

# RURAL HEALTH BRIEFING

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## ACROSS ARIZONA

### Program for Arizona teens named finalist for innovation award

An Arizona program that helps youth with behavioral health issues has been selected as a finalist in a regional competition that recognizes innovation in state government. Arizona's Department of Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health Services is one of six Western regional finalists for the Council of State Governments Annual Innovations Awards for its submission of the MY LIFE program. "Arizona realizes the challenges that all youth face as they transition to adulthood, but these challenges are greatly magnified for youth who struggle with mental illness or substance use disorders," said Dr. Laura Nelson, Acting Deputy Director for the Arizona Department of Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health Services. A panel of western state legislators will review the regional finalists and determine two winners at the annual meeting in October. [More information](#)

### UA program encourages doctors to practice in rural/underserved areas

Since 1997 the Rural Health Professions program has given students at both University of Arizona medical campuses the opportunity to complete their third- and fourth-year medical training rotations at rural sites. So far, 29 graduates from the school who were enrolled in the program are now practicing medicine in rural communities. [More information](#)

### New Arizona gun law restricts hospitals' right to prohibit firearms

Starting Sept 30, public and private businesses, such as hospitals, were limited in their ability to prohibit firearms on their property. The new Arizona statute keeps hospitals from forbidding employees and others from storing guns out of sight in privately owned and locked vehicles. Motorcyclists are allowed to store guns in locked compartments. Hospitals can still keep people from carrying firearms into the facility. The law allows alternative parking arrangements that meet certain requirements for businesses that do not want employees or visitors with guns to park in the regular parking lot.

### AHCCCS faces growing financial strain in face of new enrollees

AHCCCS enrollments are increasing because of the troubled economy. "In a normal year, we might see 60,000 additional members," says Tony Rodgers, director of AHCCCS. "We're probably going to see close to 300,000 additional members by the end of the year." The program cut coverage for low-income working parents this year. [More information](#)

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

#### Pathways Into Health Conference, "Achieving Excellence, Harmony and Balance":

- **Purpose:** Transforming health professions education in American Indian and Alaska Native communities
- **Presented by:** Pathways Into Health
- **Dates:** Oct 7-9
- **Location:** Big Sky Resort, Big Sky, Montana
- **Contact:** [www.pathwaysinto-healthconference.org](http://www.pathwaysinto-healthconference.org)

#### Rural Health Clinic and Critical Access Hospital Conferences

- **Presented by:** National Rural Health Association
- **Dates:** RHC Conference, Oct 6-7. CAH Conference, Oct 7-9
- **Location:** Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront, 1401 SW Naito Parkway Portland, OR
- **Contact:** [www.ruralhealthweb.org](http://www.ruralhealthweb.org)

#### White Mountain Apache Women's Conference

- **Presented by:** White Mountain Apache Health Education
- **Dates:** Oct. 21-22
- **Location:** Hon-Dah Resort

Casino Conference Center, Pinetop, AZ

- **Contact:** White Mountain Apache Health Education, 928-338-4953

#### 2009 Annual Leadership Conference "A Challenge at Every Turn"

- **Presented by:** AzHHA
- **Dates:** Oct. 22-23
- **Location:** Orange Tree Golf Resort, Scottsdale, AZ
- **Contact:** Gina Moon or LeAnn Swanson at 602-445-4300; email questions to [edservices@azhha.org](mailto:edservices@azhha.org); register [www.azhha.org](http://www.azhha.org)

### NOVEMBER

#### Faces of a Healthy Future: National Conference to End Health Disparities II

- **Presented by:** The Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities at Winston-Salem State University
- **Dates:** Nov. 3-6
- **Location:** Twin Quarters, Winston-Salem, NC.
- **Contact:** [www.ceehd.com](http://www.ceehd.com)

#### Diabetes Wellness Day: Stand Strong for Health

- **Presented by:** Native Health
- **Date:** Nov. 13



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- **Location:** Native Health, 4520 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** Cheryle Litzin at 602-279-5262, ext 3411 or [clitzin@nachci.com](mailto:clitzin@nachci.com)

#### IHS Adolescent Health Conference

- **Presented by:** The Navajo Area, Kayenta Service Unit and the Adolescent Reproductive Health Project
- **Dates:** Nov. 13 - 14
- **Location:** Window Rock, AZ
- **Contact:** Andrew Terranella at [atandrew.terranelle@ihs.gov](mailto:atandrew.terranelle@ihs.gov) or 928-697-4203

