

December 2011

Journals included this month:

- Medical Journal of Australia
- The Lancet
- Environmental Health Perspectives
- American Journal of Preventive Medicine
- American Journal of Public Health
- The Australian & New Zealand Journal of Public Health
- Health Promotion Journal of Australia
- Health Promotion International

Overview

Priority area	Total Number of journal articles
Environment & Health	28
Child Health	12
Tobacco	6
Preventative Health	3
Physical Activity	6
Nutrition	6
Obesity	3
Alcohol	4
Advocacy	5
Indigenous Health	1
Injury	7

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Medical Journal of Australia

Editorial: Dog bites in Australian children (R. Gimble)

Vol 195; Issue 11/12; pages 635-636

Topics (keywords)

Injury (dog bites), child health

Summary

In 2008 and 2009, 928 children aged 0–14 years attended accident and emergency departments in Queensland with dog bites, equating to nine bites per week. Of the dog bite injuries recorded in the QTR, 88% occurred in the home environment, and almost all (98%) required at least one operation under general anaesthetic.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Training for dogs and education for dog owners and children can reduce the incidence of dog bites. However, education programs in the primary school setting have been shown to alter a child's interaction with dogs. Furthermore, dog owners should take their dogs to obedience classes, and dogs should be taught to obey commands from all family members.

Perspective: Reducing farm injury deaths through regulation (T. Lower)

Vol 195; Issue 11/12; pages 645

Topics (keywords)

Injury (farm accidents)

Summary

Quad bikes and tractors are leading agents in farm incidents. To date in 2011, there have been 16 farm-based and five off-farm quad bike deaths, plus eight tractor fatalities. Over the past 10 years in Australia, on average there have been 14 quad bike fatalities each year. About half of all fatalities have involved rollovers, which frequently cause death by asphyxiation and/or crush syndrome.

So what? Advocacy Implications

From 1 January 2012, the new national Model Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 will require that all "powered mobile plant" (including tractors, field machinery and quad bikes) must manage risk in accordance with the hierarchy of controls (Box), including risks of overturning.

Perspective: Closing the Gap and Indigenous housing (E. McDonald)

Vol 195; Issue 11/12; pages 652-653

Topics (keywords)

Indigenous health (housing, hygiene)

Summary

Poor housing, inadequate hygiene practices and household overcrowding directly or indirectly underlie many of the health and social problems present in most remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. In this article the author discusses Australian and NT Government policies and programs aimed at Closing the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage in remote Aboriginal community contexts.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Major improvements in overall living conditions, and other Closing the Gap programs (especially education, employment and making communities safer), greater investment in a range of social and public health programs needs to accompany the current investment in infrastructure.

Letter to the editor: Alcohol tax reform: now is the time (C. Doran)

Vol 195; Issue 11/12; pages 660

Topics (keywords)

Alcohol (taxation),

Summary

The evidence is clear on what are the most effective strategies to curb alcohol misuse at a population level. By far the most effective of these is increasing the price of alcohol by increasing alcohol taxes. However, despite acknowledgement by the government that the current system does not effectively target the health and social costs of alcohol abuse, alcohol taxation was not part of the tax forum agenda. This was disappointing.

So what? Advocacy Implications

This complex issue has not been resolved. We feel it is vital for the health and wellbeing of the Australian community that the reforms recommended by the Henry review remain on the political agenda.

Animal bites and rabies exposure in Australian travellers (D. Mills)

Vol 195; Issue 11/12; pages 673-675

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (rabies)

Summary

Rabies poses a threat to over 3.3 billion people worldwide, and causes an estimated 55 000 deaths each year. This study aimed to examine the circumstances of animal exposure in a case series of Australian travellers who required rabies post exposure prophylaxis, and to assess the appropriateness of current guidelines for rabies pre-exposure vaccination.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Most travellers had difficulty obtaining rabies post exposure prophylaxis overseas, resulting in significant delays in appropriate treatment. The authors recommend that current National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines for at-risk persons be broadened, and that the risk of rabies and the option of pre-exposure vaccination be discussed with all travellers to rabies-endemic areas.

The effects of early paternal depression on children's development (R. Fletcher)

Vol 195; Issue 11/12; pages 685-689

Topics (keywords)

Child health (paternal depression)

Summary

Infants depend on parents to develop their cognitive and emotional capacities. This study however examines the effects of paternal depression during children's first year on their wellbeing at 4–5 years of age. The study revealed that early paternal depression was a significant predictor of a range of poorer child outcomes for behavioural difficulties, or for a low development and wellbeing score.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Early intervention to identify and address the mental health needs of fathers is required for the benefit of fathers, children and families.

Effect of the increase in "alcopops" tax on alcohol-related harms in young people: a controlled interrupted time series (S. Kisely)

Vol 195; Issue 11/12; pages 690-693

Topics (keywords)

Alcohol (taxation)

Summary

This study aimed to measure alcohol-related harms to the health of young people presenting to emergency departments (EDs) of Gold Coast public hospitals before and after the increase in the federal government "alcopops" tax in 2008. The study revealed there was no significant decrease in alcohol-related ED presentations of 15–29-year-olds compared with any of the control groups after the increase in the tax.

