Health Care, Family, and Community Factors Associated with Mental, Behavioral, and Developmental Disorders in Early Childhood — United States, 2011–2012

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Sociodemographic, health care, family, and community attributes have been associated with increased risk for mental, behavioral, and developmental disorders (MBDDs) in children (1,2). For example, poverty has been shown to have adverse effects on cognitive, socio-emotional, and physical development (1). A safe place to play is needed for gross motor development, and accessible health care is needed for preventive and illness health care (3). Positive parenting and quality preschool interventions have been shown to be associated with prosocial skills, better educational outcomes, and fewer health risk behaviors over time (2). Protective factors for MBDDs are often shared (4) and conditions often co-occur; therefore, CDC considered MBDDs together to facilitate the identification of factors that could inform collaborative, multidisciplinary prevention strategies. To identify specific factors associated with MBDDs among U.S. children aged 2–8 years, parent-reported data from the most recent (2011–2012) National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) were analyzed. Factors associated with having any MBDD included inadequate insurance, lacking a medical home, fair or poor parental mental health, difficulties getting by on the family's income, employment difficulties because of child care issues, living in a neighborhood lacking support, living in a neighborhood lacking amenities (e.g., sidewalks, park, recreation center, and library), and living in a neighborhood in poor condition. In a multivariate analysis, fair or poor parental mental health and lacking a medical home were significantly associated with having an MBDD. There was significant variation in the prevalence of these and the other factors by state, suggesting that programs and policies might use collaborative efforts to focus on specific factors. Addressing identified factors might prevent the onset of MBDDs and improve outcomes among children who have one or more of these disorders.

NSCH is a cross-sectional, nationally representative, random-digit–dialed telephone survey that collects information about U.S. children aged <18 years. The survey includes indicators of child health and well-being, access to quality health care, family characteristics, and school and neighborhood environment.* Participating parents or guardians completed interviews about one randomly selected child (N = 95,677) per household. The interview completion rates were 54.1%


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and 41.2% for landline and cell phone samples, respectively; the overall response rate was 23.0%. Data were weighted to account for unequal probability of selection of each household and child and for nonresponse. Weighted estimates reflect the population of noninstitutionalized children in the United States and within each state.

Parents were asked, “Has a doctor or other health care provider ever told you that [child] had [specified disorder]?” A child was considered to have an MBDD if the parent or guardian reported any of the following: attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, anxiety problems, behavioral or conduct problems such as oppositional defiant disorder or conduct disorder, Tourette syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, learning disability, intellectual disability, developmental delay, or speech or other language problems.

Analyses were restricted to the 35,121 U.S. children aged 2–8 years (defined by Healthy People 2020 as “early childhood”) with data for sex and each disorder. Weighted prevalence estimates of having any MBDD, and the associations with sociodemographic, health care, family, and community factors were calculated using statistical software to account for the complex sampling. Given previously documented associations between health care, family, and community factors, an exploratory regression model was also fit to determine which of the health care, family, or community factors that were independently associated with any MBDD remained significant after adjusting for the others. Sociodemographic factors were not included in the model.

Overall, among U.S. children aged 2–8 years, 15.4% had at least one diagnosed MBDD, by parent report (Table 1). Sociodemographic factors associated with report of having an MBDD included male sex, older age (aged 4–5 or 6–8 years compared with 2–3 years), being non-Hispanic white, and living in a household with a higher poverty level (i.e., <200% of federal poverty level) or where English was the primary language spoken.

Specific factors most strongly associated with MBDDs in early childhood were fair or poor parental mental health, difficulty getting by on the family’s income, child care problems (among parents of children aged 2–3 years), and lacking a medical home. Factors with the highest prevalence among children with MBDDs included lacking a medical home, living in a neighborhood lacking amenities, difficulty getting by on family income, and living in a neighborhood in poor condition. When adjusted for the other significant health care, family, and community factors, an exploratory multivariate model showed that only lacking a medical home and fair or poor parental mental health remained significantly associated with having an MBDD (Table 2).

Suggested citation: [Author names; first three, then et al., if more than six.] [Report title]. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2016;65:[inclusive page numbers].
The prevalences of difficulty getting by on the family's income and child care problems were both highest in Arizona (34.9% and 21.8%, respectively); income difficulties were lowest in North Dakota (18.5%), whereas child care problems were lowest in Nevada (2.6%). Fair or poor parental mental health prevalence was highest in the District of Columbia (19.1%) and lowest in Kansas (6.9%).

The District of Columbia had the highest prevalence of living in a neighborhood in poor condition (46.2%) but the lowest prevalence of living in a neighborhood without all of the reported amenities (26.7%); the lowest prevalence of living in a neighborhood in poor condition was 20% in Maryland, whereas the highest prevalence of living in a neighborhood without all of the reported amenities was 67.5% in Mississippi (67.5%). Finally, reported prevalence of lack of neighborhood support was highest in Arizona (32.9%) and lowest in North Dakota (7.9%).

**Discussion**

Mental, behavioral, and developmental disorders identified in childhood often persist into adulthood and are associated with increased risk for poorer school outcomes and employment opportunities, other adverse health conditions, earlier mortality, and considerable costs for persons with the disorders, their families, and society. Children are more likely to outgrow speech or language problems or certain developmental delays than other MBDDs, particularly if they receive early intervention. In other disorders such as Tourette syndrome, some children might outgrow the condition by late adolescence but remain at increased risk for other disorders that are more likely to persist, including ADHD and obsessive-compulsive disorder. MBDDs can substantially affect health care, families, and communities. Children with MBDDs often require more health and therapy services than children without MBDDs. Families might face stress associated with the disorder itself or financial stress associated with treatment of the disorder. Communities might need to provide additional services and support for both children and families and might face lower productivity if the parent or guardian is unable to work. Thus, efforts to prevent the onset of MBDDs and to improve their identification and treatment in early childhood might improve health and well-being throughout the lifespan, with the potential to translate into cost savings and overall population health improvements.

The data in this report included a number of sociodemographic factors associated with MBDDs, including poverty and living in a primarily English-speaking household. Household income and child care problems were both highest in Arizona (34.9% and 21.8%, respectively); income difficulties were lowest in North Dakota (18.5%), whereas child care problems were lowest in Nevada (2.6%). Fair or poor parental mental health prevalence was highest in the District of Columbia (19.1%) and lowest in Kansas (6.9%).

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The data in this report included a number of sociodemographic factors associated with MBDDs, including poverty and living in a primarily English-speaking household. Household income and child care problems were both highest in Arizona (34.9% and 21.8%, respectively); income difficulties were lowest in North Dakota (18.5%), whereas child care problems were lowest in Nevada (2.6%). Fair or poor parental mental health prevalence was highest in the District of Columbia (19.1%) and lowest in Kansas (6.9%).

### Table 1. Prevalence of ever having any mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder (MBDD) by parent report, among children aged 2–8 years, by selected characteristics — National Survey of Children’s Health, United States, 2011–2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Any MBDD prevalence (95% CI)</th>
<th>Prevalence ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>15.4 (14.6–16.2)</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>19.5 (18.3–20.8)</td>
<td>1.8 (1.6–2.0)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11.0 (10.1–12.0)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age group (yrs)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–3</td>
<td>9.2 (8.1–10.5)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–5</td>
<td>14.6 (13.2–16.1)</td>
<td>1.6 (1.3–1.9)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–8</td>
<td>19.7 (18.4–21.0)</td>
<td>2.1 (1.8–2.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, non–Hispanic</td>
<td>16.8 (15.9–17.9)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, non–Hispanic</td>
<td>15.0 (12.9–17.4)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8–1.0)</td>
<td>0.158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>13.5 (11.7–15.6)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.7–0.9)</td>
<td>0.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, non–Hispanic</td>
<td>14.1 (12.1–16.4)</td>
<td>0.8 (0.7–1.0)</td>
<td>0.030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal poverty level§</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;100%</td>
<td>18.7 (16.8–20.8)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.3–1.7)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%–199%</td>
<td>16.4 (14.7–18.2)</td>
<td>1.3 (1.1–1.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200%–399%</td>
<td>14.2 (12.8–15.8)</td>
<td>1.1 (1.0–1.3)</td>
<td>0.081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥400%</td>
<td>12.5 (11.3–13.9)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest education level in household¶</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school</td>
<td>14.0 (12.0–16.2)</td>
<td>0.9 (0.8–1.1)</td>
<td>0.267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>16.3 (14.8–17.8)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.9–1.2)</td>
<td>0.331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than high school</td>
<td>15.3 (14.3–16.5)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary household language</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>16.3 (15.5–17.2)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.2–1.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other language</td>
<td>10.9 (9.0–13.2)</td>
<td>Referent</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviation:** CI = confidence interval.

* Including parent report of whether they were ever told by a health care professional that the child had attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, anxiety problems, behavioral or conduct problems such as oppositional defiant disorder or conduct disorder, Tourette syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, learning disability, intellectual disability, developmental delay, or speech or other language problems.

† Includes American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Asian.

‡ Federal poverty level is based on family income and family size and composition using federal poverty thresholds that are updated annually by the U.S. Census Bureau using the change in the average annual consumer price index for all urban consumers. Imputed income was used for 9.3% of children aged 2–8 years without reported household income.

§ Based on the education of adult parents or respondents.

