

Staying Connected for CDC Partners

CDC UPDATES

CDC Report Highlights Lack of Healthy Food Environments for Children—Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia scored at or below the national average for the Modified Retail Food Environment Index, a measure of the proportion of food retailers that typically sell healthy foods within a state. Nationally, the average Modified Retail Food Environment Index score was 10. State-by-state scores ranged from highs of 16 in Montana and 15 in Maine to lows of 5 in Rhode Island and 4 in the District of Columbia. ([Children's Food Environment State Indicator Report, 2011](#); [State Tables](#))

U.S. Teen Birth Rate Fell to Record Low in 2009—However, more than 400,000 teen girls still give birth each year in United States. Teen birth rates have decreased by 37% in the last two decades, though U.S. rates are up to nine times higher than in other developed countries, according to the latest [CDC Vital Signs](#) report. About 46% of teens have had sexual intercourse; of those, 14% of teen girls and 10% of teen boys report using no type of birth control, the report says. ([CDC Vital Minute Podcast](#))

Using Technology to Fight the Flu: the CDC Flu App Challenge—CDC seeks an innovative use of technology to raise awareness on ways to prevent and treat the flu. CDC compiles a wealth of data that often go unnoticed by the technical community. The mission of the [CDC Flu App Challenge](#) is to promote healthy behavior for flu prevention by introducing these resources to the software development community to develop useful and innovative solutions with those data. CDC is challenging contestants to create new ways to use technology through personal computers, mobile handheld devices, or any platform broadly accessible to the open Internet. The contestant chooses the appropriate technology and designs the idea, while CDC provides the data. Tech-savvy contestants must register on [CDC's Flu App Website](#) by [creating an account](#) between April 6, 2011, and May 27, 2011. All submissions must be available by May 27, 2011, for public voting and judging purposes.

IN THE NEWS

CDC Supports National Initiative to Improve Patient Safety—On April 12, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the [Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs](#) initiative aimed at preventing health care-acquired conditions in healthcare facilities. CDC is among several federal agencies participating in the initiative. "Americans expect and deserve safe health care," said CDC director Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH, who has made patient safety a top priority at CDC. "CDC has an established track record of improving the quality of healthcare delivery. This new initiative will help protect patients and ensure that they live healthier, longer, and more productive lives while reducing healthcare costs." ([CDC Media Statement April 15](#))

Animal Planet Series to Feature CDC Experts—The TV network, Animal Planet, will air six episodes of their new series, "[Killer Outbreaks](#)," beginning April 15. Each episode features potentially deadly viruses and includes commentary from CDC experts and outbreak victims. The show transforms the everyday jobs of many CDC staff into a thrilling docu-drama.

CDC Study Finds Suicide Rates Rise and Fall with Economy—The CDC study, "Impact of Business Cycles on the U.S. Suicide Rates, 1928–2007," released online by the *American Journal of Public Health*, is the first to examine the relationships between age-specific suicide rates and business

cycles. The study found the strongest association between business cycles and suicide among people 25–64 years old—the prime working ages. ([CDC Press Release April 14](#))

PROGRAM UPDATES

CDC Helps Haiti Successfully Test and Adopt Rapid Diagnostic Tests for Malaria—

Already a major public health problem in Haiti, malaria became a bigger challenge after Haiti lost much of its public health infrastructure in the January 12, 2010, earthquake. With CDC's help, Haitian officials evaluated rapid diagnostic tests as a potential tool in a national strategy to quickly and accurately diagnose and treat malaria. Recognizing that millions of people displaced by the earthquake were at increased risk of malaria because of mosquito exposure from sleeping in open air or in tents, CDC helped Haiti's Ministry of Public Health and Population test whether rapid diagnostic tests could help meet the country's acute need for quick malaria diagnostics. During two weeks in April, the Ministry of Public Health and Population and CDC gathered in-country, local data and experience that would lay the groundwork for a policy change. Considering that information along with known evaluations of rapid diagnostic tests and WHO recommendations, the Ministry of Public Health and Population approved three rapid diagnostic tests for diagnosis of *P. falciparum* malaria as part of their national policy. ([CDC Global Health eBrief](#))

CDC's Content Syndication Catalog Has Expanded—Content syndication is a technical application that allows CDC partners to display CDC health and safety information on their own Websites. New information is available on radiation emergencies, including information for clinicians, frequently asked questions on radiation emergencies, and a fact sheet on radiation and potassium iodide. All topics are available in the [on-line catalog](#). [CDC's Content Syndication page](#) provides additional information on registering for content syndication, selecting pages, or requesting additional pages to be syndicated.

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

All events and seminars listed are open to CDC partners. To see more upcoming events or for more information on the below events, visit the [CDC Calendar of Events](#).

Malaria: Blood, Sweat and Tears

January 31–May 20, Global Health Odyssey Museum, Atlanta, GA

The [exhibit](#) uses a variety of media including photographs, stamps, illustrations, and three-dimensional objects to discuss the history, science, and global impact of malaria.

CDC Public Health Grand Rounds (Online Event)

May 19, 1 PM–2 PM (EDT), Topic: Lyme Disease

The [Public Health Grand Rounds](#) is a monthly series created to further strengthen CDC's common scientific culture and foster discussion and debate on major public health issues. [Watch live and archived broadcasts](#).

National Healthy Homes Conference

June 20–23, Denver, CO

The [2011 National Healthy Homes Conference](#) is a federally sponsored event bringing together a wide range of sectors to better coordinate efforts in making housing healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable. The conference has eight program tracks featuring sessions led by individuals representing nearly 200 nationally recognized organizations.

CDC PERSONNEL

[Coleen A. Boyle](#), PhD, MS (hyg.), has been named director of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. Coleen began her career at CDC in 1984 working on a large, multifaceted

project examining the impact of Agent Orange exposure on U.S. military personnel who served in Vietnam. Coleen's educational achievements include an MS (hyg.) in biostatistics and PhD in epidemiology from the School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh. She completed postdoctoral training in epidemiologic methods at Yale University. Before joining CDC, Coleen served as a faculty member in epidemiology at the University of Massachusetts Program in Public Health.

CDC HISTORY

June 5, 1981—First *MMWR* report that mentioned an infection that would be later called AIDS.

RESOURCES

[CDC Learning Connection Spotlight](#) provides learning products and resources to better prepare both the public health community and healthcare workers in preventing, identifying and treating [healthcare-associated infections](#).

[Knowledge to Action Science Clips](#) are designed to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge.

SUBSCRIBE

Staying Connected, a bi-monthly newsletter prepared by CDC's Office of the Associate Director for Communication, provides regular updates about agency and program priorities and other public health initiatives important to CDC's partners and affiliates. Readers are welcome to comment by e-mail to stayingconnected@cdc.gov.

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