So what? Advocacy Implications

The increase in the tax on alcopops was not associated with any reduction in alcohol-related harms in this population in a unique tourist and holiday region. A more comprehensive approach to reducing alcohol harms in young people is needed.

Propeller and jet-ski injuries during Christmas and New Year in Western Australia (H. Garg)

Vol 195; Issue 11/12; pages 704-705

Topics (keywords)

Injury (watercraft propellers and jet skis), advocacy

Summary

The authors present a series of case studies of patients with injuries from watercraft propellers and jet skis. The authors discuss that there has been little progress in the design of safety features for power boats in recent years, with the primary focus on fire management and warning signage around the hull.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Currently, there is little coverage of this issue in the Australian literature. We believe that the medical community should provide accurate and relevant data, and embrace our role as leaders and health advocates by working with government and other non-governmental organisations to build effective public awareness campaigns and to drive manufacturers and retailers to produce and sell safer products.

The Lancet

Editorial: Political commitment for HIV/AIDS control in China (The Lancet)

Vol 378; Issue 9807; page 1885-1983

Topics (keywords)

Preventative health (HIV)

Summary

The author reflects on the expansion of HIV/AIDS prevention and control coverage in the next five years in China, according to Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang. The author comments on the accessibility to effective interventions such as the condom use and methadone maintenance treatment, which will be increased to at least 90% of people at high risk of HIV infection by 2015.

So what? Advocacy Implications

The time has come for China to take a leadership role against HIV/AIDS within Asia. Strong and consistent political will from the highest level in HIV/AIDS control can not only benefit China, but also serve as a good model to neighbouring regions, such as central Asia. This urgent health crisis must be addressed.

Comment: Assessment of the burden of influenza in children (M. Zambon)

Vol 378; Issue 9807; page 1897-1898

Topics (keywords)

Child health, preventative health (influenza vaccination)

Summary

There is widespread recognition of the unevenness of global vaccination programmes. The GAVI Alliance is addressing common childhood infections although influenza is specifically excluded from these initiatives. Thus, WHO's aim to refresh its global action plan for influenza vaccines and its consideration of which key elements to focus on in the next 5 years is timely.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Robust, evidence-based comparisons of health interventions, such as selective versus universal vaccination policies between different countries and regions, are essential to help decision makers with restricted resources who are trying to get the best return for the lowest cost.

Correspondence: Advocacy training and social accountability of health professionals
(*R. Duvivier*)

Vol 378: Issue 9807; page e17

Topics (keywords)

Advocacy (physician training)

Summary

As physicians-in-training with a keen interest in medical education and experience in advocacy, we could not agree more with the need to better align medical education with societal needs, as noted by Leana Wen and colleagues (Dec 3, p e12). However, we hope that the medical community will not only embrace the concept of social mission, but actively work on its implementation. Advocacy need not be complicated, but recognising when one must take action requires training.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Effective advocacy efforts require mindfulness of certain skills such as effective education, community engagement and organisation, and policy development. Incorporation of advocacy into our work and in the training of our future physicians will allow us to become better doctors for our patients.

Comment: Keep it clean: hospital-acquired infections in children
(*N. Feasey*)

Vol 378: Issue 9808; page 1982-1983

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health, child health

Summary

Prevention of puerperal fever in hospital through hand-washing was described as long ago as the mid- 19th century by Ignaz Semmelweis. During the past 20 years hospital-acquired infections have come to dominate the health system agenda in the industrialised world as common, frequently serious, and often preventable causes of illness.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Countries need to implement national surveillance systems for hospital-acquired infections and antimicrobial resistance. Every health-care worker needs to be aware of the importance of their actions.

A framework convention on obesity control?
(*S. Hoffman*)

Vol 378: Issue 9809; page 2068

Topics (keywords)

Obesity (framework), alcohol

Summary

The Lancet Editorial (Aug 27, p 741) proposing a framework convention on obesity control is the latest call in The Lancet's pages for new international laws to address various issues including alcohol, counterfeit drugs, and impact evaluations. Yet there is little evidence to show that such laws achieve results commensurate with their substantial costs, especially when compared with other policy options.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Before embarking on new solitary initiatives, research is needed on the full range of legal and other normative approaches and on how they can be integrated with existing mechanisms to avoid the proliferation of new governance platforms.

The battle against obesity: lessons from tobacco
(*E. Heymann*)

Vol 378: Issue 9809; page 2069

Topics (keywords)

Obesity, tobacco

Summary

The Lancet's Obesity Series (Aug 27) profiles the most important current non-communicable threat to health. Unless successfully addressed, the attendant health-economic costs are unsustainable. There are striking parallels between obesity and cigarette smoking; we believe this comparison to be fruitful.

So what? Advocacy Implications

To become, or to stay, overweight needs to be much harder. Although not underestimating the complexity, we advocate: (1) A simple, universal, system for people to understand their previous, current, predicted, and desirable weights, and the health implications thereof. (2) Early detection of obese children, with targeted educational intervention programmes for individuals and their families. (3) Legislative or policy action that targets individual choices about energy expenditure, retarding or reversing inertial upwards drift in societal weight. (4) Aggressive intervention for the seriously obese and (5) Mandating corporate responsibilities about production, distribution, pricing, and taxation of foodstuffs.

