



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

July 28, 2016

Volume 2, Issue 30

Australia Announces 'End of AIDS' as Drug Treatments Combat Once Deadly Virus HIV

Researchers in Australia say they now receive so few cases of people with HIV developing Aids in any one year, they can say they have beaten the disease. At its peak 1,000 people a year died from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) in Australia, but new drug treatments now work so well that the number of new cases are so low, they are no longer recorded.

[Read More on IB Times](#)



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Growing Threat of Hypertension Obesity Can Shorten Lives by 10 Years Global Response to MSM	2
Seafood Consumption Not Sustainable Beijing Sinking by 11cm a Year Global Risks of Fort McMurray Fire	3
Earth on Track For Hottest Year Palm Oil Companies Acknowledge Abuse Dispute Turns Deadly in Brazil	4
Weekly Bulletin: QOTW & Events	5
FYI#1: A Glimpse into Humanosphere	6
FYI#2: Set Aside Half of Earth for Nature	7
FYI#3: Global Divide in Smartphone Use	8
FYI#4: Global South's Human Rights Legacy	9
FYI#5: Impact of Reading Programs	10
FYI#6: Career Advice for Millennials	11
FYI#7: China's Flood Kills Hundreds	12

The Rapid and Startling Decline of World's Vast Boreal Forests

The Arctic and the boreal region are warming twice as fast as other parts of the world. Permafrost is thawing and even burning, fires are burning unprecedented acres of forest, and insect outbreaks have gobbled up increasing numbers of trees. Climate zones are moving north 10 times faster than forests can migrate. And this comes on top of increased industrial development of the boreal, from logging to oil and gas.

[Read More on The Tyee](#)





Worldwide Hypertension: The Growing Threat and The Potential Opportunities

Treatment of arterial hypertension through the prescription of antihypertensive medications is a success story for the late 20th century. Comprehensive meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials supports the effectiveness of treating hypertension for reducing fatal and nonfatal cardiovascular disease (CVD). Developed nations have made a commitment to extending this successful intervention to a large fraction of their populations so that they can reap the rewards in health that issues from this progress. Developing nations, and less well-off areas of even developed nations, have substantial prevalence of hypertension in their adult populations and these rates are increasing in relation to changes in nutrition.

[Read More on The Annals of Global Health](#)

Obesity Can Shorten Lives by As Much as 10 Years

Doctors have known for years the health risks of being overweight, but a new study shows that being too fat can cut as much as 10 years off your life. The study in *The Lancet* looked at the histories of 4 million nonsmoking adults in 32 countries from 1970 to 2015. The experts found that those who were overweight died one year earlier than their life expectancy and moderately obese people lost three years off their lives. The study's lead author, Emanuele Di Angelantonio of the University of Cambridge, said the severely obese can expect to die 10 years prematurely. The study said being fat is far more dangerous for men than for women.

[Read More on VOA News](#)



The Global Response to HIV in Men Who Have Sex With Men

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) continue to have disproportionately high burdens of HIV infection in countries of low, middle, and high income in 2016. Incidence densities in MSM are unacceptably high in countries as diverse as China, Kenya, Thailand, the UK, and the USA, with substantial disparities observed in specific communities of MSM including young and minority populations. Although some settings have achieved sufficient coverage of treatment, a general lack of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and human rights protections for sexual and gender minorities to change the trajectory of the HIV epidemic in MSM, make these the exceptions.

[Read More on The Lancet](#)



Record High Seafood Consumption Not Sustainable, Warns UN

The UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) warned Thursday that global fish stocks cannot keep up with record consumption, with the average person now consuming 20 kilograms of fish a year. The FAO's annual report on The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA) found that global supply of fish for human consumption has outpaced human population growth in the past five decades, and is double the level of the 1960s. The growth in consumption is largely due to aquaculture: the farming of freshwater and saltwater populations under controlled conditions, rather than harvesting of wild species. Aquaculture now provides half of all fish for human consumption.

[Read More on Inter Press Service News Agency](#)

Beijing Has Fallen: China's Capital Sinking by 11cm a Year

One of China's major environmental threats lies underground: Beijing is sinking. Excessive pumping of groundwater is causing the geology under the city to collapse, according to a new study using satellite imagery that reveals parts of Beijing – particularly its central business district – are subsiding each year by as much as 11 centimetres, or more than four inches. The authors of the study warn that continued subsidence poses a safety threat to the city of more than 20 million, with “a strong impact on train operations” one of the predictions.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)



Canada's Fort McMurray Fire: Mitigating Global Risks

On May 1, 2016, a colossal forest fire began to sweep into Fort McMurray, a boomtown centered in the middle of the Alberta oil sands in Canada. Over the ensuing 3 weeks it grew to more than 3000 km², forced the evacuation of 88,000 residents, destroyed thousands of homes and buildings, and is expected to negatively affect the gross domestic product. Events in Fort McMurray are relevant to many in the field of global risk and climate change. For example, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction seeks to tackle hazards before they become disasters through a culture of prevention, by ongoing review of policies and priorities, and by good governance in support of collaboration and partnership.

