

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

20 September 2002

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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HOT ISSUES

Anthrax Investigation – Florida

6 September: CBS News reported FBI investigators found that all of the more than two dozen photocopy machines at the American Media Inc., were contaminated with anthrax spores. Investigators are reportedly considering the theory that spores spread from the first-floor mailroom where the tainted letter was first opened and onto reams of copier paper stored there. The spores might then have spread into the air by fans inside the machines loaded with the copier paper. This latest theory would help explain for the first time the presence of anthrax throughout the three-story, 68,000 square foot building. Results of the investigation are pending. [[View report](#)]

Combat Veterans Medical Services – [VA](#)

11 September: The VA published VHA Directive 2002-049. This directive established policy and procedures for offering hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to recent *combat* veterans for a two-year period beginning on the date of the veteran’s discharge for any illness, notwithstanding that there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that their illness is attributable to their military service. [[View directive](#)]

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing – *Lancet*

11 September: The [VOA](#) reported the *Lancet* recently published a meta-analysis study in which Dutch researchers found that critical stress debriefing did not have any positive effects on individuals exposed to trauma compared to other methods of counseling and it did not improve natural recovery from trauma related disorders. The Dutch researchers state the critical stress debriefing approach might not be as effective as therapists believe because it may prevent trauma victims from seeking out the support of family and friends. In a related study, the US National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) cited evidence that early intervention in the form of a single one-to-one recital of events and discussion of emotions evoked by a traumatic event does not consistently reduce risk and may even put some survivors at heightened risk for later developing mental health problems. The *Lancet* study is van Emmerik AAP, Kamphuis JH,

Hulsbosch AM, and Emmelkamp PMG. Single session debriefing after psychological trauma: a meta-analysis. *Lancet* 360 (7 September 2002): 766-71. [[View VOA report](#) or [View NIMH report](#)]

Drug Testing – [DOE](#)

16 September: DOE reported a new drug test developed by scientists at DOE's Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory in collaboration with Miragen, Inc., promises to crack down on drug test cheaters. Unlike urine tests, theirs relies on a few drops of saliva, making it possible to get samples without the privacy of a bathroom. Additionally, the drug-testing strips uncover illegal drugs while decoding an individual's unique auto-antibody signature—a barcode-like pattern of proteins that links a test's results to its taker to further prevent sample swapping. Further evaluation will follow. [[View report](#)]

Gulf War Syndrome Study – [BMJ](#)

14 September: The *BMJ* published a two-phase cohort study that showed most psychiatric disorders are 2-10 times more common in disabled Gulf War veterans than in non-disabled Gulf veterans. Disabled Gulf veterans and similarly disabled non-Gulf veterans do not differ in their pattern of mental health problems, except that disabled veterans have a threefold increase in somatoform disorders. Rates of post-traumatic stress disorder were not higher in Gulf veterans than other veterans, leading the authors to suggest that ill health in Gulf veterans is not explained by events or exposures conventionally understood to be psychologically traumatic. [[View report](#)]

Hazardous Waste Reduction – [EPA](#)

11 September: [DENIX](#) reported on 9 September the EPA released a list of 30 priority chemicals found in hazardous wastes that federal regulators want manufacturers to voluntarily reduce by 50% or eliminate from their production processes. Three metals – cadmium, lead, and mercury – are included on this list, in addition to 27 organic chemicals, such as dioxins/furans, naphthalene, and fluorine. The list replaces a draft list of 53 chemicals EPA identified in a 1998 Federal Register notice regarding waste minimization. [[View report](#); requires registration or [View EPA listing](#)]

Hepatitis B Vaccine – [BMJ](#)

14 September: The *BMJ* published an observational study in which researchers found the efficacy of hepatitis B vaccination in infancy in a highly endemic country wanes with time, but efficacy against chronic infection remains high over 14 years. Researchers measured vaccine efficacy in 172 children and teenagers in a Gambian village who had been immunized against hepatitis B in infancy. Efficacy of the vaccine against infection was 65%, and against chronic carriage was 88%. The authors concluded that due to the small numbers in the study a larger study of efficacy during adolescence is needed

to decide whether a booster dose of hepatitis B vaccine is necessary in teenagers. [\[View report\]](#)

Osteoporosis Screening in Postmenopausal Women – [USPSTF](#)

16 September: USPSTF released recommendations that women aged 65 and older be screened routinely for osteoporosis. They recommended that routine screening begin at age 60 for women at increased risk for osteoporotic fractures. The USPSTF made no recommendation for or against routine osteoporosis screening in postmenopausal women who are younger than 60 or in women aged 60-64 who are not at increased risk for osteoporotic fractures. [\[View report\]](#)

Pests of Significant Public Health Importance – [EPA](#)

11 September: The EPA issued the final Pesticide Registration Notice identifying pests of significant public health importance. The list will likely not remain static since possible additional species may be found to present public health problems. EPA will update the listing as necessary. [\[View report\]](#)

Smallpox Vaccine – US

14 September: CBS News reported a Bush administration smallpox vaccination plan in the final stages of development would begin vaccinations for those at the greatest risk of contacting a patient with smallpox. This group includes infectious disease specialists and emergency room personnel (doctors, nurses, technicians, security officers) working at hospitals and clinics. The first group will likely include more than one million people. In the second stage, vaccination would be offered to other healthcare workers, including those in private practice and others who work in hospitals but are not at direct risk. At some point, emergency personnel, such as police and firefighters would also be offered the vaccination. Eventually, the vaccine would be offered to the general public. [\[View report\]](#)

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Nicotine – [PNAS](#)

10 September: New Scientist reported researchers found nicotine directly disrupts a baby's breathing as well as the early development of the neural circuits that guard against sleep apnea. This study suggests why babies whose parents smoke tobacco are more likely to die of SIDS. [\[View New Scientist report\]](#) or [\[View PNAS study\]](#)

West Nile Virus (WNV) and Blood Transfusions – [CDC](#)

13 September: The CDC reported it has confirmed transmission of WNV from a single organ donor to four organ recipients. During treatment for injuries that eventually proved fatal, the organ donor received numerous transfusions of blood products. However, the source of the organ donor's infection remains unknown. Subsequently, the CDC was informed of four other patients with WNV infection diagnosed after

receiving units of blood in the weeks before WNV diagnosis. In each instance, precautionary measures have included a withdrawal of any remaining blood products obtained from the donors whose blood was given to these patients. In cases of suspected WNV meningitis or encephalitis in recent (\leq four weeks before onset of illness) recipients of blood or organs, clinicians should contact local public health authorities to initiate an investigation. Serum or tissue samples should be retained for later studies. [\[View report\]](#)

USCENTCOM

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) – Kenya

The September issue of *Emerging Infectious Diseases* published a letter in which the authors report the first documented case of acute human CCHF infection in Kenya. A previously healthy 25-year-old male farmer was admitted to a mission hospital in western Kenya with an acute hemorrhagic illness on 21 October 2000. [RT-PCR](#) for CCHF virus was positive. No virus isolation could be made possibly due to a delay in forwarding to a biosafety level four facility and following freeze-thaw conditions. Previous evidence for CCHF in Kenya is limited and based on serology (human and bovine) and two isolations of CCHF from non-human sources. [\[View report\]](#)

Dracunculiasis – Sudan

13 September: The [CDC](#) reported dracunculiasis declined worldwide with only two remaining endemic foci of the disease remaining in southern Sudan and northern Ghana. Efforts are now underway to stop transmission of dracunculiasis in northern Ghana; however, in southern Sudan the 19-year-old civil war is the main cause for the continued high rate of disease. If the intensified political negotiations now under way between the two sides in Sudan succeed in ending hostilities, full access to the final areas of endemic dracunculiasis in southern Sudan might be possible soon. After the war ends and healthcare workers gain access to this area, at least four to five years would be required to eliminate dracunculiasis, given the extent to which the disease is endemic and southern Sudan's enormous size, geographic barriers, and poor infrastructure and communications networks. [\[View report\]](#)

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) – Kenya

9 September: The East African Standard reported Busia District veterinary officers have imposed quarantine in Matayos and Butula divisions following an outbreak of FMD in cows. Vaccination has already been conducted in the Matayos division and is scheduled for Butula division. [\[View report\]](#)

Rift Valley Fever (RVF) – Egypt

11 September: [AFMIC](#) reported that the Alexandria Veterinary Medicine Directorate declared a state of emergency after RVF appeared in livestock in Upper Egypt last

week. The exact location and number of cases was unspecified. [[View report; registration required](#)]

