

Notes From the Editor's Desk

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As 2009 draws to a wintery close, thoughts turn to the year past and the challenges met and those with which we continue to wrestle. Washington State local health jurisdictions experienced unprecedented funding cuts. Indeed budget shortfalls resulted in funding cuts to both public health and higher education at extreme levels. I heard many in governing roles lament that the poor economy, budget shortfalls, and programming needs amount to a "perfect storm" of conditions. It is my hope that this "storm" blows over quickly, and that the valuable work of public health continues to be funded.

This December issue of the Washington State Journal of Public Health Practice reflects a variety of research interests from across Washington. Research covering breastfeeding to fluoride exposure, from BMI, to perinatal mental health and diabetes; this issue represents great work happening throughout Washington. Enjoy!