President's Message: How Healthy is Your County?

At times we become so busy focusing on what is happening at the national and state level in terms of health and health policy that we forget that much of what keeps us healthy or makes us sick happens at the local level. This is where health policy can make a major difference in how healthy we are.

Because data is essential to informing and driving change, it is with great pleasure that the Academy is giving you a heads up that the latest edition of one of the major sources of local county data has just been released: The 2017 edition of the County Health Rankings. As noted by Academy fellow Sue Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, on behalf of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “the Rankings can help counties take action on their journey to better health.” I encourage you to review it.

County Health Rankings is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. This program has collected data over the past eight years, publishing an annual report that ranks the health of the majority of counties in the US and describes, based on data, how healthy we are and what is making us sick. Click here to access the published data. The Findings Report can be read here.

So what are the major findings? Three important areas are highlighted in the report:

- Premature death rates rose across urban and rural communities and across racial and ethnic groups; the highest was in rural counties among American Indian/Alaskan Native and black populations. These rising rates are most pronounced in ages 15-44.
- Drug overdose was the leading cause of premature death.
- Youth (16-24 years) should be one of our greatest opportunities as a nation; but in 2015 about 4.9 million youth (1 in 8) were not in school or working. This type of disconnection of youth is linked to higher rates of unemployment, child poverty, children in single-parent households, teen births and lower educational attainment.

The strength of this report is the actions outlined that enable a community to intervene using evidence-based approaches. So please take a moment to view this report and let us know what you think!

One way we can take action is to place nurses in key policy positions. The Academy’s Institute for Nursing Leadership focuses on positioning nurses to lead change to improve health and drive policy in 2017. Your donations provide the Institute with the resources to facilitate leadership placement by strengthening the infrastructure that ensures that qualified nurses are appointed to governing boards, commissions, and councils at the national and state level. Please donate by clicking here. When you donate by June 30th, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar thanks to a generous $50,000 matching gift from the Conway-Welch Family Foundation, Inc.

Sincerely,

Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
President

Policy Update

The Academy was pleased to send a letter to the new director of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services urging the inclusion of military service criteria in electronic health records to focus on the unique needs and strengths of Americans who have served in the Armed Forces and their
families. [Click here to read the letter.]

The Academy’s policy pages of the May/June issue of Nursing Outlook will include the policy briefs Improve Coverage of Newborn Genetic Screening to Include the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel and Newborn Screening Registry (prepared by the Genomics Expert Panel) and the Call for Improved Military Policy to Support Breastfeeding among U.S. Armed Forces (prepared by the Breastfeeding Expert Panel).

The Academy is pleased to join with Research!America and over 170 organizations for March for Science on April 22 in a global movement to defend the vital role science plays in everyday life including in health, safety, economies, and governments.

Applications Due April 30th for NAM Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence

Accepting 2017-2018 applications for only two more weeks! The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) Distinguished Nurse Scholar-in-Residence, supported by the Academy, the American Nurses Association, and the American Nurses Foundation, provides a year-long leadership opportunity in health policy at the NAM. It is designed as an immersion experience to facilitate nurse leaders to engage in a prominent role in health policy development at the national level and to interact with other health fellows and scholars. [Click here for the 2017-2018 Call for Applications.] The application deadline is April 30, 2017.

2017 Academy Jonas Policy Scholars

Applications are now being accepted for the 2017 cohort of Academy Jonas Policy Scholars. Generously supported by the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare, the program supports early-career scholars who will contribute to shaping nursing practice, education, and research policy. Up to six highly qualified doctoral and post-doctoral students in nursing will be selected for this two-year fellowship program. Academy Jonas Policy Scholars will be matched with an Academy expert panel and learn from leading experts in nursing about select health policy issues. [Click here for full details and to download the application.] The deadline for applications is May 15, 2017.

Academy Seeks Living Legend Nominations and Honorary Fellow Applications

Living Legend: The Academy is now accepting nominations for 2017 Living Legends through May 22, 2017. View the nomination and selection process here.