Review: Anaemia in low-income and middle-income countries
(*Y. Balarajan*)

Vol 378: Issue 9809; page 2123-2135

Topics (keywords)

Nutrition (anaemia)

Summary

Anaemia affects a quarter of the global population. In addition to anaemia's adverse health consequences, the economic effect results in the loss of billions of dollars annually. In this paper, the authors review the epidemiology, clinical assessment, pathophysiology, and consequences of anaemia in low-income and middle income countries

So what? Advocacy Implications

Reduction of knowledge gaps in research and policy and improvement of the implementation of effective population-level strategies will help to alleviate the anaemia burden in low-resource settings.

Projecting Future Heat-Related Mortality under Climate Change

Environmental Health Perspectives

Scenarios: A Systematic Review
(*C. Huang*),

Vol 119; Issue 12: pages 1681-1690

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (climate change)

Summary

Heat-related mortality is a matter of great public health concern, especially in the light of climate change. Although many studies have found associations between high temperatures and mortality, more research is needed to project the future impacts of climate change on heat-related mortality.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Scenario-based projection research will meaningfully contribute to assessing and managing the potential impacts of climate change on heat-related mortality.

Long-Term Urban Particulate Air Pollution, Traffic Noise, and Arterial Blood Pressure (K. Fuks)

Vol 119; Issue 12: pages 1706 - 1711

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (traffic emissions, hypertension)

Summary

This study investigated the cross-sectional association of residential long-term PM exposure with arterial BP and hypertension, taking short-term variations of PM and long-term road traffic noise exposure into account. It found that residential proximity to high traffic and traffic noise exposure showed a tendency toward higher BP and an elevated prevalence of hypertension.

So what? Advocacy Implications

This research has implications for planning of residential areas and traffic routes to reduce exposure to air pollution.

The Effects of Particulate Matter Sources on Daily Mortality: A Case-Crossover Study of Barcelona, Spain (B. Ostro)

Vol 119; Issue 12: pages 1781 - 1787

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (cardiovascular risk)

Summary

This study examined the effects of various PM sources on daily mortality for 2003 through 2007 in Barcelona, a densely populated city in the northeast corner of Spain. The results were: Several sources of PM_{2.5}, including vehicle exhaust, fuel oil combustion, secondary nitrate/organics, minerals, secondary sulfate/organics, and road dust, had statistically significant associations ($p < 0.05$) with all-cause and cardiovascular mortality.

So what? Advocacy Implications

These results along with those from multisource models suggest that traffic, sulfate from shipping and long-range transport, and construction dust are important contributors to the adverse health effects linked to PM.

Comprehensive Assessment of Maize Aflatoxin Levels in Eastern Kenya, 2005–2007 (J. Daniel)

Vol 119; Issue 12: pages 1794 - 1799

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health, nutrition (food supply)

Summary

Aflatoxin, a potent fungal toxin, contaminates 25% of crops worldwide. Since 2004, 477 aflatoxin poisonings associated with eating contaminated maize have been documented in Eastern Kenya, with a case-fatality rate of 40%. During the years of outbreaks in 2005 and 2006, 41% and 51% of maize samples, respectively, had aflatoxin levels above the Kenyan regulatory limit of 20 ppb in grains that were for human consumption.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Aflatoxin contamination is extreme within this region, and homegrown maize is the primary source of contamination. Prevention measures should focus on reducing homegrown maize contamination at the household level to avert future outbreaks.

Climate Change, Crop Yields, and Undernutrition: Development of a Model to Quantify the Impact of Climate Scenarios on Child Undernutrition (S. Lloyd)

Vol 119; Issue 12: pages 1818 - 1823

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health, nutrition (climate change, food supply)

Summary

Global climate change is anticipated to reduce future cereal yields and threaten food security, thus potentially increasing the risk of under nutrition. The causation of under nutrition is complex, and there is a need to develop models that better quantify the potential impacts of climate change on population health. Climate change is likely to impair future efforts to reduce child malnutrition in South Asia and SSA, even when economic growth is taken into account.

So what? Advocacy Implications

The model from this research suggests that to reduce and prevent future under nutrition, it is necessary to both increase food access and improve socioeconomic conditions, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Projecting Future Heat-Related Mortality under Climate Change Scenarios: A Systematic Review (C. Huang)

Vol 119; Issue 12: pages 1681-1690

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (climate change)

Summary

Heat-related mortality is a matter of great public health concern, especially in the light of climate change. Although many studies have found associations between high temperatures and mortality, more research is needed to project the future impacts of climate change on heat-related mortality.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Scenario-based projection research will meaningfully contribute to assessing and managing the potential impacts of climate change on heat-related mortality.

American Journal of Preventative Health

Healthy People 2010 Objectives for Unintentional Injury and Violence Among Adolescents Trends from the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 1999–2009 (E. O'Malley)

Vol 41; Issue 6; pages 551-558

Topics (keywords)

Injury, road safety, child health, alcohol (health promotion)

Summary

In 2000, the USDHHS released Healthy People 2010 (HP2010), a series of disease prevention and health promotion objectives for the nation. This paper uses national YRBS data from 1999 to 2009 to analyze overall and subgroup trends and determine progress toward targets. It was revealed that only two objectives met their HP2010 targets: riding with a driver who had been drinking alcohol and physical fighting. Progress was seen for four additional objectives and within some subgroups.

