



UPDATE

April 15, 2015

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*Prepared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Mental Health,
Office of Constituency Relations and Public Liaison*

CDC PUBLISHES FIRST NATIONAL STUDY ON USE OF BEHAVIORAL THERAPY, MEDICATION, AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR ADHD IN CHILDREN

The first national study to look at behavioral therapy, medication, and dietary supplements to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) among children ages 4 to 17 shows that less than one-half of children with ADHD were receiving behavioral therapy in 2009 and 2010. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study provides a snapshot into how ADHD was treated just before the release of the 2011 clinical guidelines for treatment of ADHD from the American Academy of Pediatrics. According to the study, among children 4 to 17 years of age, about four in 10 children with ADHD were treated with medication alone, one in 10 received behavioral therapy alone, three in 10 were treated with both medication and behavioral therapy, and one in 10 received neither medication nor behavioral therapy. Overall, about one in 10 children took dietary supplements for ADHD.

Press Release: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/p0401-adhd.html>

NIH STILL ACTIVE IN GULF REGION FIVE YEARS AFTER OIL SPILL; THREE-PART RESEARCH APPROACH FOCUSES ON COMMUNITIES AND HEALTH

Five years after the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion, researchers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are actively working with Gulf region community partners to learn if any human health problems resulted from the disaster and establish a new research response plan to be better prepared for future disasters. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), part of NIH, is leading a three-part research strategy. This includes conducting the largest oil spill health study ever, the Gulf Long-term Follow-up Study (GuLF STUDY), which is intended to evaluate the health of 33,000 cleanup workers for 10 years. Secondly, NIEHS is funding more than \$25 million in research by Gulf area universities on the health of local residents, including pregnant women and children, and is also starting the NIH Disaster Research Response Project. Preliminary results from the NIH-led GuLF STUDY are finding that oil spill cleanup workers reported increased physical symptoms, including cough and wheeze, and mental health symptoms such as depression and anxiety, compared to non-workers.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/apr2015/niehs-13.htm>

STUDY DEFINES BRAIN AND BEHAVIORAL EFFECTS OF TEEN BINGE DRINKING; NIH-FUNDED FINDINGS ALSO POINT TO POSSIBLE TREATMENTS FOR HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ADOLESCENT ALCOHOL EXPOSURE

Adolescent binge drinking can disrupt gene regulation and brain development in ways that promote anxiety and excessive drinking behaviors that can persist into adulthood, according to a new study supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). A report of the study, conducted in animals by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, appears online in the journal *Neurobiology of Disease*. Previous studies have shown that people who start drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to meet the criteria for alcohol dependence at some point in their lives, and young people consume more than 90 percent of their alcohol by binge drinking. Rats exposed to alcohol during adolescence exhibited changes in behavior that lasted into adulthood, long after their adolescent binge exposure to alcohol had ended. For example, they showed increased anxiety-like behaviors and drank more alcohol in adulthood.

Press Release: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/apr2015/niaaa-02.htm>

STUDY LOOKS AT EFFECTS OF SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS ON CHILD BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT

New research suggests that family income and, to a lesser degree, parental education are associated with brain structure differences in children and young adults. Focusing on brain regions critical for language, memory, and executive function in participants aged three to 20 years old, scientists found that small differences in income were associated with relatively large differences in brain surface area in young people from the lowest-income families. This effect was smaller in higher-income families. Higher income was also associated with better performance in tests of cognitive ability. Increased levels of parental education were also related to increased brain surface area, although this effect was smaller when compared to the influence of income. The research was funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

Press Release: <http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2015/03/study-looks-effects-socioeconomic-factors-child-brain-development-achievement>

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IMPROVING AMONG ALL RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS FOLLOWING AFFORDABLE CARE ACT; ADDITIONAL WORK REMAINS

Insurance rates improved substantially after individuals were able to obtain coverage through provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the gains in access to care were greater among black and Hispanic adults than whites, according to the *2014 National Quality and Disparities Report* released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). This annual report on the nation's health care includes a section on measures of access to care that for the first time cover a period after implementation of the ACA's Health Insurance Marketplaces. Data covering January to June 2014 show that the overall rate of "uninsurance"—a measure of access to care—decreased substantially to 15.6 percent in the second quarter of 2014 among those ages 18 to 64 (from a high of 22.3 percent in 2010). Because the data run through June 2014, they capture enrollment gains only from the first open enrollment period in the Health Insurance Marketplaces. The report, which features annual trends on more than 250 measures of quality, access, and disparities covering a broad array of health care services and settings, also found that disparities among racial groups for certain health services have been reduced to zero.

