



MCFHC ENewsletter

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What's in Enews Today?

1. May National Health Observances – Not too late to use resources!
2. June National Health Observances
3. National Men's Health Week
4. Hot Topics: Pertussis, Pregnancy and Postpartum Immunization
5. MCFH Coalition Updates
6. Web Resources

1. May National Health Observances

Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Efforts to decrease teen pregnancy need to continue in spite of positive trends in recent years. While the overall teen pregnancy rate has decreased, the U.S. has the highest teen pregnancy rates among other industrialized nations worldwide. Data from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy indicates that Missouri ranks 22 out of 50 in teen pregnancies for teenage girls ages 15 – 19. The good news is that Missouri ranks 15th in decreasing its teen pregnancy rates from 1992 – 2000 by 26%. Locally, the percentage of births to teenage mothers under the age of 20 ranges from 0% to 40% according to the Children of Metropolitan St. Louis Report, 2007 (Vision for Children at Risk). The linkages between teen births and poverty remain strong and provide motivation to continue to decrease the rates even further.

There are many tools available to support your efforts to recognize and promote teen pregnancy prevention. The National Campaign has planning tools and legislative tracking mechanisms to help you follow pertinent legislation.

<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/about/legislative.asp> Locally, the Teen Pregnancy & Prevention Partnership has local and national resources and emergency contact numbers. <http://www.teenpregnancy-stl.org/abou/abou.htm>

Mental Health: According to SAMHSA, 67.4% of adults experienced at least one major depressive episode in the past year. Of those, 46.9% were 18 to 25 year olds. A little over 10 % were women. Of those who sought treatment, the majority found it to be either extremely helpful, a lot of help or some help. The top three reasons given for not receiving mental health services included: could not afford the cost (41.2%), could handle problem without treatment (28.3%), did not have time (15.4%) and did not know where to go for services (14.1%). (Note: Given in percentages of people 18 years or older who had an unmet need for mental health services in 2006).

Source: <http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k8/depression/depressionTX.pdf>

MCFH Coalition Welcomes New and Returning Members:

New –

Kathy Pimmel,
Health and Dental
Care for Kids,
Mercy Care Plus

Returning –

St. Louis ARC,
St. Louis Children's
Hospital,
Helen Risse,
Brenda Morrison,
ARCHS,
Julie McCroskey,
Susan Clauss

Visit www.stl-mcfhc.org to learn more about the benefits of membership in the MCFHC.

2. June National Health Observances

Home Safety Month: Children under the age of 5 are one of the top groups at risk for home related injuries. Over 2000 children under the age of 15 die from unintentional home injuries each year. The top five reasons for death are fire/burns, choking/suffocation, drowning/submersion, firearm and poisoning. Children under age 1 have the highest rate of death. Children under the age of 15 also average over 3 million unintentional injuries annually.

The Home Safety Council provides materials for the national observance as well as information on injury prevention. Safe Kids USA provides safety tips and information for parents at http://www.usa.safekids.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=326&folder_id=174.

Source: Home Safety Council -

http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/state_of_home_safety/sohs_factsheet_w006.aspx

3. June 9-15 National Men's Health Week

The purpose of National Men's Health week is to increase the knowledge and awareness of preventable men's health concerns. The effort includes encouraging men and boys to receive annual preventive healthcare visits and to increase preventive screenings and early treatment.

According to *Blueprint for Men's Health*, men's health is a women's issue as well due to early death among men. More than half of elderly widows who live in poverty, did not live in poverty when their partners were alive. To access the Blueprint click on this link: <http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/blueprint/>. The site listed here provides important facts about men's health. <http://www.menshealthnetwork.org/library/menshealthfacts.pdf>

The Father Support Center has a series of events this week. See the listing and check out their web site: <http://www.fatherssupportcenter.org/>

Fathers' Support Center 10th Year Anniversary Dinner - Saturday June 7, 2008

9th Annual Fatherhood Conference - Thursday, June 12, 2008

12th Annual Fatherhood Walk and Rally - "Fathers and Families Walking for Education, Health and Relationships" - Saturday, June 14, 2008

4. Hot Topic

Pertussis, Pregnancy and Postpartum Immunization: The recent edition of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) affirms the need for postpartum women to receive immunization against pertussis. Pertussis is an illness that is marked by a prolonged and acute cough that has been on the rise in recent years. While

pertussis is not as dangerous for adults, in infants it accounts for 93% of all deaths by pertussis. Adults often are the means of transmission to infants and children. For this reason, it is recommended that new mothers receive Tdap before discharge from the hospital. Currently, evidence does not address the safety of Tdap for pregnant women leading the recommendation of pregnant women only receiving the Td or defer receiving Td so in the postpartum period, the mother could receive Tdap to protect the infant from transmission.

For an in depth discussion see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr57e0514a1.htm>

5. MCFH Coalition Update

New Education Series Announced

The Coalition launches its new education series, **MCH Mapping a Course Series**. The Maternal, Child and Family Health Coalition conducted a series of meetings to determine those things which are barriers to healthy women, children and their families. Four broad topics were named as top items. This series will present information on how a specific issue within each topic affects maternal and child health. The first session is June 19, Environmental Impact on Pregnancy with Geneticist, Rachael Bradshaw of Women's Health Center at Washington University School of Medicine. June 19— Environmental Impact on Pregnancy—Geneticist, Rachael Bradshaw, Women's Health Center at Washington University School of Medicine. She will discuss the impact of the environment on the genetic development of a fetus and the affects of environmental toxins. Mike Nelson of ARCHS, St. Louis Area Communities Against Toxics Initiative will join her to discuss practical applications for families to make their homes environmentally friendly. For times, location and to register online click here:

<https://web.memberclicks.com/mc/quickForm/viewForm.do?orgId=mcfhc&formId=44368>

MCFHC Honored by St. Louis American Foundation

The commitment and investment of members like you in the MCFHC was recognized recently by the St. Louis American Foundation! **The MCFHC was named Health Care Advocacy Organization of the Year.**

The honor is truly a shared honor among all the organizations and individuals like you who come together through the MCFHC to improve the health of women, children and families. Our staff and board members accepted the award on May 3, on behalf of everyone who makes the work of the MCFHC possible.

MCFHC Staff Accomplishment

Congratulations to Rochelle Dean, FIMR Manager who completed her MSW from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University!

6. Web Resources

1. From The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy – “Why It Matters”
<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/why-it-matters/pdf/introduction.pdf> and December 2007 data
<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/national-data/pdf/STBYST07.pdf>
2. Guttmacher Institute – data on teen sexuality and reproductive health - http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_ATSRH.html
3. SAMHSA data from “Results from the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Detailed Tables” -
<http://oas.samhsa.gov/depressTabs.htm#N> and
<http://oas.samhsa.gov/NSDUH/2k6nsduh/tabs/Sect6peTabs19.pdf>
4. Mental Health America web site with data and resources -
<http://www.nmha.org/>
5. National Institute of Mental Health research on mental health topics and issues including a section on women’s mental health -
<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/>
6. Home Safety Council’s Home Safety Products and Practices -
http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/state_of_home_safety/sohs_haven_p003.pdf
7. Local resources – Safe Kids St. Louis web site -
<http://www.safekidsstl.com/>
Injury Free St. Louis -
http://www.injuryfree.org/site_display.cfm?PermanentId=34118511-EE98-4241-A18E2F3C4055C59E
8. National Men’s Health Week tools and information -
<http://menshealthmonth.org/week/index.html>