

A Message from the Editor

With this issue of *Public Health Reports (PHR)*, we initiate a new column, *Executive Perspective*. The purpose of the column is to give senior public health officials an opportunity to discuss timely public health topics in concert with national commemorations of that same theme. In this inaugural column, Deputy Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak, a dermatologist, provides up-to-date information on ultraviolet (UV) radiation as we observe UV Awareness Month. Look for future columns from other senior officials, who will delve into a variety of contemporary issues.

I would also like to call your attention to a few special columns in this issue of *PHR*. If you are a regular reader, you know that we have rotating columns that span a variety of public health topics. One of our popular columns is *Law and the Public's Health*. In recent issues of *PHR*, we have published articles discussing various aspects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).¹ In this issue, Espinosa explores the rights of individuals to appeal decisions made by private insurers and the impact of the ACA on those rights. Also noteworthy this month is our *Local Acts* column in which Bodach et al. describe how monitoring of acute HIV infections has been integrated into regular public health surveillance activities in New York City, a model that could be emulated by other local health departments.

Lastly, we have an entry in our *Environmental Health* column. Licudine et al. present an interesting and insightful discussion on the aftereffects of fireworks on ambient air, measuring exposure to and documenting the presence of a variety of contaminants after fireworks celebrations in Hawaii. This topic is particularly timely

as we enter the summer season and head off to many celebrations in which fireworks are used.

In another timely article for summer, Helmkamp et al. compared state-specific all-terrain vehicle (ATV) fatality rates, grouping states according to helmet, training, and licensure requirements. They found that males accounted for 86% of ATV fatalities, and that while helmet-use requirements seemed to slightly mitigate fatalities, training requirements did not.

This issue features one other article that's especially relevant during the summer months. Lindsey et al. present an assessment of ArboNET, the U.S. national arboviral surveillance system, which was developed initially to monitor West Nile virus infections in humans, mosquitoes, birds, and other animals, but has been expanded to include other nationally notifiable domestic arboviruses as well as some travel-associated viruses. As a result of their assessment, changes to ArboNET have already been implemented, while further recommendations are being explored to ensure that the system continues to be a useful tool for national surveillance of arboviral diseases.

A special thanks to all our public health practitioners who work diligently to make sure the summer season is safe, healthy, and fun for all.

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REFERENCE

1. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Pub. L. No. 111-148, 124 Stat.119-1025 (March 23, 2010).