

Need to Know

Utilizing Information in Practice

Is this the TRUTH?

Time magazine (February 8, 2008) reported plastic baby bottles may be harmful?

Is this the Truth?

The chemical of concern—bisphenol A—is contained in the polycarbonate baby bottle. When the bottle is heated, the chemical leaches out into the fluid in the bottle. Additionally, fatty or acid liquids, like milk or juice—may increase this amount. The final answer to this problem is yet to be found. Proponents of the plastic bottle (US Health and Environment authorities, including Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say that safe daily level is more than 25 times the level found in the baby bottles.

Opponents say the approved levels are too high, and that even low doses are linked to breast and prostate cancer, miscarriage and immune system changes. Of particular concern to the group is the developing fetus, which may be affected by even low doses of the chemical.

Both proponents and opponents are reputable scientists. Well conducted research may help find the answer.

References:

Blue, L. (2008, February 8). Are plastic baby bottles harmful? *Time*. Retrieved April 1, 2008. from <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1711398,00.html?xid=feed-cnn-topics>

CDC. *National report on human exposure to environmental chemicals: Spotlight on Bisphenol A and 4-tertiary-octylphenol*. Retrieved April 1, 2008 from http://www.cdc.gov/exposurereport/pdf/factsheet_bisphenol.pdf

Information for Nurses New to Public Health/School Health

Did you know there is a program to help you get started in your new position? It is called *Learning with Lilly*. The program was produced by the Heartland Centers for Public Health and Community Capacity Development in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

This program is available to you at no cost. It will be sent as a CD. Other programs are also available. This program, along with *Orientation to Public Health* and *Disaster Preparedness and Response for Nurses* are recommended for those new to public/school health. These last two programs are available on line. There is no cost for these, and the many other programs available at the Heartland Center. When you register in the learning management system, a record of your completed courses will be maintained for you.

The URL is <http://www.heartlandcenters.com/Public/default.aspx>



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Internet Training for Missouri's
Healthcare Professionals
A National Library of Medicine Grant
(<https://www.phn.missouri.edu/>)

*A program of the University of Missouri
Sinclair School of Nursing in partnership
with the MU Health Sciences Library.
Funded by the National Library of Medicine*

Historical Spotlight



Charles Richard Drew 1904-1950

Downloaded from the American Red Cross
http://www.redcross.org/article/0,1072,0_312_2825,00.html

Charles Richard Drew was born in Washington DC in 1904. He invented the blood bank, perfected the process for separating and storing plasma, and developed the system for mass producing dried plasma.

His work helped to save the lives of many US servicemen in World War II. He was killed in a car accident in 1950. An historical myth says that because Charles Drew was African-American, he was refused admission to a nearby hospital for "whites only" and subsequently bled to death. In fact, he was taken to a hospital, where he received needed blood transfusions. Unfortunately, his injuries were fatal.

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Searching Tips

Searching the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

We looked at searching Cochrane DSR through Ovid in our last issue. Given that many professionals do not have access to Ovid, we will look at searching Cochrane DSR from the Cochrane website at:

www.cochrane.org.

From the main page, you have 4 options for searching. These options vary greatly so we'll review them individually.

You can search for reviews by selecting **The Cochrane Library** in the green box. This is the best option for in depth searching. On the main Cochrane Library page you will see a listing of new or updated reviews on the lower left. The search box is located on the upper right.

In the search box, you have the option of choosing where in the review your search terms will be found. Do you want to look for your term in just the title, the whole document or perhaps in just a table? This is useful because words in the title are usually more descriptive of what the review is about than a word found in the body or text of the review. Also if you are looking for numbers, being able to search the captions of the tables and charts might help you find your answer.

You can also combine your search by using Search History. You will see your previous searches; you can then combine them or add other terms. Type the search ID number in the search box and then use AND, OR, NOT to combine it with another term or search. For example, you've searched on "Exercise". You actually want exercise in children. Select Search History. Then enter the search ID number for Exercise, type in AND children. To keep your search narrow, select Cochrane Reviews from the box below. Click Go. Now your search is narrowed to 75 citations. Your search history will look like this:

#1	(exercise):ti.ab.kw	23646
#2	(#1AND children)	75

For additional tips and assistance on searching Cochrane library online, read the tips listed on the right hand side of the screen or check the Help link at the top of the screen.

