



National Center for Deaf Health Research

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Deaf Health Research: Important Information for Deaf People

The National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) will soon launch one of the most important public health projects in the history of the Rochester Deaf community! An upcoming survey designed for Deaf people will help all of us to better understand what the health experiences of the Deaf community are.

Do we know how many Deaf people smoke cigarettes? How many of us are overweight? How many Deaf people have diabetes? Right now we do not know. Why? Most health surveys are done by telephone. This is not a good way to reach out to Deaf people.

Most of NCDHR's research activities involve the use of American Sign Language (ASL). For example, videos in American Sign Language (and English-like signed language) in a health survey are now being developed and tested. Community members of Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC) are working with NCDHR researchers to translate health questions from other written surveys into ASL. This health survey for Deaf people will have nothing to do with hearing loss. It is about your health, your children's' health, all of the people in the Deaf community.

Why is it important to that we collect information about the health of Deaf people who use sign language? So that we can establish accessible ASL programs to help Deaf people reduce risk of health problems such as chronic diseases. These are diseases that go on for a long time (not the same as having a bad cold or sprained ankle that will get better in few days). Diabetes,

vision impairments, cancer, and high blood pressure are some examples of chronic diseases. But, what are some of the *biggest* health problems right now for Deaf people? That is what the ASL Health Survey will help us find out. This survey will be confidential. New health programs for the Deaf community may have another benefit: more jobs for Deaf people to work in fields of public health!

This is where the Rochester Deaf community can help! If you or someone else you know who may be interested in learning more about our research activities, including the ASL Health Survey, contact NCDHR! Look for our NCDHR logo and Deaf health research announcements soon this year!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a member of the Deaf Health Community Committee that you know (see list below) or contact NCDHR at (585) 276-2122 VP or ncdhr@urmc.rochester.edu. You can also visit our website www.urmc.edu/ncdhr.

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