Public Health Reports

Anthony Robbins, MD - Editor E-mail: arobbins@phsbos.ssw.dhhs.gov

Public Health Reports Room 1875

John F. Kennedy Federal Building

Boston, MA 02203

Phone: 617-565-1440 Fax: 617-565-4260

E-Mail: phr@phsbos.ssw.dhhs.gov

Ned Curran, Associate Editor Donna Young, Production Assistant Lisa Mongelluzzo, Production Assistant

Public Health Reports one-year subscription price is \$14 domestic and \$17.50 for foreign subscribers; the price per copy is \$8 domestic and \$10 foreign.

A subscription form and other information appears on the back cover.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS USPS 324-990 ISBN 0033-3549

Public Health Reports is published bi-monthly by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. Opinions expressed are the authors' and do not reflect the views of Public Health Reports or the Public Health Service. Trade names are used for identification only and do not represent an endorsement by the Service.

Second class postage paid at Washington, DC and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Public Health Reports, Room 1875, John F. Kennedy Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Donna E. Shalala, PhD Secretary



PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE Philip R. Lee, MD, ScD Assistant Secretary for Health: Head, Public Health Service

To our readers:

t has been a remarkable year at Public Health Reports. After 27 years at PHR, Marian Tebben retired and we miss her. Marion Hearon, who retired, is no longer here to help us. We have moved the editorial offices to Boston, forcing ourselves off the typewriter and abruptly into electronic communication technology. And, as you see in this issue, the journal has been redesigned.

We want to thank everyone who has made the new look possible: Paris Pacchione and his staff from the Technical Services Branch, Donna Young and Lisa Mongelluzzo; Glenn Pierce at The Magazine Group for his design talent and expertise; and our consultant here in Boston, Robin Chase. For those who follow typography, you will see that the page is slightly larger and our new typeface is Adobe Caslon.

We have also begun to incorporate new content, starting with feature articles and commentaries of broad general interest. New departments have begun to appear in recent issues. Policy and scientific contributions from the field, which remain at the core of the journal, are becoming better and more timely. For this we thank our contributing editors in public health agencies throughout the Federal Government. These improvements will continue in upcoming issues.

Every day, we get immediate reactions from our authors with whom we work to make their manuscripts accurate, short, crisp, and readable. We would like to hear from our readers as well. Please send comments to us at <phr@phsbos.ssw. dhhs.gov> or to the Editor, Public Health Reports, Room 1875, JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

Edward Baker David Benor Roger H. Bernier James Breiling Charlotte Catz Stephen Corbin Anthony J. D'Angelo Susan Ellenberg Manning Feinleib Mary Anne Freedman Richard J. Greene

Donald Goldstone

Richard Goodman Mary Guinan William Halperin James Hanson Andrea M. Hricko Kathy Hudson Robert Irwin Richard Jackson Samuel Korper Richard Lemen Susan Martin Stephen A. Morse

Fitzhugh Mullan Ray Nicola John Parascandola Regina Rabinovich Carol Rest-Mincberg Edward J. Roccella David Ross Gregory Wagner Lynne S. Wilcox Mark Yessian

Instructions and Information for Authors

Public Health Reports will send a copy of our Instructions and Information for Authors in response to e-mail and telefax requests.

<phr@phsbos.ssw.dhhs.gov>
Telefax: (617) 565-4260

In general, Public Health Reports conforms to
Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals,
the 1994 edition of which is available free of charge from:

URM Secretariat Office Annals of Internal Medicine American College of Physicians Independence Mall West Sixth Street at Race Philadelphia, PA 19106-1572.

Telephone: (800) 523-1546, ext. 2660 Telefax: (215) 351-2644

In Upcoming Issues

INJURED AT WORK: WHO SHOULD PAY?

Jay Himmelstein, Kathleen Rest
Injured employees with health plans are treated through a different health delivery system paid for by a redundant insurance.

Commentary by Senator Edward M. Kennedy

IS THE SHIFT TO OUTPATIENT CARE SOUND MEDICAL PRACTICE?

Sarah Q. Duffy. Dean E. Farley

Between 1980 and 1987, fully one half of the 37 most commonly performed inpatient procedures were shifted to outpatient services. Which ones, how, and why?

THE MISGUIDED QUEST TO TURN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES INTO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Leslie W. Howard, Karen A. Garman, Rose-Elaine McCann Whats sounds like a good idea to legislators and laypeople has failed repeatedly in practice.

Commentary by Fitzhugh Mullan

LESSONS FROM THE GEORGIA FLOODS

J. Jarrett Clinton and his colleagues
When the next natural disaster strikes, will we respond better?

DETECTING FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Surveillance for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Colorado

Lisa A. Miller, Tufail Shaikh, Carol Stanton, et al.

An important part of the neglected public health agenda—preventing birth defects.

Commentary by James Hanson

CLEANING UP THE QUAGMIRE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DATABASES

Christopher A. Paulu, David M. Ozonoff, Patricia Coogan

Centralizing environmental databases can speed the diagnosis of a community's ills.

Department of Health and Human Services Room 1875 John F. Kennedy Federal Building Boston, MA 02203

OFFICIAL BUSINESS PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300 Second-Class Mail Postage and Fees Paid PHS-OASH ISSN 0033-3539

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS • PHS 95-50193 • (USPHS 324-990)

Order Processing Code: Superintendent of *5380	Documents Subscriptions Order Form
YES, please send me subscriptions to PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS (HSMHA) for \$14.00 each per year (\$17.50 foreign). The total cost of my order is \$ Price includes regular domestic postage and handling and is subject to change.	
Customer's Name and Address Zip	For privacy protection, check the box below: Do not make my name available to other mailers Please Choose Method of Payment: Check Payable to the Superintendent of Documents VISA or MasterCard Account (Credit card expiration date)
	(Authorizing Signature) . 11/94

Mail To: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburg, PA 15250-7954