So what? Advocacy Implications

This analysis highlights the need for more widespread adoption of policies

with evidence of effectiveness and additional research examining the viability and effectiveness of promising policy and practices to prevent youth injury at federal, state, and community levels. Additionally, widespread policy and practice change must occur to decrease injuries among youth and achieve the recently released Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov) objectives

Home Smoking Bans Among U.S. Households with Children and Smokers: Opportunities for Intervention (A. Mills)

Vol 41: Issue 6; pages 559-565

Editorial M, *Hovell* page 650-652

Topics (keywords)

Tobacco (smoke free homes, USA), child health)

Summary

This study aimed to examine prevalence of home smoking bans among U.S. households with both children and smokers, over time and by demographic subgroups. The study revealed that as of 2006/2007, only half of U.S. households with both children and smokers had complete home smoking bans.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Effective interventions to promote smokefree homes among smoking families are needed, especially for African-American families, all families with older children, and non-Hispanic white and Hispanic families in targeted states. This emphasizes the urgent need for public health action to increase the rate of diffusion of smokefree legislation.

Association Between Smokefree Laws and Voluntary Smoke-free-Home Rules (K. Cheng)

Vol 41: Issue 6; pages 566-572

Topics (keywords)

Tobacco (smoke free laws), child health

Summary

More states and localities are passing restrictions on smoking in public places and workplaces. This study aimed to determine what, if any, association exists between enactment of strong laws making public places or workplaces smokefree on adoption of voluntary smokefree-home policies, particularly whether such laws are associated with increased smoking at home.

So what? Advocacy Implications

The existence of the law has a positive independent effect on smokefree-home rules. Because the home remains a major source of SHS exposure for children, this work shows that an additional justification for enacting smokefree workplace and public place legislation is the secondary effect of stimulating voluntary smokefree-home rules, particularly in homes occupied by smokers.

A Cluster Randomized Trial of Sun Protection at Elementary Schools Results from Year 2 (R. Roetzheim)

Vol 41: Issue 6; pages 615-618

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (sun protection education), child health

Summary

This study aimed to assess Year-2 results from a cluster randomized trial promoting hat use at schools. The study found that the percentage of students observed wearing hats at control schools remained unchanged during the 2-year period (range 0%–2%) but increased significantly at intervention schools.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Given their broad reach, though, schools remain an attractive vehicle for delivering sun protection education to children. School-based interventions are one potential method of increasing hat use at schools while booster sessions can help address sustainability.

Attack on Protections Against Air Pollution (J. Lipsman)

Vol 41: Issue 6; pages 645-647 –

[Comment by M, *Hovell* page 650-652]

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (pollution), advocacy

Summary

Because control and reduction of air pollution are subject to federal regulation, physicians, as advocates for patients, must help educate the Congress on its critical role in preventing the health effects of air pollution. This is particularly important given that Congress is currently debating whether to dismantle existing laws that protect the air we breathe, especially the Clean Air Act [CAA], a cornerstone of environmental health law.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Concerned physicians should contact their members of Congress urging them to strengthen and not weaken air pollution law. Moreover, professional societies such as the American College of Preventive Medicine and the American Thoracic Society seek physicians to become involved in their advocacy efforts.

American Journal of Public Health

Increasing Access to Early Malaria Diagnosis and Prompted Treatment in Remote Cambodian Villages (S. Kheang)

Vol 101: No. 12; Pages e6-e8

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (Malaria)

Summary

Malaria poses a significant public health burden in the remote areas of western Cambodia, where access to health services and information is limited. Recognizing the potential of village malaria workers to reach these communities, the US Agency for International Development-funded Malaria Control in Cambodia project used a multipronged approach to strengthen the village malaria workers network.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Key to the program's success has been the integration of village malaria workers with public health facilities, improved patient access to prompt diagnosis and treatment, and resolution of systemic barriers such as logistics for rapid diagnostic tests. Linkages with the public health sector are critical for ensuring up-to-date malaria information for the village malaria workers, improving the flow of supplies to and community data for the health centers, and procuring supplies.

Eye Disease Resulting From Increased Use of Fluorescent Lighting as a Climate Change Mitigation Strategy (H. Walls)

Vol 101: No. 12; Pages 2222-2225

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (eye disease, fluorescent lighting), advocacy

Summary

Increased use of fluorescent lighting as a climate change mitigation strategy may increase eye disease. The safe range of light to avoid exposing the eye to potentially damaging ultraviolet (UV) radiation is 2000 to 3500K and greater than 500 nanometers. Some fluorescent lights fall outside this safe range.

So what? Advocacy Implications

In response, the authors advocate for the use of incandescent and warm-white lamps instead of cool-white fluorescent lamps, as well as for further research into improving lighting from such sources. This public health issue may be of particular concern for aging populations, such as those of many developed countries and countries in northern latitudes where there is a greater dependence on artificial lighting.

