Drug Overdoses Contribute To Rise in Midlife Mortality in Ohio River Valley

(NPR) The Ohio River Valley has seen some of the largest jumps in mortality rates among people in midlife—those between ages 25 and 64—in recent years. Appalachia has been hit especially hard by the opioid epidemic, and Ohio and West Virginia have suffered the worst, with the highest rates of overdose deaths.

There is no one factor behind these numbers: Smoking, obesity, alcohol abuse and organ system diseases all contribute, along with drug overdoses. Broader economic conditions factor in, too. Over the years, the Ohio River Valley has seen the bottom fall out of the coal and steel industries—the engines that built these towns and that used to employ tens of thousands of workers.

"It's kind of like a butterfly effect," says Daniel Grady, public health emergency preparedness coordinator with the Belmont County (OH) Health Department. "People lose their jobs. They lose their health insurance, so that means preventative care takes a hit. And then, just the depression and everything that goes along with losing a job. Everything spreads out from something like that."


To battle opioid crisis, some track overdoses in real time

(AP) — Drug overdose patients rushed to some emergency rooms in New York's Hudson Valley are asked a series of questions: Do you have stable housing? Do you have food? Times and location of overdoses are noted, too. The information is entered into a new overdose-tracking system that provides near real-time glimpses into the ravages of the opioid-fueled drug crisis. The Hudson Valley Interlink Analytic System is among a number of surveillance systems being adopted around the country by police, government agencies and community groups. While the number of drug overdose deaths appears to have fallen nationally in 2018 for the first time in nearly three decades, the overdose death rate remains about seven times higher than a generation ago. If there's a spike in overdoses, the system will send text alerts to health administrators and community workers. And system users can see what drugs are being abused for faster and focused responses to the ever-evolving problem.

Around the country, workers on the front lines of the opioid crisis are looking to speedier data access as part of their prevention strategy. The Minnesota Drug Overdose and Substance Use Surveillance Activity system also analyzes blood or urine samples from a subset of patients to be able to detect patient exposure to fentanyl or other substances. In Michigan, the System for Opioid Overdose Surveillance processes data from medical examiners and from EMS encounters in which overdose-reversing naloxone was administered.

The most ubiquitous surveillance system is the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program, or ODMAP. The system allows first responders and others to enter data on suspected overdoses, including locations, times, naloxone dosages, victim ages and suspected drugs. The system designed by the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program in the Washington/Baltimore area sends out spike alerts to police and other agencies. Launched as a pilot in January 2017, it is now in 48 states.

Full AP story: https://apnews.com/65eb129f7d65ad537e8579c0e530263

Check on ODMAP in your state: http://www.odmap.org/#agency

KY Governor Cancels Bevin's New Medicaid Contracts; Will Redo Process Next Year

(WFPL) Passport Health Plan and Anthem Kentucky, the Medicaid providers whose contracts were not renewed by outgoing Gov. Matt Bevin last month, have another shot at continuing to serve Kentuckians. Gov. Andy Beshear said his administration would cancel the five Medicaid contracts awarded by Bevin in his last days in office. He plans to redo the bid process early next year, with the goal of awarding new contracts by the spring. Beshear said anyone is welcome to bid, including those who were denied contracts by Bevin.

Story link: https://wfpl.org/beshear-cancels-bevins-medicaid-contracts-will-redo-process-next-year/

KY Poison Control's Opioid Assistance Hotline: https://kyoarhotline.com/

How to help homeless students around the holidays and beyond

Living in her car, she was afraid and harassed. Then she found an unexpected refuge
Holiday feast feeds those fighting food insecurity in Fayette County

(WKYT) Nearly 500 people, children and the elderly, came in for the Lexington Rescue Mission’s Christmas dinner and fellowship. This year’s warmer weather is kinder to those living on the streets and walking to work and school, which meant less requests for coffee and more for lemonade. Nearly 16 percent of people living in Fayette County are food insecure, according to Feeding America’s 2017 report. Full story & video report: https://www.wkcy.com/content/news/Holiday-feast-feeds-those-fighting-food-insecurity-in-Fayette-County--566449351.html