The prevalence of MBDDs and health care, family, and community factors among U.S. children aged 2–8 years varied by state (supplemental table at http://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/38108). Prevalence of having any disorder varied from 10.6% in California to 21.5% in Arkansas and Kentucky. More than 90% of children received preventive care (i.e., parent or guardian reported that in the past 12 months, the child saw a health care provider for preventive medical care such as a physical exam or well-child checkup at least once) in each state.

Among health care factors, inadequate insurance was highest in South Carolina (26.5%), and lacking a medical home was highest in Arizona (52.2%); Vermont had the lowest prevalence of both inadequate insurance (14.7%) and lacking a medical home (27%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of factor</th>
<th>Any MBDD (95% CI)</th>
<th>No MBDD (95% CI)</th>
<th>Any MBDD/No MBDD prevalence ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
<th>Any MBDD/No MBDD adjusted prevalence ratio (95% CI)</th>
<th>p value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate insurance for optimal health $^a$</td>
<td>26.3 (24.0–28.8)</td>
<td>20.4 (19.3–21.4)</td>
<td>1.3 (1.2–1.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>1.3 (0.9–2.1)</td>
<td>0.168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No preventive medical care, last 12 months $^a$</td>
<td>3.4 (2.6–4.4)</td>
<td>3.1 (2.7–3.6)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.8–1.4)</td>
<td>0.628</td>
<td>Not included</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacks a medical home $^a$</td>
<td>56.8 (54.1–59.5)</td>
<td>41.9 (40.6–43.2)</td>
<td>1.4 (1.3–1.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>2.1 (1.5–3.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair or poor maternal mental health $^b$</td>
<td>12.7 (10.9–14.7)</td>
<td>6.7 (6.0–7.6)</td>
<td>1.9 (1.6–2.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>Not included</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair or poor paternal mental health $^b$</td>
<td>7.4 (5.9–9.1)</td>
<td>3.8 (3.3–4.5)</td>
<td>1.9 (1.5–2.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>Not included</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one parent with fair or poor mental health $^b$</td>
<td>19.6 (17.2–22.3)</td>
<td>9.9 (9.0–10.9)</td>
<td>2.0 (1.7–2.3)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>1.1 (0.7–1.6)</td>
<td>0.019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult to get by on family's income $^c$</td>
<td>35.5 (32.8–38.3)</td>
<td>24.0 (22.9–25.2)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.4–1.6)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>1.1 (0.7–1.6)</td>
<td>0.760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent lacks emotional support $^d$</td>
<td>11.8 (10.2–13.7)</td>
<td>11.3 (10.4–12.3)</td>
<td>1.0 (0.9–1.2)</td>
<td>0.616</td>
<td>Not included</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care problems (children aged 2–3 years only)$^e$</td>
<td>19.5 (14.9–25.3)</td>
<td>12.9 (11.4–14.5)</td>
<td>1.5 (1.1–2.0)</td>
<td>0.007</td>
<td>Not included</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood without amenities $^f$</td>
<td>45.5 (42.6–48.3)</td>
<td>42.2 (40.9–43.5)</td>
<td>1.1 (1.0–1.2)</td>
<td>0.040</td>
<td>1.0 (0.7–1.4)</td>
<td>0.889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood in poor condition $^g$</td>
<td>34.5 (31.8–37.2)</td>
<td>27.6 (26.4–28.7)</td>
<td>1.3 (1.1–1.4)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>1.1 (0.8–1.7)</td>
<td>0.560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of support in neighborhood $^g$</td>
<td>24.3 (22.1–26.8)</td>
<td>18.3 (17.5–19.6)</td>
<td>1.3 (1.2–1.5)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>1.3 (0.9–1.9)</td>
<td>0.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood perceived to lack safety $^h$</td>
<td>15.5 (13.7–17.5)</td>
<td>14.5 (13.5–15.5)</td>
<td>1.1 (0.9–1.2)</td>
<td>0.339</td>
<td>Not included</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviation: CI = confidence interval.

* Including parent report of whether they were ever told by a health care professional that the child had attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression, anxiety problems, behavioral or conduct problems such as oppositional defiant disorder or conduct disorder, Tourette syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, learning disability, intellectual disability, developmental delay, or speech or other language problems.

† A regression model was fit to determine which of the health care, family, and community factors that were independently associated with MBDD remained significant after adjusting for the others. Child care problems were not included because these were limited to children aged 2–3 years. Having at least one parent with fair or poor mental health was included in the model rather than individual paternal and maternal mental health indicators.

‡ Based on a negative response to one of four variables included in the following five questions: 1) whether the child has current health insurance coverage; 2) whether the coverage is sufficient to meet the child's needs; 3) whether the family pays out-of-pocket expenses, and if yes, 4) whether these expenses are usually or always reasonable; and 5) whether insurance allows the child to see needed health care providers.

§ Based on a response of “none” to the question, “During the past 12 months, how many times did [child name] see a doctor, nurse, or other health care provider for preventive medical care such as a physical exam or well–child checkup?”

¶ Based on five component variables (personal doctor or nurse, usual source for sick and well care, family-centered care, problems getting needed referrals, and effective care coordination when needed) drawn from 19 survey items. To have a medical home, children must have a personal doctor or nurse, usual source of care, and family-centered care; children needing referrals or care coordination must also have those criteria met.

¶¶ Based on responses of “fair or poor” (i.e., compared with excellent, very good, or good) to questions about maternal and paternal mental health. Maternal question: “In general, what is the status of [child name]'s [mother's/your] mental and emotional health?” Paternal question: “In general, what is the status of [child name]'s [father's/your] mental and emotional health?”

¶¶¶ Based on responses of “very often” or “somewhat often” (i.e., compared with rarely or never) to “Since [the child] was born, how often has it been very hard to get by on your family’s income, for example, it was hard to cover the basics like food or housing?”

§§ Based on responses of “no” to “Is there someone that you can turn to for day-to-day emotional help with [parenthood/raising children]?”

§§§ Based on responses of “very” or “moderately” to “How often does [parent’s/your] neighborhood or community provide the following places and things for children in your neighborhood, even if [child] does not actually use them?”: 1) sidewalks or walking paths; 2) a park or playground area; 3) a recreation center, community center, or boys’ or girls’ club; 4) a library or bookmobile.

* Based on responses of “yes” to any of the following three questions: “In your neighborhood, is there litter or garbage on the street or sidewalk? How about poorly kept or rundown housing? How about vandalism such as broken windows or graffiti?”

** Based on responses of “definitely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or definitely disagree” were scored for the following four statements about their neighborhood or community: “People in this neighborhood help each other out; we watch out for each other’s children in this neighborhood; there are people I can count on in this neighborhood; if my child were outside playing and got hurt or scared, there are adults nearby who I trust to help my child.” Responses were scored 1–4 and an average score was calculated; averages less than 2.25 indicated a “lack of support.”

**** Based on responses of “never” or “sometimes” (i.e., compared with usually or always) to the question, “How often do you feel [the child] is safe in your community or neighborhood?”

Language might be reflective of increased access to health care (and thus increased likelihood of being diagnosed) or the level of acculturation, a factor that has been associated with risk behaviors and poorer health outcomes in some domains (5). The identified health care, family, and community factors associated with child MBDDs in this report have each previously been documented to be associated with poverty (6). Each significant factor might reflect the effect of insufficient parental and community resources to support optimal child development and might contribute to chronic stress. Chronic stress in early childhood can impact lifelong health. A chronically activated physiologic stress response impacts the sympathetic nervous system, metabolism, and the brain, resulting in increased risk for high blood pressure, obesity, inflammatory diseases, and mental and behavioral disorders (7). The prevalences of both poverty and MBDDs have been increasing among U.S.
children, underscoring the need for public health strategies to prevent and treat MBDDs (7).

The factors most strongly associated with MBDDs in early childhood were lacking a medical home, fair or poor parental mental health, difficulty getting by on the family’s income, child care problems (among parents of children aged 2–3 years), and lacking a medical home.

What are the implications for public health practice?

These data support the Institute of Medicine recommendation that resources directed toward improving health care and supporting families and communities are needed to promote healthy development among all young children. Collaborative, multidisciplinary strategies including public health and pediatric clinical partners might have the greatest impact given the broad types of factors associated with early childhood MBDDs and the large number of agencies working to support optimal child development.

References


The epidemic of Ebola virus disease (Ebola) in West Africa began in Guinea in late 2013 (1), and on August 8, 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (2). Guinea was declared Ebola-free on December 29, 2015, and is under a 90 day period of enhanced surveillance, following 3,351 confirmed and 453 probable cases of Ebola and 2,536 deaths (3). Passive surveillance for Ebola in Guinea has been conducted principally through the use of a telephone alert system. Community members and health facilities report deaths and suspected Ebola cases to local alert numbers operated by prefecture health departments or to a national toll-free call center. The national call center additionally functions as a source of public health information by responding to questions from the public about Ebola. To evaluate the sensitivity of the two systems and compare the sensitivity of the national call center with the local alerts system, the CDC country team performed probabilistic record linkage of the combined prefecture alerts database, as well as the national call center database, with the national viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) database; the VHF database contains records of all known confirmed Ebola cases. Among 17,309 alert calls analyzed from the national call center, 71 were linked to 1,838 confirmed Ebola cases in the VHF database, yielding a sensitivity of 3.9%. The sensitivity of the national call center was highest in the capital city of Conakry (11.4%) and lower in other prefectures. In comparison, the local alerts system had a sensitivity of 51.1%. Local public health infrastructure plays an important role in surveillance in an epidemic setting.

Passive surveillance for Ebola in Guinea consists of telephone calls from health centers and community members (alert calls) to report community deaths and symptomatic patients. Early in the response, all alerts were reported directly to local prefectures* and were investigated by a prefecture health department surveillance team to determine whether the patient met the suspected Ebola case definition, or whether the reported death occurred in a person who was at high risk for Ebola (4). In November 2014, the Government of Guinea, with funding from the CDC Foundation, established the national toll-free call center as a single point of contact to facilitate alert reporting but kept the local alert lines in place. Calls to the national call center are received by operators who enter alert information into a database before routing the call to a dispatch team who informs the local prefecture. Prefectures are therefore notified of all alerts regardless of the source of the call and investigate all alerts originating within the prefecture. Clinical specimens are collected from suspected cases and community deaths for Ebola testing.

The VHF database contains data on all persons who were tested for Ebola and all known, confirmed Ebola cases. Neither the national call center database nor the local alerts system contains identifiers shared with the VHF database. To compare the sensitivity of the national call center and local alerts system to detect new Ebola cases using the VHF database, probabilistic record linkage (a method that calculates the probability that two records refer to the same entity) was used to determine whether confirmed Ebola cases in the VHF database were linked to local or national alert calls.

During November 5, 2014–August 31, 2015, a total of 185,437 unique calls to the national call center, including 22,660 (12%) alert calls, were analyzed; the other 162,777 (88%) calls were primarily requests for public health information. Among the alert calls, 5,351 (24%) were excluded because identifier data were missing, leaving 17,309 for analysis. These call center records were linked to 19,074 records in the VHF database for the same time period (excluding 311 records with missing identifiers) to measure call center sensitivity for detecting confirmed cases.

Fields in the databases for the local prefecture alerts system were standardized nationwide beginning April 1, 2015. To calculate the sensitivity of the local alerts system, records of 8,667 calls received during April 1, 2015–August 31, 2015, from four prefectures with active Ebola cases during that time period (Conakry, Coyah, Dubréka, and Forécariah) were merged into a data set for linkage with 9,454 VHF records from the same prefectures and time period.

Variables in all data sets (first name, surname, age, sex, village, sous-prefecture, and prefecture) were standardized to string variables with Soundex transformation of proper names. Soundex is a phonetic algorithm for indexing names by sound and has been used to perform accurate record linkage while preserving patient confidentiality (5). The data sets were matched by means of a probabilistic record linkage

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* Guinea is divided into 34 prefectures; each prefecture has a public health department. Prefectures are further divided into sous-prefectures, except in the case of the capital city of Conakry, which is divided into five communes.
algorithm (6) using statistical software. Probabilistic record linkage uses a measure of the similarity between string variables (Levenshtein distance) to find matches between data sets using identifiers that might be spelled slightly differently when shared unique identifiers do not exist. Validation of matches was performed by drawing a random sample of 200 matched pairs and manually confirming actual matches. The manual confirmation process generated a receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve, which plotted the sensitivity and specificity of actual matching for each match probability score produced by the algorithm. A match probability score of 0.80 was defined as the cutoff value on the ROC curve with equal sensitivity and specificity for actual matches (75%). For each system, sensitivity was calculated as the proportion of confirmed cases in the VHF database with a match found within either the national call center database or within the prefecture alerts database. Validation of the sensitivity estimate from the national call center-VHF linkage was performed by: 1) drawing two additional random subsamples of 200 confirmed cases from the VHF database; and 2) manually confirming the matches identified by the probabilistic record linkage algorithm to determine the proportion of confirmed cases identified as a result of their being reported to the national call center. Sensitivity of the local alerts system was determined by manual confirmation of matches for all confirmed cases in the VHF from the same prefectures and time period.

During the study period, the number of daily alert calls to the national call center remained stable, the number of local alerts increased, and the number of confirmed Ebola cases declined (Figure). Linkage resulted in 1,778 matches between the national call center and VHF databases, 71 of which were confirmed cases. During the same period, there were 1,838 confirmed Ebola cases, with a resulting sensitivity (proportion of confirmed cases in the national call center database) of 3.9% for the call center (Table 1). Two random subsamples of 200 confirmed cases in the VHF database were drawn for validation purposes, with matches manually verified. Both subsamples contained 12 exact matches between databases, with a sensitivity estimate of 6.0%.

FIGURE. Calls reporting community deaths and suspected Ebola virus disease (Ebola) cases from the national call center and local prefectures compared with confirmed Ebola cases in the viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) database — Guinea, November 5, 2014–August 31, 2015
Linkage between the local alerts database and VHF database identified 5,006 matches, 120 of which were confirmed cases. Among these, 113 originated locally and seven were first reported to the national call center. There were 221 confirmed cases in the VHF database in the same prefectures and time frame, resulting in a sensitivity estimate of 51.1% for local alert calls and 3.2% for the national call center.

Sensitivity estimates were calculated by prefecture (Table 2). Sensitivity of the national call center was highest in Conakry (11.4%) and lower in other prefectures; there were 13 prefectures with confirmed Ebola cases where the sensitivity of the call center was <1%. Analysis of the local alerts database indicated varying patterns of sensitivity of local alerts; sensitivity was highest in Dubréka (79.3%) and lowest in Conakry (30.2%). Analysis of the local alerts database also demonstrated that sensitivity of the national call center was lower than the local alerts system in each of the active prefectures\(^1\) studied (Table 2).

**Discussion**

Sensitive surveillance mechanisms are critical for detecting outbreaks early and reducing transmission in an epidemic setting (7). In Guinea, passive surveillance detected approximately half of cases in active prefectures during the study period; the remainder were detected either by Ebola treatment units or through tracing contacts of known cases. The majority of calls that resulted in identification of confirmed cases of Ebola originated from calls to local prefectures. The sensitivity of both the national call center and local alerts systems varied by prefecture; however, for all prefectures studied, local alerts were more sensitive than the call center.

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**Abbreviations:** CI = confidence interval; VHF = viral hemorrhagic fever.

\(^1\) Active prefectures (Dubréka, Conakry, Coyah, and Forécariah) are those with active Ebola cases during the period since the prefecture alert databases were standardized on April 1, 2015; data before this date are incomplete and inconsistent across prefectures.

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**TABLE 1. Sensitivity of calls to the national call center and to local prefectures — Guinea, November 2014–August 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Cases detected/confirmed VHF database cases</th>
<th>Sensitivity % (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National call center(^*) (n = 17,309 alerts)</td>
<td>71/1,838</td>
<td>3.9 (3.0–4.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validation subsample 1</td>
<td>12/200</td>
<td>6.0 (3.1–10.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validation subsample 2</td>
<td>12/200</td>
<td>6.0 (3.1–10.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alert database (active prefectures)(^1,(^*)) (n = 8,667 alerts)</td>
<td>120/221</td>
<td>54.3 (47.8–70.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local source (n = 7,038 alerts)</td>
<td>113/221</td>
<td>51.1 (44.3–57.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National source (n = 1,629 alerts)</td>
<td>7/221</td>
<td>3.2 (1.3–6.4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What is already known about this topic?**

Little is known about the sensitivity of call centers for Ebola case-finding in an epidemic setting.

**What is added by this report?**

During the Ebola epidemic in Guinea, approximately half of cases were reported as alert calls. The sensitivity of passive surveillance systems can be compared using probabilistic record linkage. Calls to prefecture health departments were more sensitive for case detection than those to a national call center in all prefectures studied.

**What are the implications for public health practice?**

Although the national call center provided public health information for a high volume of calls, its low sensitivity for Ebola case detection limits its utility as a surveillance system. Prefecture health departments play a key role in surveillance and should be supported.

The findings in this report are subject to at least three limitations. First, data quality issues in the call center database resulted in a high volume of calls being excluded from analysis, which might have resulted in a lower or higher sensitivity estimate. Second, the local alerts databases were standardized later in the response than the national call center database, and at a time when few prefectures had active Ebola cases. Finally, mismatches resulting from the probabilistic record linkage of the national call center database with the VHF might have affected the accuracy of sensitivity estimates; based on the ROC curve, the sensitivity and specificity of matching was known to be 75%. Despite these limitations, the sensitivity estimates for the national call center were nearly identical using two validation steps. Random subsamples with manual validation of the national call center sensitivity matches provided internal validation of the matching procedure. Estimates from the local alerts database provided external validation of those estimates generated from the national call center database.

Given the high call volume recorded in Guinea and the low sensitivity for identification of cases, the national call center was likely to have been more valuable in providing public health information than in case detection. Although nationwide call centers were established in response to the Ebola epidemic in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, the sensitivity of those call centers for Ebola detection has not yet been studied. In Sierra Leone, a study of the nationwide call center found that alert calls resulted in same- or next-day field responses to 81% of deaths but only 45% of possible cases, highlighting the need to scale up local response services (8). These findings underscore the limited sensitivity of the national call center in Guinea and the importance of local public health infrastructure for Ebola surveillance.
TABLE 2. Sensitivity estimates by prefecture for national call center alerts and local alerts in 12 prefectures* — Guinea, November 2014–August 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefecture</th>
<th>National call center database†</th>
<th>Local database§ (active prefectures¶)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmed VHF database cases</td>
<td>Confirmed VHF database cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boké</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conakry</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyah</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dubréka</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forécariah</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kankan</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerouane</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindia</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kissidougou</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macenta</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N’Zérékoré</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telimele</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: NA = not applicable; VHF = viral hemorrhagic fever.
* Twelve prefectures in which at least one alert call to the national call center was linked to a confirmed VHF case. Of the remaining prefectures, 11 had no confirmed VHF cases during the study period and 11 had at least one confirmed case, but no alert calls from the national call center were linked to VHF records (sensitivity = 0%).
† November 5, 2014–August 31, 2015.
§ April 1, 2015–August 31, 2015.
¶ Active prefectures are those with active Ebola cases during the period since the prefecture alert databases were standardized in Dubréka, Conakry, Coyah, and Forécariah prefectures on April 1, 2015; data before this date are incomplete and inconsistent across prefectures.

References

Loretta Gavin, PhD; Karen Pazol, PhD

In 2014, CDC published Providing Quality Family Planning Services: Recommendations of CDC and the U.S. Office of Population Affairs (QFP), which describes the scope of services that should be offered in a family planning visit, and how to provide those services (e.g., periodicity of screening, which persons are considered to be at risk, etc.). The sections in QFP include Contraceptive Services, Pregnancy Testing and Counseling, Clients Who Want to Become Pregnant, Basic Infertility Services, Preconception Health Services, Sexually Transmitted Disease Services, Related Preventive Health Services, and Screening Services for Which Evidence Does Not Support Screening.

CDC and the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) developed QFP recommendations by conducting an extensive review of published evidence, seeking expert opinion, and synthesizing existing clinical recommendations from CDC, agencies such as the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), and professional medical associations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The scope of preventive services related to reproductive health is constantly evolving as new scientific findings are published, and clinical recommendations are modified accordingly. Being knowledgeable about the most current recommendations is an important step toward providing the highest quality care to patients.

This report summarizes updated recommendations released from the time QFP was issued in April 2014 through the end of 2015. Recommendations are based on newly published findings or revisions in recommended best practices. Updates that have implications for clinical practice are highlighted (Box). In addition, an updated reference list is provided for guidelines published in 2014 and 2015 that did not result in any change in recommended practices for family planning providers.

Box. Updated Recommendations That Might Have Implications for Clinical Practice, by Section Heading — Providing Quality Family Planning Services: Recommendations from CDC and the U.S. Office of Population Affairs (QFP), 2015

Preconception Health Services
Blood pressure
- The 2015 U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendation reaffirms the 2007 recommendation to screen routinely for high blood pressure in adults (grade A*).
- The 2015 statement explains how to perform office blood pressure measurement and emphasizes the need to confirm a diagnosis of hypertension outside of the clinical setting. The 2015 statement recommends optimal screening intervals for diagnosing hypertension in adults, such as annual screening for persons at increased risk (i.e., African American, high normal blood pressure, obese or overweight, aged >40 years) and every 3–5 years in persons at low risk (adults aged 18–39 years with no risk factors).

Diabetes
- The 2008 USPSTF statement recommended screening for diabetes in asymptomatic adults with hypertension (defined as sustained blood pressure of >135/80mm Hg).
- The 2015 updated statement recommends screening for diabetes in adults aged 40–70 years who are overweight or obese, and referring patients with abnormal glucose levels to intensive behavioral counseling interventions to promote a healthful diet and physical activity (grade B†).


* A USPSTF grade A recommendation indicates there is high certainty that the net benefit is substantial. http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/grade-definitions.
† A USPSTF grade B recommendation indicates there is high certainty that the net benefit is moderate or there is moderate certainty that the net benefit is moderate to substantial. http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/grade-definitions.
Box. (Continued) Updated Recommendations That Might Have Implications for Clinical Practice, by Section Heading — Providing Quality Family Planning Services: Recommendations from CDC and the U.S. Office of Population Affairs (QFP), 2015

**Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Services**

STD Treatment

- The 2015 CDC STD treatment guidelines changed the age for screening sexually active young females for chlamydia from ≤25 years to <25 years. CDC and USPSTF recommendations are now aligned with regard to this age cutoff.

- Persons with HIV infection should be tested at least annually for hepatitis C.

- Transgender clients should be assessed for their STD- and HIV-related risks on the basis of current anatomy and sexual behaviors.

- There are alternative treatment options for several STDs, including gonorrhea and genital warts.

**Screening Services for Which Evidence Does Not Support Screening**

Gonorrhea

- The previous USPSTF recommendation (2005) for gonorrhea recommended against routine screening for gonorrhea infection in men and women who are at low risk of infection (grade D§).

- The revised recommendation (2014) notes that evidence is insufficient (grade I¶) for screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea among men.

- Given this change in recommendations, gonorrhea screening for men is no longer a list of services for which evidence does not support screening, as was noted in Appendix F of QFP. However, because QFP recommends following CDC’s STD Treatment Guidelines 2015, which recommend screening of males at risk, no change for practice is suggested.

**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention for adults and adolescents with HIV**

- The new CDC guidelines provide additional information about how to care for patients with HIV, which go beyond the level of care provided by most family planning service providers in primary care settings.

- The guidelines do not suggest any change from the original QFP recommendations with regard to screening for HIV.

- Family planning providers should be aware of these guidelines because they might help inform the referrals that they provide for HIV-positive clients.


§ A USPSTF grade D recommendation indicates moderate or high certainty exists that the services have no net benefit or that the harms outweigh the benefits. http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/grade-definitions.

¶ A USPSTF grade I recommendation indicates that the current evidence is insufficient to assess the balance of benefits and harms of the service (i.e., evidence is lacking, of poor quality, or conflicting, and the balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined). http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/grade-definitions.
**Screening Services for Which Evidence Does Not Support Screening (Continued)**

**Hepatitis B**

- The previous USPSTF recommendation (2004) recommended against screening for chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in asymptomatic persons in the general population (grade D).
- The new recommendation (2014) advises screening among high-risk populations, which include persons from countries with a high prevalence of HBV infection, HIV-positive persons, injection drug users, household contacts of persons with HBV infection, and men who have sex with men (grade B).
- Although USPSTF did not reaffirm the grade D recommendation for the general population, it made this comment: “The prevalence of HBV infection is low in the general U.S. population and most infected persons do not develop complications. Therefore, screening is not recommended in those who are not at increased risk.” Hence, the revised HBV screening recommendations do not suggest any change from the original QFP recommendation for populations at low risk.

**References**

**Updated Reference List, By QFP Section**


**Contraceptive Services**


**Pregnancy Testing and Counseling**


**Clients Who Want to Become Pregnant**


**Basic Infertility Services**

Preconception Health Services

Sexually Transmitted Disease Services
Workowski KA, Bolan GA. Sexually transmitted diseases treatment guidelines, 2015. MMWR Recomm Rep 2015;64(No. RR-03).

Screening Services for Which Evidence Does Not Support Screening
Vital Signs: Preventing Antibiotic-Resistant Infections in Hospitals — United States, 2014

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On March 3, 2016, this report was posted as an MMWR Early Release on the MMWR website (http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr).

Abstract

**Background:** Health care–associated antibiotic-resistant (AR) infections increase patient morbidity and mortality and might be impossible to successfully treat with any antibiotic. CDC assessed health care–associated infections (HAI), including *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDI), and the role of six AR bacteria of highest concern nationwide in several types of health care facilities.

**Methods:** During 2014, approximately 4,000 short-term acute care hospitals, 501 long-term acute care hospitals, and 1,135 inpatient rehabilitation facilities in all 50 states reported data on specific infections to the National Healthcare Safety Network. National standardized infection ratios and their percentage reduction from a baseline year for each HAI type, by facility type, were calculated. The proportions of AR pathogens and HAIs caused by any of six resistant bacteria highlighted by CDC in 2013 as urgent or serious threats were determined.

**Results:** In 2014, the reductions in incidence in short-term acute care hospitals and long-term acute care hospitals were 50% and 9%, respectively, for central line-associated bloodstream infection; 0% (short-term acute care hospitals), 11% (long-term acute care hospitals), and 14% (inpatient rehabilitation facilities) for catheter-associated urinary tract infection; 17% (short-term acute care hospitals) for surgical site infection, and 8% (short-term acute care hospitals) for CDI. Combining HAIs other than CDI across all settings, 47.9% of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates were methicillin resistant, 29.5% of enterococci were vancomycin-resistant, 17.8% of Enterobacteriaceae were extended-spectrum beta-lactamase phenotype, 3.6% of Enterobacteriaceae were carbapenem resistant, 15.9% of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolates were multidrug resistant, and 52.6% of *Acinetobacter* species were multidrug resistant. The likelihood of HAIs caused by any of the six resistant bacteria ranged from 12% in inpatient rehabilitation facilities to 29% in long-term acute care hospitals.

**Conclusions:** Although there has been considerable progress in preventing some HAIs, many remaining infections could be prevented with implementation of existing recommended practices. Depending upon the setting, more than one in four of HAIs excluding CDI are caused by AR bacteria.

