

Women's Psych-E

E-newsletter of the APA Women's Programs Office: November 2005

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NEWS

NOVEMBER IS LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Lung Cancer Awareness Month (LCAM) is dedicated to increasing attention to lung cancer issues. See the Lung Cancer Awareness Month website at <http://www.lcam.org/> for more information.

E-STATS: Women and Lung Cancer

- Lung cancer is expected to account for 27% of all female cancer deaths in 2005.
- 80% of cases of lung cancer in women are the result of smoking; other causes include exposure to secondhand smoke, toxins in the environment, and genetics.
- almost one in four women (25%) in the U.S. smoke and the rates are even higher among high school girls. Approximately half of these smoking girls and women will die prematurely from smoking-related diseases such as lung cancer, oral cancer, heart disease, stroke, and emphysema.

Source: American Cancer Society; National Cancer Institute; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Additional information:

- **Great American Smoke Out: Thursday, November 17**
For more information go to www.cancer.org/docroot/PED/ped_10_4.asp
- **Society for Women's Health Research, Her Cancer Campaign**
For more information, go to www.HerCancer.com

Mental Health Service Use Among Caregivers of Cancer Patients

A *Journal of Oncology*, article reports that in addition to neglecting their physical health, people caring for a loved one with cancer may also neglect their mental health. Of 200 caregivers of patients with advanced cancer, 13% met the criteria for a significant psychiatric disorder -- including panic disorder, major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and generalized anxiety. However, less than half had received any professional help.

Vanderwerker, L.C., Laff, R.E., Kadan-Lottick, N.S., McColl, S., & Prigerson, H.G. (2005). Psychiatric disorders and mental health service use among caregivers of advanced cancer patients. *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, 23(28), 6899-6907.

NOVEMBER IS AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

In 2005, 1.5 million new cases of diabetes were diagnosed in people aged 20 years or older. In fact, 9.7 million, or 8.8% of all women aged 20 years or older have diabetes although nearly one third of them do not know it. For more information and resources, see the American Diabetes Month website at: www.diabetes.org

OTHER NEWS:

CDC study examines the Impact of Domestic Violence on Women

A newly released Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study, *Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*, examines the impact of domestic violence on the workplace and the direct healthcare costs for both male and female victims of domestic violence. While productivity losses were relatively close for women (\$257) and men (\$224), the average medical costs associated with domestic violence for women was \$483 compared to \$83 for men; the average mental health services costs for women was \$207 compared to \$80 for men. www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/ipv_cost/IPVBook-Final-Feb18.pdf.

See also, *APA Resolution on Male Violence Against Women* www.apa.org/pi/wpo/maleviol.html.

IWPR briefing paper examines Women of the Gulf Coast Region

Women are more likely to be poor than men, however, poverty rates among women in the Gulf Coast region are higher especially high. According to the IWPR, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas rank in the bottom 10 states for women. In the city of New Orleans, the poverty rate for women is 25.9% compared with 14.5% nationwide. Consequently, 56% of families in the city of New Orleans are headed by single women, compared to 25.2% nationwide. A new IWPR briefing paper, "Women of Gulf Coast Key to Rebuilding After Katrina and Rita," examines the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita among women in the Gulf Coast region and discusses policies needed to allow these women in to achieve economic security. Additional information can be found on the IWPR website, www.iwpr.org.

ASSOCIATION NEWS:

Statement on Parental Alienation Syndrome

The American Psychological Association (APA) believes that all mental health practitioners as well as law enforcement officials and the courts must take any reports of domestic violence in divorce and child custody cases seriously. An APA 1996 Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family noted the lack of data to support so-called "parental alienation syndrome", and raised concern about the term's use. However, we have no official position on the purported syndrome.

www.apa.org/releases/passyndrome.html

APA Hurricane Katrina Assistance

APA recognizes that the consequences of Hurricane Katrina are still unfolding and will be doing so for some time. Therefore, the association will continue to monitor developments and stands ready to provide additional relief assistance as appropriate in the future. See www.apa.org/releases/apakatrina.html.

WPO NEWS:

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

During October, in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Women's Programs Office distributed purple ribbons and information with local domestic violence hotlines/resources to APA staff. Resource guides and brochures were also placed in all of the restrooms (male and female). Local domestic violence resources will remain available on the WPO website at www.apa.org/pi/wpo.

Policy Briefings: *As part of efforts to monitor issues relevant to women, WPO staff participates in and represents APA at meetings, briefings and conferences:*

The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) sponsored a briefing entitled “Addressing Disparities in Immigrant Women’s Reproductive Health and Health Care” on November 2, 2005. Congressman Michael Honda, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo and researchers discussed cultural and linguistic barriers, disparities in access to care and insurance, mistrust of health providers, and discrimination. See spssi@spssi.org/Congressional_Briefing.html for more information.

Women’s Policy Inc. sponsored a briefing on “Health Benefits Literacy and Retirement Planning” on October 20, 2005. Congresswoman Schultz, FL, Joyce Dubow (AARP Public Policy Institute), and Dexanne B. Clohan, MD (Aetna) addressed health literacy and the link between financial literacy and women’s limited retirement income. See <http://www.womenspolicy.org/events/october20.html> for a web cast.

POLICY: Violence Against Women Act III

Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed separate bills to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA III). VAWA will now go to conference, where members of the House and Senate will work to resolve the differences between the two bills. APA is working with a coalition of organizations to ensure that vital provisions related to health, youth, housing, services for immigrants and communities of color are included in the final legislation.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

CEMRRAT Grants 2006

The APA’s Public Interest Directorate has been allocated \$100,000 to continue implementation of the CEMRRAT Plan as recommended by the APA Commission on Ethnic Minority Recruitment, Retention and Training in Psychology (CEMRRAT). These small-grants "seed funds" energize, empower, and support interested individuals, organizations, and educational institutions committed to enhancing ethnic minority recruitment, retention and training in psychology. See

http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/programs/cemrrat2_grant_fund_announcement.pdf for more information.

Volunteer applications sought for APA’s representative team at the United Nations -- APA is seeking psychologists who live in the greater New York area to volunteer to be part of the APA UN Representative team. Representatives work on selected areas of UN concern, and promote the use! of psychological science and a psychological perspective in UN activities. For more information see www.apa.org/international/apauncall.html or email international@apa.org.

Division 35 seeking Fellows: Did you know that only 25% of APA Fellows are women, although women make up 51% of APA membership? Applications are currently being accepted for Division 35 Fellows. **Deadline December 9th.** For more information see www.apa.org/divisions/div35/fellow.html .

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sixth Interdisciplinary Conference on Work, Stress and Health, Miami, FL, March 2-4, 2006.

<http://www.apa.org/pi/work/wsh2006.html>

Contributions, comments, and subscription requests may be submitted for consideration to Tanya L. Burrwell, Editor, at tburrwell@apa.org. Check the Women’s Programs Office website at <http://www.apa.org/pi/wpo>.