



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for April 24, 2018

### 50 states of population health in 2018

(Becker Hospital Review) *Becker's Hospital Review* asked a hospital leader from every state to name the most pressing health concern facing their patients. We then asked how they are addressing it. This year, the opioid epidemic, access to care and social determinants are among common concerns cited by leaders.

**Kentucky's status:** <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/50-states-of-population-health-2018/kentucky-50-states-of-population-health.html>

**Story link for other regions and states:** <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/lists/50-states-of-population-health-2018.html>

### [Urban hospitals perform poorly on Leapfrog's latest patient safety grades](#)

(Modern Healthcare) Only one of New York City's 11 graded hospitals received an A in [Leapfrog Group's Hospital Safety Grade Report](#). Three of Los Angeles' 12 hospitals scored top marks, while only six of Chicago's 18 did.

Similar to the fall report, Leapfrog's latest analysis shows wide variation in patient safety performance across hospitals. Leapfrog scored 2,479 hospitals this spring, of which 750 earned A's, 683 got B's, 879 received a C, 145 earned D's, and 22 got an F.

Leapfrog calculates the grades using 27 measures including hand hygiene, falls and pressure ulcers. The data are derived from the CMS, Leapfrog's own hospital survey, and secondary data sources such as the American Hospital Association. <<[Link to SEARCH](#)>>

➔ **There were 46 Kentucky hospitals in the Leapfrog survey.**

- 10 scored an "A"
- 17 scored a "B"
- 13 scored a "C"
- 6 scored a "D"

### **Sens. McConnell, Casey introduce bill to fight prenatal opioid exposure**

(Life Science Daily) U.S. Sens. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Bob Casey (D-PA) introduced last week legislation that seeks to prevent infants' exposure to opioids. Their bill, the Protecting Moms and Infants Act (PMIA), aims to build on the Protecting Our Infants Act (POIA), a bill which passed in 2015.

PMIA requests that the Secretary of HHS provide Congress with a report on the implementation of the comprehensive strategies developed as required by POIA.

It also calls on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop educational materials on pain management for doctors and expecting mothers. In addition, it authorizes an increase in funding for a competitive federal grant that assists organizations with addressing this challenge.

The bill would increase the opportunities for federal grants for substance abuse treatment facilities like the Chrysalis House in Lexington, Kentucky.

Full story: <https://lifesciencedaily.com/stories/25179-sens-mcconnell-casey-introduce-bill-fight-prenatal-opioid-exposure/>

### [Humana looks to build the country's largest hospice operator](#)

(Modern Healthcare) Humana and two private equity firms plan to create the hospice-care giant by combining Curo Health Services and Kindred at Home. [READ MORE](#)

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**2018 hurricane names - is your name on the list?**

(Florida Today) There's a fun factor to having your moniker appear in the National Hurricane Center's list, pending, of course, there are no major injuries or damage reported in said hurricane. Maybe not so much in the case of Hurricane Matthew, where, according to Brevard Emergency Management Director Kimberly Prosser, about 1,650 structures in Brevard sustained damage because of Matthew.

Names for the 2018 hurricane season were released in December. Did yours make the list? Check the story: <https://www.floridatoday.com/story/weather/2018/04/23/2018-hurricane-names-list/490124002/>

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**What to know about 'dry drowning' after 4-year-old's incident**

(ABC) The story of Elianna Grace, a 4-year-old girl recently hospitalized for a case of "dry drowning" in Sarasota, Florida, has sparked fear amongst parents about whether their children are safe playing in the water. Fortunately, dry drowning is rare and children suffering from the condition will often have symptoms that prompt parents to seek medical attention.

Click the story link for more facts about dry drowning. <[Story Link](#)>

- What is dry drowning?
- What are the symptoms of dry drowning?
- How is dry drowning diagnosed?
- How is dry drowning treated?
- Can a child swim again after a dry drowning event?

Note: The article was done by *David J. Kim, M.D.* is a final year Emergency Medicine resident at the University of California, Los Angeles, working with the ABC News Medical Unit in New York.

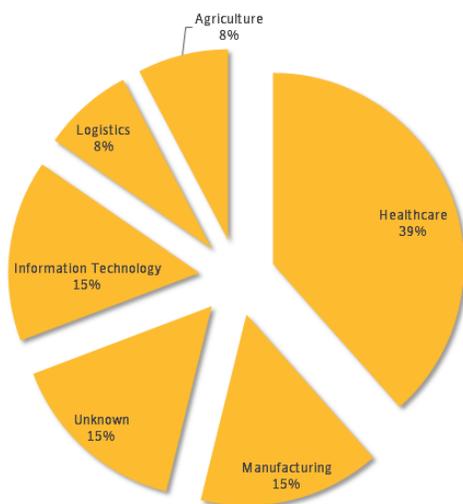
Full story with video: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/dry-drowning-year-olds-incident/story?id=54663459>

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**Report: Advanced Hacker Group, Orangeworm, Targeting Healthcare Industry**

(Healthcare Informatics) A new attack group, dubbed Orangeworm, is conducting targeted cyber-attacks against healthcare organizations in the United States, Europe and Asia, according to a new report from researchers at cybersecurity firm Symantec.



And, researchers have observed that the hackers have gotten footholds on the computers controlling high-tech imaging devices, such as X-Ray and MRI machines. Cybersecurity researchers have long warned about the vulnerability of connected medical devices, and this latest research indicates that hackers are actively targeting medical machines.

The researchers also note that the hacker group does not appear to be linked to a nation-state actor. "While Orangeworm is known to have been active for at least several years, we do not believe that the group bears any hallmarks of a state-sponsored actor—it is likely the work of an individual or a small group of individuals. There are currently no technical or operational indicators to ascertain the origin of the group," the researchers state.

Full story: <https://www.healthcare-informatics.com/news-item/cybersecurity/report-advanced-hacker-group-orangeworm-targeting-healthcare-industry>

Symantec researchers report: <https://www.symantec.com/blogs/threat-intelligence/orangeworm-targets-healthcare-us-europe-asia>

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**John Hopkins: Health Security Headlines,  
Extracts from April 23, 2018**

**Senate Committee Hearing: Are We Ready for the Next Hurricane Season?** (*Avian Flu Diary*)

Even though hurricane season doesn't start for another 5 weeks, I'm already starting to ramp up my preparedness in case--as I did last year--I'm forced to evacuate due to an approaching storm. [Go to article](#)

**CDC Expands E. Coli Warning to All Romaine Lettuce** (*CNN*) The CDC has expanded its warning about an E. coli outbreak connected to romaine lettuce to cover all forms of romaine, including whole heads and hearts of romaine grown in the Yuma, Arizona, growing area. A previous warning was limited to chopped forms of romaine, including salads and salad mixes. [Go to article](#)

**Hungarian Laboratory Worker Isolated After Exposure to Ebola Virus** (*Reuters*) A Hungarian laboratory worker has been isolated at a Budapest hospital after accidental exposure to the deadly Ebola virus but has shown no symptoms so far, health officials said on Friday. [Go to article](#)

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***New ASPR Story from the Field:***

**Regional coordination and patient tracking during passenger train derailment response**

As HHS' ASPR commemorates 15 years of HPP, they continue to celebrate the lifesaving work of health care coalitions (HCCs) around the country through HPP's [Stories from the Field](#). When a passenger train derailed on a trip inaugurating a new route from Seattle, Washington, to Portland, Oregon, the Northwest Healthcare Response Network ("the Network") played a key role in coordinating a cross-jurisdictional health care response.

Faced with an influx of patients, the Network leveraged an HPP-funded patient tracking system to successfully track and distribute patients while streamlining family reunification efforts. Learn more about how the Network leveraged a Regional Patient Tracking Concept of Operations plan and local coalition partnerships to streamline patient tracking in HPP's latest [success story](#).

Has HPP helped your state, territory, or municipality save lives when disaster struck? They encourage awardees to submit their success stories [online](#) or by [email](#) to be featured on [PHE.gov](#).



**HPP Turns 15:**

**Video Commemorating HPP 15th Anniversary**

HPP has been preparing the nation's health care system to respond to emergencies and disasters for [over 15 years](#). By supporting health care coalitions, HPP helps every patient receive the right care, at the right place, at the right time.

They are excited to introduce a video commemorating the accomplishments of HPP and its health care partners.

**Access the video.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoOMIZWOs7w&feature=youtu.be>

**HPP Director MMelissa Harvey on "What is HPP?"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztokVZnL3II>

**ASPR TRACIE: User Comments After the First Year**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAmtAfGruQ>

The KHREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact [rbartlett@kyha.com](mailto:rbartlett@kyha.com) (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.

**CDC Clinical Action: Outbreak Alert Update:**  
**Potential Life-Threatening Vitamin K-Dependent  
Antagonist Coagulopathy Associated With Synthetic Cannabinoids Use**  
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) sent this bulletin on 04/23/2018](#)

**Summary** - This COCA Clinical Action notice updates the message sent on April 5, 2018:  
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCDC/bulletins/1e6dac3>

Since the index case was identified on March 8, 2018 in Illinois, at least 160 people have presented to Healthcare facilities with serious unexplained bleeding. The preponderant number of patient presentations were in Illinois with other cases being reported from Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Laboratory investigation confirms brodifacoum exposure in at least 60 patients. There are at least 3 fatalities. At least 7 synthetic cannabinoids product samples related to this outbreak have tested positive for brodifacoum. At least one synthetic cannabinoids product has tested positive for both synthetic cannabinoid AB-FUBINACA and brodifacoum.

**Lessons Learned:** Patients with a history of synthetic cannabinoids (e.g., K2, Spice, and AK47) use may:

- Present with complaints unrelated to bleeding (e.g., appendicitis) and have **numerical** coagulopathy.
- Be asymptomatic and ignorant of their numerical coagulopathy.

The issue with vitamin K treatment is **cost**, not availability. The cost of oral vitamin K for two weeks treatment can be \$8,000 and treatment may be for months. Options are being explored to address these issues.

**What are the Clinical Signs of Coagulopathy?** Clinical signs of coagulopathy include bruising, nosebleeds, bleeding gums, bleeding disproportionate to injury, vomiting blood, coughing up blood, blood in urine or stool, excessively heavy menstrual bleeding, back or flank pain, altered mental status, feeling faint or fainting, loss of consciousness, and collapse.

**What Do Health Care Providers Need To Do?** Healthcare providers should maintain a high index of suspicion for vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy in patients with a history of synthetic cannabinoids (e.g., K2, Spice, and AK47) use:

- Presenting with clinical signs of coagulopathy, bleeding unrelated to an injury, or bleeding without another explanation; some patients may not divulge use of synthetic cannabinoids.
- Presenting with complaints unrelated to bleeding (e.g., appendicitis).

Healthcare providers should be aware that patients with vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy associated with synthetic cannabinoids use may have friends or associates who have used the same synthetic cannabinoids product but are asymptomatic and ignorant of their numerical coagulopathy.

All patients should be asked about history of illicit drug use. All “high-risk” patients (e.g., synthetic cannabinoids users), regardless of their presentation, should be screened for vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy by checking their coagulation profile (e.g., international normalized ratio (INR) and prothrombin time (PT)).

- Proceduralists (e.g., trauma/general/orthopedic/oral/OB-GYN/cosmetic surgeons, dentists, interventional cardiologists/radiologists, and nephrologists) should be aware that patients with a history of synthetic cannabinoids (e.g., K2, Spice, and AK47) use may be anti-coagulated without clinical signs of coagulopathy. These patients should be screened for vitamin K-dependent anti-coagulant coagulopathy **prior** to their procedure.
- Contact your local Poison Information Center (1-800-222-1222) for questions on diagnostic testing and management of these patients.
- Promptly report suspected cases to your local health department or your state health department, if your local health department is unavailable. In addition, report any similar cases encountered since 01 February 2018 to your local health department.

In an effort to better understand the scope of this outbreak, ask your Medical Examiners’ office to report suspected cases, especially those without an alternative diagnosis. If individuals are identified after death or at autopsy showing signs of suspicious bleeding as described above, coroners are encouraged to report the cases to their local health department.

**For updated information about the Illinois outbreak—connect with the Illinois Department of Health**  
<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/prevention-wellness/medical-cannabis/synthetic-cannabinoids>