**Implications for Public Health Practice:** Physicians, nurses, and health care leaders need to consistently and comprehensively follow all recommendations to prevent catheter- and procedure-related infections and reduce the impact of AR bacteria through antimicrobial stewardship and measures to prevent spread.

Introduction

Antibiotic-resistant (AR) bacteria are a worldwide public health threat. A 2013 CDC report outlined the top 18 urgent, serious, and concerning AR threats in the United States (1). Among the 15 urgent and serious threats, seven are bacteria predominately acquired during health care. *Clostridium difficile* is included among these; although *C. difficile* is not drug-resistant, the infections it causes and its spread are exacerbated by inappropriate antibiotic use and inadequate infection control, similar to the six other AR bacteria. Preventing health care–associated infections (HAIs) provides immediate benefit in reducing the impact of antibiotic resistance on human health. When combined with antibiotic stewardship and steps to prevent transmission as outlined in the National Action Plan to Combat Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (2), preventing HAIs is critical to reducing the public health threat of AR bacteria.

More than half of hospitalized patients are receiving antibiotics on any given day (3), and about one in 25 have one or more HAIs (4). During 2011 an estimated 722,000 HAIs occurred in U.S acute care hospitals, and approximately 75,000 patients with HAIs died during hospitalization (4). More than half of these HAIs include *C. difficile* infections (CDIs), urinary tract infections, bloodstream infections, or surgical site infections (SSIs). The HAI National Action Plan (5) calls for CDC to monitor progress toward established goals through
the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). This report describes progress toward reducing HAIs in the United States and describes the frequency of six AR bacteria of urgent or serious public health concern among reported HAIs in 2014.

Methods

HAI data on central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs), surgical site infections (SSIs), and laboratory-identified CDI events for 2014 were reported to NHSN from hospitals in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, using standard NHSN definitions (6–8). Data are presented separately for acute care hospitals (including critical access hospitals), long-term acute care hospitals, and inpatient rehabilitation facilities, because reporting timelines and type of HAIs reported varied among the different settings.

Standardized infection ratios (SIRs), a statistic used to track HAIs over time, were used to compare the observed number of infections reported during 2014 with the predicted number of infections, based on national aggregate data reported during a historical baseline time period. SIRs for different infections were adjusted for key risk factors (9–11). Baseline time periods among short-term acute care hospitals were 2006–2008 for CLABSIs and SSIs, 2009 for CAUTIs, and 2010–2011 for CDIs. Among long-term acute care hospitals and inpatient rehabilitation facilities the baseline time period was 2013 for both CLABSIs and CAUTIs. The SSI data include 10 procedures that approximate procedures included in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Surgical Care Improvement Project and were performed during 2014 (10).

Pathogen and susceptibility data are provided by the facility’s designated clinical microbiology laboratory. No more than three pathogens per HAI could be reported. Susceptibility results for each pathogen were reported as “susceptible,” “intermediate,” “resistant,” or “not tested” (12). The six AR phenotypes included the urgent threat of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, along with the serious threats of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, vancomycin-resistant enterococci, extended-spectrum beta-lactamase phenotype Enterobacteriaceae, multidrug-resistant (MDR) P. aeruginosa, and MDR Acinetobacter species. The criteria used to define each phenotype approximated interim standard definitions for defining multidrug resistance as used in the CDC AR Threat Report (1), along with updated criteria for carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (13).

A pooled mean percentage of resistant pathogens, based on the sum of pathogens that tested resistant, divided by the sum of pathogens tested, was calculated for each threat pathogen by HAI type and facility type. In addition, the likelihood that an HAI was associated with any of the six antibiotic-resistant threat pathogens was calculated as the sum of HAIs with any resistant phenotype divided by the sum of HAIs reported (regardless of whether another pathogen or, in the case of SSI, no pathogen was reported).

Results

In 2014, approximately 4,000 acute care hospitals (3,655 reported CLABSI data, 3,791 reported data on CAUTI, 3,994 reported CDI, and 3,618 reported SSI), 501 long-term acute care hospitals, and 1,135 inpatient rehabilitation facilities contributed data. Within acute care hospitals, 17,758 CLABSIs, 35,760 CAUTIs, 101,074 hospital-onset CDIs, and 15,927 SSIs from selected procedures were reported. The corresponding SIRs (and 95% confidence intervals) were 0.495 (0.488–0.502) for CLABSI, 1.00 (0.990–1.010) for CAUTI, 0.924 (0.918–0.929) for CDI, and 0.827 (0.815–0.840) for SSI, corresponding to percentage decreases compared with the historical baseline assessment ranging from 0% (CAUTI) to 50% (CLABSI) (Figure). The percentage change from 2013 to 2014 was −8% for CLABSI, −5% CAUTI, +4% for CDI, and +2% for SSI.

Among long-term acute care hospitals, 2,928 CLABSIs and 4,467 CAUTIs were reported; after risk adjustment, the SIRs were 0.909 (0.876–0.942) for CLABSI and 0.893 (0.867–0.920) for CAUTI, corresponding to 9% and 11% decreases, respectively, compared with baseline. Within inpatient rehabilitation facilities, 1,449 CAUTIs were reported, for an SIR of 0.856 (0.813–0.901) or a 14% reduction compared with baseline.

Combining HAIs across all settings, 47.9% of S. aureus infections were resistant to methicillin, 29.5% of enterococci were resistant to vancomycin, 17.8% of Enterobacteriaceae were extended-spectrum beta-lactamase phenotype, 3.6% of Enterobacteriaceae were carbapenem-resistant, 15.9% of P. aeruginosa, and 52.6% of Acinetobacter species were MDR. Notably, the percentage resistance varied by facility type and was consistently higher in long-term acute care hospitals (Table).

During 2014, the likelihood of any of the six AR threat bacteria varied by HAI type and facility type. Overall, among short-term acute care hospitals, 14% of all HAIs were caused by one of the six AR threat bacteria, including 18% of CLABSIs (3,348 of 18,373), 15% of SSIs (2,583 of 17,512), 10% of CAUTIs (3,601 of 34,621). Among long-term acute care hospitals, 28% of CLABSIs (808 of 2,873) and 29% of CAUTIs (1,251 of 4,293) were caused by one of these organisms, and among inpatient rehabilitation facilities, 12% of CAUTIs (164 of 1,349) were caused by one of these six bacteria. Pooled over all facility types, 14.9% of the 79,021 HAIs reported were associated with one of the AR threat pathogens.
FIGURE. Standardized infection ratios (SIRs) with 95% confidence intervals for health care–associated infections (HAIs) reported from acute care hospitals as a measure of prevention progress compared with the baseline year, by HAI type and year — National Healthcare Safety Network, United States, 2008–2014.

Conclusions and Comment

In the United States, approximately 2 million persons become ill every year with AR infections, and approximately 23,000 die. This report is the first to combine national data on AR bacteria threats with progress on HAI prevention. In 2014, the incidence of CLABSI in acute care hospitals reached the 2013 goal established by the HAI Action Plan (5), decreasing 50% during 2008–2014. This is important given the high morbidity, mortality, and excess costs associated with CLABSI (14,15), which are partially related to the frequency with which methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, vancomycin-resistant enterococci, and extended-spectrum beta-lactamase phenotype Enterobacteriaceae cause these infections (Table). In addition, CAUTIs in acute care hospitals decreased overall by 5% during 2013–2014 and, although not quantified in...
TABLE. Pooled mean percentage of tested isolates of six urgent or serious antibiotic-resistant threat pathogens that were antibiotic-resistant, by type of health care facility and type of health care–associated infection reported — National Healthcare Safety Network, United States, 2008–2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility type/Antibiotic-resistant threat pathogen</th>
<th>CLABSI</th>
<th>CAUTI</th>
<th>SSI</th>
<th>Combined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%R</td>
<td>%R</td>
<td>%R</td>
<td>%R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term acute care hospital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>44.4</td>
<td>46.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancomycin-resistant enterococci</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>21.7</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESBL-phenotype Enterobacteriaceae</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae</td>
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<td>73.3</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: %R = % resistant to antibiotics; CAUTI = catheter-associated urinary tract infection; CLABSI = central line-associated bloodstream infection; ESBL = extended-spectrum beta-lactamase; SSI = surgical site infection.

* Empty cells indicate no reporting occurred for that HAI type.
† Insufficient data; fewer than 20 isolates tested for resistance.

this report, declined 24% in non–intensive care unit (ICU) settings since baseline. In long-term acute care hospitals, both CLABSIs and CAUTIs have decreased as have CAUTIs in inpatient rehabilitation facilities. The importance of preventing CAUTIs in all settings is highlighted by the frequency with which vancomycin-resistant enterococci, extended-spectrum beta-lactamase phenotype Enterobacteriaceae, and (especially in long-term acute care hospitals) carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, cause these infections (Table). Collaboration across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including CDC, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Agency for Health Research and Quality has been important in achieving this success. For example, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reporting and payment incentives have led to greater transparency and accountability, and their Hospital Engagement and Quality Innovation Networks have promoted best practices.

C. difficile has been recently recognized as the most common HAI pathogen in acute care hospitals (4). In 2011, it caused an overall total of 453,000 infections, and 29,000 patients died within 30 days of diagnosis (16); 94% of all CDIs are related to various precedent or concurrent health care exposures (17). The CDI SIR in acute care hospitals decreased only 8% overall during 2011–2014, and more concerning, increased 4% during 2013–2014. More work is needed to ensure that patients are safe from C. difficile and AR bacteria.

