

27 June 2014

Army Public Health Weekly Update

U.S. Army Public Health Command



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NOTICE

There will be no Army Public Health Weekly update next Friday because of the July 4th holiday.

Publication will resume on July 11th.

Enjoy the holiday!



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U.S. MILITARY

Bad VA care may have killed more than 1,000 veterans, senator's report says

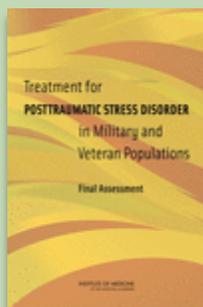
24 June - More than 1,000 veterans may have died in the last decade because of malpractice or lack of care from Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, a new

Treatment for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in Military and Veteran Populations: Final Assessment

In response to the growing PTSD burden among service members and veterans, the IOM assessed PTSD treatment programs and services in DoD and VA.

The IOM finds that both departments have made a sustained commitment to PTSD management and invested substantial financial and programmatic resources to provide care to service members and veterans.

However, a lack of standards, reporting, and evaluation significantly compromises these efforts. The report offers recommendations and guidance for improving processes and infrastructure.



report issued by the office of Sen. Tom Coburn finds. The report aggregates government investigations and media reports to trace a history of fraudulent scheduling practices, budget mismanagement, insufficient oversight and lack of accountability that have led to the current controversy plaguing the VA. [CNN](#)

Study links traumatic brain injury to increased dementia risk

25 June - Older military veterans who have suffered a serious head injury are more likely to be diagnosed with dementia than uninjured veterans, according to a new study. The report looked at traumatic brain injury (TBI), which includes concussions, skull fractures and bleeding inside the skull. "There have been a fair number of previous studies that have looked at the relationship between TBI and risk of dementia, and some have found an association while others haven't," said lead author Deborah E. Barnes, from the University of California, San Francisco and the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She and her colleagues sought to clarify the relationship by taking into account other conditions, like depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). "And we found that, even after accounting for these other factors, older veterans with a history of TBI were 60 percent more likely to develop dementia," Barnes told Reuters Health in an email. [Reuters](#)

Surveillance snapshot: Cauliflower ear, active component, U.S. Armed Forces, 2004–2013

May 2014 - ...Cauliflower ear is common among individuals who engage in contact sports such as wrestling, boxing, and mixed martial arts. Service members regularly engage in sports and combat training and may be at risk of damage to their ears during such activities. Wearing protective head gear and, in the event of ear trauma, prompt medical drainage of accumulating blood or other fluids can reduce the risk of this deformity. During 2004–2013, a total of 829 service members were diagnosed with cauliflower ear (ICD-9-CM code: 738.7); the incidence rate was 5.8 per 100,000 person-years. The incidence rate increased 166% during the 10-year surveillance period. Incidence rates were higher among service members who were male, Asian/Pacific Islander race/ethnicity, in their 20s, in the Marine Corps, recruits, and in combat-specific occupations. [Medical Surveillance Monthly Report](#)

VA rolls out Burn Pit Registry

23 June - The Veterans Affairs Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry is now available to help servicemembers and veterans report exposures to airborne hazards such as burn pits, oil well fires and other forms of pollution and document their health problems. Advocacy groups for servicemembers who believe they have developed illnesses from working and living near burn-pit disposal sites in Iraq and Afghanistan noticed Thursday they could log in and register on the VA's public health website, according to a report in the Military Times. [Military.com](#)

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GLOBAL

In pictures: Struggling to end child labour

There are an estimated 168 million child labourers worldwide many of whom are engaged in dangerous trades or working in hazardous environments.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) 2013 report most child labourers are found in the agricultural sector with lesser numbers in service industries like car repair shops or restaurants. Regionally the highest number of children involved in labour are located in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

More than half of child labourers are employed in hazardous environments that directly endanger their health and development.



Adults with Asperger's face tenfold increase in suicidal thoughts

25 June - Suicidal ideation occurs far more frequently among adults suffering from Asperger syndrome than among adults in general, according to a *Lancet Psychiatry* report. Researchers surveyed a cohort of some 375 adults newly diagnosed with Asperger's in England. Two thirds reported having had suicidal thoughts over their lifetimes. One third of the cohort reported either having made plans for suicide or attempting it, and one third reported depression. Adults with Asperger's had nearly a tenfold higher risk for suicidal ideation than adults in the general population, and concomitant depression added significantly to the risk. The authors suggest that clinicians remain alert to the high lifetime risks for suicide in Asperger's, "especially in individuals receiving a late diagnosis." [NEJM Journal Watch](#)

Telemedicine catches blinding disease in premature babies

27 June - Telemedicine is an effective strategy to screen for the potentially blinding disease known as retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), according to a study funded by the National Eye Institute (NEI). The investigators say that the approach, if adopted broadly, could help ease the strain on hospitals with limited access to ophthalmologists and lead to better care for infants in underserved areas of the country... The telemedicine strategy consisted of electronically sending photos of babies' eyes to a distant image reading center for evaluation. Staff at the image reading center, who were trained to recognize signs of severe ROP, identified whether infants should be referred to an ophthalmologist for evaluation and potential treatment. [NIH](#)

Two novel screening programs improve HIV care

27 June - Novel routine HIV screening programs at two urban health centers increased the number of patients screened, identified previously undiagnosed infection, and linked patients to care, according to an MMWR report. At a New York City site, 8% of patients were tested in 2010 (before the program) versus 56% in 2011–2013 (during the program). The proportion of positive tests that were new diagnoses increased from 16% to 29%. Most (81%) of 148 patients who tested positive during the program were subsequently linked to medical care, whereas none had been receiving medical care previously. Findings were similar at a New Orleans site. Notably, 5 of 77 patients newly diagnosed there had acute, antibody-negative infections. Key features of the programs included testing prompts via electronic health records and provider training with feedback. [NEJM Journal Watch](#)

Classified Version of the Weekly Update

An Army Public Health Weekly Update is available with articles classified up to the **SECRET** level from the USAPHC SIPRNet site:

<http://phc.army.smil.mil>
Look under Hot Topics & Current Issues.

To access this version, you will need a **SECRET** clearance and a SIPRNet account.

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UN: drug abuse stable but Afghan opium a concern

26 June 26 -- The United Nations' drug-fighting agency says global drug use appears to be stable, but increasing opium production in Afghanistan is a cause for concern. The Vienna-based U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime estimated in an annual report Thursday that between 162 and 324 million people used an illicit drug at least once in 2012, little changed from the previous year. The number of drug-related deaths was estimated between 95,500 and 225,900. The report says that's lower than in 2011 due to decreases in a few Asian countries. The U.N. agency says surging opium production in Afghanistan is a setback. It says 209,000 hectares (some 516,000 acres) there were used to cultivate opium poppies last year, up from 154,000 hectares (380,500 acres) in 2012 and the third consecutive rise. [ABC News](#)

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INFLUENZA

ACIP cites preference for nasal-spray flu vaccine for young

25 June - Federal vaccine advisors today, in a rare move, made a preferential recommendation for a flu vaccine, giving the nod to the nasal-spray vaccine over injected flu vaccines for healthy children ages 2 to 8 years old, based on studies that suggest the inhaled version has an efficacy edge. The vote of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), an expert group that advises the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), followed several months of analysis by a working group that compared the two vaccines and offered its formal recommendation today. The step follows similar moves by other developed nations, including Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Israel. ACIP's vote was unanimous. [CIDRAP](#)

CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

During week 24 (ending June 14), 5.3 % of all deaths reported through the 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage was below the epidemic threshold of 6.5% for week 24. [FluView](#)

Human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus – update

24 June - On 23 June 2014, the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) of China notified WHO of one additional laboratory-confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H7N9) virus. The patient is a 51-year-old male from Taizhou City, Zhejiang Province. He had onset of symptoms on 2 June, was admitted to hospital on 6 June, and is

currently in a severe condition. The patient has a history of exposure to live poultry... The overall risk assessment has not changed. [WHO](#)

Naval Health Research Center: Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update

For week 24, ending 14 June 2014:

- Influenza: One case of NHRC laboratory-confirmed influenza (A/H3) among US military basic trainees.
- *C. pneumoniae* found in recent FRI and pneumonia cases at Ft. Leonard Wood
- FRI surveillance at all eight U.S. military basic training centers indicated FRI rates were at or below expected values. [NHRC Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update](#)

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VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

Australia: Strong reaction to Hendra outbreak

23 June - The manufacturer of the Hendra vaccine expects the latest outbreak in New South Wales will trigger a response from owners of unvaccinated horses. The horse on the property near Murwillumbah in northern NSW had not been vaccinated against the virus. Zoetis' equine marketing manager Ben Reay, says vets are now receiving a lot of calls from anxious horse owners... It has been eight years between Hendra cases in the Tweed Valley, with the first Hendra case in NSW recorded near Murwillumbah in 2006. [ABC](#)

CDC says *E. coli* outbreak linked to ground beef is over

23 June - Last Friday, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Final Update regarding a four-state outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (STEC O157:H7). In total, 12 cases were reported; 58% of those people were hospitalized, but none of them died, nor did anyone develop hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). As illnesses began being reported, epidemiologic and traceback investigations conducted by local, state, and federal officials indicated that contaminated ground beef produced by Wolverine Packing Company was the likely source of the outbreak, according to the CDC. [Food Safety Magazine](#)

Salmonella cases linked to Foster Farms chicken top 600

25 June - California has reported 27 new cases of salmonellosis linked to Foster Farms chicken products since the latest update from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), raising the outbreak total to 601 cases, Food Safety News (FSN) reported

yesterday. In confirming the new cases today, a spokesperson for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) told CIDRAP News, "They include case patients who became ill in April through June. CDPH's investigation of the Salmonella Heidelberg outbreak associated with Foster Farms chicken is currently ongoing, and additional details cannot be provided at this time." The new cases raise California's total to 468. FSN said health departments in Washington and Oregon reported no new cases. In its most recent update, on May 27, the CDC reported 574 outbreak cases, 441 of which were in California. The state with the next-highest count was Arizona, with 25 cases. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (second item)

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WELLNESS

BMI measurement may be missing 25 percent of children who could be considered obese

24 June - Physicians using body mass index (BMI) to diagnose children as obese may be missing 25 percent of kids who have excess body fat despite a normal BMI, which can be a serious concern for long-term health, according to a Mayo Clinic study published online today in *Pediatric Obesity*. The researchers found that BMI has high specificity in identifying pediatric obesity, meaning BMI accurately identifies children who are obese, but has a moderate sensitivity, meaning the BMI tool misses children who actually should be considered obese, according to the percent of fat in their bodies. [Mayo Clinic](#)

Cleaner air linked to fewer deaths

23 June - Air quality has improved significantly in the past 20 years because of federal and state laws and regulations, and researchers in North Carolina have found an associated decline in rates of death from respiratory disease. [A study](#), published Monday in *The International Journal of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease*, analyzed mortality trends for emphysema, asthma and pneumonia from 1993 to 2010, along with changes in air pollution levels as measured monthly. Sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide all decreased markedly month to month, and so did death rates from the three diseases. [New York Times](#)

Excessive drinking causes 10 percent of deaths in working adults



26 June - Think about people dying from drinking too much, and you probably think of the classic disease of alcoholics, cirrhosis of the liver. Or perhaps an alcohol-fueled car crash. But there are many more ways to kill yourself with alcohol, unfortunately, and they account for 1 in 10 deaths in working adults, according to a study by the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention. "One in 10 is a big number," says Dr. Robert Brewer, who leads the alcohol program at the CDC and is an author of the study, published Thursday in Preventing Chronic Disease. "One of the issues with alcohol that is particularly tragic is the extent to which it gets people in the prime of their lives." And those premature deaths cost the United States \$224 billion a year, the report found, or \$1.90 a drink. The report underscores that alcohol is the fourth-largest cause of preventable deaths, behind smoking, poor nutrition and lack of activity. [NPR](#)

F.D.A. warns of allergy to some anti-acne products

25 June - Federal health officials are warning consumers who use popular anti-acne treatments about rare but potentially deadly allergic reactions that can cause swelling of the face and difficulty breathing. The Food and Drug Administration said on Wednesday that the problems had been reported with gels, face washes, pads and other products that contained two ingredients: benzoyl peroxide or salicylic acid. But the agency says it was unclear whether those ingredients set off the reactions or whether some other combination of ingredients was to blame. [New York Times](#)

Men at high risk for HIV may misjudge their vulnerability

26 June - Many gay, bisexual and queer men who are good candidates for a drug that prevents HIV don't believe their risk of being infected with the virus is high enough to warrant the drug's use, suggests a new study. The poor perception of HIV risk suggests people need to be educated about how to lower the chance of being infected, according to the researchers, who do HIV testing and other research in commercial sex venues in New York City. [Reuters](#)

Mobile phones carry owners' bacterial 'fingerprint'



24 June - Smartphones reflect the personal microbial world of their owners, say US scientists. More than 80% of the common bacteria that make up our personal bacterial "fingerprints" end up on their screens, a study suggests. Personal possessions, such as phones, might be useful for tracking the spread of bacteria, they report in PeerJ. They reflect our microbiome - the trillions of different micro-organisms that live in and on our bodies. Mobile phone users have been found to touch their devices on average 150 times a day. Scientists have found an overlap between the collection of micro-organisms naturally present on our bodies and those on the screens of smartphones. They say this could one day be used to track people's exposure to bacteria. [BBC News](#)

Quitting smokeless tobacco after heart attack may extend life expectancy

23 June - People who stop using smokeless tobacco after a heart attack may extend their life expectancy similar to people who stop smoking, according to new research in the American Heart Association journal *Circulation*. "We didn't expect to see such a strong association among those people who stopped using (smokeless tobacco)," said Gabriel Arefalk, M.D., lead researcher and cardiologist at Uppsala University Hospital in Uppsala, Sweden. "After a heart attack, no doubt smoking cessation reduces the risk of death approximately one third and is really a cornerstone of cardiac rehabilitation worldwide. For smokeless tobacco, we did not know." This may be the first study to examine the impact of smokeless tobacco on death in heart attack survivors. [American Heart Association](#)

Study links pesticide exposure in pregnancy to autism

23 June - In a new study from California, children with an autism spectrum disorder were more likely to have mothers who lived close to fields treated with certain pesticides during pregnancy. Proximity to agricultural pesticides in pregnancy was also linked to other types of developmental delay among children. "Ours is the third study to specifically link autism spectrum disorders to pesticide exposure, whereas more papers have demonstrated links with developmental delay," said lead author Janie F. Shelton, from the University of California, Davis. There needs to be more research before scientists can say that pesticides cause autism, she told Reuters Health in an email. But pesticides all affect signaling between cells in the nervous system, she added, so a direct link is plausible. [Reuters](#)

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USAFRICOM

Central Africa: Update on polio in central Africa

25 June - On 17 March 2014, WHO elevated the risk assessment of international spread of polio from central Africa, particularly Cameroon, to very high. A new exportation event from Equatorial Guinea demonstrates that the risk of international spread from central Africa remains very high. On 18 June 2014, Brazil reported that wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) had been detected in a sewage sample collected in March 2014 at Viracopos International Airport in Sao Paulo state. Genetic sequencing indicates that this virus is most closely related to the virus that is circulating in Equatorial Guinea. Four wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases have been reported in Equatorial Guinea in 2014... Genetic sequencing indicates these cases are linked to an ongoing WPV1 outbreak in Cameroon.. No one in Brazil has been paralyzed by the virus nor is there evidence of transmission within the population of that country. This importation event in Brazil demonstrates that all regions of

the world continue to be at risk of exposure to wild poliovirus until polio eradication is completed globally. [WHO](#)

Niger: Niger women arrested over baby trafficking

25 June - The wives of two prominent officials have been arrested in Niger following the dismantling of an alleged baby-trafficking ring this week, according to a police source. More than 20 suspects were arrested on Monday as part of an international investigation involving police from Nigeria, Benin and Niger, the source told the AFP news agency. Those arrested were "mostly women" and included one of the wives of Niger's former prime minister and current parliament speaker Hama Amadou, who is seen as the main challenger to President Mahamadou Issoufou in elections due in 2016. The wife of Abdou Labo, the agriculture minister, was also detained. The babies trafficked are thought to have arrived in Niger from Nigeria via Benin. [Al Jazeera](#)

Nigeria: Lassa fever outbreak reported in Nigeria, difficulties in getting treatment reported

22 June - At least four people have died and another 11 are infected in the latest Lassa fever outbreak recorded in Jos-North, Jos-South and Bassa Local Government Areas of Plateau State, according to a Daily Trust report Friday. State Epidemiologist, Dr Raymond Juryit, says there is a problem controlling the outbreak, "Ribavirin is the only drug for the treatment of Lassa fever, but we don't have it right now. We usually receive them from Federal Ministry of Health every year, but we have not received any for this year yet. Doctors now resort to symptomatic treatment rather than curative treatment". [Global Dispatch](#)

West Africa: Ebola's surge requires 'drastic action' to stop

26 June - The World Health Organization is "gravely concerned" about the "potential international spread" of Ebola beyond the outbreak in West Africa, the agency's regional office said Thursday. "This is no longer a country specific outbreak but a sub-regional crisis," it added. With nearly 400 deaths and more than 600 cases so far, the Ebola outbreak is the deadliest and largest since the virus was first detected in 1976. The outbreak started in Guinea back in February. But it quickly jumped borders into neighboring Liberia and Sierra Leone... "As the number of deaths and cases of Ebola virus continues to rise in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the World Health Organization is warning that drastic action is needed," the agency said. [NPR](#)

West African nations report 49 new Ebola cases

23 June - Three West African countries at the center of the region's Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak saw no letup in infections last week, reporting 49 new cases and 12 more deaths, most of them in Sierra Leone, according to an update yesterday from the World Health Organization (WHO). Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia all reported new cases, boosting the overall outbreak total to 567, including 359 deaths. The first reports of EVD in the region emerged in March, marking West Africa's first experience battling the virus in an

outbreak that has become the largest and deadliest since the first human infections were detected in Africa in 1976. And today a major humanitarian group working in the region called the outbreak "out of control." [CIDRAP News](#)

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USCENTCOM

Pakistan, Afghanistan report new polio cases

23 June - Pakistan confirmed seven new WPV1 infections and Afghanistan two last week, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said in a communicable disease threats report today. Globally, 103 polio cases have been reported to the WHO this year, the report said, compared with 77 in the same period last year, an increase of a third. Pakistan has by far the most cases, 82, followed by Afghanistan, with 6, Equatorial Guinea, 4; Cameroon, 3; Nigeria, 3; and Iraq, 2. Ethiopia, Somalia, and Syria have each had 1 case. "The confirmed circulation of WPV in 10 countries and the documented exportation of WPV to neighbouring countries for three of them, support the fact that there is a potential risk for WPV being re-introduced into the EU/EEA," the ECDC said. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (second item)

Saudi Arabia: A mix of pathogens caused pneumonia in 2013 Hajj participants

24 June - A variety of different viruses and bacteria, but not MERS-CoV, were associated with severe pneumonia in participants in the 2013 Hajj, Saudi Arabian researchers reported yesterday in the *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*. The authors collected sputum samples from all patients who were admitted to 15 healthcare facilities in Mecca and Medina with severe bilateral pneumonia during the pilgrimage... The report says 38 patients met the study criteria. They were mostly older (mean age, 58.6 years) and male (68.4%), and all were from developing countries. MERS-CoV was not found in any of the samples, but 26 of the 38 tested positive for other pathogens. Bacterial pathogens were found in 22 of the 26 samples (85%) and viruses in 21 (81%); 21 samples contained more than one pathogen. The most common virus was rhinovirus, found in 58% of the positive samples, followed by influenza A (23%) and human coronaviruses (19%). The leading bacterial species were *Haemophilus influenzae* (58%), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (54%), and *Moraxella catarrhalis* (36%). [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (second item)

Saudi Arabia: Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – update

26 June - On 19, 20, 22 and 23 June 2014, National IHR Focal Point of Saudi Arabia notified WHO of 4 additional laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with Middle East respiratory

syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)... Globally, 707 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV, including at least 252 related deaths have officially been reported to WHO. [WHO](#)

UNHCR: Pakistani offensive triggering humanitarian crisis

26 June - As hundreds of thousands of people flee a military offensive against the Taliban in northern Pakistan, Bo Schack, UNHCR representative in Afghanistan, tells DW support from the international community is urgently needed. An estimated 450,000 people have left Pakistan's tribal area of North Waziristan since Islamabad launched a military offensive in mid-June targeting Islamist militants. The displaced are heading into nearby areas of the country as well as neighboring Afghanistan. Many have had to spend long hours in scorching heat and often without food and water. There are also reports about mounting anger at problems with food distribution and fears that the civilian exodus could lead to the spread of the polio virus which is rampant in the region. [DW](#)

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USEUCOM

Europe court tells France to suspend right-to-die ruling

25 June - The European Court of Human Rights has told France to maintain life support for a tetraplegic man who has spent nearly six years in a coma while it examines a last-ditch appeal by his parents. The request from the rights court late on Tuesday came just hours after French judges ruled doctors should be allowed to end medical support that has kept Vincent Lambert artificially alive since a motorbike crash in September 2008. Lambert's plight and another case where a court on Wednesday acquitted a doctor charged with accelerating the deaths of seven terminally ill patients by lethal injection is prompting calls for a revamp of France's ambiguous laws on euthanasia. [Reuters](#)

London: Evaluation of the health protection event-based surveillance for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

19 June - The Health Protection Agency (HPA) (currently Public Health England) implemented the Health Protection Event-Based Surveillance (EBS) to provide additional national epidemic intelligence for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Games). We describe EBS and evaluate the system attributes. EBS aimed at identifying, assessing and reporting to the HPA Olympic Coordination Centre (OCC) possible national infectious disease threats that may significantly impact the Games. EBS reported events in England from 2 July to 12 September 2012. EBS sourced events from reports from local

health protection units and from screening an electronic application 'HPZone Dashboard' (DB). [Eurosurveillance](#)

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USNORTHCOM

Canada: Public health officials in Guelph touting benefits of London's plan to distribute free crack pipes to users

24 June - The Director of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health says plans by the Middlesex-London Board of Health to hand out free crack pipes to drug users should not be cause for alarm. They've been doing the same thing in Guelph since 2011. Rita Sethi is with the Health Unit there, and says they hand out on average about 20 crack pipe kits every week. "It also provides us an opportunity to distribute other materials that might help them out along the line when they're living in their environment and things are coming at them that they can know where to go to get information or ask for help," said Sethi. Sethi says many drug users are using materials that don't heat very well, exposing them to a long list of health complications. "They're using materials that aren't conducive to the heat that's associated with a crack pipe, and so they can also cause other health concerns such as fibers in their lungs that will eventually lead to some type of chronic pulmonary issues," said Sethi. "The idea of distributing the entire kit on a regular basis to users is a great way to engage them with our public health staff." [AM980](#)

U.S.: Chikungunya cases jump to 74 in 23 states

25 June - The chikungunya epidemic in the Caribbean is continuing to spill over into the United States, with federal and state officials reporting at least 74 cases in 23 states yesterday. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) yesterday reported 73 cases in 22 states, up from 57 cases in 13 states on Jun 17. In addition, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) reported the state's first case—which was not included in the CDC update—with test results awaited in nine more suspected cases. The CDC also said Puerto Rico has identified 14 locally transmitted cases, and the US Virgin Islands has one such case. The number for Puerto Rico has been revised downward; the CDC had mentioned 23 locally transmitted cases there in its Jun 17 update. All but one of the cases in the continental United States were linked to travel to the Caribbean, and the other case involved travel to Asia, the CDC said. No local transmission has been discovered.

[CIDRAP](#)

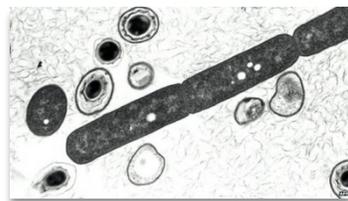
U.S.: Measles outbreak in Ohio leads Amish to reconsider vaccines

24 June - The Amish countryside in central Ohio looks as it has for a hundred years. There are picturesque pastures with cows and sheep, and big red barns dot the landscape. But something changed here, when, on an April afternoon, an Amish woman walked to a communal call box. She picked up the phone to call the Knox County Health Department. She told a county worker she and a family next door had the measles. That call spurred nurse Jacqueline Fletcher into action. ... The virus has spread quickly among the largely unvaccinated Amish communities in the center of the state. Fletcher collected samples the afternoon she arrived. A county worker drove them immediately to the state health department and quickly confirmed the measles... Fletcher started organizing door-to-door vaccinations, and set up vaccination clinics at various locations. On a Wednesday in mid-June, her clinic takes place in a store that usually sells construction supplies. A steady stream of people come throughout the day. After the workday ends, Amish families form a line out the door while buggies continue to roll into a nearby parking lot. [NPR](#)

U.S.: More Americans use cannabis, seek treatment: UN drugs agency

26 June - More Americans are consuming cannabis as their perception of the health risks declines, the U.N. drugs agency said on Thursday, suggesting liberalization may further increase its use among the young. In a finding that could feed into an international debate on the decriminalization of marijuana, it said more people around the world, including in North America, were seeking treatment for cannabis-related disorders... It was still too early to understand the impact of recent legalization moves in the U.S. states of Washington and Colorado and the South American country of Uruguay, the Vienna-based U.N. agency said in its 2014 World Drug Report. [Reuters](#)

U.S.: Possible anthrax cases rise to 84, CDC



20 June - The number of health workers potentially exposed to anthrax has risen to 84, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said. The count of those at risk of illness has risen from the 75 initially reported on Thursday. The US health agency said researchers in a high-level biosecurity laboratory failed to follow proper procedures and did not inactivate the bacteria. The exposure occurred in Atlanta at the weekend, the CDC has said. The FBI has told the BBC it is helping the CDC to investigate. [BBC News](#)

U.S.: State high court rules NYC ban on large sodas is illegal

26 June - New Yorkers can now sip their super-sized sodas without worry. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's plan to limit the sale of large sugary drinks was rejected on Thursday by the state's highest court, which ruled the local health board overstepped its authority in approving the regulation. The 4-2 ruling from the state Court of Appeals upheld two lower court decisions from last year, siding with the soft drink, restaurant and movie theater industries, which had challenged the law. "By choosing among competing policy goals, without any legislative delegation or guidance, the Board engaged in law-making and thus infringed upon the legislative jurisdiction of the City Council," wrote Judge Eugene Pigott for the majority. [Reuters](#)

U.S.: The state of senior health - it depends on your state

24 June - What are the best and worst places to stay healthy as you age? For answers, take out a map and follow the Mississippi River from north to south. The healthiest people over 65 are in Minnesota, the sickest in Mississippi. That's among the findings of the America's Health Rankings Senior Report released in May by the United Health Foundation. The report ranks the 50 states by assessing data covering individual behavior, the environment and communities where seniors live, local health policy and clinical care. [Reuters](#)

U.S.: Tobacco product use among adults — United States, 2012–2013

27 June - Despite significant declines in cigarette smoking among U.S. adults over the past five decades, progress has slowed in recent years, and the prevalence of use of other tobacco products such as cigars and smokeless tobacco has not changed. Additionally, the prevalence of use of emerging products, including electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), has rapidly increased. This report provides the most recent national estimates of tobacco use among adults aged ≥ 18 years, using data from the 2012–2013 National Adult Tobacco Survey (NATS). The findings indicate that 21.3% of U.S. adults used a tobacco product every day or some days, and 25.2% used a tobacco product every day, some days, or rarely. Population-level interventions focused on the diversity of tobacco product use, including tobacco price increases, high-impact antitobacco mass media campaigns, comprehensive smoke-free laws, and enhanced access to help quitting, in conjunction with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulation of tobacco products, are critical to reducing tobacco-related diseases and deaths in the United States. [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)

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China: Arsenic pollution sows despair in Chinese cancer village



23 June - ...Arsenic and inorganic arsenic compounds, often used for herbicides, wood preservatives and in the metallurgical industry, are listed as carcinogenic to humans by the World Health Organization, and can cause cancers of the skin, bladder and lungs. Mines and chemical plants mushroomed in the realgar-rich area around Heshan from the

1950s until 2011 when they were shut down due to the pollution they caused, but dust and runoff from arsenic plagues Heshan to this day, destroying crops and poisoning people. In 2010, 157 villagers from Heshan, with a population of about 1,500, had died of cancer caused by arsenic poisoning in the previous two decades, and another 190 had developed cancer due to arsenic poisoning, the villagers wrote in a letter to the local government, seen by Reuters, seeking compensation and aid. More than 200 people tested positive for arsenic poisoning in a nearby city hospital last year, Wen said. [Reuters](#)

China: As heart attacks rise, so does attention to quality of care

23 June - ...China, like many low- and middle-income countries, is facing immense challenges from diseases that were once rare there. Infectious diseases have receded, though they are still important, and noncommunicable conditions of modern living, such as heart disease and cancer, are rising. Because China accounts for 20 percent of the world's population, the number of people that will be affected is mind-boggling. The World Bank estimates that the number of heart attacks in China will grow from about 8 million today to 23 million in 2030. While prevention efforts to slow or reverse the progression of heart disease are essential, there is an immediate need to provide high-quality health care services to the people who are affected... *The Lancet* article... is the first to report the national picture of heart attack care in China over the past decade. It documents a quadrupling of hospitalizations for heart attacks, mirroring the projections by others. It also shows marked improvement in quality of care for some treatments and gaps in quality for others. For example, the use of statins, cholesterol-lowering drugs shown to reduce risk in this high-risk population, has grown dramatically over the decade. In contrast, the use of treatments to improve blood flow to the heart for these patients, a proven approach to improve survival, is only delivered to half of the patients. [NPR](#)

India: Dengue mortality rate drops, but cases rise significantly

25 June - Deaths due to dengue have shown a downward trend in the first four months of 2014, but the number of cases has risen at an alarming pace with Chandrapur alone reporting 205 of the 722 positive cases in the state. As per state records, Pune district had 15 cases. However, the PMC says the number is much higher because the state does not consider patients reported by private doctors. A total of 649 cases and 17 deaths were recorded from January to May last year. This year, the death toll is just three, but number of positive cases has leaped to 722. Navi Mumbai, Ahmednagar and Dhule have reported one death each. [Times of India](#)

India: Leptospirosis, dengue, chikungunya

23 June - More than 200 villagers have fallen ill with symptoms of dengue, chikungunya and rat fever at Jambukarankottai in Dharmapuri district since Saturday [21 Jun 2014]. Dharmapuri MP Dr Anbumani Ramadoss rushed to the spot on Sunday morning [22 Jun 2014] with a team of doctors from the district health department. Anbumani also took part in the medical camp and gave treatment to the patients. "More than 200 people at Jambukarankottai are suffering from dengue, chikungunya, and rat fever. We have confirmed this by testing blood samples of [febrile patients]," Anbumani told TOI. [ProMED-mail](#)

India: Tripura malaria outbreak – 31 children, 10 adults dead

22 June - The death toll in recent malaria outbreak in the state of Tripura has gone up to 41, including 31 kids and 10 adults. More than 22,000 people have fallen ill due to the sudden outbreak of malaria in the hilly areas of Tripura dominated by the tribal. These regions include the districts of Gomti, South Tripura, Dhalai, North Tripura and Khowai. Badal Choudhury, Health and Family Welfare Minister of Tripura said to the reporters, ' Around 41 people have died due to malaria that includes 31 children and more than 22,000 people have fallen ill to this disease since the first week of this month. Of the 22,000 ill patients, malaria parasite has been detected in the blood samples of around 3,215 individuals. [Health Site](#)

North Korea: Deadly measles outbreak in North Korean province bordering China

25 June - A measles outbreak in a North Korean province bordering China has left at least three children dead this week in what is believed to be the worst attack of the highly contagious disease in seven years, according to a source. The deaths occurred on Monday after the disease which mainly affects children hit a district near Sinuiju, the capital of North Pyongyang province in the northwest of North Korea and a gateway to China, the source

told RFA's Korean Service. North Korean authorities have tried to hush up the outbreak and have blamed it on North Korean shipping crews traveling to and from China... Pyongyang has imposed travel restrictions to contain the problem and the Ministry of Health has begun immunizing residents in Yongchun district and Sinuiju. [Radio Free Asia](#)

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USSOUTHCOM

Brazil: Polio virus found in Sao Paulo sewage, no human case, WHO

23 June - The polio virus has been found in sewage samples near Sao Paulo, Brazil, one of the venues for the current World Cup soccer tournament, but no human case of the disease has been reported so far, the World Health Organization said on Monday. The virus discovered in Sao Paulo sewage collected in March at Viracopos International Airport, and reported by Brazilian health authorities last week, is a close match with a recent strain isolated in a case in Equatorial Guinea, the WHO said. "Virus has been detected in the sewage only...To date no case of paralytic polio has been reported," it said in a statement.

[Reuters](#)

Caribbean chikungunya outbreak slows; total nears 190,000

23 June - Though the number of chikungunya cases in Caribbean countries continued to grow last week, topping 189,000 cases, the pace slowed as officials reported a steady trickle of imported cases in US residents who had traveled to affected areas. The number of suspected or confirmed cases reached 189,055, reflecting 18,519 more cases than the previous week, according to a Jun 20 update from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). That increase is slightly more than half of the 35,139 new cases reported in PAHO's Jun 13 update. Seven more deaths attributed to the mosquito-borne disease were reported, boosting the outbreak's fatality number to 21. [CIDRAP](#)

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