



## Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update for June 12, 2018

### **The way the internet is regulated in the US is about to change.**

(CNN Tech) The controversial repeal of Obama-era net neutrality protections is officially set to take effect on Monday, despite ongoing efforts from members of Congress, state officials, tech companies and advocacy groups to save the rules.

The Republican-led Federal Communications Commission [voted along party lines](#) in December to repeal the rules, which were intended to prevent internet providers from blocking, speeding up, or slowing down access to specific online services.

The [concern among net neutrality](#) advocates is that the repeal could give internet providers too much control over how online content is delivered. It may also make it harder for the next generation of online services to compete if they have to pay up to be placed in a so-called internet fast lane.

Read more: <http://money.cnn.com/2018/06/10/technology/net-neutrality/index.html>

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### **CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory 412: Outbreak of Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) Infections among Persons Who Use Drugs and Persons Experiencing Homelessness**

(CDC - June 11) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health departments are investigating hepatitis A outbreaks in multiple states among persons reporting drug use and/or homelessness and their contacts. This Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory alerts public health departments, healthcare facilities, and programs providing services to affected populations about these outbreaks of hepatitis A infections, and provides guidance/recommendations to assist in identifying and preventing new infections.

Read full HAN: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00412.asp>

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### **Medicare Fund for Hospital Care to Run Out Sooner Than Expected**

The Medicare fund used to reimburse hospitals under Part A is slated to become insolvent by 2026, three years earlier than last year's projection, a new [report](#) by the Trustees of Medicare and Social Security revealed.

The sooner-than-expected depletion of the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund would result in Medicare reimbursing hospitals and health plans that cover Medicare Part A significantly less than actual costs in the near-future.

The Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund has faced a surplus in the last couple of years, amounting to \$5.4 billion in 2016 and \$2.8 billion in 2017.

However, the Trustees predict the hospital care fund to return to running a deficit by 2018 and until the fund is depleted in 2026 because of greater Medicare spending on hospital services.

Full story: <https://revcycleintelligence.com/news/medicare-fund-for-hospital-care-to-run-out-sooner-than-expected>

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### **Air Ambulances Are Flying More Patients Than Ever, and Leaving Massive Bills Behind**

(Bloomberg) Favorable treatment under federal law means air-ambulance companies, unlike their counterparts on the ground, have few restrictions on what they can charge for their services. Through a quirk of the 1978 Airline Deregulation Act, air-ambulance operators are considered air carriers—similar to Delta Air Lines or American Airlines—and *states have no power to put in place their own curbs*.

Prices for emergency medical flights have increased dramatically, as air-ambulance operators expanded their networks and responded to a wider set of emergencies, including traumas, strokes and heart attacks.

The median charge to Medicare for a medical helicopter flight more than doubled to almost \$30,000 in 2014, from \$14,000 in 2010, according to a [report](#) last year by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Air Methods' average charge ballooned, from \$13,000 in 2007 to \$49,800 in 2016, the GAO said. Medicare, the federal health program for people 65 and older, pays only a fraction of billed charges; Medicaid, the state-federal program for the poor, pays even less.

Air-ambulance operators' special legal status has helped them thwart efforts to control their rates.

Story link: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-06-11/private-equity-backed-air-ambulances-leave-behind-massive-bills>

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**Crime in the United States**

by Metropolitan Statistical Area, 2016

([CBS](#)) In 2016, the U.S. saw a [3.4 percent uptick](#) in violent crime compared with the previous year, the FBI reported, although overall it remains [near historic lows](#).

There were about 386 violent crimes per 100,000 residents in 2016, according to the FBI, which classifies murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault as violent crimes.

These are the [U.S. cities with the highest rates](#) of violent crime in 2016, the most recent year available from the FBI. *[The link above is for ALL the US. The PDF attached is JUST for Kentucky Counties in the report.]*

Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016/topic-pages/tables/table-4>

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.

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Counties principal cities	Population	Violent crime	Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	Rape <sup>1</sup>	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny theft	Motor vehicle theft
Bowling Green, KY M.S.A.	Includes Allen, Butler, Edmonson, and Warren Counties	170,204									
	City of Bowling Green	64,561	204	4	51	85	64	2,773	379	2,236	158
	Total area actually reporting	100.00%	280	6	74	91	109	3,664	691	2,740	233
	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		164.5	3.5	43.5	53.5	64	2,152.70	406	1,609.80	136.9
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN M.S.A.	Includes Dearborn, Ohio, and Union Counties, IN; <b>Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton Counties, KY;</b> and Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, and Warren Counties, OH	2,163,182									
	City of Cincinnati, OH	298,880	2,720	57	249	1,278	1,136	15,382	3,929	10,216	1,237
	Total area actually reporting	94.20%	5,377	98	856	2,164	2,259	54,312	10,956	40,542	2,814
	Estimated total	100.00%	5,566	101	889	2,213	2,363	56,602	11,377	42,278	2,947
	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		257.3	4.7	41.1	102.3	109.2	2,616.60	525.9	1,954.40	136.2
Clarksville, TN-KY M.S.A.	Includes Christian and Trigg Counties, KY and Montgomery County, TN	285,097									
	City of Clarksville, TN	152,526	935	12	74	131	718	3,853	711	2,960	182
	Total area actually reporting	100.00%	1,219	19	115	202	883	6,311	1,283	4,689	339
	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		427.6	6.7	40.3	70.9	309.7	2,213.60	450	1,644.70	118.9
Elizabethtown Fort Knox, KY M.S.A.	Includes Hardin, Larue, and Meade Counties	148,206									
	City of Elizabethtown	29,821	68	2	15	17	34	476	107	329	40
	Total area actually reporting	100.00%	181	3	40	52	86	1,479	406	945	128
	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		122.1	2	27	35.1	58	997.9	273.9	637.6	86.4
Evansville, IN-KY M.S.A.	Includes Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick Counties, IN and Henderson County, KY	315,875									
	City of Evansville	119,908	762	8	75	210	469	5,881	1,008	4,490	383
	Total area actually reporting	97.90%	1,127	11	106	253	757	8,462	1,556	6,375	531
	Estimated total	100.00%	1,144	11	107	257	769	8,644	1,577	6,523	544
	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		362.2	3.5	33.9	81.4	243.5	2,736.50	499.2	2,065.10	172.2

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Counties principal cities	Population	Violent crime	Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	Rape <sup>1</sup>	Robbery	Aggravated assault	Property crime	Burglary	Larceny theft	Motor vehicle theft
Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH M.S.A.3, 4	Includes <b>Boyd and Greenup Counties, KY</b> ; Lawrence County OH; and Cabell, Lincoln, Putnam, and Wayne Counties, WV	359,412									
	City of Huntington, WV <sup>3</sup>	48,540	378	3	33	125	217			1,497	115
	<b>City of Ashland, KY</b>	20,987	51	1	16	11	23	885	146	704	35
	Total area actually reporting	83.70%	900	6	137	169	588			5,159	
	Estimated total	100.00%	1,048	8	158	180	702			5,867	
	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		291.6	2.2	44	50.1	195.3			1,632.40	
Lexington-Fayette, KY M.S.A.	Includes Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine, Scott, and Woodford Counties	505,664									
	City of Lexington	317,853	1,079	24	200	575	280	13,058	2,435	9,465	1,158
	Total area actually reporting	100.00%	1,335	25	262	667	381	18,168	3,439	13,293	1,436
	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		264	4.9	51.8	131.9	75.3	3,592.90	680.1	2,628.80	284
Louisville/Jefferson County, KY-IN M.S.A.	Includes Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Scott, and Washington Counties, IN and <b>Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties, KY</b>	1,285,169									
	City of Louisville Metro, KY	683,825	4,621	119	196	1,514	2,792	30,254	5,907	19,983	4,364
	Total area actually reporting	94.20%	5,502	131	291	1,787	3,293	42,026	7,908	28,544	5,574
	Estimated total	100.00%	5,627	134	305	1,807	3,381	43,168	8,132	29,361	5,675
	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		437.8	10.4	23.7	140.6	263.1	3,358.90	632.8	2,284.60	441.6
Owensboro, KY M.S.A.	Includes Daviess, Hancock, and McLean Counties	117,893									
	City of Owensboro	59,359	136	1	34	49	52	2,658	486	1,937	235
	Total area actually reporting	100.00%	169	2	46	52	69	3,196	636	2,289	271
	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants		143.4	1.7	39	44.1	58.5	2,710.90	539.5	1,941.60	229.9

<sup>1</sup> The rape figures in this table are an aggregate total of the data submitted using both the revised and legacy Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) definitions. See the data declaration for further explanation.

<sup>2</sup> Because of changes in the state/local agency's reporting practices, figures are not comparable to previous years' data.

<sup>3</sup> The FBI determined that the agency's data were underreported. Consequently, those data are not included in this table.

<sup>4</sup> The FBI determined that the agency's data were overreported. Consequently, those data are not included in this table.

<sup>5</sup> The population for the city of Mobile, Alabama, includes 55,819 inhabitants from the jurisdiction of the Mobile County Sheriff's Department.

<sup>6</sup> The 2016 murder offenses include those victims of the Pulse Nightclub incident; therefore, figures are not comparable to previous years' data.

<sup>7</sup> The FBI determined that the agency did not follow national UCR Program guidelines for reporting an offense. Consequently, this figure is not included in this table.