



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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SMOKING CAUSES ONE IN TEN DEATHS GLOBALLY

One in 10 deaths around the world is caused by smoking, according to a major new study that shows the tobacco epidemic is far from over and that the threat to lives is spreading across the globe. There were nearly one billion smokers in 2015, in spite of tobacco control policies having been adopted by many countries. That number is expected to rise as the world's population expands. One in every four men is a smoker and one in 20 women.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)



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FUTURE CARBON DIOXIDE, CLIMATE WARMING POTENTIALLY UNPRECEDENTED IN 420 MILLION YEARS

New research led by the University of Southampton suggests that, over the next 100 to 200 years, carbon dioxide concentrations in Earth's atmosphere will head towards values not seen since the Triassic period, 200 million years ago. Furthermore, by the 23rd century, the climate could reach a warmth not seen in 420 million years. The study, published in Nature Communications, compiled over 1200 estimates of ancient atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations to produce a continuous record dating back nearly half a billion years. [Read More on Science Daily](#)





Speech Pathologist On Providing Specialized Health Services in West Africa

With a stack of used flashcards on the corner of his wooden desk, Justin Dabire simulated a typical speech therapy session. Holding a card in front of him with a picture, he points to the illustration and says “ladder,” and says he would ask the student to repeat after him. Dabire works as a certified speech pathologist at CEFISE in Burkina Faso as one of only three in this West African country of nearly 17 million residents. “We realized that many students here who have hearing disorders also have speech disorders, so we work [with] them to improve their language skills through word recognition, listening and repetition,” he said.

[Read More on Devex](#)

When Children See War As Better Than Peace

For most people the end of a war offers relief, hope, and an end to violence. This may not be the case for children born of wartime rape, however, who often endure continued brutality in the post-war period. That finding emerges from a new study of children born to mothers who were abducted, held captive, and sexually violated by members of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group led by Joseph Kony during the civil war in northern Uganda from 1986 to 2007. Because little attention has been paid to the perspectives of children born of wartime rape, researchers from McGill University joined forces with Watye Ki Gen, a collective of women who were abducted by the LRA and held in captivity. [Read More on Science](#)



Living Downwind Of Coal-Fired Power Plant Could Increase Risk Of Low Birth Weight

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has studied the effects of coal-fired power plant emissions on premature mortality, nonfatal heart attacks, hospital and emergency room visits, acute bronchitis, upper and lower respiratory symptoms, aggravated asthma, and lost work days or school absences. A new study details the public health benefits of cutting such emissions on a previously unexplored area: fetal health. The study -- led by Muzhe Yang, Associate Professor of Economics at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA) -- is the first to explore the impacts of prenatal exposure to a uniquely identified large polluter.

[Read More on Science Daily](#)



The Arctic Ocean Is Becoming More Like The Atlantic

The eastern Arctic Ocean is becoming more like the Atlantic Ocean, a new study combining remote sensing and local data finds. Whereas the Arctic Ocean typically undergoes very little vertical overturn, the eastern Eurasian Basin of the Arctic is now becoming more active, exhibiting vertical mixing more commonly seen in iceless parts of the Atlantic, the study finds. Over the last decade, the Arctic Ocean has experienced record-breaking losses of sea ice in the summers. Indeed, the eastern Eurasian Basin has been nearly ice-free at the end of summer since 2011. [Read More on Science Daily](#)

More Permafrost Than Thought May Be Lost As Planet Warms

As global warming thaws the permafrost, the frozen land that covers nearly six million square miles of the earth, a big question for scientists is: How much will be lost? The answer, according to a new analysis: more than many of them thought. A study published recently in the journal *Nature Climate Change* suggests that as the planet warms toward two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels, each degree Celsius of warming will lead to the thawing of about 1.5 million square miles of permafrost. That figure is at least 20 percent higher than most previous studies, said Sarah E. Chadburn, a researcher at the University of Leeds in England and the lead author of the study. [Read More on NY Times](#)



El Nino Raises Cholera Risk in East Africa

Last year, Tanzania suffered from its largest cholera outbreak in a decade. New research helps identify the culprit – El Niño. By causing more rainfall in parts of Africa, some 177 million people experienced a threefold increase in cholera cases due to El Niño. That means 50,000 more cholera cases compared to other years. Cholera can have a fatality rate as high as 50 percent when treated too late. Showing the connection between the global weather event and the waterborne disease is good news. It makes it easier for governments to mobilize efforts to prevent outbreaks and save lives, said study leader Justin Lessler of Johns Hopkins University. [Read More on Humansphere](#)



