

17 July 2015

Army Public Health Weekly Update

U.S. Army Public Health Command



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Army Vector-borne Disease Report

West Nile Virus: 10 cases have been reported to the CDC from 7 states; no cases have been reported among Army beneficiaries.

PHCR-North: Of 576 Ixodes scapularis ticks tested, 83 were positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease, and 6 were positive for *B. miyamotoi*, which produces symptoms similar to tick-borne relapsing fever.

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- India: Burden of dengue, chikungunya in India far worse than understood
- Japan: Two dead, 620 hospitalized with heat stroke
- Myanmar: Dengue kills 60 in Myanmar
- Republic of Korea: Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

USSOUTHCOM

- Brazil reports 200,000 dengue cases in past month
- PAHO reports 28,000 new chikungunya cases

HHS Response and Recovery Resources Compendium

HHS Response and Recovery Resources Compendium Project is an easy to navigate, comprehensive web-based repository of HHS resources and capabilities available to Federal, State, local, territorial and tribal stakeholders before, during, and after public health and medical incidents.

The resources in this repository may also be useful for public health and medical emergency management officials. Each topic contains a list of the major HHS capabilities, products and services that support that function, a brief description of each and information on accessing them.



U.S. MILITARY

3 leave jobs over psychologists' involvement in terrorism interrogations

14 July - The nation's largest professional organization for psychologists announced a management shake-up on Tuesday. The action came days after a scathing report concluded that top officials of the group had colluded with government officials during the George W. Bush administration to assure that the organization's ethics rules did not bar psychologists from involvement in harsh interrogations about terrorist activity. The board of the organization, the American Psychological Association, said that three top officials, including the chief executive, Norman Anderson, were leaving the group. Another senior official was forced out last week, just before the report on the group's involvement with the Bush-era interrogations was released. [New York Times](#)

4-star: Army reviewing breastfeeding policy

14 July - The Army is reviewing its policy regarding nursing mothers after a lawmaker pushed legislation that would require the service to develop a comprehensive policy on breastfeeding. "The Army recognizes breastfeeding is beneficial to mother and baby, as both experience positive health benefits," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno wrote in a letter to Rep. Niki Tsongas, D-Mass. "Army leaders are required to provide the necessary time and support to female soldiers who decide to breastfeed their babies or express breast milk following maternity leave, ensuring that they have a designated, clean space in the work place." Tsongas ... pushed legislation that would require the Army, like the other services, to develop a comprehensive policy regarding breastfeeding. [Army Times](#)

Anthrax lab's history of 'f-ing around' with explosives

13 July - ... It's not just that Dugway [Proving Ground] failed for more than a decade to follow standard procedures for killing the lethal anthrax bacteria -- a long-running blunder that led to the lab shipping around the globe live anthrax samples that were supposed to be dead. (A Pentagon review of that biosafety breach is due this week.) Internal Army documents obtained by The Daily Beast show that Dugway's handling of dangerous explosives was so slipshod that Defense Department inspectors in 2014 recommended that a bomb-handling course be "suspended." [Daily Beast](#)

Are rideshare platforms like Uber the answer to limiting DUIs in the military?

14 July - ... Rideshare services such as Uber, Lyft, and Sidecar provide the opportunity to coordinate a nationwide program to incentivize positive decision-making while off duty. The idea would be to push service members to use these services rather than drive themselves when they plan to consume alcohol. The program would permit individual service members

**International
Infectious Disease
Emergencies and
Domestic
Implications for the
Public Health and
Health Care Sectors:
Workshop in Brief**

Emerging infectious disease events present a threat to U.S. national security, and we need improved efforts to coordinate a response both domestically and with global partners.

This Workshop in Brief summarizes a session held by the Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events at the 2015 Preparedness Summit to discuss international public health emergencies, such as Ebola, and their corresponding impact on state and local public health and health care systems.



to sign up for a promo code that allows for subsidized rides on one of those platforms. The code would only be good for a small amount (let's say \$5) and would expire every Sunday. ... Subsidizing rideshare programs sounds expensive, however the Department of Defense could pay for this program by allocating funds from other initiatives with similar objectives.