Parents' Education, Mothers' Vocabulary, and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood: Longitudinal Evidence From Ecuador (N. Schady)

Vol 101: No. 12; Pages 2299-2306

Topics (keywords)

Child health (cognitive outcomes), nutrition

Summary

The author estimated the association between parents' education, mothers' vocabulary, and early child cognitive development in a sample of poor children in rural Ecuador. They revealed that the schooling and vocabulary levels of mothers were strong predictors of the cognitive development of young children.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Differences in children's cognitive outcomes start very early, which has important implications for the intergenerational transmission of poverty and inequality. Programs that seek to increase early stimulation for disadvantaged children, perhaps through parenting programs or high-quality center-based care, hold promise.

Smoking Behavior of US Youths: A Comparison Between Child Welfare System and Community Populations (D. Fettes)

Vol 101: No. 12; Pages 2342-2347

Topics (keywords)

Tobacco (youth)

Summary

This study compared rates of smoking for 2 groups of youths aged 12 to 14 years: those involved in the child welfare system (CW) and their counterparts in the community population. The study revealed that CW-involved youths had significantly higher rates of lifetime smoking (43% vs 32%) and current smoking (23% vs 18%) than did youths in the community population.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Smoking prevalence was notably higher among CW-involved youths than among the community population. In light of the persistent public health

impact of smoking, more attention should be focused on identification of risk factors for prevention and early intervention efforts among the CW-involved population.

Vulnerability of Female Drivers Involved in Motor Vehicle Crashes: An Analysis of US Population at Risk (D. Bose)

Vol 101: No. 12; Pages 2368-2373

Topics (keywords)

Road safety

Summary

With increases in the number of female drivers involved in fatal crashes and similarity in driving patterns and risk behavior, the authors sought to evaluate if advances in occupant safety technology provide equal injury protection for drivers of either sex involved in a serious or fatal crash.

So what? Advocacy Implications

To address the sex-specific disparity demonstrated in this study, health policies and vehicle regulations must focus on effective safety designs specifically tailored toward the female population for equity in injury reduction.

Australia & New Zealand Journal of Public Health

Acculturation status has a modest effect on smoking prevalence among a cohort of Pacific fathers in New Zealand (E. Tautolo)

Vol 35; Issue 6: pages 509 – 516

Topics (keywords)

Tobacco (acculturation)

Summary

Smoking rates for Pacific fathers in New Zealand are high. There appears to be a modest effect of acculturation on smoking prevalence, where those fathers with higher Pacific cultural identity have the lowest smoking rates.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Strategies which maintain, enhance, and incorporate fathers' Pacific cultural identity may be a useful addition to comprehensive tobacco control strategies to reduce the prevalence of smoking in Pacific people living in New Zealand.

Factor analysis shows association between family activity environment and children's health behaviour (G. Hendrie)

Vol 35; Issue 6: pages 524 - 529

Topics (keywords)

Physical activity, child health, environment & health (family environment)

Summary

The family activity environment questionnaire shows high internal consistency and moderate predictive ability. This study has built on previous research by taking a more comprehensive approach to measuring the family activity environment.

So what? Advocacy Implications

This research suggests the family activity environment should be considered in family-based health promotion interventions.

Parental behaviours, but not parental smoking, influence current smoking and smoking susceptibility among 14 and 15 year-old children

(A. Waa)

Vol 35; Issue 6: pages 530 - 536

Topics (keywords)

Tobacco, child health, environment & health (smoke-free environments)

Summary

This paper explores whether parental behaviours related to smoking socialisation and parenting are associated with smoking susceptibility and current smoking in 14-15 year old students. Not allowing smoking in the home, communicating non-smoking expectations to children, monitoring pocket money, and setting rules to guide behaviour are strategies which are likely to reduce risk of smoking uptake. .

So what? Advocacy Implications

The study provides evidence to inform the development of parent focused interventions to reduce the risk of smoking initiation by children.

Recommendations by Queensland GPs to be more physically active: which patients were recommended which activities and what action they took

(R. Robertson)

Vol 35; Issue 6: pages 537 - 542

Topics (keywords)

Physical activity (health promotion, primary healthcare)

Summary

The research found that General practitioners in Queensland are recommending increased physical activity to patients with weight problems and with medical problems. Patients are usually pleased to receive the advice and act upon it. .

So what? Advocacy Implications

There is potential to improve public health by giving physical activity advice to sedentary and/or overweight patients when appropriate.

Letter: Wind, dust dispersal and risk of contamination at Alice Springs

(P. Tait)

Vol 35; Issue 6: pages 577 - 588

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (uranium, air pollution)

Summary

One concern regarding a potential uranium mine south of Alice Springs is that, in the event of a failure of dust suppression and tailings management, wind will bring dust from operations and tailings into the towns of Alice Springs and Amoooguna.

So what? Advocacy Implications

The potential for damaging health and social consequences despite low risk of contamination needs to be considered when deciding to permit mining.

