

# HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH

Current and Recent Projects  
January 2009 through December 2010

Division of Health Policy and Social Science Research  
Department of Family and Community Medicine  
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## INFORMATION SERVICE

The Health Systems Research "Information Service" provides subscribers with quarterly publications highlighting recent data about topics of local interest along with ready access to demographic, social, and economic information. As a Census affiliate, HSR can obtain the most up-to-date available U.S. Census Bureau data. HSR also maintains extensive information on social indicators and monitors trends in northwest Illinois and McHenry County.

Clients are able to access databases, literature searches, resource files, and receive assistance with grant preparation. Response to request is nearly immediate, often within hours. In addition to the quarterly publication, an annual summary of hospital data including utilization, personnel and finances of northwest Illinois and McHenry County facilities is sent to all Information Service subscribers.

<b>Hospitals/Health Systems</b>	<b>Other Subscribers</b>
Katherine Shaw Bethea (KSB) Hospital, Dixon	City of Rockford,
Rockford Health System	Community Development Department
SwedishAmerican Health System	Rockford Park District
	Rockford Register Star
<b>Public Health</b>	United Way of Rock River Valley
Crusader Community Health	
McHenry County Department of Health	
Winnebago County Health Department	

For information on the service, contact Health Systems Research at 815.395.5639.

## COMMUNITY STUDIES

**Boone County Health Department**  
***Washington Elementary School Family Health Survey***

Analysis of survey to determine health needs of families in order to develop health education and activities. (Report March 2009)

**City of Rockford**  
***Rockford Alcohol Free Teens (RAFT) Parent Survey***  
Survey sent to all parents of Rockford high school students about underage drinking and related behaviors. (Report June 2010)

**Crusader Community Health**  
***Patient Report Cards***  
Analysis of patient “report cards” handed out at all Crusader Clinic medical and dental facilities. Frequency results and findings presented by facility, unit, provider, and language, with comparison to previous surveys.

**Community Youth Development Council - Freeport**  
***Youth Data***  
Assist in identifying key measures based on extensive analysis of Stephenson County youth behavior and health status data.

**DeKalb County Mental Health Board**  
***Mental Health Needs Assessment***  
Comprehensive needs assessment of mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities. Study included household survey, key informant interviews, focus groups, and data analysis including prevalence and service use. HSR assisted Mental Health Board in establishing priorities, using study for strategic planning and funding decisions. (Report July 2009)

**Excellence in Academic Medicine (EAM) Grant**  
**University of Illinois Rockford and**  
**SwedishAmerican Hospital**  
***An Analysis of the Prevalence of Multiple Sclerosis in Thirteen Northwest Illinois Counties***  
An epidemiological study that identified individuals with MS across northwest Illinois using multiple approaches including on-line participation. 772 individuals with MS registered for the study. Results were analyzed to determine what demographic, socioeconomic, or environmental variables are associated with the presence of MS. Female gender and Northern European ancestry were the strongest predictors. Agricultural areas appeared to exhibit higher prevalence. (Report July 2009)

**Healthier Barrington Project**  
***Greater Barrington Surveys***  
Household survey to 3,600 homes, the fifth survey of a series which began in 1996. Survey topics include quality of life, shopping, health and human services quality and gaps, housing, health and mental health status, child and senior care. On-line survey of environmental views. Sixth survey to be administered in Spring 2011. (Reports July 2008 and 2009)

**Highland Community College - Stephenson County Leadership Institute, Jo Daviess Leadership Forum, and Highland Community College Employee Leadership Group.**  
***Population Descriptors***  
Annual analysis and presentation of county-specific demographic, economic, and social information.

## COMMUNITY STUDIES

### **Knox County Health Department**

#### ***Healthy Communities Study 2010/2011***

Comprehensive needs assessment utilizing four components: household survey, key informant interviews, focus groups, and community analysis. Wrap up synthesizes findings of all studies and presents results in a format suitable for IPLAN (Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs) and MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership). Follow-up to studies of needs in 1995, 2005 and 2007.

### **Knox County Health Department**

#### ***STD Study***

Community study including focus groups, data analysis and literature review to gather ideas for improving the delivery of sexually transmitted disease services. (Report April 2009)

### **McHenry County College**

#### ***Health Professions Studies***

Two studies examining the feasibility of establishing training programs, one for occupational therapy assistant (COTA) and the other for respiratory therapist (RRT). The studies incorporated surveys of existing programs, trends in the field, and employment outlook. (Reports March 2008, January 2010)

### **McHenry County**

#### ***Healthy Communities 2010/2011***

Community needs and quality of life assessment including household survey, focus groups, and key informant interviews (jointly conducted with Leadership Greater McHenry County) and guidance for community analysis. Findings to be used to guide planning efforts for 18 partner organization and McHenry County Department of Health IPLAN process.