Task and Purpose

Benzodiazepines not recommended for patients with PTSD or recent trauma

14 July - Benzodiazepine drugs are widely used in patients with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but available evidence suggests that they are not effective--and may even be harmful, concludes a systematic review and meta-analysis in the July Journal of Psychiatric Practice. The journal is published by Wolters Kluwer. "Benzodiazepines are ineffective for PTSD treatment and prevention, and risks associated with their use tend to outweigh potential short-term benefits," write Dr. Jeffrey Guina and colleagues from Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. [EurekAlert!](#)

Leaked document: Nearly one-third of 847,000 veterans in backlog for VA health care already died

13 July - ... Scott Davis, a program specialist at the VA's Health Eligibility Center in Atlanta and a past whistleblower on the VA's failings, provided HuffPost with an April 2015 report titled "Analysis of Death Services," which reviews the accuracy of the VA's veteran death records. The report was conducted by staffers in the VA Health Eligibility Center and the VA Office of Analytics. ... As of April, there were 847,822 veterans listed as pending for enrollment in VA health care. Of those, 238,657 are now deceased, meaning they died after they applied for, but never got, health care. While the number is large -- representing nearly a third of those listed as pending -- some of the applicants may have died years ago. The VA has no mechanism to purge the list of dead applicants, and some of those applying, according to VA spokeswoman Walinda West, likely never completed the application, yet remain on the pending list anyway. [Huffington Post](#)

Military suicides down from last year

13 July - Suicides among active-duty troops dropped in the first quarter of 2015 compared to the same time in both 2013 and 2014. Tempering that good news: The Army, alone among the services, saw an increase, accounting for more than half the total number of service members who died by their own hand from January to March, according to Defense Department data released Friday. Over that span, 57 active-duty troops — 30 soldiers, 14 airmen, 10 sailors and three Marines — died by suicide, a 22 percent decline from the first quarter of 2014 and a 7 percent drop from 2013's first quarter. ... Army suicides have remained stubbornly high for the last two years despite an all-out effort by the service to emphasize suicide prevention and promote mental health treatment. The service also is in the midst of a personnel drawdown that should have an impact on the numbers, but has not. [Military Times](#)

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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Next generation of prosthetics restore capabilities and even a sense of touch

16 July – While athletes at the recently completed Warrior Games were able to run, jump and throw using some of the latest prosthetic arms and legs, the next generation of this technology will allow them to do much more. “We have developed prosthetics that interact directly with the brain and move much like a real limb. Beyond movement, these advances will restore the sense of touch,” said Michael McLoughlin, chief engineer for Research and Exploratory Development at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. [Health.mil](#)

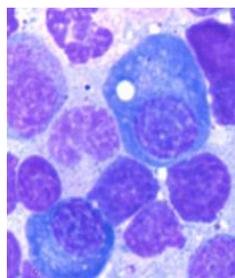
Risk of mental health disorders following an initial diagnosis of postpartum depression, active component, U.S. Armed Forces, 1998–2010

June 2015 - Postpartum depression (PPD) is one of the most common psychiatric conditions of the postpartum period. Several studies have found an association between PPD and other mental health disorders. The Defense Medical Surveillance System (DMSS) was used to identify a cohort of primiparous service women with PPD between 1998 and 2010 and match them by month of delivery to a cohort of women without PPD. During the surveillance period, there were 5,203 incident cases of PPD with a crude rate of 44.9 per 1,000 person-years. Individuals in the PPD cohort, when compared to their matched controls, were at higher risk for subsequent depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, and bipolar disorders. [Medical Surveillance Monthly Report](#)

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GLOBAL

Antibody-producing cells display 'historical record' of childhood infections



15 July - Long-lived plasma cells have a distinctive “fried egg” appearance, containing bubble-like vacuoles or lipid droplets, which are generally rare in bone marrow cell samples. Emory immunologists have found that these cells represent an archive of the immune system's responses to childhood infections. Immunologists from Emory University have identified a distinct set of long-lived antibody-producing cells in the human bone marrow that function as an immune archive. The cells keep a catalog of how an adult's immune system responded to

infections decades ago in childhood encounters with measles or mumps viruses. The results could provide vaccine designers with a goalpost when aiming for long-lasting antibody production. [HealthCanal](#)

Could dissolvable microneedles replace injected vaccines?

14 July - Flu vaccines delivered using microneedles that dissolve in the skin can protect people against infection even better than the standard needle-delivered vaccine, according to new research published in *Biomaterials*. The authors of the study, from Osaka University in Japan, say their dissolvable patch - the only vaccination system of its kind - could make vaccination easier, safer and less painful. [EurekAlert!](#)

Countries must invest more in mental health in hard times: WHO

14 July - Rich and poor countries alike must invest more in mental health care, especially during economic crises when rates of depression and suicide tend to rise, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday. One in 10 people worldwide has a mental health disorder but only one percent of the global health workforce is treating such illnesses, which are still widely stigmatized, the United Nations agency said. "The resources devoted to mental health, financial as well as human resources, remain extremely small all over the world," Dr. Shekhar Saxena, Director of WHO's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, told a news briefing. In countries caught up in war or natural disasters, demands on mental health services increases but budgets shrink, he said. [Reuters](#)

