



CDC Connection: For the Advisory Committee to the Director

Issues and Alerts

1 in 6 Americans Have Food-Borne Illness Annually—About 48 million people get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die each year from food-borne diseases, according to new CDC estimates published in [Emerging Infectious Diseases](#) that show a decline from 76 million or 1 in 4 people from 1999 estimates. ([Dec 15 CDC Press Release](#); [Dec 15 WebMD](#); [Dec 16 USA Today](#)) ■ **Stroke Drops to Fourth Leading Cause of Death**—[Stroke](#) is now the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, swapping places with [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#), according to preliminary 2008 statistics from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. ([Dec 9 CDC Press Release](#); [Dec 9 Vital Statistics Report PDF](#)) ■ **CDC's National Influenza Vaccination Week**—On Sunday, December 5, CDC launched its fifth annual [National Influenza Vaccination Week](#) to highlight the importance and safety of flu vaccination, and to encourage people to get their flu vaccine during and after the holiday season. ([Dec 3 MMWR](#); [Dec 3 CDC Website](#); [Dec 6 CNN](#)) ■ **CDC Responds to Cholera Outbreak in Haiti**—CDC is part of the effort to support of the Haitian government's response to the [cholera](#) outbreak and has assigned 185 staff to assist. Haitian officials say more than 2,000 people have died of cholera since late October and that more than 92,000 people have been sickened. ([Dec 10 MMWR](#); [Dec 10 CDC Website](#); [Dec 8 LA Times](#)) ■ **Judge Strikes Down Part of ACA**—A federal judge in Virginia has ruled that the “individual mandate” requiring most Americans to purchase health insurance by 2014 is unconstitutional; the Justice Department is expected to challenge. ([Dec 13 Washington Post](#); [Dec 13 CNN](#)) ■ **New Surgeon General Report on Health Effects of Smoking Published**—Surgeon General [Regina M. Benjamin](#) announced the publication of [How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease](#), which reveals new findings about how deadly cigarettes are and how quickly they can cause damage. ([Dec 9 HHS Press Release](#); [Dec 9 ABC News](#); [Dec 9 WebMD](#)) ■ **Updates from CDC Vital Signs**—CDC Vital Signs addresses HIV Testing in the United States, noting that about 55% of adults aged 18–64 years have never been tested for HIV. ([Nov 30 CDC Vital Signs](#)) The previous CDC Vital Signs focused on issues surrounding access to health care because of the growing number of Americans without health insurance. ([Nov 9 CDC Vital Signs](#)) ■ **Health Workers to Give New Meningitis Vaccine in West African Nations**—A new, cheaper vaccine, MenAfriVac, developed for use in Africa can potentially protect 20 million people against meningitis for up to a decade. ([Dec 6 CBS News](#); [Dec 6 VOA News](#)) ■ **CDC's Response to Lead in DC Water Supply Criticized; CDC Responds**—The safety of drinking water in numerous houses in older neighborhoods in Washington, Chicago, Detroit, and Providence, and other cities remains a problem, and District residents who live in homes where lead pipes were partially replaced could still be at risk for lead poisoning. ([Dec 2 NBC Washington](#); [Dec](#)



[4 Washington Post](#)) Christopher Portier, Director NCEH/ATSDR clarified CDC's position in a letter. ([Dec 14 Washington Post](#)) ■ **States spending 2% of Tobacco Settlement Funds on Smoking Prevention**—States are slashing tobacco prevention programs, dropping funding to its lowest level in more than a decade despite receiving billions of dollars from the 1998 tobacco settlement. Only Alaska and North Dakota fund programs at levels CDC recommended; Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, and Wyoming fund programs at half the CDC-recommended level; Nevada, New Hampshire, and Ohio did not fund their programs. ([Nov 17 A Broken Promise to Our Children—The 1998 State Tobacco Settlement](#) PDF)

Director's Highlights

EHRs Essential for Improving Public Health—Dr. Frieden noted the important role of electronic health records in promoting public health, during the recent [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's 2010 Update conference](#). ([Dec 16 Modern HealthCare](#)) ■ **Frieden Gives Crofton Lecture**—Dr. Frieden recently delivered the Sir John Crofton Lecture: TB and Tobacco Control: Their Role on the Global Health Agenda at the 41st annual International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease conference in Berlin. ([Nov 12 41st Union World Conference Inaugural Session](#)) ■ **Frieden Addresses Flu-Related Issues at Conference**—On October 13th, Dr. Frieden explored how evidence-based interventions can help achieve the goals of the US Global Health Initiative during his presentation at the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington, DC. ([Oct 14 Stimson Website Spotlight](#))

Advisory Committee to the Director Updates

The next Advisory Committee to the Director meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2011, at CDC in Atlanta.

Our Members

Suzanne Delbanco, who has now become executive director of [Catalyst for Payment Reform](#)—a nonprofit that works with large employers on health-care cost issues—was recently quoted for the Fox Business story, [Cut the Cost of Health Care: All Hands on Deck](#). ■ **Sara Rosenbaum** recently published [A Broader Regulatory Scheme—The Constitutionality of Health Care Reform](#) in the New England Journal of Medicine. ■ Comments from **John Seffrin** about the newly released Surgeon General's report appear in several places, including an [Internal Medicine News story](#).

FYI: Resources

- [CDC Calendar of Events](http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/newsEvents/events.htm>)
- [CDC Vital Signs](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/AdultObesity/) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/AdultObesity/>)
- [CDC Publications](http://www.cdc.gov/Publications/) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/Publications/>)
- [Advisory Committee to the Director](http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm) (URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/about/advisory/advCharter.htm>)
- [HealthCare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov/) (URL: <http://www.healthcare.gov/>)

