



Connecting For Life

May 31, 2010

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Take Action in Your Community

National multimedia campaigns from SAMHSA and the Ad Council focus on suicide prevention, underage drinking, and mental health among African Americans. [Read more.](#)

Groups Seek to Delay MPAEA Implementation

Business Insurance, 5/17

Several groups representing employers, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Benefits Council, the National Retail Federation, and the National Business Group on Health, have requested that the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Employee Benefits Administration (EBSA) delay the implementation of mental health and substance abuse parity regulations established under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). The groups are asking DOL to delay implementation of at least one year, citing the short time between the interim final rule (IFR) and the proposed implementation date and suggesting that government agencies spend more time studying the impact of the national health care reform law on the MHPAEA before implementing the law. [Read More.](#)

Twenty-Two Percent of Americans Under 65 Could Be Denied Insurance

The Washington Post, 5/13

Families USA released a report examining the number of Americans with diagnosed preexisting conditions who would be at risk of coverage denial in the individual health insurance market without the protections outlined in the health care reform law. The report found that 57.2 million individuals under the age of 65, or 22.4 percent, have a preexisting condition that could lead to a denial of coverage without the protections established in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. [Read More.](#)

Coming Soon! The *Recovery Month* 2010 Toolkit – Order It Today!

The Recovery Month 2010 toolkit includes printed materials to support event organizers in their planning and outreach to local leaders and community audiences. The toolkit changes each year based on the Recovery Month theme. This year's theme, *Join the Voices for Recovery: Now, More than Ever!*, provides information and resources to promote the benefits of treatment and recovery, and emphasizes the increase of stress in our society. It addresses how stress and other external circumstances can contribute to the onset and relapse of substance use disorders, and highlights specific groups affected by these stressors, including public safety officials, people in the workforce, older adults, and families. The toolkit also includes materials event planners can use to create the media outreach, proclamation letter, print materials, and other pieces that help to make a Recovery Month event successful. [Order today.](#)



Suicide Leading Cause of Violent Death: CDC

HealthDay Reporter, 5/13

Suicide was the leading cause of violent death in the United States in 2007, according to the latest report on violent death statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The highest rate of suicide was among people ages 45 to 54. The report also found that suicide occurred at higher rates among men, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and non-Hispanic whites. Precursors to suicide included mental health, substance abuse, and physical health problems. The CDC identified areas of opportunity for preventing violent deaths, including programs designed to help people enhance problem-solving and coping skills, and prevention measures aimed at reducing stigma associated with seeking help for mental health problems. [Read more.](#)

Now Available Online: 2009 BRFSS Data and Documentation and Prevalence and Trends Tables

.The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Behavioral Surveillance (DBS) is pleased to announce the release of the 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data and documentation and Prevalence and Trends tables. This represents the 25th year of BRFSS data.

[Click here](#) for the 2009 BRFSS data and documentation files.

[Click here](#) for the 2009 BRFSS prevalence and trends data.

Operation Reconnect: Understanding the Needs of Military Service Members & Their Families—June 11, 2010 at BGSU's Bowen-Thompson Student Union

This one-day conference is free and open to anyone in the community — students, educators, employers, behavioral & healthcare professionals, and members of military-based & community-based support programs. Free CEUs are approved for psychologists, social workers, counselors, and rehabilitation counselors. To register, please call BGSU's Office of Continuing & Extended Education at (419) 372.8181.

State/Territories Medicaid FMAP Update

The State/Territories Medicaid and Territories Prescription Drug Program Funding for U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services has recently been updated and is [now available](#).



Recovery Month New Media News

The May issue of Recovery Month's New Media E-Newsletter has valuable information on social media. Articles include:

- *Eight Overlooked Elements Every Online Community Should Have* — *Feverbee*, a guide to online communities, provides eight tips to help increase participation and engagement in online communities.
- *Social Media use Becomes Pervasive (Adweek)* - *Adweek* shares new research from Nielsen, which shows that nearly 75 percent of Internet users engage in social media.
- *Facebook Decides You'd Rather "Like" than "Be a Fan" (Today @PCWorld)* - *PCWorld* discusses Facebook's recent update, which renamed the "become a fan" to "like."

[Read more.](#)

Preventive Services Can Help Save Lives

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that one of the best and easiest ways for adults to keep themselves healthy is to make sure they get recommended clinical preventative services such as screenings and immunizations. Screenings are designed to help detect chronic diseases in their early, most treatable stages. Adult immunizations help protect against diseases such as influenza and pneumonia. Counseling to encourage healthy behaviors such as regular physical activity and refraining from tobacco use are also key prevention measures. [Read more.](#)

Mentally Ill Jailed Instead of Hospitalized

A recent *USA Today* article reports that on average, a seriously mentally ill person in the USA is three times more likely to be incarcerated than hospitalized. According to a report released by the National Sheriffs' Association and the Treatment Advocacy Center, the data showed that in every state individuals with serious mental illness were more likely to be incarcerated than hospitalized. The report demonstrated wide variations among states. The *USA Today* article highlighted the difference between North Dakota where an individual with serious mental illness was equally as likely to be incarcerated or hospitalized and Nevada where similar individuals were nearly 10 times more likely to be jailed than hospitalized. [Click here](#) to read this article in its entirety.

SAMHSA'S 10 Strategic Initiatives

SAMHSA Director Pamela Hyde J.D., and lead agency staff have put together "10 Strategic Initiatives" to focus the agency's work on improving lives and capitalizing on emerging opportunities. The initiatives include suicide prevention and much more. [Click here](#) for more information.



Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation

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SAVE THE DATE!!!
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Featuring: John R. Jordan, PhD

**A licensed psychologist specializing in working with loss and
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FAMILY LOSS PROJECT

QUESTIONS? Contact OSPF at (614) 292-8585 or email at givens.62@osu.edu or
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