

Issue #80

PBRN Week in Review | June 10, 2011

PH PBRNs: Please circulate relevant information to network members. To request additional information or make suggestions for future items, please contact the Public Health PBRN National Coordinating Center (NCC) at publichealthpbrn@uams.edu or (501) 551-0106. Past issues are available in the [newsletter](#) archive.

Notable PBRN Activities

- **June Conference Call.** The Connecticut PH PBRN will present findings of its study, “Measuring Local Health Department Responses to Public Health Funding Restrictions,” during the Public Health PBRN monthly conference call on Thursday, June 16 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Eastern. In 2009, 44 of Connecticut’s 77 LHDs lost state per capita funding that subsidized local public health services. The cuts, which were to jurisdictions serving fewer than 50,000 residents, were motivated in part to promote consolidation of services. The project includes a survey and follow-up interviews of LHD directors to understand the impacts of the cuts on services and consolidation or other steps to offset revenue deficits, as well as factors influencing decision making in response to the cuts.
- **Minnesota PBRN Exciting Activities.** Members of the Minnesota PBRN hosted the NCC's Glen Mays and National Advisory Committee member Paul Halverson this week to advance the array of practice-based research projects underway in the Land of 10,000 Lakes. In one of these projects, the Minnesota Department of Health is working with researchers at the University of Minnesota to implement a novel direct-observation method of measuring decision-making processes and behaviors during "in situ" simulations of public health emergencies. The method and its scoring algorithms are likely to have applications in many other areas of public health practice. Network members also convened to make progress on their newly funded QI Quick Strike study to develop a taxonomy and classification system for QI applications in public health practice.
- **AcademyHealth.** Several PH PBRN researchers are participating in AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting and the Public Health Systems Research Interest Group meeting from June 12 through 15 in Seattle. Next week's newsletter will highlight our presenters' work.
 - ◆ For attendees, here is the latest [meeting agenda](#).
 - ◆ Be sure to visit the PHSSR booth hosted by the University of Kentucky and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation booth in the exhibit hall.
 - ◆ If you plan to join the PH PBRN dinner after Tuesday's PHSR IG reception, [please let us know ASAP](#). The restaurant is holding two private rooms for us pending a headcount, and we must release the room we will not use.
- **RFPs for Public Health PBRNs.** Two requests for proposals (RFPs) limited to *Public Health PBRN Program* grantees and affiliates were released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation® (RWJF) on Friday, May 27. Lead organization contacts should have received an email with a link

to the RWJF online proposal system and additional details. Send an email to the [NCC](#) if your PBRN did not receive an email invitation.

Together the RFPs are known as the Research Acceleration & Expansion Supplement Series and are aimed at enhancing the pace and scope of current research:

Administrative Supplements. This RFP offers two opportunities for grantees and affiliates to broaden research in response to external developments that have varying effects on public health delivery systems and the populations they serve:

- ◆ *Expanding Diversity, Addressing Disparities and Social Determinants of Health* (Diversity and Disparities Supplement) provides PBRNs with an avenue to examine the public health system's current and potential roles in addressing health disparities and underlying social determinants of health, as well as ways to mitigate inequities in service delivery. PBRNs may apply for funds to support a junior investigator from an underrepresented population group to accelerate the tempo of existing research and/or to develop new lines of research related to health disparities. Four awards of up to \$100,000 each to be used over 18 months are available.
- ◆ *Advancing Methodology* (Methodology Supplement) offers networks an opportunity to address limitations in commonly used public health services and systems research (PHSSR) approaches by developing and applying novel research designs and/or measurement and analytic techniques to ongoing projects. Two awards of \$50,000 each to use over 18 months are available.
- ◆ **Research Capacity Supplements:** This RFP provides opportunities for grantees to expand an existing small-scale study or to develop a new line of research that augments ongoing projects. The new or expanded effort should be designed to produce actionable knowledge about the causes and/or consequences of geographic variation in service delivery, quality, and/or outcomes in public health practice. Collaboration with one or more PH PBRNs and senior researcher(s) is a required strategy. Program grantees that have not implemented large-scale research projects are eligible to apply for the \$100,000 awards.

Activities on the Horizon

- ◆ **National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems (NLSPHS), 2011 Wave.** A third wave of the NLSPHS, also known as the "typology" survey, will be conducted this summer through the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Services and Systems Research at the University of Kentucky in collaboration with the Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks Program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Data collected will be linked with data from the 2010 NACCHO Profile Survey and the 2010 Survey of State Health Agencies conducted by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Among its many benefits for research, policy and practice, the 2011 NLSPHS will provide a broad view of how public health delivery systems are responding to the economic downturn and to the initial implementation of health system reform under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- ◆ **NAC Conference Call.** The NAC quarterly conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, from 11:00 a.m. to Noon ET. Networks are invited to submit items to be placed on the agenda for discussion by sending an [email](#) to the NCC.

- **Upcoming Quarterly Webinar.** The topic for the July 20 webinar will be in accord with network members' suggestions and presenter availability. Send ideas to the [NCC](#).

