



Partnership Matters

Federal Support Grows for Research on the Role of Race in Public Health Problems

Excerpted from an Article by Jeffrey Brainard in the 11/24/00 issue of the chronicle of Higher Education

Supporters of research aimed at eliminating the high rates of illness among racial and ethnic minorities won a victory this month when Congress created a center at the National Institutes of Health to sponsor such studies. The National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities will raise the profile of what many experts regard as one of the nation's most pressing public health problems. It will provide more funds for academic research into reasons for racial and ethnic minorities' suffering a disproportionate burden of disease.

The center's creation comes as researchers engage in a vigorous debate about the best way to study the health disparities. Some scholars question the use of race at all in tracking health trends, arguing that it is a social characterization that does not accurately define a person's biological makeup. Others say the N.I.H.'s research has been too oriented toward laboratory-based science and biological causes. Those critics argue for a greater emphasis on behavioral and sociological explanations, like poverty and racial discrimination. The N.I.H. has proposed both biomedical and behavioral approaches, without emphasizing either, in a five-year plan to guide research on health disparities. The agency posted the proposed plan online for comment last month.

President Clinton has called for eliminating by 2010, several health problems prevalent among racial and ethnic minorities. Such conditions include infant mortality; black newborns are more than twice as likely to die before their first birthday as white infants are. The president also cited diabetes, a disease that Hispanics are twice as likely to contract as whites are. The N.I.H. is by far the largest of several agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services that finance research on higher disease rates among minority groups. For the 2000 fiscal year, the N.I.H. estimates that it spent \$1.3 billion on such research. The department established an Office of Research on Minority Health at the N.I.H. in 1990. Since then, higher rates of cancer, heart disease, and AIDS have persisted, and in some cases increased.

Besides, setting up the center, the bill will authorize the federal government to repay up to \$35,000 of the education loans of researchers for each year that they conduct studies of such disparities.

Stay tuned for more details about the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities in future issues of Partnerships Matters.

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Minorities Lack Health Insurance Despite Gains In Job-Based

Coverage from Community Health Funding Report. 08/29/00

Minorities gained 3% to 4% in job-based health coverage from 1994 to 1997, but offsetting these gains were declines in Medicaid coverage that continued the growth in the number of uninsured, say UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

Their report, *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Access to Health Insurance and Health Care*, indicates racial and ethnic minority groups are much more likely than whites to be uninsured.

Thirty-seven percent of Latinos are uninsured, 2.5 times the rate for whites (14%). Nearly one-quarter of African Americans and about one-fifth of Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders have no health coverage, but uninsured rates among Native Americans are lower (17%) because of services available through the Indian Health Service.

Because of their lower incomes, African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans are three times more likely than whites to participate in Medicaid.

Latino and Asian American/Pacific Islanders are about 1.5 times more likely than whites to not have a usual source of health care. Their children are 2 to 3 times more likely than white children to not have a usual source of care.

The report provides separate analyses of levels of insurance coverage for African Americans, Latinos, Asian American/Pacific Islanders and American Indian/Alaska Natives.

Visit the website at <http://www.kff.org/kcmu> or <http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu>. For printed copies, call (800) 656-4533

Models That Work !

The Student Health OUTreach Project (SHOUT)

In September, 1998, the Children's Defense Fund-a New York, community-based organization in Washington Heights and students from Columbia University spearheaded an exciting initiative to reach out to uninsured children in Washington Heights and Inwood and enroll them in Medicaid or Child Health Plus, New York's two publicly-funded health insurance programs for children. The project is called the Student Health OUTreach project or SHOUT.

The SHOUT project explores the potential for student involvement in the statewide campaign to ensure the enrollment of all eligible children into Medicaid and Child Health Plus (New York State's Children's Health Insurance Program).

SHOUT trains student volunteers to work in community-based organizations, educating families about Medicaid or Child Health Plus, screening families for eligibility for either program and assisting families with the enrollment process. Each SHOUT student dedicates two hours per week to a particular community-based organization. The students and community-based organizations together serve as reliable and continuous sources of Medicaid and Child Health Plus information for families.

Involvement in a children's health insurance outreach and enrollment campaign provides students with diverse academic and career interests with a concrete opportunity to have an impact. The students volunteering with SHOUT are involved because of interests in medicine, public health, social work, social policy and community organizing.

The project also lends itself to various tiers of involvement by

different students: graduate students have served as supervisors, undergraduates as enrollment workers and high school students as outreach workers.

Student involvement also strengthens an outreach and enrollment campaign because of already existing campus-community partnerships. Campuses engage in a wide variety of community service programs in the surrounding communities which are ideal vehicles for the dissemination of information and referrals to enrollment sites. SHOUT has successfully partnered with a number of such programs at Columbia, including Community Impact, the Double Discovery Center and Columbia Law School's Youth Justice Association. The primary drawback to student involvement in the project is the transient nature of the student population. Medicaid and Child Health Plus enrollment requires practice to master, and students' capacity as enrollment workers is directly reflective of the amount of field experience they have gained. It is important that students commit to their weekly schedule and that they have regular opportunities to use their skills to enroll families.

The Children's Defense Fund-New York has completed a report about the SHOUT Project, containing detailed information on the various aspects of the program, including background information, the outreach campaign, and student recruitment.

The report can be downloaded from http://cdfweb.vwh.net/whatsworking/1999_0512.html

Dear CCPH...

Q : I am interested in your application for Board members, but I am unable to open the application. Thanks.

A: All of the materials are available on our website at <http://www.futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/board.html> You will need Adobe Acrobat to open the files, but you can download Adobe Acrobat for free from our website if you need it.

