

Boston University

OpenBU

<http://open.bu.edu>

BU Publications

University Hospital News: Press Releases

1989-10-18

University Hospital News: October 18, 1989

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/20282>

"Downloaded from OpenBU. Boston University's institutional repository."



1839 | 1989

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SESQUICENTENNIAL

Boston University School of Medicine

Office of Media Relations

720 Harrison Avenue, Suite 909
Boston, Massachusetts
02118-2393
617 638-8491

October 18, 1989

Dear Member of the Media,

Members of Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) will present numerous abstracts on a variety of topics, ranging from AIDS to riding with drunk drivers, at the 117th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. The meeting will be held October 22-26 in Chicago.

Here is a brief description of some of the presentations:

- "AIDS Symptom Recognition and Help Seeking"--Daniel Merrigan, Ed.D., an assistant professor of public health at BUSPH, will discuss a study that examined the decision-making and help-seeking behaviors of persons diagnosed with AIDS or ARC and the variables thought to influence people to seek help promptly. Immediate symptom recognition and help seeking are essential for persons diagnosed with HIV infection.
- "Characteristics of Persons Who Ride with Drunk Drivers"--Ralph Hingson, Sc.D., a professor of public health at BUSPH, will present the result of a survey of adolescents and adults in Massachusetts. Most who drove with drunk drivers had also been drinking at the time and shared many of the same characteristics as drunk drivers. For example, they were heavier drinkers and were less likely to be concerned with social disapproval for driving offenses. Hingson will also outline intervention strategies.
- "Prior Approval in the Pediatric Emergency Room: An Empirical Appraisal"--Alan Sager, Ph.D., an associate professor of public health at BUSPH, will detail a study of managed-care patients seeking care at Boston City Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Room. The findings suggest that few patients seek pediatric ER care inappropriately and that little money is saved by requiring prior approval for this aspect of care.
- "Who Volunteers: The Role of Time Banking (Service Credits) in Mobilizing Voluntary Aid to Disabled Older Citizens"--Alan Sager, Ph.D., an associate professor of public health at BUSPH, will present data on Boston's time-banking demonstration--one of six programs nationally--whereby volunteers receive one credit for each hour they contribute, entitling them to one hour of voluntary aid in the future. Research indicates that while time banking is not a strong initial motive for volunteering, it becomes more important as volunteers come to regard their banked time as a resource. More than 100 volunteers are enrolled in the 15-month-old Boston program.
- "Universal Health Insurance and Hospital Finance in Massachusetts: 18 Months Later"--Alan Sager, Ph.D., an associate professor of public health at BUSPH, analyzes the Universal Health Care legislation passed in Massachusetts in 1988. Sager suggests that this plan could be a step toward health care for all, even if it was not, by itself, a great leap forward.

-more-

● "Alcohol and Drugs: Beliefs About AIDS and Condom Use Among Massachusetts Adolescents"--Ralph Hingson, Sc.D., a professor of public health at BUSPH, discusses whether alcohol, drug use and beliefs about AIDS are independently related to condom use. Results of a survey indicate that 16 percent of drinkers and 25 percent of drug users were less likely to use condoms after drinking and drug use. Those who discussed condom use with physicians and who carried condoms were 2.7 to 1.7 times more likely to use condoms.

● "Surviving Childhood: Equity, Chronic Disease and Financial Disaster"--William J. Bicknell, M.D., M.P.H., a professor of public health at BUSPH, will discuss how improving childhood survival has led to a new set of problems for developing countries--aging. The cost of morbidity of mid and later life can quickly overwhelm a fragile health infrastructure. Bicknell discusses ways to allocate scarce health resources.

● "Resource Utilization and Reimbursement Rates in the Home Health Care Industry"--Michael G. Trisolini from BUSPH will present preliminary results from a study to determine the cost of home health-care visits. Trisolini will explain how factors such as the patient's medical diagnosis, age and disability can affect length of time for a home-health visit and ultimately the cost.

● "Tobacco and Alcohol Use During Pregnancy and Labor in Nepal"--Sarah Degnan, M.P.H., from BUSPH found that 18 percent of pregnant women in Nepal smoke. She will report on the prevalence of tobacco and alcohol use during pregnancy and childbirth. Degnan will also present papers on sociocultural barriers to utilization of maternal-health services and community-health planning in Nepal.

● Suzanne Cashman, Sc.D., from BUSPH will present three papers on for-profit ambulatory care centers. One paper, "Physician Satisfaction in a Major Chain of Investor-Owned Walk-in Centers," profiles the physicians who work at these facilities. A survey found them to be young, male, American trained, board certified/eligible internists who wanted regular hours. Another paper, "Physician Response to Financial Incentives," looks at how financial incentives affect patient-care and health-service delivery in for-profit ambulatory care centers. The study found that physicians increased laboratory tests/patient visits by 23 percent and x-ray/visits by 16 percent when bonuses were tied to gross income generated. The third paper describes how for-profit centers impact upon traditional practices.

● "Health Seeking Strategies of Nepali Women"--Catherine Schlager, M.S., of BUSPH surveyed health problems and practices of Nepali women. She will discuss how practices vary according to caste and the roles of traditional healers and modern medicine.

If you are interested in any of the above abstracts or would like to interview any of the presenters, give me or Gina DiGravio a call at (617) 638-8491.

Sincerely,

Betty Russell
Director, Media Relations
Boston University School of Medicine