QSRF
Proposal
Deadline
Soon

- **QSRFs Available.** PH PBRNs have until July 1 to propose QSRF studies. The required one-page proposal should state the research questions and explain how the study will address a time-sensitive public health practice or policy issue. If the brief proposal shows promise, a three- to five-page proposal will be requested.
- **Research Manuscripts.** PH PBRNs intending to submit a manuscript for publication in a theme issue, likely *AJPM*, should plan to have it ready for submission to the journal by late August. If a network's authors would like the NCC to review a draft, please build this into your timeline. NCC review will not be required.
- **AcademyHealth Methods Courses for PH PBRNs.** The AcademyHealth Spring Methods Webinars for PH PBRNs are available to access at your convenience and may be viewed as often as you like through June 30. Invite network partners to take these courses and/or schedule sessions for group participation:
 - ◆ Causality in Health Services Research
Part I: Introduction to Causal Concepts
Part II: Estimation Techniques for Causal Modeling
 - ◆ Do You Really Want to Test Whether Two Populations are Equal? The Science of Equivalency Testing
 - ◆ Introduction to Case Studies: A Public Health Methods Webinar

Public Health PBRN Presentations

Do you know of an upcoming presentation that features your PBRN's work or its members? [Let us know!](#)

- **NACCHO Annual 2011.** Join the nation's local health officials at the NACCHO Annual 2011 in Hartford, Connecticut, July 20-22. With the addition of a research track to an event known for its interactive learning sessions, this will be a great opportunity for public health practice and research colleagues to explore new ideas, examine strategies, and plan for the future. Don't miss the panel of four PH PBRN representatives:
 - ◆ *Practice-Based Research Networks: Applied Systems Research to Inform Local Public Health Policy*
Moderator Matt Stefanak (Ohio), David Gregorio (Connecticut), Bill Livingood (Florida), and Julie Myhre (Minnesota)
- **AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group.** The Public Health Systems Research Interest Group meeting following AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting is rife with PH PBRN representation! Panels include:

Translating Systems Research for the Field

Tuesday, June 14, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

An Assessment of Response to the Release of the 2010 County Health Rankings

Bridget Booske, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

★ Co-PI for a Research Implementation Award study

Applying Scientific Research Methods to Law: Demonstrating Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity

Patricia Sweeney, University of Pittsburgh

★ NAC member

Public Health Spending by Non-Governmental Organizations

Patrick Bernet, Florida Atlantic University

★ Network participant

Variability in Practices for Investigation, Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases of Public Health Significance among Washington State's Local Health Jurisdictions

Hanne Thiede, Public Health-Seattle and King County

★ PH PBRN researcher presenting on the network's small-scale research project

Implications of Social Network Analysis for Public Health Systems

Wednesday, June 15, 9:00-10:15 a.m.

Moderator: **Danielle Varda**, University of Colorado, Denver

★ Network participant and researcher

The Local Public Health System: Building a Model through Social Network Analysis

Paul Erwin, University of Tennessee

★ Director of affiliate PH PBRN

Determinants of Research Implementation and Translation Processes in Public Health Settings: Evidence from Network Analysis with PBRNs

Glen Mays, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

★ Director of NCC

What Works? Best Practices for Public Health Systems

Wednesday, June 15, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Moderator: **Mary V. Davis**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

★ Network researcher

Discussant: **Barry Kling**, Chelan-Douglas Washington Health District

★ PHAST study team member

Process Analysis in Local Health Departments: Using QI Methods to Identify Failure Modes

William Riley, University of Minnesota

★ Co-PI for a Research Implementation Award study

Poster: "The influence of organizational and county characteristics on local health department revenue" presented by **Susan Zahner** of Wisconsin PH PBRN on their initial research project.

Poster: "The provision of specific programmatic public health services on public health spending per capita" presented by **Sharla Smith** of the National Coordinating Center.

Research Dissemination Opportunities

- **Science of Community Engagement.** The Clinical & Translational Science Awards (CTSA) has issued a [Call for Papers](#) focusing on the science of community engagement for a special issue of the journal, *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*. The call specifically invites PBRN contributions and prioritizes papers that are collaborative and co-authored by community members. The deadline for submitting papers is Monday, August 1.
- **Integrating Primary Care and Public Health.** The *American Journal of Public Health* and the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* are planning a joint issue addressing the question: “How do we improve population health and promote health equity through the effective integration of primary care and public health?” The multi-agency [Call for Papers](#) seeks submissions in the areas of science, education, practice, and policy and especially invites submissions co-authored by professionals in the public health and primary care fields. Manuscripts are due by August 1.

Resources in Research and Practice

CONFERENCES

- **AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group Meeting** in Seattle, June 14-15. [Registration](#) is open.
- **APHA Midyear Meeting** in Chicago, Illinois, June 23-25. The theme for the meeting is *Implementing Health Reform – A Public Health Approach*. Learn more about the [APHA Midyear Meeting](#).
- **NACCHO Annual 2011** in Hartford, Conn., July 20-22. [Registration](#) is open.
- **NALBOH Conference.** 19th Annual NALBOH Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, September 7-9. For more information and to register for this event, please visit the [website](#).
- **APHA Annual Meeting** in Washington, D.C., Oct. 29-Nov. 2. [Registration](#) for the meeting and housing are open. Learn more about the [APHA Annual Meeting](#).
- **NASHP Conference.** The [National Academy for State Health Policy](#) (NASHP) Annual State Health Policy Conference is October 3-5 in Kansas City, Missouri.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Public Health Pathogen-Food Combinations Burden.** A [report](#), funded by RWJF, has been released that examines foodborne pathogens with the highest disease burdens and the top 10 foods most commonly contaminated by them.
- **Decade's Top 10 Public Health Achievements.** On May 19, the CDC announced the top 10 public health achievements of the first decade of the 21st century. The achievements include controlling infectious diseases such as AIDS and tuberculosis, doing a better job of fighting tobacco use, improving motor vehicle safety, and reducing heart disease and death. Others include improvements in vaccine-preventable diseases, maternal and infant health, cancer prevention, occupational safety, and aggressive steps that have led to fewer childhood lead poisonings. Read more in [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#).

- **PHSSR Progress Report.** RWJF has published [Strengthening the Performance and Impact of Public Health Departments: A Progress Report](#) highlighting the work of the University of Kentucky, NACCHO, ASTHO, and NALBOH in building the field of PHSSR.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

PHF Wants to Know... Have you used the *Guide to Community Preventive Services* to address public health challenges in your community? Enter the [“I’m Your Community Guide” Contest](#) from the Public Health Foundation (PHF) and be eligible for a \$1,000 conference scholarship and other prizes. Entries must be received by June 10. Access the *Community Guide* online at www.thecommunityguide.org.

New Literature and Exemplary Studies of Interest

The 2011 [issue](#) of the *Annual Review of Public Health* contains a number of excellent articles that will be of interest to public health researchers and practitioners, including:

- **Heart Disease Mortality.** Earl Food and Simon Campbell’s synthesis of research on factors contributing to the decline of heart disease mortality highlights the merits of policy interventions and modeling, natural experiments, multi-site studies, and large, national databases for addressing serious public health problems. The [article](#) is rich with possibilities for public health practice-based research.
- **Upstream Factors Affecting Health.** Paula Braveman, Susan Egerter and David Williams, in their excellent [overview](#) of social factors that are powerful determinants of health, provide suggestions for how researchers can design studies to effectively investigate their impacts. Given the fact that political will (or lack thereof) is one of the most powerful determinants of policies that affect health, the authors make the case for the strategic utilization of research to address “the factors that can enhance or impede political will to translate knowledge into effective action.”
- **Making Use of Administrative Data.** A [study](#) by Douglas Jutte, Leslie Roos, and Marni Brownell explore the concerns and challenges, as well as the potential in public health research, associated with the use of linked administrative data.

Funding Opportunities and Announcements

The NCC maintains a [list of funding opportunities](#) of interest to its networks. Grant opportunities with recurring deadlines are tracked and updated.

NEW LISTINGS

- **Strengthening Organizational Capacities.** HRSA has released a funding opportunity announcement for [National Organizations for State and Local Officials \(NOSLO\) cooperative agreement](#). There will be up to four awards. Estimated total program funding is \$1.7 million. Application deadline is July 6
- **Building Capacity and Research Infrastructure.** The NIH has released a [Request for Applications](#) for the NIMHD Endowment Program for Increasing Research and Institutional Resources Capacity. Total program funding is \$15 million. Deadline for applications is July 28.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LISTINGS

- **Round Two: Digging into Data Challenge.** Eight international research funders have announced a grant competition designed to encourage cutting-edge research in the humanities and social sciences. Information about the competition and the application process can be found on the [Digging into Data Challenge](#) website. Final application deadline: June 16.
- **HHS Preparedness.** CDC's [Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Program](#). Note eligibility requirements and opportunities for collaboration. Application deadline: June 17.
- **Public Prevention Health Fund: Community Transformation Grants.** These grants are a key piece of the ACA that are yet to be implemented through the Public Prevention Health Fund and represent an important expansion of the nation's investment in evidence-based, cross-cutting public health work. The reach, implementation and impact of these new programs will need to be evaluated. Public health PBRNs should keep an eye on the emerging programs as excellent PHSSR opportunities.
According to the [announcement](#), "the purpose of the program is to create healthier communities by: 1) building capacity to implement broad evidence- and practice-based policy, environmental, programmatic and infrastructure changes... and 2) supporting implementation of such interventions in five strategic areas aligning with Healthy People 2020 focus areas."
Applications due: July 15.
- **RWJF Healthy Eating Research.** The RWJF *Healthy Eating Research: Building Evidence to Prevent Childhood Obesity* program has released its 2011 [Call for Proposals](#). Rapid-response award concept papers are due August 2.
- **RWJF Public Health Law Research Rapid Response Studies.** Proposals accepted online on a rolling basis. Details available in the [CFP](#).

Key Dates

June 12-14	AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, Seattle
June 14-15	AcademyHealth PHSR Interest Group Meeting, Seattle
June 16	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
July 20-22	NACCHO Annual 2011, Hartford
July 21	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET
Aug 18	Monthly Conference Call 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET