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interpretations of their responses ought to allow for possible idiosyncrasies of culture?

Conclusion

Analysis of responses to these few questions from the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Questionnaire of the 1985 NHIS leads to several observations about the perceptions of Americans of reproductive age concerning the risks of smoking and heavy drinking during pregnancy. Substantial majorities of survey respondents, especially young women, attributed hazards to both smoking and heavy drinking during pregnancy. In concordance with the relatively clear evidence associating smoking and low birth weight, more people (80 percent) linked smoking to low birth weight than to miscarriage (74 percent), prematurity (70 percent), or stillbirth (66 percent). Even higher proportions (nearly 85 percent) felt that heavy drinking increased risks for miscarriage, mental retardation, low birth weight, and birth defects. However, among the 55 percent of respondents who reported having heard of fetal alcohol syndrome, nearly three-quarters had misconceptions about it.

The high proportions of respondents who acknowledged the dangers of tobacco and alcohol for expectant mothers are, in one sense, a measure of success for the considerable efforts by the public health community to publicize those dangers. However, persons of low income and members of racial minorities (those at high risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes) appear to be relatively less aware of the consequences. Future work should be directed toward these high-risk groups.

The responses to these knowledge questions reveal something about the attitudes of Americans toward the use of tobacco and alcohol during pregnancy. Additional data from the 1985 NHIS, yet to be tabulated, will allow analysis of the actual amount of smoking and drinking reported by women before, during, and after their pregnancies. Correlating behavior with "knowledge" should reveal a great deal more.

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Coming in the March-April PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS—

- *AIDS and Black Americans*
- *Finland's Keys to Health, a Television Promotion Venture*
- *Papers on the National Infant Mortality Surveillance Project*

charges. Participants paid fees for many programs, and teachers volunteered to train to become program leaders. In-kind services provided totaled \$51,000, and remaining budget costs were about \$24,000. Unfunded costs for program development and materials were \$8,000–\$10,000.

Entry submitted by Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY. Mr. Viboch's address: 699 West 239th St., Bronx, NY 10463.

Using Education and Hazard Assessment to Reduce Falls of the Elderly at Home

Geoffrey Goldsmith, MD

This proposed study is designed to reduce the incidence of falls of the elderly by eliminating environmental and personal safety hazards in the home and by teaching the elderly how to avoid falls. Fifty persons aged 62 or older who reside at home—not in nursing homes, extended care facilities, or special senior citizens housing—will serve as the experimental group, and there is an age-matched control group of equal size.

The 100 subjects will be selected from the patient population of primary medical care practices. Primary care patients are selected as subjects for three reasons: (a) the cost of identifying potential subjects is significantly reduced, (b) the physician's records can be used to verify the subjects' reports of falls and injuries, and (c) the physician may be of aid in ordering devices and reinforcing recommendations.

The homes of those in the experimental group will receive a room-by-room 124-item assessment. This instrument uses objective standards to measure the presence or absence of hazards; it has been reviewed by safety experts and field-tested in 24 homes. Functional status of the subjects will also be measured to aid in devising an individualized safety education program.

Home improvements, up to a maximum of \$100 per household and entailing up to 6 hours of labor, will be made by a handy person if the subject is unable to make them. Such improvements may include patching or tacking down carpet, minor repairs to stairs, addition of nonslip strips in the bath, taping down throw rugs, adding

handrails to the bath, and adding night lights.

No intervention or education will be offered to the control group. Subjects will be telephoned every 3 months to ascertain whether there has been a fall. (A fall is defined as any involuntary displacement of the body which results in the movement of the body toward the ground. Mishaps referred to as trips or slips will be included.) At 12 months, both groups will be reassessed for the incidence of falls, and the physicians' records will also be reviewed to cross-check on the subjects' self-reports of falls.

The budget for the proposed case-control study totals \$80,448. Major expenses are salaries for the part-time staff of a physician-principal investigator, a research assistant, a secretary, and a handy person, which amount to \$64,000. Other budget items are \$5,000 for supplies and safety equipment and a \$10 payment to each subject.

Entry submitted by University of Washington School of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health. Dr. Goldsmith's address: 406 Boissevain Ave., Norfolk, VA 23507.