If you can't open the files, please email your complete mailing address and phone # to Rose Coroneos at rosecor@u.washington.edu - we can send the materials to you by overnight mail.

Thanks for your interest in serving on our board.

Remember that the application submission deadline is January 5, 2001

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We are on the web!
<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/guide.html#PartMatters>

UPCOMING EVENTS!

CCPH Sponsored Events

- **January 27-30, 2001-** Community-Campus Partnerships for Health's Advanced Service-Learning Institute, Charleston, SC.
 - **May 5-8, 2001-** Community-Campus Partnerships for Health's 5th annual national conference, "Health for All 2010: Confirming our Commitment, Taking Action." San Antonio, TX.
 - **June 23-26, 2001-** Community-Campus Partnerships for Health 6th annual introductory service learning institute. Leavenworth, WA (in the Cascade Mountains near Seattle)
- Application deadline is April 20, 2001. To obtain the application, please visit our website at <http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/projects.html> or call CCPH's fax-on-demand service at 1-888-267-9183 and select document # 206.

For more information on any of these CCPH events, please contact Piper Krauel at piperk@itsa.ucsf.edu or call her at (415) 502-7933.

Other events

***March 11-14, 2001-** Wellness 2001 Nat'l Conference, Ocean Creek Resort, Mrytle Beach, SC. For more information, write to Wellness 2001, University of South Carolina, Continuing Education, 937 Assembly St., Suite 108, Columbia, SC 29208 or call (803) 777-9444 or fax at (803) 777-2663 or email at confs@gwm.sc.edu or visit www.rcce.sc.edu/wellness

***March 16-18, 2001-** Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL) Spring 2001 National Conference on Community Service, Harvard College in Cambridge, MA. The theme is: *The Path of Service Leads from Charity to Justice.* For more information, contact Jason Wheeler at (617) 695-2665 x.1 or by email at jwheeler@cool2serve.org or visit the website at www.cool2serve.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR PAPERS/APPLICATIONS

***Call for Papers for Health Education Research** - Special Issue on Health Education and the Internet. This 2001 special issue will be guest edited by Jay M. Bernhardt and John Hubley. Details are available at the Health Education Research homepage at <http://www.her.oupjournals.org> **Deadline January 19, 2001**

***Applied Environmental Education and Communication** - An internet peer-reviewed quarterly for both academics and practitioners that features articles, a discussion and editorial section, and books and materials reviews. The journal seeks to advance a synergistic relationship between research and practical information to help readers solve environmental problems. The journal is currently accepting articles for the preview issue that will be published in the fall of 2001. **The deadline for articles and reports is January 20, 2001.** For details, send email to AEEC@aed.org

***Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges' 10th Annual National Conference "Reflecting the Past for Charting Our Future"**. Now accepting proposals from community college service-learning colleagues for concurrent workshop sessions. The call for proposals is available on the web at: <http://www/Academic/compact/2001%20conference/PropInfo.html>. Contact Mary Angela Coleman at (480) 461-6124 or mary.coleman@mcmail.maricopa.edu. **Deadline: January 26, 2001**

***HRSA - AMERSA - SAMHSA /CSAT Interdisciplinary Faculty Development Program**

in Substance Abuse Education; Seeking health care faculty applicants for two-year, part-time faculty development fellowships. For details visit www.amersa.org

***The Academy of Health Services Research & Health Policy** is issuing a Call for Abstracts for its 2001 Annual Meeting in June 10-12, 01 in Atlanta. Topics include: ***Social & behavioral issues in health disparities.* Access to care for children & adolescents.* Providing care in underserved communities.* The relationship between changes in the health care workforce and the quality of care and patient outcomes.* Forecasts of the supply and demand for advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, and other health care professionals and other topics.** **Abstracts must be received by January 12, 2001, to be considered.**

To submit an abstract, visit the website at www.academyhealth.org/2001/abstracts

GRANT ALERT!

***Human Resources & Services Administration Health Professions Bureau.**

Program: Healthy People 2010, Allied Health Project. **Eligibility:** Health profession schools, academic health centers, state/local governments and other public/private nonprofit entities. **Funds:** \$1.2 million for 10-12 awards in fiscal 2001. **Deadline Jan. 16, 2001. Summary:** The project on disciplines in short supply or high demand by seniors, rapid-transition training for B.A. graduates in health sciences, career-health professions, graduate programs in behavioral and mental health and other services. **Info:** Young Song at 301/443-3353 or visit the website at

www.bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants2001/allhlth.htm

New Voices Fellowship Grants

The Academy for Educational Development (AED) has announced another cycle of New Voices fellowships grants and applications are being accepted from potential hosting organizations and potential Fellows. The New Voices program works to strengthen the capacities of small nonprofit organizations addressing a variety of social justice concerns. Sponsored program areas include: international human rights, women's rights, racial justice, migrant and refugee rights, foreign policy, international peace and security, and international economic policy. Preference is given to small nonprofit organizations with budgets of \$2 million or less and to prospective fellows with graduate degrees or with comparable education, skills, and relevant experience. Organizations with budgets over \$5 million are not eligible. Prospective Fellows must have strong leadership potential and be new to the field. Up to 15 grants will be awarded this fiscal year. The program aims to help both the organization and the fellow grow and achieve their long-term goals. Benefits, guidelines, applications, and additional information are available from AED's website at <http://www.aed.org/newvoices>. **Application deadline: February 1, 2001.** Notifications of awards will be made by April 16, 2001. Questions and comments can be directed to newvoice@aed.org or 202-884-8972