Engineering a shingles vaccine that doesn't wimp out over time

13 July – ... The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends [the shingles vaccine] for people age 60 and older. ... It prevents shingles 64 percent of the time overall, but loses effectiveness as years go by, just when people are getting more susceptible. ... A new vaccine that offers nearly complete protection against the painful shingles rash may be on the market as early as 2017. The vaccine, developed by the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline, has proved to be effective more than 97 percent of the time regardless of age. ... That study involved more than 16,000 patients age 50 and older, with some patients well into their 80s. The high degree of efficacy was there for all ages, Friedland says. What's different about this vaccine is something called an adjuvant — a chemical added to the vaccine with the sole job of "waking up" the immune system. [NPR](#)

Genetically engineered mosquitoes reduce dengue transmitters by 95 percent

3 July - The results of a trial of genetically engineered mosquitoes intended to reduce their ability to transmit dengue fever have been published in the journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical*

Diseases. The mosquitoes, commonly known as "Friendly *Aedes aegypti*" mosquitoes in Brazil where the trial took place, were developed by a company called Oxitec. The results of the trial showed that the numbers of the mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) that spreads dengue fever, yellow fever, chikungunya, and zika virus were reduced by more than 90%. "The fact that the number of *Aedes aegypti* adults were reduced by 95% in the treatment area confirms that the Oxitec mosquito does what it is supposed to, and that is to get rid of mosquitoes," said Dr. Andrew McKemey, head of field operations at Oxitec. "According to published mathematical models reviewed and recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) working group on dengue, it would also reduce the number of biting mosquitoes below the disease transmission threshold. The next step is to scale up to even larger studies and run mosquito control projects on an operational basis." [Entomology Today](#)

HIV: UN meets goal to treat 15 million

14 July - The goal to get HIV treatment to 15 million people by the end of 2015 has already been met, says the United Nations Aids agency. The landmark figure was reached in March - nine months ahead of schedule. It follows decades of global efforts and investment to get antiretroviral drugs to those in need - such as people living in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2000, when the UN first set goals to combat HIV, fewer than 700,000 people were receiving these vital medicines. According to UN Aids, which has a report out today, the global response to HIV has averted 30 million new HIV infections and nearly eight million Aids-related deaths since the millennium. [BBC News](#)

Severe burns may let "bad bacteria" take over the gut

10 July - People who have suffered severe burns are known to be at risk for a host of complications, but there may be other consequences lurking deeper within the body: A new study finds that a burn may change the community of bacteria within a person's gut, and possibly lead to an increased risk of infection. In the study, researchers analyzed fecal bacteria from four patients with severe burns over at least 30 percent of their body, and compared these bacteria with fecal bacteria of people with minor burns. They found that the severely burned patients had higher levels of a potentially dangerous group of bacteria called Enterobacteriaceae, which includes *E. coli* and *Salmonella*. [Scientific American](#)

Unraveling the relationship between climate change and health

13 July - ... The science is in its infancy. Data on insects, pollen counts and diseases in developing countries is often patchy. Many studies show associations, meaning two things are happening at the same time, but it is not clear that one is causing the other. ... Evidence is accumulating, however. In 2000, the first National Climate Assessment, a government document weaving together the best evidence on climate change, had just 21 pages on health. The most recent assessment included a special section on health that filled more than 400 pages. Two peer-reviewed British journals — Philosophical Transactions B and The

Lancet — have dedicated many pages to the topic this year. Europeans, unburdened by the level of political controversy over climate change in the United States, often give more conclusive interpretations of the science. ... A study in The Lancet in May analyzed 74 million deaths from 1985 to 2012 in more than 10 countries, including the United States, and found that about 8 percent of the deaths had been caused by abnormal temperatures. Of those, the rate of death from cold — more than 7 percent — far outnumbered that from heat, about 0.42 percent. [New York Times](#)

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INFLUENZA

CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

For week 26 ending July 4, 2015:

- During week 26, 5.5% 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 6.1% for week 26.
- Nationwide during week 26, 1.0% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.0%. [FluView](#)

Flu News Europe

This site is currently being blocked at the Army NETCOM level. We hope to get access again shortly. [Flu News Europe](#)

Naval Health Research Center: Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update

For week 27 (through 11 July 2015):

Influenza

- No new cases of NHRC laboratory-confirmed influenza among US military basic trainees.
- Recent clusters of influenza A and B cases at MCRD San Diego. No evidence of vaccine breakthrough at this time.

FRI surveillance at all eight U.S. military basic training centers indicated elevated FRI rates at Ft. Jackson and CGTC Cape May. [NHRC Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update](#)

WHO Influenza Update

13 July - Globally, influenza activity increased or remained at elevated levels in the Southern hemisphere whereas it continued at low levels in the Northern hemisphere.

- In North America, Europe and temperate countries in Asia, influenza activity remained at low, inter-seasonal levels in all regions with sporadic detections of mainly influenza B virus.
- With the exception of southern Africa, only a few countries reported influenza data. Levels of influenza activity were low or decreasing in these countries.
- In tropical countries of the Americas/Central America and the Caribbean, influenza activity was reported to be at inter-seasonal levels whereas RSV activity had increased.
- In western and temperate countries of Asia, low levels of influenza activity were reported where influenza type A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza B predominated in recent weeks.
- In tropical Asia, influenza activity remained at elevated levels. Both influenza type A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) were equally dominant during the last few weeks.
- In temperate South America, influenza activity was low while RSV detections increased. However, Paraguay had decreasing RSV detections.
- Influenza activity remained elevated in South Africa with influenza type A(H1N1)pdm09, A(H3N2), and B co-circulating.
 - In Australia and New Zealand, influenza activity continued to increase and surpassed the seasonal threshold in Australia. [WHO](#)

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VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

Are ideals of canine beauty making our dogs fat?

16 July - Obesity has become so common in canines that even show dogs are overweight. One in four dogs that placed in the top five in their class in Britain's Crufts national dog show, which calls itself the world's largest, is overweight, a new study in the journal Veterinary Record reports. That's better than the overall percentage of overweight dogs in the country – about half of the pet dogs in Britain are too heavy. But it surprised the study's authors, since show dogs are supposed to represent the ideal specimens of their breed.

[New York Times](#)

Basic hygiene blamed for mass food poisoning in Philippines

16 July - Philippine authorities said Thursday the poison in a batch of candy that sent nearly 2,000 children to hospital was likely a common germ from dirty hands or sweaty armpits.

Health Secretary Janette Garin appealed for better hygiene standards in the food industry, as she announced test results indicating a bacteria found in human skin and hair likely contaminated the sweets. ... At least 1,925 people, mostly children, in the southern Philippines were hospitalised over the past week with stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhoea and other illnesses after eating the fruit-flavoured candy. Nearly all have since recovered, with only one remaining in hospital. [Yahoo! News](#)

Report profiles *E coli* O157:H7 outbreaks from 2003 to 2012

15 July - More *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 outbreaks were reported in the decade from 2003 through 2012 than in the preceding two decades, probably because of better surveillance, but the share of foodborne outbreaks attributed to beef declined, according to a report today in Emerging Infectious Diseases. CDC scientists identified 390 *E coli* O157:H7 outbreaks over the 10 years involving 4,928 illnesses, 1,272 hospitalizations, and 33 deaths. Food led the list of sources, accounting for 255 outbreaks (65%). [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (second item)

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WELLNESS

Algae, quinoa, legumes top list of alternative protein choices

14 July - Algae is evolving as the next new alternative protein source consumers are anxious to bite into as an ingredient in crackers, snack bars, cereals and breads, according to a July 12th presentation at IFT15: Where Science Feeds Innovation hosted by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) in Chicago. Algae, quinoa and pulses are considered by some food technologists to be the best protein sources and strong alternatives to slow meat consumption, reduce food waste and help feed the world's growing population. [EurekAlert!](#)

IBM's traveling moms can ship breast milk home for free

13 July - IBM wants to help the company's working moms ship breast milk home while they're on business trips. The company expects to launch the program, which was first reported by Fortune, in September. IBM came up with the idea for the program after participants in a focus group for its working mothers expressed concern about the issue. ... The program will start with domestic travel, but the intent is to take it global, she added. IBM has 400,000 employees and clients in more than 175 countries. Details are still being worked out, but the company hopes to have women use a smartphone app to have a temperature-controlled package, like the ones made by "NanoCool," delivered to their

hotel. IBM will pay for the packaging and shipping expenses. [CNN Money](#)

Intellectual pursuits may buffer the brain against addiction

14 July - Challenging the idea that addiction is hardwired in the brain, a new UC Berkeley study of mice suggests that even a short time spent in a stimulating learning environment can rewire the brain's reward system and buffer it against drug dependence. Scientists tracked cocaine cravings in more than 70 adult male mice and found that those rodents whose daily drill included exploration, learning and finding hidden tasty morsels were less likely than their enrichment-deprived counterparts to seek solace in a chamber where they had been given cocaine. [EurekAlert!](#)

Keeping adults in the game

16 July - The benefits of staying active as we age are striking. In addition to keeping the body strong, regular exercise can reduce the risk of heart disease, blood pressure, stroke, and some cancers, experts say. It can even improve cognitive function. But if keeping the body moving is so good for us, why do so many adults who played sports when they were young stop doing so? The reasons, according to a new study, include a lack of time, interest, or access, in addition to health issues. The study also found a clear gender and income gap. ... The new poll, conducted by National Public Radio, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Harvard Chan School, interviewed 2,506 adults over the age of 18. It found that the majority of those who had played sports when they were younger no longer did, with a significant drop-off coming after age 26. [Harvard Gazette](#)

Restaurant food not much healthier than fast food

15 July - Home cooking is still the best way to control the calories, fat, sugar and other nutrients that families consume, a new U.S. study suggests. Researchers found that eating food from restaurants - whether from fast food places, or better establishments - led to increases in calories, fat and sodium compared to meals made at home. Public health interventions targeting dining-out behavior in general, rather than just fast food, may be warranted to improve the way Americans' eat, says the study's author. [Reuters](#)

Should more women give birth outside the hospital?



13 July – A recent recommendation from doctors in the United Kingdom raised eyebrows in the United States: The British National Health Service says healthy women with straightforward pregnancies are better off staying out of the hospital to deliver their babies. That's heresy, obstetrician Dr. Neel Shah first thought. In the United States, 99 percent of babies are born in hospitals. ... He compared birth outcomes here in the U.S. and Britain, especially the cesarean rates, which average 33 percent in the U.S.

compared with 26 percent in the U.K. And he started to think the British were on to something. He compared birth outcomes here in the U.S. and Britain, especially the cesarean rates, which average 33 percent in the U.S. compared with 26 percent in the U.K. And he started to think the British were on to something. [NPR](#)

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USAFRICOM

Cameroon: Measles virus races through northwest Cameroon

11 July - A measles epidemic is sweeping through northwestern Cameroon, with reports of more than 300 children infected and several deaths in just a week. Dr. Sama Julius of the expanded immunization program in northwestern Cameroon said the epidemic got its start because people were refusing to vaccinate their children. "The cases that died was because the measles was compounded by malnutrition," Julius said. ... Cameroon's Ministry of Public Health reported that only 20 percent of the population seeks medical attention in conventional health centers. Consequently, many more children may have been caught up in the epidemic. [VOA](#)

Gene study points to Liberian source for new Ebola cluster

10 July - The source of Liberia's recent Ebola cluster became a little clearer today, with genetic sequencing results showing similarity to earlier viruses in Liberia instead of suggesting an import from Guinea or Sierra Leone or a new introduction from an animal, the World Health Organization (WHO) said today. In other developments today, on the second day of a United Nations (UN) conference to help the three hardest-hit nations recover from the Ebola epidemic, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the goal was to raise \$3.2 billion over the next 2 years. [CIDRAP](#)

Liberia confirms 2nd Ebola death in resurgent outbreak

15 July - A second person in Liberia has died from Ebola in the latest resurgence of the deadly disease in the West African nation, an official said Wednesday. The woman in her early 20s who died on July 12 was linked to the 17-year-old boy who died last month, Deputy Health Minister Tolbert Nyenswah told The Associated Press. Three other confirmed cases are being treated in Monrovia, he said. Some of the more than 120 people under observation in Nedowein, southeast of Monrovia, could be discharged once they complete 21 days of quarantine and show no signs of infection, he said. [BBC News](#)

UN says Ebola outbreak 'not yet finished'

13 July - Africa's Ebola outbreak has not run its course and about 30 people are still getting infected each week, the United Nations' special envoy for the deadly disease has said. Under normal circumstances, such an infection rate would be considered "a major, major outbreak," David Nabarro said on Monday. "Probably about one third of these people are not coming from the contact list, which means they are surprise cases, and that's a big worry," Nabarro told a conference organised by the World Health Organization in Cape Town. [Al Jazeera](#)

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USCENTCOM

Afghanistan: For a therapist in Afghanistan, empathy is good medicine



14 July - As one of only five female therapists in the northeastern Afghan province of Kapisa, Farkhunda Shahab struggles to soothe the anguished. ... The Afghan government has made mental health care a priority only for the last four years. To make care more affordable, and decrease the stigma attached to it, the Health Ministry incorporated counseling into the primary health care

service it provides across the country, placing "psychosocial counselors" like Ms. Shahab in some local clinics. One ministry official said mental health care could still be a hard sell for international donors and senior Afghan leaders. There are only about 260 of the counselors across the country, for a population of nearly 35 million. Still, offering nonmedical services in local clinics has proved to be a big step forward, said Ms. Missmahl, whose organization trains the counselors. [New York Times](#)