USEUCOM

Acute Gastroenteritis Syndrome – South Africa

9 September: News 24 reported at least four people have died and two miscarriages occurred as a result of a serious gastroenteritis epidemic in Rouxville in the Free State during the past two weeks. According to the report, the Mohokare municipality manager earlier had sent out a letter apologizing to residents for any inconvenience caused by water problems. Results for testing of the water supply and stools from sick residents are pending. [[View report](#)]

Anthrax, Cutaneous – [UK](#)

10 September: ProMED posted a Reuters report in which a researcher at the Centre [sic] for Applied Microbiological Research stated cutaneous anthrax might be more common in Britain than previously thought. Only 14 cases of cutaneous anthrax were detected in Britain in the last 20 years, but two British cases were reported soon after the 11 September 2001 attacks in the US. Both cases were the result of occupational exposure: one person worked with imported animal skins and the other with old building materials [[View report](#)]

El Niño – Uganda

16 September: [IRIN](#) reported Uganda had issued a national alert predicting unusually high rainfall associated with El Niño, a weather phenomenon typically associated with warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The increased rainfall is expected to peak in October. The flooding is not expected to be as destructive as the previous El Niño rains, which caused severe flooding and destroyed much of East Africa's infrastructure between 1997 and 1998. In neighboring Kenya and Tanzania, no significant changes in rainfall patterns are anticipated for the rest of the year. [[View report](#)]

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) – European Union (EU)

12 September: BBC reported that the EU is considering compulsory vaccination against the spread of FMD. A draft proposal seen by the BBC suggests that the decision to vaccinate could be taken by the commission if it were not possible to stamp the disease out through slaughter within 48 hours. According to the report, using the vaccine as a preventive is not feasible given the large number of strains of the disease. [[View report](#)]

Meningitis – Central Africa

11 September: [VOA](#) reported that a meningitis outbreak in Rwanda continues to threaten the lives of two million people and may spread to Kigali endangering another

million people. Nearly 700 cases of the disease have been confirmed with 83 deaths. The disease has also been reported in Burundi and Tanzania. [[View report](#)]

Nickel Sensitivity and Euro Coins – Europe

11 September: New Scientist reported that Swiss researchers have found the use of two alloys in the one and two Euro coins make them prone to release large amounts of nickel in the presence of human sweat. The coins can cause allergic reactions in people sensitive to the metal, while other coins containing similar amounts of nickel do not produce the same symptoms. According to the study, the coins release 240 to 320 times more nickel than is allowed under the European Union Nickel Directive. The European Central Bank says the study is flawed, as people that have nickel contact allergy should not have prolonged contact with any nickel-containing material. Twelve countries adopted the Euro in January 2002. About one in 10 people are allergic to nickel, developing eczema-like skin rashes during prolonged contact. Before the currency's introduction, dermatologists raised fears that the content could cause allergic reactions in susceptible people. But nickel was chosen partly because it can be more easily recycled than other metals used in coins. [[View report](#)]

Spinal Cord in Frozen Beef – Germany

17 September: [UK](#) Food Standards Agency (FSA) reported spinal cord was found in frozen beef imported from Germany into the UK. Bovine spinal cord is classified as specified risk material (SRM) and is therefore among those parts of the animal most likely to contain BSE infectivity. Under European law, SRM must be removed immediately after slaughter, stained, and disposed of safely. The discovery, made during an inspection by the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) on 16 September, involved one hindquarter of frozen beef out of a consignment of 162 beef quarters being unloaded at ADM (UK) Ltd, Eastbourne. This is the eleventh case of SRM in imported beef from Germany reported by the FSA. [[View report](#)]

USJFCOM

Adverse Event Reporting System, New – [FDA](#)

13 September: [CIDRAP](#) News reported that the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) announced it would begin a single adverse event reporting system “on or after 16 September” that will replace separate systems for the three categories of products: food, supplements, and cosmetics. The new tracking system, called CFSAN Adverse Events Reporting System (CAERS), will eventually provide adverse-event information on a website. [[View report](#)]

Anthrax, Bovine – South Dakota

4 September: South Dakota Animal Industry Board reported anthrax was diagnosed on a cattle ranch in eastern Butte County, South Dakota. The outbreak involves a herd of

approximately 240 cow/calf pairs and 15 bulls. Deaths included 12 cows and one calf. The herd was treated with antibiotics and vaccinated against anthrax. The carcasses are being properly disposed of under the direction of the Animal Industry Board. The remaining herd was scheduled for antibiotic treatment and vaccination 5 September. Significant climate changes such as drought, floods, and winds can expose anthrax spores to grazing livestock. In alkaline soils, high humidity and high temperatures present conditions for the anthrax spores to vegetate and become infectious to grazing livestock. This is the third confirmed outbreak of anthrax in South Dakota in 2002. The other two outbreaks were in Jerauld County. The first outbreak was confirmed on 26 June and involved a herd of 35 buffalo in which one cow died. The second outbreak was confirmed on 9 July in a herd of 256 cattle in which the only unvaccinated cow died. [\[View report\]](#)

Emergency Plan – Washington DC Metro Area

12 September: *Washington Post* reported Washington DC area officials released the region's first comprehensive emergency plan, recommending measures to help quickly evacuate the nation's capital, prevent a bioterrorism epidemic from spilling across state lines, and mobilize in the aftermath of a natural disaster. The evacuation plan included "super-carpooling" to supplement the overburdened mass transit system. To combat bioterrorism, the plan calls for creating a four-level disease surveillance and alert system in the District, Maryland, and Virginia. This plan will be compared to a \$420 million Pentagon initiative to build a biodefense network around Washington and three other US cities. The recommendations will now go before the 17-member Metro area jurisdictions for adoption. They will have to be coordinated with local and state governments that have separate police forces, public works departments, and health services. [\[View report\]](#)

Food Micro 2002 – International Committee on Food Microbiology and Hygiene (ICFMH)

5 September: *Eurosurveillance Weekly* reported that review articles for the 18th symposium of the ICFMH have been published in a special issue of the *International Journal of Food Microbiology*. Highlights from the conference included the [CDC's](#) report of US estimates from 1997 on cases of foodborne infections. The CDC reported calicivirus/Norwalk-like viruses caused a total of 9.2 million cases for that year, Campylobacteriosis accounted for around 1.9 million cases, Salmonellosis (non-typhoid group) for 1.3 million cases. *E. coli* O157:H7 or other non-O157 strains accounted for 92,000 cases. *Shigella* spp. and *Yersinia enterocolitica* were estimated to have caused 90,000 and 87,000 cases respectively. The US investigation revealed the causative agent was microbiologically confirmed in only one fifth of the reported cases despite increased knowledge and improved surveillance systems. Worldwide infections caused by *Salmonella typhimurium* decreased whereas infections caused by *S. enteritidis* had increased. The emergence of multi-resistant strains of *S. typhimurium* such as phage-type DT 104 was also noted. In 2000 the proportion of human strains of *Salmonella* serovars in the US that were resistant to at least five antibiotics was 11%. In 2002 it

was demonstrated that some of the penta-resistant strains have also acquired resistance to gentamicin and third generation cephalosporins. [[View report](#)]

Hepatitis C Strategic Plan – Texas

10 September, Texas Department of Health announced that it would consider adopting a California hepatitis C strategic plan. [[View California plan](#) or [View Texas report](#)]

Listeria Advisory – [FDA](#) and [USDA](#)

13 September: FDA and USDA advised the public of a recent increase in cases of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Pennsylvania and monitoring for possible increases in adjacent states. The specific food associated with the increased incidence of illness has not been identified. Those at highest risk of contracting the disease include the elderly, pregnant women, newborns, and people with weakened immune systems. The FDA recommends that people at risk use the following precautions: (1) do not eat hot dogs and luncheon meats unless they are reheated until steaming hot, (2) do not eat soft cheeses, such as Feta, Brie, Camembert, etc., (3) do not eat refrigerated pâtés or meat spreads, (4) do not eat refrigerated smoked seafood, unless it is contained in a cooked dish, and (5) do not drink raw (unpasteurized) milk or eat foods that contain unpasteurized milk. [[View report](#)]

Neurologic Disease Cluster Investigation – Wisconsin

12 September: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services released information on the status of an investigation into fatal cases of degenerative neurologic illnesses in three men who consumed wild game. Media reports generated considerable public interest due to the concern that these illnesses might somehow be linked to chronic wasting disease (CWD) of deer and elk. The investigation is still ongoing, but the following information was provided. The first component of the investigation is a re-examination of brain tissue collected from the patients during their autopsies. Two of the patients died in 1993 and the third died in 1999. Tissue samples from all three men were recently forwarded to the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Pathologists there are examining the tissue specimens for evidence of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and the presence of abnormal prion protein. Test results from the National Prion Disease Surveillance Center are complete on one of the three sets of samples. Pathologists concluded that the samples from a male patient, whose death in 1993 was attributed to Pick's disease, showed no evidence of CJD and did not contain any detectable prions. [[View report](#)]