Letter: Improved iodine status in breastfeeding women following mandatory fortification

(S. Axford)

Vol 35; Issue 6: pages 579 - 580

Topics (keywords)

Nutrition, child health (breast-feeding, iodine fortification)

Summary

Mandatory iodine fortification of salt used in the bread-making process was introduced in Australia in October 2009. As the iodine status of pregnant women in Australia has been found to be inadequate it can be anticipated that many women commence lactation in an iodine-depleted state. Thus, it is important to determine the iodine status of breastfeeding mothers.

So what? Advocacy Implications

The findings are timely in that they are the first to indicate that the mandatory iodine fortification programme may have benefited breastfeeding women. These findings reinforce the importance of education regarding supplementation at antenatal services and support the NHMRC position statement regarding supplementation in breastfeeding women.

Letter: Rise in bicycle-related injury hospitalisation rates in middle-aged adults, 2000-09

(T. Ballestas)

Vol 35; Issue 6: pages 580 - 581

Topics (keywords)

Injury, physical activity, road safety (cycling)

Summary

In the last decade, the importance of cycling as a means of recreation and transport has increased. Recent reports have shown increasing rates of emergency presentations and hospitalisations due to bicycle injuries in Australia.

So what? Advocacy Implications

In the light of evidence to suggest that the numbers of cycling injuries resulting in hospital admission are increasing among middle-aged adults, the authors recommend that future policy guidelines and safety messages should include information that specifically targets this group of cyclists with a view to reducing future injuries.

Health Promotion Journal of Australia

Impact of national smokefree environments laws on teachers, schools and early childhood centres

(D. Watson)

Vol 22; Issue 3: pages 166 - 171

Topics (keywords)

Tobacco, child health, environment & health (policy, smoke-free environments, New Zealand)

Summary

This study, conducted in 2008, investigated teachers' smoking behaviour and perceived adherence to the New Zealand smokefree legislation. It found that perceived compliance with the legislation was high, although 30% of teachers reported seeing staff smoking. Proportionately, significantly more teachers from low than from high socioeconomic schools perceived poor compliance and staff visibly smoking.

So what? Advocacy Implications

The findings argue for supporting cessation among those who work with children and young people, and for targeting support at school communities in areas of low socioeconomic status or with large populations of Māori or Pacific peoples.

The possible effect on frequency of cycling if mandatory bicycle helmet legislation was repealed in Sydney, Australia: a cross sectional survey
(C. Rissel)

Vol 22; Issue 3: pages 178 - 183

Topics (keywords)

Physical activity, injury, road safety (Cycling, helmet use, legislation)

Summary

A cross sectional survey by a market research company was conducted, using quota sampling, in Sydney, Australia. One in five respondents said they would cycle more if they did not have to wear a helmet, almost half of respondents said they would never ride without a helmet. One third of respondents did not support mandatory helmet legislation.

So what? Advocacy Implications

To the extent that Sydney is representative of the rest of Australia, the repeal of mandatory helmet legislation would be likely to substantially increase cycling in Australia.

Fast Facts: the availability and accessibility of nutrition information in fast food chains
(L. Wellard)

Vol 22; Issue 3: pages 184 - 188

Topics (keywords)

Nutrition, marketing, obesity (Junk food, labelling)

Summary

An in-store observational survey was conducted in 222 outlets of five fast food chains in five states. The Australian websites for each chain were surveyed for nutrition information. While most outlets surveyed made some nutrition information available to consumers, it was generally incomplete.

So what? Advocacy Implications

This research provided a baseline measure of the availability of nutrition information in fast food chains. Mandatory publication of energy on menu boards represents an improvement to existing practices by fast food chains. Tightening the self-regulatory marketing code is required to ensure that nutrition information is available at the point-of-sale. Fast food chains should provide comprehensive, up-to-date information for all menu items. Chains should also ensure their staff members are adequately trained in providing nutrition information.

Sleep, structured and social time use and young Australian children's physical activity
(M. Yu)

Vol 22; Issue 3: pages 203 - 209

Topics (keywords)

Child health, physical activity (Free play)

Summary

This cross-sectional study employed data from Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children to examine the association between participation in physical activity and time spent in sleep, structured activity, and social contexts of 4-5 year old children. It found that young children who are highly scheduled in structured activities on weekdays and those with limited adult involvement, especially on weekends, tend to be less physically active.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Opportunities for young children to engage in more free play in family contexts may be more beneficial for enhancing physical activity than structured activities at this age. Family-centred strategies that embed physical activity

into children's daily routines are reinforced by findings from this study.

Children's consumption of energy-dense nutrient-poor foods, fruit and vegetables: are they related? An analysis of data from a cross sectional survey
(C. Innes-Hughes)

Vol 22; Issue 3: pages 210 - 216

Topics (keywords)

Nutrition, child health (junk food, fruit and vegetables)

Summary

More frequent consumption of some energy-dense, nutrient-poor (EDNP) food types was significantly associated with more frequent consumption of other EDNP foods. Fast food and soft drinks consumption were associated with each other as well as with fried potato and salty snacks; and with lower intakes of fruit and vegetables in some but not all age groups.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Public health messages need to concurrently promote a reduced intake of a variety of EDNP foods, particularly snack foods and fast food, as well as an increase in fruit and vegetable consumption.

