

# Healthy Signs

January 2011

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## Mission of NCDHR:

To promote health and prevent disease in the Deaf and hard of hearing populations through community-based participatory research.

## National Center for Deaf Health Research

### This Issue's Topics

- Summer Opportunities for Students
- ASL Video Produced for CDC
- Research Projects for Deaf Volunteers
- What is a Cognitive Interview?

Working for a Healthy Deaf Community

### Did you know?

Number of Accessible (ASL/Captions) Health-related Websites:

30

You can find them on NCDHR [website](#).

Number of people who signed up for NCDHR Facebook Page:

2,236

Click this [website](#) to visit.

## Summer Educational Opportunities for Students



There are three summer programs that would enhance learning experiences for undergraduate and high school students in medicine, research, and science. Each of the programs are outlined below, along with their deadlines for application:

### Summer Internship Positions (2) at NCDHR:

The National Center for Deaf Health Research (NCDHR) has 2 positions open this summer 2011 for students currently enrolled in a degree program and who are interested in investigating and advancing Deaf Health. This flexible program can provide qualified, motivated students with work and research experience. Students will work closely with Deaf and hearing research faculty and staff, fellows and community partners. This is a paid, full-time (40 hours/week) summer internship program lasting 6-10 week period starting in June. Interns are expected to secure their own lodging and transportation.

**DEADLINE: March 11, 2011.** Click [here](#) for full job description and application.

**Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (SURF):** This 8-week (June 6—July 30, 2011) program is designed to enhance the competitiveness of undergraduate students interested in medicine, research, and science programs and careers. Students are matched with preceptors (clinicians and scientists) to provide opportunities to conduct biomedical and clinical focused research at medical center laboratories. They will attend presentations, departmental seminars, and conferences. Applicants must have completed introductory coursework in their scientific field of interest and have completed at least two years of college. **DEADLINE: February 4, 2011.** Click [here](#) for SURF application.

### Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP): \*

An intensive 4-week (July 11—August 5, 2011) hands-on learning experience designed to expose highly motivated 8th to 12th grade students to educational opportunities in the biomedical sciences. The program participants will attend research seminars with the goal of encouraging and preparing them to pursue health-related science majors and careers in biomedical or behavioral research. **DEADLINE: April 1, 2011.** Click [here](#) for STEP application.

\* State funds pending. There is no guarantee that this program will happen this summer.

## ASL Video produced for CDC's Preventing Chronic Disease Website

A publication by NCDHR, "Deaf sign language users, health inequities and public health: Opportunity for social justice," has been accepted by the editors of the CDC's Preventing Chronic Disease's peer-reviewed

electronic journal. The editors have requested an ASL video version of this article be filmed for their website. There has never been an ASL version of a professional journal article made before! Look for the article and the ASL film online February 15th on [www.cdc.gov/pcd](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd).

Nine Deaf individuals were recruited by DWC (Deaf Wellness Center) and NCDHR and acted during the filming of this ASL adaptation of the article.

## Research Projects for Deaf Volunteers

Research Project	Project Timeline	Eligibility
Deaf Mothers Focus Groups	Completed	Deaf Mothers
RSD Students Focus Groups	Completed	Deaf High School Students
Deaf Weight Wise VP Interviews	Completed	Deaf Adults
Deaf Healthcare Survey Cognitive Interviews	Completed	Deaf Adults (Age 18 and up)
Deaf Weight Wise Cognitive Interviews	Now Accepting	Deaf Adults (Age 40 – 70)
BOCES Students Focus group	Now Accepting	Deaf High School Students
Deaf Health Literacy Cognitive Interviews	Feb.— Mar. 2011	Deaf Adults (Age 40 – 70)
Deaf Healthcare Survey	Spring 2011	Deaf Adults (Age 18 and up)
Deaf Health Literacy	June-July 2011	Deaf Adults (Age 40 – 70)
Deaf Weight Wise	Summer 2011	Deaf Adults (Age 40 – 70) who are overweight or obese

### What is a “Cognitive Interview” ? Carlene Mowl, MPH

#### What is a cognitive interview?

Surveys that we use have been adapted from written English to ASL. Some surveys are given in person by a researcher and other surveys are done on a touch screen computer. For the surveys that are done on the computer, questions and answers are presented in either ASL or Signed English and you choose your response on the screen. Before we use these surveys to collect data, we like to test them to make sure the questions are clear and to fix any problems with the technology. Participants take the survey and then an interviewer asks the participant questions about their experience with the survey. That process is called a cognitive interview.

#### What will happen during the interview?

We use two rooms separated by a one-way observation mirror for the interview. The research team (both hearing and deaf) is in one room and the participant is in the other room. First the participant

will take the survey – either on the computer or as a face-to-face interview. Once the participant finishes, the interviewer will come into the room and ask the participant questions about his/her experience taking the survey. The research team observes the whole process through the one-way observation mirror.



#### What kinds of questions do you ask?

We ask about the participant’s overall experience taking the survey. For example – “What did you like about the survey? What didn’t you like?” We also pick out certain questions from the

survey to ask about in more detail.

#### What if I don’t want to answer a question?

Participation is voluntary, so you can stop the survey or the interview at any time. You can also skip any question that you don’t want to answer.

#### What is the goal of cognitive interviews?

The goal is to improve the survey so that we have the best survey possible before we begin a study. For example, if participants tell the interviewer that they had a difficult time understanding the signing in one of the video clips, we can fix that problem before we use the survey to collect data. The more accurate the survey is the better quality data we will be able to collect.

Picture: [www.sunway.edu](http://www.sunway.edu)