Pakistan: Monsoon woes - Health centres told to be prepared for disease outbreak

14 July - The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has directed medical centres working under it to make arrangements to deal with various waterborne diseases during the monsoon. CDA Directorate of Health Services (DHS) has instructed all the medical centres to stockpile first-aid kits and medicines. DHS Director Dr Hasan Urooj said waterborne diseases, typhoid, cholera, malaria and cases of snakebite are usually reported more frequently during the monsoon season. [Express Tribune](#)

Saudi Arabia confirms 2 new MERS cases

13 July - After going 9 straight days without a MERS-CoV case, Saudi Arabia today reported two. ... Both are Saudi nationals, neither is a health worker, and neither had recent contact with a MERS patient. The man is in intensive care, while the woman is in a medical ward. No further information was given. Jeddah is in western Saudi Arabia, near Mecca, while Jizan is in the far southwestern part of the country. The country has now confirmed 1,047 cases, including 460 deaths. Seven patients remain in care, while 580 have recovered, the MOH said. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (first item)

Yemen: WHO delivers urgent health supplies to Aden

14 July - The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday it had delivered life-saving medical supplies to the southern city of Aden in Yemen, where most health facilities are "non-functional" due to fighting and critical shortages of supplies. In a statement, the WHO said it had brought 46.4 tonnes of assistance including trauma kits, medicines for treating malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, and water and sanitation supplies for more than 84,000 people in six trucks as part of a United Nations convoy. [VOA](#)

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USEUCOM

Greece bans export of 25 drugs after pharmacists' supply warnings

14 July - Greece has decided to ban the export of 25 types of drugs, the Health Ministry said on Tuesday, following warnings of possible shortages that risked leading to a humanitarian crisis. A ministry spokeswoman quoted the Greek drugs regulator as saying there had been a significant increase in some imported medicines being shipped back out of the country. "Abuses by some players in the pharmaceuticals market have been discovered," she told Reuters. [Reuters](#)

United Kingdom: Large UK trial to ask if mindfulness boosts teenage mental health

15 July - Nearly 6,000 British school children are to take part in a major trial designed to assess whether mindfulness training for teenagers can improve their mental health. Mindfulness is based on the idea of being more aware of the present by intentionally focussing on emotions, thoughts and sensations and viewing them with acceptance. Advocates say this understanding helps people to respond in ways that are more purposeful, rather than reacting on "automatic pilot". The three-part study will include the

first large randomised control trial of mindfulness training compared with teaching as usual in 76 schools. [Reuters](#)

United Kingdom: Tax sugary drinks by 20%, say doctors

13 July - An extra 20% tax on sugary drinks should be introduced to tackle the obesity crisis, the British Medical Association says. It estimates poor diets are causing around 70,000 premature deaths each year. In a major report on unhealthy diets, the body called for the extra money raised to be used to subsidise fresh fruit and vegetables. [BBC News](#)

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USNORTHCOM

Canada: Chickenpox arrives at the Pan Am Games

13 July - A member of Mexico's female soccer team at the Pan Am Games has been diagnosed with chickenpox, Games officials have confirmed. [Vancouver Sun](#)

U.S.: CDC study maps relentless spread of Lyme disease in US

15 July - The number of US counties with a high incidence of Lyme disease grew more than threefold over the 20 years from 1993 through 2012 as the illness spread across the Northeast and Upper Midwest, according to a new report in Emerging Infectious Diseases. Researchers with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tallied cases of the tick-borne disease reported at the county level over the 20-year period. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (first item)

U.S.: Colorado rejects medical marijuana for PTSD treatment

16 July - Colorado health officials on Wednesday rejected a bid by medical marijuana advocates to put cannabis on a list of approved treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder, an agency spokesman said. While Colorado has allowed the use of medical marijuana to treat various ailments since 2001, the state's health board has three times refused to put PTSD on its approved list. A similar proposal failed in the state legislature last year. [Reuters](#)

U.S.: Doctors and nurses often work while sick

13 July - A study of health care workers in a children's hospital has found that 83 percent had come to work while sick at least once in the past year, even though almost all believed

that working while ill can endanger patients. The study, in JAMA Pediatrics, asked 536 hospital workers about how often they came to work sick. It also asked with what ailments they might do so. Almost 80 percent of the 280 doctors said they would work with a cough or runny nose, and 60 percent with congestion and a sore throat. More than 21 percent said they would come to work with a fever, and almost 8 percent said they would work even if they were vomiting. The numbers were significantly lower for 256 nurses, midwives and physician assistants. Even so, 70 percent said they would work while coughing, and half while afflicted with a runny nose, cough, congestion or sore throat. [New York Times](#)

