



**HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES**  
Coalition of Georgia

# HMHB Resource Watch

*Improving the health status of Georgia's families.*

## Public Health News Oral Health Awareness Month

**Volume 10, Issue 7**  
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Feb. 3, 2009

### February - National Children's Dental Health Month

February is National Children's Dental Health month. The American Dental Hygienists' Association is spreading awareness with the theme "A Healthy Smile Lasts a Lifetime".

"It is important that we promote [healthy oral hygiene habits](#) while children are young so that they can continue these routines as they grow older," says Diann Bomkamp, RDH, BSDH, ADHA president. "National Children's Dental Health Month is a great opportunity for dental hygienists nationwide to provide children and their parents with the education to build these habits."

The most common chronic disease of childhood is [tooth decay](#) or dental caries. However, it is preventable in most cases and occurs generally due to lack of proper oral hygiene, poor dietary or lifestyle habits. Children retain and follow the habits which they learn during childhood and hence it becomes essential to inculcate good oral habits which will last a lifetime and prevent many oral conditions and diseases.

Proper oral hygiene must be emphasized since infancy and should be continued through out life. Here are some tips which are recommended by dental hygienists:

- -After feeding, clean your infant's gums with a wet washcloth which removes adherent food and stimulates the gums.
- -Do not use a milk or sugary drink filled bottle as an aid for sleep or nap for the baby. Do not let the baby sleep with the bottle in his/her mouth as this can cause baby bottle tooth decay.
- -When the teeth start to erupt, use a small soft bristled toothbrush with small quantity of toothpaste to clean their teeth. Teach children proper brushing techniques when they are about 2-3 years old.
- -The first dental appointment should be around the age of 1 and ensure regular visits to the dentist after this.
- -Keep a check on the amount of sugar your kids eat and encourage brushing after every meal.

<http://www.dentalhealthsite.com/february-national-childrens-dental-health-month/>

### *Inside this issue:*

Public Health News	1
HMHB in the Community	2
HMHB Health Fair	3
News from National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies	4
News from National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies	5
Health Conferences and Observances	6



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## **HMHB in the Community**

Atlanta Technical College	February 19, 2009   Atlanta Technical College Health Fair 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs - Conference Call	February 21-25, 2009   RSVP at <a href="http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey.zgi?p=WEB228P547UC9C">http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey.zgi?p=WEB228P547UC9C</a> to receive conference call instructions
Emory University - Emory Conference Center	February 20 - 21, 2009   Emory Conference Center 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Georgia Trauma - Georgia State Capitol	February 23, 2009   "It's About Time" Georgia Trauma 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia, Inc. - Emory Conference Center	February 27 - 28, 2009   HHC GA Latino Conference 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Jump Right Association - Metro Fitness	February 28, 2009   1st Annual Community Health Fair 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



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HMHB Presents

## ***"Health: It's A Family Affair"***

March 28, 2009 9:00am-1:30 pm

Savannah High School

To educate and help families build a healthy, productive lifestyle

### Event Activities

- ◆ Health Classes
- ◆ Kids Bicycle Rodeo
- ◆ **Family** Crafts
- ◆ Parent University
- ◆ Door Prizes
- ◆ Local Celebrity Walk-a-thon

*Sponsored by:*



HMHB, Chatham-Savannah Youth Futures Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, Amerigroup, and WellCare of Georgia

# News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies— February 17, 2009

This Week:

- 1) Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children
- 2) Study: Impact of Maternity Obesity on Congenital Anomalies
- 3) Spanish-Language Web Site from NIDCR
- 4) Webcast to Feature Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

## MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

**1) MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HERITABLE DISORDERS IN NEWBORNS AND CHILDREN** The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will host a meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (ACHDNC) on February 26-27, 2009 in Bethesda, MD. The meeting will include presentations and continued discussions on the nomination/evaluation process for newborn screening candidate conditions. The agenda will include an update on the American Health Information Community's Newborn Screening Use Case and presentations on the National Institutes of Health funded Translational Research Network, and associated research policies and practices, as well as presentations on the continued work and reports of the ACHDNC's subcommittees on laboratory standards and procedures, follow-up and treatment, and education and training. Participants are asked to register for the meeting by going to the registration Web site at <http://events.SignUp4.com/ACHDNC0209>. A meeting agenda and other meeting materials are also available on the Web site. The registration deadline is Wednesday, February 25, 2009. The meeting will be open to the public with attendance limited to space availability. More information on the Advisory Committee is available at <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/heritabledisorderscommittee>.

