



CDC Connection:

For the Advisory Committee to the Director—March 2012

Issues and Alerts

US Families Struggle to Pay Medical Expenses—A CDC report [Financial Burden of Medical Care: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January–June 2011](#) (PDF) finds that 20% of households struggle to pay medical expenses. ([Mar 7 US News & World Report](#); [Mar 7 Washington Post](#)) ■ **Hepatitis C Now Kills More Americans than HIV**—Hepatitis C has surpassed HIV as a killer of U.S. adults, yet 50% to 75% of people with the illness don't realize they have it, according a CDC study in the [Feb. 21 2012 Annals of Internal Medicine](#). ([Feb 23 Reuters Health](#); [Feb 23 Chicago Tribune](#); [Feb. 23 Time Magazine](#)) ■ **Kids Consume Too Much Sugar in Processed Foods**—A recent CDC report from the [National Center for Health Statistics](#) found that although the percentage of calories kids consume through added sugar declined between 2007 and 2008, 16 percent of total calories they consumed came from added sugars. ([Feb 29 NCHS Data Brief](#); [Feb 29 CBS News](#); [Feb 29 WebMD](#)) ■ **So Far Flu Season's Late and Mild**—Far fewer Americans than usual have been hospitalized with flu—there have been only 3 confirmed flu deaths among children to date—though [flu activity](#) is increasing. ([Feb 23 CDC Press Briefing](#); [Feb 24 MMWR](#); [Feb 24 New York Times](#)) ■ **Stopping *C. difficile* Infections: Update from CDC Vital Signs**—Although most [health care-associated infections](#) are declining, those caused by *C. difficile* remain at historically high levels and cost at least \$1 billion in extra health care costs annually. ([Mar 6 CDC Vital Signs](#)) Previous *CDC Vital Signs* focused [high sodium levels](#) in common foods and on problems from [binge drinking](#). ■ **Raw Milk Causes Most Dairy-Related Disease Outbreaks**—Among the findings in a recent study in CDC's [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#) journal is that the rate of outbreaks caused by raw milk and associated products made is 150 times greater than outbreaks linked to pasteurized milk. ([Feb 21 CDC Press Release](#); [Feb 21 Emerging Infectious Diseases](#); [Feb 22 CBS News](#)) ■ **CDC Issues Warning for Bath Refinishing Chemical Linked to Fatalities**—CDC recently warned against using a common paint-stripping chemical to refinish bathtubs after tying it to 13 deaths in 10 states. ([Feb 24 MMWR](#); [Feb 24 USA Today](#)) ■ **CDC Data Show Most Physicians Do Not Recommend Exercise**—Data from CDC's National Health Interview Survey of 2010 reveal that only one in three patients who had seen a doctor in the past year said they had been advised to begin exercise or continue exercising. ([Feb 9 CDC NCHS Data Brief](#); [Feb 10 LA Times](#)) ■ **New Influenza A Virus Discovered in Fruit Bats**—Researchers in study in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) identified an influenza virus in fruit bats found in Guatemala—the first flu virus discovered in bats—but do not feel the virus currently poses any human health risks. ([Feb 27 CDC Press Release](#); [Feb 27 Nature](#))





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Director's Highlights

Lancet Publishes Overview of CDC's Center for Global Health – CDC Director Frieden and CGH Director Kevin M De Cock coauthored a just-published article that describes CDC's evidence-based global health programs. ([Mar 7 Lancet PDF](#)) ■ **Director Addresses**

Prescription Drug Overdoses via CNN Interview, Twitter – CDC Director Frieden addressed the issues and dangers tied to overdoses of prescription opioid painkillers which cost the United States close to \$70 billion a year and which kill 40 people a day ([Feb 24 CNN story and video](#); [CDC Twitter Chat Transcript](#)) ■ **Dr. Frieden Delivers NIH Lecture** – Dr. Frieden recently delivered the Kinyoun Lecture at NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. During his presentation, "A Public Health Approach to Infectious Disease Prevention and Control for the 21st Century," he discussed a wide range of diseases affecting people both within the United States and around the world, including tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tobacco-related illnesses. ([Jan 6 NIH Record](#))

Advisory Committee to the Director Updates

The next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2012. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Our Members

Sandy Climan has recently been named as CEO for All Nippon Entertainment Works Inc., or ANEW, a newly formed global entertainment studio. ([Feb 28 Virtual Strategy Magazine](#)) ■

Thomas Farley is quoted in several recent articles about the decline in the overall suicide rate and in suicides by firearm in NYC during the past two decades. ([Feb 25 UPI](#)) ■ **Eduardo**

Sanchez's remarks about the benefits of having healthier employees through workplace wellness programs appeared in a recent article. ([Mar 2 Houston Business Journal](#)) ■

FYI: Resources

- [CDC Calendar of Events](http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm>)
- [CDC Vital Signs](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/HAI/index.html) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/HAI/index.html>)
- [CDC Blogs](http://blogs.cdc.gov/) (URL: <http://blogs.cdc.gov/>)
- [Advisory Committee to the Director](http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)
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