

FORGING THE FUTURE:



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Friday FACTS

9 January 2003

"Leadership, Partnership, and Championship"

HHS ISSUES NATIONAL REPORTS ON QUALITY AND DISPARITIES

Two congressionally mandated reports issued recently by the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) represent the first comprehensive effort to measure the quality of health care in America and the differences in access to health care services for priority populations. The National Healthcare Quality Report and the National Healthcare Disparities Report present data on the quality of, and differences in the access to, services for seven clinical conditions: cancer, diabetes, end-stage renal disease, heart disease, HIV and AIDS, mental health, and respiratory disease. The reports also include data on maternal and child health, nursing home and home health care, and patient safety.

The data in the reports provide an important message about the country's health care system - while progress is being made in enhancing health care quality and access, more can be done and needs to be done. Copies of the reports are available at <http://www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov>. QualityTools(tm), sponsored by AHRQ, is a Web-based clearinghouse providing practical tools for assessing, measuring, promoting, and improving the quality of Americans' health care. The mission of the Quality Tools Web site is to provide health care providers, health plans, policymakers, purchasers, patients and consumers with an accessible mechanism to implement quality improvement recommendations, initiatives, or principles and to improve the delivery and receipt of care, inform health care decisions, and educate individuals regarding their own health care needs.

TEACHING PREVENTION INSTITUTE Approaches to Teaching Obesity and Diabetes Prevention In The Classroom and the Community

2004

Obesity has risen at an epidemic rate in the United States during the past 20 years. One

of the national health objectives for the year 2010 is to reduce the prevalence of obesity among adults to less than 15%. The Surgeon General recently called for a broad approach to avoid and reduce obesity. Researchers have noted that prevention efforts will require community and government involvement to reduce obesity and increase physical activity.

This 2-day meeting March 25-26 in New Orleans will provide prevention and public health educators with the tools and methods to train students and the community about obesity and type 2 diabetes prevention. Through workshops, sessions and panels, the ATPM Teaching Prevention will offer innovative approaches to teaching by sharing experiences in developing and implementing exciting educational approaches and curricula. The Teaching Prevention Institute focuses on the uniting interest of ATPM members and the uniqueness of the association: **Prevention Education**. For additional information visit: <http://www.atpm.org/annual/registration.html>

CONSUMER ALERT 30 DEC 03

FDA Plans Regulation Prohibiting Sale of Ephedra-Containing Dietary Supplements and Advises Consumers to Stop Using These Products

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is alerting the public to its forthcoming determination that dietary supplements containing ephedra present an unreasonable risk of illness or injury, and should not be consumed. The agency has notified firms manufacturing and marketing these products that it intends to issue a final rule prohibiting their sale, which will become effective 60 days after its publication. The FDA has taken this step after conducting an exhaustive and highly resource-intensive process required under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) of 1994 for banning a dietary supplement that presents a significant and unreasonable risk to human health. For additional information visit: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/initiatives/ephedra/december2003/advisory.html>

"Prosperity is a great teacher; adversity a greater." William Hazlitt