



**August 9, 2024**  
**Weekly Situational Awareness Brief**

**Awareness Topics**

**Mpox Caused by Human-to-Human Transmission of Monkeypox Virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with Spread to Neighboring Countries**

"The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Update to provide additional information about the outbreak of monkeypox virus (MPXV) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); the first Health Advisory about this outbreak was released in December 2023."

**Scientists and climate change: Extreme concern and high level of engagement**

"Scientists from across academic disciplines are extremely concerned about climate change. Many of them have already changed their own lifestyles or engaged in advocacy and protest, with even more being willing to do so in future."

**CDC Data Show Improvements in Youth Mental Health but Need for Safer and More Supportive Schools**

"New CDC data released today highlight improvements in mental health among some United States teens, including decreases in the percentage of students feeling

persistently sad or hopeless. However, the report also highlights concerning increases in the percentage of teens reporting experiences of school-based violence and absenteeism due to safety concerns.”

### **Certified behavioral health clinics expanding across US**

“Behavioral health services have been in short supply for years in the U.S., something that became even more apparent during the high-stress early years of the COVID-19 pandemic. But even as the pandemic has ebbed, the need for mental health and substance use services, particularly during crisis situations, has remained. Fortunately, across the U.S., Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics are increasingly helping to meet the demand.”

### **HHS Finalizes New Policies to Support Underserved Communities, Mitigate Drug Shortages, and Promote Patient Safety in Hospitals**

“The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule updating Medicare payments and policies for inpatient hospitals and long-term care hospitals. The rule improves the health of people with Medicare by addressing key social determinants of health and strengthening emergency preparedness. The fiscal year (FY) 2025 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System (LTCH PPS) rule builds on the Biden-Harris Administration’s work to support the health of historically underserved and under-resourced communities and promote value-based care.”

### **Neighborhood Socioeconomic Disadvantage Across the Life Course and Premature Mortality**

“The social and economic attributes of the neighborhood environment can affect health and quality of life by influencing access to resources and opportunities. The socioeconomic circumstances in which people live, from early childhood to older adulthood, contribute to health disparities. For instance, studies have documented that low neighborhood socioeconomic status (SES), compared with high neighborhood SES, is associated with greater chronic disease burden due to differences in access and quality of resources, such as employment, housing, and health care. Additionally, individuals who reside in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods are more likely to have limited access to fresh foods, be exposed to greater environmental toxins, and have fewer areas to safely engage in physical activity, all of which may contribute to health and lifespan.”

### **Windows Update Flaws Allow Undetectable Downgrade Attacks**

“During a closely watched presentation at the Black Hat conference today in Las Vegas, Leviev showed how he was able to take over the Windows Update process to craft custom downgrades on critical OS components, elevate privileges, and bypass security features.

"I was able to make a fully patched Windows machine susceptible to thousands of past vulnerabilities, turning fixed vulnerabilities into zero-days," Leviev said."

## Upcoming MESH Educational Offerings

**August 20 (free) - [A.W.A.R.E. MindfulnessSM Level 1](#)**  
(Virtual. Registration required.)

**August 27 (\$30) - [OSHA Workplace Stress Management Safety](#)**  
(Virtual. Registration required.)

**September 3 and 5 (\$80) - [Coaching Essentials](#)**  
(Virtual. Registration required.)

**September 26, 2024 (free) - [Naloxone Administration Training and Certification](#)**  
(In-person. Registration Required. Email with your name and preferred time.)

## Events

**[Click Here for Current and Upcoming Events List](#)**

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