Press Release: <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/newsroom/press-releases/2015/2014qdr.html>

VA ANNOUNCES NEW GRANTS TO HELP END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS; INITIATIVE TARGETS 45,000 HOMELESS AND AT-RISK VETS AND FAMILIES IN HIGH NEED COMMUNITIES

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) Robert A. McDonald announced the award of nearly \$93 million in Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) three-year grants that will help approximately 45,000 homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. The grants will be distributed to 24 nonprofit agencies in 15 communities, with \$30 million in awards being distributed to the Los Angeles area. Under the SSVF program, VA is awarding grants to private, nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide services to very low-income Veteran families living in – or transitioning to – permanent housing. The grants announced will provide additional resources to the fourth-year operations of the SSVF program.

Press Release: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2692>

NEW FROM NIMH

DIRECTOR'S BLOG: TARGETING SUICIDE

Suicide only occasionally makes the national news, but it is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. NIMH Director Thomas Insel talks about the need for research targeted directly at suicide and recent efforts to raise awareness and marshal research. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/2015/targeting-suicide.shtml>

DR. INSEL REFLECTS ON AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

NIMH Director Thomas Insel describes recent accomplishments related to autism spectrum disorder (ASD) over the past year—from the reauthorization of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee to promising therapeutic results from clinical trials. <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2015/dr-insel-reflects-on-autism-awareness-month.shtml>

NEW FROM NIDA

SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY CELLULAR BASIS OF METHAMPHETAMINE-INDUCED AGING

Methamphetamine use is associated with many adverse effects, among them an accelerated rate of age-related disease. By examining profiles of lipids – small molecules that are vital for many cellular functions – scientists now know more about how methamphetamine use affects molecular processes that impact health. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/latest-science/scientists-identify-cellular-basis-methamphetamine-induced-aging>

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT TEENS AND ADULTS ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT LEGALITIES OF MARIJUANA LAW IN WASHINGTON STATE

A NIDA-funded study showed that while parents in the state of Washington are discussing with their children the legalization of recreational marijuana use among adults, they are unsure what is legal and illegal under the new laws. The study showed that many parents and teens do not know the laws surrounding the age limit for marijuana use, how much marijuana can be possessed, or that homegrown marijuana is illegal. The findings support the need for improved educational outreach about the law as well as prevention efforts. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/news-events/news-releases/2015/03/research-shows-teens-adults-are-uncertain-about-legalities-marijuana-law-in-washington-state>

NEW FROM SAMHSA

NEW GUIDANCE ON MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR ALCOHOL USE DISORDER

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has released a new guide for expanding the use of medication in clinical practice for the treatment of alcohol use disorder.

<http://store.samhsa.gov/product/Medications-for-the-Treatment-of-Alcohol-Use-Disorder-A-Brief-Guide/All-New-Products/SMA15-4907>

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: USING STRENGTHS TO ADDRESS ALCOHOL ABUSE AND SUICIDE AMONG AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE YOUTH

This information brief introduces prevention practitioners to the positive youth development framework as an effective approach to preventing alcohol abuse and suicide among Native youth. Prevention practitioners working in Indian Country can use this resource to inform their prevention planning and guide their selection of effective prevention interventions.

http://captus.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/capt_resource/capt_aian_brief_11_13_14_tocsap.3_29_15.pdf

BUILDING THE EVALUATION CAPACITY OF LOCAL PROGRAMS SERVING AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE POPULATIONS: LESSONS LEARNED

This report describes the activities of 34 tribal communities served under SAMHSA's Science to Service Initiative conducted between 2010 and 2014. The locally-developed programs addressed substance abuse and associated factors both causal (primarily historical trauma) and consequential (primarily suicide). The report discusses evaluation processes, results, challenges, and barriers to those programs.

http://captus.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/capt_resource/service_to_science_brief_-_american_indian_and_alaska_native_populations_11-03-14.pdf

AHRQ RESOURCES: INTEGRATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE

GUIDEBOOK OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE INTEGRATION

This guide identifies key professional practices among exemplary integrated primary care organizations developed to help practices integrate behavioral health care more effectively.

http://integrationacademy.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/AHRQ_AcademyGuidebook.pdf