Parkageddon: How Not To Create Traffic Jams, Pollution and Urban Sprawl

Even if the new headquarters that Apple is creating in California does not prove to be “the best office building in the world”, as Steve Jobs boasted shortly before his death in 2011, it will be an astounding sight. The main building resembles a flying saucer with a hole in the middle. Through its large, gently curving windows, workers will eventually look out on a wood containing some 7,000 carefully chosen trees. It is as though a race of high-tech beings has landed on a pristine planet. And then, unfortunately, there’s the car park. For 14,000 workers, Apple is building almost 11,000 parking spaces. Many cars will be tucked under the main building, but most will cram into two adjacent enormous garages.

[Read More on The Economist](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY:

Diesel Car Drivers £20 A Day ‘Toxin Taxes’ In 35 Cities Across UK As The Government Cracks Down On Air Pollution

Diesel drivers could face up to £20-a-day ‘toxin taxes’ in 35 cities across England as the Government cracks down on vehicles that cause air pollution. Private diesel cars and commercial vehicles could face bans in peak hours and daily charges to discourage drivers from entering city centres in ‘nine or ten’ of the country’s worst-affected cities. In 25 other towns, commercial diesel vehicles, including lorries, coaches and taxis, could face bans and charges.

[Read More on DailyMail](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH:

Judge Rules in Favour of Indigenous Survivors of Sixties Scoop

Indigenous Australians are living in “appalling” conditions and young Aboriginals in detention are “essentially being punished for being poor”, the United Nations has declared in a scathing report. A 15-day tour of Indigenous communities and high-level meetings revealed an “alarming” lack of self-determination, inappropriate housing developments and “deeply disturbing” levels of racism. The UN has previously recommended the age of criminal responsibility be lifted from 10 to 12. Detention of Indigenous youth “has become so prevalent in certain communities that some parents see it as an achievement that none of their children has been taken into custody so far.” [Read More on SMH](#)



Quote of The Week

"I think the future looks pretty grim. I mean, we are facing really serious problems. There's one thing that shouldn't be ignored—we're in a stage of history for the first time ever where we're facing literal questions of species survival. Can the species survive, at least in any decent form? That's a real problem."

An excerpt from the new book Requiem for the American Dream: The 10 Principles of Concentration of Wealth & Power by Noam Chomsky and edited by Peter Hutchison, Kelly Nyks, and Jared P. Scott (Seven Stories Press, 2017).

[Read More on Alternet](#)

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
June 1-2	Aboriginal Conferences	Canada	http://aboriginalconferences.ca/
June 12-23	McGill Summer Institute in Infectious Disease and Global Health	Montreal Canada	http://mcgill-idgh.ca/
June 12-16	Global Health Diagnostics	Montreal Canada	http://mcgill-idgh.ca/courses/global-health-diagnostics/



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ESTIMATES AND 25 YEAR TRENDS OF THE GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE ATTRIBUTABLE TO AMBIENT AIR POLLUTION