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EDUCATION NOTES

Training courses in occupational safety and health are given by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) directly or in cooperation with professional organizations or agencies. NIOSH also sponsors Educational Resource Centers in universities throughout the country. Following is a list of courses being offered by those centers in the next few months. Contact the persons specified in the listing about further information such as application deadlines.

HARVARD EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene, March 30–April 3, \$850.

Occupational and Environmental Radiation Protection, March 30–April 3, \$850.

Nuclear Power Plant Control Room Habitability, April 27–May 1, \$850.

Write or call the Office of Continuing Education, Harvard School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115 (617: 732-1171).

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Biohazards-Biosafety, February 17, \$200.

NIOSH-Approved Spirometry Training, March 10–12, \$375.

Eighth Annual UOSHERC Scientific Meeting: Asbestos and Radon, New York City, March 19, \$75.

Physical Assessment of the Employee with Special Medical Problems, mid-March to mid-May (6 sessions), cost to be announced.

Contact Lee Laustsen, Office of Consumer Health Education, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, NJ 08854 (201: 463-4500).

JOHNS HOPKINS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Nonoccupational Exposure to Asbestos in Schools and Other Buildings: Risk Assessment and Management, March 23–24, \$450.

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome: the Job and the Worker, March 6, \$100.

Contact Jacqueline Corn, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, 615 North Wolfe St., Rm. 1101, Baltimore, MD 21205 (301: 955-2609).

ALABAMA EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Occupational Safety and Health Institute (20 courses), New Orleans, March 16–20, \$150–\$600 per course.

Contact Kent Ostenstead, University of Alabama School of Public Health, University Station, Box 99, Birmingham, AL 35294 (205: 934-7032).

NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Eighth Annual Occupational Safety and Health Winter Institute, February 23–27, Daytona Beach, FL, \$390 per course.

Industrial Hygiene Measurements, March 16–20, \$500 for AIHA members, \$650 for nonmembers.

Microwave/Radiofrequency and Ultraviolet Radiation Protection, March 31–April 1, \$325.

Sampling and Evaluation of Airborne Asbestos Dust, April 6–10, \$550.

Contact Ted M. Williams, Occupational Safety and Health Educational Resource Center, UNC-CH, 109 Conner Dr., Suite 1101, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 (919: 962-2101).

CINCINNATI EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Safe Methods of Asbestos Removal, February 3–6, \$395.

Risk Assessment, February 11–12, \$245.

Survey of Industrial Hygiene, February 25–27, \$350.

Comprehensive Review for Industrial Hygiene Professionals, March 9–13, \$525.

Biological Monitoring Techniques, March 18–19, \$350.

Pulmonary Function Testing, March 25–27, \$360.

Occupational Epidemiology, April 1–2, \$275.

For further information, contact Kay M. Hayes, Field Service Instructor, Director, Continuing Education, ML 182, University of Cincinnati, 231 Bethesda Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45267 (513: 872-5733).

MICHIGAN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Upper Extremity Cumulative Trauma Disorders, Medical College of Ohio, Toledo, February 17, \$95.

Contact Randy Rabourn, Director, Continuing Education, Center for Occupational Health Safety Engineering, 1205 Beal, IOE Bldg., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (313: 763-0567).

MINNESOTA EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Human Behavior and Communication in the Workplace: the Role of the Occupational Health Professional, February 25–27, \$250.

Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Review Course, March 16–20, \$600.

Eighth Annual Update in Occupational Medicine, March 20–21, cost to be announced.

Computer Applications for Managing Right-to-Know, March 25–26, \$275.

Indoor Air Pollution Workshop, March 26, cost to be announced.

Contact Ruth K. McIntyre, Director, Continuing Education, Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety, 640 Jackson St., St. Paul, MN 55101 (612: 221-3992).

UTAH EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Comprehensive Review of Industrial Hygiene, February 23–27, \$700.

Industrial Hygiene Chemistry, March 9–13, \$550.

Practices and Procedures in Asbestos Abatement, Denver, April 14–17, \$325 plus \$50 examination fee.

