

NEWS/OBITUARIES

www.thejournalnet.com

Heart disease rate high in South

Study finds West Virginia, Kentucky has highest levels

By MIKE STUBBE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA

West Virginia and Kentucky — states known for high levels of obesity, diabetes and smoking — have the highest proportion of people with heart disease in the nation, U.S. health officials said Thursday.

The findings, from the first study ever to look at heart disease prevalence state by state, showed that states in the Southeast and Southwest were heart disease leaders. Colorado and the District of Columbia had the lowest percentages.

The results line up well with previous, state-specific reports about heart disease death rates, obesity and other risk factors, said Wayne Rosamond, an epidemiology professor at the University of North Carolina who chairs a statistics committee for the American Heart Association.

He called the report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "very important. It confirms what we know about regional differences in the burden of disease."

For the nation as a whole, roughly 4 percent of those surveyed had had a heart attack.

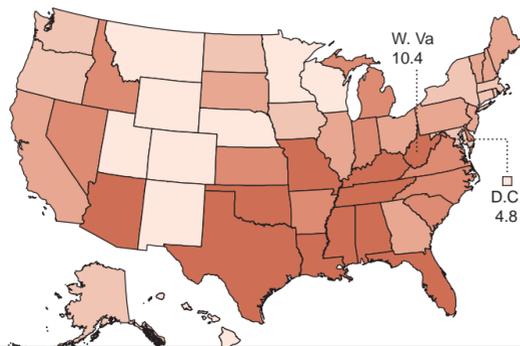
A slightly higher percentage reported angina or coronary heart disease, and 6.5 reported any of those conditions.

South has highest heart disease levels

States in the Southeast and Southwest — specifically West Virginia and Kentucky — have the highest levels of heart disease in the U.S. Colorado and the District of Columbia had the lowest percentages.

Adults reporting myocardial infarction, angina, or coronary heart disease, 2005

4.8-5.3% 5.4-5.9 6.0-6.2 6.3-6.9 7.0-10.4



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

AP

But in West Virginia, more than 10 percent had at least one of the conditions. The prevalence in Kentucky was nearly 9 percent, and Mississippi was No. 3, with 8 percent.

CDC researchers drew their data from a 2005 telephone survey of 356,112 U.S. adults in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Participants were asked if a doctor or health care profes-

sional had told them they had experienced a heart attack, angina or coronary heart disease.

The researchers then statistically adjusted the results to correct demographic differences in state samples to better mirror the U.S. census.

The prevalence in both Colorado and the District of Columbia was a little under 5 percent, tying them for the nation's lowest rate. Hawaii was

close behind.

The regional differences are believed to stem from rates of obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking and other known risk factors for heart disease, said the study's lead author, Jonathan Neyer, a CDC epidemiologist.

That means the explanation would come from differences in cultural norms, poverty rates and other social factors, and not environmental causes, he said.

"There's not something in the water," Neyer said.

Other findings:

- Among those who didn't finish high school, 1 in 10 had at least one of the conditions. Among college graduates, only 1 in 20 did.

- More than 8 percent of men had one of the conditions, but only 5 percent of women did.

- Nearly 1 in 5 people 65 and older had at least one of the conditions. The percentages were much smaller among younger age groups.

- The results were the same for blacks and whites, with just over 6 percent having one of the conditions.

Fewer than 5 percent of Asian-Americans had any of the health problems, making them the healthiest ethnic group. American Indians and Alaska Natives had the highest prevalence, at about 11 percent.

GREENWOOD

Richard O. McIntire

Richard O. McIntire, 63, died Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007. He was a resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include his wife, Peggy McIntire; his father, Orval McIntire; two daughters, Jeanette (Mark) Shonkwiler and Lynette McIntire; two brothers, James and John R. McIntire; two sisters, Carol Joann Spenard and Sharon Steel; and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Aurelia McIntire.

A funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Saturday at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 1977 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Memory Gardens in Greenwood.

Information: www.forestlawn-cemetery-fh.com

NINEVEH

Eugene Edward 'Geno' Mears II

Eugene Edward "Geno" Mears II died peacefully at his home in Nineveh on Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007, at the age of 50.

Eugene was born in Beech Grove on Aug. 10, 1956 to Eugene Edward Mears and Carol C. McQuillen. He grew up in Battle Creek, Mich., where he spent most of his life.

He graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 1974. He moved to Indiana in the early 1990s.

Geno is survived by a daughter, Katrina Kay Stansfield; a son, Eugene Edward Mears III; two

Franklin

Stanley R. Orezak, 80

Greenwood

Richard O. McIntire, 63

Nineveh

Eugene E. Mears II, 50

sisters, Kimberly Kay Mears and Marcia Swayze; a brother, David Mears; his mother, Carol Mears; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Julie Marie Mears Dishman in 2006; and his father, Eugene Edward Mears Sr. in 1989.

Geno had a passion for the outdoors. He enjoyed spending his free time fishing, hunting and being on the lake. He also enjoyed playing darts and shooting pool with his many friends. Geno took after his father with a love of music, and he played the guitar beautifully. He was a member of the American Legion in Edinburg.

Geno was a loving father, caring brother and wonderful friend. He will be missed by all who knew him.

There will be a calling at noon Saturday followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at Jessen Funeral Home, 729 North U.S. 31 in Whiteland.

Information: 535-6880

FRANKLIN

Stanley R. Orezak

Stanley R. Orezak, 80, died Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007, in Franklin. He was a resident of Franklin.

Arrangements are pending at Flinn and Maguire Funeral Home in Franklin.

Salmonella outbreak linked to peanut butter

Cases reported in Indiana; some brands being recalled

By JOSH FUNK

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb.

ConAgra Foods Inc. told consumers to discard certain jars of Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter after the spread was linked to a salmonella outbreak that has sickened almost 300 people nationwide.

Lids of jars with a product code beginning "2111" can be returned to ConAgra for a refund, the company said.

The salmonella outbreak, which federal health officials said Wednesday has sickened 288 people in 39 states since August, was linked to tainted peanut butter produced by ConAgra at a plant in Sylvester, Ga. How salmonella got into peanut butter is still under investigation, said Dr. Mike Lynch, an epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CDC officials believe the salmonella outbreak to be the nation's first stemming from peanut butter. The most cases were reported in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee and Missouri.

About 20 percent of all the ill were hospitalized, and there were no deaths, Lynch said. About



AP PHOTO

Some jars of Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter have been recalled after they were linked to a salmonella outbreak. Jars bearing a product code that starts with 2111 on the lid can be returned to ConAgra Foods Inc.

85 percent of the infected people said they ate peanut butter, CDC officials said.

ConAgra officials said it was unsure why the CDC identified peanut butter as the source of the problem.

Its own tests of its peanut butter and the plant have been negative, but it shut down the plant so it can investigate, spokesman Chris Kircher said.

"We're trying to understand what else we need to do or should be doing," he said.

Kircher called the recall a precaution. "We want to do what's right by the consumer," he said.

ConAgra officials haven't said

how much peanut butter is covered in the recall. The Peter Pan brand is sold in 10 varieties, according to ConAgra's Web site. The Great Value brand, which is also made by other companies, is a Wal-Mart brand.

He said the CDC contacted the Food and Drug Administration, which sent investigators to the Georgia plant to review records, collect product samples and conduct tests for salmonella.

Kircher said ConAgra makes peanut butter only at the Sylvester plant, for distribution nationwide.

ConAgra randomly tests 60 to 80 jars of peanut butter that come

off the line each day for salmonella and other pathogens, he said.

"We've had no positive hits on that going back for years," Kircher said.

The plant itself is also regularly tested, he said, though he didn't know how often. He said none of those tests have detected salmonella either.

The latest outbreak began in August, with no more than two cases reported each day, CDC officials said. Only in the past few days did investigators hone in on peanut butter as a source, Lynch said.

Other states reporting cases are Alaska, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

Salmonella infection is known each year to sicken about 40,000 people in the United States, according to the CDC. Salmonellosis, as the infection is known, kills about 600 people annually.

A recent salmonella outbreak in Greenwood was traced to a Wal-Mart deli.

State health officials found that a metal container that holds knives contributed to the outbreak, which started in May. Once the box was removed, the cases began to cease.

201 people fell ill from the outbreak, including more than 60 in Johnson County.



AP PHOTO

Rocks on Mars show alternating layers of dark- and light-tones within which are a series of fractures surrounded by what researchers call "halos." Scientists believe the halos indicate where fluids, probably water, might have once passed through.

Scientists find additional evidence of water on Mars

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

An orbiting spacecraft has sent back new evidence for the presence of water on Mars.

Scientists have long debated whether water flowed on the red planet, with evidence increasing in recent years. The presence of water would raise the possibility of at least primitive life forms existing there.

Images from a camera aboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter show alternating layers of dark- and light-toned rock in a giant rift valley.

Within those deposits are a series of linear fractures, called joints, that are surrounded by "halos" of light-toned bedrock, according to researchers from the University of Arizona.

Their findings, published in

today's edition of the journal Science, were being presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in San Francisco.

Lead author Chris H. Okubo said the "halos" indicate areas where fluids, probably water, passed through the bedrock. Minerals in the fluid strengthen and bleach the rock, he said, making it more resistant to erosion than other areas.

"On Earth, bleaching of rock surrounding a fracture is a clear indication of chemical interactions between fluids circulating within the fracture and the host rock," Okubo and co-author Alfred S. McEwen reported in the paper.

The researchers also said that layered outcrops can indicate cycles with materials deposited by regular episodes of water, wind or volcanic activity.

MILES AHEAD IN BARIATRIC SURGERY

"SINCE WEIGHT-LOSS SURGERY, EVERY LAP IS A VICTORY LAP."



Linda Margison and her sons, Tyler and Zachary, are from Nashville, Indiana.

www.crh.org

For Linda Margison, one of the hardest things about being 115 pounds overweight was missing out on evening walks with her husband, Rodney, and their two sons.

"Walking one lap around the track was a real struggle."

Since weight-loss surgery at Columbus Regional Hospital, Linda's not just walking more. She's taken up running. "I recently ran a half mile for the first time. The people at Columbus Regional have been so supportive. I couldn't have done it without them."

Our comprehensive approach to treating obesity and achieving long-term weight loss focuses on addressing your needs with compassion and respect. We offer weight-loss surgery performed by specially trained surgeons, nutrition guidance, mental health counseling, follow-up care and ongoing support.

If you suffer from morbid obesity (100 pounds or more overweight), attend one of our FREE monthly information sessions. To register, call 1-812-375-3333.



THE BARIATRIC CENTER
AT COLUMBUS REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Miles ahead, not miles away.