

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

23 January 2004

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 TOPICS

Durex Withdraws Condom Lubricant

20 January – BBC News reported the makers of Durex have ceased production of condoms containing a controversial lubricant amid doubts about its ability to prevent infection. The lubricant, nonoxynol-9 (N-9), was originally thought to provide a high level of protection against infections such as HIV. However, recent studies have shown that it may actually increase the risk. Concerns had been raised by the World Health Organization, UNAIDS and the US Centers for Disease Control.

[View Article](#)

New Dressing for Wounds Developed

19 January – Eurekalert reported a novel wound dressing made of genetically engineered human collagen that will enable faster and improved healing of injuries has been developed by researchers at the Hebrew University Faculty of Dental Medicine. There are different collagen-containing preparations on the market today made for treating wounds, for use in dentistry implants, and in cosmetics. All of them use collagen made from animal tissues, which requires specific adaptation in order to eliminate immunological rejection or to prevent microbiological infection. The dressing developed at the Hebrew University incorporates an inner layer of genetically engineered, human recombinant collagen. This material becomes a soluble, readily enzymatically degradable molecule in the wound tissue. The molecular fragments that are thus formed have been shown to play a pivotal role in the healing process. An outer layer, also of biological origin, is provided in the wound dressing to provide initial protection prior to release of the delicate collagen layer. Preliminary animal experiments with the new dressing have shown substantially faster and better healing, with rapid formation of new collagen fibers, than has been possible using older methods. [View Report](#)

Study: High Doses of Vitamins Ward Off Alzheimer's

19 January – Reuters reported high daily doses of vitamins E and C taken together reduce the risk of [Alzheimer's disease](#) among elderly people, a study said. Taken in supplement form, and not in a lower-dose multivitamin, the vitamins' anti-oxidant properties appear to offset the buildup of free radicals that are believed to damage cells and lead to the debilitating brain disease. Roughly 5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and the risks of developing it increase markedly with age. The 4,740 participants in the five-year study were aged 65 or older when the study began in 1995. In the first phase of the study, 200 cases of Alzheimer's were diagnosed, and those who had been taking vitamin supplements were at a 78 percent lower risk of the disease than those who had not. At the end of the study, another 104 participants had developed the disease, and the risk factor was 64 percent lower among supplement users. [View Article](#)

Melatonin May Help Blood Pressure

19 January – Reuters reported Melatonin, a hormone known for helping to regulate the body's internal clock, may help lower high blood pressure, Dutch and U.S. researchers reported. Supplements of the hormone, often used to help battle jet lag, reduced blood pressure in a small group of men who took them regularly, the researchers said. "This finding might open the door for a new approach for treating hypertension," said Frank Scheer, a neuroscientist at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston. Scheer's team, working with researchers at the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research in Amsterdam, gave melatonin supplements or placebos to 16 men with untreated

high blood pressure an hour before they went to bed. The men who got nightly melatonin supplements for three weeks lowered their nighttime systolic blood pressure -- the top number -- by about 6 millimeters of mercury on average and their diastolic reading -- the bottom number -- by 4 millimeters of mercury. [View Article](#)

Unbuckled Back-seat Occupants Pose Threat

20 January – MSNBC News reported fastening the seat belt protects motorists in a crash, but the risk of dying in a wreck rises if fellow passengers do not buckle up, researchers said. “A car occupant could be killed if struck by another occupant who was catapulted forward, backward, or sideways in a crash,” wrote study authors Peter Cummings and Frederick Rivara in this week’s issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. In crashes where a back seat passenger was not wearing a seat belt, the risk of death to the belted passenger in the front seat rose 20 percent, the study said. Similarly, a back seat belted passenger faced a 22 percent greater risk if the passenger in the front seat was not buckled up. [View Article](#)