#### 12th Annual EMTALA Workshop

- **Presented by:** AzHHA

- **Date:** Nov. 17
- **Location:** Hilton Phoenix Airport 2435 S. 47th St. Phoenix, AZ
- **Contact:** Gina Moon or LeAnn Swanson at 602-445-4300; email questions to [edservices@azhha.org](mailto:edservices@azhha.org); register [www.azhha.org](http://www.azhha.org)

### DECEMBER

#### Conference on Health Disparities

- **Presented by:** Morehouse School of Medicine, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the Congressional Tri-Caucus
- **Dates:** Dec. 2-5
- **Location:** Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
- **Contact:** [www.msm.edu/Events/Health\\_Disparities\\_Conference.htm](http://www.msm.edu/Events/Health_Disparities_Conference.htm)

#### Rural Multiracial and Multicultural Health Conference

- **Presented by:** National Rural Health Association
- **Dates:** Dec. 9-11
- **Location:** The Peabody Memphis, Memphis TN
- **Contact:** [www.ruralhealthweb.org/mm](http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/mm)

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Simply lacking health insurance can increase the risk of death by 40%

Research released recently in the American Journal of Public Health estimates that 45,000 deaths per year in the United States are associated with the lack of health insurance. If a person is uninsured, "it means you're at mortal risk," said one of the authors, Dr. David Himmelstein, an associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. The researchers exam-

ined government health surveys from more than 9,000 people aged 17 to 64, taken from 1986-1994, and then followed up through 2000. They determined that the uninsured have a 40% higher risk of death than those with private health insurance as a result of being unable to obtain necessary medical care. The researchers then extrapolated the results to census data from 2005 and calculated there were 44,789 deaths associated with lack of health insurance. [More information](#)

## GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

*Technical assistance is available for the development of grant proposals and other funding applications from the professional staff of the Rural Health Office and the State Office of Rural Health Program. Please contact Jennifer Peters, [petersjs@u.arizona.edu](mailto:petersjs@u.arizona.edu)*

### National Institutes of Health: Improving Diet and Physical Activity Assessments

- **Deadline:** Oct. 5
- **Amount:** \$200,000 to \$650,000
- **Purpose:** research to enhance the quality of measurements of dietary intake and physical activity. Applications may include development of assessment tools for culturally diverse populations.
- **More information**

### Rethinking Mental Health: Improving Community Wellbeing

- **Deadline:** Oct 14
- **Amount:** \$5,000
- **Purpose:** Challenges organizations to explore innovations that allow individuals, families, communities and society to move past narrow perceptions of mental health and expand our understanding and collective involvement in finding solutions.
- **Eligibility:** The competition is open to all types of organizations (charitable organizations, private companies or public entities)
- **More information**

### Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Community Health Leaders

- **Deadline:** Oct. 15
- **Amount:** \$125,000
- **Purpose:** Honors 10 outstanding and otherwise unrecognized individuals who overcome daunting odds to improve health and health care, especially to underserved populations in communities across the United States.
- **More information**

### Corporation for National and Community Service, For Faith-Based and Other Community Organizations: AmeriCorp Indian Tribes Planning Grant

- **Deadline:** October 19
- **Purpose:** to support the development of AmeriCorps programs so applicants are better prepared to compete for a multi-state AmeriCorps grant in the following grant cycle. These grants are awarded for 12 months. They may not be used to support AmeriCorps members. Indian Tribes Planning Grant applicants must not have received an AmeriCorps grant in the past and must be an Indian Tribe as defined in Section 111 of the Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity.
- **Eligibility:** Indian Tribes
- **Amount:** \$250,000.
- **Contact:** (202) 606-5000, (202) 606-7508 or [americorpsnational@cns.gov](mailto:americorpsnational@cns.gov)
- **More information**

### Partners Investing in Nursing's Future 2009 Call for Proposals

- **Deadline:** Oct 29
- **Amount:** Awards of up to \$250,000 for projects lasting up to 24 months
- **Purpose:** Partners Investing in Nursing's Future addresses nursing issues at the community level through funding partnerships with local and regional foundations. We intend for this initial investment of funds to create a financial incentive for local and regional foundations to work on nursing workforce issues. The local foundation partnership is responsible for sustaining and expanding the project's work at the conclusion of the funding period.
- **Eligibility:** Local or regional private, inde-

pendent, family or community grantmaking foundations and public charities are eligible to apply for funds. Local foundations and other partners must match awards.

