

Healthy Signs



National Center for Deaf Health Research

Spring 2008

Mission of NCDHR:

To promote health and prevent disease in the Deaf population through community-participatory research.

Save the Dates!

April 29 - May 1, 2008
CDC Site Visit

May 19 - 20, 2008
Fourth Annual Meeting of the NCDHR's National External Advisory Committee (EAC)

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Deaf Health Survey Update Susan Demers Postlethwait



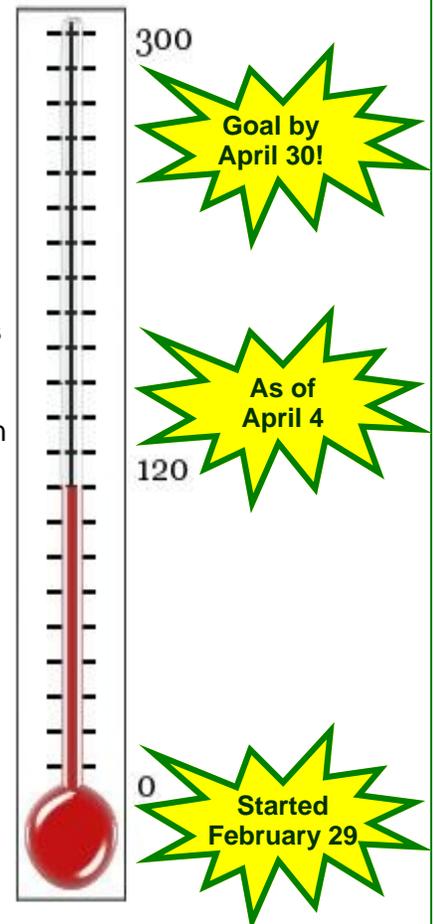
NCDHR, with its community partners, Deaf Health

Community Committee, NTID and Monroe County Department of Health, is now ready to collect health-related information from the Deaf Health Survey. What are some of the *biggest* health problems right now for Deaf people? That is what the Deaf Health Survey will help us find out. It will help us to better understand the health of Deaf people and their families. The information will lead to ASL programs to help Deaf people reduce risk of health problems such as chronic diseases. Diabetes, vision impairments, cancer, and high blood pressure are some examples of chronic diseases. Most importantly, the survey will be anonymous.

The Deaf Health Survey is "user-friendly." No computer skills will be needed to complete the survey on a computer kiosk. All survey questions and answers will be shown in American Sign Language or English-based signing through videos, English text and captions, if desired. New health programs for the Deaf community may have another benefit: more jobs for Deaf people to work in public health fields!

As of April 4, **120** Deaf adults have taken the Deaf Health Survey locally. Our goal is to have **300** completed surveys by the end of April.

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 Deaf Health Survey, contact NCDHR!



NCDHR Presents its Work at Annual Meeting Julia Aggas, DHCC Chair



In March, NCDHR sent a team to Atlanta to attend the CDC Prevention Research Centers 2008 Annual Program Meeting and to present our work. The presentation title was

"Working Collaboratively for the First Community-Based Comprehensive Health Survey of a U.S. Deaf Community," and the presenters were **Julia Aggas, Steven Barnett, Tamala David, Patrick Graybill, John Patrick Sullivan, and Tom Pearson.** (Aggas, Graybill and Sullivan are members of the Deaf Health Community Committee, DHCC). **Kim Kelstone and Carolyn Lomeo**

interpreted the presentation.

NCDHR also had a booth at the conference which featured a live kiosk demo of the Deaf Health Survey, a poster that describes Deaf Strong Hospital, and a poster that describes an earlier survey of deaf and hearing college students. CDC and other conference participants were enthusiastic about NCDHR's work. This trip also helped DHCC participants get a different and positive perspective of CDC's involvement. NCDHR looks forward to working closely with CDC in requesting support of NCDHR's work for another 5 years.

Faces of NCDHR
Can you Guess Who?



NCDHR Happenings

Mike McKee MD, UR Preventive Cardiology Fellow and member of the NCDHR Research Committee, was a co-author with colleagues from South Carolina on a paper in the November/December 2007 issue of *Annals of Family Medicine*, "Children With Hearing Loss and Increased Risk of Injury."



If you or someone else you know may be interested in taking the ASL Health Survey, please contact NCDHR to make an appointment to take the survey: (585) 276-2122 VP or ncdhr@urmc.rochester.edu.



Earlier in March, **Steven Barnett, MD**, Associate Director, represented NCDHR to present our work during the CDC 25th Annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Conference in Orlando. The presentation title: "Adapting the BRFSS to Survey Deaf Sign Language Users." CDC and other conference participants were excited about NCDHR's work.



NCDHR was one of the sponsors of "What is Deafhood? Workshop," hosted by the Greater Rochester Chapter of American Sign Language Teachers Association last March 29, 2008 at NTID's Panara Theatre.

Why Deaf Health Survey? Matthew J. Starr

Since 1984, health survey information were collected through telephone by state health departments. These data, along with other health statistics, helped public health officials to find ways to improve health of Americans. The chart on the right (Source: www.cdc.gov) show some examples of health information collected from different populations. Because the telephone survey is inaccessible to Deaf Americans, very little or no data are available to understand this population's health status. NCDHR's goal is to develop a Deaf Health Survey that is culturally and linguistically accessible to the Deaf community. Survey takers will have a choice of choosing a video in American Sign Language, English-based

sign language, with or without captioning.

	White Americans	Black Americans	Deaf Americans
Cancer	193.9 per 100,000	243.1 per 100,000	No data
Diabetes	23.0 per 100,000	49.2 per 100,000	No data
Infant Mortality	5.7 per 1,000 Live births	13.3 per 1,000 Live births	No data
Adult Immunization	70.2%	52%	No data

What is a Prevention Research Center ? Susan Demers Postlethwait

NCDHR is a part of Prevention Research Center (PRC) Program. We are one of the 33 PRCs funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (see map on right). Each PRC conducts applied public health research on their targeted underserved population such as African-Americans, Native Americans, Older Americans, etc. We are the only PRC that focuses on well-being of the Deaf community and our practices



are driven by the cultural model. The PRC Program was first enacted by Congress in 1984.

All PRCs follow the principles of Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), which fosters a

partnership between the university and the community.

Each PRC has their own community committee. The Deaf Health Community Committee (DHCC) is the community committee for NCDHR, which comprises of members of the Rochester Deaf community and interested hearing professionals (at least 51% of members are Deaf people who currently use ASL as a primary means of communication).