### **Meridian District 223**

#### ***Enrollment Projections***

Demographic analyses of growth factors for the Stillman Valley-Davis Junction-Monroe Center District with enrollment projections to 2020. Follow-up to 2006 report. (Report February 2009)

### **Oak Park Mental Health Board and River Forest Mental Health Committee**

#### ***Mental Health Assessment 2009-2010***

Comprehensive study of mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities needs in Oak Park and River Forest Townships. Includes household survey, key informant interviews, focus groups, and community data analysis. (Reports 2010)

### **Rockford Health Council**

#### ***Healthy Communities 2010***

Two studies to examining health and human services needs in the Rockford MSA. The studies include a household survey distributed three ways: sent to 8,000 randomly selected homes in Winnebago and Boone Counties, through selected Rockford elementary schools with high low-income student populations, and online to selected Rockford Chamber groups. The second study is a collection of data describing the population and health characteristics in the two-county area. (Reports November 2010)

## COMMUNITY STUDIES

### **Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP)** ***NICTI Commuter Rail Survey***

Survey of 10,000 households in Boone and Winnebago Counties regarding possible use of commuter rail to Elgin Metra, organization and funding of the rail service. (Report June 2009)

### **Rockford Park District** ***Citizen Survey 2010***

Mail survey to a random sample of 4,000 homes in the Rockford Park District. Topics include participation in RPD programs, views on land acquisition, reasonableness of fees, and priority population groups to be served. Follow-up to similar surveys conducted in 2008, 2006, 2004, 2001, and 1999. (Report August 2010)

### **Rock Valley College** ***District Survey***

Survey about preferences for non-credit and continuing education offerings for Community Education Outreach and Center for Learning in Retirement. Survey topics included experience with RVC; interest in theatre, classes, programs; registration and scheduling preferences, programs and scheduling for children. (Presentation February 2009)

### **Sinnissippi Centers, Inc.** ***Assessment and Evaluation for Children's Mental Health Initiative***

Needs assessment for children's mental health services in four-county area, Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside. Assessment includes survey to random sample of 4,000 households with children and community analysis of data from secondary sources. Design of evaluation plan also part of project. Project awarded to Sinnissippi Centers by Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation.

### **Stephenson County Healthy Communities** ***Community Analysis***

Comprehensive analysis of demographic, social, economic, and health indicators for Stephenson County Healthy Communities Partnership. Used to choose priority areas for action. (Reports July 2008 and 2009)

### **Stephenson County Health Department** ***Planning Study for a Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) serving Stephenson & Carroll Counties***

Study to support FQHC planning under a federal HRSA grant. Included household survey, key informant interviews, focus groups, data analysis, and preparation of application for New Access Point. Follow-up when 2010 application guidance released. (Reports June - December 2009, December 2010)

### **Stephenson County Senior Center** ***Data***

Compilation of demographic, household, income and poverty data about seniors residing in Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties. (Report April 2009)

### **Whiteside County Health Department** ***Healthier Communities Partnership 2010***

Community analysis of demographic, social and economic indicators along with household survey of 4,000 homes about health and human services needs in the county. (Reports May 2010)

### **Winnebago County Housing Authority** ***Smoking Policy Survey***

Survey administered to residents of three public housing apartment buildings regarding smoking policies and related topics. (Report December 2009)

## EVALUATIONS

### **Boone County Health Department**

#### ***Abstinence Education Program***

Annual analysis of student surveys assessing sexual knowledge, attitudes, and behavior before and after abstinence education in Boone County schools. (Final Report August 2009)

### **Freeport School District**

#### ***21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant***

Evaluation of after-school programs at two sites. Achievement and behavior outcome data for students are analyzed, as well as parent and student satisfaction. Programs funded by federal grant administered through Illinois State Board of Education. Reports to be generated annually beginning with school year 2010-2011.

