THE CSTE WASHINGTON REPORT

Marcia S. Mabee, MPH, PhD
Editor
11479 Waterview
Reston, Virginia 20190
mmabee@ix.netcom.com
703-709-3001

February 1, 2008 Volume 12, Number 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EDITOR'S NOTE. Approximately half of 1 percent (0.47 percent) of the U.S. household population between the ages of 18 and 49 are living with HIV, according to estimates from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) based on surveys conducted between 1999-2006. The findings are summarized in a CDC Data Brief issued today, which uses data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) to provide a snapshot of HIV prevalence in the general U.S. household population ages 18-49. NHANES does not focus exclusively on populations that may be at high risk for HIV, such as men who have sex with men, injection drug users, homeless or incarcerated individuals. These data are roughly equivalent to NCHS' previous prevalence estimate for this population from a 1988-94 survey… additional details are provided in this *Washington Report*.

The *CSTE Washington Report* is provided as an information resource for members of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists on federal legislation and regulation affecting public health and epidemiology in the U.S.

PRESIDENT'S FY 2009 BUDGET EXPECTED TO CUT CDC SIGNIFICANTLY – President Bush presents the last budget of his presidency on Monday, February 4th. While firm details are not yet available, preliminary information indicates that CDC will sustain cuts of up to 7 percent. This includes elimination of at least $26 million in Congressional earmarks, cushioning the cuts to programs slightly, but the overall cuts are deep. It is expected that the budget will, once again, eliminate all funding for the Prevention Block Grant. Cuts are also expected to State and Local Preparedness funding. House Appropriations Chairman, David Obey (D-WI) has stated repeatedly in recent weeks that after last year's experience with White House disinterest in negotiating a compromise, Congress will mark up Appropriations bills in Committee, but not bring them to the House floor. Instead, Democrats would wait until a new President occupies the White House and pass the bills in January-February of 2009. However, Senate Majority staff do not see this as a likely scenario and believe votes on appropriations bills should occur to hold Members of Congress accountable for their positions on key measures such as the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

HHS AWARDS GRANT TO SECURE HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR -- HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announced January 22, during a meeting of the American Health Information Community (AHIC), that LMI Consulting of McLean, Virginia, in association with the Brookings Institution (Brookings), has been awarded a grant to establish, as a successor to the AHIC, a self-sustaining, public-private partnership based in the private sector. The LMI-Brookings team is expected to fully establish the AHIC's successor -- AHIC 2.0 -- by December 2008.

"I am confident that this partnership has the experience needed to convene a successful organization to advance adoption of health IT in the United States," Secretary Leavitt said. "By securing a successor to the AHIC in the private sector while maintaining broad public-private collaboration, we will help to ensure that the health IT standards process is truly self-sustaining."

The grant recipient, LMI Consulting, is a not-for-profit government consulting firm with 50 years of experience in providing management and logistical support to complex projects. The Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution is a world-class leader in objective policy analysis, and will provide its services and expertise to this project at no cost to the federal government.

Together, the team will develop a two-stage collaborative process to ensure that all key stakeholders in the public and private sectors are engaged and represented. Stage one will focus on stakeholder outreach and the design and development of governing documents for AHIC 2.0. This phase is expected to take approximately four months, and HHS has

allocated $2 million to this stage. Upon successful completion of phase one, phase two will be funded with $3 million to successfully establish the AHIC 2.0 by December 2008. Additional funding may be allocated to support operations of the AHIC 2.0 once it is established.

"The successful establishment of AHIC 2.0 in the private sector will ensure long-term success in the development of a nationwide health information network, said Dr. Robert Kolodner, national coordinator for health information technology. The progress that we are seeing today will continue through 2008 and beyond as we move to a more visible phase of our work in expanding access to interoperable health IT."

To learn more about the AHIC successor and HHS' health IT initiative visit http://www.hhs.gov/healthit. More information on the Brookings Institution is available at http://www.brookings.edu/. More information on LMI is available at http://www.lmi.org/.

NEW REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON HIV PREVALENCE IN THE U.S. HOUSEHOLD POPULATION -- Approximately half of 1 percent (0.47 percent) of the U.S. household population between the ages of 18 and 49 are living with HIV, according to estimates from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) based on surveys conducted between 1999-2006.

The findings are summarized in a CDC Data Brief issued today, which uses data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) to provide a snapshot of HIV prevalence in the general U.S. household population ages 18-49. NHANES does not focus exclusively on populations that may be at high risk for HIV, such as men who have sex with men, injection drug users, homeless or incarcerated individuals. These data are roughly equivalent to NCHS' previous prevalence estimate for this population from a 1988-94 survey.

This report also does not include data on the number of individuals newly infected with HIV, known as incidence. New CDC estimates of annual HIV incidence are currently under development by CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP).

Key findings on HIV prevalence in 1999-2006 include:

• Men ages 18-49 are more likely to be infected (0.7 percent) than women (0.2 percent).

• Two percent of non-Hispanic black adults ages 18-49 were infected with HIV compared to 0.23 percent of white adults and 0.3 percent of Mexican-American adults.

•Adults aged 18-49 who are infected with the herpes simplex type 2 virus (HSV-2) are more than 15 times likely to also be infected with HIV. An estimated 2 percent of HSV-2 positive adults ages 18-49 also have HIV.

CDC STUDY ESTIMATES 7,000 PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

VISITS LINKED TO COUGH AND COLD MEDICATIONS -- An estimated 7,000 children ages 11 and younger are treated in hospital emergency departments each year because of cough and cold medications, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Approximately two-thirds of those incidents were due to unsupervised ingestion (i.e., children taking the medication without a parent′s knowledge). The study was published online today by the American Academy of Pediatrics journal, Pediatrics.

This study found that children ages 2 to 5 accounted for 64 percent of all adverse drug events from cough and cold medications, and nearly 80 percent of the events for this age group were from unsupervised ingestions. Among all age groups, 93 percent of the children did not require hospital admission, however, one-fourth needed additional treatment to eliminate the medicine from their bodies.

The CDC researchers reviewed 2004-2005 data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System – Cooperative Adverse Drug Event Surveillance (NEISS-CADES) project to describe emergency department visits due to cough and cold medications.

“Parents need to be vigilant about keeping these medicines out of their children′s reach,” said Dr. Denise Cardo, director of CDC′s Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, “They should refrain from encouraging children to take medicine by telling the children that medication is candy.” Cardo also stated that adults should avoid taking adult medications in front of young children.

Recently, such products marketed to infants and toddlers less than 2 years old were voluntarily withdrawn from the market due to safety concerns. The safety of these products for children ages 2 to 11 is currently being reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Parents also should not use products intended for older children to treat young children, and, as stated in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's mandated label warning, parents should keep all cough and cold medications out of the reach of children. Parents and caregivers should throw away previously purchased products marketed to infants and toddlers age 2 and younger.

The over-the-counter cough and cold products examined in this study include these ingredients: decongestants (for unclogging a stuffy nose), expectorants (for loosening mucus so that it can be coughed up), and antitussives (for quieting coughs). The medications may also have included antihistamines (for sneezing and runny nose) in combination with the ingredients above. The terms on the label could include “nasal decongestants,” “cough suppressants,” “expectorants” and “antihistamines.”

For more information on medication safety, visit the CDC′s Injury Prevention Web site at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/poisonprevention.htm. For more information on FDA recommendations on, visit the FDA′s Web site at http://www.fda.gov/consumer/updates/coughcold011708.html .