April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)

Heart disease is the #1 killer of women and men. Heart disease can lead to disability and a significantly decreased quality of life. Although women aged 40-60 are primarily the target age group, it is important to understand that heart disease develops gradually and can start at a young age. It is never too late to take action to prevent and control the risk factors for heart disease. Major risk factors for heart disease include obesity, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

E-STATS: Women and Sexual Assault

1 in 6 women in the US (and 1 in 33 men) reported experiencing an attempted or completed rape at some time in their lives.

- 76% of sexually assaulted women were attacked by a current or former husband, cohabiting partner, friend, or date.

- 2.5% of women surveyed and 0.9% of men surveyed said they experienced unwanted sexual activity in the previous 12 months.

Source: The National Crime Victimization Survey, U.S. Department of Justice

National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
National Sexual Violence Resource Center: www.nsvrc.org
U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women: www.enditnow.gov/sa/flash.html

The Impact of Collective Violence on Women’s Mental and Physical Health

Violence against women is a pervasive problem which has negative affects on both women’s mental and physical health. A study published in the April 2008 Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology examines the impact of collective violence on women’s mental and physical health. Using a sample of 268 predominately low-income, African American, female veterans, researchers examined the co-occurrence of childhood sexual assault, adult sexual assault, intimate partner violence and sexual harassment. Researchers found that collective violence creates an overlapping burden to the psychological and physical health of many women. Recommendations for clinical interventions and screening for histories of violence in health care settings are discussed.

Opportunities for Psychologists

2009 National Multicultural Conference and Summit: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Conference proposals are being accepted for the 2009 National Multicultural Conference and Summit (NCMS): Advancing Our Communities: The Role of Social Justice in Multicultural Psychology. The NCMS is scheduled for January 15-16, 2009 in New Orleans, Louisiana at Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. The NMCS will convene students, practitioners, and scholars in psychology and related fields to inform and inspire multicultural theory, research, and practice. The conference theme promotes social justice and psychological well-being for historically marginalized communities, and explores links and tensions between social justice and multicultural psychology. Due Date for All Conference Proposals is: May 23, 2008 by 11:59pm (EDT). All conference proposals are being accepted online through the NMCS website at: http://www.reisman-white.com

Use of Resistance Strategies to Sexual Assault

An upcoming study in the May 2008 Journal of Interpersonal Violence explores the predictors of resistance strategies to a sexual assault situation. Researchers assessed a sample of college women for past history of sexual victimization, perceived risk of sexual victimization, and intentions to use specific types of resistance strategies (i.e., physical struggle, plead, reason, turn cold, freeze) over a brief two-month period; during this time, nearly 17% of the women were sexually victimized. The study found that previous childhood sexual victimization, previous sexual victimization, and perpetrator aggression are predictors to women’s particular resistance strategies. Researchers highlight the necessity for providing prevention and risk reduction programs on college campuses in addition to a systemic evaluation of the effectiveness of such programs.


Committee on Women in Psychology

Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology - NEW

The American Psychological Association Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP) announces its inaugural Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology to be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2008, from 9:00am to 5:00pm, at the Boston Marriott Copley Place in Boston, Massachusetts. This inaugural one-day Institute will target approximately 30 mid-career women psychologists who are APA members and who work in academic or academic medicine settings. Future Institutes will focus on women psychologists who work in other professional settings. To read the official Call for Applications, please visit: www.apa.org/pi/wpo/leadership_inst.html. To submit your application, please visit: www.apa.org/pi/wpo/application.html.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call our office at 202.336.6044 or send an e-mail to womensleadershipinstitute@apa.org.

Mark Your Calendars

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
30th Anniversary Conference:
Building Grassroots Leadership for Social Justice,
Washington, DC,
http://www.ncadv.org/

Leadership Institute for Women,
Boston, MA,
August 13, 2008.
www.apa.org/pi/wpo

American Psychological Association Annual Convention,
Boston, MA, August
14-17, 2008.
http://www.apa.org/convention08/

World Rural Women's Day,
October 15, 2008.
http://www.woman.ch/women/2-introduction.php

National Multicultural Conference and Summit,
Advancing Our Communities: The Role of Social Justice in Multicultural Psychology,
New Orleans, LA,
http://www.reisman-white.com/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=28

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