Media reporting of global health issues and events in New Zealand daily newspapers
(J. McCool)

Vol 22; Issue 3: pages 228 - 230

Topics (keywords)

Preventative health (media, advocacy)

Summary

Media can promote opportunities to identify and address gaps in important global health issues. In light of the potential role of media as an advocacy tool for global health, we examined how global health issues are represented in mainstream media in New Zealand.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Influencing policy and investment in global health partly relies upon an informed public. This brief report indicates there are missed opportunities to promote greater awareness of health challenges facing developing countries through major newspapers in New Zealand.

Editorial: Addressing climate change through health promotion in Australia
(J. Smith)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S2 - S4

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health, advocacy (climate change, food security, water quality, Indigenous health, communicable disease)

Summary

Climate change is arguably the biggest global health threat of the 21st Century. While the spread of vector-borne diseases and the health impacts of extreme weather events dominate discussions about health and climate change, there are also a range of other issues that are central to the health promotion community. Concerns such as food security; mental health; Indigenous health; and water quality are increasingly familiar.

So what? Advocacy Implications

As with many other public health problems, the health promotion community will need to tackle climate change impacts on a range of fronts. This will

require multi-strategy health promotion interventions, capacity-building strategies and significant advocacy efforts

Editorial: Action on climate change requires strong leadership from the health sector
(M. Sweet)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S4 - S5

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health, advocacy (climate change)

Summary

Health professionals and organisations are well placed to help generate a more informed debate and policy response. They hold relatively influential, powerful positions in society generally, and the health impacts of climate change offer an opportunity to engage the public in issues that may otherwise seem abstract and not personally relevant

So what? Advocacy Implications

Climate change is an important and bitterly contested area of public policy with profound implications for public health. The current state of debate around the issue suggests the need for more effective advocacy by a range of parties.

Health promotion interventions to address climate change using a primary health care approach: a literature review
(R. Walker)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S6 - S12

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (climate change, health promotion)

Summary

This paper reports a discussion of major categories of health promotion interventions, namely health communication, community building and settings approaches and uses examples drawn from literature on community resilience and summer heat.

So what? Advocacy Implications

This literature review can support primary health care agencies to design interventions to address climate change using health communication, community building and settings approaches in the knowledge that there is peer-reviewed literature to support such initiatives.

Residential air-conditioning and climate change: voices of the vulnerable
(C, Farbotko)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S13 - S16

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (climate change, heat stress)

Summary

Decreasing the risk of heat-stress is an imperative in health promotion, and is widely accepted as necessary for successful adaptation to climate change. Residential air-conditioning exacerbated existing inequities. Case studies of two specifically selected low-income elderly single person households revealed that such households were unlikely to be able to afford this 'solution' to increasing exposure to heat waves in the absence of energy subsidies.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Residential air-conditioning is not a desirable solution to the increasing risk of heat stress. An improved focus on public cool spaces is needed, with a range of low-energy, low-cost and community-based strategies for keeping

cool promoted among all households.

Extreme Heat Arrangements in South Australia: an assessment of trigger temperatures
(S. Williams)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S21 - S27

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (climate change, heat stress)

Summary

The results support the temperature trigger for an extreme heat warning within the Extreme Heat Arrangements for Adelaide, and indicate a limited health impact at lower temperature triggers.

So what? Advocacy Implications

These findings will contribute to education and public policy development in relation to health and safety during extreme heat in Adelaide

Why sustainable population growth is a key to climate change and public health equity
(P. Howat)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S34-S38

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (climate change, population growth, equity)

Summary

Australia's population could reach 42 million by 2050. This rapid population growth, if unabated, will have significant social, public health and environmental implications. This paper presents evidence to support the need for the stabilisation of population growth as one of the most significant measures to control climate change as well as to improve public health equity.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Evidence in support of stabilising population growth will help inform the development of appropriate policies that should help Australia meet its climate change targets, and ultimately benefit vulnerable members of our community.

Implications of climate change for skin cancer prevention in Australia
(J. Makin)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S39-S41

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (climate change, preventative health, skin cancer)

Summary

Discussions of the impact of climate change on human health typically focus on the potential for increased morbidity and mortality from heat waves, floods and droughts... Less commonly discussed is the potential for an increased burden from skin cancer. Changes to sun protection behaviours due to increasing temperatures, combined with continued elevated levels of UV radiation may result in increased exposure to the sun.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Adequate funding of skin cancer prevention programs should be a priority

A numbers game: lack of gendered data impedes prevention of disaster-related family violence (D. Parkinson)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S42-S45

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health, injury (violence)

Summary

The lack of a systematic approach to collecting family violence data after a disaster impedes family violence prevention and response efforts. Health promotion theory and service planning demand a sound evidence base for interventions.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Government and non-government agencies involved in disaster planning, recovery and reconstruction need to focus on producing data on the occurrence of family violence in this context, and train emergency and reconstruction workers in the dynamics of family violence.

Wrestling with 'doubt-sayers': a first step in leading community-wide climate change action for better health (J. Ritchie)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S46-S47

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health, advocacy

Summary

This paper is a call to action for those involved in promoting and protecting Australia's health, imploring all to join the fray and constructively address this most fundamental determinant of health. Those promoting the health of Australians have a responsibility to optimise health in this regard and need to think differently through embracing complexity science and then take action.

