preteen Vaccine Week is an observance that promotes recommended immunizations for 11-and 12-year olds as well as the preteen doctor visit. Preteens are at a crucial age where they're becoming more independent and seeing a health care professional now will help them make better health decisions in the future. Encourage families of preteens to schedule a preventative health care check-up.

The preteen doctor visit is an excellent time to discuss the challenges of growing up and preventative measures such as eating right, standing up to peer pressure, and getting immunized. The following immunizations are now recommended for 11-and 12-year-olds:

- Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) that protects against certain serious types of bacterial meningitis and other related infections
- Tetanus booster (Tdap) that also protects against diphtheria and whooping cough (pertussis)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine series that can protect girls against cervical cancer in adulthood
- A second chickenpox (varicella) vaccine if they have never had chickenpox

To help you promote the preteen doctor visit, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Immunization Branch developed multiple tools for providers, including reminder postcards, prescription pads, and a colorful poster to hang in your office. Order them now from your local health department! For more information, please visit the [CDPH Immunization Branch website](#)

Encourage your preteen patients to learn more about recommended vaccines by visiting www.mybestshot.org, a website designed just for them.

Funding

The California Adolescent Health Collaborative is funded by The California Wellness Foundation, The California Endowment and the McKesson Foundation. AHC would like to thank these foundations for their commitment and generous contributions to improving adolescent health.

**If you have an item you would like to include in AHC's newsletter, please contact us at:
robink@californiateenhealth.org**

Sincerely,

**AHC
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