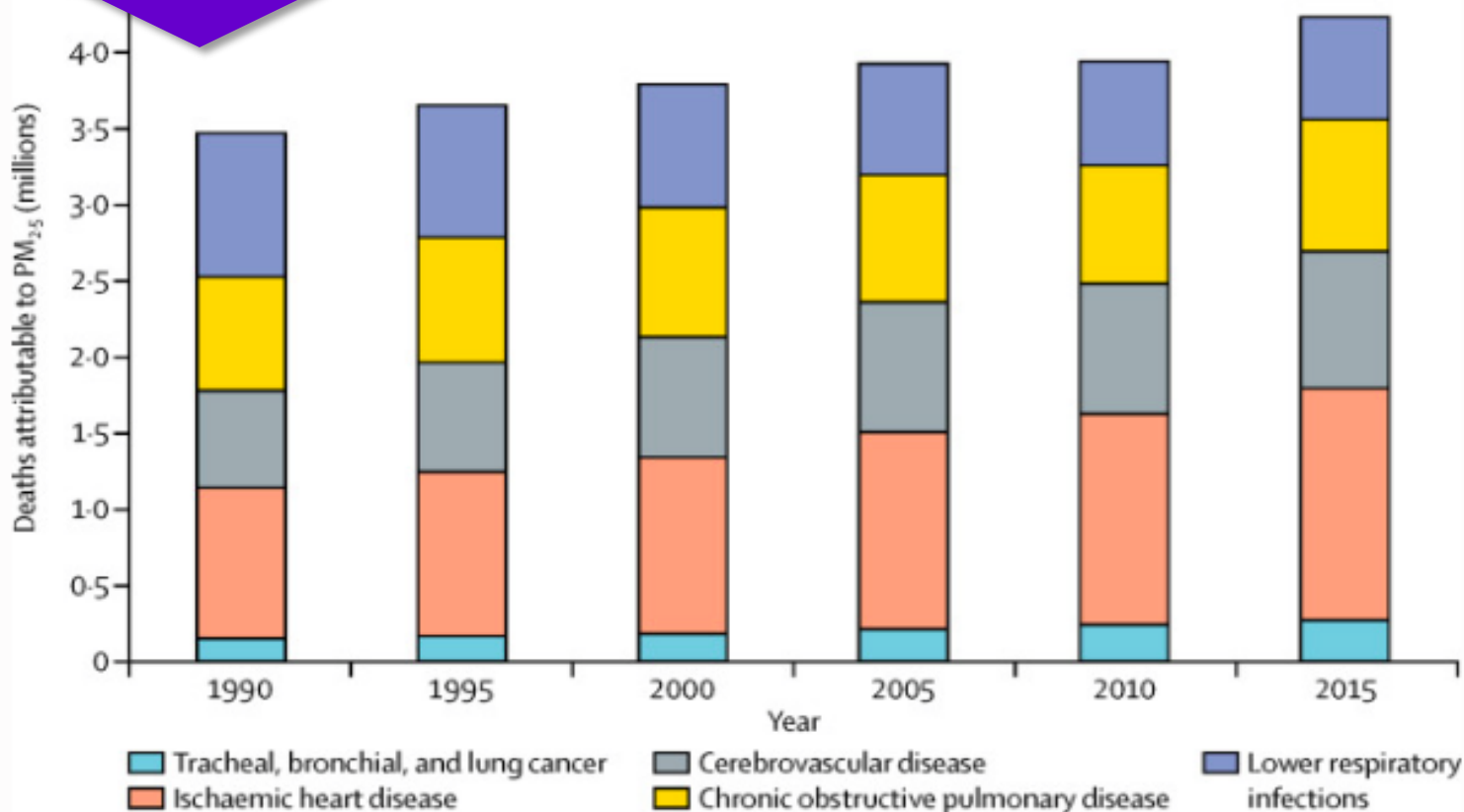


Figure 4

Deaths attributable to ambient particulate matter pollution by year and cause

Exposure to ambient air pollution increases mortality and morbidity and shortens life expectancy. The Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study 2015 (GBD 2015) estimated the burden of disease attributable to 79 risk factors in 195 countries from 1990 to 2015. GBD 2015 identified air pollution as a leading cause of global disease burden, especially in low-income and middle-income countries. In view of the important role of public policy in mitigating this risk and the potential for substantial health benefits related to efforts to reduce emissions of climate-forcing agents, we explored spatial and temporal trends in mortality and burden of disease attributable to ambient air pollution from 1990 to 2015 at global, regional, and country levels.

[Read More on The Lancet](#)



ARE CITIES ON TRACK TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS BY 2030?



We are now almost halfway through the first 1,000 days of implementation of the landmark Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global framework that seeks to eradicate poverty, combat climate change, and promote peaceful and inclusive societies — all by 2030. In countries around the world, we’ve started to see burgeoning progress on implementation at the national and, to a lesser extent, local levels. But it has become increasingly clear that real action needs to be stepped up if we are going to set the solid foundations needed to meet these ambitious goals by the end of the next decade. What’s taking place in cities is of particular and increasing interest for many. After all, with more than half of the population globally living in urban areas and this figure set to increase, largely driven by urbanization in developing countries, the SDGs won’t be achieved without active involvement from cities.

