

## Ask a Patient Health News July 24 2022

### Health News: July 24, 2022

- As of July 22, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports almost 2,900 **monkeypox cases** in the U.S. and more than 16,000 cases globally. In an interview on *Washington Post Live*, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said that **two children in the U.S. are among the cases**: an infant and a toddler. She said those infections most likely happened through household transmission and were traced to individuals in the men who have sex with men community. Spain, U.S., Germany, and United Kingdom are the countries with the highest number of cases, with more than 2,000 cases each.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/us-confirms-cases-monkeypox-children/story?id=87268855>

Check maps for case counts by state or country:

[U.S. Map](#) with case counts by state

[World Map](#) with case count by country

- Urinary tract infections (UTIs) have become more difficult to treat because of waning effectiveness of **available antibiotics**. The CDC reports that the incidence rates of **seven deadly antimicrobial-resistant organisms** surged by an average 15% in hospitals in 2020 because of antibiotic overuse in Covid patients. **Big pharmaceutical companies are not pursuing antibiotic drug development** because the **potential return on investment is too small**. According to a report by on antibacterial innovation from the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), of the 12 **antibiotics companies** that have gone public in the past decade, only 5 are still active today. One company (Achaogen) went bankrupt within a year of having a new antibiotic approved.

<https://khn.org/news/article/big-pharma-new-antibiotics-infections-growing-stronger/>

### Food & Supplements News

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (**PFAS**) testing results from 81 samples of clams, cod, crab, pollock, salmon, shrimp, tuna, and tilapia. PFAS are long lasting human-made chemicals which break down very slowly over time and are used in a wide range of consumer and industrial products. The only foods with PFAS levels high enough to warrant a recall were **canned clams** from two companies: Bumble Bee and Crown Prince.

<https://www.fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-shares-results-pfas-testing-seafood>

- The [FDA](#) released its latest **Total Diet Study Report** (TDSR) of foods commonly eaten in the U.S. The study analyzed 3,276 samples of 305 distinct food, beverage, and bottled water products collected from different regions of the U.S. between 2018 and 2020. The foods were analyzed for the presence of **toxic elements** (like inorganic **arsenic**, **lead**, and **cadmium**) as well as **healthy elements** (potassium, iron, iodine, and calcium). Also, 54 food samples were further analyzed for 3 arsenic species. Lead was found in 15% of food samples, arsenic in 43% and cadmium in 61%. The highest levels of arsenic were found in infant cereals, rice, teething biscuits, and puffed snacks. The highest levels of lead were found in cocoa powder (although only one sample tested) baking soda (only one sample tested), baby food sweet potatoes, baby food teething biscuits, and sandwich cookies.

FDA [Press Release](#)

[https://www.upi.com/Health\\_News/2022/07/18/Food-and-Drug-Administration-FDA-foods-nutrients-toxins-total-dietary-study-report/2291658150535/](https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2022/07/18/Food-and-Drug-Administration-FDA-foods-nutrients-toxins-total-dietary-study-report/2291658150535/)

- A man ended up in hospital for eight days after he **overdosed on vitamin D**, according to a *British Medical Journal (BMJ)* case report. The middle-aged man was taking more than 20 high-dose over-the-counter supplements, in amounts that far exceeded recommended daily amounts. For example, he was taking daily dose of 50,000 mg of vitamin D when the daily requirement is just 600 mg. The patient was admitted to the hospital with nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, tinnitus, diarrhea and a 28-lb weight loss. He also had very high calcium levels; vitamin D helps to absorb calcium, but having too much of it can

cause excessive absorption. Symptoms continued for three months after he discontinued the supplements.

<https://www.ibtimes.com/man-loses-28-pounds-lands-hospital-after-vitamin-d-overdose-3563213>

Case Report: <https://casereports.bmj.com/content/15/7/e250553>

## Research News

- Researchers at Northwestern University and University of Michigan found that even if **flawed or fraudulent academic papers** are **retracted**, the retraction usually happens **too late to reduce the influence of the initial paper's findings**. The authors also analyzed tweets about research - both manually and with the help of algorithms, and labeled the tweets as either critical (containing questioning words, skepticism, disapproval) or uncritical (sharing findings, remarking in a positive way). They found that the average fraction of **critical tweets** was more than twice as high for papers that were later retracted than it was for unretracted papers. The study was published in the June 14 *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

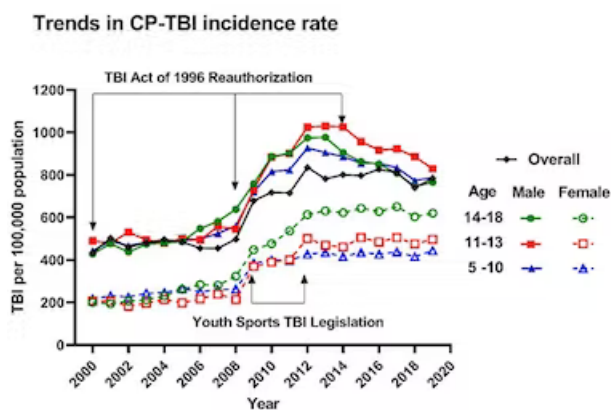
<https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2022/06/flawed-research-not-retracted-fast-enough-to-prevent-spread-of-misinformation-study-finds/>