- **More information**

### Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University: Fellowship in Minority Health Policy

- **Deadline:** Jan. 4, 2010
- **Amount of each fellowship:** \$50,000 stipend, full tuition for a master's degree, health insurance, books, travel and related program expenses
- **Purpose:** Prepare physician-leaders who will improve the capacity of the health care system to address the health needs of minority and disadvantaged populations. The Fellowship is a one-year, full-time, academic degree-granting program designed to create physician-leaders, particularly minority physician-leaders, who will pursue careers in health policy, public health practice and academia.
- **More information**

### The American Medical Association Foundation: Fund for Better Health

- **Deadline:** Spring 2010
- **Focus areas:** Nutrition and physical fitness; Alcohol, substance abuse and smoking prevention (includes smoking cessation) and Violence prevention
- **Eligibility:** Organizations with annual operating budgets of \$1 million or less; or New organizations begun in the last 5 years; or Established organizations starting a new service or expanding a current service to an underserved population
- **Amount:** \$5,000
- **More information**

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Unique telenovelas get Latinos in tune with health care and U.S. 2010 census

Colorado officials have created a telenovela — a Latin American soap opera — to spread vital health messages to Latinos, the Associated Press reports. The telenovelas follow the lives of four health information workers, focusing on issues like diabetes, obesity and health insurance. Meanwhile the U.S. Census Bureau has helped develop a census-centered plotline for a Telemundo telenovela. The initiative is attempting to make Hispanics more familiar and comfortable with the upcoming census in 2010. Some advocacy groups think the Hispanic population was undercounted in 2000. [More information](#) on health program, [more information](#) on census program

### Profile of American Indians and Alaska Natives and their health coverage

This brief examines the health coverage, access to care and health status of American Indians and Alaska Natives across the country. Although the U.S.

government has an established responsibility through tribal agreements to provide health care services to members of federally recognized Indian tribes, many American Indians and Alaska Natives lack access to health care. The brief gives an overview of some of the demographic factors that influence the health and insurance coverage of American Indians and Alaska Natives. [More information](#)

### Nominations open for 2010 Rural Health Awards

National Rural Health Association honors outstanding individuals and organizations in the field of rural health at its Annual Rural Health Conference. Nominate your favorite rural health professional or student so they might be known and honored nationally for dedicating their time and talents to improving the health and well-being of others. Entry deadline is Jan. 15, 2010. NRHA strongly prefers online nominations. If you have any questions about the Rural Health Awards, contact Gabriela Boscan at [gboscan@nrharural.org](mailto:gboscan@nrharural.org) or 202-639-0550. [More information](#)

## IMPORTANT LINKS

- Administration on Aging
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- America's Health Rankings: Our Nation at a Glance
- American Indian and Alaska Native Information (CMS)
- Arizona Critical Access Hospital Program
- AHCCCS
- Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
- Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc.
- Critical Access Hospital Information (CMS)
- Critical Access Hospitals Financial Performance Indicators by State
- Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI)
- Federal Funding Opportunities
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (CMS)
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- Health Services Advisory Group
- HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse
- Indian Health Service, Navajo Area Office
- Indian Health Service, Phoenix Area Office
- Indian Health Service, Tucson Area Office
- Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- Kaiser Family Foundation: Fast Facts
- Local Community Resource Finder
- Medicare Learning Network (CMS)
- National Association of Community Health Centers
- National Association of Rural Health Clinics
- National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health
- National Rural Health Association
- Office of Rural Health Policy, HHS
- Rural Assistance Center
- Rural Health Information (CMS)
- Rural Health Research Gateway
- Rural Health Resource Center - TASC
- RUPRI State Profiles
- State Health Facts Online
- State Offices of Rural Health Grant Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- USDA Rural Indicator Map Machine
- Veteran Affairs State Summary Fact Sheets

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This online newsletter is a joint project of the Rural Health Office housed at the UA Zuckerman College of Public Health, and the Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc. The mission of the Rural Health Office is to promote the health of rural and medically underserved individuals, families, and communities through service, education and research. The Arizona Rural Health Association, Inc. advocates on behalf of the health needs of rural Arizonans at national, state and local levels. Its multidisciplinary membership

provides a respected and highly effective group of rural health practitioners and rural community residents. For example, the AzRHA, Inc. has actively and successfully advocated with the state legislature for funding for telemedicine and mobile clinics in all fifteen counties of the state. Your questions (or answers) are always welcome. Please send them as well as address changes to Renee Fullerton, RHO publications coordinator, [rfullert@email.arizona.edu](mailto:rfullert@email.arizona.edu)