**2) STUDY: IMPACT OF MATERNAL OBESITY ON CONGENITAL ANOMALIES** A study in the February 11th edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association assesses current evidence of the association between maternal obesity and some congenital anomalies. Researchers examined observational studies with an estimate of prepregnancy or early pregnancy weight or body mass index (BMI) and data on congenital anomalies. They found that, compared with mothers of recommended BMI, obese mothers were at increased odds of pregnancies affected by neural tube defects, spina bifida, cardiovascular anomalies, septal anomalies, cleft palate, cleft lip and palate, anorectal atresia, hydrocephaly, and limb reduction anomalies. However, the authors conclude that the increased risk is likely to be small. To access the study online, go to <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/301/6/636>.

## CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

**3) SPANISH-LANGUAGE WEB SITE FROM NIDCR** The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) has developed a new Web site for individuals who speak Spanish and are seeking oral health information. The site is also designed for bilingual individuals seeking information for their Spanish-speaking friends and family. While it is similar to the NIDCR's English language Web site, both the content and graphic design of the new site are tailored for US Hispanics/Latinos. NIDCR is the federal government's lead agency for scientific research on oral, dental and craniofacial health and diseases and is one of the National Institutes of Health in the

US Department of Health and Human Services. To visit the Spanish-language Web site, go to <http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/Espanol/>.

## ADVOCATES IN ACTION

**4) WEBCAST TO FEATURE SECRETARY'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION** The Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020 will meet on the Internet via WebEx software on February 23, 2009 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm EST. The meeting will be open to the public as a live, streaming Webcast. This is the ninth in a series of federal advisory committee meetings regarding the national health promotion and disease prevention objectives for 2020 to be held in Washington, DC. The Secretary's Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020 will address efforts to develop the nation's health promotion and disease prevention objectives and strategies to improve the health status and reduce health risks for Americans by the year 2020. The Committee will provide advice and consultation to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for developing and implementing the next iteration of national health promotion and disease prevention goals and objectives and provide recommendations for initiatives to occur during the initial implementation phase of the goals and objectives. HHS will use the recommendations to inform the development of the national health promotion and disease prevention objectives for 2020 and the process for implementing the objectives. The intent is to develop and launch objectives designed to improve the health status and reduce health risks for Americans by the year 2020. To register for the meeting, go to <https://meetings.norc.org/hp2020/>.

Sources:

- <http://events.SignUp4.com/ACHDNC0209>
- <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/301/6/636>
- <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/heritabledisorderscommittee>
- <http://www.brochure2blog.org/PublicHealthCafe/home.aspx>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/AutismDecision/>
- <http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/Espanol/>
- <http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/node/5026>
- [releases/2009/021209\\_press\\_release.cfm](http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/node/5026)
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/12/AR2009021201391.html>
- <https://meetings.norc.org/hp2020/>

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## News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies— February 9, 2009

This Week:

- 1) From March of Dimes: Survey on Folic Acid and Pre-Pregnancy Health
- 2) Featured Organization: Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities
- 3) Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to Take Effect This Month
- 4) Call for Abstracts: NPWH Conference
- 5) Postpartum Depression Legislation Reintroduced to the US Senate

### MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

**1) FROM MARCH OF DIMES: SURVEY ON FOLIC ACID AND PRE-PREGNANCY HEALTH** Since 1995, the March of Dimes has commissioned Gallup to conduct surveys to measure women's awareness and behavior relative to folic acid and other pre-pregnancy health issues. Survey results include: 39% of women age 18-45 reported taking a vitamin containing folic acid daily in the US. In addition, in 2008, 84% of women ages 18-45 reported having heard of folic acid, while 20% of women who were aware of folic acid mentioned that folic acid prevents birth defects. Complete results of the 2008 survey, "Improving Preconception Health: Women's Knowledge and Use of Folic Acid" are available online at <http://www.marchofdimes.com/peristats/tlanding.aspx?dv=lt&reg=99&top=13&lev=0&slev=1>.

**2) FEATURED ORGANIZATION: CAROLINA INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** The newly established Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) provides cutting-edge services, research, and training to benefit individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. CIDD will be one of the largest programs for developmental disabilities in the country and UNC-Chapel Hill's primary source for treatment, education, and research on developmental disabilities. In addition, CIDD will provide important, state-of-the-art resources aimed at supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the state of North Carolina, and will promote research on the pathogenesis and treatment of these conditions. CIDD combines four nationally-recognized programs within the UNC School of Medicine---the TEACCH <http://www.teacch.com/> Program, the Center for Development and Learning <http://www.cdl.unc.edu> (CDL), Family Support Network <http://www.fsnn.org/> (FSN), and the Neurodevelopmental Disorders Research Center <http://www.fpg.u.nc.edu/%7Endrc/>. For more information, go to <http://www.cidd.unc.edu/>.

### CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

**3) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT TO TAKE EFFECT THIS MONTH** Beginning February 10, 2009, the new requirements of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) will take effect. Manufacturers, importers and retailers are expected to comply with the new Congressionally-mandated laws. The CPSIA states that children's products cannot be sold if they contain more than 600 parts per million (ppm) total lead. Certain children's products manufactured on or after February 10, 2009 cannot be sold if they contain more than 0.1% of certain specific phthalates or if they fail to meet new mandatory standards for toys. The new law requires that domestic manufacturers and importers certify that children's products made after February 10 meet all the new safety standards and the lead ban. Sellers of used children's products, such as thrift stores and consignment stores, are not required to certify that

those products meet the new lead limits, phthalates standard or new toy standards. In addition, the CPSC has said that it will not impose penalties against anyone for making, importing, distributing or selling: a children's product made of natural materials, such as wood, cotton, wool, or certain metals and alloys which CPSC has recognized rarely, if ever, contain lead; children's book's printed after 1985; or dyed or undyed textiles (not including leather, vinyl or PVC) and non-metallic thread and trim used in children's apparel and other fabric products, such as baby blankets. For more information, go to <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09120.html>.

### **4) CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: NPWH CONFERENCE**

The National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH) has announced a call for abstracts for podium or poster presentations for its 12th Annual Conference, scheduled for October 14-17, 2009 in Providence, Rhode Island. Deadline for abstract submission is February 27, 2009. Abstracts of current research (completed or in progress) on issues affecting the health care of women are requested. Research abstracts will be considered for podium or poster presentation. Abstracts describing innovative clinical programs and industry abstracts (research or innovative clinical program) are welcomed and will be considered for poster presentation. Only original abstracts that have not previously been published or presented at national meetings will be considered. For more information, including the specific requirements for formatting of abstracts, go to <http://www.npwh.org/files/public/CallforAbstracts2009.pdf>.

**5) POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION LEGISLATION REINTRODUCED IN US SENATE** US Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) has reintroduced legislation that would secure an increased federal commitment to combating postpartum depression. The Melanie Blocker Stokes MOTHERS Act would encourage the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to coordinate and continue research to expand the understanding of the causes of, and find treatments for, postpartum conditions. It would also encourage a national public awareness campaign, to be administered by HHS, to increase awareness and knowledge of postpartum depression and psychosis. The Act would require the Secretary of HHS to conduct a study on the benefits of screening for postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis, and would create a grant program to public or nonprofit private entities to deliver services to individuals with or at risk for postpartum conditions. The legislation, which is cosponsored by Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) has support from Senate leadership and was close to passage last year when it was blocked from a vote on the Senate floor. The full text of the bill (S 324) is available online at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.324>.

Sources:

- <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/abstract/360/6/588>.
- <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.324>
- <http://www.cidd.unc.edu/>
- <http://www.cdl.unc.edu>
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09120.html>
- <http://www.fsnn.org/>
- <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/%7Endrc/>
- <http://www.marchofdimes.com/peristats/tlanding.aspx?dv=lt&reg=99&top=13&lev=0&slev=1>
- <http://www.npwh.org/files/public/CallforAbstracts2009.pdf>
- <http://www.teacch.com/>

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## Public Health Conferences and Events

**12th Annual Health Education Advocacy Summit** -  
(Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)) - February  
21-23, 2009, Washington, DC

**AMCHP Annual Conference-Launching Maternal and  
Child Health: Opportunities for a New Era** - (Association  
of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)) - Febru-  
ary 21-25, 2009, Washington, DC

**National Conference on Chronic Disease Prevention and  
Control: Cultivating Healthy Communities** - (Centers for  
Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) - February 23-25,  
2009, Washington, DC

**Third National Leadership Summit on Eliminating Racial  
and Ethnic Disparities in Health** - (Department of Health  
and Human Services (HHS) U.S. ) - February 25-27, 2009,  
National Harbor, MD

**National Emergency Management Summit** - (Health Care  
Conference Administrators (HCAA)) - March 4-6, 2009,  
Washington, DC

**26th Annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System  
(BRFSS) Conference** - (Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention (CDC)) - March 14-18, 2009, Atlanta, GA

## February Health Observances

1-28  
American Heart Month  
American Heart Association  
[www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

1-28  
National Cancer Prevention Month  
M.D. Anderson Cancer Center  
[www.mdanderson.org](http://www.mdanderson.org)

1-28  
National Children's Dental Health Month  
American Dental Association  
[www.ada.org/prof/events/featured/ncdhm.asp](http://www.ada.org/prof/events/featured/ncdhm.asp)

1-28  
National Wise Health Consumer Month  
American Institute for Preventive Medicine  
[www.healthylife.com](http://www.healthylife.com)

1-28  
AMD/Low Vision Awareness Month  
Prevent Blindness America  
[www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org)



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