

**EPI Update for Friday, July 10, 2015**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **West Nile virus activity in surrounding states**
- **Heroin epidemic in the U.S. and Iowa**
- **Coccidioidomycosis on the rise in Missouri**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

**West Nile virus activity in surrounding states**

All states bordering Iowa have reported non-human West Nile virus activity (e.g. detection of the virus in mosquitoes, sentinel chickens, etc.). Nebraska reported its first human case July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Iowa performs mosquito testing, but no samples have tested positive so far this year. The majority of mosquitoes collected in Iowa have been nuisance mosquitos that do not carry West Nile virus. There have been no human cases reported in Iowa in 2015. There were 15 human cases of West Nile virus reported in Iowa last year.

For more information about mosquito population trends in Iowa, visit:

<http://mosquito.ent.iastate.edu/index.php>.

For more information about West Nile virus, visit: [www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html).

The 2014 report on vector-borne diseases in Iowa, including information on diseases spread by mosquitos and ticks, can be found at

[www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=9D269C79-0811-490C-8894-C7551CD2165B](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/IDPHChannelsService/file.ashx?file=9D269C79-0811-490C-8894-C7551CD2165B).

**Heroin epidemic in the U.S. and Iowa**

According to a CDC Vital Signs report released July 8, 2015, heroin use has increased among U.S. men and women, most age groups, and all income levels. Forty-seven percent of people who use heroin are addicted to prescription opioid painkillers. Some of the greatest increases have occurred in demographic groups with historically low rates of heroin use (e.g. women, the privately insured, and people with higher incomes).

As heroin use has increased, so have heroin-related overdose deaths. Between 2002 and 2013, the rate of heroin-related overdose deaths in the US nearly quadrupled, and more than 8,200 people died in 2013. In Iowa, 20 drug overdose deaths due to heroin were reported 2013, a 60 percent increase from the eight deaths reported in 2012.

Medical providers can help reduce opioid prescription abuse by improving prescribing practices and identifying high-risk patients early.

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/heroin/](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/heroin/).

### **Coccidioidomycosis on the rise in Missouri**

Coccidioidomycosis, or valley fever, is an illness caused by the inhalation of fungi generally found in soil in the southwestern U.S., Mexico, and Central and South America. Sixty percent of infections are asymptomatic and symptoms range from influenza-like illness to disseminated infections.

Coccidioidomycosis infections increased nearly eightfold in the U.S. from 1998-2012. A total of 93 confirmed cases was reported in Missouri from 2004-2013 and at least 26 percent of cases had not traveled to an area where the disease is endemic. These patients resided in all areas of the state.

The data suggests the possibility that the infections were acquired in Missouri, a state where the disease is not known to be endemic.

Coccidioidomycosis is not known to be endemic in Iowa and IDPH has not been notified of any locally-acquired illnesses.

For more information on coccidioidomycosis in Missouri, visit [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6423a3.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6423a3.htm).

### **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

None

### **Have a healthy and happy week!**

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