### **Janesville (WI) School District**

#### ***Grant to Reduce Alcohol Abuse***

Technical assistance for evaluation of a U.S. Department of Education grant to reduce alcohol abuse among high school students. (Reports of frequency results, July 2008, 2009 and 2010)

### **Meridian District 223**

#### ***Konnections for Kids***

Annual evaluation of an elementary school counseling program in two elementary schools. Involved community partners and District staff to train other staff. Evaluation included student, parent, teacher, and partner surveys. (Reports 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010)

### **Rockford MELD**

#### ***Marriage First Initiative***

Evaluation of a federal grant to promote healthy marriages and relationships, primarily through implementation of the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program for adults, and student curricula at area middle and high schools. (Reports May 2008, October 2009, and December 2009)

### **Rockford Public Schools**

#### ***21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grants***

Evaluation of after-school programs at 19 sites. Grants received from the Illinois State Board of Education. Achievement and behavior outcome data for students are collected and interpreted, as well as measures of parent and student satisfaction. Progress reports completed at the end of each year, conducted annually since 2000. (Continuing)

### **Rockford Public Schools**

#### ***Grant to Reduce Alcohol Abuse***

Annual evaluation of a U.S. Department of Education grant to implement programs to reduce alcohol use, especially binge drinking, at all Rockford public high schools and Boylan High School. Monitored views and behavior through student and parent surveys. (Final Report April 2009)

### **Violence Prevention Collaborative**

#### ***Bullying Attitude Survey***

Annual evaluation of anti-bullying program at Kennedy and West Middle Schools (Rockford), including analysis of pre- and post-tests to measure changes in bullying and attitudes following initiation of Steps to Respect, Success in Stages, and Second Step programming.

### **Winnebago CUSD #323**

#### ***Safer Today for a Secure Tomorrow***

Evaluation of initiative to improve emergency response and crisis management plans, funded by the federal government. Parent survey monitored whether family improvements occurred. (Report June 2009)

## EVALUATIONS

### **Winnebago County Health Department** ***Weed and Seed***

Annual analysis of resident surveys of two Rockford Police Department sub-beats to determine the perceived impact of Weed and Seed initiatives in the Ellis Heights and Kishwaukee Corridor areas. Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice "Weed and Seed" grants. (Continuing)

### **Woodstock Community Unit School District** ***Drug-Free Communities***

Annual evaluation of Woodstock's SAMHSA Drug-Free Communities grant, bringing together local agencies and groups under the Community Partnership Coalition to reduce adolescent substance use and abuse. Includes survey of parents/guardians of all Woodstock School District 6th-12th graders about alcohol and drug use among youth, parent beliefs and behaviors. (Continuing)

### **Woodstock Community Unit School District** ***Smaller Learning Communities***

Annual evaluation of U.S. Department of Education Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) grant. Components included data analysis, faculty and student surveys, and project personnel interviews. (Final Report January 2009)

### **Woodstock Community Unit School District** ***Teaching American History***

Evaluation of a U.S. Department of Education grant encompassing nine districts in partnership with colleges, historical societies, and museums. Project provided graduate course work, workshops, seminars, tours, historians in residence, and use of a web-based information-sharing tool. Focused on improving teacher American History content knowledge and teaching effectiveness to improve student interest and academic performance. (Final Report October 2009)

### **Woodstock Community Unit School District** ***Grant to Reduce Alcohol Abuse***

Evaluation of U.S. Department of Education grant to implement curriculum and activities designed to reduce underage drinking. Assesses attitudes and behaviors through surveys administered to students and parents. (Continuing)

## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE STUDIES

**Patient Surveys.** Analysis of satisfaction surveys of College of Medicine clinic patients in 2006, 2007, and 2008. Covered ratings of medical care, staff-patient relations, waiting times, clinic environment, and hours clinic is open.

## PUBLICATIONS

Cowen, Joel B. An Introduction to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act P.L. 111-148). The League of Women Voters of Jo Daviess County, June 30, 2010, Galena Middle School.

Cowen, Joel B. Series of columns on Health Reform.

Health Reform: 2010 – The Initial Phase

Health Reform: 2010 – The Impact on Employers

Health Reform: 2014 – Covering the Uninsured through Subsidies

Galena Gazette June 23 and June 30, 2010.

Cowen, Joel B. Health Care Access and Quality: Inequalities in Illinois Communities. One Health Illinois Summit – the interconnectiveness of human animal and ecosystem health. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Veterinary Medicine (February 24, 2010).

Lischwe, Deborah G., and Bientema, Craig. County Health Department and Medical School Research Unit Collaborate to Improve Community Health. Accepted for presentation at American Public Health Association 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (November 2010).

Lischwe, Deborah G., and Fishburn, Michele D. County Health Department and Local Partners Collaborate with Medical School Research Unit for Community Health Improvement. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting (October 2008).