

AHDC Email Network – Data, News Articles and Policies Related to Health Disparities
November 06 – 12, 2009

- 1) The Proposed Healthy People 2020 Objectives for Public Comment
 - 2) *Race, Ethnicity, and Language Data: Standardization for Health Care Quality Improvement Available in Spanish and Chinese*
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1) The Proposed Healthy People 2020 Objectives for Public Comment

The proposed Healthy People 2020 objectives for the nation are now posted online for public comment. Comments may be submitted in several ways: orally and in writing during the Fall 2009 public meetings in Philadelphia (November 7) and Seattle (November 20); and in writing via a public comment website at www.healthypeople.gov/hp2020 or by emailing HP2020@hhs.gov. Comments will be accepted through December 31, 2009.
<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Default.htm>

2) *Race, Ethnicity, and Language Data: Standardization for Health Care Quality Improvement Available in Spanish and Chinese*

The Institute of Medicine has translated its report brief on standardized collection and use of race, ethnicity and language data for health care quality improvement into Spanish and Chinese.
<http://www.iom.edu/en/Reports/2009/RaceEthnicityData.aspx>

3) A New Online Tool: *The Health Information Gateway: Diabetes Available for APIs*

The Health Information Gateway: Diabetes is the first searchable database of diabetes health information created specifically to serve Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs). Gateway community-contributed health materials are reviewed through a unique two-pronged process that ensures not only medical accuracy, but also cultural and linguistic appropriateness. As a community curated collection of high-quality in-language diabetes information, Gateway is a free online resource to doctors, health educators, parents, teachers and patients who need to easily access a wide range of diabetes materials in over a dozen different API languages. It's easy and quick to sign up as a registered user of The Gateway at <http://gateway.aapcho.org>. For more information on the gateway, please contact June Kim at jkim@aapcho.org.

4) Announcement of the New Mini Collection: Conflict Resolution Tools for Domestic Violence Shelter Staff

While advocates working in shelter programs are expected to build a community and manage a household of women and children from diverse backgrounds and circumstances, many may not receive the necessary training to resolve the types and intensity of conflicts that may arise within the shelter. In order to help address the training and technical assistance needs of domestic violence advocates, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) developed this brief collection on Conflict Resolution Tools and Resources for Domestic Violence Shelter Staff. Building on the findings from the Meeting Survivors' Needs study, this online collection includes selected materials and resources intended to equip advocates with a contextual framework and practical skills to better resolve conflicts that often arise within a shelter environment.

http://new.vawnet.org/category/index_pages.php?category_id=940

A full set of publications related to Meeting Survivors' Needs: A Multi-State Study of Domestic Violence Shelter Experiences can be found at

http://new.vawnet.org/category/index_pages.php?category_id=936, including the Research in Brief, Executive Summary, and Final Report, as well as Webinar materials, a Shelter Study FAQ, and related resources.

5) Joint Commission, HHS Team up to Release a New Video to Urges Health Care Organizations to Break Language Access Barriers

Amid growing concerns about racial, ethnic and language disparities in health care, the Joint Commission and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights have released a video, entitled *Improving Patient-Provider Communication*, which supports language access in health care organizations. The Joint Commission and HHS agree that effective communication is a critical aspect of safe, quality patient care. Many patients of varying circumstances require alternative communication methods, and this new video will help health care organizations determine the best methods of care for meeting these communication needs.

The video identifies tools that health care organizations can use to build effective language access programs. With many competing priorities in health care, the video explains why particular attention should be paid to Federal civil rights standards and the Joint Commission's accreditation standards pertaining to effective communication and language access. The video also addresses the obligations of health care organizations with respect to the translation of written documents. The video clarifies that HHS and the Joint Commission do not endorse one specific approach to ensuring language access, but recommend using resources and modes of interpretation that are accessible, in working order, and are put into use when necessary to serve the needs of patients and their families.

<http://www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/HLC/>

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/specialtopics/hospitalcommunication/index.html>