Oculo-Respiratory Syndrome (ORS) and 2002-03 Influenza Season – Canada

13 September: Health Canada reported the National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommended continued use of the 2001 ORS case definition for enhanced surveillance of influenza vaccine-associated adverse events during the 2002-03 season. During the 2000-01 influenza season, Health Canada was first notified of

the occurrence of an increased number of persons who reported ocular and/or respiratory symptoms in association with receiving the influenza vaccination. The 2001 ORS case definition is the onset of bilateral red eyes and/or respiratory symptoms (cough, wheeze, chest tightness, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, hoarseness, or sore throat) and/or facial swelling occurring within 24 hours of influenza immunization. [[View report](#)]

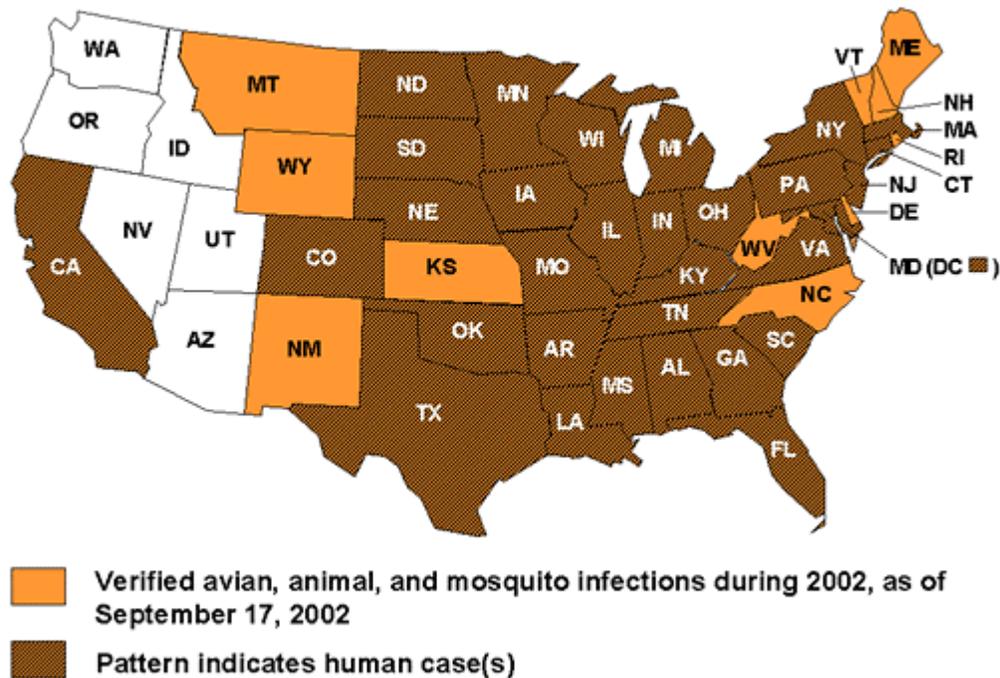
West Nile Virus (WNV), Equine – Canada

13 September: ProMED reported the following cases of equine WNV in Canada: six cases in Saskatchewan, 101 cases in Manitoba, and seven cases in Ontario that extended from the Toronto area westward. The Manitoba Provincial Government also posted a notice to hunters warning them that the extent to which WNV may be present in wild game is unknown. According to the report, the risk of WNV transmission from handling or consuming game is considered very low. There have been no documented cases of WNV being transmitted to hunters from game. However, the Manitoba Government encouraged hunters to take precautions when handling, cleaning and cooking game birds and mammals including wearing gloves, washing hands and cooking animals thoroughly. [[View ProMed report](#) or [View Manitoba Bulletin](#)]

West Nile Virus (WNV) Surveillance – US

17 September: [CDC](#) reported 1,540 human cases (71 deaths) in 32 states during 2002. Colorado reported its first laboratory-positive human case since the last HIO Update. On 12 September, [GEIS](#) reported that no cases of human or equine WNV have been reported by [DoD](#) sources. On DoD installations, there have been 208 WNV positive mosquito pools (DC, MD, GA, OK, and VA), 51 WNV positive dead birds (DC, FL, GA, IL, MD, NJ, OH, TN, TX, and VA), and 11 positive sentinel chickens at Folk Polk, LA. [[View CDC report](#) or [View GEIS report](#)]