Working through Back Pain Reduces Missed Days

19 January – Reuters reported a treatment approach that uses graded activity and teaches people with low back pain that they can function in spite of their pain reduces the number of days missed from work, Dutch researchers report. In a 6-month study, employees with low back pain who underwent a program of gradually increasing exercises missed significantly fewer days from work than people who received conventional treatment. An important component of the program was aimed at helping people unlearn their responses to pain. [View Article](#)

Focus on Epidemiology

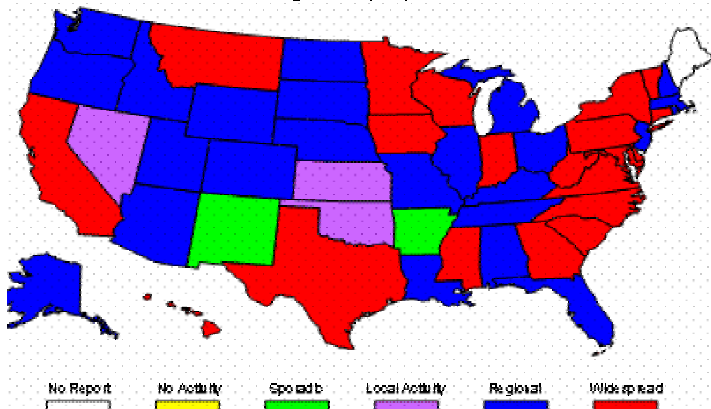
Declining Prevalence of No Known Major Risk Factors for Heart Disease and Stroke Among Adults --- United States, 1991--2001

16 January – The CDC/MMWR reported despite declines in recent years, [heart disease](#) and [stroke](#) remain the first and third leading causes of death in the United States, respectively. Of all U.S. deaths in 2001, heart disease accounted for 29.0% and stroke for 6.8%. The major risk factors for both conditions are high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, and obesity, all of which have been targeted by national prevention programs. In addition, the prevalence of multiple major risk factors has been a matter of increasing concern. However, few studies of national and state-level data have examined the prevalence of no known major risk factors among adults and how that prevalence has changed during the preceding 10 years. To assess changes in prevalence of no known risk factors for heart disease and stroke during 1991--2001, CDC analyzed data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). This report indicates that the prevalence of no known major risk factors is decreasing among men and women in nearly all states, racial/ethnic populations, age groups, and education levels. In addition, the prevalence of individual major risk factors is increasing. These findings underscore the potential for an increased burden of heart disease and stroke on the health-care system. To prevent the debilitating outcomes of heart disease and stroke among the aging U.S. population, increased prevention efforts and treatment interventions are needed. [View Entire Report](#)

Influenza Update

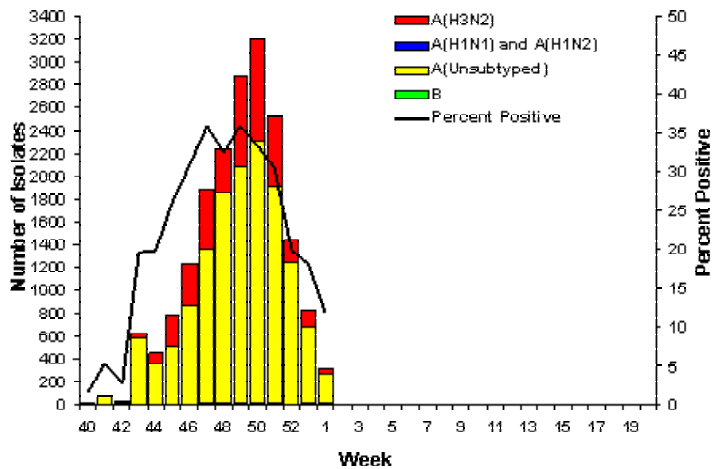
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending January 10, 2004 - Week 1



[View Source](#)

WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories National Summary, 2003-04



Summary of Global Influenza Surveillance (to 10 January 2004)

21 January – WHO reported Influenza activity associated with A/Fujian/411/2002-like viruses continued to increase and/or remained widespread in many central and eastern European countries (Austria, Croatia, Latvia, Norway, Russia Federation, Slovenia, Switzerland and Ukraine). Influenza activity also increased in Italy and Japan and remained widespread in some parts of Canada and USA. Most reported influenza infections this season have been attributed to influenza A(H3N2) viruses. The majority of A(H3N2) viruses antigenically characterized so far have been shown to be A/Fujian/411/2002-like; the others have been A/Panama/2007/99-like. In Viet Nam there have been 5 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with [A\(H5N1\) virus](#). All have died. On Tuesday 6 January, WHO announced influenza [pandemic preparedness Phase 0 Level 2](#). Several countries have reported outbreaks of highly pathogenic influenza A(H5N1) in poultry. This is of great concern as frequent transmission of avian influenza viruses to humans increases the possibility for genetic reassortment with circulating human influenza strains and the possibility of a new influenza pandemic caused by such [reassortant viruses](#). A WHO team has been sent to Viet Nam to investigate the outbreaks and [WHO Collaborating Centers for Reference and Research on Influenza](#) and some national reference laboratories are conducting antigenic and genetic analysis of the H5N1 viruses isolated from human and birds during the recent outbreaks in Asia. Results will guide WHO in preparing prototype viruses for [pandemic vaccine production](#) and providing diagnostic test kits for H5N1 viruses to national influenza centers. [View Source](#)

DoD Global Influenza and Other Respiratory Viral Pathogens Surveillance Weekly Update Week 2 (11 Jan – 17 Jan)

17 January - Since the start of the influenza surveillance season (Week 40: 28 Sep to 4 Oct 03), the Epidemiological Surveillance Division (AFIOH/SDE) has received 2,404 throat swab specimens as part of the influenza surveillance program. 2,203 (92%) of the specimens have been processed to date. Of those processed, 846 (38%) were positive for Influenza A virus and 5 were positive for Influenza B virus. Three hundred six (36%) of the influenza A isolates were subtyped. Three hundred five (99%) of the Influenza A viruses subtyped were H3N2; one (1%) of the Influenza A viruses subtyped was H1N1. One influenza B has been subtyped as B/Sichuan-like. Subtyping was accomplished by either polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or hemagglutination-inhibition (HI).

ILI Rate -- Global Military Health System

As of: 20 Jan 2004



Note: 2002-03 Data Only Available After Week 39
Horizontal Line is Interseasonal Threshold

[View Source](#)

Other Reports

15 January – Yahoo News reported this season's flu vaccine offers little or no protection against flu-like illnesses, according to a U.S. government study. The study of 1,818 Colorado hospital workers who received flu shots found that only zero to 14 per cent escaped flu-like symptoms - a fever plus a cough or sore throat. Normally, the rate is about 30 per cent. However, the study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not directly say how effective this year's flu vaccine is against the flu virus itself. Other studies are being conducted. [View Article](#)

16 January – ProMed reported Taiwan has ordered 20,000 chickens to be destroyed after a strain of bird flu was discovered at a farm on the island. Officials say the slaughter is a precautionary measure. They say the order was issued after the discovery of the H5N2 virus, a less virulent form of the H5N1 virus, which has killed at least 3 people in Vietnam. A government animal disease prevention officer says there is no risk of the virus causing mass infection of poultry or of passing to humans. Taiwan then found a second farm infected with the mild strain of bird flu, prompting the slaughter of 35,000 chickens and stepped up testing of poultry across the island. [View Report](#) [View Report 2](#)

18 January – ProMed reported Vietnam reported 5 more suspected human avian influenza virus cases on Sat 17 Jan 2004 -- including the first from the south -- as the World Health Organization confirmed a fourth death was caused by the disease. The new fatality was a 5 year old boy from Nam Dinh province, 60 miles south of Hanoi, who died on Thu 8 Jan 2004, WHO spokesman Bob Dietz said. He said increased numbers of people are being admitted to hospital with respiratory problems, although it was unclear whether they are linked to the avian influenza outbreak. Millions of chickens throughout Vietnam, Japan, and South Korea are infected with a deadly strain of avian influenza virus, although Vietnam is the only country to have confirmed cases of human infection. Besides the 4

confirmed deaths, the WHO says it is monitoring 3 other suspected cases. Vietnam has reported at least 18 suspected cases, with 13 deaths. Health officials believe the infected patients contracted the disease through contact with bird droppings. So far, there has been no evidence of person-to-person transmission, which experts have said could make the disease a deadlier epidemic than SARS. [View Report](#) [View Report 2](#)

18 January – ProMed reported China is refusing to disclose the origins of a "bird flu" virus lethal to humans which could make SARS look like "a puff of smoke," say angry scientists and World Health Organization officials. They fear that the country's Guangdong province, from where the SARS virus began to spread last winter, could be the source of the flu, which has killed at least 13 people, most of them children, in Vietnam, South Korea, and Japan in recent weeks. The Chinese authorities deny that the country harbors the virus, even though it has been discovered in poultry meat exported to its neighbors. An outbreak of bird flu in Taiwan earlier in January 2004 was traced to duck meat smuggled from China. The virus -- known officially as H5N1 -- spreads swiftly among bird populations and has been transmitted to humans. Southern China, where ducks, geese, chickens, and pigs are raised alongside each other in high-density farms, is a reservoir of mutating viruses. In the past, H5N1 killed only chickens but wild birds, ducks, and geese are all dying in the fresh outbreak. [View Report](#)

20 January – The New York Times reported in recent weeks, bird-watching virologists have become worried about what they and the World Health Organization say is the "unprecedented" simultaneous appearance of an avian influenza virus in a number of countries. The worry is that the avian influenza strain, A(H5N1), could combine with a human influenza virus to create a new strain. That strain, in turn, could cause a large epidemic in people. It might even become the seeds of an influenza pandemic that many experts agree is inevitable and possibly imminent. Five deaths attributed to the A(H5N1) influenza virus have been confirmed in Vietnam; all are believed to be from direct contact with infected chickens and not from eating poultry or eggs. Since mid-December, the strain has killed tens of thousands of chickens in Vietnam, Japan and South Korea. So far in the new outbreak, there is no evidence of person-to-person spread of the avian influenza virus. None of the health workers who cared for the fatal cases have become ill, said WHO. [View Article](#)

USEUCOM

Botulism Infection after Eating Fish in Norway and Germany

20 January – ProMed reported Helgeland Hospital in Norway admitted 4 patients for [botulism](#) infection after they had eaten homemade oerakfisk' in late 2003. Oerakfisk is semi-fermented fish often prepared at home in Norway and eaten traditionally around Christmas. Salt and sugar are added to a gutted fish, which is put into a pressurized container and stored for several weeks at 5-8 deg C before being eaten without cooking. Should the temperature during fermentation be higher than 8 deg C and/or the salt added is less than 5 percent of the weight of the fish, *C. botulinum* may germinate and produce toxin. In Germany, there was a botulism outbreak in a family after eating dried fish from the Elbe River. The source of the outbreak was identified as a home-cooked meal of fish that all of the patients had eaten. The fish was a sea bream caught from the Elbe River. It had been gutted, salted in brine, pressed and dried in the open air for a few days, and then eaten without further preparation. [View Report](#)

Cholera Reaches Nampula

20 January – AllAfrica.com reported the [cholera](#) outbreak in Mozambique has now reached the northern province of Nampula, reports Tuesday's issue of the daily paper "Noticias". Two people died of the disease over the weekend in Mucoroge, in the coastal district of Moma, and a further eight people are undergoing treatment for cholera in the local health center. This brings the total cholera death toll since the outbreak began in late December to 16. Maputo city is the worst hit area, with ten deaths. There have been two deaths in Beira, and two in Massingir district, in the southern province of Gaza. [View Article](#)

Russia: Fresh Outbreak of Hemorrhagic Fever in Tatarstan

19 January – ProMed reported a massive outbreak of [Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome hemorrhagic fever \(HFRS\)](#) has been registered in Tatarstan. 17 people are in the hospital, 2 of them in intensive care, the Republic's public health and epidemic monitoring authority announced today. All the patients are residents of Izhevsk, who came to the Republic's Zainskiy District for timber-felling work. Doctors believe they had all been infected while in Izhevsk, and the disease then developed and manifested itself in Kazan. No signs of the disease have been found among local residents. This is the 2nd outbreak of hemorrhagic fever in the Republic in January 2004. In the 1st outbreak, children and teachers fell ill in the village of Kirov in Aktanyshskiy District because of a failure to observe public health and hygiene standards at the local school. 21 people were taken to the hospital, and all have now recovered. [View Report](#)

Third French Factory Shuts as Legionnaires' Kills 10

18 January – Reuters reported a food factory in northern France closed on Sunday after bacteria linked to an outbreak of [Legionnaires' disease](#) nearby was detected in the cooling system. Two other factories have already been shut in the area since the outbreak of the disease, which has killed 10 people. A petrochemicals factory run by Noroxo, which belongs to U.S. oil company ExxonMobil, has also been closed due to the Legionnaires' outbreak, along with another plant. The disease -- a form of pneumonia caused by bacteria in water droplets -- first broke out in northern France in November. [View Article](#)

Turkey: Outbreak of Trichinosis

19 January – ProMed reported 48 people in a conservative Muslim district of the city of Izmir in western Turkey have fallen ill with a disease after unknowingly eating uncooked pork. The outbreak of [trichinosis](#), a disease spread by microscopic parasites and usually found in pork products, has been traced to a single seller of "cig kofte", a local delicacy usually made with uncooked veal but which in this case was made with pork. The cook at the centre of the controversy was reported in Turkish newspapers on Monday as saying he had always ordered veal from a local butcher and had always insisted that the meat be prepared according to Islamic laws. Eating pork is banned according to the Koran. "I am a victim of my butcher," he said, adding that he and his wife had also contracted the disease. Dr Mehmet Ali Ozcel, head of the Turkish Parasitology Association, said he had found the outbreak of trichinosis remarkable considering that since 1950 only 2 cases had been reported. [View Report](#)

USCENTCOM

UN Supports Bid to Prevent Smuggling of Afghan Children

18 January – The UN News Centre reported a United Nations spokesman in Kabul announced the world body's support for a new drive to prevent smugglers from taking Afghan children to other countries where they are used for cheap labor. Manoel de Almeida e Silva said UN agencies, working with government officials and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), "have been working on a comprehensive set of essential measures aimed at curbing this illegal practice and raising awareness about the problem." Meanwhile, steps are being taken to reunite children who had been deported from other countries with their families back in Afghanistan. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are backing the operation, which since October has brought over 70 children – mostly boys ranging in age from 5 to 15 – back to Afghanistan. [View Article](#)

USNORTHCOM

New Statistics Show More Effort in Prevention Strategies Needed.

20 January – Infectious Disease News reported new [HIV](#) diagnoses increased in 29 states in 2002, the CDC reported. The new analysis of 102,590 people diagnosed with HIV in the 29 states between 1999 and 2002 shows that blacks continued to account for more than half (55%) of new diagnoses. Additionally, significant increases in new HIV diagnoses were observed among Latinos (26% increase) and non-Hispanic whites (8% increase). HIV diagnoses increased 17% among gay and bisexual men and 7% among men overall. The study found no significant changes in the number of new HIV diagnoses among Asian/Pacific Islanders or Native Americans. The findings were published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). [View Article](#)

Study - Most Diabetics Are Obese

20 January — ABC News reported more than half of adult [diabetics](#) in the United States are obese and many more have higher-than-recommended blood pressure, cholesterol levels and blood sugar - all factors that raise their risk of complications and death, a government study found. "The message needs to get out that doctors and patients need to do more," said lead author Catherine Cowie, a researcher at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Overall, only about 7 percent of adults with diabetes studied had attained the recommended levels for blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol, the study found. Surveys involved a total of about 1,700 participants. The researchers found a glimmer of hope - significant improvement among diabetics in controlling cholesterol. Still, almost 52 percent of the diabetics in the 2000 survey had cholesterol levels at or above the recommended reading of 200, compared with 66 percent in the earlier survey. And the percentage of participants who were obese jumped from about 42 percent to about 55 percent. The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. [View Article](#)

USA (Wisconsin): Norovirus Outbreak Closes School in Oshkosh

17 January – ProMed reported South Park Middle School in Oshkosh cancelled classes on Fri 16 Jan 2004, after many students became sick with an intestinal virus. The school will be scrubbed down and

disinfected as officials try to control the virus. The outbreak started at Jefferson Elementary School and health officials say it probably spread from there. The school district is taking a more aggressive approach than Jefferson Elementary after meeting with state public health officials. Administrators say closing and cleaning the school will help reduce the exposure of students to [norovirus](#). The Oshkosh district will also keep a watchful eye on students who get sick at other schools. They plan to put the city's parochial schools on alert, too. [View Report](#)

USPACOM

Australia (Tasmania): *Rickettsia honei*

16 January – ProMed reported researchers say there is a lot to learn about a flu-like disease from Flinders Island that has made its way to mainland Tasmania. Flinders Island spotted fever, which is a strain of [rickettsiosis](#) (*Rickettsia honei*), has been found in ticks feasting on snakes. The disease is transmitted to humans through tick bites. Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery snake expert Jane Guy says researchers are yet to identify the initial carrier of the disease, i.e. whether the ticks that are carrying the rickettsia are getting it from the snakes or whether they're giving it to the snakes via their blood. [View Report](#)

China Approves Testing of Experimental SARS Vaccine on Humans

20 January – Health Canada reported the Chinese volunteers chosen as subjects for an experimental [SARS](#) vaccine are healthy adults aged 20 to 50 who have tested negative for the virus, and they're being warned their mission could be risky, state television said. The 30 test subjects have been drawn from areas where there has been no severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak and must have no history of chronic diseases, China Central Television said in its national midday news. It said there probably would be unspecified side-effects. "The volunteers will be notified of the risks," the CCTV announcer said. The government announced it had approved human trials of the vaccine, which it began developing last April, but researchers cautioned that the approval doesn't mean the vaccine can be produced for widespread use anytime soon. A longer second phase of tests will be conducted if the first phase proves effective, the television report said, and a third phase is planned for areas that have already been hit by SARS. [View Article](#)

Indonesia (East Java): Chikungunya

15 January – ProMed reported at least 168 people in the Magetan district of East Java have contracted chikungunya fever, an official of the East Java Health Office said on Fri 10 Jan 2004. This figure is the cumulative number of chikungunya fever cases for November and December 2003 in the area. The disease appeared in the area in early November 2003, he added. According to him, the disease attacked 5 villages in 2 sub-districts, Nariboyo and Parang, but so far there have been no fatalities. The local health office has warned the public to keep the environment clean and to eliminate mosquito breeding sites. Besides Magetan district, the disease has affected 3 other districts of East Java province, including Kediri, Mojokerto, and Jember, the local health official said. Chikungunya fever, since its appearance in West Java in December 2002, is spreading eastwards throughout the Indonesian archipelago. Chikungunya fever is an arthropod-transmitted viral disease. [View Report](#)
[View Report 2](#)

India: Visceral Leishmaniasis

14 January – ProMed reported [Visceral Leishmaniasis](#), the disease known as kala-azar in India, has claimed over a dozen lives and affected hundreds in Jharkhand in the last 2 months, say officials. 3 districts that border Bihar -- Godda, Sahebganj, and Pakur are the worst affected. In Godda, a shocking 1,402 people have reportedly been admitted to hospital for kala-azar. In Sahebganj and Pakur, there are 357 and 597 patients of the disease, respectively. In these districts alone, more than a dozen people have died of the disease. Kala-azar is rampant in neighboring Bihar, where hundreds of people fall victim to it every year. Doctors say the disease is spreading from Bihar to Jharkhand. "We are ensuring that DDT is sprinkled in all the states and extra care is taken in the 3 districts," said Jharkhand health minister Dinesh Sarangi. [View Report](#)

USSOUTHCOM

Brazil: Dengue Fever Update

17 January – ProMed reported the secretary for health surveillance reported 324,512 cases of [dengue](#) as of 20 Dec 2003, which included 323,355 cases notified between January and November 2003, a reduction of 59 per cent over the same period of 2002 (but note that 5 states have only preliminary data for the month of November 2003). The Northeast region notified the largest number of cases (160,439), followed by the Southeast with 84,377. Dengue types 1, 2, and 3 have been circulating in 23 federal states/units. Up to 20 Dec 2003, 618 cases of DHF were reported from 20 states, which is only 23 per cent of the number of DHF cases in the whole of 2002. The states with the most DHF cases were Ceara, Amazonas, and Espirito Santo with 279, 52, and 47 cases, respectively. During 2003 there were 7890 cases of dengue reported in Goiania [capital of Goias state], with 5152 confirmed, 31 cases of DHF, and 2 deaths. The part of the city with the most cases was Jardim America, with 196 cases. The health secretary of Campinas [Sao Paulo State] has confirmed the 1st case of dengue in 2004 in the district of Ponte Preta, in a 73 year old man. This is the 1st case since July 2003. [View Report](#)

Chile: 2nd Case of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome in Gran Santiago

18 January - The Metropolitan Health Service confirmed on Wed 14 Jan 2004 the second case of [hantavirus infection](#) in Gran Santiago in 2004. The affected woman lives in a rural area of Melipilla, 75 km north west of Santiago and, although still on a ventilator, is out of danger. The state of alert for communicable diseases -- which applies in 9 of the 12 regions of the country -- led the woman, who thought she had only a cold, to see a doctor, and this contributed to her early diagnosis and effective treatment. [View Report](#)

Death Toll from Colombia Yellow Fever Hits Eight

22 January – Reuters reported the death toll from an epidemic of yellow fever raging along Colombia's tourist-rich Caribbean coast has risen to eight, and 27 more people have been confirmed to have the mosquito-borne disease, health officials said. The epidemic, which has hit hardest near the Sierra Nevada Mountains, forced the South American government to close five parks and has prompted a massive vaccination campaign. [View Article](#)

Ecuador: Dengue Fever Update

17 January – ProMed reported, the health authorities reported 2 cases of [dengue](#) and 2 cases of DHF. 3 of the 4 cases were seen in the Infectious Diseases Hospital. One case of suspected DHF, pending confirmation, is a child from El Oro. [View Report](#)

Paraguay Declares Epidemic Alert Due To Rabies

19 January – ProMed reported Paraguay declared state of epidemic alert due to [rabies](#) in 3 Paraguayan departments. A massive campaign of vaccination of possibly infected dogs and people was recently launched in the country to avoid the spread of rabies, which already claimed one life, according to the country's Public Health and Social Welfare Minister, Julio Cesar Velazquez. The alert covers 9 municipalities where suspected rabies cases were registered. Rabies is a contagious illness, transmitted through domestic animals, bats, and rats and is often fatal for humans, Cesar Velazquez added. An expert from the Panamerican Health Organisation (OPS) is soon expected in Paraguay. The problem must be solved quickly, Cesar Velazquez said. [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/>.

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