Controlling AR threats is linked to preventing the occurrence of HAIs, reducing selective pressure by improving overall antibiotic stewardship, and preventing the spread of AR bacteria within and between facilities. Preventing catheter- and procedure-related infections can be accomplished by always following recommended indications and guidelines for insertion, maintenance, and removal of vascular and bladder catheters. CDC and its partners are implementing new HHS-proposed HAI targets for December 2020, using 2015 NHSN data as its new baseline. A key strategy for reaching these goals is the Targeted Assessment for Prevention strategy to identify gaps in infection control in facilities with a disproportionate number of HAIs (18). In addition to reducing the need for antibiotics used in treatment, preventing HAIs prevents complications of infection, including sepsis, a major cause of death.

Key Points

- Antibiotic-resistant (AR) bacteria can make infections impossible to treat, especially given the extensive resistance frequently encountered in health care facilities. Of 18 AR bacteria identified by CDC as public health threats, six, in addition to *Clostridium difficile*, cause health care–associated infections (HAIs).
- Three common HAIs associated with catheters placed in a vein or the bladder and procedures (operations) include: central-line associated blood stream infections (CLABSIs), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs), and surgical site infections (SSIs).
- Preventing these HAIs is an important strategy for reducing the impact of AR bacteria on human health, including the prevention of sepsis and death. Considerable progress has been made for some but not all HAIs. Compared with baseline historic data from 5–8 years earlier, CLABSIs decreased by 50% and SSIs by 17% in 2014. Whereas CAUTIs appear unchanged from baseline, there have been recent decreases. *C. difficile* infections in hospitals decreased 8% during 2011–2014.
- In 2014, the chance that an HAI was caused by one of the six AR threat bacteria was one in seven in short-term acute care hospitals but higher in other health care settings such as long-term acute care hospitals where it was one in four.
- Physicians, nurses, and health care leaders, working together with the help of CDC, other federal agencies, and other partners, need to consistently combine strategies to prevent catheter- and procedure-related HAIs, prevent the spread of AR bacteria, and improve antibiotic use, thereby preventing further patient harm caused by AR HAIs.
- Additional information available at http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns.

In conjunction with HAI prevention and antibiotic stewardship, the third necessary strategy is the prevention of cross transmission. To achieve this, physicians, nurses, and health care leaders need to improve hand hygiene, room cleaning, and use of personal protective equipment, and be aware of HAI outbreaks caused by AR bacteria in their hospital or region. In the case of *C. difficile*, which is unique among the AR threat bacteria in forming spores, special environmental measures might also be needed to prevent transmission (17). Because AR strains might be more virulent than other strains and thereby more likely to colonize and infect patients already receiving antibiotics, interrupting transmission of these strains reduces both the number of HAIs and the likelihood that an HAI is caused by an AR threat. To assist clinicians, health care leaders, and state and local public health authorities to learn when well-adapted resistant strains are emerging and spreading in a region, CDC is working with partners to build networks to better detect and respond to AR threats and to make antibiotic resistance data from health care facilities more readily accessible through a new HAI Antibiotic Resistance Patient Safety Atlas.

Over one of every four HAIs reported from long-term acute care hospitals were caused by AR bacteria. Moreover, limited data suggest CDI incidence in long-term acute care hospitals might be several fold higher than in short-term acute care hospitals (26,27). One contributing factor is patient transfer from intensive care units of acute care hospitals where their microbiomes have been disrupted by exposure to antibiotics and where they have been colonized with AR threat bacteria (28). Long-term acute care hospitals are facilities that can transmit or amplify antibiotic resistance within a community

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of interconnected health care facilities (29). It is critical for interconnected health care facilities to work together for early detection and response to emerging AR threats; coordinated prevention initiatives have the biggest impact on a community or region overall (30). Through sharing of information, practical expertise, and regional leadership, coordinated activity can have a larger impact on preventing transmission and infections with antibiotic-resistant bacteria than hospitals working alone.

The findings in this report are subject to at least two limitations. First, infections included in SIR calculations were a subset of all the infections evaluated for AR. The latter included infection events reported from any type of SSI, and infections occurring in locations regardless of eligibility to calculate a SIR. Second, the reported resistance relied on the manual reporting of the facility staff, based on reports provided by the clinical laboratory, and might contain inaccurate test results, data entry errors, and some incomplete information. Despite these limitations, these data provide important information on the status of HAI infection prevention in the United States in 2014 and the persistent challenge of preventing the spread of AR bacteria in a variety of inpatient health care settings. Preventing HAIs and the spread of antibiotic resistance is possible if physicians, nurses, and health care leaders consistently and comprehensively follow all recommendations to prevent HAIs, including prevention of catheter- and procedure-related infections, antimicrobial stewardship, and implementation of measures to prevent spread. (1)

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References


Increase in Reported Prevalence of Microcephaly in Infants Born to Women Living in Areas with Confirmed Zika Virus Transmission During the First Trimester of Pregnancy — Brazil, 2015

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On March 8, 2016, this report was posted as an MMWR Early Release on the MMWR website (http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr).

Widespread transmission of Zika virus by Aedes mosquitoes has been recognized in Brazil since late 2014, and in October 2015, an increase in the number of reported cases of microcephaly was reported to the Brazil Ministry of Health.* By January 2016, a total of 3,530 suspected microcephaly cases had been reported, many of which occurred in infants born to women who lived in or had visited areas where Zika virus transmission was occurring. Microcephaly surveillance was enhanced in late 2015 by implementing a more sensitive case definition. Based on the peak number of reported cases of microcephaly, and assuming an average estimated pregnancy duration of 38 weeks in Brazil (1), the first trimester of pregnancy coincided with reports of cases of febrile rash illness compatible with Zika virus disease in pregnant women in Bahia, Paraíba, and Pernambuco states, supporting an association between Zika virus infection during early pregnancy and the occurrence of microcephaly. Pregnant women in areas where Zika virus transmission is occurring should take steps to avoid mosquito bites. Additional studies are needed to further elucidate the relationship between Zika virus infection in pregnancy and microcephaly.

Since late 2014, clusters of febrile rash illness have been reported from the Northeast region of Brazil (2,3). These cases were attributed to Zika virus, a flavivirus transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, when the first cases confirmed by reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) were reported in Bahia and Rio Grande do Norte states in April 2015 (4,5). As of January 2016, transmission had been confirmed in 22 of Brazil’s 26 states and the federal district, and in all five regions of the country.†

In Brazil, all recognized congenital anomalies are registered in the Live Birth Information System (Sistema de Informações sobre Nascidos Vivos [SINASC]), which collects information on all live births nationwide and is estimated to have >95% coverage. In SINASC, microcephaly is defined as a head circumference ≥3 standard deviations (SDs) below the mean for age and sex.§ According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Multicenter Growth Reference Study, this corresponds to a head circumference of 30.3 cm for full-term females (gestational age = 259–293 days [approximately 37–42 weeks]) and 30.7 cm for full-term males during the first week of life (6).

During 2000–2014, an average of 157.3 (SD = 17.7) cases of microcephaly were registered in SINASC each year.¶ On October 22, 2015, the Secretary of Health of Pernambuco state (in the Northeast region) informed the Brazil Ministry of Health (MoH) of a marked increase in the number of infants born with microcephaly in the state, where 26 cases had been reported since August 2015.** By late October, the Northeast region states of Paraíba and Rio Grande do Norte also were reporting an increase in cases of microcephaly. On October 29, 2015, MoH reported the event to the Pan American Health Organization as a potential Public Health Emergency of International Concern. On November 19, 2015, an ad hoc microcephaly surveillance system was established by MoH for identification of cases of microcephaly both prospectively, and through a retrospective review of hospital records going back to January 1, 2015. Initially, the case definition for the ad hoc system included all full-term infants with a head circumference ≤33 cm. Toward the end of 2015, the MoH defined microcephaly as a head circumference ≤32 cm in any full-term newborn; this case definition is currently used nationwide.

The MoH and Secretaries of Health from the affected states led a joint investigation to characterize and identify the etiology of the outbreak, with the support of national research institutes. This report presents temporal and geospatial evidence linking preceding Zika virus transmission with the increased prevalence of microcephaly in Brazil. Among Brazil’s 26 states and the

federal capital district, the 19 jurisdictions that reported prospectively and retrospectively identified cases of microcephaly through the ad hoc microcephaly surveillance system during November 19, 2015—January 7, 2016 are included in this analysis. Two analyses were conducted. The first compared the number of cases of microcephaly identified through the ad hoc microcephaly surveillance system during January 1, 2015—January 7, 2016, with the mean number of cases reported to SINASC during 2000–2014 in those 19 jurisdictions, and compared the prevalence of microcephaly in states with documentation of laboratory-confirmed Zika virus transmission with the prevalence in states without confirmed Zika virus transmission. The second analysis examined the timing of peak occurrence of microcephaly cases in the three states with the highest reported prevalence of infants with microcephaly, relative to laboratory confirmation of Zika virus transmission in those states, to estimate the time during pregnancy when exposure to Zika virus might have occurred.