West Nile Virus in the United States, 2002



Map courtesy of the [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&control.htm) at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&control.htm>

USPACOM

Drought and Flooding – Cambodia

10 September: World Vision reported that droughts and floods in Cambodia have affected 1.2 million people, killed 18, and forced at least 30,000 others to move to Phnom Penh to survive. The Prime Minister declared a “disaster situation” for the country and appealed for international aid after the Mekong River flooded some areas of the country in late August following Cambodia’s worst drought in some 20 years. Drought and flooding affected the following provinces: Battambang, Kandal, Kompong Chhang, Kompong Speu, Kompong Thom, and Takeo. [[View report](#)]

Febrile Syndrome – Nepal

14 September: ProMED reported 100 cases (15 deaths) of an illness attributed to an infectious disease outbreak of unknown etiology occurred in Dolakha district, Nepal. Dolakha district is 130 km northeast of Kathmandu in a remote Himalayan region wracked by six years of guerilla warfare. Speculation regarding the etiology includes an influenza-like illness (usual season is December through April) and Japanese encephalitis (annual outbreaks during the rainy season June through September). [[View report](#)]

Mass Food Poisoning – China

15 September: [VOA](#) reported that China's top Communist Party leaders have sent police and health officials to investigate a mass poisoning that occurred on 14 September in Tangshan, an industrial center near Nanjing. Customers, mostly laborers and school children, at a branch of the Hengshengyuan Soy Milk fast food chain began to collapse shortly after eating fried dough sticks, sesame cakes, and other traditional breakfast foods. On 14 September, the official Xinhua News Agency reported that 400 people were hospitalized and 41 dead, but on 15 September official government newspapers reported that 200 people were rushed to the hospital and a "number of them" had died. On 17 September, CBS News reported that a man jealous of a business rival confessed to spiking his competitor's breakfast snacks with rat poison. In July, a noodle shop owner in southern China was arrested on charges that he poisoned customers at a rival business across the street by putting rat poison in its soup. In that incident, 57 people were sickened but no deaths were reported. [[View VOA report](#) or [View CBS News report](#)]

USSOUTHCOM

Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) and El Niño – Brazil

September: *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, researchers reported that El Niño episodes are related to variation in the annual incidence of VL in the State of Bahia, Brazil and suggest that an El Niño-based early warning system for VL may help reduce the health impact of the disease in susceptible regions in Brazil. According to the results, the annual incidence of VL in Bahia tends to reach its lowest level in the first year after El Niño episodes and begins to increase in the second year after El Niño. The delay of this correlation pattern is unusual in light of the well-studied association between malaria and El Niño reported in different regions of the world. Increases in malaria incidence have been reported to accompany El Niño episodes or occur in the year immediately following such episodes. [[View report](#)]

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hiupdate/>.

POC: Barbara E. Davis, DVM, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM
<mailto:Barbara.Davis1@APG.amedd.army.mil>

Approved:
[Kevin Delaney](#)
Chief, Health Information Operations
(410) 436-5217 or DSN 584-5217

ACRONYMS

ACIP - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center
AFIS – American Forces Information Service
ATSDR – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
AVIP - Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program
BCG - Bacille Calmette-Guerin Vaccine against Tuberculosis
BMJ – British Medical Journal
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDR – Communicable Disease Report (England)
CIDRAP – Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy
CJD - Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency; <http://www.darpa.mil/>
DENIX – Defense Environmental Network & Information eXchange [sic]
DHF – Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever
DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services
DoD - Department of Defense
DOE – Department of Energy
DTRA – Defense Threat Reduction Agency
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
ESSENCE – Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics
FDA – Food and Drug Administration
GAO – General Accounting Office
GEIS – Global Emerging Infections Systems
GPS – Global Positioning System
HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IFRC – International Federal of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IRIN - Integrated Regional Information Networks, part of the [UN](#) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
NAS – National Academies of Science
NIH – National Institutes of Health
NIOSH – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
OIE – World Organisation [sic] for Animal Health
OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PAHO – Pan American Health Organization
PNAS – Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
RT-PCR – Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction
SCIEH – Scottish Centre [sic] for Infection and Environmental Health
TB – Tuberculosis
UK – United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales
UN – United Nations
USAMRIID - United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
USPSTF – United States Preventive Services Task Force
vCJD - variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
VA – Department of Veterans Affairs
VOA – Voice of America, an international multimedia broadcasting service funded by the US Government
WHO – World Health Organization
WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction