

California

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sends letter to Governor Newsom warning that the state is not enforcing the Clean Water Act– According to President Trump, the violation occurred because used needles and waste products from homeless encampments in the city of San Francisco drained into the ocean. The mayor of San Francisco denied the validity of those statements. The federal agency has given the governor of California 30 days to respond with a plan to address the issue. This letter follows another letter from the EPA that was issued last week that stated that California violated the Clean Air Act.

Other States

Data from the Census Bureau indicates that number of insured Texas children decreased for third year in a row– In 2016, the rate of uninsured children under the age of 19 in the state was 9.2 percent and in 2018, it jumped to 11.2 percent. The enrollment in Children’s Medicaid has also declined since 2017. Some members of advocacy groups report that the declines were mostly among immigrant children, possibly due to the “public charge” rules that went into effect. The state also has the largest percentage (17.7 percent) of uninsured residents.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, utilizing public health model to prevent firearm violence– The city’s program 414LIFE is following Cure Violence, a public health model that pays trusted community people to be proactive in staying vigilant and intervening in scenarios that could turn violent. These community members are paid and fully trained to deal with tough situations and are taught three strategies that are used on an international and national scale.

Massachusetts to require marijuana delivery people to wear body cameras– The Cannabis Control Commission approved its regulation that would include the use of a body camera by a marijuana delivery person when the person is outside of the vehicle. The reason for this was because of a concern that vehicles with marijuana could be targeted for robberies.

Virginia Department of Public Health and Developmental Services launches a program to transport people with a mental health crisis using special transport vehicles rather than police cars– Instead of being handcuffed in the back of a police car, some individuals under temporary detention orders will be allowed to ride in the back of a Dodge Durango without restraint. The department hopes this will ease the anxiety and reduce the stigma that the individuals may face. In other Virginia news, a federal judge ruled that a 24-hour waiting period prior to an abortion and a law that states that only physicians can perform abortions may stand. Two other state laws, however, were overturned, including one that required that a second-trimester abortion be performed at an outpatient hospital and one that required all abortion facilities to meet general and surgical hospital facility requirements.

Report finds that Ohio, Nevada, and Georgia have the highest HIV risk in the nation– Using CDC data, Health Testing Centers found that the south had the highest average HIV risk score with seven out ten states with the highest scores. The report also had the following findings: African Americans have the highest risk while Caucasians have the lowest; adults between 25 and 34 years of age are most likely to be diagnosed followed by people between the ages of 35 and 44; and men are four times more likely than women to acquire the infection. Recently, the federal government announced a commitment to focus prevention efforts on areas with high rates of HIV.

Hawaii’s birthrate has been on the decline for the last decade– Since 2008, the birthrate for the state decreased by 10 percent. Two hospitals have seen declines in new nurse hiring and work shifts for the maternity wards. Health officials say that there are fewer women of childbearing age and that women of childbearing age are having fewer children than before. More people are now leaving the state than arriving and as older generations retire and demand for health care increases, the tax base of younger, healthy people is shrinking.

University of Nebraska to place nurse practitioners in underserved areas with \$1.67 million grant– The four-year grant was administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and will be used for a nurse practitioner residency program to focus on psychiatric care, pediatrics, family medicine, and women’s health. The state is projected to have 5,436 vacant nursing positions by 2025. In other university news, the University of Southern California will begin offering a minor in health innovation for undergraduate students through the medical school and the arts and business school.

Latest Approvals by the Food and Drug Administration

Mavyret

This hepatitis C drug is used for patients who have chronic hepatitis C and compensated cirrhosis. It has been shown to reduce the time of treatment from twelve weeks to eight weeks.

Jynneos

This vaccine is the first live, non-replicating vaccine to be used for the prevention of diseases such as smallpox and monkeypox. In 2003, there were 47 cases of monkeypox in the US.

Rybelsus

This medicine is used to control blood sugar for patients living with type 2 diabetes. This is the first drug of its kind that does not need to be injected as it can be ingested as an oral tablet.

Newsbytes Relevant to Our Strategic Priorities



To bring focus to our work, the Institute for Health Policy and Leadership has identified three strategic priorities: oral health, mental health and hunger as a health issue. This segment highlights news articles relevant to these priorities.

Oral Health

New Jersey expands oral health programs in multiple low-income communities– The state received \$300,000 to expand three federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). Specifically, the funds will be used to create new dental exam rooms, hire a dentist and oral surgeon, and make other upgrades. The state’s dental director said that the state would use an additional \$1.6 million in federal funding for nutrition and oral health programs at other FQHCs.

Hunger as a Health Issue

Ithaca College students began participating in Swipe Out Hunger in September– Swipe Out Hunger is a national organization that was founded to help students with food insecurity. The program collects unused dining hall and guest meals and packages them into bundles of 15, 30, or 45 meals for students that are food insecure. Students can also anonymously donate a guest meal swipe to other students once every semester.

Mental / Behavioral Health

Rates of suicides among active-duty troops have increased– Between 2017 and 2018, suicides increased by roughly six percent. Almost two-thirds of the suicides were committed using firearms. The numbers are comparable to civilians. Additionally, there were 186 family suicides which included military spouses and dependents.

If you would like to subscribe to our weekly newsletter, please [click here!](#)