

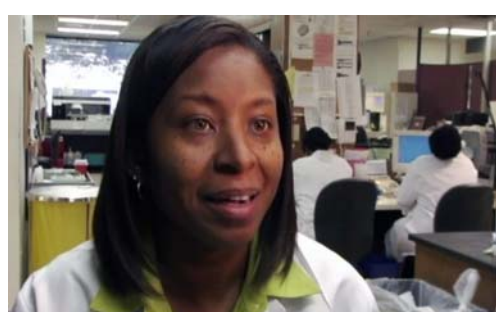
April Newsletter 2008

CWHC News

CT Women's Health Campaign Networking Event:

Unnatural Causes: In Sickness and in Wealth

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 29, 2008, 5:00 — 7:30 pm**. The CWHC, in conjunction with the PCSW and CPTV, will be hosting a local showing of the PBS documentary series, *Unnatural Causes...Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* followed by panel and community discussion. Click [here](#) for the Save the Date flier.



Legislative Update

CWHC Priorities

The Appropriations Committee released its proposed budget on March 26. Highlights include:

- Funding for a sexual assault nurse examiner program
- The healthy teens comprehensive sexuality education program
- Funding for 24 hour, seven day per week domestic violence shelter services
- Increased access to breast and cervical cancer screening
- Continued funding/restoration of Medicaid funding for medical interpreters
- Maintenance of comprehensive definition of medical necessity in Medicaid

The legislature and Governor will continue to debate their budget proposals, usually until at least the end of the legislative session on May 7th. Proposals not listed in the Appropriations budget may still be in play until the end of the budget process.

The CWHC has three priorities for the 2008 legislative session: a sexual assault nurse examiner program (see S.B. 243); the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Disabled (see S.B. 414) and a comprehensive sexuality education grant program (see H.B. 5591).

Please click [here](#) for a list of CWHC bills. If you wish to continue tracking these bills for your own information, visit www.cga.ct.gov and type in bill number(s) of interest.

Spotlight on the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program

S.B. 243—An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program would launch a SANE/SAFE program at the Office of Victim Services (OVS). OVS would train and maintain a rapid response program of SANE/SAFEs to be on call 24 hours day to participating hospitals for adolescent and adult sexual assault patients. Two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000) has been requested to support a program coordinator, training and fees for nurses for one year. The program would staff serve 5-8 hospitals in the first year. During this time, the coordinator would develop a plan and budget for statewide services, based on experience.

It is estimated that there are 60-70 nurses in Connecticut emergency departments who have SANE/SAFE training. SANE/SAFEs ensure that victims are more likely to feel supported and more likely to obtain useful evidence for successful prosecution of an offender. Approximately 400 people survived a sexual assault and went to a hospital for treatment. Victims often wait five hours for treatment and exam. The exam is invasive and time consuming, often lasting up to 8 hours.

Women's Health Calendar—Upcoming Events

April 17—18, 2008 — Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need National Conference, Simmons College, Boston, MA. (click [here](#) for flier in PDF format)

April 29, 2008 — CWHC-sponsored local screening of PBS documentary *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?*, CPTV Studios, 1049 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, 5:00 — 7:30 pm.

April 29, 2008 — April is sexual assault awareness month. Annual Coffeehouse on Sexual Assault Awareness at Borders, Farmington-Westfarms Mall 5:30 pm — 8:30 pm.

May 20, 2008 — Making Women Visible Reception, St. Joseph's College, Hartford, 5:00 — 7:00 pm

June 6, 2008 — **Women Against MS Luncheon**, Featuring Keynote Speaker Jacquelyn Mitchard, New York Times Bestselling Author. To register, please contact Kristen Mauro, at 860.714.2300, ext. 224, or visit www.ctfightMS.org. Held at Woodwinds, Branford, CT, 12:00 — 2:00 pm.



Health Fact

Did you know?
There are over **6,000 Connecticut residents living with Multiple Sclerosis; the majority of these are women.**

Women's Health Resources

Medicaid coverage of tobacco-dependence treatments. 2006 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data: <http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparabletable.jsp?ind=85&cat=2>. Especially interesting in light of Governor Rell's tobacco proposal.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in U.S. Health Care: A Chartbook. Research shows that minorities in the United States are in poorer health, have more trouble accessing care, are more likely to be uninsured, and receive lower-quality care more often than other Americans. To enhance understanding of disparities and inform solutions, The Commonwealth Fund presents 75 charts and accompanying analysis, in a unique resource linking many disparities to the overall performance of local health care systems. http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/1111_Mead_racial_ethnic_disparities_chartbook.pdf?section=4039

The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** launched a commission that will seek to determine the effects of factors other than medical care and health insurance status -- such as income, education, housing, diet, exercise and stress -- on the health and life spans of U.S. residents. <http://www.commissiononhealth.org/PDF/ObstaclesToHealth-Report.pdf>

Charter Oak Health Plan information. <http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?Q=382326&A=2345>

Connecticut Healthy Teens Coalition Poll results on Comprehensive Sexuality Education

- Lake Research Partners conducted a state survey among registered likely voters. Among the findings:
- A significant majority – three quarters of those surveyed voiced support for the Healthy Teens legislation; and
 - 52% expressed a strong preference for comprehensive, medically accurate sex education over abstinence-only programs.

Fact Sheet: <http://www.healthyteensct.org/about/Healthy%20Teens%20Act%20Fact%20Sheet%2003.01.08.pdf>

Future CWHC Electronic Bulletins

The CWHC newsletter will be issued as needed during the off-session and once a month or more often as needed beginning the month after the start of Connecticut's legislative session. These bulletins will not be limited to legislative information, nor will they contain calls to action. **If you would like to post an announcement about a publication, conference or other event, please e-mail.**



To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#). Comments or questions? Please [e-mail us!](#)

CWHC General Membership

Click on the links provided to see a list of existing [CWHC members](#), [our principles](#), and a [sign up sheet](#). CWHC will *not* ask members to sign on each year. If your organization is on the attached list, you are "grandmothered" into membership. If you wish to be a new member, please fill out [this form](#).

If you are an existing member that is no longer interested in membership, please [e-mail](#).