So what? Advocacy Implications

By influencing greater acceptance of the science of climate change, those concerned with promoting the health of Australians can get on with taking action around this most fundamental determinant of health.

The potential role of Health Impact Assessment in tackling the complexity of climate change adaptation for health (H. Brown)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S48-S53

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (health promotion, climate change, health impact assessment)

Summary

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) provides a structural approach to identify, evaluate and manage health impacts of climate change that is inclusive of a wide range of stakeholders. Climate change will affect decision-making across every government level and sector and the health implications of these decisions can also be addressed with HIA.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Health promotion is well placed to play a leading role in climate change adaptation, particularly in ensuring that existing health inequities in Australia are not exacerbated by climate change and opportunities for health co-benefits are maximised. The outcomes of HIA as applied to climate change can assist health promotion in prioritising both issues and actions related to climate change.

Networked resilience in rural Australia – a role for health promotion in regional responses to climate change (E. Van Beurden)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S54-S60

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (health promotion, climate change, advocacy)

Summary

Between 2005 and 2009 a highly connected network of organisations emerged and rapidly evolved to collaborate for action on climate change. This paper provides a model for how health promotion teams might establish and support regional collaborations of organisations in a broad response to climate change that enables emergence of multiple strategies tailored to regional needs.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Health Promotion can play a vital role in fostering regional collaborations to enhance community resilience to impacts of climate change. Social Network Analysis can help track the development of soft infrastructure, identify vital network links and provide a basis for advocacy.

It's here! Are we ready? Five case studies of health promotion practices that address climate change from within Victorian health care settings (R. Patrick)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S61-S67

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (health promotion, climate change)

Summary

This qualitative study involved five case studies of Victorian health care agencies that explicitly identified climate change as a priority. Despite differences in approach, target population and context, the core finding was that health promotion strategies, competencies and frameworks were transferable to action on climate change in these health care settings.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Health promotion strategies and frameworks, combined with discipline-based competencies, i.e. skills in planning and needs assessment, hold the health promotion practitioner in good stead for action on climate change and its consequences for humans.

Schools, climate change and health promotion: a vital alliance (H. Boon)

Vol 22; Special Issue: pages S68-S71

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health, child health

Summary

The preliminary results of this literature review suggest scant attention has been paid either by researchers or educational policy makers to the needs of children with disabilities and their caregivers in response to climate change induced disaster scenarios.

So what? Advocacy Implications

The writers believe health promotion principles and health promotion professionals can (and should) play a pivotal role in preparing educational and other institutions to improve the health and safety of this large group of vulnerable children as they face the effects of climate change.

Health Promotion International

Australian consumers' views of fruit and vegetable policy options (A. Worsley)

Vol 26; Issue 4: pages 397 - 407

Topics (keywords)

Nutrition (health promotion, fruit and vegetables)

Summary

Findings from an internet survey of 511 people suggest that there is a strong and widespread support for policies which encourage country of origin labelling, local and increased production, subsidies, bans and taxes, and communication campaigns.

So what? Advocacy Implications

This suggests that health promoters and policy makers should take account of the varied values present in modern society; these do appear to differ in some ways from prevailing Australian political policies

Housing, heat stress and health in a changing climate: promoting the adaptive capacity of vulnerable households, a suggested way forward (C. Maller)

Vol 26; Issue 4: pages 492 - 498

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (climate change, research)

Summary

This paper presents a case for research exploring the influence of social and contextual factors on vulnerable populations' capacity to adapt to heat in the context of climate change.

So what? Advocacy Implications

In the long term, the research agenda discussed may contribute to decreased reliance on air-conditioning (reducing household energy demand/expenses, associated greenhouse gas emissions and peak electricity demand) and improve the overall health and wellbeing of vulnerable households.

Sustainable funding of health initiatives in Wonju, Republic of Korea via a tobacco consumption tax (E. Nam)

Vol 26; Issue 4: pages 457 - 464

Topics (keywords)

Tobacco (taxation, health promotion)

Summary

This paper investigated the process of the local tobacco consumption tax being approved as the main source of financing for the local Healthy City project.

So what? Advocacy Implications

Funding the Healthy City Wonju project with local tobacco tax revenue has provided lessons in how to finance other Healthy Cities projects, particularly with regard to the role of local leadership in earmarking the tobacco tax and the sustainability of tobacco tax as a funding source for the Healthy Cities projects in the Republic of Korea.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of arsenic screening promotion in private wells: a quasi-experimental study (J. Renaud)

Vol 26; Issue 4: pages 465 - 475

Topics (keywords)

Environment & health (water supply, poisons, interventions)

Summary

A quasi-experimental design was used to compare two campaigns designed to promote Arsenic screening in well water. When adjusting for age and gender among all the post-CBI respondents, Arsenic screening is related with intervention status (exposed to MMC and CBI; $p < 0.001$) and on previous microbiological water analysis behavior ($p < 0.05$), but is not related to knowledge.

So what? Advocacy Implications

This study demonstrates the superiority of a community-based campaign over a MMC when environmental health is concerned.