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# Outbreak of Acute Gastroenteritis Attributable to *Escherichia coli* Serotype O104:H21 — Helena, Montana, 1994

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

During February–March, 1994, four persons in Helena, Montana (1995 population: 24,569), developed bloody diarrhea and severe abdominal cramps. Stool cultures for *Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter,* and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 were negative; however, sorbitol-negative *E. coli* colonies were identified in stools from all four patients. Isolates from three patients were identified at CDC as a rare serotype—*E. coli* O104:H21 that produced Shiga-like toxin II. This report summarizes the epidemiologic and laboratory investigations of this outbreak by the Lewis and Clark County Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.

A confirmed case was defined as acute infection with *E. coli* O104:H21 during February 20–May 25, 1994—based on stool culture or serologic evidence—in a resident of or a visitor to the Helena area. A suspected case was defined onset of bloody diarrhea or abdominal cramps during the same period in a resident of or visitor to the Helena area. MDHES and county health departments contacted clinicians, laboratories, and the public through news media reports and requested that suspected cases be reported.

Eleven confirmed and seven suspected case-patients were identified (Figure 1). Manifestations included abdominal cramps (18 [100%]), diarrhea (17 [94%]), bloody stools (16 [89%]), vomiting (10 [56%]), and fever (six of 15 [40%] for whom information was available). The median age was 36 years (range: 8–63 years), and 12 (67%) were female. Four (22%) persons were hospitalized.

Potential sources and risk factors for illness were assessed by a case-control study that included 17 case-patients and three age-, sex-, and neighborhood-matched controls for each case-patient. A history of milk consumption during the 7 days before illness was reported by all 17 case-patients compared with 40 (83%) of 48\* controls (matched odds ratio [OR]=undefined). One brand of milk (Brand A) was significantly associated with illness: of those persons who drank milk at home, 11 (92%) of 12 case-patients compared with 17 (47%) of 36 controls reported drinking Brand A (matched OR=16.0; 95% Cl=1.3–492.7). Within this brand, no specific type of milk product was

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<sup>\*</sup>Persons who responded "Don't know" to any question were excluded from the analysis.

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associated with illness. Factors not associated with illness included consumption of other brands of milk, other foods or drinks, and dining in specific restaurants.

On May 16, the local and state health departments, the Food and Drug Administration, and CDC inspected the dairy plant where Brand A milk was produced. Based on review of the plant's records for internal microbiologic quality-control testing, on 12 days during February 1–May 13, 1994, the coliform count exceeded the state regulation limiting maximum coliform levels in milk products to  $\leq$ 10 coliforms per 100 mL on at least one ready-for-sale milk product. Cultures from selected post-pasteurization piping and equipment surfaces in contact with finished milk products yielded fecal coliforms; however, *E. coli* O104:H21 was not isolated from any culture samples obtained at the dairy. Two farms provided raw milk for this dairy; rectal swabs obtained from a sample of cattle from these farms did not yield *E. coli* O104:H21.

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**Editorial Note**: Shiga-like toxin- producing *E. coli* (SLTEC) are well-recognized causes of gastrointestinal illness, including both bloody and nonbloody diarrhea. *E. coli* O157:H7, the most common SLTEC, was recognized as a human pathogen in 1982 during the investigation of two outbreaks of bloody diarrhea associated with consumption of commercially sold hamburgers (1). In addition to causing bloody diarrhea, *E. coli* O157:H7 is the most common cause of hemolytic uremic syndrome

### Gastroenteritis — Continued

(HUS) in children. Although other SLTECs also have been identified in sporadic cases of diarrhea and HUS, the findings in this report document the first reported outbreak of a non-O157 SLTEC in the United States, and the first documentation of illness attributable to Shiga-like toxin-producing *E. coli* O104:H21.

The clinical manifestations of infection in this outbreak were similar to those reported for patients infected with *E. coli* O157:H7 (*2*). Although HUS is a well-recognized complication of *E. coli* O157:H7 infection, no patients developed HUS in this outbreak, possibly reflecting the limited size of the outbreak and the age distribution of patients.

Although most outbreaks of *E. coli* O157:H7 infection have been associated with consumption of ground beef, raw milk also transmits this pathogen (*3*). Healthy cattle may serve as a reservoir for *E. coli* O157:H7 and other serotypes of SLTEC (*4*). The implication of milk in the outbreak in Montana suggests that cows were the original source of this specific strain of *E. coli* O104:H21. Although the investigation documented post-pasteurization contamination of milk products with fecal coliforms, *E. coli* O104:H21 was not isolated from cultures obtained at the dairy, possibly because not all post-pasteurization equipment surfaces were sampled or because of the absence of the pathogen within the dairy at the time of the inspection.

Because the techniques used to identify non-O157 SLTEC are not available in most laboratories (*3*), infections caused by this pathogen are most likely to be unrecognized. Most clinical laboratories that test for *E. coli* O157:H7 screen stools on a special medium (sorbitol-MacConkey agar [SMAC]) because *E. coli* O157:H7 isolates do not ferment sorbitol after overnight incubation (*5*), and most laboratories routinely discard sorbitol-positive colonies and sorbitol-negative colonies that do not agglutinate in O157 antiserum. Therefore, isolates of *E. coli* O104:H21 and other non-O157 SLTEC are not recognized. The increased availability in clinical laboratories of techniques such as testing for Shiga-like toxin or the genes encoding this protein may enhance the detection of disease attributable to non-O157 SLTEC.

When evaluating clusters of patients with bloody diarrhea and other severe diarrheal illness, health-care providers also should consider the potential roles of *E. coli* O104:H21 or another non-O157 SLTEC. When cultures of stool are negative for specific pathogens, the state health department can be contacted to determine whether specimens should be examined further for SLTEC. When advised, health-care providers should freeze fecal specimens and store isolates from patients with bloody diarrhea; such specimens may assist in a subsequent investigation.

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# Statewide Surveillance for Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria — New Jersey, 1992–1994

The increasing occurrence of infection with antibiotic-resistant microorganisms and other emerging infectious diseases has required the development of flexible and timely surveillance systems for monitoring these problems (1,2). To determine the extent of antibiotic resistance in New Jersey, in 1991 the New Jersey State Department of Health (NJSDOH) initiated a hospital laboratory isolate-based surveillance system for antimicrobial-resistant bacteria. This report describes the surveillance system and summarizes findings during 1992–1994 for vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE)—the most rapidly increasing antibiotic-resistant bacteria reported by New Jersey hospitals.

The surveillance system includes the 95 acute-care hospitals licensed by the state of New Jersey. Organisms targeted for surveillance include gram-positive cocci resistant to vancomycin, including VRE; methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA); gram-negative rod-shaped bacteria (GNRs) resistant to imipenem; GNRs resistant to amikacin; and pneumococcal and other streptococcal isolates resistant to penicillin. Hospitals submit to NJSDOH monthly a surveillance report form, which includes the number of in-patient bloodstream isolates of these organisms and MRSA isolates from any body site. The New Jersey Administrative Code, which addresses communicable diseases, and state hospital licensure standards were modified in 1990 to require hospitals to submit these data to NJSDOH. Hospitals are contacted by the surveillance system coordinator to ensure monthly reporting; since the surveillance system was initiated, all hospitals have submitted monthly reports (*3*).

During 1992–1994, a total of 5916 (81%) bloodstream isolates reported to this system were MRSA. Of the 1398 non-MRSA bloodstream isolates, 663 (47%) were VRE. During this period, both the number of hospitals reporting VRE blood isolates and the number of VRE isolates increased steadily: in 1992, 33 hospitals reported 99 isolates, while in 1994, 54 hospitals reported 278 isolates (Figure 1). Most of the monthly reports (73%) represent only one reported isolate per hospital. In 1992, hospitals in 13 of the 21 counties reported VRE isolates, compared with 20 of 21 counties in 1994. *Reported by: SM Paul, MD, L Finelli, DrPH, G Crane, MPH, KC Spitalny, MD, State Epidemiologist, New Jersey State Dept of Health. National Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC.* 

**Editorial Note**: The recent national emphasis on emerging infectious diseases has underscored the problem of antibiotic resistance involving a variety of nosocomial and community-acquired infections and has focused attention on the importance of microbiology laboratories as sources of surveillance information for antibiotic resistance (1,2). For example, in New Jersey, the increase in both the number of VRE blood isolates and the number of hospitals reporting VRE blood isolates from 1992 through 1994 suggests the emergence of the problem of VRE in that state. Careful monitoring of such trends in antibiotic resistance in enterococci and other organisms assists clinicians in selecting antibiotics for their patients and public health agencies in the development and implementation of prevention efforts.

In New Jersey, laboratory-based surveillance for VRE and other antibiotic-resistant isolates has been developed through collaboration between the NJSDOH, hospitals, and infectious disease professionals in the state and because of modification of reporting regulations. The New Jersey system uses data that are routinely collected and

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collated by hospital laboratories and requires few additional resources. Because this surveillance system is isolate-based, it does not directly measure changes in the rate of infection in persons, and NJSDOH has used this system primarily for sentinel purposes to guide further investigation. For example, early detection and geographic tracking of VRE in New Jersey through this system have facilitated collaborative efforts involving public and private sector and academic organizations to evaluate risk factors for VRE, treatment options, VRE in vitro susceptibility to antimicrobial agents before clinical trials, and the effectiveness of infection-control practices (4–7). These efforts have, in turn, enabled the NJSDOH to collaborate with professional organizations (the Infectious Diseases Society of New Jersey and the New Jersey chapters of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology) to develop recommendations to prevent VRE transmission and have provided a source of bacterial isolates to assist in research efforts to develop effective antimicrobial agents against VRE.

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# Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination Coverage Levels Among Persons Aged ≥65 Years — United States, 1973–1993

Recommendations to provide annual influenza vaccination and one dose of pneumococcal vaccine to all persons aged  $\geq$ 65 years (1,2) are intended to reduce the high morbidity and mortality associated with influenza and pneumococcal disease. One of the national health objectives for the year 2000 is to increase influenza and pneumococcal vaccination levels to  $\geq$ 60% for persons at high risk for influenza and pneumococcal disease, including those aged  $\geq$ 65 years (objective 20.11) (3). This report summarizes 1) estimates of influenza vaccination coverage levels among persons aged  $\geq$ 65 years during 1973–1985 and pneumococcal vaccination coverage levels for 1984–1985 based on data from the United States Immunization Survey (USIS) and 2) influenza and pneumococcal vaccination coverage levels among persons aged  $\geq$ 65 years and for selected population subgroups during 1989–1993 based on data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

The USIS was initiated in 1959 and conducted through 1985 (4) using a weighted random sample of the U.S. civilian households that was representative of the civilian noninstitutionalized population based on the preceding decennial census. During 1973–1985, approximately 37,500–57,000 households were surveyed; participants were asked whether they had been vaccinated against influenza during the previous year. During 1984–1985, participants were asked whether they had been vaccinated against influenza during the previous year. During 1984–1985, participants were asked whether they had ever received pneumococcal vaccine. Persons aged  $\geq$ 15 years who were most knowledgeable about the health status of household members were interviewed regarding the vaccination histories of all members. The NHIS, conducted annually since 1957, is a multistage cluster survey of U.S. civilian households that obtains a representative sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population (5). Interviews are conducted with all available family members aged  $\geq$ 18 years. Respondents are asked whether they were vaccinated against influenza during the previous year and whether they ever received pneumococcal vaccine. Each year, approximately 8000 respondents aged  $\geq$ 65 years participated in the survey. Responses were analyzed using SUDAAN and weighted to

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reflect the age, sex, and race/ethnicity of the U.S. noninstitutionalized population. To assist in targeting ongoing vaccination efforts, NHIS data sets also were analyzed by age, sex, race/ethnicity, income, and reported number of physician visits during the previous year. Data are presented for white, black, and Hispanic populations; data for other groups were too small for meaningful analysis.

Based on USIS data, during 1973–1985, influenza vaccination levels among persons aged ≥65 years ranged from 22% to 30%, except for an increase (to 38%) during the 1976–1977 "swine flu" National Influenza Immunization Program (Figure 1). Pneumococcal vaccination levels were 9.8% and 10.7% in 1984 and 1985, respectively. Based on NHIS data, from 1989 through 1993, influenza vaccination coverage levels increased by 19.1%, from 32.9% to 52.0%, and the cumulative pneumococcal vaccination coverage level increased by 13.5% from 14.7% to 28.2%.

There was no statistical difference in coverage rates by sex for either vaccine during any year (Table 1, page 513). However, vaccination levels for both vaccines were lower among blacks and Hispanics when compared with whites. In addition, coverage levels were higher among persons at or above the poverty level\* and those who had visited a physician during the previous year.

(Continued on page 513)

FIGURE 1. Percentage of influenza and pneumococcal vaccine coverage among persons aged  $\geq$ 65 years, by year, and national health objective for the year 2000 for vaccine coverage — United States, 1973–1993\*



\*Source: United States Immunization Survey (USIS) for influenza vaccine for 1973–1985 and for pneumococcal vaccine for 1984–1985; National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) for influenza and pneumococcal vaccine for 1989–1993.

<sup>\*</sup>Poverty statistics are based on a definition originated by the Social Security Administration in 1964, subsequently modified by federal interagency committees in 1969 and 1980, and prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget as the standard to be used by federal agencies for statistical purposes.

## FIGURE I. Notifiable disease reports, comparison of 4-week totals ending July 8, 1995, with historical data — United States



\*The large apparent decrease in the number of reported cases of measles (total) reflects dramatic fluctuations in the historical baseline.

<sup>†</sup>Ratio of current 4-week total to mean of 15 4-week totals (from previous, comparable, and subsequent 4-week periods for the past 5 years). The point where the hatched area begins is based on the mean and two standard deviations of these 4-week totals.

# TABLE I. Summary — cases of specified notifiable diseases, United States, cumulative, week ending July 8, 1995 (27th Week)

	Cum. 1995		Cum. 1995
Anthrax Brucellosis Cholera Congenital rubella syndrome Diphtheria* <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> <sup>†</sup> Hansen Disease Plague Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	46 8 4 656 71 5	Psittacosis Rabies, human Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Syphilis, congenital, age < 1 year <sup>§</sup> Tetanus Toxic shock syndrome Trichinosis Typhoid fever	34 1 155 132 12 103 22 154

\*The case previously reported in 1995 had onset of illness in October 1994. It will now be included in 1994 data. <sup>†</sup>Of 642 cases of known age, 160 (25%) were reported among children less than 5 years of age. <sup>§</sup>Updated quarterly from reports to the Division of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV Prevention, National Center for Prevention Services. This total through first quarter 1995.

-: no reported cases

						Hepatitis	(Viral), by	type			
Reporting Area AIDS* Go		Gono	rrhea	l	4	B	3	C/N/	A,NB	Legior	ellosis
	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994
UNITED STATES	35,614	180,875	200,500	12,967	11,553	4,963	5,925	2,181	2,141	651	735
NEW ENGLAND	1,797 71	2,400	4,113	126 16	166 16	92	208	54	79	15	13
N.H.	56	64 26	43	6	9	12	16	7	7	1	-
Vt. Mass.	812	1,413	14 1,514	4 48	70	39	127	45	6 54	9	- 7
R.I. Conn.	137 706	257 600	238 2,255	16 36	14 55	8 26	4 46	1	12	1 N	6 N
MID. ATLANTIC	9,135	17,840	22,460	760	815	597 197	775	199 105	260	72	105
N.Y. City	4,481	6,128	5,147 8,503	373	304 268	173	159	105	115	23	21
N.J. Pa.	2,225 1,296	2,077 7,023	2,759 6,051	105 86	161 82	142 95	208 197	76 17	118 26	14 34	17 67
E.N. CENTRAL	2,897	38,467	40,341	1,570	1,127	498	628	147	191	180	209
Ind.	261	3,667	4,336	77	199	115	115	-	5	41	24
III. Mich.	1,284 572	10,459 9,298	11,826 8,760	217 200	304 139	94 200	171 205	33 109	51 122	13 21	21 40
Wis.	173 867	2,796	3,649 11.067	94 842	117 559	23	41 221	-	-	18 64	28 51
Minn.	204	1,435	1,621	88	112	26	39	2	10	-	1
Mo.	44 346	5,728	698 6,052	590	28 244	23 228	239	5 35	8	14 36	22 15
N. Dak. S. Dak.	5 9	13 92	21 101	14 21	2 17	3 2	-	3 1	1	3	4
Nebr. Kans.	71 188	- 1.394	701 1.873	25 64	85 71	16 17	18 19	5 3	8 10	7 4	7 2
S. ATLANTIC	9,055	52,936	52,979	611	599	706	1,195	157	270	111	182
Del. Md.	165 1,313	1,047 6,232	950 9,853	7 101	14 92	2 119	8 184	1 5	1 16	1 20	- 48
D.C. Va	579 645	2,372	3,779 6 432	9 98	13 74	12 47	26 62	- 5	- 18	4	5
W. Va.	44	430	364	11	7	29	18	26	20	3	1
S.C.	490 449	6,148	6,399	20	25	28	22	12	35	20	9
Ga. Fla.	1,090 4,280	8,376 10,650	U 12,010	50 254	23 287	62 254	493 232	15 66	148 29	14 20	78 24
E.S. CENTRAL	1,109	22,541	22,935	782	258	478	581	593	456	17	61
Tenn.	437	6,954	7,393	676	96	374	488	580	431	10	31
Ala. Miss.	298 219	9,410 3,736	7,928 5,285	49 33	40 24	66	- 38	2	8	4	9 15
W.S. CENTRAL	3,137	19,079	23,852	1,575	1,429	724	545	315	144	8	21
La.	502	6,217	6,321	46	76	98	94	88	73	2	4
Okla. Tex.	154 2,344	1,303 9,591	2,365 11,636	346 1,023	128 1,193	234 366	63 375	204 20	33 34	3	9 4
MOUNTAIN Mont	1,119	4,313	4,909 44	2,106 51	2,217 15	440 14	320 11	252 9	226 4	109 4	54 14
Idaho	26	68	44	194	169	46	48	30	48	2	1
Colo.	372	1,540	1,686	274	271	65	54	34	39	31	11
N. Mex. Ariz.	107 299	443 1,437	513 1,550	384 615	567 824	159 77	106 28	30 24	34 12	3 44	1
Utah Nev.	69 231	83 678	159 875	457 56	218 140	50 15	31 29	6 8	10 10	7 13	5 16
PACIFIC	6,498	13,921	17,844	4,594	4,383	1,113	1,342	410	471	75	39
Oreg.	223	202	476	897	469	92 46	79	25	21	-	-
Calif. Alaska	5,594 46	11,772 381	14,989 460	3,192 24	3,162 120	959 5	1,110 7	259 1	312	63	29
Hawaii	140	267	389	97	31	11	23	9	4	5	2
Guam P.R.	1,514	42 291	283	2 59	12 34	369	4 184	208	92	-	1
V.I. Amer. Samoa	21	6 13	11 18	- 5	2 5	2	4	-	1	-	-
C.N.M.I.	-	13	25	15	3	7	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II. Cases of selected notifiable diseases, United States, weeks endingJuly 8, 1995, and July 9, 1994 (27th Week)

N: Not notifiable U: Unavailable -: no reported cases C.N.M.I.: Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands \*Updated monthly to the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, National Center for Prevention Services, last update June 29, 1995.