PROVIDER- AND PRACTICE-LEVEL COMPETENCIES FOR INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY CARE: A LITERATURE REVIEW

This resource is a comprehensive set of competencies that practices, providers, and staff can use to advance integration efforts. http://integrationacademy.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/AHRQ_AcadLitReview.pdf

NEW FROM CDC

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS FOR DRUG POISONING: UNITED STATES, 2008–2011

This report describes nationally representative data on emergency department visits for drug poisoning during 2008 to 2011. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db196.htm>

10 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AND INJURY: DATA CHARTS

CDC has prepared charts on the 10 leading causes of death and injury based on 2013 data. Charts include the “10 Leading Causes of Death by Age Group in the U.S.” and the “10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths by Age Group Highlighting Violence-Related Injury Deaths in the U.S.”

<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/leadingcauses.html>

ONLINE COURSE: AUTISM CASE TRAINING

This online course will help participants better identify ASD. Composed of two case studies, this module focuses on early warning signs of ASD and the screening process. Free continuing education is available.

<https://cdc.train.org/DesktopModules/eLearning/CourseDetails/CourseDetailsForm.aspx?tabid=62&courseid=1034736>

HHS BLOG POSTS

STOPBULLYING.GOV BLOG POST: TAKE ACTION TODAY: PREVENTING BULLYING FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

This StopBully.gov blog post describes how Sesame Workshop consulted with early childhood experts to develop an age-appropriate story to address the topic of bullying. Sesame Workshop is the nonprofit education organization behind Sesame Street. <http://www.stopbullying.gov/blog/2015/04/02/take-action-today-preventing-bullying-very-beginning>

TO PREVENT MINORITY YOUTH VIOLENCE, NINE PROJECTS FROM ACROSS THE U.S. KICK OFF NEW FEDERAL INITIATIVE

This blog post from the HHS Office of Minority Health describes the kick off a new federal effort to integrate public health and community policing approaches to reduce health disparities and violent crimes, and improve the health and well-being of communities of color. Participants from the Minority Youth Violence Prevention: Integrating Public Health and Community Policing Approaches project came together to hear how to enhance their programs with understandings of trauma and youth development.

<http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/Blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=65>

OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION: JOURNAL OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

The latest issue of the online *Journal of Juvenile Justice* features articles on behavior therapy for incarcerated females, juvenile justice in rural areas, the impact of child protective services on re-offending, reducing social distance between minority youth and law enforcement, youth recommendations on desistance (i.e., cease offending or other antisocial behavior) from gangs, and how guardians of system-involved youth can address adolescent sex education. <http://ojjdp.gov/enews/15juvjust/150406b.html>

THE 2020 FEDERAL YOUTH TRANSITION PLAN: A FEDERAL INTERAGENCY STRATEGY

The Federal Partners in Transition, a workgroup with representatives of several federal agencies, developed an interagency strategy to support students and youth with disabilities in reaching their goals of economic empowerment and independence. As a result of this collaborative effort, a new plan was released to improve transition outcomes for students and youth with disabilities.

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/pdf/20150302-FPT.pdf>

NEW FROM THE VA

E-INTERVENTIONS FOR ALCOHOL MISUSE

A systematic review conducted by the VA Evidence-based Synthesis Program Center found that limited evidence from recent studies suggests that electronic interventions have little to no effect on long-term alcohol misuse. The authors note that the available trials typically included only online or computer-based e-interventions of one session lasting 30 minutes or less, and that further research is needed to determine whether higher intensity interventions would have longer term effects.

http://www.hsrd.research.va.gov/publications/management_briefs/default.cfm?ManagementBriefsMenu=eBrief-no94

PTSD RESEARCH QUARTERLY: BIOMARKERS FOR TREATMENT AND DIAGNOSIS

A major development in all psychiatric research is the search for disorder-specific biomarkers. Rapidly evolving molecular, neuroimaging, psychophysiological, and data analytic strategies embedded in new multimodal study designs hold out the promise of developing individually-based precision biotherapies for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and PTSD-related disorders. This comprehensive guide to the literature cites key articles on neuroendocrine systems, genetic studies, psychophysiological research, and brain imaging studies on both functional and structural alterations associated with PTSD.

