

A Message from the Editor

As I was preparing this message, I noticed a common theme among the articles. Normally, when selecting articles for a regular issue, we don't consciously group them according to topics; rather, we publish them in the order that they are approved during the review process. I suppose it was just serendipity that so many articles feature actions occurring at the state and local levels of public health.

Goodwin et al. describe a successful local effort to challenge Arizona legislation aimed at preventing adolescents from seeking treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) without parental consent. Jiang and colleagues used disability-adjusted life years to rank the burden of disease and injury in Rhode Island, and found that it produces a somewhat different picture of the state's disease and injury burden than does mortality-based ranking. Dwyer et al.'s report on the first eight years of a colorectal screening program in Maryland, which targets low-income, uninsured, medically underserved, and minority adults, identifies the program's strengths and weaknesses.

Three articles describe surveillance activities at the state and local level. Newman et al. examine how the STD surveillance network in five different cities and states identified two very different yet concurrent gonorrhea epidemics in minority populations. Bahraini and colleagues found high agreement between the use of the Colorado Violent Death Reporting System and the Veterans Affairs Beneficiary Identification Record Locator Subsystem to determine Veteran status among those who committed suicide. And Samoff et al. determined that integrating syndromic surveillance data into daily practice at local health departments in North Carolina has positive outcomes.

Each year, our nation remembers workers who died or sustained work-related injuries or illnesses during the previous year. This year, Workers Memorial Day falls on April 28. To recognize these workers and call attention to the importance of ensuring safe workplaces, *PHR* joins in this commemoration by publishing an article by Runyan et al. regarding the development of a research agenda to address safety issues for young workers.

Our special supplement to this issue, "Innovations in Oral Health Care for People Living with HIV/

AIDS," which focuses on a Special Project of National Significance (SPNS) funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration's HIV/AIDS Bureau, highlights the importance of program implementation and collaboration at the local level. Through the SPNS study, HIV-positive individuals who had not received any nonemergency dental care in the past year were given a variety of oral health-care services. The study encompassed 15 sites from around the country, about half in urban and half in rural communities. The research presented in this supplement shows that innovative program models can engage and retain those living with HIV/AIDS into oral health-care services. One notable result was that sites demonstrated effective collaboration among medical and dental providers as well as interdisciplinary teamwork within the dental profession, such as cooperative efforts by dentists, dental hygienists, and dental case managers at the local level. Findings from the study provide further evidence of the need for public health strategies to help patients understand that good oral health is necessary for overall health and well-being, particularly for vulnerable populations, such as those living with HIV/AIDS.

With this issue, we bid farewell to two long-term members of our Editorial Committee, Richard Clayton and Richard Henry. Dr. Clayton and CDR Henry have served admirably with *PHR* for many years by reviewing manuscript submissions and advising *PHR* Editors on editorial content. We thank them both for their dedicated service and wish them well as they pursue other endeavors. Their work with *PHR* over the years has been invaluable.

As we search for permanent Editorial Committee members, we welcome three colleagues who have agreed to temporarily join the team: Beth A. Resnick, MPH, of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Zygmunt Dembek, PhD, of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases; and Russell Kirby, PhD, of the University of South Florida. All have been with *PHR* as consultants for several years, so we anticipate their transition to the Editorial Committee will be a smooth one.

Janice Huy
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