				Measles (Rubeola)										
Reporting Area	Ly: Dise	me ease	Mal	aria	Indig	enous	Impo	orted*	То	tal	Mening Infec	ococcal tions	Mu	mps
	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	1995	Cum. 1995	1995	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994
UNITED STATES	2,406	3,515	504	487	-	198	1	8	206	764	1,780	1,646	461	761
NEW ENGLAND	439	661	22	30	-	4	-	-	4	23	91	69	8	14
N.H.	3 14	11	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	17	7	4	3
Vt. Mass.	5 55	5 50	- 7	1 12	-	- 2	-	-	- 2	2 7	6 32	2 28	- 1	-
R.I.	91	77	2	5	-	2	-	-	2	6	20		-	1
MID. ATI ANTIC	1.551	2,113	114	78	-	3	-	2	- 5	206	213	19	2 66	72
Upstate N.Y.	876	1,529	24	24	U	-	U	-	-	15	70	56	16	20
N.Y. City N.J.	204	365	53 25	25 17	-	2	-	-	3	171	23 62	23 37	5 6	13
Pa.	416	214	12	12	-	-	-	-	-	7	58	51	39	38
E.N. CENTRAL Ohio	34 25	272	64 5	54 7	-	/	-	2	9 1	100	244 79	238 67	78 26	141 41
Ind.	5	8 13	9 32	9 24	U	-	U 1	-	- 1	1	35 71	35 82	1	6 59
Mich.	1	5	12	12	-	4	-	1	5	24	50	29	28	30
WIS.	-	230	6 11	2	-	2	-	-	2	3	9	25	-	5
Minn.	- 37	56 1	3	24 7	-	-	-	-	-	- 169	109	109	2	41
lowa Mo.	5 15	1 49	1 4	4 9	-	- 1	-	-	- 1	7 159	20 43	13 53	8 17	10 25
N. Dak.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
S. Dak. Nebr.	- 1	2	2	2	U	-	U	-	-	2	5 9	8	- 4	- 1
Kans.	16	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	18	-	-
S. ATLANTIC Del.	234 7	299 35	106 1	97 3	-	5	-	-	5	12	299 3	241 2	49	116
Md.	158	96 2	27 Q	42	-	-	-	-	-	2	24	18	-	34
Va.	18	33	22	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	34	45	14	26
vv. va. N.C.	13 22	9 40	1 8	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	5 49	10 40	16	3 24
S.C.	8	5 73	- 13	2 17	-	- 2	-	-	- 2	- 2	39 62	11 54	7	6 7
Fla.	2	6	25	13	-	3	-	-	3	5	82	59	10	16
E.S. CENTRAL	17	24 15	10	13	-	-	-	-	-	28	110	129	13	15
Tenn.	11	6	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	28	34	24	-	5
Ala. Miss.	1 2	3	5 1	2 1	-	-	-		-	-	26 17	50 27	4 9	3 7
W.S. CENTRAL	49	49	14	21	-	19	-	-	19	16	225	193	32	162
Ark. La.	3 1	3	3 1	2 4	-	2 17	-	-	2 17	1 1	19 32	33 24	2 8	5 18
Okla.	19	24	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	19	-	23
IEX. MOUNTAIN	20	22	33	21	-	- 48	-	-	- 48	14 154	152	117	22	25
Mont.	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	-
Idano Wyo.	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 5	15	- 2	5 1
Colo. N Mex	1	-	16 3	9	-	8 29	-	-	8 29	19	35 27	23 11	1 N	2 N
Ariz.	-	-	6	1	-	10	-	-	10	-	43	40	6	2
Nev.	- 1	-	4 1	4	-	- 1	-	-	- 1	126	9 7	15	6	8 7
PACIFIC	40	39	130	149	-	111	-	4	115	56	356	381	157	175
vvasn. Oreg.	4 3	5	4	14	-	13	-	- 2	15	- 3	59 60	60 84	N	N N
Calif. Alaska	33	34	106 1	116	-	97	-	1	98	47 4	229	231	134 9	152 2
Hawaii	-	-	8	8	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	4	4	9
Guam PR	-	-	- 1	- 2	U	-	U	-	-	227	3	-	3	4
V.I.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 -	2	2
Amer. Samoa C.N.M.I.	-	-	-1	- 1	Ū	-	Ū	-	-	29	-	-	-	2 2

# TABLE II. (Cont'd.) Cases of selected notifiable diseases, United States, weeks endingJuly 8, 1995, and July 9, 1994 (27th Week)

\*For imported measles, cases include only those resulting from importation from other countries.

N: Not notifiable U: Unavailable -: no reported cases

Reporting Area		Pertussis			Rubella		Sypl (Prima Secon	nilis ary & dary)	Tuberc	ulosis	Rab Ani	ies, mal
	1995	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	1995	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994	Cum. 1995	Cum. 1994
UNITED STATES	52	1,498	1,811	7	73	189	7,891	11,135	9,343	10,927	3,304	3,713
NEW ENGLAND	1	190	191	-	15	124	94	119	205	211	841	960
Maine N.H.	- 1	20 21	2 39	-	1	-	2	4	- 8	- 10	- 96	101
Vt. Mass	-	6 122	27	-	- 2	- 122	- 24	-	2	3	111	83
R.I.	-	-	4	-	-	122	34 1	47 9	22	18	152	5
Conn.	-	10	17	-	10	1	56	58	69	74	185	402
MID. AI LANTIC Upstate N.Y.	4 U	128 65	311 121	- U	6 3	6 5	453 24	689 94	1,848 185	2,094 277	715 261	877 626
N.Y. City	-	22	66	-	3	-	217	324	990	1,276	202	-
Pa.	4	36	9 115	-	-	-	99 113	160	302	165	203	98
E.N. CENTRAL	2	144	285	1	2	9	1,322	1,609	946	1,041	20	21
Ohio Ind	1 U	52 13	76 36	- U	-	-	461 118	611 122	154 21	168 88	2	-
III.	1	26	59	-	-	1	502	541	539	521	3	4
Wis.	-	41 12	23 91	-	2	8	86	162	202	229	11	6
W.N. CENTRAL	1	77	79	-	-	2	413	653	294	268	165	113
Minn. Iowa	- 1	28	39	-	-	-	28 28	25 29	64 38	56 20	6 60	13 47
Mo.	-	18	18	-	-	2	348	559	114	124	18	10
N. Dak. S. Dak.	-	6 7	4	-	-	-	-	1	1 13	4 16	19 35	6 15
Nebr.	U	4	5	U	-	-	-	8	10	8	- 27	-
	- 5	135	7 179	5	- 21	- 12	1 898	2 871	1 797	2 044	1 126	1 050
Del.	-	6		-	-	-	8	16	12	20	33	21
D.C.	-	3	55 4	-	-	-	104 62	119	216 56	55	228	2
Va.	-	8	17	-	-	-	311	396	136	185	217	207
N.C.	-	55	44	-	-	-	599	916	192	245	240	91
S.C. Ga.	-	13 5	10 14	-	-	-	329 272	388 459	174 280	202 389	74 158	90 198
Fla.	5	30	33	5	21	12	205	435	682	742	110	86
E.S. CENTRAL	2	34	94 53	-	-	-	2,042	1,943	541	771	86 11	107
Tenn.	-	7	17	-	-	-	435	515	162	265	-	34
Ala. Miss	2	27	15 9	-	-	-	320 1,179	363 954	200 126	213 126	72	63 2
W.S. CENTRAL	5	80	53	-	3	12	1,232	2,538	1,281	1,339	128	365
Ark.	-	- 7	11	-	-	-	160	269	92	121	18	15
Okla.	5	20	20	-	-	4	42	89	105	, 129	23	21
Tex.	-	53	16	-	3	8	467	1,249	1,078	1,082	65	286
MOUNTAIN Mont.	5	460	215	-	5	- 3	127	159	344	265 9	74 25	72 10
Idaho Wwo	-	74	23	-	-	-	- 2	1	7	6	- 18	1 12
Colo.	-	21	122	-	-	-	71	77	22	26	-	6
N. Mex. Ariz.	5	38 305	9 44	-	- 4	-	8 19	9 36	86 148	37 102	3 22	2 34
Utah	-	13	12	-	1	2	3	8	19	23	5	5
NEV.	- 27	5 250	2 404	-	- 21	21	21	20 554	50 2.087	2 89/	1 1/10	2 1/18
Wash.	-	44	53	-	1	-	9	23	133	140	2	4
Oreg. Calif.	22	9 172	50 293	- 1	1 17	1 18	6 294	20 508	23 1.802	81 2.500	- 143	113
Alaska	-	-		-	-	-	1	2	44	34	4	31
Guam	5	25	ອ 2	-	2	2	- 1	3 1	55 5	13A 38	-	-
P.R.	-	6	2	-	-	-	145	174	89	62	23	48
V.I. Amer. Samoa	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	22 1	- 3	- 3	-	-
C.N.M.I.	U	-	-	U	-	-	3	-	13	16	-	-

# TABLE II. (Cont'd.) Cases of selected notifiable diseases, United States, weeks endingJuly 8, 1995, and July 9, 1994 (27th Week)

U: Unavailable -: no reported cases

	A	All Cau	ses, By	Age (Y	'ears)		P&I <sup>†</sup>		4	All Cau	ises, B	y Age (Y	(ears)		P&I <sup>†</sup>
Reporting Area	All Ages	≥65	45-64	25-44	1-24	<1	Total Reporting Area		All Ages	≥65	45-64	25-44	1-24	<1	Total
NEW ENGLAND Boston, Mass. Bridgeport, Conn. Cambridge, Mass. Hartford, Conn. Lowell, Mass. Lynn, Mass. New Bedford, Mass New Haven, Conn. Providence, R.I. Somerville, Mass. Springfield, Mass.	553 151 33 18 24 48 22 48 22 48 50 50 50 45 50 42	369 87 26 14 20 19 4 14 36 35 3 29	97 29 3 2 6 8 1 3 9 5 - 10	44 17 3 2 - 6 2 - 1 3 3 - 2	16 9 - - 1 1 1	25 9 - 14 - 1 1 1	32 9 1 - 6 3 2	S. ATLANTIC Atlanta, Ga. Baltimore, Md. Charlotte, N.C. Jacksonville, Fla. Miami, Fla. Norfolk, Va. Richmond, Va. Savannah, Ga. St. Petersburg, Fla. Tampa, Fla. Washington, D.C. Wilmington, Del.	1,012 128 153 68 108 119 52 50 45 U 134 140 15	584 68 83 51 65 64 32 36 29 U 82 63 11	211 33 35 10 21 23 6 8 10 U 26 38 1	134 19 18 4 16 17 6 4 4 U 16 27 3	56 4 16 2 4 10 4 1 1 5 9	27 4 1 2 5 4 1 1 5 3 3	57 15 9 4 2 5 6 U 12 2 2
Waterbury, Conn. Worcester, Mass. MID. ATLANTIC Albany, N.Y. Allentown, Pa. Buffalo, N.Y. Camden, N.J. Elizabeth, N.J. Erie, Pa.§	37 56 1,820 50 22 97 30 14 43	25 39 1,143 35 16 66 16 11 29	10 11 383 10 5 12 8 1 10	1 4 209 2 1 10 2 2 2	1 2 45 2 - 6 2 - 2	- 40 1 - 3 2 -	2 9 61 5 - 1 2	E.S. CENTRAL Birmingham, Ala. Chattanooga, Tenn. Knoxville, Tenn. Lexington, Ky. Memphis, Tenn. Mobile, Ala. Montgomery, Ala. Nashville, Tenn.	548 U 62 81 30 172 48 38 117	360 U 42 55 24 111 34 23 71	109 U 13 14 3 40 6 12 21	50 U 7 13 6 1 17	23 U 3 1 7 1 2 6	6 U - 1 1 2	40 U 7 1 14 1 9
Jersey City, N.J. New York City, N.Y. Newark, N.J. Paterson, N.J. Philadelphia, Pa. Pittsburgh, Pa.§ Reading, Pa. Rochester, N.Y. Schenectady, N.Y. Scranton, Pa.§ Syracuse, N.Y. Trenton, N.J. Utica, N.Y. Yonkers, N.Y.	30 1,122 60 21 U 37 13 99 23 48 63 25 U 23	21 679 18 13 26 10 73 16 36 36 36 36 36 36 318 30 18	6 248 25 4 U 8 2 9 5 8 14 4 U 4	3 144 16 3 U 1 2 2 3 3 U 1	26 1 - - 1 4 - 1 - - U	25 1 U 2 1 1 4 U	26 3 U 1 1 1 3 4 3 U 1	W.S. CENTRAL Austin, Tex. Baton Rouge, La. Corpus Christi, Tex. Dallas, Tex. El Paso, Tex. Ft. Worth, Tex. Houston, Tex. Little Rock, Ark. New Orleans, La. San Antonio, Tex. Shreveport, La. Tulsa, Okla.	1,208 54 53 30 148 56 74 332 61 140 121 54 85	747 31 33 21 83 31 41 193 40 83 93 39 59	242 15 12 3 34 15 16 74 11 27 13 12 10	145 6 7 6 26 8 44 8 15 6 2 9	48 2 2 2 6 14 11 11 5	25 1 3 6 1 4 5 2	64 6 1 5 3 28 4 7 2 8
E.N. CENTRAL Akron, Ohio Canton, Ohio Chicago, III. Cincinnati, Ohio Cleveland, Ohio Columbus, Ohio Dayton, Ohio Detroit, Mich. Evansville, Ind. Fort Wayne, Ind. Grand Rapids, Mich Indianapolis, Ind. Madison, Wis. Milwaukee, Wis. Peoria, III. Rockford, III. South Bend, Ind. Toledo, Ohio Youngstown, Ohio	1,821 17 43 403 119 113 129 100 178 33 39 129 100 178 33 39 129 107 178 33 39 129 107 178 39 129 107 178 39 109 107 178 39 109 109 109 109 109 109 109 109 109 10	1,235 1,235 34 248 773 90 63 103 22 27 111 56 102 43 75 20 30 30 35 74 41	335 3 5 85 223 18 25 38 6 2 1 102 6 13 8 12 3 19 7 12 9 13 8 12 3 19 7	140 2 45 13 6 6 7 23 2 4 3 10 7 - 2 1 6 3	67 189 4 6 3 9 1 4 - 1 5 1 - 2 1 2 1 2 1	44 32 72 39 25 22 - 1 11 1 3 	112 - 156399532 - 981542181	MOUNTAIN Albuquerque, N.M. Colo. Springs, Colo. Denver, Colo. Las Vegas, Nev. Ogden, Utah Phoenix, Ariz. Pueblo, Colo. Salt Lake City, Utah Tucson, Ariz. PACIFIC Berkeley, Calif. Fresno, Calif. Glendale, Calif. Honolulu, Hawaii Long Beach, Calif. Postland, Oreg. Sacramento, Calif. San Diego, Calif.	701 90 899 176 21 112 27 92 94 1,576 22 79 20 73 61 427 28 83 129 113	447 52 U 50 1111 18 66 21 56 73 1,033 14 49 155 49 43 261 155 60 93 78 60	$\begin{array}{c} 136\\ 18\\ U\\ 23\\ 4\\ 2\\ 17\\ 4\\ 20\\ 9\\ 275\\ 3\\ 14\\ 3\\ 1\\ 10\\ 79\\ 6\\ 12\\ 21\\ 222\end{array}$	70 14 U 8 16 1 2 6 9 171 1 1 1 8 4 56 6 5 11 8 7	30 5 U 2 3 13 5 2 51 1 3 1 3 21 4 21 4	181U63-2-51 3322-22512232	42 1 5 10 1 8 3 12 2 127 1 3 2 5 10 18 1 2 15 16 0
W.N. CENTRAL Des Moines, Iowa Duluth, Minn. Kansas City, Kans. Kansas City, Mo. Lincoln, Nebr. Minneapolis, Minn. Omaha, Nebr. St. Louis, Mo. St. Paul, Minn. Wichita, Kans.	573 68 36 92 11 155 58 116 37 U	379 54 22 U 53 9 100 38 79 24 U	96 9 0 18 1 27 7 21 7 U	63 1 8 U 5 1 22 10 10 6 U	8 - U 2 - 1 3 1 - U	15 3 - U 2 - 5 - 5 - U	44 7 U 4 2 15 3 9 4 U	San Francisco, Calif. Santa Cruz, Calif. Seattle, Wash. Spokane, Wash. Tacoma, Wash. TOTAL	. 112 168 25 107 50 79 9,812 <sup>¶</sup>	64 120 20 67 39 46 6,297	22 26 17 9 17 1,884	11 2 20 1 9 1,026	5 1 1 6 344	2 6 1 2 - 1 234	20 23 2 1 5 3 579

# TABLE III. Deaths in 121 U.S. cities,\* week ending July 8, 1995 (27th Week)

\*Mortality data in this table are voluntarily reported from 121 cities in the United States, most of which have populations of 100,000 or more. A death is reported by the place of its occurrence and by the week that the death certificate was filed. Fetal deaths are not included.
 <sup>1</sup>Pneumonia and influenza.
 <sup>5</sup>Because of changes in reporting methods in these 3 Pennsylvania cities, these numbers are partial counts for the current week. Complete counts will be available in 4 to 6 weeks.
 <sup>1</sup>Total includes unknown ages.
 U: Unavailable -: no reported cases

## P&I Vaccination Coverage — Continued

Reported by: Adult Vaccine Preventable Disease Br, Epidemiology and Surveillance Div, National Immunization Program; Div of Health Interview Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.

Editorial Note: Although the USIS and NHIS employed different methods, both provided national estimates of vaccination rates based on the weighted response of household-based surveys of the noninstitutionalized U.S. population. Analysis of data

TABLE 1. Vaccination coverage levels with influenza and pneumococcal v	accines
among persons aged 265 years, by selected characteristics - United States, s	selected
years 1989–1993	

		1989		1991		1993
Vaccine/Characteristic	%	(95% CI*)	%	(95% CI)	%	(95% CI)
INFLUENZA						
<b>Sex</b> Male Female	34.4% 31.9%	(31.5%–37.3%) (29.9%–33.9%)	41.9% 41.5%	(39.8%–44.0%) (39.6%–43.4%)	54.1% 50.4%	(51.5%–56.7%) (48.3%–52.5%)
<b>Race/Ethnicity<sup>†</sup></b> White, non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Hispanic	34.5% 19.6% 27.7%	(32.6%–36.4%) (14.7%–24.5%) (19.6%–35.7%)	43.5% 27.3% 34.9%	(41.8%–45.2%) (23.2%–31.5%) (26.6%–43.1%)	54.0% 32.2% 46.8%	(52.3%–55.7%) (27.3%–37.2%) (35.0%–58.6%)
Socioeconomic status						
At or above poverty level <sup>§</sup> Below poverty level	34.6% 26.2%	(32.7%–36.6%) (22.3%–30.1%)	42.7% 36.1%	(40.9%–44.5%) (31.9%–40.3%)	54.0% 40.9%	(52.1%–55.9%) (35.4%–46.4%)
No. physician visits						
≥1 Physician visit during previous year 0 Physician visits	36.7%	(34.7%–38.6%)	45.4%	(43.7%–47.1%)	55.8%	(54.0%–57.6%)
during previous year	11.9%	( 8.9%–14.9%)	17.5%	(14.6%–20.3%)	22.0%	(17.9%–26.1%)
Total	32.9%	(31.2%–34.7%)	41.7%	(40.1%–43.2%)	52.0%	(50.4%–53.6%)
PNEUMOCOCCAL Sex						
Male Female	14.0% 15.2%	(12.1%–15.9%) (13.5%–17.0%)	21.4% 21.0%	(19.6%–23.1%) (19.4%–22.6%)	30.3% 26.7%	(27.7%–32.8%) (24.4%–28.9%)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b> White, non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Hispanic	15.7% 6.3% 11.1%	(14.3%–17.2%) ( 3.5%– 9.1%) ( 6.0%–16.1%)	22.2% 14.1% 13.7%	(20.8%–23.6%) (10.8%–17.4%) ( 8.6%–18.8%)	30.4% 14.3% 11.5%	(28.6%–32.2%) (10.4%–18.2%) ( 5.4%–17.6%)
Socioeconomic status At or above poverty level	15.4%	(13.9%-16.9%)	22.1%	(20.6%-23.5%)	29.7%	(27.8%-31.6%)
Below poverty level	10.2%	(7.1%–13.2%)	16.8%	(12.3%–21.2%)	17.5%	(13.4%–21.7%)
No. physician visits ≥1 Physician visit during previous year	16.6%	(15.0%–18.1%)	23.2%	(21.7%–24.6%)	30.0%	(28.1%–31.9%)
during previous year	4.3%	( 2.4%– 6.2%)	8.9%	( 6.8%–10.9%)	14.4%	(10.8%–18.0%)
Total	14.7%	(13.4%–16.0%)	21.2%	(19.9%–22.4%)	28.2%	(26.4%–29.9%)

\*Confidence interval.

<sup>†</sup>Data for other racial/ethnic groups were too small for meaningful analysis. <sup>§</sup> Poverty statistics are based on a definition originated by the Social Security Administration in 1964, subsequently modified by federal interagency committees in 1969 and 1980, and prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget as the standard to be used by federal agencies for statistical purposes.

Source: National Health Interview Survey, 1989-1993.

### P&I Vaccination Coverage — Continued

from these surveys indicate that, during 1973–1993, vaccination coverage levels for influenza and pneumococcal vaccines increased among persons aged ≥65 years. These findings suggest a substantial impact on coverage levels as the result of efforts by public- and private-sector health providers and advocates; however, among some groups levels remain low and are substantially less than the national health objective for the year 2000, particularly for pneumococcal vaccination.

Increases in influenza vaccination levels may reflect 1) greater acceptance of preventive medical services by practitioners and 2) increased delivery and administration of vaccine by health-care providers and sources other than physicians (e.g., visitingnurse and home-health agencies). In addition, the initiation of Medicare reimbursement for influenza vaccination in 1993 also may have contributed to increased rates (6).

Although pneumococcal vaccine is  $\geq$ 57% effective against invasive pneumococcal disease (7), some physicians have expressed persistent uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of this vaccine against pneumococcal pneumonia (8). In addition, while campaigns for influenza vaccine occur annually before the influenza season, many providers and patients may not be routinely reminded about the need for pneumococcal vaccination among persons aged  $\geq$ 65 years, underscoring the need to educate providers and patients about the benefits of pneumococcal vaccination and current recommendations.

The findings in this report are consistent with previous surveys that have documented lower vaccination coverage levels among blacks than whites (9). These variations may reflect differences in factors such as socioeconomic status, access to medical care, and prevalence of specific risks. However, preliminary analysis indicates that differences by race/ethnicity persisted when the data were adjusted for socioeconomic status.

Achievement of national health objectives for the year 2000 will require the continued collaboration of public and private organizations to improve awareness and vaccine delivery; changes in clinical practice; delivery mechanisms that limit cost and remove accessibility constraints; and surveillance data, such as those provided by NHIS, to assess the progress of current and future programs. The report of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee regarding adult vaccination (10) has described these strategies, which include improvements in education of health-care providers and the public; major changes in clinical practice; increased financial support by public and private health insurers; improvements in surveillance for vaccine-preventable diseases and vaccine production and delivery; development of new and improved vaccines; research on and improvements in vaccination practices; and collaboration on international programs for adult vaccination.

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# Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance — United States, 1994 and First Quarter 1995

CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Adult Blood Lead Epidemiology and Surveillance program (ABLES) monitors elevated blood lead levels (BLLs) among adults in the United States (1). Twenty-three states currently report surveillance results to ABLES. Maine is the 23rd state, and its data (beginning in 1994) are included for the first time in this report. This report presents ABLES data for the first quarter of 1995 compared with the first quarter of 1994 and annual data for 1994 compared with 1993.

**First Quarter Reports 1995.** During January–March 1995, the number of reports of elevated BLLs increased by 10% over those reported for the same period in 1994 (Table 1). The number of reports increased at the lowest reporting level (25–39 µg/dL), but decreased at all higher reporting levels (40–49 µg/dL, 50–59 µg/dL, and  $\geq$ 60 µg/dL). The trend of increasing reports at the lower levels and decreasing reports at the higher levels is consistent with the 1994 fourth quarter report (2).

Annual Reports 1994. The reported number of adults with elevated BLLs increased from 11,240 in 1993 to 12,137 in 1994 (Table 2); this increase resulted, in part, from the addition of three reporting states in 1994. A total of 5619 new cases accounted for 46% of the cases reported in 1994, compared with 59% new cases in 1993 (Table 2). Compared with 1993, the proportion of new cases declined in the 25–39  $\mu$ g/dL, 40–49  $\mu$ g/dL, and 50–59  $\mu$ g/dL categories and increased in the  $\geq$ 60  $\mu$ g/dL category. Even with additional states reporting, the number of new cases decreased 15% from 1993 through 1994 (Table 2). This decrease may be explained in part by the definition of a new case, which is an elevated BLL ( $\geq$ 25  $\mu$ g/dL) in an adult reported in state surveillance data in the current year but which was not recorded in the immediately preceding year. By this definition, all persons reported represent new cases in the year a state begins surveillance.