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/publications/ptsd-rq.asp>

DCOE BLOG POSTS

MOBILE APP TEACHES MINDFULNESS TECHNIQUES FOR DAILY LIFE

This post in the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) series on mindfulness describes a free mobile app that aims to help military members learn to reduce tension and improve coping skills. The app, called *Mindfulness Coach*, introduces the concept of mindfully focusing attention and guides users through a variety of practices. http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/15-04-01/Mobile_App_Teaches_Mindfulness_Techniques_for_Daily_Life.aspx

10 WAYS TO HELP KIDS CONQUER THE CHALLENGES OF MILITARY LIFE

Currently, about 1.88 million military children experience a different set of obstacles than their non-military peers. They don't have to face the challenges of military life alone. Many great resources, created specifically for military children of all ages, are designed to help teach, inspire, encourage, and comfort through the good and the more difficult times. This DCoE blog post highlights 10 tips that may help parents and their children adjust and thrive during military life changes. http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/15-04-10/10_Ways_to_Help_Kids_Conquer_the_Challenges_of_Military_Life.aspx

REAL WARRIORS: MIND OVER MOOD: SIX WAYS TO THINK POSITIVELY

Positive thinking can improve mood and help keep stress in check. This Real Warriors article highlights six ways one can turn negative thoughts into positive thoughts. <http://www.realwarriors.net/veterans/treatment/positivethinking.php>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH 2015

APRIL 2015

April is Alcohol Awareness Month, a time to learn about alcohol, and the health and social problems caused by drinking too much. NIAAA encourages the public to dedicate this month to understanding how excessive drinking can affect health and to evaluating drinking habits.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/apr2015/niaaa-02a.htm>

WEBINAR: ONLINE ANALYSIS OF SAMHSA PUBLIC-USE DATA WITH SURVEY DOCUMENTATION AND ANALYSIS

APRIL 23, 2015, 1:00 PM ET

Join this webinar, hosted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA), to learn the basics of analyzing SAMHSA public-use data with Survey Documentation and Analysis (SDA) on the SAMHDA website. The webinar will provide an overview of SDA's interface, analytic functions, and available help resources. The presenters will demonstrate how to use SDA for variable recoding and computation, cross-tabulation, comparison of means, and regression.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4269538156413507586>

WEBINAR: ACCOMMODATING EMPLOYEES WITH MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

APRIL 23, 2015, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

This webinar is being provided in coordination with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy-funded Employer Technical Assistance Center. In this webinar, participants will learn why, how, and when to accommodate employees with mental health disabilities in the higher education employment setting. In addition to addressing the legal framework for the provision of such accommodations, speakers will provide practical guidance and strategies higher education human resource professionals can use to respond confidently to reasonable accommodation requests from employees across all sectors of their institution, and develop a well-planned process that will lead to sound decisions. Several real-life accommodation situations and solutions from colleges and universities across the country will also be presented. <http://www.askearn.org/m-events.cfm?show=day&CURRENTDATE=04%2023%202015>

WEBINAR: DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE QUALITY INDICATORS AMONG ADULTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

APRIL 27, 2015, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

This VA webinar presents findings from a systematic review of health disparities in quality indicators of health care among adults with mental illness. The VA evaluated comparative studies that assessed a broad range of preventive care and chronic disease management quality indicators to assess if, and to what extent, disparities in health care exist for individuals with mental illness. The study highlights areas in which studies conducted within the VA differ to those conducted outside the VA health care system.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6868520860468880129>

TWITTER CHAT: UNDERSTANDING ALCOHOL AND YOUR HEALTH

APRIL 28, 2015, 1:00 PM ET

April is Alcohol Awareness Month and a good time to learn more about how alcohol use impacts health and examine drinking habits. Bring your health-related questions and come chat with an NIAAA expert. Use hashtag #NIAAAchat. <http://www.niaaa.nih.gov/news-events/news-noteworthy/twitter-chat-understanding-alcohol-and-your-health-april-28-1pm>

WEBINAR: WHAT ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE SERVICES TO TREAT AND PREVENT SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR?

