



## **CDC Connection: For the Advisory Committee to the Director**

### **Issues and Alerts**

**CDC Expands Response to Earthquake in Haiti**—CDC activated its Emergency Response Center following the earthquake to help assess public health needs, outline health risks, and offer disease and injury prevention recommendations. CDC staff have been deployed to Haiti, and CDC is addressing issues such as food and water safety and the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. CDC is working along with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, various branches of the U.S. military, and other federal and international agencies. CDC has augmented its Internet page regarding [earthquakes](#) in general with specific information regarding this earthquake. ([Jan 19 CDC in the News](#)) ■ **Haiti earthquake could trigger medical “perfect storm”**—The earthquake in Haiti could have far-reaching health consequences as infectious diseases, vector-borne illnesses, and unsanitary conditions further complicate recovery efforts. ([Jan 14 CNN](#)) ■ **H1N1 (Swine) Influenza Update**—Overall [flu activity](#) in the United States decreased slightly during the week of December 27, 2009–January 2, 2010, as reported in [FluView](#). Though flu activity, caused by either 2009 H1N1 or [seasonal flu](#) viruses, may rise and fall, it is expected to continue for several more months. ■ **20% of Americans Received H1N1 Vaccine**—Two recent government telephone surveys concluded that 61 million people—about 20% of the US population—got a shot or nasal spray vaccination against the H1N1 virus. ([Jan 16 Washington Post](#); [Jan 15 MMWR](#)). ■ **Finding H1N1 (Swine) Vaccine**—[Current status](#) is that supplies of H1N1 vaccines are increasing and many places have opened up vaccination to anyone who wants it. The [flu vaccine locator](#) identifies the closest source. ■ **US Obesity Rates May Have Hit Plateau**—CDC data suggest obesity rates have remained constant for 5 years among men and for 10 years among women and children. However, nearly 34% of adults and 17% of children are obese, percentages that have doubled among adults and tripled among children during the last 30 years. ([Jan 13 JAMA](#); [Jan 13 New York Times](#)) ■ **One in Five American Youths Have Abnormal Lipid Levels**—A CDC study reveals that 20% of young people aged 12–19 years in the United States have at least one abnormal lipid level; abnormal lipid levels are major risk factors for heart disease, the leading cause of death among adults in the United States. ([Jan 22 MMWR](#); [Jan 21 CDC Press Release](#)) ■ **Movies for Children Depict Unsafe Practices**—A study published in [Pediatrics](#) concludes that despite improvement half the scenes examined in movies aimed at children showed unsafe practices. ([Jan 11 WebMD](#)) ■ **Progress toward Becoming Smoke-Free in North Carolina**—Restaurants and bars in North Carolina went smoke-free on January 2, 2010, a first among southeastern states, but because the North Carolina law does not prohibit smoking in private workplaces, CDC cannot list North Carolina among states that include all workplaces, restaurants, and bars in their smoke-free laws. ([Dec 29 CDC Online Newsroom](#)) ([Jan 11 CDC Online Newsroom](#); [Jan 12 Baltimore Sun](#)) ■ **Patients demand: 'Give us our damned data'**—Access to and portability of medical records continues to rankle patients and stymie



health care delivery, according to a story in the Empowered Patient series on CNN. ([Jan 14 CNN](#))

## Director's Highlights

**CDC's Organizational Changes to Strengthen Science, Efficiency**—CDC has published a notice to the Federal Register informing the public of the new structure which “is to focus on strengthening and supporting science. We want to make the science timely, relevant and accessible to people,” stated Dr. Frieden. ([Jan 1 Atlanta Journal Constitution](#)) Senior leadership positions recently announced at CDC include [Ileana Arias](#), PhD, Principal Deputy Director of CDC/ATSDR; and [Janet Collins, PhD](#), Associate Director for Program. ■ CDC's IdeaLab, a Web-based peer-to-peer program, described as an innovation that is “championing the President's vision of more effective and open government” was recently added to the [White House Open Government Innovations Gallery Web site](#). ■ **CDC Supports Reducing Sodium in Foods**—CDC Director Thomas R. Frieden notes “The majority of Americans are consuming about twice the recommended limit of sodium, each day, and not by choice. Achieving substantial reductions in sodium levels by incremental decreases in sodium content across the food supply can save many lives while maintaining good taste.” ([Jan 11 Media Statement, CDC Online Newsroom](#))

## Advisory Committee to the Director Updates

The next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2010, at CDC in Atlanta. We expect to welcome several new committee members during the April meeting.

## Our Members

**Eduardo Sanchez** recently published an article called The 2010 Agenda: Public Health. ([Jan 11 Texas Tribune](#)) ■ **Sandy Climan** continues making news for his leading edge work in 3D broadcasts and movies, including this BBC story about emerging technology at this year's Consumer Electronics Show. ([Jan 5 BBC News](#))

### FYI: Resources

- [CDC Calendar of Events](http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm>)
- [CDC.gov Widgets and Gadgets](http://www.cdc.gov/Widgets) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/Widgets>)
- [Flu Vaccine Locator](http://www.flu.gov/news/socialmedia/index.html#flulocator) (URL: <http://www.flu.gov/news/socialmedia/index.html#flulocator>)
- [Advisory Committee to the Director](http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)
- [White House Agenda for Health Care](http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/health_care) (URL: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/health\\_care](http://www.whitehouse.gov/agenda/health_care))