U.S. safety monitoring program for lifesaving devices may not be adequate

(Reuters Health) - The system in place to monitor safety of medical devices in the United States may not catch failures soon enough to prevent serious harm to patients, a study suggests. Researchers examined data on a heart pacemaker that was eventually recalled by its maker and found that numerous people were harmed in the 19 months that passed after the first reported device failure, according to the study in JAMA Internal Medicine. Full report: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-pacemakers-safety/u-s-safety-monitoring-program-for-lifesaving-devices-may-not-be-adequate-idUSKBN1YR22V

Explosive Device Detonates Under Indy Railroad Overpass

(US DHS TRIPwire, 23 December 2019) - On 20 December 2019 at approximately 2100 hours local time, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department received reports of an explosive device detonating under a railroad overpass in Speedway. A woman was driving under the overpass when the device was dropped and functioned in midair in front of her vehicle. No injuries were reported, but the victim’s vehicle and some lights under the overpass sustained minor damages. Authorities have arrested two male suspects in connection with the incident, and the investigation is ongoing.

Related: Father, son arrested for explosion below overpass near IMS
Read more: https://fox59.com/2019/12/23/father-son-arrested-for-explosion-below-overpass-near-ims/

A giant hornet has invaded Washington state, and it's hungry for honeybees

(CNN) There's at least one Asian giant hornet, the largest pest of its kind, buzzing around Washington state, and it's scaring locals silly. But it's not here to prick people -- it's much hungrier for honeybees. The fearsome pests are five times the size of a honeybee, and they can kill up to 40 bees a minute, per Purdue University's pest tracker. The honeybees are especially easy targets when clustered in their hives. But they're not totally helpless! Read more: https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/23/us/asian-giant-hornet-washington-state-scn-tmd/index.html

A 911 dispatcher who told a drowning woman to 'shut up' will not face charges

NPR's Crazy Medical Bill of the Month:
She Had a Routine Throat Swab. The Bill Was $28K
Newser summary: https://www.newser.com/story/284712/she-had-a-routine-throat-swab-the-bill-was-28k.html
NPR story link: https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/12/23/787403509/for-her-head-cold-insurer-coughed-up-25-865

NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-189, Resilient Interdomain Traffic Exchange: BGP Security and DDoS Mitigation

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in the US Dept. of Commerce, has released Special Publication (SP) 800-189, Resilient Interdomain Traffic Exchange: BGP Security and DDoS Mitigation, provides technical guidance and recommendations for technologies that facilitate resilient interdomain traffic exchange (RITE). Technologies recommended in this document for securing the interdomain routing control traffic include Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI), BGP origin validation (BGP-OV), and prefix filtering. The document is intended to guide information security officers and managers of federal enterprise networks. The guidance also applies to the network services of hosting providers (e.g., cloud-based applications and service hosting) and internet service providers (ISPs) when they are used to support federal IT systems. The guidance may also be useful for enterprise and transit network operators and equipment vendors in general.
The final publication of SP 800-189 incorporates comments that were received on the second public draft (October 2019). See the publication details for links to the initial and second public drafts, which include summaries of comments received and NIST’s responses to those comments. SP 800-189 supersedes SP 800-54, Border Gateway Protocol Security, which has been withdrawn.

Link:  https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/detail/sp/800-189/final

----- NIH Requests Public Comment on a Draft Policy for Data Management and Sharing with Supplemental Draft Guidance -----  

National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently released a Draft NIH Policy for Data Management and Sharing and supplemental draft guidance for public comment. The purpose of this draft policy and supplemental draft guidance is to promote effective and efficient data management and sharing that furthers NIH’s commitment to making the results and accomplishments of the research it funds and conducts available to the public. Complete information about the draft Policy and draft supplemental guidance can be found on the NIH OSP website. Stakeholders are invited to comment on any aspect of the draft policy, the supplemental draft guidance, or any other relevant considerations. Submit comments by January 10, 2020 by visiting the NIH-established web portal. Questions may be sent via email to NIH [SciencePolicy@mail.nih.gov].


----- Recent Health Sector Cybersecurity Coord. Center Briefings -----  

HHS Briefing on BlueKeep:  

HHS Briefing on Cyber Incident Response:  

[Recommend the above items get forwarded to your IT manager or supervisor.]

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 added or deleted, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact 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.