APRIL 29, 2015, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Individuals at risk for suicide intersect with care systems at many points. This gives providers multiple opportunities to deliver effective services that reduce suicide risk, if the proper systems, policies, and protocols are in place. Determining evidence-based components for improving care systems and linkages between care systems (e.g., emergency departments, community providers) is necessary for efficient and effective suicide care delivery. This webinar, part of a series sponsored by the National Council for Behavioral Health in collaboration with the Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and NIMH, will address advances in engaging at-risk individuals who avoid care and improving care transitions, and the research challenges that remain. <https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1057178>

WEBINAR: PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCE OF CHILDREN IN MILITARY FAMILIES: HOW IT IMPACTS THE FAMILY

APRIL 30, 2015, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

Save the date for this DCoE webinar on psychological health and resilience of children in military families. http://www.dcoe.mil/Training/Monthly_Webinars.aspx

WEBINAR: CONSULTATION FOR KIDS: MODELS OF PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION IN PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE

MAY 4, 2015, 2:00 PM ET

In observance of Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, SAMHSA and the Health Resources and Services Administration present this webinar for individuals to learn about the pediatric psychiatric consultation model, hear from a safety-net pediatrician on how a busy clinician can effectively tap into psychiatric consultation to provide high quality mental health care, and learn which components of psychiatric consultation models can be implemented or better utilized in one's region, state, or community.

<http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/about-us/esolutions-newsletter/e-solutions-march-2015#webinars>

WEBINAR: SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS AND RESOURCES FOR THE UNINSURED

MAY 6, 2015, 2:00 PM ET

The health care law has created special enrollment periods for those who experience special circumstances such as graduating from college and losing health insurance, getting married and needing coverage for a spouse, losing employer insurance, or turning 26 and losing coverage on a parent's health plan. Join this HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships webinar to learn more about special enrollment periods and how to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. For those who are uninsured and don't qualify for the special enrollment period, learn what resources are available and when to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7608546062941564673>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

MAY 7, 2015

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day (Awareness Day) seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and to show that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth. This year, Awareness Day will address the needs of children, youth, and young adults with mental health and substance use challenges and their families.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/children/national-childrens-awareness-day-events/awareness-day-2015>

AWARENESS DAY NATIONAL EVENT

MAY 7, 2015, 1:30-3:30 PM ET, WASHINGTON, DC

SAMHSA is proud to host the Awareness Day national event in collaboration with the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychiatric Foundation, the Clinton Health Matters Initiative, Clinton Foundation, and The Jed Foundation. The national event will highlight the needs of children, youth, and young adults with mental and/or substance use disorders and their families, while demonstrating how these needs can be best met through integrated care. The event will feature cutting-edge community strategies for integrating behavioral health care with primary health care, education, and child welfare. Young adults from previous Awareness Day national events will return to the stage along with family members and senior federal officials to share their insights on the difference these strategies can make for children, youth, and families.

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1691429>

HEALTH OBSERVANCE: NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK

MAY 17-23, 2015

National Prevention Week is a SAMHSA-supported annual health observance dedicated to increasing public awareness of, and action around, substance abuse and mental health issues. The National Prevention Week 2015 theme is, "The Voice of One, the Power of All." This theme highlights the important role that individuals and communities alike have in helping people lead healthy, productive lives. A planning toolkit for participating in the week's observances is available. <http://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week>

WEBINAR: SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS AND RESOURCES FOR THE UNINSURED

JUNE 17, 2015, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

The health care law has created special enrollment periods for those who experience special circumstances such as graduating from college and losing health insurance, getting married and needing coverage for a spouse, losing employer insurance, or turning 26 and losing coverage on a parent's health plan. Join this HHS Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships webinar to learn more about special enrollment periods and how to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. For those who are uninsured and don't qualify for the special enrollment period, learn what resources are available and when to enroll in the Health Insurance Marketplace. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8582454979918666497>

SAVE THE DATE: 2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH STATISTICS

AUGUST 24-26, 2015

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) national conference will bring together thoughtleaders in population health statistics from the public, private, and academic communities. The Conference kicks off with a one-day Learning Institute on August 24, where attendees will gain hands-on experience integrating NCHS data into research and policy advancements. The main conference sessions on August 25 and 26 will feature talks and workshops by researchers on health, health data, and health statistics.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/events/2015nchs/>

SAVE THE DATE: AHRQ RESEARCH CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 4-6, 2015, CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA

AHRQ announced that its research conference, held annually between 2007 and 2012, will make a return engagement in 2015. The conference will again bring authorities in health care research and policy together to participate in sessions focused on addressing today's challenges in improving quality, safety, access, and value in health care. In addition, AHRQ and AcademyHealth will team with the Patient-centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) in holding sessions on Tuesday afternoon, October 6 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, as part of the AHRQ conference and PCORI's first annual meeting, which follows at the same location from October 7-9, 2015. The Tuesday afternoon sessions, jointly hosted by AHRQ, AcademyHealth, and PCORI, will address key issues in dissemination and implementation of patient-centered outcomes research. <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/ahrq-conference.html>