Back on the Cochrane.org page, to the right is **Browse by topic**. "Topic" in this case refers to the Cochrane review groups. Each review group is organized under a topic such as "Skin", "Lung Cancer" or "Infectious Disease." The members of the groups focus their questions in that area. If you have an interest in drugs or alcohol use by children, you might select the group "Drugs and Alcohol." You will be presented with a listing of all of the reviews that they have published. Note that one is titled "School-based prevention for illicit drugs' use."

If you simply want to check what a Cochrane review is all about, you might want to scan the **This weeks' featured reviews**. Here the editors post favorite or timely reviews. Note that these are not necessarily the most current.

The fourth search option is the grey-blue **Search** box on the right. This allows you to search the Cochrane site for Cochrane reviews, colloquia abstracts, evidence aids, newsletters and the whole site. It is powered by Google and by default includes all of your terms. You may change this if you select the advanced search option.

If you know what you are looking for or if your topic is clearly defined, this can be a quick way to find relevant reviews. However, if your topic has multiple synonyms or you're still feeling your way through it, this may not be the best option. Again, check the help screens or ask your librarian for assistance with searching if you have questions.

Website

Women's Health Resources from the National Library of Medicine

A new Web resource providing scientists and consumers with the latest information on significant topics in women's health research from scientific journals and other peer-reviewed sources is now available through the National Library of Medicine (NLM). The NLM Division of Specialized Information Services, Office of Outreach and Special Populations has partnered with the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) to create this one-stop resource.

The 2008 National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Priorities for Women's Health were used to identify overarching themes, specific health topics, and research initiatives in women's health. Within each section of the Web site are topics with links to relevant and authoritative resources and research initiatives for women's health, including preformatted searches created by the National Library of Medicine using PubMed.

Women's Health Resources from the NLM Web site can be found at:

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/womenshealthoverview.html>

Women's Health Resources from the ORWH Web site can be found at:

http://orwh.od.nih.gov/nat_lib_med.html

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TEACH IT

This month's subject is preparation of presentations. Many of us become very nervous when we have to teach or speak to a group. Proper preparation can help to alleviate some of that stress.

Step 1 Know your audience

A quick assessment will help you understand the knowledge level, behaviors and dynamics of the group.

1. The composition and size of the group.
Male and/or female? How many? Cultural mix?
2. The average developmental stage of the group. This will affect your entire approach to the group or may require the utilization of several teaching methods
3. The needs of the group.
What is the purpose of your presentation? How much does the group already know about your topic?
What is the group interested in learning about? What is relevant?

If you are presenting a program to a civic club, for example, you need to know the composition of the group. However, their needs may not be as important to assess.

If you are teaching a class about a new vaccine, then you will need to know the previous knowledge level of the group. If you are teaching a group of 6th graders, you will need to know their developmental levels and their interest in the topic. Each group you speak to requires a slight variation of the assessment process.

Now you are ready to write your goal or purpose, and begin to acquire materials needed for your presentation.

In the next newsletter we will discuss the development of objectives related to the learning styles of your group.

Alert Notice!

If you are interested in a new or refresher course on finding and using websites and/or using professional databases, e.g. PubMed, be sure to contact us to set these up. We will offer classes through November, 2008. Contact Michelle Custer at custerm@missouri.edu if you are interested in setting something up in the next six months.

Announcement!

If you have not completed the NLM surveys, please give us your feedback. Visit our website at <https://www.phn.missouri.edu/survey.aspx> and click on the workshop you attended: Consumer Websites workshop or Professional Databases workshop. If you attended both workshops, please complete both surveys.

Please evaluate our Need to Know newsletter by visiting our website at <https://www.phn.missouri.edu/newsletter.aspx> and clicking on Evaluate Newsletter.

This information is very valuable to us. It helps us report back to our funders and helps us lay the groundwork for additional grants.