U.S.: FDA boosts its heart-attack warning on NSAIDs, sows confusion

10 July - ... The FDA has strengthened its words of caution for people who use these nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, but in a way that may be confusing. Researchers have known for 15 years that these drugs, in high doses, can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke. But the drugs are also powerful tools for easing the pain of arthritis, headaches and muscle injuries. So how do you balance the benefits of taking these drugs against the risks? ... The short answer he offers could apply to any medicine, anytime, and you don't need to read a fine-print warning label to know this: Take as small a dose of a medicine as is appropriate, and take it for only as long as you need it. [NPR](#)

U.S.: FDA to take another look at Essure contraceptive device after health complaints

14 July - ... Essure, approved by the FDA in 2002 for women ages 21 to 45, is a very soft, flexible metal spring made from a nickel-titanium alloy. OB-GYNs insert one Essure coil into each fallopian tube. Over the next several months, scar tissue grows around it, thereby blocking the tubes and preventing eggs from becoming fertilized or making their way to the uterus. ... [There is] a Facebook group ... of more than 18,000 women who have experienced similar problems and others, ranging from mild to serious, that they attribute to Essure. ... Now the FDA is taking them seriously. The agency updated the short- and long-term risks listed on its website, as well as adverse events reported through May. The FDA also scheduled a public advisory meeting of its Obstetrics and Gynecology Devices Panel on Sept. 24 that will bring together experts, physicians and patient and industry advocates to review the data and hear public comments from women. [NPR](#)

U.S.: Few states require HPV vaccine

14 July - An examination of state vaccination requirements for adolescents finds that the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is currently required in only two states, many fewer than another vaccine associated with sexual transmission (hepatitis B) and another primarily recommended for adolescents (meningococcal conjugate), according to a study in the July 14 issue of JAMA. Eight years after HPV vaccines were first recommended in the United States, vaccination coverage is substantially below the Healthy People 2020 target of 80 percent. [EurekAlert!](#)

U.S.: Lead poisoning is still a public health crisis for African-Americans

13 July - ... Some children are at greater risk for lead poisoning than others. A HuffPost analysis of available lead poisoning data for U.S. cities found a correlation between cities with high percentages of African-American residents and elevated lead poisoning rates. "This is a disease that primarily impacts African-Americans," Chachère said. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, children of color whose families are poor and who live in housing built before 1950 have the highest lead poisoning risk. On average, between 1999 and 2004, black children were 1.6 times more likely to test positive for lead in their blood than white children. And among children who tested positive for extremely high lead levels (≥ 10 micrograms per deciliter), the disparity was even more stark. Black children were nearly three times more likely than white children to have highly elevated blood-lead levels, the type of lead poisoning where the most damaging health outcomes occur.

[Huffington Post](#)

U.S.: Monsanto says 'expert panel' to review WHO finding on cancer link to herbicide



14 July - Monsanto Co, maker of one of the world's most widely used herbicides Roundup, said Tuesday that a panel of scientific experts will review the findings of a World Health Organization cancer research unit that found the key ingredient in Roundup is "probably carcinogenic to humans." The WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer's

(IARC) said in March that it came to the conclusion that the key ingredient known as glyphosate was probably cancer-causing after reviewing a range of scientific literature. ... Monsanto said it has asked the Intertek Scientific & Regulatory Consultancy to convene a panel of internationally recognized scientific experts to conduct the review of IARC's work.

[Reuters](#)

U.S.: Planned Parenthood apologizes for official's tone in video

16 July - Planned Parenthood Federation of America President Cecile Richards apologized for the lack of compassion portrayed by an executive in an undercover video but continued to refute claims that the organization is profiting from fetal tissue donation. ... The original undercover video was released by an anti-abortion advocacy group earlier this week. The video, which Planned Parenthood has called "heavily edited," shows Senior Director of Medical Services Dr. Deborah Nucatola, discussing the organization's process to donate fetal tissue, as she is shown eating a salad and drinking wine. [Politico](#)

U.S.: Rates of drunk driving tied to state alcohol policies, BU study finds

14 July - States with more restrictive alcohol policies and regulations have lower rates of self-reported drunk driving, according to a new study by researchers at the Boston University schools of public health and medicine and the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The research team assigned each state an "alcohol policy score," based on an aggregate of 29 alcohol policies, such as alcohol taxation and the use of sobriety checkpoints. [EurekaAlert!](#)

