

HEALTH News

Report shows black and white health risks similar

A survey of 2,000 Michigan African-American adults indicates that the prevalence of many health-related behavioral risk factors and health problems among African-Americans is similar to that of white adults in Michigan.

The results of the 1995 point-in-time survey were released today by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).

African-Americans were less likely than whites to have consumed an alcoholic beverage or to binge drink in the past month. They were more likely than whites to have had a routine medical checkup in the past year and to have been tested for HIV infection.

An especially noteworthy finding was the low rate of smoking among 18-24 year old African-American women.

Fewer than 10 percent of this population were current smokers.

These statistics are part of "Health Risk Behaviors Among African-Americans in Michigan," a new report prepared by MDCH and the Michigan

Public Health Institute. African-Americans constituted 14 percent of Michigan's population in the 1990 census. This proportion is expected to increase to 16.2 percent by the year 2000.

Areas where the African-American profile was less favorable included a higher prevalence of high blood pressure, diabetes and heroin use.

African-Americans also were less likely to have health care coverage, more likely to need a doctor and be unable to because of cost, and to perceive their health as only fair or poor.

African-American females were more likely to be classified as overweight than white women, and both white and African-American men.

A smaller proportion of

African-Americans reported a firearm in their household than whites, but a higher proportion of African-Americans lived in a household with a handgun.

Almost 7 percent of African-Americans reported they had been a victim of violence, during the past year.

This one-time survey does not give information on whether this rate is rising or falling, nor how this rate compares with the rates for other racial groups in similar locations.

"This report will be extremely useful in addressing the health concerns of African-American adults in Michigan," said MDCH Director James K. Havenman, Jr.

"Although there is good news in this report, we need to pay more attention to how health risk behaviors contribute to the health disparities between African-Americans and other racial and ethnic groups in our state."

The African-American survey

was designed to be similar to the Michigan

Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS), while addressing the need for a larger

African-American sample size. The Michigan survey provides statewide population-based estimates of the prevalence of behavioral risk factors among adults.

The data will be used as a baseline measure of the prevalence of various risk factors especially among age, gender and educational categories of the African-American population.

It also will provide information on what additional interventions are necessary to reduce health discrepancies among racial groups.

The information in the report is based on a telephone survey conducted by the Gallup Organization, Inc., between February and May, 1995.

HEALTHY LIVING

Healthy Living spotlights Oakland County-related health and medical news and information. Write: Healthy Living, Eccentric Newspapers, Birmingham Eccentric, 605 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1100.

MATERNITY WARD
Great Expectations, a seminar for couples either thinking of having a baby or newly expecting, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 9. Sponsored by Botsford General Hospital, 28050 Grand River,

Farmington Hills, the program costs \$7.50 per person or \$15 per couple and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Call (810) 442-7986.

A program presenting relaxation and imagery techniques to relieve stress in labor will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Participants will learn advanced coping strategies to prepare for a positive birthing experience utilizing visualization, relaxation, massage, acupressure and aroma and touch therapy techniques.

niques. Pre-registration is required. The fee is \$20. Call (810) 477-6100.

CARING PARTNERS

Breast cancer. Is someone you love battling it? A relative, a friend, your wife?

The Caring Partners support group at Harper Hospital in Detroit gives male partners the chance to ask questions, to listen to men who share their concerns, and to become more understanding and caring partners. Oakland County residents who want to join the next session

should call (313) 745-8618.

DADY PREPARATION

Beaumont's Mother/Baby Care unit and the Department of Marketing Services is sponsoring the "Big Brother/Big Sister Program" for expectant parents and their children.

Programs are offered on Saturdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. or from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes meet in Classroom 3 at Beaumont's Administration Building, 3601 W. 13 Mile, Royal Oak. The fee is \$15 per family. To register, call 1 (800) 633-7377.

MORE BUSINESS MARKETPLACE

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about media relations, crisis management, public affairs, investor relations and the Internet's role in public relations. Visitors to the site can send e-mail messages to the firm. The web site isn't intended to be a "hard-selling vehicle to push our firm on visitors," said Jeff Caponigro. "As it gets updated on a regular basis, we hope people will view it as a helpful resource to understand more about public relations as an important business function." Southfield-based Netrex, Inc. provided technical expertise and server capabilities and helped Caponigro design the web site.

PROMOTE PARADE
Solomon Friedman Advertising in Bloomfield Hills will handle media relations for The Parade Company, the producer of Detroit's Thanksgiving parade. Channel 4 (WDIV-TV) and WJR (760 AM) will run parade coverage on Thanksgiving day, and CBS-TV will broadcast the event nationwide. Detroit's parade is the nation's third largest parade.

ALL-INDUSTRY DAY
The Greater Detroit Chapter of Society of Chartered Property-Casualty Underwriters and Lawrence Technical University in Southfield will co-sponsor All-Industry Day, 8:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 7, at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. The focus of the 45th annual event is "Employment Liability - problems, exposures, coverages, solutions." Panelists will represent various fields, including academics, legal, human resources, and insurance/risk management. The CPCU promises a lively discussion involving issues that relate to employment liability. Tickets are \$50 per person, or \$40 each for a group of eight or more. For information, call LeRoy Bostic, (313) 342-4955.

WAY TO GO
Kelly Services in Troy received the 1996 Corporate Plus Award from INROADS/Metropolitan Detroit, which develops and places young minorities in jobs that prepare them for leadership roles in business and in their communities. Kelly earned the award for making INROADS' mission "part of its daily work environment," said James Benner, INROADS' former managing director. "The emerging level of support of INROADS by Kelly Services is outstanding."

NEW PRODUCT LINE
PGF Industries in Troy has expanded its product line, becoming a full-service distributor and manufacturer of cable and wire assemblies and products.

PGF's overall expansion began in 1992, when it launched a \$1.5 million investment in its facility and workforce. This year, PGF expanded its workforce by more than 13 percent, and it expects an additional 30 percent increase in new hires by July 1997. Since 1992, the firm's annual sales volume has increased more than 400 percent, the company said. PGF manufactures custom cable

assemblies, wire processing, panel wiring, wire harnesses, and cable assemblies for a variety of industries, including automotive, laser, materials handling and robotics.

KEY SPEAKER

George Perry, president and CEO of Siemens Automotive in Auburn Hills, spoke at Industry Week's International Global Leadership forum this month in

Cleveland. In his talk before fellow CEOs, Perry discussed developing an "enlightened and empowered workforce" that meets corporate goals and benefits the industries it serves and the communities in which those plants reside. Keynote speaker, retired Gen. Colin Powell, kicked off the conference, which focused on top management practices used by the world's leading manufacturers.

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BOTSFORD HOSPITAL SCREENINGS
Foot screenings are free to all ages from 9 a.m. to noon every Tuesday in the Botsford Hospital North Professional Building, Suite 203 in Farmington Hills. Make appointments by calling (810) 473-1320, weekdays between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Adult and children/infant CPR classes are available for a \$20 fee. Call (810) 368-3900, ext. 255. Pre-marital counseling on the transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases is offered for \$25 per couple. A physician-signed certificate will be presented at the conclusion of the session. Pre-register by calling (810) 477-6100.

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