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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Images of Breast Cancer

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to present our work exploring environmental causes of breast cancer in the November/December 1996 issue of *Public Health Reports*—and we salute you for devoting space to this important public health issue. However, we would like to convey our concern over the photograph of a woman's breast, illustrating breast self-exam, that accompanied the article. Many women, including most breast cancer activists, are dismayed by the media's use of sexualized images related to breast cancer and by the differences in the images chosen to illustrate articles on breast and prostate cancer. Another, more subtle issue is that although we of course support early detection of breast cancer through self-exam and other forms of screening, our own work—and the focus of the article—is on *preventing* breast cancer.

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Erratum

The authors have discovered a minor error in the article "Geographic Differences in Mortality of Young Children with Sickle Cell Disease in the United States" (Davis H, Gergen PJ, Moore RM Jr.), which appeared on pages 52–58 in the January/February 1997 issue of *Public Health Reports*.

In Table 1, for California in 1968–1980 the estimated rate should have been 8.4 and the relative risk should have been 0.80; for California in 1981–1992 the estimated rate should have been 6.0 and the relative risk should have been 0.88.

The authors regret this error.

TO REVIEWERS, A NOTE OF THANKS

The manuscripts sent to *Public Health Reports* cover a broad range of scientific inquiry: from tracking radioactive sewage to devising health messages appropriate for teenagers. To sort out important scientific pieces and uncover lapses in logic, we require the education, experience, and judgment of many people—we could not do it without them. Thank you, reviewers of 1996.

We invite our readers to volunteer to be reviewers so that we can expand our database. Send us a letter, fax, or e-mail note expressing your interest in reviewing. We will send you a questionnaire.

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Charles J. Arntzen

Scientists have moved beyond
the realm of science fiction and begun
progress toward actualization.

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William D. White

As HMOs comprise more and more of the marketplace,
how big an impact do these potential employers have on
medical students' specialty choices?

VETERANS' SMOKING HABITS

W. Paul McKinney et al.

Veterans are 1.4 times as likely as non-veterans to smoke.
Attitudes and policies within the military are important to all of us
as we foot the bill for veterans' health care.

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In Public Health and the Law,

we review two books—one on silicone breast implants,
the other about contaminated water supplies.

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