



HEALTH E-NEWSLETTER

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GCIR NATIONAL CONVENING

GCIR's national convening, *Promoting Immigrant Integration: Leadership in Challenging Times*, will be held **June 18-20** at the historic and newly renovated **Blackstone Hotel in Chicago**. A longstanding immigrant destination with vibrant ethnic neighborhoods, Chicago provides a rich laboratory for exploring barriers and promising approaches to immigrant integration. Sessions will include access and barriers to and the status of the health and well-being of immigrants and their families as a facet of newcomer integration. Foundations will glean important insights, lessons, and best practices to guide their work back home. For more information click [here](#) or contact GCIR's program director, Alison De Lucca, at 323.251.6505, or [via e-mail](#).

RECENT NEWS ARTICLES

Group to Research Asian Immigrant Health Care, by Mary Lou Pickel, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, **January 27, 2008**. Cancer is the leading cause of death in Asian communities, and the Center for Pan Asian Community Services near Atlanta, Georgia seeks to address the low rate of cancer screenings and other health care issues in a new study being conducted.

Filipino Nurses, Healers in Trouble, by Joseph Berger, *New York Times*, **January 27, 2008**. The migration of Filipino nurses to U.S. hospitals is generally regarded as a success, but many newcomers fall victim to exploitation and difficult working conditions. To protest broken promises and poor working conditions, a group of Filipino nurses resigned from their positions but now face a legal battle regarding the timeliness of their resignations.

Oklahoma Immigration Law Blamed for Death, by Justin Jozapavicius, *Associated Press*, **January 25, 2008**. Oklahoma House Bill 1804 is one of the nation's toughest legislative measures against undocumented immigrants. In the shadow of this policy, the parents of a toddler avoided seeking medical care for their child due to fear of deportation.

Veto Stands on Measure to Expand Health Plan, by Robert Pear, *New York Times*, **January 24, 2008**. Congressional proponents of expanded funding for SCHIP cited the economic downturn, fewer jobs, rising foreclosures, and higher energy costs as reasons for alleviating hardships for many American families. But when put to a vote, the bill failed.

Lead More Likely to Harm Immigrant Kids, *Associated Press*, **December 19, 2007**. Immigrant children in New York City are five times more likely to have lead poisoning, and those who have lived abroad recently are at even greater risk.

Hospital May End Cancer Care for Unauthorized Immigrants, **Opinion, Caller Times, December 2, 2007**. Due to budgetary issues, the University of Texas Medical Branch may end its medical care for cancer patients who are undocumented immigrants.

Study Finds Immigrants' Use of Health Care System Lower than Expected, **by Mary Engel, Los Angeles Times, November 27, 2007**. Several emergency rooms in Los Angeles County have closed in the past years, citing the cost of treating the uninsured. Although undocumented immigrants are less likely to be insured, the study found that undocumented Latino immigrants are 50% less likely than U.S.-born Latinos to use hospital emergency rooms in California.

Health Care Lost in Translation, **by Marcela Sanchez, Washington Post, November 19, 2007**. Some Latin American governments concerned with the well-being of their nationals living in this country are providing eye exams and medical tests.

U.S. Rule Limits Emergency Care for Immigrants, **by Sarah Kershaw, New York Times, September 22, 2007**. The federal government will no longer cover chemotherapy treatment provided in emergency care to undocumented immigrants under Medicaid, the national health care program for the poor. The change is part of a national debate regarding the provision of different types of emergency medical care to the undocumented.

RECENT REPORTS

Health Coverage for Children and Families in Medicaid and SCHIP: State Efforts Face New Hurdles, **by Donna Cohen Ross, Aleya Horn, and Caryn Marks, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, January 2008**. In 2007, states took steps to advance health care coverage for uninsured individuals--particularly children--who did not receive employer-based coverage or could not afford individual health coverage. This report examines these policies and the challenges, such as the Medicaid citizenship documentation requirement, confronting states in assuring that low-income uninsured children, their parents, and pregnant women have health care.

Racial-Ethnic Inequality in Child Well-Being from 1985-2004: Gaps Narrowing, but Persist, **by Donald J. Hernandez and Suzanne E. Macartney, Foundation for Child Development, January 2008**. Racial and ethnic differences have narrowed between black, white, and Hispanic children, but more must be done to eradicate these inequalities. This report, based on findings from the Foundation for Child Development's Child Well-Being Index, is the first to evaluate the changes among children from 1985-2004.

Breaking Through the Silence: Key Issues to Address HIV/AIDS Among Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, **Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) and National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), December 5, 2007**. This study examines demographic growth and diversity in Asian and Pacific Islander communities, the challenges for HIV prevention, and opportunities for community-based programs.

Chronic Indifference: HIV/AIDS Services for Immigrants Detained by the United States, **Human Rights Watch, December 2007**. The agency's investigation of HIV/AIDS care for detained immigrants, which included interviews with current and former detainees, DHS and detention facility officials, and an independent medical review of treatment, found that Immigration and Customs Enforcement supervised facilities failed: to deliver complete anti-retroviral regimens in a consistent manner, to conduct the necessary monitoring of detainees' clinical condition, and to prescribe prophylactic medications when medically indicated.

The Erosion of Employment-Based Insurance, **by Elise Gould, Economic Policy Institute, November 1, 2007**. The number of uninsured individuals continues to rise, and the number of uninsured foreign-born workers remains disproportionately high compared to native-born workers. Many of these individuals fall through the cracks in the safety net of employer provided insurance and public health programs, and have inadequate care or none at all. In this briefing paper the author examines coverage rates for different demographic groups.

Charge that Bipartisan SCHIP Compromise Bill Aids Undocumented Immigrants is False, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, September 25, 2007. In an effort to ensure that undocumented immigrants do not access the benefits of Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), a 2006 law requires applicants to show an original birth certificate or other document to enroll. Studies show that citizen children have been declined coverage since the passage of the law.

Functioning at the Brink: The Children's Health Initiatives Have Grown but May Not Survive, Stevens, Gregory D., Cousineau, Michael R., Arpawong, T. Em, and Rice, Kyoko, Center for Community Studies, University of Southern California, September 2007. The California Health Initiatives provide coverage to uninsured children, including immigrant children, via Healthy Kids. This report, funded by The California Endowment, highlights the demand for services and sustainability problems in the face of anticipated funding cuts.

Immigration and the Elderly: Foreign-Born Workers in Long-Term Care, by Walter N. Leutz, Ph.D., American Immigration Law Firm, August 2007. The aging of larger numbers of Americans will require significant increases in financial and human resources for health care support and other social services. As a result, immigrants will continue to play a significant role in the growth of the U.S. labor force in general and of the direct-care workforce in particular.

PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

Grantmakers and Health 2008 Conference, February 27, 2008, Los Angeles, California. Immigration characterizes the United States. As the nation grows increasingly diverse, demands on health care, education, and community development increase. Grantmakers must react strategically to engage the full community, including health care providers, educators, businesses, faith-based organizations, and immigrants themselves. This session, co-sponsored by GCIR and Grantmakers and Health, will highlight approaches for working across issue areas in order to facilitate immigrant integration, address broad community needs, and seize opportunities that arise with these new community members. To register for the conference, visit www.gih.org.

Sixth National Conference on Quality Health Care for Culturally Diverse Populations, September 21 - 24, 2008, Minneapolis, MN. This biennial conference focuses on improving cultural competence and reducing health disparities in the United States. The theme for the conference is "Partnerships for the Future: Supporting Practitioners and Advancing the Field through Innovation, Policy, and Research." For more information, visit the conference website: www.diversityrxconference.org.

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