[Read More on The Lancet](#)



Earth on Track for Hottest Year Ever as Warming Speeds Up

The earth is on track for its hottest year on record and warming at a faster rate than expected, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Thursday. Temperatures recorded mainly in the northern hemisphere in the first six months of the year, coupled with an early and fast Arctic sea ice melt and “new highs” in heat-trapping carbon dioxide levels, point to quickening climate change, it said. “What we’ve seen so far for the first six months of 2016 is really quite alarming,” David Carlson, director of the WMO’s Climate Research Program, told a news briefing. “This year suggests that the planet can warm up faster than we expected in a much shorter time.

[Read More on The Humansphere](#)

Palm Oil Companies Acknowledge Human Rights Abuses in Guatemala

Palm oil production has a history rife with human rights abuses in countries around the world, and Guatemala is no exception. A massive spill of toxic palm oil (later labeled an “ecocide”) contaminated Guatemala’s Pasión River, quickly followed by the killing of an activist who denounced the spill. Now companies in the Central American country have begun to recognize that such violence and ecocide must not be tolerated. Cargill, one of the largest purchasers of palm oil from Guatemala, published a statement requiring REPSA, the Guatemalan company responsible for the spill, to take a series of actions to prevent future violence.

[Read More on The Humansphere](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH: Dispute Turns Deadly As Indigenous Brazilians Try to Retake Ancestral Land

Tension over land rights between the early inhabitants of the southern part of the state and the European-origin farmers who settled there in the 19th and 20th centuries is boiling over. In a feud that dates back decades, indigenous people seize private property they claim as their ancestral lands and farmers respond with deadly violence. Before mechanisation, much of the original backbreaking farm work was done by indigenous labourers. Many lived and toiled on large estates in appalling conditions: the state labour ministry only granted indigenous people formal employment rights in 1999.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)



Professor Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and founding executive director of UNAIDS, remarked on a recent paper's findings at a press briefing at the International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa last week:

"This study shows that the AIDS epidemic is not over by any means and that HIV/AIDS remains one of the biggest public health threats of our time," Piot said. "The continuing high rate of over 2 million new HIV infections represents a collective failure which must be addressed through intensified prevention efforts and continued investment in HIV vaccine research."

[Read More on The Lancet](#)

[See Also The Humansphere](#)

THERE IS STILL
NO CURE FOR AIDS.
PROTECT YOURSELF.



EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Aug. 9-14	World Social Forum	Montreal Canada	https://fsm2016.org/en/sinformer/
Oct. 15-16	Climate Change Adaptation 2016 Fifth International Conference	Toronto, Canada	http://www.planetfriendly.net/calendar/
Oct. 16-17	6th Global Forum on Health Promotion	Charlottetown Canada	http://parc.ophea.net/event/
Oct. 17-20	Habitat III: The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development	Quito, Ecuador	https://www.habitat3.org
Oct. 18-19	Health Promotion Ontario Annual Conference	Ottawa Canada	http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ph-sp/docs/ charter-chartre/pdf/charter.pdf
Nov. 9-11	The Thirteenth AMNET International Conference on Chronic Diseases	New Mexico, USA	http://www.amnetbcom.org/
Nov. 14-18	4th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	Vancouver Canada	http://www.csih.org/en/events/
Nov. 21-24	9th Global Conference on Health Promotion	Shanghai China	http://www.who.int/healthpromotion



[@PlanetaryWeekly](#)

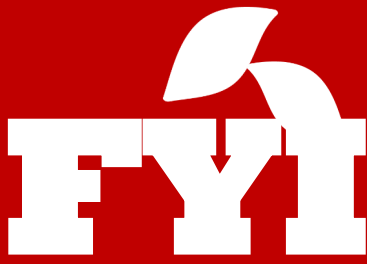


[@PlanetaryHealthWeekly](#)



[Planetary Health Weekly](#)

CONNECT WITH
Planetary Health Weekly



HUMANOSPHERE NEWSLETTER



Humanosphere
Covering global health and poverty
because we give a damn

Sponsored by:  CONRAD N. HILTON
FOUNDATION

GLOBAL HEALTH

HUMAN RIGHTS

WORLD POLITICS

SCIENCE

SOCIAL BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT

BASICS

ABOUT

HUMAN RIGHTS



22 JULY 2016

Internet in Greek migrant camps as important as food and water, aid groups say

ENVIRONMENT



Earth on track for hottest year ever as warming speeds up



HIV infection rates increasing in 74 countries



Mexican statistics institute accused of manipulating poverty data

Humanosphere exists to tell the stories of the global poor and the people who are working to change the world. It is an independent, non-profit news organization devoted to making news about the global fight against poverty and inequity as engaging as a cat video, an explosion, a celebrity in rehab or a celebrity cat exploding in rehab.

The site is based in Seattle and was launched in 2010 with support from National Public Radio (NPR) largely because of the region's leadership in global health, aid, development and the humanitarian sector – most notably, the world's largest philanthropy, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Humanosphere has, since tumbling out of the NPR nest and spreading its independent journalistic wings, expanded its coverage and reach simply to try to keep up. Nearly a third of Humanosphere's daily audience is outside the U.S.

Its goal is to fill in for the dearth of mainstream media coverage of humanitarian issues and to better shape the fuzzy narrative of aid and development. In short, Humanosphere aims to produce simple, promotional messages that avoid difficult, politically charged or awkward issues. At the core of most stories and reports the desire is to reduce poverty and injustice around the world. In the interest of full-disclosure, we wish to reveal a bias that may sometimes influence our coverage: poverty and injustice are bad.

[Read More on The Humanosphere](#)

BOOK: COULD WE SET ASIDE HALF THE EARTH FOR NATURE?



Species on Earth are winking out at rates likely not seen since the demise of the dinosaurs. If we don't change our ways, we will witness a mass extinction event that will not only leave our world a far more boring and lonely place, but will undercut the very survival of our species. "Even in the best scenarios of conventional conservation practice the losses [of biodiversity] should be considered unacceptable by civilized peoples," E.O. Wilson writes in his new book, ***Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life***.

In the book, Wilson argues eloquently for setting aside half of the planet for nature, including both terrestrial and marine ecosystems. He writes that it's time for the conservation community to set a big goal, instead of aiming for incremental progress. By preserving half of the planet, we would theoretically protect 80% of the world's species from extinction, according to the species-area curve.

In contrast, if we only protect 10% of the Earth, we are set to lose around half of the planet's species over time. This is the track we are currently on. "The extinction rate our behavior is now imposing on the rest of life, and seems destined to continue, is...the equivalent of a Chicxulub-sized asteroid strike played out over several human generations," Wilson writes in *Half-Earth*, referencing the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs – at least those that didn't evolve into birds.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)



GLOBAL DIVIDE IN SMARTPHONE USE



Nearly half the world's adults have a smartphone and although there is still a significant gap between developed and developing countries, the gap is closing rapidly. A Pew Research Center analysis based on a survey of 40 nations in Spring 2015 puts global adult smartphone ownership at 43%. Sales of smartphones are booming, with more than 1.4 billion sold in 2015 and the figure is expected to be higher still this year. This is still though, a significant divide. Richer economies still have a higher level of smartphone ownership, with South Korea coming top with 88% of people owning a smartphone. However, the gap is closing rapidly.

Smartphone ownership rates have skyrocketed in many countries since 2013 and the report shows just how quickly the disparity is diminishing. Turkey has seen ownership increase by 42 percentage points, Malaysia by 34, and Brazil and Chile by 26. Of major regions, the United States came top with 72%, followed by Europe (60%) and the Middle East (57%). Less than half (43%) of Latin Americans have a smartphone.

In Asia/Pacific more people own a mobile phone than a smartphone, and in Africa less than one in five people use a smartphone. The smartphone digital divide is clear, with a difference of 84 percentage points between the country with the most smartphone owners, South Korea, and the country with the least – Ethiopia at 4%.

[Read More on The World Economic Forum](#)



GLOBAL SOUTH'S UNTOLD HUMAN RIGHTS LEGACY



While human rights are often viewed as a Western creation, pushed against the will of developing countries, the origins of the international human rights system may prove otherwise, according to a forum held at the International Peace Institute (IPI).

“There are many, many legacies of the Global South’s foundational and structural contributions to the evolution of international human rights,” Mogens Lykketoft, President of the UN General Assembly said at the forum. “The first attempt to undermine The 1948 Declaration of Human Rights came from the United States, UK, and France, in what was the first organizational efficiency review of the United Nations”, said Lykketoft.

This review of the years 1950-1952, called the work on preventing discrimination, the state of the women, and freedom of information and the press inefficient, and even considered closing down the commission on human rights.” This was strongly countered by countries such as Mexico, Chile, Egypt, Haiti, and the Philippines, saying that we need to have agreements on social issues and human rights issues.”

