



HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES
Coalition of Georgia

HMHB Resource Watch

Improving access to healthcare for Georgia's women and children.

Public Health News

Vol. 12 Issue 9

March 31, 2010

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia would like to welcome its new Executive Director, Pam Gaston.

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Pam's nonprofit career began in 1994 as Family Connection Coordinator in Polk County, Georgia. She has also served as Director of Development for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Georgia and Director of Annual Giving for the Children & Family Resource Center in Henderson County, North Carolina.

Pam attained a Master of Public Administration degree from Kennesaw State University in 2004. She is also a Certified Grants Specialist. Prior to her nonprofit chapter, Pam was a Georgia Main Street Program Manager and full-time mother of four. She has three grandchildren.



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Public Health News **National Autism Month**

Vol. 12 Issue 9
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Introduction

Not until the middle of the twentieth century was there a name for a disorder that now appears to affect an estimated 3.4 every 1,000 children ages 3-10, a disorder that causes disruption in families and unfulfilled lives for many children. In 1943 Dr. Leo Kanner of the Johns Hopkins Hospital studied a group of 11 children and introduced the label *early infantile* autism into the English language. At the same time a German scientist, Dr. Hans Asperger, described a milder form of the disorder that became known as Asperger syndrome. Thus these two disorders were described and are today listed in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders DSM-IV-TR* (fourth edition, text revision)¹ as two of the five pervasive developmental disorders (PDD), more often referred to today as autism spectrum disorders (ASD). All these disorders are characterized by varying degrees of impairment in communication skills, social interactions, and restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior.

The autism spectrum disorders can often be reliably detected by the age of 3 years, and in some cases as early as 18 months.² Studies suggest that many children eventually may be accurately identified by the age of 1 year or even younger. The appearance of any of the warning signs of ASD is reason to have a child evaluated by a professional specializing in these disorders.

Parents are usually the first to notice unusual behaviors in their child. In some cases, the baby seemed "different" from birth, unresponsive to people or focusing intently on one item for long periods of time. The first signs of an ASD can also appear in children who seem to have been developing normally. When an engaging, babbling toddler suddenly becomes silent, withdrawn, self-abusive, or indifferent to social overtures, something is wrong. Research has shown that parents are usually correct about noticing developmental problems, although they may not realize the specific nature or degree of the problem.

The pervasive developmental disorders, or autism spectrum disorders, range from a severe form, called autistic disorder, to a milder form, Asperger syndrome. If a child has symptoms of either of these disorders, but does not meet the specific criteria for either, the diagnosis is called pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS). Other rare, very severe disorders that are included in the autism spectrum disorders are Rett syndrome and childhood disintegrative disorder.

Prevalence

In 2007 - the most recent government survey on the rate of autism - the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found that the rate is higher than the rates found from studies conducted in the United States during the 1980s and early 1990s (survey based on data from 2000 and 2002). The CDC survey assigned a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder based on health and school records of 8 year olds in 14 communities throughout the U.S. Debate continues about whether this represents a true increase in the prevalence of autism. Changes in the criteria used to diagnose autism, along with increased recognition of the disorder by professionals and the public may all be contributing factors. Nonetheless, the CDC report confirms other recent epidemiologic studies documenting that more children are being diagnosed with an ASD than ever before.

Data from an earlier report of the CDC's Atlanta-based program found the rate of autism spectrum disorder was 3.4 per 1,000 for children 3 to 10 years of age. Summarizing this and several other major studies on autism prevalence, CDC estimates that 2-6 per 1,000 (from 1 in 500 to 1 in 150) children have an ASD. The risk is 3-4 times higher in males than females. Compared to the prevalence of other childhood conditions, this rate is lower than the rate of mental retardation (9.7 per 1,000 children), but higher than the rates for cerebral palsy (2.8 per 1,000 children), hearing loss (1.1 per 1,000 children), and vision impairment (0.9 per 1,000 children).³ The CDC notes that these studies do not provide a national estimate.