CALLS FOR PUBLIC INPUT

SURVEY ON ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE USE: CME NEEDS

NIDA is supporting the development of continuing medical education activities that address adolescent substance use. NIDA is seeking feedback to help identify the information that would be most useful to medical professionals regarding early intervention for substance use with adolescent patients and their parents. Survey link will be active through April 30, 2015. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HH76Y6K>

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: PROPOSED FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH, INPUT ON HIGH IMPACT AND CROSS-CUTTING OPPORTUNITIES

The NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research (Blueprint) is a collaboration among 15 participating NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices that supports research on the nervous system. The Blueprint's goal is to accelerate discovery in neuroscience research, and this Request for Information (RFI) seeks input from the scientific community on how the Blueprint might best do so in the future. Responses to this RFI should suggest how future Blueprint investments can have broad impact in neuroscience and serve the interests of more than one of the Blueprint Institutes listed above. The Blueprint invites input from stakeholders, including, but not limited to, researchers in academia and industry, health care professionals, patient advocates and advocacy organizations, scientific and professional organizations, federal agencies, and other interested members of the public. Organizations are encouraged to submit a single response that reflects the views of the organization as a whole. Responses to this RFI will be accepted through May 25, 2015. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-NS-15-020.html>

CMS PROPOSES MENTAL HEALTH PARITY RULE FOR MEDICAID AND CHIP

Comments are being accepted on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services proposed rule to align mental health and substance use disorder benefits for low-income Americans with benefits required of private health plans and insurance. The proposal applies certain provisions of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 to Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The Act ensures that mental health and substance use disorder benefits are no more restrictive than medical and surgical services. The deadline to submit comments is June 9, 2015.

<http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Press-releases/2015-Press-releases-items/2015-04-06.html>

THE 2015 CHALENG SURVEY ON VETERANS HOMELESSNESS IS OPEN

Through the 2015 CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) for Veterans survey, Veterans, VA staff, and community partners rate the needs of homeless Veterans in their local communities. The survey results are used each year to identify unmet needs and encourage new partnership development to meet those needs. The CHALENG Project was launched in 1994 to bring together homelessness service providers, advocates, Veterans, and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans, and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action. CHALENG is designed to be an ongoing assessment process that describes the needs of homeless Veterans and identifies the barriers they face to successful community reentry. The survey is open through 2015. <http://www.va.gov/homeless/chaleng.asp>

FUNDING INFORMATION

EXPLORATORY CLINICAL TRIALS OF NOVEL INTERVENTIONS FOR MENTAL DISORDERS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-400.html> (R33)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-405.html> (R21/R33)

PILOT EFFECTIVENESS TRIALS FOR TREATMENT, PREVENTIVE, AND SERVICES INTERVENTIONS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-410.html>

CLINICAL TRIALS TO TEST THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT, PREVENTIVE, AND SERVICES INTERVENTIONS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-415.html> (Collaborative R01)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-420.html> (R01)

CONFIRMATORY EFFICACY CLINICAL TRIALS OF NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS FOR MENTAL DISORDERS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-MH-16-425.html>

MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH DISSERTATION GRANT TO ENHANCE WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-15-181.html>

JOINTLY SPONSORED RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD INSTITUTIONAL PREDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE NEUROSCIENCES

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-15-178.html>

PILOT AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES IN PREPARATION FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE PREVENTION TRIALS

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-15-177.html>

JOINT ADULT DRUG COURT SOLICITATION TO ENHANCE SERVICES, COORDINATION, AND TREATMENT

<http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-15-011>

STATEWIDE PEER NETWORKS FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

<http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-15-013>

2015 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR STATE-SPONSORED YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

<http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-15-004>

OJJDP FY 2015 TRIBAL YOUTH PROGRAM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

<http://www.ojjdp.gov/grants/solicitations/FY2015/TYPTTA.pdf>



National Institute
of Mental Health

The **Outreach Partnership Program** is a nationwide outreach initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) that enlists state and national organizations in a partnership to increase the public's access to science-based mental health information through partnerships with national and state organizations. For more information about the program please visit: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/index.shtml>. To subscribe to receive the **Update** every two weeks, go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/outreach/partnership-program/news-and-updates-from-the-program.shtml>.

The information provided in the **Update** is intended for use by NIMH Outreach Partners, National Partners and their associates for the express purpose of exchanging information that may be useful in the development of state and local mental health outreach, information, education and partnership programs.