

ICARE Member Report

- **CDC Epilepsy Program**

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- **Mission Description**

To promote:

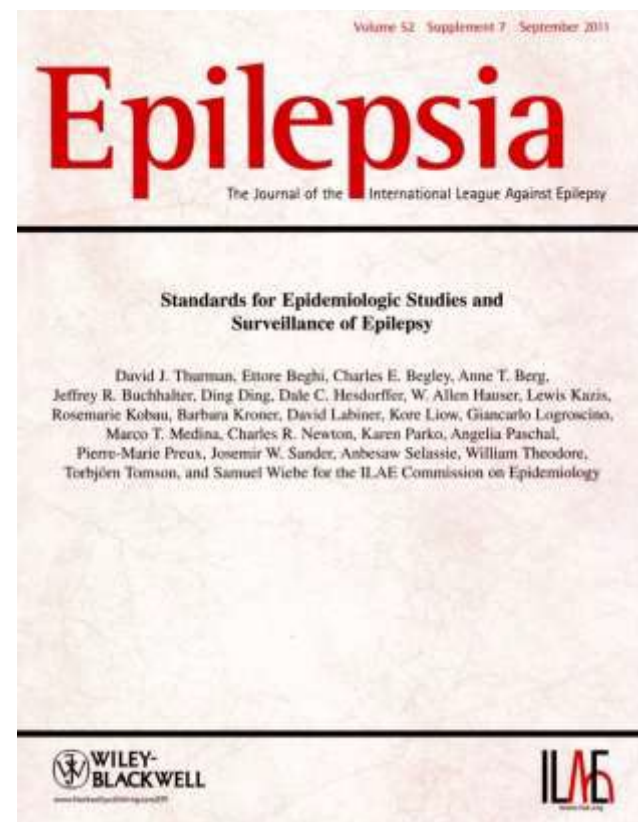
- knowledge of the epidemiology, public health burden, and impacts of epilepsy; and
- prevention of epilepsy and its adverse consequences through
 - reduction of risk factors for epilepsy and its comorbidities
 - developing and disseminating interventions that improve quality of life for people with epilepsy and
 - working with partners to change systems and environments to better support people with epilepsy.

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- Major topics of interest in epilepsy research
 - Population surveillance:
 - addresses prevalence, comorbidities, quality of life
 - Population-based epidemiologic studies of epilepsy
 - Focus on incidence, prevalence, distribution by type and severity, health disparities
 - Prevention Research
 - Primary prevention (e.g., TBI, stroke, CNS infection prevention)
 - Secondary prevention (e.g., access to appropriate care, improved self-management, reduction of comorbidities)

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- Types of research support or other activities
 - Surveillance:
 - National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) – biennial or triennial survey on epilepsy;
 - Tracks progress on *Healthy People 2020* objective to improve access to care for people with epilepsy.
 - Epidemiologic studies
 - Multiple localities include **AZ**, **DC**, KS, NM, **NY**, **SC**, TX
 - CDC / ILAE Standardized methodologies
 - Self management
 - The Managing Epilepsy Well (MEW) Network
 - 4 collaborating university centers



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- Opportunities for collaboration

- CDC emphasizes epidemiologic research & surveillance and complements basic and clinical research.

- Defining true public health burden useful in setting research priorities
- Helps to inform health care policy

Disparities in NIH funding for epilepsy research

Kimford J. Meador, MD Jacqueline French, MD
David W. Loring, PhD Page B. Pennell, MD
Neurology 2011;77;1305

- Subjects of CDC-supported incident cohort studies (or an incident cohort registry) could form a representative population for some clinical studies
- Epilepsy mortality surveillance system(s) could provide representative sources for tissue banks for SUDEP research.

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- Priorities and/or plans for future activities
 - Continue CDC support for epidemiologic studies of epilepsy in representative localities
 - Incident cohort studies
 - Focus on comorbidities, populations at high risk, disparities, early predictors of outcome
 - Continue CDC support for self-management research
 - Develop CDC/NINDS/NHLBI collaboration for population surveillance of SUDEP and other epilepsy-related mortality