U.S.: Six still unaccounted for in Kentucky after devastating floods

15 July - Kentucky State Police searched Wednesday for six people unaccounted for after flash floods killed two others, mangled cars and homes and took out power lines. The six included two who were spotted being swept away by floodwater, Trooper Steven Mounts told reporters. Gov. Steve Beshear declared a state of emergency to speed state money and resources to local authorities. ... Severe storms ravaged Kentucky on Monday and Tuesday. [NBC News](#)

U.S.: Texas *Cyclospora* outbreaks grows to 161 cases

14 July - The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) reported 10 new *Cyclospora* infections yesterday, lifting the outbreak total to 161 cases. So far 31 of the state's 254 counties have reported cases, with Travis County, which includes Austin, reporting by far the most illnesses, with 73. Dallas County is second with 14. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (first item)

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USPACOM

China: Bigger may not be better for China's 'super hospitals'

14 July - ... The world's biggest hospital with about 7,000 beds, Zhengzhou First Affiliated, in central China, is still not big enough. ... Demand for healthcare is booming in China, driven by a growing middle class, improved health insurance coverage and an aging population. In response, some of the country's public hospitals are adding beds by the thousand. China now has 16 public hospitals with more than 3,000 beds. New York-Presbyterian, the largest hospital in the United States according to Becker's Hospital Review, has 2,478 beds. ... Hospital build-outs testify to a lack of public confidence in rural healthcare. They add to local government debt and may not be providing cost-effective care. [Reuters](#)

India: Burden of dengue, chikungunya in India far worse than understood

16 July - ... [An] extremely high number of people in southern India are exposed to two mosquito-borne viruses -- dengue and chikungunya. These findings, the researchers say, reinforce the need for officials to be on the lookout for these diseases and to find ways to control its spread not only in India but also around the world. The researchers ... tested blood samples from 1,010 people across 50 locations in Chennai, a city with over 6 million people in South India, and found that nearly all of them had been exposed to dengue and 44 percent had been exposed to chikungunya. Surprisingly, almost none of the people who had been exposed to dengue reported having been infected by it, either because they weren't properly diagnosed with the disease or because they didn't show symptoms. [Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health News](#)

Japan: Two dead, 620 hospitalized with heat stroke

13 July - Two people died of heat stroke and 620 were hospitalized on Monday in Japan, the NHK television reported. On Monday morning, the country's meteorological agency issued a warning for hot weather. Temperatures in central Tokyo reached as high as 93.6 degrees Fahrenheit, while in Niigata prefecture on the island of Honshu temperature was as high as 101.1 degrees Fahrenheit, according to media reports. According to the NHK, temperatures have risen above 95 degrees Fahrenheit at 120 weather observation points across the country, and above 86 degrees Fahrenheit at 500 observation points. [Panorama.am](#)

Myanmar: Dengue kills 60 in Myanmar

14 July - Dengue fever has killed 60 people in Myanmar as of July 10 since its outbreak in January, the media reported on Sunday. The disease has infected more than 10,000 people in the country this year, doubling last year's figure, the health ministry was quoted as saying. With Yangon registering the highest death rate, there are about 200-250 dengue fever cases reported daily across the country. [Focus News](#)

Republic of Korea: Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

14 July - Between 11 and 14 July 2015, the National IHR Focal Point of the Republic of Korea notified WHO of 1 additional death related to Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) but no new cases of infection. To date, a total of 186 MERS-CoV cases, including 36 deaths, have been reported. One of the 186 cases is the case that was confirmed in China and also notified by the National IHR Focal Point of China. [WHO](#)

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Brazil reports 200,000 dengue cases in past month

12 July - The number of dengue fever cases in Brazil have increased by approximately 200,000 cases in the past month, according to new data from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Friday. As of June 12, about 1,026,000 probable and confirmed cases have been reported. The latest numbers from the PAHO this past Friday puts Brazil's case count at about 1,250,000 probable and confirmed cases in 2015. In 2013, the count exceeded 1.4 million cases. In the Americas as a whole, more than 1.5 million cases have been reported this year. Mexico, Colombia and Paraguay have all reported in the 40,000 case ballpark. [Outbreak News Today](#)

PAHO reports 28,000 new chikungunya cases

13 July - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on Jul 10 reported 28,273 new chikungunya cases in the previous 2 weeks, bringing the epidemic total in the Americas to 1,564,793 cases. As has been the case for weeks, a large share of the new chikungunya cases were in Colombia, which reported 16,503 new infections, for a total of 290,287. El Salvador was next with 6,824 new cases, bringing its outbreak total to 20,906 cases. Brazil had 3,977 new cases, for 7,079 total. Many countries, however, have not reported data for weeks. [CIDRAP News Scan](#) (fourth item)

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