

HEALTH REFORM UPDATE



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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Affordable Care Act Marks One-Year Anniversary

March 23, 2011 marks the one-year anniversary of President Obama's signing the Affordable Care Act into law. In its first year, the law has provided American families with benefits including greater access to preventive health care services, allowing young adults up to age 26 to stay on their parents' health insurance plans, preventing insurance companies from denying kids access to insurance coverage because of a preexisting condition, and many more. As we mark the one-year anniversary, we urge APHA members to contact their members of Congress to express their ongoing support for this historic legislation. Visit APHA's advocacy site to send a [message of support](#) to your Representative and Senators. In addition, APHA has prepared a [sample template](#) that APHA members and advocates can use to submit a "letter to the editor" to their local newspapers expressing their support for the Affordable Care Act. If you have an example of how the Affordable Care Act has benefited you and your family, please send us an email to healthreform@apha.org and share your story.

New HHS Report Shows Seniors Benefiting from ACA Prevention Benefits

A new report issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shows that more than 150,000 seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries have already received an annual wellness visit this year. The Affordable Care Act provides Medicare patients with this new benefit at no cost in addition to other recommended preventive services. According to HHS "The report also shows that this enhanced preventive benefits coverage will lower costs, including lowering Medigap premiums for employers, states and people with Medicare." You can read the HHS press release and link to the new report by visiting the [HHS website](#). For additional information about the Affordable Care Act, including newly released [state fact sheets](#) on the Prevention and Public Health Fund, you can visit the [HealthCare.gov website](#).

APHA Health Reform Resources

APHA has developed a number of materials to help APHA members, the general public and decision makers better understand the prevention and wellness provisions contained in the Affordable Care Act. Our issue brief, [Prevention Provisions in the Affordable Care Act](#), summarizes the various public health and prevention provisions included in the new law. In addition, APHA recently produced a new [fact sheet](#) on the Prevention and Public Health Fund created under the Affordable Care Act. The Fund provides \$15 billion over 10 years for expanded and sustained national investment in prevention and public health programs to improve health and help restrain the rate of growth in private and public health care costs.

National Public Health Week is April 4-10

APHA and other public health advocates will celebrate National Public Health Week (NPHW) during the week of April 4-10. This year's theme is: *Safety is No Accident: Live Injury Free*. APHA members can [send a message](#) to their Senators and urge them to cosponsor a resolution that will be introduced by Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.) to recognize this year's NPHW. APHA has developed a [toolkit](#) and other materials to help APHA members and our partners celebrate the week. To get involved or learn more about the week, you can visit the [NPHW 2011 website](#).