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### Blood Lead Epidemiology — Continued

Reported BLL	First qua	arter, 1995	No. reports, first quarter,	% Change first quarter,		
(μ <b>g/dL</b> )	No. reports	No. persons <sup>§</sup>	1994 <sup>†</sup>	1994 to 1995		
25–39	4914	3635	4102	+20%		
40–49	1197	878	1371	-13%		
50–59	245	204	278	-12%		
≥60	82	58	117	-30%		
Total	6438	4775	5868	+10%		

TABLE 1. Number of reports of elevated blood lead levels (BLLs) among adults, number
of adults with elevated BLLs, and percentage change in number of reports -
23 states,* first quarter, 1994–1995

\*Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

<sup>†</sup>Data for Maine are included. These data only recently became available for 1994 and were not included in previous reports.

<sup>§</sup>Individual reports for persons are categorized according to the highest reported BLL for the person during the given quarter. Pennsylvania provides the number of reports but not number of persons; the number of persons for Pennsylvania in this table are estimates based on the proportions from the other 22 states combined and the number of reports received from Pennsylvania. Data for South Carolina were missing; first quarter 1994 data were used as an estimate.

		1994 (23	states)*		1993 (20 states) <sup>†</sup>					
Reported BLL	No.	No.	New c	ases¶	No.	No.	New c	ases**		
(μ <b>g/dL)</b>	reports	persons§	No.	(%)	reports	persons	No.	(%)		
25–39	19,420	8,651	4,254	(49)	18,529	8,041	4,693	(58)		
40–49	5,821	2,562	887	(35)	5,398	2,293	1,288	(56)		
50–59	1,132	644	269	(42)	1,311	627	419	(67)		
≥60 <sup>§</sup>	459	280	209	(75)	633	279	184	(66)		
Total	26,832	12,137	5,619	(46)	25,871	11,240	6,584	(59)		

TABLE 2. Number of reports of elevated blood lead levels (BLLS) among adults, number of adults with elevated BLLS, and new cases of elevated BLLS — United States, 1993 and 1994

\* Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. Data for Maine were not included in previous reports. Data for South Carolina were missing for fourth quarter 1994; fourth quarter 1993 data were used as an estimate.

<sup>†</sup>Same states as 1994 except Maine, North Carolina, and Oklahoma.

<sup>§</sup>Individual reports are categorized according to the highest reported BLL for the person during the given year. Pennsylvania provides the number of reports but not number of persons; the number of persons for Pennsylvania in this table are estimates based on the proportions from the other 22 states combined and the number of reports received from Pennsylvania. Data for South Carolina were missing for the fourth quarter 1994; fourth quarter 1993 data were used as an estimate.

Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania and South Carolina did not report new cases for 1994. New cases for those four states are estimates based on the proportions from the other 19 states combined and the number of reports, persons, or unassigned new cases reported from these four states.

\*\*New cases for 1993 were not reported from Michigan, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania. No estimates are included in the 1993 data.

### Blood Lead Epidemiology — Continued

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**Editorial Note**: Approximately 54% of the persons reported to ABLES in 1993 were reported again to the system in 1994. Reasons for these repeat reports include 1) recurring exposure resulting from inadequate control measures and worker-protection practices; 2) routine tracking of elevated employee BLLs that remain below levels requiring medical removal; and 3) increased employer monitoring during medical removal. Increased testing of workers in construction trades—as new workplace medical monitoring programs are established to comply with new OSHA regulations (*3*)—also has contributed to the increases.

Reporting of adults with elevated BLLs reflects monitoring practices by employers. Variation in national quarterly reporting totals, especially first quarter totals, may result from 1) changes in the number of participating states, 2) timing of receipt of laboratory BLL reports by state-based surveillance programs, and 3) interstate differences in worker BLL testing by lead-using industries.

The data in this report underscore that work-related lead exposures are an ongoing occupational health problem in the United States. ABLES can further enhance surveillance for this preventable condition by expanding the number of participating states, reducing variability in reporting, and distinguishing between new and recurring elevated BLLs in adults. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, at its annual meeting in May 1995, designated elevated BLLs among adults as a condition reportable to the National Public Health Surveillance System (formerly the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System) (*4*).

### References

- 1. CDC. Surveillance of elevated blood lead levels among adults—United States, 1992. MMWR 1992;41:285–8.
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- 3. Office of the Federal Register. Code of federal regulations: occupational safety and health standards. Subpart Z: toxic and hazardous substances—lead. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, Office of the Federal Register, 1993 (29 CFR § 1926, Part II).
- 4. CDC. Summary of notifiable diseases, United States, 1993. MMWR 1993;42(53):iii-v.

# Erratum: Vol. 44, No. 17

In the article, "Prevalence and Impact of Arthritis Among Women—United States, 1989–1991," a programming error led to incorrect estimates for nonarthritis conditions listed in Table 2. The corrected table follows.

The error does not change statements in the text on the relative ranking of arthritis compared with other chronic conditions but does change the following: 1) under the

# Erratum — Continued

subheading "Comparison With Other Chronic Conditions Affecting Women" on page 332, the first sentence of the second paragraph should read "Arthritis was the most common self-reported chronic condition affecting women (Table 2), ranking ahead of self-reported hypertension (15.7 million), ischemic heart disease (2.4 million), and other chronic conditions ..."; and 2) the second sentence of the same paragraph should read "Among the conditions reported responsible for activity limitations, women most frequently mentioned arthritis (4.6 million), followed by orthopedic deformity (3.7 million) and hypertension (1.9 million)."

TABLE 2. Estimated average annual prevalence of self-reported chronic conditions and activity limitations among women aged ≥15 years, by condition — National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), United States, 1989–1991

Condition	Overall no.*	No. with activity limitation*	
Arthritis	22,755	4,597	
Chronic sinusitis	17,511	80	
Hypertension	15,720	1,875	
Orthopedic deformity	14,536	3,689	
"Hay fever," rhinitis	10,700	127	
Hearing impairment	9,199	479	
Ischemic heart disease	2,421	874	
Other selected conditions <sup>†</sup>	11,825	2,356	

\*In thousands. To generate national estimates, NHIS rates were applied to the U.S. civilian, noninstitutionalized population.

<sup>†</sup>Diabetes, thyroid disorder, bladder disorder, cerebrovascular disease, breast neoplasm, and female reproductive malignancy.

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