Honorary Fellow: The Academy is now accepting applications for 2017 Honorary Fellows through May 22, 2017. [Click here] for more information.

Call for Abstracts: 2017 Council Conference

The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science is now accepting abstracts for electronic poster presentations at the 2017 Advanced Methods Conference: Pragmatic Trials. This is your opportunity to present your research; it does not have to be a pragmatic trial to be considered. [Click here to submit abstracts.]

The Council’s conference will be held October 4-5, 2017 at the Marriott Marquis Washington, DC.

Academy’s 2017 Policy Conference

Get ready to explore policy issues, network with colleagues, honor Living Legends, and celebrate the new cohort of 2017 fellows! The Academy’s 2017 Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference will be held October 5-7, 2017 at the Marriott Marquis Washington, DC. Registration will open in early May; [reserve your hotel room] at the Marriott Marquis today.

The Academy is now accepting abstracts for electronic poster presentations at the 2017 Policy Conference. The deadline is June 16, 2017. [Click here] to review guidelines and submit your abstract.

Support the Academy

We are proud to acknowledge the generosity of our supporters and their commitment to the Academy. The list below represents Academy supporters who have made unrestricted gifts to the Rheba de Tornyay Development Fund and/or restricted gifts designated for the Institute for Nursing Leadership or Raise the Voice at the President’s Circle level of $1,000 and above from March. Each dollar raised directly supports the Academy’s
mission of transforming health policy and practice through nursing knowledge.

- Kaye Bender
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Your gift, at a level that is meaningful to you, plays a crucial role in helping the organization meet its Strategic Goals. The Academy is an independent 501(c)(3) non profit organization; your financial gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

Become a President's Circle member today!

Edge Runner Achievement

Intermountain Healthcare (Utah) received the 2017 Hearst Health Prize of $100,000 for its Mental Health Integration (MHI) program which incorporates mental health as a routine part of healthcare using a team-based approach. Brenda Reiss-Brennan, PhD, APRN (right), was designated an Academy Edge Runner in 2015 for this innovative, nurse-designed program. Dr. Reiss-Brennan joined the Intermountain Healthcare team in 2001 and disseminated MHI throughout the delivery system. Click here to read the Edge Runner profile.

The Academy's next Edge Runner application deadline for 2017 is June 1. Edge Runner applicants do not need to be fellows. Learn more about the Edge Runner application process here.

Fellow Achievements

Cheryl Dennison Himmelfarb, PhD, RN, ANP, FAHA, FPCNA, FAAN, has been selected for induction to the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. The honor acknowledges nurses who have achieved national or international recognition and whose research has improved lives and the profession. Dr. Dennison Himmelfarb is a professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Her research focuses on social and cultural determinants of cardiovascular risk. She was inducted into the Academy in 2010.

Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, RN, CPNP/PMHNP, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN, received the AONE Foundation 2017 Nurse Researcher Award. The honor recognizes someone who has made significant contributions to nursing research and is recognized by the broader nursing community as an outstanding researcher. Dr. Melnyk is vice president for health promotion and dean of the Ohio State University College of Nursing. She was inducted into the Academy in 2002.

Have news to share? Let us know

Career Opportunities

(The following are Paid Announcements)

Pace University College of Health Professions Announces New PhD in Nursing Program

Pace University’s College of Health Professions in New York is pleased to announce a new PhD in Nursing program, accepting students for Fall, 2017 on their Pleasantville campus. Stated to be the only PhD in Nursing program from New York City to Binghamton, the focus will be on students joining faculty to tackle the root causes of health problems,
the social determinants of health. Click here for full details of the program.

Dean of Nursing, University of Connecticut

The University of Connecticut (UConn) seeks a visionary leader to serve as Dean of its School of Nursing. The Dean is the School of Nursing’s chief academic and administrative officer, reporting to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. The successful candidate will be a proven leader and talented administrator, and demonstrate national leadership in teaching, research, and public service.

Click here for complete details and application instructions.

Advertise your employment opportunities or special announcements in FAAN Mall

American Academy of Nursing  
Washington, DC  
info@aannet.org | www.aannet.org | 202-777-1170