- Researchers at the National Eye Institute found that the loss of a "**youth protein**" called pigment epithelium-derived factor (PEDF) is the driver of **aging in the eye**, based on an experiment with mice. Lead author Patricia Becerra, Ph.D., chief of NEI's Section of Protein Structure and Function said, "This study showed for the first time that just **removing PEDF** leads to a host of gene changes that mimic aging in the retina." In people with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) or certain types of retinal dystrophies, senescence (aging) or death of RPE cells in the retina leads to vision loss. The study was published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*.

<https://www.nei.nih.gov/about/news-and-events/news/nih-study-finds-loss-youth-protein-may-drive-aging-eye>

- A The University of Texas Tyler Health Science Center study on the incidence of consumer product-related **traumatic brain injury among children** found a significant increase in such incidents since 2000, accounting for more than **12% of all US hospital emergency department visits** by school-aged children in 2019, up from 4.5% in 2000. The overall rate of increase stabilized after peaking in 2012, to a 3.6% annual level over the entire study period. Widespread media attention and public health policies have resulted in greater risk awareness related to contact sports, helping to stabilize or decrease the rates of injury. **Boys** in every age group averaged a **higher number of traumatic brain injuries than girls**, but high school **girls** (age 14-18) saw a dramatic increase in injuries beginning in 2008.

The study was published in *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.



- A University of Connecticut study reveals that the number of **adverse events** suffered by **hospitalized patients** in the U.S. **declined significantly** over the last decade (2010-2019). The researchers analyzed adverse events for patients admitted for acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, pneumonia, and major surgical procedures. Researchers conclude that study findings hold promise for both the safety of patients and the effectiveness of hospital patient safety initiatives. The study was published in *JAMA*.

<https://today.uconn.edu/2022/07/jama-study-u-s-hospital-adverse-events-drop-significantly/>

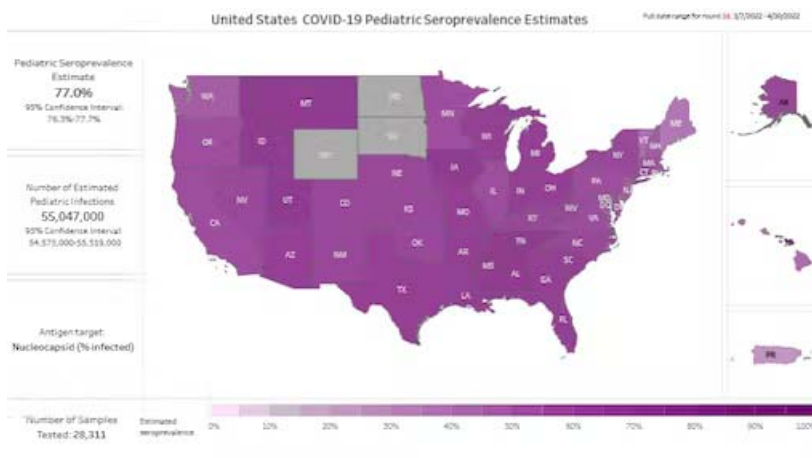
3

Ask a Patient® Health News

- Ever since his childhood, 30 year old Aaron Blocker had experienced **bone problems**: bowed legs at birth, broken fingers, broken nose, scoliosis diagnosis, dislocated shoulder, seven teeth extractions, and a full hip replacement in his 20s. Along the way, no doctors ever recommended further investigation into the cause of his bone issues; he was an active person, albeit "clumsy." He was eventually diagnosed with **Chron's disease**, a type of **inflammatory bowel disease** (IBD). At age 24, after a Chron's flare-up, an abdominal CT scan and bone scan led to a diagnosis of **severe osteoporosis**. But Blocker knew there must be something more wrong with him. After some sleuthing, he suspected (correctly) that he had a very rare inherited genetic disease. Check out **Sandra Boodman's** latest **medical mystery**.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/07/09/medical-mystery-broken-bones/>

- The CDC provided new data on the estimated level of **seroprevalence among U.S. children** age 6 months to 17 for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies for **naturally acquired infections** (not antibodies acquired from vaccines). The results suggest that about 77% of children in the U.S. have been naturally infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus as of April 2022.



***Interested in advertising in Ask a Patient® Health News ?***

***[Sign up on Swapstack](#)***

***Do you have a newsletter that you want to let our readers know about? Tell us at [askapatientnews@askapatient.com](mailto:askapatientnews@askapatient.com)***

Ask a Patient® Health Newsletter: July 24, 2022

Copyright, 2022

Visit us at [www.askapatient.com](http://www.askapatient.com)

Please contact us with questions, comments, and suggestions: [admin@askapatient.com](mailto:admin@askapatient.com)

[Unsubscribe](#)

or

[Subscribe](#)