For additional data, please visit the [autism section of the CDC Web site](#).

References

National Institutes of Mental Health. (2009). Autism spectrum disorder (pervasive developmental disorders). Retrieved on March 31, 2010 from <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/autism/complete-index.shtml>.



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HMHB in the Community

University of Georgia – Athens, GA	April 16, 2010 Student Leadership Conference 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Holy Trinity Catholic Church - Peachtree, GA	April 18, 2010 Dia de la Familia Health Fair 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Augusta Healthy Start, etc. - Augusta, GA	April 21, 2010 Perinatal Symposium 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Savannah State University - Savannah, GA	April 21, 2010 Health Fair 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Atlanta 2 Day Walk - Atlanta, GA	April 24, 2010 2010 Health and Wellness Expo 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
A Day of Hope - Gwinnett County	May 15, 2010 Health Fair 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Please note the Savannah, April 10, 2010, event has been postponed. Hope to see you at the Savannah State University Health Fair on April 21, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.



HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES
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News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies – March 29, 2010

This Week:

- 1) Call for Abstracts: International Conference on Perinatal and Infant Death
- 2) Vaccines and Medications in Pregnancy Surveillance System
- 3) Suspension of Rotarix Rotavirus Vaccine
- 4) National Public Health Week
- 5) Branding and Global Social Marketing

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PERINATAL AND INFANT DEATH Abstracts are being accepted for the International Conference on Perinatal and Infant Death, scheduled for November 4-7, 2010 in Washington, DC. The deadline for abstract submission is April 15th. Sponsored by the Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs (ASIP) and the Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance (PLIDA), the Conference, brings together interdisciplinary professionals who can share innovative programs in bereavement and prevention, clinical expertise or research. The Call for Abstracts invites potential presenters to share successes, experiences and research and to address one or more Conference theme in their abstract (Prevention, Advocacy, Research, Support). For more information about submitting an abstract, go to http://www.nationalshare.org/ICPID_call_for_abstracts_2010.pdf. For more information about the sponsoring organizations, go to <http://www.acip1.org> or <http://www.plida.org>.

2) VACCINES AND MEDICATIONS IN PREGNANCY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM The Vaccines and Medications in Pregnancy Surveillance System (VAMPSS) has been created to learn more about both the use and safety of influenza vaccines, antiviral medication and asthma medication during pregnancy. Pregnant women who have received the seasonal influenza vaccine, the H1N1 vaccine or who have taken antiviral medication (including Tamiflu or Relenza) to prevent or treat the flu or are taking medications for asthma are encouraged to learn more about the study by contacting the VAMPSS Coordinating Center at 877-311-8972. VAMPSS evaluates the risk or safety of pregnancy exposures with respect to spontaneous abortions, preeclampsia, fetal deaths, preterm births, intrauterine growth restriction, total major congenital malformations, and specific major malformations. This nationwide, post marketing system is coordinated by the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology (AAAAI), and includes an investigative task force (ITF) and a standing independent advisory committee (IAC). The ITF includes representatives from AAAAI, the Organization of Teratology Information Specialists, and the Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston University. For more information, go to <http://www.otispregnancy.org/vaccines-and-medications-in-pregnancy-surveillance-system-s13053>.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

3) SUSPENSION OF ROTARIX ROTAVIRUS VACCINE The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have announced a temporary suspension of Rotarix brand rotavirus vaccine. The vaccine is manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline and is used to prevent rotavirus disease, which can cause severe diarrhea and dehydration. The FDA recently learned that components of an extraneous virus have been found in Rotarix vaccine. However, according to the FDA, "there is no evidence at this time that this finding poses a safety risk." As a precautionary measure, FDA and CDC suspended use of the vaccine temporarily while they learn more about the situation. To access the CDC Health Advisory on the

temporary suspension of Rotarix vaccine, go to <http://www2a.cdc.gov/HAN/ArchiveSys/ViewMsgV.asp?AlertNum=00311>. For more from the FDA on the suspension, go to <http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm205539.htm>.

4) NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

April 5-11 is National Public Health Week (NPHW). Sponsored by the American Public Health Association (APHA) since 1995, the purpose of NPHW is to educate the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving public health. NPHW 2010 will focus on the special role communities play in building a healthier America. Organizations and individuals are encouraged to champion public health by making both healthy changes in their families, neighborhoods, workplaces and schools. The 2010 Partner Toolkit includes fact sheets, media outreach materials, suggested community events, legislative information and other resources for use throughout the Week. For more information go to <http://www.nphw.org/nphw10/home1.htm>, or to download a copy of the 2010 Partner Toolkit, go to http://www.nphw.org/nphw10/layout_pg_facts_toolkit.htm.

5) BRANDING AND GLOBAL SOCIAL MARKETING

George Washington University Public Health Communication and Marketing will host the symposium, "How Branding Works in Global Social Marketing" on April 13, 2010 from 4:00-5:30pm in Ross Hall 101, located at 2300 I Street, NW in Washington, DC. Public health brands build positive associations with healthy behaviors and lifestyle choices. Worldwide, branding is increasingly a central strategy in promoting value for public health customers. The symposium will include discussion of brand theory, practice and research and provide a foundation that attendees can use and apply branding in their own programs. To register or for more information, email sphsxd@gwumc.edu. For more information about the school or about previous lectures, go to <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphs/departments/pch/phcm/resources/lectureseries.cfm>.

Sources:

<http://www.acip1.org>
http://www.awhonn.org/awhonn/content.do?name=10_AboutUs/10J_Employment.htm
<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm205539.htm>
<http://www.gwumc.edu/sphs/departments/pch/phcm/resources/lectureseries.cfm>
http://www.nationalshare.org/ICPID_call_for_abstracts_2010.pdf
<http://www.nphw.org/nphw10/home1.htm>
http://www.nphw.org/nphw10/layout_pg_facts_toolkit.htm
<http://www.otispregnancy.org/vaccines-and-medications-in-pregnancy-surveillance-system-s13053>
<http://www.plida.org>

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News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies – March 22, 2010

This Week:

- 1) Assessment of Extremely Premature Infants
- 2) Study Examines Long-Term Risk of Oral Contraception
- 3) New Surveillance and Research Program for Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia
- 4) ACIP Recommendations for Rabies Vaccination
- 5) APHA Career Development Center

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) ASSESSMENT OF EXTREMELY PREMATURE INFANTS A study in the March edition of the journal Pediatrics examines whether neonatologists can accurately predict the survival of extremely premature infants based on observations in the first minutes after birth. The study authors note that some neonatologists say that they rely on "how the baby looks" when determining whether to resuscitate extremely premature infants. In the study, attending neonatologists and neonatal fellows were shown videos of the resuscitation of 10 infants born at less than 26 weeks gestation. They were also able to view a monitor in the video displaying the infants' heart rate and oxygen. The study authors found that the observers' ability to predict survival was poor, and was not impacted by level of experience. To access the study online, go to <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/125/3/e559>.

2) STUDY EXAMINES LONG-TERM RISK OF ORAL CONTRACEPTION A study in the March 11th British Medical Journal (BMJ) online examines the mortality risk among women who have used oral contraceptives, in comparison with women who had never used this form of birth control. Over 46,000 women were observed in this prospective cohort study, which was begun in 1968. Users of oral contraception had a significantly lower rate of death from any cause, and lower rates of death from all cancers, including uterine and ovarian cancer. There was also no association between overall mortality and the duration of oral contraceptive use. The study authors conclude that, "oral contraception was not associated with increased long term risk of death in this large UK cohort; indeed, a net benefit was apparent." To access the study online, go to http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/340/mar11_1/c927?maxto-show=&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=hannaford&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=date&resourcetype=HWCIT.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

