

PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter from Julie Gerberding

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I would like to congratulate the staff of *Preventing Chronic Disease: Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy* on publishing its inaugural issue and to commend its efforts in bringing together diverse audiences in the public health community to address chronic disease prevention. The United States faces an epidemic of unparalleled proportion, an epidemic that is substantiated by hard facts. Seven of 10 deaths are caused by chronic diseases. The underlying causes of these deaths are often risk factors that can be successfully modified years before they ultimately contribute to illness and death. To truly change our attitudes to focus on preventing chronic diseases rather than simply treating them, we need to reach Americans in their homes and neighborhoods with innovative programs and information. I applaud the journal's commitment to reducing the burden of chronic disease through the dissemination of research and the promotion of dialogue among researchers, practitioners, and community advocates. Public health is at a tipping point; we have never had more challenges, but we have never had more opportunities either. *Preventing Chronic Disease* offers a unique forum for sharing influential, successful, and innovative resources to improve public health.

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