Contact Connie Crandall, Director, Continuing Education, Rocky Mountain

Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, Bldg. 512, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112 (801: 581-5710).

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE
CENTER**

Developing and Managing Medical Surveillance Programs, February 9-10, \$250.

Audiovisual Media for Safety and Health: Developing and Producing Inexpensive Programs, February 11-13, \$420.

Promoting Safety and Health in Today's Economy, February 14, \$150.

Hazardous Materials: Handling and Disposal, February 23-27, \$700.

Behavioral Science as an Approach to Accident Prevention, March 4-5, \$375.

Hazardous Waste Management for Small Generators: Preparation for Disposal of Laboratory Chemicals, March 13, \$150.

Legal Aspects of Occupational Health and Safety, March 23-24, \$375.

Recognition of Accident Potential in the Workplace Due to Human Factors, March 25-27, \$425.

Recognition of Occupational Health Hazards, March 30-April 3, \$700.

Management and Administrative Skills for the Occupational Safety and Health Professional, April 6-10, \$700.

Managing and Controlling Asbestos Contamination and Exposure, April 24, \$150.

Industrial Hygiene Sampling Strategies, April 29-May 1, \$450.

Contact the University of Southern California, Institute of Safety and Systems Management, Office of Extension and Inservice Programs, University Park, 3500 S. Figueroa St., Suite 202, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0021 (213: 743-6523).

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE
CENTER**

Sampling and Evaluating Airborne Asbestos Dust, February 2-6, \$600, \$550 for students with microscopes.

Safety Hazards for Occupational Safety and Health Professionals, March 18 and 19, \$250.

Contact Lela D. Morris, RN, MPH, Continuing Education Coordinator, Northern California Occupational Health Center, University of California, 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720 (415: 642-5507).

**WASHINGTON EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCE CENTER**

Spirometry Training for Worker Screening, February 4-6, \$275.

Health and Safety of Firefighters, February 26-27, \$250.

Recent Developments in Occupational Medicine, March 13, \$125.

Introduction to Industrial Hygiene, April 15-16, \$250.

Basic Monitoring Laboratory, April 17, \$125.

Contact Sharon Morris, Continuing Education Coordinator, Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety, Department of Environmental Health, SC-34, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 (206: 543-1069).

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND
HEALTH (NIOSH)**

Sampling and Evaluating Airborne Asbestos Dust, March 9-13, \$500.

Contact Dr. Samuel Elkin, Temple University School of Pharmacy, 3307 North Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19140 (215: 221-4915).

Safety in the Laboratory, February 9-13, \$450.

Industrial Hygiene Measurements, February 23-March 5, \$800.

Organization Theory and Program Development for Occupational Health Nurse Managers, March 9-13, \$400.

Nonionizing Radiation, March 16-20, \$500.

Industrial Ventilation, March 23-27, \$500.

Health Issues—Video Display Terminals, April 7-8, \$400.

Industrial Hygiene Engineering, April 20-May 1, \$800.

For more information about NIOSH courses, contact Marsha Striley, Training Registrar, Division of Training, National Institute for Occupational Safety

and Health, 4676 Columbia Pkwy., Cincinnati, OH 45226 (513: 533-8225).

Clinical Infant Training Programs. The health, mental health, and development of normal, disabled, and at-risk children and families in the earliest years of life will be the subjects of three training programs sponsored by the National Center for Clinical Infant Programs (NCCIP). Information on the programs follows:

Vulnerable Infants, Stressed Families: Challenges for Research and Practice, February 20-22, 1987, Los Angeles, CA, \$75. Contact Infant Conference '87, Exceptional Children's Foundation, 2225 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018 (213: 734-6132).

Building Excellence in Comprehensive Services to Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families, March 9-12, 1987, New York, NY, \$450. Contact Emily Schrag, National Center for Clinical Infant Programs, 733 15th St., NW, Suite 912, Washington, DC 20005 (202: 347-0308).

People, Skills, and Money: Building Comprehensive Community Services for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families, March 13-14, 1987, Garden City, Long Island, NY, \$75. Contact Ann Boehme, Continuing Education Coordinator, Schneider Children's Hospital of Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park, New York, NY 11042 (718: 470-8650).

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