

## Announcements

### Get Smart About Antibiotics Week — November 17–23, 2014

Each year, an estimated 2 million persons in the United States are infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and approximately 23,000 die as a result (1). The rise of antibiotic resistance represents a serious threat to human and animal health, national security, and economies worldwide.

The use of antibiotics is the single most important factor leading to antibiotic resistance around the world. In September, the White House issued an executive order and announced the National Strategy to Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria.\* These actions provide goals and direction to help the nation contain the spread of resistant bacterial strains, manage existing antibiotics to preserve their effectiveness, and help ensure a steady pipeline of new, effective antibiotics and diagnostics.

CDC will leverage its expertise and build on core strengths to address the threat of antibiotic resistance to slow the development of resistant bacteria and prevent the spread of resistant infections by 1) strengthening national surveillance efforts to track resistant bacteria, 2) advancing development and use of rapid and innovative diagnostic tests for identification and characterization of resistant bacteria, and 3) improving international collaboration and capacities for antibiotic resistance prevention, surveillance, control, and antibiotic research and development.

This year, Get Smart About Antibiotics Week is being observed during November 17–23, 2014. This is an annual observance to raise awareness of the threat of antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate prescribing and use. The observance is a key component of CDC's efforts to improve antibiotic stewardship in communities, in health care facilities, and on farms in collaboration with state-based programs and others. Get Smart About Antibiotics Week coincides with many global antibiotic resistance observances, including those in Europe, Australia, and Canada. Information on scheduled activities and how to get involved in combating antibiotic resistance is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/week>.

\*Additional information available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/carb\\_national\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/carb_national_strategy.pdf).

#### Reference

1. CDC. Antibiotic resistance threats in the United States, 2013. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2013. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013>.

### World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims — November 16, 2004

Road traffic crashes kill nearly 3,500 persons each day worldwide and injure or disable an estimated 20–50 million persons each year (1). They are the leading cause of death among young persons aged 15–29 years worldwide, and the leading cause of death among those aged ≤30 years in the United States. CDC has declared motor vehicle injuries a “winnable battle” and supports efforts at the United Nations (UN) and World Health Organization (WHO) to dedicate 2011–2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2). The Decade of Action was launched in May 2011 in more than 100 countries with the goal of preventing 5 million road traffic deaths globally by 2020.

In October 2005, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (3) calling for governments and nongovernmental organizations to mark the third Sunday in November each year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. This day is dedicated to remembering the many millions killed or injured in road crashes and their families and communities. This World Day of Remembrance also pays tribute to the dedicated emergency responders, police, and medical professionals who deal with the traumatic aftermath of road death and injury.

CDC, WHO, and the UN Road Safety Collaboration encourage governments and nongovernmental organizations worldwide to observe November 16, 2014, as the World Day of Remembrance to call attention to road traffic crashes, their consequences and costs, and prevention measures. The theme of this year's World Day of Remembrance is “Speed kills: design out speeding.” Ancillary materials are available to provide organizations with action strategies to support victims and survivors (4). Guidance for persons or groups on how to plan and organize events is available from WHO at [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241594527\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241594527_eng.pdf). Additional information about the World Day of Remembrance is available at <http://www.worlddayofremembrance.org>. Additional information about CDC's motor vehicle injury prevention activities is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety>.

#### References

1. World Health Organization. Global status report on road safety: supporting a decade of action. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2013. Available at [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/road\\_safety\\_status/2013/en](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2013/en).
2. CDC. Launch of decade of action for global road safety—May 11, 2011. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2011;60:554.
3. United Nations. Improving global road safety. Resolution 60/5. New York, NY: United Nations General Assembly, 60th Session; 2005.
4. World Health Organization. Advocating for road safety and road traffic injury victims: a guide for nongovernmental organizations. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization and Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety; 2012. Available at [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/publications/road\\_traffic/ngo\\_guide/en](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/road_traffic/ngo_guide/en).