[Read More on Citiscope](#)

ETHIOPIA HOSTS MORE REFUGEES THAN ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY

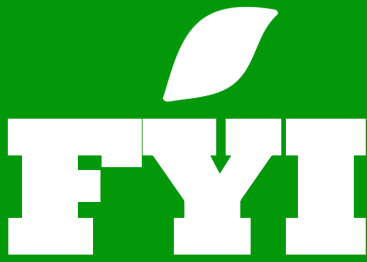


The U.N. refugee agency reports Ethiopia now hosts more refugees than any other country in Africa, supplanting its neighbor, Kenya. The UNHCR says the main factor is the huge influx of refugees from conflict-ridden South Sudan. The agency says most of them, nearly 190,000, have fled into Ethiopia since war erupted in their country in mid-December.

Besides the South Sudanese, the UNHCR reports Ethiopia also is hosting 245,000 Somalis and nearly 100,000 Eritreans. Kenya, in comparison, is hosting about 575,000 registered refugees, the majority of them Somalis. Spokesman Adrian Edwards said the UNHCR, partner agencies and the Ethiopian government were providing protection and humanitarian aid at 23 refugee camps and five transit sites across Ethiopia.

He said camps were overcrowded due to the ongoing influx of refugees -- about 25,000 new arrivals each month. He noted three camps opened early this year have reached their limit, so two new camps were being established. Edwards said bad weather has complicated the situation for 18,000 refugees who are living in three temporary sites in the western region of Gambella.

[Read More on VOA News](#)



IODINE DEFICIENCY ONCE AGAIN A CAMBODIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE



By 2010, a program to iodize salt meant health problems associated with iodine-deficiency in Cambodia were largely a thing of the past. But when iodine prices tripled after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan, many salt producers in Cambodia stopped buying the additive and the authorities failed to enforce the law. The result: a re-emerging public health issue that has to date remained largely invisible.

[Watch More on World EIN News](#)



COLUMBIA LEADS THE DEVELOPING WORLD IN SIGNING THE FIRST SOCIAL IMPACT BOND CONTRACTS



The signing of the contracts for the Columbia Workforce Social Impact Bond (SIB) on March 29 marked the launch of the first SIB in a developing country. This SIB will target skills training and employment support to vulnerable, unemployed individuals in Bogotá, Cali, and Pereira. While two Development Impact Bonds (DIBs) have been implemented in Peru and India, a distinguishing feature of a SIB is that the outcome funder is a government entity. In this case, the Colombian Government's Department of Social Prosperity (Prosperidad Social) will provide a portion of the outcome funds. While the unemployment rate in Columbia has reduced dramatically from a rate of 16 percent in 2000, it remains high at 9 percent and is even higher among vulnerable populations, such as young people and women, who are more likely to work in Columbia's large informal sector. Furthermore, significant wage gaps exist for Afro-Columbians and the indigenous population. The armed conflict in Columbia has exacerbated these labor market inequalities, with Columbia having the world's largest internally displaced population. An estimated one out of two people in extreme poverty is an internally displaced person.

[Read More on Brookings](#)



WHAT HAPPENS AT HOME WHEN PEOPLE CAN'T DEPEND ON STABLE WORK



Recent research by economists Anne Case and Angus Deaton documents a dramatic rise in mortality rates among working-class white people in the U.S. The immediate causes of these “deaths of despair,” as the pair refer to them, are often factors like drug abuse, health problems like diabetes, and suicide. But these issues stem from a larger epidemic of job insecurity for Americans without a college degree, creating a sense of untethered hopelessness among millions of people. The problem is widespread enough that it led, in 2015, to the first overall decline in U.S. life expectancy since 1993.

The fact that people’s health and emotional well-being are so closely tied to the absence of steady work is striking. Yet what matters here is not just job insecurity; it’s also what we might call the culture of insecurity: the growing conventional wisdom that precarious employment is inevitable. Many Americans can narrate the decline of the social contract, the collapse of the kinds of jobs their grandfathers held for decades before retiring and getting the gold watch. Survey data reflects this sentiment as well: According to Pew, most Americans are convinced that jobs have become more precarious than they were 20–30 years ago, and predict that it will get worse.

These kinds of cultural proverbs, as they are repeated and shared among us, tell us which kinds of emotions are appropriate responses and which are not. If job insecurity is all that we can expect, for example, we learn that resistance is not just futile. It is akin to cursing the wind: misguided, blind to what everybody knows, even illegitimate.

[Read More on HBR](#)

**Simulation Teaching on Postpartum Hemorrhage
Marrere General Hospital Health Post
Natikiri District, Nampula Province, Mozambique
May 11, 2017**



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