

Thursday, January 22, 3:30-5:00PM
Plenary Session

Partners/Affiliate NBDPN Members: ASTHO, AMCHP, OTIS, MOD, SBAA, TFAH, CDC's Environmental Health, Tracking

Moderator: Larry Edmonds, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Speaker: Lauren Raskin, ASTHO, Washington, DC



Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

MEMBERSHIP

Because ASTHO represents the official public health agencies of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories, ASTHO's voting membership is comprised of the chief health official for each of these agencies or departments.

In addition, a non-voting membership category has been established for ASTHO Alumni to encourage past state health officials to remain active in ASTHO and to share their knowledge, experience, and expertise on public health issues.

PROGRAM AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

ASTHO participates in a number of grants, contracts and cooperative agreements with federal agencies and receives foundation support for special projects. Through these program activities, ASTHO works to fulfill its mission to help state health agencies develop and implement programs and policies in public health priority areas.

ASTHO projects facilitate collection of relevant information and sharing of ideas and experiences, create dialogue with outside organizations, represent the states at national forums on health, and identify best practices in public health. ASTHO has projects in these priority areas:

- Adolescent and School Health
- Chronic Disease Prevention
- Environmental Health
- Genomics
- Immunization
- Infectious Diseases and HIV/AIDS
- Maternal and Child Health
- Primary Care
- Public Health Informatics
- Public Health Leadership
- Public Health Preparedness
- Tobacco Control

These cooperative projects, guided by ASTHO policy committees, address a variety of key public health issues. ASTHO publishes newsletters, surveys, resource lists and white papers that assist states in the development of public policy and in the promotion of public health programs at the state level.

ASTHO's policy development staff works with ASTHO's members and others to formulate and present collective public health positions and recommendations to the Congress, the Administration and other national organizations. ASTHO policies are generated through position statements and resolutions from ASTHO members and affiliate groups, legislative review, committee statements, endorsement of public health coalition statements and consensus conference recommendations.

ASTHO AFFILIATES

ASTHO engages the expertise of a formally linked network of organizations dedicated to the concerns of state health departments. There are currently seventeen ASTHO affiliated organizations representing directors of divisions within the state health departments. They include:

- Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies
- Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of State & Territorial Chronic Disease Program Directors
- Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors
- Association of State & Territorial Directors of Health Promotion & Public Health Education
- Association of State & Territorial Directors of Nursing
- Association of State & Territorial Local Health Liaison Officials
- Association of State & Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors
- Association of State & Territorial Public Health Social Workers
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
- National Association Public Health Statistics & Information Systems
- National Association of State Emergency Medical Services
- National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
- National Public Health Information Coalition
- State Public Health Vector Control Conference
- State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association

These associations function independently yet cooperatively with ASTHO to develop and promote sound public health policy.

ASTHO ON THE WEB



StatePublicHealth.org has been designed to provide current, useful information related to state-based public health. The long-term goal is for www.StatePublicHealth.org to become a central point for information that State Health Officials and their agencies find useful. The current release includes a directory of state health agencies, profile information, and a search engine that will search public health related web-sites. If you have any questions related to this site, or its administration, please feel free to call Jeff Walter at 202-371-9090.



ASTHO's website www.astho.org features information and links to all member and affiliate home pages. The site provides a quick link to a number of federal agencies, grant and contract resources, and other public health organizations. If you have any problems or questions regarding the website, please contact Jeff Walter at 202-371-9090.

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Speaker: Meg Booth, AMCHP, Washington, DC



About AMCHP

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs is the national organization representing state public health leaders and other interested individuals and organizations working to improve the health and well being of women, children, youth and families, including those with special health care needs.

AMCHP accomplishes its mission through the active participation of its members and vital partnerships with government agencies, families and advocates, health care purchasers and providers, academic and research professionals and others at the national, state and local levels.

A Leader in Family Health

AMCHP, with over 400 members, serves as a source of innovative ideas and knowledge of family health and the public policies that influence it. AMCHP works to:

- Strengthen national policy and increase resources for maternal, child and family health programs through its Washington presence and quality policy analysis.
- Build the capacity of state family health programs in areas such as resource allocation, leadership development, technical assistance and data analysis.

Currently AMCHP is focusing in the following policy areas:

- Adolescent and School Health
- Data and Assessment
- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Service Delivery and Financing Systems
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Women's and Perinatal Health.

A Partner with Members

AMCHP's members set the agenda for the association. They are actively involved in framing policy issues and sharing insights from the states. Their expertise strengthens health policies and programs at the local, state and national level.

AMCHP supports its members' commitment to advancing family health through:

Advocacy: AMCHP advocates before Congress, federal agencies and national organizations on issues impacting the health of women, children, youth and families, including those with special health care needs.

Policy Analysis: AMCHP delivers analysis and recommendations on health policy issues via issue briefs, congressional briefings and other colloquia.

Fast, Reliable Information: Through its web site, action alerts and other electronic communiqués, AMCHP provides the information to make informed decisions on policies and programs affecting the health of families.

Professional Meetings: AMCHP sponsors meetings and colloquia, including the major national conference devoted to the health of women, children, youth and families.

Leadership Opportunities: AMCHP offers members the opportunity to shape national programs and policy by participating in committees and representing the association at national meetings and working groups.

Maternal and Child Health Block Grant: A Cornerstone of America's Public Health System

The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHBG) — Title V of the Social Security Act — provides federal support to state maternal and child health programs. The MCHBG remains the only federal program devoted to improving the health of all women, children and families. It plays a critical role in ensuring a safety net for these populations.

Through its flexible funding, the MCHBG supports a wide range of activities, including reducing infant mortality, preventing injury and violence, expanding access to oral health care, addressing racial and ethnic health disparities and providing comprehensive care for children and adolescents with special health care needs.

As an advocate for maternal and child health, AMCHP works to ensure that MCHBG funding and technical assistance to state health departments are adequate to address the complex needs of families.

For more information, please visit our web site at www.amchp.org.

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
1220 19th Street NW, Suite 801 ● Washington, DC 20036 ● (202)775-0436 ● fax: (202)775-0061

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Speaker: Janine Polifka, OTIS, Seattle, WA



**Organization of Teratology
Information Services**

www.otispregnancy.org
(866) 626-6847

Janine E. Polifka, Ph.D.
President (2002-2003)

OTIS is an umbrella organization of individual teratology information services located throughout the United States and Canada. It was formally established in 1990. Teratology Information Services (TIS) are telephone consultation services that provide scientific, up-to-date information about the possible effects on the embryo or fetus when the mother is exposed to a particular drug or other environmental agent during pregnancy. TIS are comprised of a Medical Director and teratogen information specialists. All teratogen information specialists have had formal or "on-the-job" training in clinical teratology (a discipline that studies the mechanisms of abnormal embryonic or fetal development). The services have access to expertise in teratology, toxicology, pharmacology, dysmorphology, epidemiology, clinical genetics and other related disciplines. TIS attempt to bridge the gap between an often conflicting, inadequate, ever-changing body of literature and the primary health care provider who must respond to an individual patient's concerns regarding exposures and potential reproductive risks. TIS are composed of three components: service, education and research. Service involves a confidential, toll-free telephone system designed to address questions by pregnant couples and their health care providers. Services can provide this information directly to the individual or to the individual's health care provider. An in-clinic consultation may be necessary when an exposure carries a significant risk or telephone communication is impossible. Other ways that teratogenic risk is disseminated by TIS are through referenced letters to health care practitioners, presentations at professional conferences and distribution of fact sheets.

The mission of OTIS is to:

- Improve the abilities of TIS to provide accurate and timely information about prenatal exposures with the overall objective of improving public health
- Stimulate and encourage research in clinical teratology and to disseminate this information to health care practitioners and the general public
- Facilitate education and training of teratogen information specialists, and
- Establish quality-assurance criteria for member services

TIS have collaborated with each other in prospective research to assess risks associated with the use during pregnancy of commonly used or newly marketed medications. Ongoing OTIS research projects are:

- Asthma Medications in Pregnancy
- Rheumatoid Arthritis & Leflunomide in Pregnancy Study
- Isotretinoin Survey

TIS have also begun to work closely with pharmaceutical companies to help them establish pregnancy registries and to interface with State Birth Defects Registries to address issues of teratogenic risk.

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Speaker: Emil Wigode, MOD, Washington, DC

The March of Dimes Making A Difference



March of Dimes researchers, volunteers, educators, outreach workers and advocates work together to give all babies a fighting chance against the threats to their health: prematurity, birth defects, low birthweight.

Parent Education

The March of Dimes helps pregnant women know what to worry about and what not to worry about when it comes to having a healthy baby. Through our Pregnancy & Newborn Health Education CenterSM women can get free one-on-one, confidential answers to their questions about pregnancy, preconception, newborn screening and related topics.

The Center also provides a wide variety of materials including mama, an annual magazine full of practical and important information for parents-to-be, are available. Contact the center.

Premature Birth

Each year, more than 460,000 babies are born too soon, some so small they can fit in the palm of a hand. Many of these babies must fight just to survive; others will struggle with lifelong health problems. No one knows what causes half of all premature births. No one is working harder than the March of Dimes to find out.

Genetic Research

Genetic birth defects leave our children unable to walk, to hear, to think, or even to fight off disease. March of Dimes investments in genetic research already are starting to yield results. Two March of Dimes-funded grantees have used gene therapy successfully in treating hemophilia and retinitis pigmentosa in the lab, giving hope that we are closer to a cure for these genetic birth defects.

Health Care

No parents should have to choose between feeding their child and buying the medicines he or she needs. Yet, this happens every day in America because more than 9 million children have no health coverage. For many of these children, this means they can't get preventive checkups, immunizations, or treatment for common childhood illnesses. The March of Dimes is fighting so that all babies, children and pregnant women get health insurance.

Help Us Save Babies

You can partner with the March of Dimes by becoming a volunteer or a donor. With your help, we can win the fight to save babies.

© 2003 March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation. All rights reserved. The March of Dimes is a not-for-profit organization recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3). Our mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality.

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Speaker: Adriane K. Griffen, SBAA, Washington, DC

Spina Bifida Association of America



About The Spina Bifida Association of America

The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA) serves adults and children who live with the challenges of Spina Bifida. Since 1973, SBAA has been the only national voluntary health agency solely dedicated to enhancing the lives of those with Spina Bifida and those whose lives are touched by the birth defect. Its tools are education, advocacy, research and service.

Through its network of chapters, SBAA has a presence in more than 125 communities nationwide and touches thousands of people each year. Lives are changed by the programs SBAA has created, the services the organization provides and the gains achieved through its advocacy efforts.

Understanding Through Education

Each year, as many as 10,000 people are connected with accurate information from numerous reliable resources and publications through the National Resource Center on Spina Bifida—housed in Washington, DC. Often, assistance is provided through a referral to a caring person connected with an SBAA chapter where compassionate support can be found in one's own community.

The Internet is a lifeline for many with disabilities and SBAA's website (www.sbaa.org) responds to the needs of its users by offering accurate information about this complex birth defect, as well as resources on a host of subjects.

The quest for new information, the celebration of lives being lived to their fullest and the unity of a community built on caring and compassion are embodied by SBAA's Annual Conference held regularly in June.

An unprecedented research conference in Washington, DC recently brought together leaders in health care and representatives of the Spina Bifida community. The outcomes of this conference will help to create solid, research-based plan to improve the lives of all those with Spina Bifida.

Our Message of Hope and Prevention

Millions of people have received vital information about Spina Bifida and how it affects those who live with it and countless women know about the importance of taking folic acid prior to pregnancy to reduce the risk of Spina Bifida and other neural tube defects as a result of SBAA's efforts.

Nurturing Our Next Generation of Leaders

SBAA invests in the future by encouraging students with Spina Bifida through a series of scholarship programs. These scholarships hold an important place in SBAA's efforts to help people born with Spina Bifida achieve their full potential through higher education.

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Speaker: Susan Polan, TFAH, Washington, DC

Preventing Epidemics. Protecting People.

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority.

From anthrax to asthma, from chemical terrorism to cancer, America is facing a crisis of epidemics.

As a nation, we are stuck in a "disease du jour" mentality, which means we lose sight of the bigger picture: building a public health defense that is strong enough to cover us from all points of attack – whether the threats are from a bioterrorist or Mother Nature.

By focusing on PREVENTION, PROTECTION, and COMMUNITIES, TFAH is leading the fight to make disease prevention a national priority, from Capitol Hill to Main Street. We know what works. Now we need to build the resolve to get it done.

Prevention: A Vital Prescription

More than 90 million Americans live with chronic disease, which accounts for seven out of ten deaths in this country. Amazingly, the majority of these deaths are preventable, yet America continues to accept that people will inevitably become sick. Rather than concentrating primarily on treatment, we need to prevent illnesses in the first place, particularly for those most at risk. TFAH believes that preventing disease and stopping epidemics everyday requires a strong, effective, and responsive public health system.

Protection: Accountability and Action

It is important to hold officials accountable for their performance on public health issues and activities. TFAH provides real leadership to ensure that systems are constantly being evaluated, assessed, and enhanced. By motivating officials to improve and by advocating for increased resources and support for public health, TFAH is the non-profit, independent voice advocating to improve our lives, our communities, and our health.

Community: A Priority for Every State, Every Community

Improving people's health begins with strong, well-prepared communities, and we will not succeed until we can move people from apathy to alarm and from alarm into action. TFAH conducts science-based research, issue meaningful reports that spark change, shares best practices, and demands that our public health system works to fight current and emerging health threats of all kinds. Only then will we practically and effectively improve and modernize our public health system every day, everywhere, for everyone.

Trust for America's Health receives generous support from a number of foundations, including The Pew Charitable Trusts and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and individual champions for improved public health. TFAH is founded by the Benjamin Spencer Fund in loving memory of Benjamin, whose compassion for others continues to guide and inspire us.

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Speaker: Judy Qualters, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA



PROGRAM IN BRIEF

Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

The environment plays an important role in health and human development. Researchers have linked specific diseases with exposures to some environmental hazards, such as the link between exposure to asbestos and lung cancer. However, other links remain unproven, such as the suspected link between exposure to disinfectant by-products and bladder cancer. Currently, no systems exist at the state or national level to track many of the exposures and health effects that may be related to environmental hazards. Environmental public health tracking (EPHT) is one way to fill in these gaps. EPHT is the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of data on environmental hazards, exposures to those hazards, and related health effects. The goal of tracking is to provide information that can be used to plan, apply, and evaluate actions to prevent and control environmentally related diseases.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

In fiscal year (FY) 2002, CDC established its National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. The program's goals are to (1) build a sustainable national environmental public health tracking network, (2) increase environmental public health tracking capacity, (3) disseminate credible tracking information, and (4) advance environmental public health science and research. In FY 2002 and FY 2003, CDC awarded \$14.3 million and \$14.5 million consecutively to 20 state and local health departments and 3 schools of public health to (1) build environmental public health capacity, (2) increase collaboration between environmental and health agencies, (3) identify and evaluating existing data systems, (4) build partnerships with non-governmental organizations and communities, and (5) develop model systems that link data and can be used by other states or localities. The schools of public health are being funded to support state and local health departments and investigate possible links between health effects and the environment. In FY 2003, CDC also provided nine states and the City of New York with \$4.1 million in funding for projects that will link environmental, exposure, and health effect data. CDC has also established, through the Department of Health and Human Services, a memorandum of understanding with the Environmental Protection Agency to promote collaboration on tracking-related initiatives.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

As additional funding becomes available, CDC plans to

- Fund additional state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments to increase their capacity building and demonstration projects
- Fund technical development activities required to support a nationwide network
- Expand training and education activities in collaboration with national and professional organizations
- Expand collaboration with national partners to coordinate technological standards development efforts for the network

For more information on the program, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/tracking>

December 2003

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE**