

7 September 2012

Army Public Health Weekly Update

The Army Public Health Update is a collection of articles taken verbatim from public sources to offer awareness of current health issues and the media coverage given to them. The articles do not necessarily represent US Army Medical Department opinions, views, policy, or guidance, and should not be construed or interpreted as being endorsed by the US Army Medical Department.

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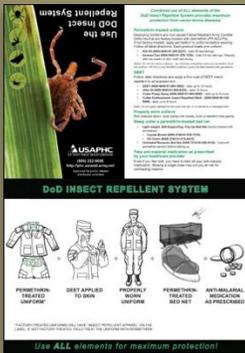
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**Brand New Energy -
Voluntary Recall of
Dietary Supplement
EphBurn 25**

Brand New Energy ("BNE"), dietary supplement re-sale distributor, is recalling all lot codes of EphBurn 25. The recall was initiated on August 28, 2012, after notification by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to a third-party retailer which purchased EphBurn 25 that one lot of EphBurn 25 was sampled by the FDA and found to contain ephedrine alkaloids, making it an unapproved drug.



**Classified Version of
the Weekly Update**

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

U.S. MILITARY

Can nasal spray help prevent military suicides?

20 August - Could the solution to increasing suicide and depression rates among members of the U.S. military lie in a nasal spray? The Army hopes so. In the midst of a crisis that saw its highest rate of suicide in July, the Army has greenlighted a grant for Dr. Michael Kubek, an Indiana University of Medicine professor, to dig deeper into whether a nasal spray could be a safe and effective way to administer a specific antidepressive neurochemical to the brain and help calm suicidal thoughts... Kubek helped discover thyrotropin-releasing hormone, or TRH, which is known to have antisuicidal and antidepressive effects. The problem is that the naturally occurring chemical cannot easily cross the "blood-brain barrier"... The military is hoping Kubek, an associate professor of anatomy and cell biology and of neurobiology, can use a three-year grant to work with other researchers to use a nasal spray to get TRH safely into the brain and calm soldiers' thoughts. [CNN](#)

Traumatic amputations among female Service members, active and reserve components, 2000-2011

July 2012 - Service members are at risk for traumatic amputations during combat deployments and in many other settings (e.g., motor vehicle accidents). Due to the expanding role of women in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, an increasing number of servicewomen have been exposed to severe injury risk during deployment. A previous *MSMR* report described traumatic amputations of the extremities among all service members; this snapshot uses the same methodology but is restricted to servicewomen alone.¹ During the 12-year surveillance period there were 262 amputations among 260 servicewomen. A majority of the amputations (76%; n=200) were considered minor amputations. Of the 62 major amputations affecting 60 women, 52 were lower extremity amputations and 10 were upper extremity amputations (**data not shown**). During the surveillance period the number of major amputations increased from 2003 to 2007, decreased in 2008 then slightly increased again in 2009 and 2010 (**Figure**). During the period the records of 24 women indicated that they had a "deployment-related" major amputation. A majority of the deployment-related major amputations occurred in servicewomen who were in the active component (79.2%; n=19), in the Army (91.7%, n=22), aged 20-29 (75.0%, n=18), and enlisted (79.2%, n=19). Eight (33.3%) of the servicewomen with a deployment-related major amputation were involved in law enforcement occupations. The remaining 16 were distributed across eight different occupational groups (**data not shown**). [Medical Surveillance Monthly Report](#)

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GLOBAL

Extreme weather means extreme food prices worldwide, aid agency warns



6 September - Reducing greenhouse gases and saving the polar bears tend to dominate discussions on climate change. But to the booming world population, one climate change issue may be even more pressing – hunger. A new report by a leading international relief agency warns that climate change will increase the risk of large spikes in global food prices in the future, and lead to more hungry people in the world. That's because extreme weather like droughts, floods and heat waves are predicted to become much more frequent as the planet heats up. "Our planet is boiling and if we don't act now, hunger will increase for millions of people on our planet," says [Heather Coleman](#), climate change policy adviser for Oxfam America, which released the [report](#) today. [NPR](#)

Guinea worm is poised to become the second human disease to be eradicated



27 August - Guinea worm disease is reaching the end of its days. The parasitic infection, which has sickened millions, mostly in Asia and Africa, is on the verge of being done in not by sophisticated medicine but by aggressive public health efforts in some of the poorest and most remote parts of the world. To eliminate the parasite, which is found in drinking water, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have handed out straws with cloth filters, treating water sources with larvicide, teaching villagers how to avoid infection and scouring the countryside for new cases. As a result, the ailment, also known as dracunculiasis, is poised to become the second human disease (the first was smallpox) to be eradicated — and the first to be eliminated without the aid of a vaccine... So far this year there have been 391 new cases worldwide — down from 807 this time in 2011, according to the CDC. All but four of these cases were found in South Sudan. [Washington Post](#)

In amenable mortality—deaths avoidable through health care—progress in the US lags that of three European countries

August - We examined trends and patterns of amenable mortality—deaths that should not occur in the presence of timely and effective health care—in the United States compared to those in France, Germany, and the United Kingdom between 1999 and 2007. Americans under age sixty-five during this period had elevated rates of amenable mortality compared to their peers in Europe. For Americans over age sixty-five, declines in amenable mortality

slowed relative to their peers in Europe. Overall, amenable mortality rates among men from 1999 to 2007 fell by only 18.5 percent in the United States compared to 36.9 percent in the United Kingdom. Among women, the rates fell by 17.5 percent and 31.9 percent, respectively. Although US men and women had the lowest mortality from treatable cancers among the four countries, deaths from circulatory conditions—chiefly cerebrovascular disease and hypertension—were the main reason amenable death rates remained relatively high in the United States. These findings strengthen the case for reforms that will enable all Americans to receive timely and effective health care. [Health Affairs](#)

Men face higher death risk, but why?

5 September - HIV-infected men in South Africa are nearly one-third more likely to die than women, even though both receive similar treatment. But researchers say they don't know why. University of Cape Town's Morna Cornell led a team of researchers who looked at more than 46,000 adults taking antiretroviral drugs between 2002 and 2009. "Why we started looking at this was because increasing numbers of studies are coming out, which are reporting that men have a higher risk of death on antiretrovirals than women. And obviously this is an issue of great concern and something we wanted to understand a bit more," she said. Studies show that, in fact, men are one-third more likely to die than women during treatment. But Cornell said too often researchers may simply assume they know why, when in fact they do not. [VOA](#)

One last push needed to eliminate polio

3 September - The three countries where polio is still endemic - Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan - are conducting aggressive immunization campaigns to vaccinate more children against the disease. Experts say with India now polio-free and the total number of cases at the lowest level ever, this is an opportunity to change history and eradicate the disease entirely. To reinforce that commitment, many world leaders will be meeting in New York this month. The oral polio vaccine has cut the number of polio cases worldwide by 99 percent since 1988. For the past 10 years, though, eliminating that last percent has remained a challenge. [VOA](#)

U.S. officials sound worldwide alert for Yosemite hantavirus risk

4 September - U.S. health officials have sent warnings to 39 other countries that their citizens who stayed in Yosemite National Park tent cabins this summer may have been exposed to a deadly mouse-borne hantavirus, a park service epidemiologist said on Tuesday. Of the 10,000 people thought to be at risk of contracting hantavirus pulmonary syndrome from their stays in Yosemite between June and August, some 2,500 live outside the United States, Dr. David Wong told Reuters in an interview. Wong said U.S. Department of Health and Human Services officials notified 39 countries over the weekend, most of them in the European Union, that their residents may have been exposed to the deadly virus. [Reuters](#)

Vaginal ring protects monkeys from HIV-like infection



5 September - When it comes to contraception, women have many options. There are pills, patches, diaphragms and even a [vaginal ring](#) that slowly releases birth control hormones. For preventing HIV, however, the options are limited. Women can wear a [female condom](#), or for partial protection, they can take a [daily pill](#) that was just approved by the FDA. Now an animal study just [published](#) in *Science Translational Medicine* suggests that the vaginal ring holds promise as a new way for women to protect themselves against HIV. [NPR](#)

WHO takes aim at dengue in strategy document

Saying dengue virus infections and deaths have mushroomed in recent years, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently released a strategy report that sets a goal of cutting deaths in half and reducing cases by 25% over the next 8 years. The report, titled *Global Strategy for Dengue Prevention and Control*, also sets a goal of estimating the true burden of dengue disease by 2015—signaling how little is known about the global impact of the mosquito-borne illness. [CIDRAP](#)

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INFLUENZA

CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

During week 34 (week ending 25 August), 5.6% of all deaths reported through the 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to P&I. This percentage was below the epidemic threshold of 6.5% for week 34. [FluView](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview

During weeks 33-34 (13-26 August), all reporting countries experienced low-intensity influenza activity. [Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview](#)

Google.org: Flu Trends

7 September – Estimates of flu activity based on flu-related Internet search queries indicate that the level of flu activity in the U.S. ranges from minimal to low. [Google.org Flu Trends](#)

Naval Health Research Center: Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update

For the week ending 1 September:

Adenovirus

- Vaccination against types 4 and 7 adenovirus was instituted at all basic training centers by mid-November 2011 (week 45).
- FRI rates and the proportion of FRI cases positive for adenovirus have decreased markedly since vaccine was reintroduced.
- Type 14 adenovirus is present at MCRD Parris Island.

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

Shortage sparks egg hunt in Mexico

5 September - A drastic shortage has sparked a desperate egg hunt in Mexico, after a bird flu outbreak forced farmers to cull some 11 million hens, a disaster in the world's leading per capita egg consumer. Mexico City residents are waiting in long lines to buy subsidized eggs, while in the north some are crossing the border to get cheaper cartons in US supermarkets. As part of emergency measures, the government has lifted egg tariffs, importing 906 tons from the United States since the crisis erupted last month. More may come from Costa Rica, Colombia and Chile... Eggs are a cheap source of protein in Mexico, where almost half of the population of 112 million lives under the poverty line. [AFP](#)

U.S.: Farm use of antibiotics defies scrutiny

3 September - The numbers released quietly by the federal government this year were alarming. A ferocious germ resistant to many types of [antibiotics](#) had increased tenfold on chicken breasts, the most commonly eaten meat on the nation's dinner tables. But instead of learning from a broad national inquiry into a troubling trend, scientists said they were stymied by a lack of the most basic element of research: solid data. Eighty percent of the antibiotics sold in the United States goes to chicken, pigs, cows and other animals that people eat, yet producers of meat and poultry are not required to report how they use the drugs — which ones, on what types of animal, and in what quantities. This dearth of information makes it difficult to document the precise relationship between routine antibiotic use in animals and antibiotic-resistant infections in people, scientists say. [New York Times](#)

[New York Times](#)

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WELLNESS

Common household chemical tied to heart disease risk

4 September - People who had higher levels of a common synthetic chemical in their blood were more likely to have heart disease or have had a stroke, in a new U.S. study. The chemical, known as perfluorooctanoic acid or PFOA, is found in everything from food containers to ski jackets to carpets. But the lead researcher emphasized that the new findings don't prove PFOA itself is dangerous or should be avoided. "I don't think these results should be taken as alarming. These are preliminary at this stage," said Dr. Anoop Shankar, from the West Virginia University School of Public Health in Morgantown. That's because it's not clear what came first for people in the study - the higher chemical levels or the heart disease. And research suggests almost all Americans have some level of PFOA in their blood, Shankar added. [Medline Plus](#)

Little evidence of health benefits from organic foods, study finds

3 September - ..."There isn't much difference between organic and conventional foods, if you're an adult and making a decision based solely on your health," said Dena Bravata, MD, MS, the senior author of a paper comparing the nutrition of organic and non-organic foods, published in the Sept. 4 issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine*. [Science Daily](#)

People can be fat yet fit, research suggests



4 September - People can be obese yet physically healthy and fit and at no greater risk of heart disease or cancer than normal weight people, say researchers. The key is being "metabolically fit", meaning no high blood pressure, cholesterol or raised blood sugar, and exercising, according to experts. Looking at data from over 43,000 US people they found that being overweight per se did not pose a big health risk. The results are published in the *European Heart Journal*. [BBC News](#)

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USAFRICOM

Ebola outbreak ending in Uganda, continues to affect neighboring DR Congo

4 September - "While Ebola continues to kill in the Democratic Republic of Congo, an outbreak of the virus in neighboring Uganda appears to be coming to an end, the World Health Organization said Monday, reporting that no new cases of the deadly virus had been

confirmed in Uganda for a month," the Los Angeles Times' "World Now" blog reports. "The Ugandan outbreak was first declared by its health ministry in late July, spurring health officials and the president to warn Ugandans against handling dead animals and burying those who might have died from the virus," the blog writes, noting, "Since the Ugandan outbreak began, 24 people are believed to have suffered from the virus, including 17 who died, the United Nations agency said." However, "neighboring Congo is still grappling with a separate outbreak of the virus," the blog adds, writing, "As of late August, the Congo outbreak had sickened 24 people and killed 11 more in the northeastern region of Province Orientale." [U.S. Global Health Policy](#)

Kenya: Floods displace thousands, destroy crops

5 September - Thousands of people have been displaced in parts of Kenya's Rift Valley Province as floodwaters continue to submerge houses and schools and destroy crops. They are among more than 240,000 people throughout eastern Africa are estimated to be affected by seasonal flooding. An estimated 642 households have been affected by flooding in the Kenyan districts of Baringo and Marigat, with at least five schools being submerged, according to data from the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). The floods have caused latrines to overflow, contaminating water sources. "I have no better water to drink. I have to use what is readily available, even if I am aware of the risk of contracting diseases," Lydiah Kuyale, a resident of Loropil Village in Marigat, told IRIN as she fetched flood water for domestic use. [IRIN](#)

Nigeria: Polio on rise, insecurity to blame

5 September - While most of the world sees polio as a thing of the past, the disease appears to be on the rise in Nigeria. The [Council on Foreign Relations](#), a U.S.-based think tank, says the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria's north is part of the problem and securing the area has to be part of the solution. The [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) says Nigeria has 77 new cases of polio this year so far - a near 25 percent increase compared to all of last year. And that's more than any other single country. [VOA](#)

Sierra Leone and Guinea: Cholera following severe rainfall



5 September - Heavy rainfall is accelerating the spread of cholera in Sierra Leone and Guinea. Existing health risks such as poor hygiene practices, unsafe water sources and improper waste management are believed to have triggered outbreaks of the disease, which has killed 327 people and infected more than 17,400 in both countries since February. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said Sierra Leone was facing its worst cholera outbreak in 15 years. Ten of the country's 13 districts have been affected, and the government has declared the outbreak a national emergency. Cholera has also broken out in nine of Guinea's 33 districts, OCHA said. Conakry, the capital, has been the hardest hit area, with 3,247 cases so far. [Guardian / Sierra Leone's cholera outbreak – in pictures](#)

South Sudan: Officials warn spread of hepatitis B

5 September - Health officials in Aweil's civil hospital in Northern Bahr El Ghazal state say they are treating a growing number of patients with Hepatitis B. They say if residents are not careful, the disease could rapidly spread throughout the region. Aweil Civil Hospital's Acting Director, Dr. Wol Wol Aken said they have been diagnosing 5 to 10 patients each month with Hepatitis B. He worries that residents are for the most part uneducated about the virus and could spread it unknowingly... Since Hepatitis B is highly contagious, Dr. Aken fears the hospital will not be able to contain the spread of the virus, since it is desperately short on supplies. [Journal of Turkish Weekly](#)

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USCENTCOM

Egypt: Troubled waters - Monufiya's contaminated water and low supply

30 August - Residents of Sansaft, a village in Monufiya Governorate, are suffering from an epidemic of severely contaminated local water supplies. Reports of the outbreak began to surface on Tuesday, just after Eid al-Fitr, as residents began rushing to local hospitals after falling ill. The Health Ministry says dozens checked into public hospitals, with symptoms of severe abdominal pain, diarrhea and vomiting. But residents claim the poisoned water has afflicted thousands to differing degrees. One 70-year-old Sansaft resident, Om Abdel Naby Ghoneim, died a few days ago. Locals blame her death on the contaminated water, but the Health Ministry says it was "age-related." Quick analyses of the village's water station were done at a local hospital, confirming that it was polluted, though detailed studies have not yet taken place. [Egypt Independent](#)

Pakistan: Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever

3 September - A confirmed patient with Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) expired here at the Holy Family Hospital [HFH] in August 2012. He was confirmed positive for this infection by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad in the afternoon of Thu 30 Aug 2012. The 65-year old male patient was brought to the HFH from a village in the area of Choa Sayden Shah, District Chakwal on 27 Aug 2012 with signs and symptoms of CCHF, while his history of animal handling was positive. "After suspecting the patient as a case of CCHF, the HFH kept him in isolation while informing the District Health Officer Chakwal Dr. Nasir of his status for surveillance purposes," said the Chairman of the Infection Control Committee at HFH, Dr. Javed Hayat, while talking to The News on Saturday [1 Sep 2012]. He added that the patient's sample was sent to the NIH for confirmation, but he died of the deadly infection on Wednesday [29 Aug 2012]. In answer to a query, Dr. Javed said that the doctors and staff who received and provided initial treatment to the patient, and who may have been exposed to the virus, have been under observation. He added that none of the exposed staff members have developed signs and symptoms of the infection as of yet.

[ProMED-mail](#)

Syria: Exodus gains speed - Record 100,000 refugees flee civil war in August alone



4 September - More than 100,000 Syrians sought refugee status during August in what the United Nations describes as an eye-popping escalation in the pace of departures since the hostilities began. The August total accounts for more than 40 percent of the 234,368 Syrian refugees who, as of the last count on September 2, had fled for surrounding countries since the uprising began 17 months ago, the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday... But even August's figure, which is the highest monthly total so far, only counts refugees who are registered and those awaiting registration. Officials acknowledge the real number of Syrian refugees is likely way above 200,000 since tens of thousands are believed to have not yet registered with authorities. [CBS News](#)

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USEUCOM

England, Wales: Pertussis cases far exceed last year's numbers

4 September - Pertussis cases in England and Wales are running far ahead of last year's pace, with 1,047 reported in July alone, compared with 1,118 for all of 2011, the UK Health Protection Agency (HPA) announced on Aug 31. The total pertussis case count for this year is 3,523, the HPA said. The outbreak is mainly affecting teenagers and young adults, but 235 infants under 3 months old have had the disease this year, and 6 have died, compared with 5 deaths in that age-group in 2008. Dr Gayatri Amirthalingam, MD, an immunization expert at the HPA, said parents should ensure that their children are vaccinated on time so that they are protected as early as possible and be alert to pertussis signs and symptoms. The Department of Health's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is reviewing a number of options for responding to the epidemic, including introducing a booster vaccination in teenagers and protecting newborn babies by vaccinating them and their families, as well as women during pregnancy, the HPA said. [CIDRAP News Scan](#)

Greece: Dengue, suspected

5 September - An elderly man has died in Greece in what officials believe to be the country's 1st case of dengue fever since the 1920s. The man, in his 80s, died in hospital on 30 Aug [2012] after contracting fever [virus] in the western village of Agrinio. Blood tests are being carried out to check whether villagers or members of his family also have the viral disease. [ProMED-mail](#)

United Kingdom: Beware of the cat - Britain's hidden toxoplasma problem



4 September - A parasite spread by cats is infecting 1,000 new people every day in Britain – about 350,000 a year – according to an official assessment of the risks posed by toxoplasma, which can cause serious illness and has been tentatively linked with schizophrenia and other psychotic disturbances... This week the

Food Standards Agency (FSA) will publish a "risk profile" of toxoplasma in the food chain, The Independent has learnt. The group of experts commissioned to write the report estimates that 350,000 new toxoplasma infections occur each year in the UK, most of them probably from eating contaminated food. Experts contacted by The Independent have urged the FSA to review its advice to pregnant women and immune-compromised patients and have strongly advised it to change its policy stating that it is safe for people to eat rare lamb. [Independent](#)

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USNORTHCOM

U.S.: In food insecurity, Arkansas at top, USDA reports

5 September - Arkansas ranked among the top in states with the highest levels of "food insecurity" last year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported Wednesday. About 50.12 million Americans, or 16.4 percent of the civilian population, were "food insecure" at some point last year, meaning that their access to adequate food was limited by a lack of money and other resources, the USDA said in its annual report. That represented a 2.6 percent increase from 2010, the figure was second only to the record 50.162 million in 2009, the USDA report said. The agency added 2011 increase in overall food insecurity was not considered statistically significant. However, those with food insecurity in the severe range, described by the USDA as having "very low food security," increased during the period, to 5.7 percent of households from 5.4 percent in 2010, returning to 2008 and 2009 levels, the report said. In Arkansas, 19.2 percent of households reported food insecurity, meaning low or very low food security, and 7.6 percent reported very low food security, according to the report. [Arkansas Online](#)

U.S.: Millions of Americans have uncontrolled high blood pressure, CDC

4 September - One-third of Americans have high blood pressure and only half of them have it under control, dramatically increasing their risk for possibly fatal heart attacks and strokes, a new government report shows. That translates into 67 million Americans with high blood pressure and only 36 million people keeping it at healthy levels through medication or other

means, the new data suggests. "[About half] of Americans with high blood pressure don't have it under control and because of that, it's public enemy number two," Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said during a Tuesday news conference. Public health enemy number one is tobacco, he added. [Medline Plus](#)

U.S.: National, state, and local Area vaccination coverage among children aged 19–35 months, 2011

7 September - High vaccination coverage in children by age 2 years has resulted in historically low levels of most vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States (1), but coverage must be maintained to reduce the burden of disease further and prevent a resurgence of these diseases, particularly in populations with lower vaccination coverage. This report describes national, state, and selected local area vaccination coverage by age 19–35 months for children born during January 2008–May 2010, based on 2011 National Immunization Survey (NIS) results. [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)

U.S., Yosemite National Park: Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome

4 September - As of 31 August 2012, the National Park Service Office of Public Health (NPS) has reported six cases of Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) among visitors to Yosemite National Park in California, United States of America. Two of the six cases died. Investigations carried out by the NPS revealed that the six cases contracted the disease in June and July of this year. Five of these six cases stayed in the same "Signature Tent Cabins" in the Curry Village area of the park. NPS is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health to detect additional cases and to heighten public health awareness of Hantavirus and HPS, in order to rapidly identify potential new cases and provide treatment early. [WHO](#)

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USPACOM

Asia: Women largely ignorant, fatalistic, about fertility

5 September - Women in Asia are largely ignorant about fertility problems and tend to blame their failure to conceive on "God's will" and bad luck, a survey has found. The survey, which covered 1,000 women in 10 countries who had been trying to conceive for at least six months, found that 62 percent of them did not suspect they may have a fertility problem. They were even less likely to point the finger at their husbands, with 80 percent of them not suspecting that their partners may have a problem with fertility. [Reuters](#)

Bangladesh: Farmers not heeding pesticide warnings

3 September - Despite government efforts to control pesticide misuse, farmers in Bangladesh continue to expose themselves and their communities to high health risks, experts say. "Both farmers and the communities are at high risk of some serious health problems due to excessive and indiscriminate use of pesticides," Shah Monir Hossain, a senior food safety adviser at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Bangladesh, told IRIN. [IRIN](#)

India steps up TB fight as fears of drug-resistant strains mount



5 September - The discovery of an almost untreatable form of tuberculosis in India has set off alarm bells around the world and helped spur a dramatic expansion of government efforts to battle the killer lung disease. For the past decade, a nationwide tuberculosis program involving millions of health workers and volunteers has made slow but significant progress in battling the disease in India and has been hailed as a public-health success story. But any sense of complacency was dispelled in December when a doctor in Mumbai, Zarir Udwadia, discovered a strain of the disease that did not respond to any of the 12 frontline drugs. He declared a handful of patients at his chest clinic in Mumbai to be suffering from "totally drug-resistant TB"... The government, however, recently announced a fourfold increase in the budget to fight tuberculosis in its next five-year plan, the expansion of a nationwide network of costly labs capable of detecting drug-resistant strains of the disease, and the first concerted effort to bring on board India's poorly regulated private health-care sector. [Washington Post](#)

Philippines: Leptospirosis

5 September - Dr Leonard Carbonell, [Dagupan City, Pangasinan province, Philippines] city health officer, said 24 leptospirosis cases were recorded at the peak of the disease in the 3rd week of August [2012]. 7 of them have died. The number of leptospirosis deaths here in a month may be unusually high, but a health official sees no need to declare an outbreak. According to the World Health Organization, an outbreak is the occurrence of cases of disease in excess of what is normally expected in a defined community, geographical area, or season. Carbonell said he expected a high number of leptospirosis cases in this coastal city due to prolonged flooding in several villages early this month because of monsoon rains. [ProMED-mail](#)

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Costa Rica: 7.6-magnitude quake hits coast

5 September - An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 struck the northwest coast of Costa Rica Wednesday, resulting in some damage, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The quake struck Costa Rica's Nicoya Peninsula, on the Pacific coast about 87 miles west of the capital, San Jose. It was centered more than 28 miles deep. The Geological Survey originally measured the quake at magnitude 7.9, but revised it downward. The earthquake did not generate any aftershocks, said Julie Dutton of the USGS. She said the agency has received reports of some damage... Authorities issued tsunami warnings for much of the Pacific coastlines of Costa Rica, Panama and Nicaragua, according to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. The warning was canceled for other locations. [CNN](#)

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