Public Health News Releases and Updates

- The EPA is making it easier for communities to access our community-based grant resources. The Agency now presents a calendar of upcoming 2012 grant opportunities to help communities address environmental challenges. This page will be updated periodically to reflect upcoming EPA grant programs. In addition, EPA is offering a Grants 101 Tutorial to assist communities in understanding the grants process. Submit comments to EPA on how this resource can be made to be more helpful.
  - EPA Calendar
  - Grants 101 Tutorial

- Nutrition Report on Biochemical Indicators of Diet and Nutrition in the U.S. Population, April 2nd 2012 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – CDC: The report is part of a series of CDC publications that provide an ongoing assessment of the U.S. population’s nutrition status. CDC’s Second Nutrition Report covers 58 biochemical indicators – measurements of specific substances in people’s blood and urine – and shows us what the actual levels of nutrition indicators are in the general population as well as in select groups such as children, women of childbearing age and minorities.

  The biochemical indicators studied include indicators such as vitamins A, D, and folate, trace elements such as iron and iodine, and nutrients such as saturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids.

  The Report provides:
  - Rates of nutrient deficiencies.
  - Reference information for scientists and physicians to detect high or low nutrient levels in people.
  - A look at nutrient levels over time to detect trends of health significance.
  - An evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions to improve the nutrition status of the population.
  - The nutrition status of specific populations for nutrient deficiencies.

  KMC/2012/KMC
  Twitter http://twitter.com/eqpaho

- How Healthy is Your County? 2012 County Health Rankings Highlight Healthiest and Least Healthy Counties in Every State. More than 3,000 counties and the District of Columbia can compare how healthy their residents are and how long they live with the 2012 County Health Rankings, an annual check-up that highlights the healthiest and least healthy counties in every state.

  Released today at www.countyhealthrankings.org by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Rankings assess the overall
health of nearly every county in all 50 states based on key factors that influence health, such as education rates, income levels, and access to healthy foods and medical care. This year’s Rankings include several new measures, such as how many fast-food restaurants are in a county and levels of physical inactivity among residents. Graphs illustrating premature death trends over 10 years are new as well.

Also new this year, the County Health Roadmaps will help counties to mobilize and take action to create healthier places to live, learn, work and play. Finally, today marks the release of the Roadmaps to Health Prize that recognizes the efforts and accomplishments of communities in the U.S. working at the forefront of better health for all residents.

- **The Top 10 Things You Should Know About Maryland’s Demographic Changes and Immigration Politics: A Look at the State’s Emerging Communities of Color Before the Republican Primary** by Vanessa Cárdenas, Angela Maria Kelley. Here are 10 important facts about Latinos and immigrants in the state.

- **Mobilizing Latino/Hispanic Communities - AIDS 2012**

  **AIDS 2012 Embajadores (Ambassadors) Program**

  With the objective of increasing visibility and participation of Latino/Hispanic leaders at the XIX International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2012), the AIDS 2012 Embajadores Program offers professional and leadership development. Embajadores will have opportunities for knowledge and cultural exchanges among Latino leaders, with the aim of promoting best practices in HIV/AIDS, effective local responses to HIV/AIDS, development of national/international relationships, and enhancement of cultural understanding. The application submission deadline is Tuesday, April 10, 2012. Go to [http://www.nlaan.org/AIDS2012](http://www.nlaan.org/AIDS2012) for more information and to apply for this program.

  **AIDS 2012 Community Volunteer Program**

  The AIDS 2012 Community Volunteers Program, organized by the National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN) and its partners, invites you to play meaningful support roles in AIDS 2012 and the Global Village. With many opportunities to learn, network, and develop professionally, volunteers will enhance their engagement in effective efforts to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in their communities. For more information, and to apply for this program, go to [http://www.nlaan.org/AIDS2012](http://www.nlaan.org/AIDS2012). Application submission deadline is Tuesday, April 10, 2012. Look for a special article related to health concerns of Hispanics in Boletín AIDS 2012 each month through July 2012.

  **Sexual Health of Latino Migrant Day Laborers Under Conditions of Structural Vulnerability**, a recent study that explored the context of sexual health of Latino migrant day laborers (LMDLs). This study is an example of the promising research that will be shared at XIX International AIDS Conference aids2012@s-3.com

- **Institute of Medicine Report Release: Primary Care and Public Health: Exploring Integration to Improve Population Health at Consensus Report** - Released March 28, 2012:
Topics: Public Health, Health Services, Coverage, and Access.
Activity: Integrating Primary Care and Public Health
Board: Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice

- **HHS HealthBeat (March 29, 2012): Oranges and strokes.** People generally should eat more fruits and vegetables, and one study suggests a possible reason to have citrus on that menu. In collaboration with Harvard University, Aedin Cassidy at the University of East Anglia in England examined data on the risk of stroke in almost 70,000 U.S. nurses. She looked at what the women ate, especially forms of flavonoids, found in plants.

- **Closing the Gap: Eliminating Health Care Disparities among Latinos with Diabetes Using Health Information Technology Tools and Patient Navigators, López, L. Grant, R. W. J Diabetes Sci Technol.** 2012 Jan 1;6(1):169-76. Source: Mongan Institute for Health Policy, Disparities Solutions Center, Department of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts.

- **National Community Health Center Partnership Forms to Improve Health IT Services:** The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) joins forces with three Health Center Controlled Networks to improve quality and cost effectiveness of care delivery and to aid Community Health Centers in achieving Meaningful Use and Patient Centered Medical Home Recognition

- **NQF released the 2012 Report to Congress, Changing Healthcare by the Numbers:** This report highlights NQF’s work over the last year, emphasizing the broad use of endorsed measures and NQF’s critical role building public/private sector consensus on healthcare improvement strategies. Work at NQF over the last year includes the completion of 11 endorsement projects, and ongoing reports related to aligning payment and public reporting programs through the Measure Applications Partnership (MAP). In addition, the 2012 report includes several case studies of NQF endorsed measures in action, and how they have helped contribute to greater accountability and performance as well as increased patient safety -(From NQF website).

- **NIH invites broad range of research on LGBTI health:** New grant solicitations are sponsored by multiple NIH institutes. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released a set of three program announcements inviting grant applications for *Research on the Health of LGBTI Populations*. These announcements are the broadest and clearest solicitations for research on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex populations that NIH has ever issued. (See links to the announcements below.) The announcements help to satisfy a major recommendation of a 2011 report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) for NIH to develop a comprehensive research agenda to guide its future funding of research on sexual minority populations.NIH Program Announcements (Research on the Health of LGBTI Populations):
  - **R01 — regular grants**
  - **R03 — small grants**
  - **R21 — exploratory/developmental grants**