Because the SINASC case definition of microcephaly (head circumference ≥3 SDs below the mean for age and sex) was more restrictive than that of the ad hoc microcephaly surveillance system (≥32 cm in any full-term infant), the SINASC criteria were applied to cases reported to the ad hoc system for these analyses. Therefore, only cases reported to the ad hoc surveillance system with a head circumference ≥3 SDs below the mean for age and sex were included.

The annual mean number of cases of microcephaly among full-term newborns reported to SINASC during 2000–2014 was calculated and compared with the number of cases of microcephaly that occurred during January 1, 2015—January 7, 2016, and identified through the ad hoc microcephaly surveillance system. The excess number of microcephaly cases was calculated as the number of SDs above the mean number of cases reported during 2000–2014.†† Denominator data for estimation of state-level 2015 microcephaly birth prevalence were obtained by averaging the total number of live births from the SINASC 2009–2013 annual series (the most recent data available).§§ Exact binomial (F-inverse) 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for birth prevalence of microcephaly were calculated for states that did and did not report laboratory-confirmed Zika virus transmission. These two rates were compared with a Pearson’s chi-square test for heterogeneity.

To identify potential periods of maternal exposure to Zika virus during pregnancy, assuming an average gestation of 38 weeks (7), weekly counts of cases of microcephaly reported in 2015 in Bahia, Paraíba, and Pernambuco, the three states with the largest increases above the 2000–2014 mean, were reviewed. The beginning of the first trimester of pregnancy was estimated by counting back 38 weeks from the week during which the peak number of cases of microcephaly were reported in each of the three states. The earliest reports of laboratory confirmation of Zika virus transmission in the three states were used as a proxy for the beginning of Zika virus transmission. All statistical significance levels were set at p≤0.05.

A total of 574 cases of microcephaly that occurred during January 1, 2015—January 7, 2016, were prospectively and retrospectively identified and registered in the ad hoc microcephaly surveillance system from 19 states. Among these, 58.5% (336) were in females; this excess of female cases has been reported previously (7). The average head circumference of these infants was 29.0 cm (SD = 1.4 cm). During 2000–2014, the mean annual reported number of cases of microcephaly reported to SINASC was 157.3 (SD = 17.7), and by region, ranged from 13.0 in the Center-West to 65.2 in the Southeast (Table). During 2015–2016, 12 states reported microcephaly cases in excess of 3 SDs above the historical 2000–2014 average, including Bahia, Paraíba, and Pernambuco, each of which reported cases in excess of 20 SDs above the historical average (Figure 1).

### Summary

**What is already known about this topic?**

An outbreak of Zika virus disease, caused by a flavivirus transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes, occurred in Brazil in early 2015. An increase in the prevalence of infants born with microcephaly has been reported in Brazil since October 2015, in association with clusters of febrile rash illness in pregnant women.

**What is added by this report?**

The birth prevalence of microcephaly in Brazil increased sharply during 2015–2016. The largest increase occurred in the Northeast region, where Zika virus transmission was first reported in Brazil. This analysis of 574 cases of microcephaly, detected through a newly established ad hoc microcephaly surveillance system, identified temporal and geospatial evidence linking the occurrence of febrile rash illness consistent with Zika virus disease during the first trimester of pregnancy with the increased birth prevalence of microcephaly. The prevalence of microcephaly in 15 states with laboratory-confirmed Zika virus transmission (2.8 cases per 10,000 live births) significantly exceeded that in four states without confirmed Zika virus transmission (0.6 per 10,000).

**What are the implications for public health practice?**

The suggested link between maternal exposure to Zika virus infection during the first trimester of pregnancy and the increased birth prevalence of microcephaly provide additional evidence for congenital infection with Zika virus. Ongoing surveillance is needed to identify additional cases and to fully elucidate the clinical spectrum of illness. Pregnant women should protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing protective clothing, applying insect repellents, and when indoors, ensuring that rooms are protected with screens or mosquito nets.

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During January 1, 2015—January 7, 2016, Zika virus transmission was laboratory-confirmed by real time quantitative RT-PCR in 15 of the 19 states included in this analysis; among these 15 states, the overall microcephaly birth prevalence was 2.80 (CI = 1.86–4.05) per 10,000 live births, compared with 0.60 (CI = 0.22–1.31) in the four states without laboratory-confirmed Zika virus transmission (p<0.001). The overall microcephaly birth prevalence in the 12 states reporting microcephaly cases >3 SDs above the historical 2000–2014 mean was 4.61 per 10,000 live births (CI = 4.19–5.05). The two states with the highest prevalence rates were Pernambuco (14.62; CI = 12.33–17.17) and Paraíba (10.82; CI = 8.86–13.04).

Pernambuco state reported the largest increase in number of reported cases of microcephaly. During epidemiologic weeks 18–39 (corresponding to mid-May–early October) 2015, Pernambuco reported 0–4 cases of microcephaly per week (Figure 2). The number of cases increased substantially during epidemiologic weeks 42–43 (late October), reaching a peak of 27 cases per week during epidemiologic week 46 (mid-November). Assuming an average full-term pregnancy of 38 weeks, the first trimester of pregnancy of mothers of infants with microcephaly born during epidemiologic week 46 occurred during epidemiologic weeks 8–20 (late February–mid May) of 2015. An outbreak of rash illness clinically compatible with Zika virus disease was reported in Pernambuco in December 2014, with laboratory confirmation of Zika virus disease in epidemiologic week 20 of 2015. The estimated first trimester of pregnancy of the mothers of the infants with microcephaly in Pernambuco coincided with occurrence of the rash illness outbreak.

Paraíba and Bahia states reported an abrupt increase in the number of infants born with microcephaly in epidemiologic weeks 45 and 47, respectively, and both states reported similar occurrences of a rash illness clinically compatible with Zika virus infection during May 2015 (Figure 2). In Bahia and Paraíba states, cases of microcephaly reported in infants born through epidemiologic week 42 in 2015 (when the first cases in Pernambuco were reported to MoH), were identified retrospectively through the ad hoc microcephaly surveillance system.

Discussion

Congenital anomalies, including microcephaly, have a complex and multifactorial etiology and can be caused by infections during pregnancy as well as chromosomal disorders, exposures to environmental toxins, and metabolic diseases. The temporal relationship between outbreaks of Zika virus disease and increases in reported prevalence of microcephaly in Brazil, as well as the significant increase in birth prevalence of microcephaly in states with laboratory-confirmed Zika virus transmission, suggest a relationship between these two epidemiologic events. The reported occurrence of the 2015–2016 microcephaly cases, especially in Pernambuco, highlight the temporal relationship between preceding Zika virus transmission and the abrupt increase in birth prevalence of microcephaly.

This hypothesis is strengthened by recent virologic evidence. On November 17, 2015, the Flavivirus Laboratory of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) reported the detection of Zika virus RNA by real time RT-PCR in amniotic fluid samples collected from two pregnant women from Paraíba state whose fetuses were found to have microcephaly and cerebral calcifications by fetal ultrasound, and who reported symptoms compatible with Zika virus disease at 18 and 19 weeks' gestational age. On November 18, 2015, the Evandro Chagas Institute (Pará, Brazil) reported that Zika virus RNA was identified in blood and tissue samples of a neonate with microcephaly who died shortly after birth. This finding suggests a causal relationship between Zika virus and microcephaly. Furthermore, the temporal coincidence of Zika virus transmission and the increase in microcephaly cases in Brazil supports this hypothesis.

### TABLE. Average annual number of full-term infants reported with microcephaly during 2000–2014 compared with 2015, prevalence of microcephaly in 2015, and number of states reporting confirmed transmission of Zika virus, by region — 19 states, Brazil, 2015

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Region</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. states</td>
<td>Average annual no. cases</td>
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<td>North</td>
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<td>Northeast</td>
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<td>43.5</td>
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<td>Southeast</td>
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<tr>
<td>South</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>157.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviation: SD = standard deviation.

* Defined as head circumference ≥3 SDs below the mean for age and sex.

† Confirmed by real time reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction.


§ Cases of microcephaly per 10,000 live births.

### References


FIGURE 1. Locations of nine states with reported cases of microcephaly in 2015 exceeding 3 standard deviations and three states exceeding 20 standard deviations above the mean number of cases reported annually during 2000–2014 — Brazil, January 1, 2015–January 7, 2016

- Mato Grosso
- Tocantins
- Bahia
- Piauí
- Maranhão
- Rio Grande do Norte
- Paraíba
- Alagoas
- Sergipe
- Bahia
- Rio de Janeiro
FIGURE 2. Number of reported cases of microcephaly* in full-term† newborns following laboratory-confirmed Zika virus transmission§ — Pernambuco, Paraíba, and Bahia states, Brazil, 2015

* Defined as head circumference ≥3 standard deviations below the mean for age and sex.
† The beginning of the first trimester indicator is estimated as 38 weeks preceding the peak period of reported cases of microcephaly.
§ Confirmed by real time reverse transcription–polymerase chain reaction.
after birth.††† In addition, on January 12, 2016, MoH reported RT-PCR–confirmed Zika virus infection in two stillborn infants with central nervous system malformations and two neonates with microcephaly who died during the first hours of life, as determined by investigation by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (Natal, Brazil), in collaboration with CDC.

The findings in this report are subject to at least four limitations. First, this is an ecologic analysis, with only limited laboratory evidence of Zika virus infection for the pregnancy outcomes described. Second, data were obtained from an ad hoc surveillance system established by MoH after the first cases possibly linked to maternal Zika virus disease were identified. The enhanced awareness regarding this event might have resulted in an increased ascertainment and reporting of cases, including identification of false positives. Third, microcephaly was probably underascertained in Brazil before this event, so the increases might not be as large as suggested by these findings; however, they are substantial increases compared with cases of microcephaly reported during 2000–2014, and in some states, such as Paraíba and Pernambuco, exceed the rate of 5.1 per 10,000 births in Brazil during 1995–2008, estimated by the Latin American Collaborative Study of Congenital Malformations (8). Finally, this study was limited to analysis of the temporal and geospatial association between the increased prevalence of microcephaly in Brazil and earlier Zika virus transmission, and other possible causes of microcephaly were not evaluated in this analysis.

The sudden and marked increase in birth prevalence of microcephaly in multiple states in Brazil temporally associated with documented widespread transmission of Zika virus provides additional evidence for the role of Zika virus infection during the first trimester of pregnancy; Zika virus has been demonstrated to cross the placenta, has been associated with congenital infection, and has been recovered in neural tissue (9,10). There is an urgent need for additional research to confirm the link between Zika virus infection and microcephaly through prospective and retrospective analytic studies, as well as to determine the critical Zika virus exposure period during pregnancy with respect to possible fetal infection and microcephaly. Pregnant women should protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and long pants, applying insect repellent, and when spending time indoors, ensure that rooms are protected by screens or mosquito nets.

Acknowledgments

Health Secretaries of the states of Pernambuco, Paraíba, and Bahia; state Central Laboratories Network National Reference Laboratories; General Coordination of National Dengue Control Program; General Coordination of Surveillance and Response; General Coordination of Public Health Laboratories; CDC; Pan American Health Organization in Washington and the national office in Brazil.

††† Ministry of Health, Brasilia, Brazil; 2Pan American Health Organization, Brazil.

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References


**Notes from the Field**

**Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus Meningoencephalitis from a Household Rodent Infestation — Minnesota, 2015**

Pamela Talley, MD\(^1,2\); Stacy Holzbauer, DVM\(^2,3\); Kirk Smith, DVM\(^2\); William Pomputius, MD\(^3\)

On April 20, 2015, a female aged 15 years sought care at her pediatrician’s office after 5 days of fever, myalgia, left parietal headache, and photophobia. A rapid influenza assay was negative, and erythrocyte sedimentation rate and total white blood cell count were normal. She improved with symptomatic care at home, but returned to her pediatrician’s office on April 28, reporting recurrence of her headache and photophobia and new onset of a stiff neck. She was admitted to the hospital, where she was febrile to 102.9°F (39.4°C) and had meningismus. Computed tomography scan of her head was normal, and a cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis showed a markedly elevated white blood cell count with 68% lymphocytes, low glucose, and a negative Gram stain. She was treated empirically for both bacterial and herpes simplex virus meningitis. The patient’s hospital course was notable for hypotension (blood pressure 81/50), irritability, and pancreatitis with a peak lipase of 8,627 U/L. CSF cultures yielded no growth, and CSF polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for herpes simplex virus was negative. Nucleic acid amplification testing, acid-fast bacilli stain, and acid-fast bacillus cultures of CSF were negative for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Results of investigations for human immunodeficiency virus, syphilis, Lyme disease, human herpesvirus 6 and 7, and species of *Babesia*, *Toxoplasma*, *Cryptococcus*, *Histoplasma*, *Blastomyces*, and *Brucella* were negative. She recovered and was discharged on hospital day 11 with no apparent sequelae.

The case was reported to the Minnesota Department of Health’s Unexplained Critical Illnesses and Deaths Project,* which provides testing for cases that appear likely to have infectious etiologies although usual laboratory assays do not identify an etiologic agent; specimens collected during the hospitalization were submitted. Serum collected on hospital day 4 was reported to be positive for lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) antibody by immunofluorescence assay at a commercial reference laboratory (Table). CDC’s Viral Special Pathogens Branch was consulted because of the uncommon diagnosis and to determine whether this illness represented acute infection. Serologic testing by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay at CDC showed an immunoglobulin M titer of >1/6,400, consistent with recent infection (Table).

The Minnesota Department of Health initiated an investigation to identify the source of infection, determine whether additional persons were at risk, and develop recommendations to prevent additional cases. A recently ill family member tested negative for LCMV antibody. No pregnant women resided in the duplex apartment. The family had reported a rat infestation to the treating medical team during hospitalization; subsequent home inspection by a Minnesota Department of Health investigator revealed mouse droppings in the kitchen pantry. The fecal pellets tested positive for LCMV (1) by PCR, implicating the mouse infestation as the likely source of the patient’s infection. A 2006 case report from Michigan identified household rodents as the source of a human LCMV infection, which was confirmed through necropsy, serology, and tissue testing of trapped mice; fecal pellet testing in that case was negative for LCMV (2). This is the first report to identify LCMV-infected mice through fecal pellet testing.

The family was referred for integrated pest management services through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Healthy Homes program. The city housing inspector performed an urban rodent survey, and the property owner complied with orders to have professional exterminators treat the apartment within 30 days. Both households in the duplex were provided with educational materials concerning prevention of rodent reinfection.

In the United States, an etiologic agent is identified in <50% of meningoencephalitis cases (3); some undiagnosed cases might be caused by LCMV. LCMV is a virus of the *Arenaviridae* family; its primary host is the house mouse, *Mus musculus*. The disease burden in humans is unknown; an estimated 5% of U.S. house mice carry LCMV (4). Human infection occurs by inhalation of aerosolized urine and droppings of infected rodents (5). The virus is a fetal teratogen, and transplacental vertical transmission with severe effects on infants has been described (6); infection after solid organ transplant (7–9) also have been reported.

This investigation suggests fecal pellet testing as a possible first step in an environmental LCMV investigation when rodent trapping and conducting necropsy for diagnostics are difficult or impractical. Public health action around home rodent infestation might be warranted when LCMV infections in households are detected. Collaboration among clinicians, public health investigators, and local housing authorities can facilitate integrated pest management to decrease the risk for LCMV infection.

TABLE. Laboratory findings associated with lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) infection in a patient with meningoencephalitis, by specimen collection date — Minnesota, April–August 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical specimen/Laboratory test</th>
<th>Reference range</th>
<th>Collection date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrospinal fluid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White blood cells/μL</td>
<td>0–10</td>
<td>1,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red blood cells/μL</td>
<td>0–10</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocytes (%)</td>
<td>&lt;70</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glucose (mg/dL)</td>
<td>45–80</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein (mg/dL)</td>
<td>15–40</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCMV IgM antibodies (IFA)*</td>
<td>&lt;1:10</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCMV IgG antibodies (IFA)*</td>
<td>&lt;1:10</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCMV IgM antibodies (ELISA†)</td>
<td>&lt;1/100</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCMV IgG antibodies (ELISA†)</td>
<td>&lt;1/100</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abbreviations: ELISA = enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; IFA = immunofluorescence assay; IgG = immunoglobulin G; IgM = immunoglobulin M.
* Commercial reference laboratory.
† CDC Viral Special Pathogens Branch laboratory.

Acknowledgments

Polo Chen, MD, Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota; Stephanie Yendell, DVM, Paw Htoo, Minnesota Department of Health; Jim Yannarelly, Saint Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health; Ute Ströher, PhD, Barbara Knust, DVM, Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, CDC.

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References

Errata

Vol. 65, No. 6

In the report, “Notes from the Field: Administration Error Involving a Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine — United States, March 1, 2010–September 22, 2015,” on page 162, the end of the first paragraph should contain an additional sentence as follows: “However, because serogroup A meningococcal disease is rare in the United States, patients only receiving the liquid MenCYW-135 component of Menveo might not need revaccination, unless international travel is anticipated (especially travel to Africa) (3,6).”

Percentage* of Adults Aged 18–64 Years Who Delayed or Did Not Receive Medical Care During the Past 12 Months Because of Cost,† by Year — National Health Interview Survey,§ United States, 2005–2014

* With 95% confidence intervals indicated with error bars.
† Based on responses to the following survey questions: “During the past 12 months, has medical care been delayed for [person] because of worry about the cost?” and “During the past 12 months, was there any time when [person] needed medical care, but did not get it because [person] couldn’t afford it?” Both questions excluded dental care. Respondents were asked to answer regarding themselves and other family members living in the same household.
§ Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the noninstitutionalized U.S. civilian population and are derived from the National Health Interview Survey Family Core component.

From 2005 to 2014, the percentage of adults aged 18–64 years who delayed or did not receive medical care because of cost increased from 11.0% (20.2 million) in 2005 to 15.1% (28.7 million) in 2009, and then decreased to 11.2% (21.7 million) in 2014. During the same period, the percentage of adults aged 18–64 years who delayed medical care because of cost increased from 9.7% (17.6 million) in 2005 to 13.3% (25.2 million) in 2009, and then decreased to 9.6% (18.8 million) in 2014. In addition, the percentage of adults aged 18–64 years who did not receive medical care because of cost increased from 7.1% (12.9 million) in 2005 to 9.6% in 2009 and 2010, and then decreased to 7.3% (14.3 million) in 2014.

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ISSN: 0149-2195 (Print)