



Research Up-To-Date

The Newsletter of the Urban Appalachian Council Research Committee

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The Research Committee was created at the founding of the Urban Appalachian Council over thirty-six years ago and has always informed the council through active research. To be notified of future research committee meetings, which are open to all, please contact gHoward@uacvoice.org or phone 513-251-0202. To learn more about UAC visit <http://uacvoice.org> or join us on Facebook.

**CONTRIBUTORS
WELCOME!**

Please send your article, announcement, or website link to Roberta Campbell at campberm@muohio.edu

Diabetes Initiative Begins in Lower Price Hill

By Robert Ludke

The Lower Price Hill Diabetes Initiative is a community-based participatory research project being conducted by the Urban Appalachian Council in partnership with a number of academic and community organizations to address diabetes in the Lower Price Hill (LPH) neighborhood of Cincinnati. The partnering organizations include INNOVATIONS in Community Research and Program Evaluation at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, the Department of Public Health Sciences (DPHS) and the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Cincinnati, Santa Maria Community Services, the Cincinnati Diabetes and Obesity Center at the University of Cincinnati, and the Price Hill Health Center. Funding for the initiative is provided by the Ohio State Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) and by the Cincinnati Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training (CCTST).

The project's three major goals are to: (1) enhance the community's level of knowledge about diabetes, its risk factors, prevention, treatment, and management; (2) increase the number of diabetes screenings of residents at high risk for diabetes; and, (3)

increase the number of residents screened positive for diabetes who receive follow-up medical care.

These goals are being addressed through community interventions. Eight community health advocates have been recruited and are being trained to provide diabetes education to the community, to identify adults at risk for diabetes, and to assist residents in accessing health care resources. The community health advocates are in the process of canvassing 300 households in the LPH neighborhood. They will also follow-up those adults identified as high risk for diabetes and who have been scheduled for screening and/or treatment. Lastly, the Initiative includes evaluation of the community health advocate training program.

Co-Editors Ludke and Obermiller present findings to ARC

From the University Press of Kentucky

Research Committee members Robert Ludke (Chair) and Phillip J. Obermiller presented their findings from their forthcoming book *Appalachian Health and Well-Being* at the plenary session of the Appalachian Regional Commission's annual conference. The conference was held in Prestonsburg, Kentucky on September 8 and the theme was "Healthy Families, Healthy Future". The University Press of Kentucky is publishing the book.

To read the full article in UPK with highlights from the book go to <http://kentuckypress.wordpress.com/2011/09/09/upk-authors-give-plenary-session-address-at-annual-arc-conference/>.

Asthma Game Designed to Involve Children in Own Treatment

By Laura Nabors

UC researchers are developing a computer game designed to teach young children about asthma symptoms, triggers, medications, and asthma management. This game can be delivered in schools as schools are an optimal setting for providing health care to children who might not otherwise have access to treatment.

Use of asthma education programs and assessment of their impact is a critical part of "good practice" in the field of asthma intervention for youth. Involving children in their own care and treatment helps them provide information to medical professionals and improve their knowledge of their disease and its management. The game is being tried on children in an urban Appalachian and in suburban elementary schools. Additionally, the researchers have assessed the needs of children with asthma. Those in the urban Appalachian setting reported more asthma symptoms.

Appalachian Studies Conference to Feature Si Kahn

Singer-songwriter and organizer Si Kahn is the keynote speaker for the 2012 Appalachian Studies conference. The conference will be held March 23-25 at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The theme is "The Wide Reach of Appalachia". Proposals are due October 15 to ASA2011IUP@gmail.com. For more information go to www.appalachianstudies.org.

Women of Appalachia Conference Returns

The regional campus system of Ohio University is revitalizing the Women of Appalachia conference in October 2011 after a three-year hiatus. Please visit the conference website for developments. This concentrated one-day conference on Friday, October 21 in Zanesville, features Grammy award-nominated artist Becky Hobbs.

In 2012, the regional system begins the program "Sisters in Science". For more information visit: www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/womenofappalachia.

Research Notes



(From the Research Committee: Robert Ludke, Chair)

September 16, 2011

Updates:

Cindy Knight is a graduate student from Indiana University who is looking for information about urban Appalachians in Cincinnati. Mike Maloney is working on the 5th edition of the *Social Areas Report*. He shared some preliminary analysis, noting that the lower socioeconomic status areas seem to be moving westward in the city. The dropout situation is comparable to previous eras. He is also looking at a 20-county area survey map. Ann McCracken reported that she and Bob Ludke are looking at the Appalachian sample of the recent Community Health Status Survey. Ann also noted that the Healthy Kentucky conference would be held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center on October 18. Phyllis said that the diabetes initiative was winding down. Some findings are that people are not following up on referrals. Greg Howard said there are 32 new Americorps volunteers who will be involved in Project ACE. Phil Obermiller reported that Tom Wagner and Linda Wagner (of Radford University) interviewed Mike Maloney on his 50 years of involvement with the Appalachian movement. The *Appalachian Journal* will publish the interview. Phil and Bob are investigating using the American Community Survey for changes in the region for the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*. By the end of December 2010 census data will be available on the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) website. Phil, Shaunna

Scott, and Chad Berry are working on a book about the meaning of Appalachian Studies. Phil is also working on a paper for the Appalachian Studies Association on World War II and urban Appalachians with Pamela Twiss. Roberta Campbell and Maureen Sullivan have resubmitted a paper on Grassroots Women Leaders to the *Appalachian Journal*. Bob reported that he and Phil gave the Plenary Session presentation at the annual meeting of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Prestonsburg, KY on Sept 8 (*See story in this issue*). The presentation was based on their book, *Appalachian Health and Well-Being*, which will be published by the University Press of Kentucky in 2012. Phil and Bob will have presentations at the ASA meetings in March, 2012.

