

From the CDC

Cigarette smoking declining, but teens lighting up in record numbers

Per capita cigarette consumption has plummeted to its lowest level since 1941. In 1994, a per capita average of 2493 cigarettes are expected to be smoked, down from a peak of 4345 in 1962. (Average is for smokers and nonsmokers, aged 18 years and older.) The first US Surgeon General's report was issued in 1964 that linked smoking with lung cancer.

Overall, approximately 26% of adult Americans smoke, compared with 43% in the mid 1960s. Unfortunately, white high school seniors are not heeding the message: 22.9% of them smoke daily; only 4.4% of black seniors light up daily.

From the FDA

Cardiac ablation system approved

Intended to treat abnormal heart rhythms, the EPT-1000 cardiac ablation system has been approved for use in radio frequency cardiac catheter ablation. This device is *not* approved for the treatment of bradycardia. The system includes a radio frequency power controller, ablation catheters in different styles, accessory cables, and a foot switch.

In a preclinical trial involving 456 patients at 12 medical centers, the device was successful in treating 85% of patients with abnormal heart rhythm that originated in a single site in the heart. A second procedure was necessary in 11% of the patients. Serious complications occurred in 16 patients. Among these complications

were myocardial infarction, stroke, blockage of the pulmonary vessels, infection of the heart muscle, and death.

From the US Census Bureau

Number of uninsured Americans on the rise

An estimated 39.7 million Americans had no healthcare insurance in 1993, according to the government survey *Supplement to the Current Population Survey*, published in March 1994. Contrary to popular belief, most of the uninsured were not poor: almost 75% of the uninsured had incomes above the poverty line of

\$15,000 for a family of four. In 1992, 1.1 million fewer persons had no medical coverage.

Increasing numbers of Americans are turning to state-supported Medicaid: Between 1987 and 1993, 11 million persons received such assistance. Most of these recipients were women and children.

At the same time, the number of employers providing healthcare insurance in 1993 declined from the previous year, down to 57% compared with 62%.

The Employee Benefits Research Institute is expected to release a separate report in January outlining its yearly analysis. ♦

GERIATRIC MEDICAL/DENTAL FELLOWSHIPS

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
AND THE BAYLOR COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

The UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth, through affiliation with the Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas and the University of North Texas in Denton, offers fellowships to physicians, and dentists. The fellowship is designed to prepare internists, general practice physicians, and dentists for academic and administrative careers with emphasis in geriatric medicine. The two-year program will integrate didactic material and clinical experience and includes lectures series, case seminars, journal club, geriatric medicine board review and bedside clinical teaching. The fellows will gain experience in a variety of clinical, research, administrative, and teaching environments. Funded by the Bureau of Health Professions of the Department of Health and Human Services, stipends are competitive at the PGY4 and PGY5 levels. Start dates will be after July 1, 1995. All qualified applicants from internal medicine and family practice residents are encouraged to apply.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

JANICE A. KNEBL, D.O., F.A.C.P., DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
DIVISION OF GERIATRICS, 817/735-2108 OR 817/735-2333.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS FEBRUARY 15, 1995

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER AND EDUCATOR.