3) NEW SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THALASSEMIA The Division of Blood Disorders, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have partnered to develop a pilot surveillance system to determine the number of patients diagnosed with hemoglobinopathies in six state health departments. As part of the Registry and Surveillance System in Hemoglobinopathies (RuSH) project, the CDC has developed cooperative agreements in California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. Currently, there are no data systems that can be used to calculate the prevalence of hemoglobinopathies such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia in the US, nor to describe the patient population. Newborn screening (NBS), which has recently been adopted by all states, can yield incidence figures for hemoglobinopathies such as SCD. However, these numbers most likely underestimate the populations due to missing information on immigrants and people who were born before newborn screening, and for hemoglobin disorders

that are not tested by NBS including many of the thalassemias. The \$27 million RuSH project will help collect data for health services planning, policy development, population-based studies, and clinical studies. The system will fill the need for statistically sound estimates of prevalence and for much needed information on medical care utilization and complication rates in sickle cell disease and thalassemia patient populations. For more information about RuSH, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/research.html>.

4) ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RABIES VACCINATION The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has released new recommendations for use of postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent rabies in humans. According to the ACIP, prompt wound care and the administration of rabies immune globulin (RIG) and vaccine are highly effective in preventing human rabies following exposure. Previously, ACIP recommended a five-dose rabies vaccination regimen with human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV). The new recommendation calls for four vaccine doses. There were no changes to the ACIP recommendations for use of RIG. A report summarizing the new recommendations appears in the March 19th edition of the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). Access it online at <http://cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5902a1.htm>.

JOB LISTINGS

5) APHA CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER The American Public Health Association (APHA) online Career Development Center provides tools for career management. Over 1,000 job listings are available on the Web site, which also includes resume critiques for a small fee, as well as tips for salary and benefits negotiation. Career coaching is available to better plan and develop career goals, and site users can receive discounts on standard admissions tests such as the SAT, ACT, LSAT, MCAT, GRE and GMAT. Users can also access assessments of their behavioral style, in order to best utilize their strengths both inside and outside the workplace. The APHA Career Development Center is available online at http://action.apha.org/site/MessageViewer?dlv_id=11201&em_id=6401.0.

Sources:

- http://action.apha.org/site/MessageViewer?dlv_id=11201&em_id=6401.0
- <http://cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5902a1.htm>
- <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/125/3/e559>
- http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/340/mar11_1/c927?maxto-show=&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=hannaford&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=date&resourcetype=HWCIT
- <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/research.html>

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Public Health Conferences and Events

- Secretary's Advisory Committee Meeting on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020 - (Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) U.S.) - April 1, 2010, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. ET.
- ION Forum: Antimicrobial Resistance: Implications for Global Health & Novel Intervention Strategies - (Institute of Medicine (IOM)) - April 6-7, 2010, Washington, D.C.
- SOPHE and Prevention Research Centers (PRC) Program Joint 2010 Conference - (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)) - April 7-9, 2010, Atlanta, GA.
- Webcast - A Growing Hunger: The Nation's Demand for Food Safety and Nutrition Information - (National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)) - April 8, 2010, Washington, DC.
- 7th Annual World Health Care Congress - (World Congress) - April 12-14, 2010, Washington, DC.
- CDC Diabetes Translation Conference - (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)) - April 13-16, 2010, Dallas, TX.
- Population Association of America Annual Meeting - (Population Association of America) - April 17-18, 2010, New Haven, CT.

April Health Observances

1-30

Alcohol Awareness Month

SAMHSA's Health Information Network
ncadi.samhsa.gov/seasonal/aprilalcohol

1-30

Foot Health Awareness Month

American Podiatric Medical Association
www.apma.org

1-30

Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month

International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
www.aboutibs.org

1-30

National Autism Awareness Month

The Autism Society
www.autism-society.org/naam

1-30

National Cancer Control Month

American Cancer Society
www.cancer.org

1-30

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Child Welfare Information Gateway
www.childwelfare.gov



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