July 15, 2011:

Presentation:

Laura Nabors, of the Department of Human Services at the University of Cincinnati, presented an asthma game created by a team of UC researchers. The game is intended to help children take control of managing their asthma. Children were screened from three schools, including Oyster. Committee members asked about the likelihood of children being affected by socioeconomic status and insurance issues.

Presentation:

Dr. Camille Jones, Assistant Health Commissioner, presented her project that utilizes information from death certificates and the census to generate population data for neighborhoods. Initial data shows that Cincinnati has higher death rates than the rest of Ohio and the nation. This higher rate holds true across race, gender and age. In age adjusted community rates South Fairmont, North Fairmont and Lower Price Hill have the highest mortality rate and Cincinnati has a homicide mortality rate four times the national average. Dr. Jones is currently working on a proposal to take the 3 neighborhoods with the highest age-adjusted mortality rate and investigate the cause specific rates of mortality and possibly and community health assessment. This project may expand to look at cancer and asthma rates in specific communities and investigate environmental exposures, etc. that may cause these problems.

Updates:

Kay presented a workshop in Claremont County on mental health to about 70 people. She quoted Mike's and Phil's working paper on identity. Mike is working on the fifth version of the *Social Areas Report*. Bob is going to write a chapter on health. He is using the American Community Survey and will expand the study to a twenty-county survey area. Bob Ludke's and Phil Obermiller's book on Appalachian Health is with the copy editor. The title has yet to be determined. It will be released in both hardcover and eBook. Additionally, Bob and Phil have been asked to give a plenary session on health at the Appalachian Regional Commission's annual meeting following the keynote speaker. The LPH Diabetes Initiative is moving forward. 150 of the 300 home interviews have been completed and last Saturday there was a midpoint celebration. So

far the initial findings suggest that about 30% of the community is at high risk for diabetes. Lora Arduser is working on a qualitative study of patient empowerment in group appointments and on social networking sites in diabetes care. She's also a consultant for the Cincinnati Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Program (BCERP).

The next meeting of the UAC Research Committee is November 18, 2011, at the UAC Headquarters in Lower Price Hill at 11 am.

Additional Links:

Community Research Collaborative Blog

<http://crcblog.typepad.com/crcblog/2010/04/urban-appalachian-children-and-youth-the-hidden-minority.html>

Center for the Study of Gender and Ethnicity in Appalachia

<http://www.marshall.edu/csega/index.asp>

Appalachian Studies Association

<http://AppalachianStudies.org/>

Social Areas Report of Cincinnati

<http://www.socialareasofcincinnati.org/>

Appalachian Women's Alliance

<http://www.appalachianwomen.org>

Appalachian Studies at Miami University-Hamilton

<http://www.ham.muohio.edu/appalachian/index.htm>

Oral History of Appalachia Program, Marshall University

<http://www.marshall.edu/sociology/Oralhist/ohap.html>

Appalachian Regional Commission

<http://www.arc.gov/index.jsp>

Highlander Research and Education Center

<http://www.highlandercenter.org/>

Cincinnati, a City of Immigrants

<http://www.cincinnati-cityofimmigrants.com/cqi/index.html>

The Women of Appalachia Conference

www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/womenofappalachia

Appalachian Centers:

East Tennessee State University Center for Appalachian Studies and Services

<http://www.etsu.edu/cass>

The University of Kentucky Appalachian Center

<http://www.research.uky.edu/Appalcenter/index.html>

Berea College Appalachian Center

<http://www.berea.edu/appalachiancenter/>

Appalachian State University, The Center for Appalachian Studies

<http://www1.appstate.edu/dept/appstudies/>

Eastern Kentucky University Center for Appalachian Studies

<http://www.appalachianstudies.eku.edu>

The Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education

<http://oache.org/>

Radford University Appalachian Regional Studies Center

<http://www.radford.edu/~arsc>

Emory and Henry College Appalachian Center for Community Service

<http://www.ehc.edu/special/service/commservice.html>

Morehead State University Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy

<http://www.irapp.morehead-st.edu>

North Georgia College and State University Appalachian Studies Center

<http://www.ngcsu.edu/resource/ASC>

Sinclair Community College Appalachian Outreach and Studies program

<http://www.sinclair.edu/centers/vclc/StudentActivities/MinorityStudentOutreach/OutreachtotheAppalachianCommunity/index.cfm>

Southeast Community College Appalachian Center

<http://www.kctcs.edu/AppalachianCenter>

Western Carolina University Mountain Heritage Center

<http://www.wcu.edu/mhc>

West Virginia University Regional Research Institute

<http://www.rri.wvu.edu>