Library Update

New Publications Added to the Library: May 2002

The Center for Rural Health maintains a clearinghouse or library of information about state and national rural health issues. We will make copies of articles, loan out books and lengthier documents, as well as video and audiotapes. For more information contact Marilyn Fundingsland, project director, at (701) 777-3848.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES


HEALTH CARE - MISCELLANEOUS


The study of health economics involves the application of various microeconomic tools, such as demand or cost theory, to health issues and problems. The goal is to promote a better understanding of the economic aspects of health care problems so that corrective health policies can be designed and proposed. This textbook is intended to help learn and apply basic microeconomic theory to health economic issues.

HEALTH CARE - REFORM


This report recommends bold, innovative changes that hospitals and their leaders must make in order to avert limitations in necessary health care services now and in the future. The report also contains recommendations for others, such as government, which are critical to support the actions of hospital leaders. The book is organized into an introduction (A Looming Crisis in Care) and five chapters: Foster Meaningful Work, Improve the Workplace Partnership, Broaden the Base, Collaborate With Others, and Build Social Support. Each chapter contains strategic recommendations and specific tactical recommendations.

HOSPITALS - RURAL

The profitability of rural small-town hospitals varies widely. Some are consistently profitable; others generate significant losses. This Policy Brief provides insights into why some rural small-town hospitals are financially successful and others struggle with persistent financial difficulties. Interviews with hospital administrators at selected hospitals indicate that bad debts, poor physician relations, and broad missions also may contribute to some hospitals’ financial difficulties.

**MANAGED CARE**

“Rural Managed Care: Expansion or Evolution?” 2002. Moscovice, I., Casey, M., & Klingner, J., Rural Health Research Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

This chartbook updates the data in the previous publication of the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, *Rural Managed Care: Patterns and Prospects* (1997). It examines trends in rural managed care enrollment over time, and discusses the implications of changes in the commercial HMO market, state Medicaid programs, and the Medicare+Choice program for managed care in rural areas.

**MEDICARE**


As part of its mission to strengthen rural communities across Minnesota, the Blandin Foundation has sponsored a public policy research project to examine the nature and extent of the Medicare payment disparities affecting Minnesota’s rural areas. As part of this effort, the foundation, in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health’s Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, sponsored the research contained in this report, conducted by former Member of Congress David Minge. Minge’s description of the problem and his policy recommendations have been endorsed by a diverse group of nearly 50 concerned health care practitioners, policy experts, and senior citizen advocates from five states who have reviewed his work.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**


The authors designed this guide for state legislators, with their input. It is meant to give a working understanding of the public health arena. The book contains a definition of public health and an examination of the public health system, including its organization, policy, and program issues, funding and evaluation. The appendices provide a quick reference for definitions of public health terms and tips for solving public health problems cooperatively as well as resources and information on health disparities.

**RESEARCH**

This document describes the research and policy analysis projects underway in the Rural Health Research Centers Program of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The objective of this program is to produce research and policy analyses that will be useful in the development of national and state policies to assure access to quality physical and behavioral health services for rural Americans.

**SCHOOL HEALTH**

“Improving the Odds: The Untapped Power of Schools to Improve the Health of Teens.” 2002. Blum, R., MCNeely, C., & Rinehart, P., Center for Adolescent Health and Development, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

This report focuses on school connectedness, what it is, and some of the key factors that seem to be associated with young people feeling connected to the school they attend. School connectedness is associated with every health risk behavior studied: cigarette smoking, alcohol use, marijuana and other drug use, suicidal thoughts and attempts, interpersonal violence, and early sexual debut.