[Read More on InterPress Service News Agency](#)

EVIDENCE THAT LOW COST READING PROGRAMS CAN HAVE A BIG IMPACT



The PNG government and the World Bank started the Reader Booster Program, a remedial reading program for young children. The program is part of the \$19.2 million READ project. Students were randomly assigned, at the school level, to either a treatment group that received the program or a control group that did not. The randomized-controlled evaluation ensured that the characteristics of students in the control and treatment groups were similar. This allowed for any differences in subsequent reading skills to be attributable to the program itself.

The Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) was applied both before and after the program for both the control and treatment groups. The program's impact was significant: initial sound identification increased by 0.91 standard deviations, letter sounds knowledge increased by 0.58 standard deviations, while familiar word reading increased by 0.04 standard deviations or an average of 0.51 standard deviations for all three domains.

To put the magnitude of this impact in perspective, a review of the link between cognitive ability and earnings in several countries found that one standard deviation increase in test scores among adults corresponds to an increase of annual earnings between 17 and 22 percent on average. In PNG, such an impact would yield additional earnings with a net present value between 5,585 PGK (\$1,765) and 7,322 PGK (\$2,346), discounted at 5 percent, equivalent to nine to 12 percent of lifetime earnings. This is a remarkable benefit given that the cost of the program is only 186 PGK (\$60) per student.

[Read More on World Bank Organization](#)

CHINA FLOODS: MORE THAN 150 KILLED AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS EVACUATED



Floods in north and central China have killed at least 150 people, with scores missing and hundreds of thousands forced from homes, officials say. Hebei and Henan provinces are the worst hit by the flash floods and landslides. At least 114 people have been killed in Hebei, with 111 missing and 53,000 houses destroyed, officials say.

In one city, Xingtai, at least 25 people died, prompting people to demonstrate against the government for failing to warn them of the flooding. Thousands of villagers blocked a road on Friday, but police were sent to the scene to halt the protest, according to the South China Morning Post. The villagers complained about a lack of flood warnings and ineffective rescue efforts.

The casualty figures in Hebei province included 26 people dead and 34 missing in Jingxing county, according to Xinhua news agency. Henan province has been badly hit too, with 15 reported deaths so far, and 72,000 people evacuated. The Chinese authorities have said they will provide funds for flood-hit areas, where millions of people are affected. There have been power cuts and major problems with the communications and transport networks across a wide area, Xinhua said.

[Read More on BBC News](#)



10 BEST PIECES OF CAREER ADVICE FOR MILLENNIALS



There are ten things that all millennials should do to get ahead in their careers. First, think of your career as a series of experiences. You need to collect experiences throughout your careers, whether that be with five employers or ten, with one business function or five or in one country or three. The idea is that you need to be a lifelong learner if you want to make an impact, succeed and feel accomplished.

Next, don't settle for a job you're not passionate about. When you're passionate about your job, you're excited, you work longer hours and end up accomplishing much more. In addition, focus on making a big impact immediately. Starting on day one, you have to learn as much as possible and start mastering your job so you can latch on to the bigger projects faster and prove yourself. By doing this, you will explode your career and become more valuable in your company, which will increase your pay, title and you'll get to work on better projects.

Also, the more you travel and experience the world, the better you will be at serving this marketplace and taking advantage of it. Furthermore, if you're learning new languages, you are ahead of the curve. It's hard for companies to find workers who are fluent in languages so if that's you, you become more marketable. Lastly, locate mentors who live your desired lifestyle. You need to choose the right mentor, who can support you and who has time to support you. That person should be someone in your industry who is living the lifestyle that you dream of. This way, they can tell you exactly what you need to do each day to get to their level.

[Read More on The Forbes](#)

Summer's Bounty

(Kelowna, British Columbia - July 28, 2016)



This Newsletter is FREE.

Planetary Health Weekly is an e-newsletter published in collaboration with the **Planetary Health Commission** at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada
To Subscribe/Unsubscribe: planetaryhealth.ca/weekly

CONTACTUS



@PlanetaryWeekly



planetaryhealthweekly@gmail.com



@PlanetaryHealthWeekly



Planetary Health Weekly



planetary health commission
Discover planetaryhealth.ca

Publisher and Editor: **Dr. David Zakus**
dzakus@ryerson.ca

Production: **Abinethaa Paramasivam & Angeline Sahayanathan**

**Ryerson
University**

**Faculty of
Community
Services**

Programs designed to transcend disciplinary boundaries to find lasting solutions to social issues.

Child & Youth Care
Disability Studies
Early Childhood Studies
Midwifery
Nursing
Nutrition
Occupational & Public Health
Social Work
Urban & Regional Planning

350 Victoria St.
Toronto, ON
M5B 2K3