

FAX COPY TO
DR AZBABIAN

ARMENIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
USA AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
USA CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

February 03, 1993

Dear Sirs,

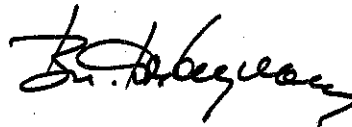
This is the second Armenian Monthly Public Health Report (AMPHR January 1993, No. 2). The Monthly Report includes the main indicators which can help to objectively define the state of Public Health in Armenia and provide assistance to Public Health services, Social and State organizations, etc.

The information represented in the Monthly Report is a result of original research and surveys done by the project team and contains independent and objective data.

The Monthly Report will be delivered to all concerned organizations and individuals without limit and free of charge.

Faithfully,

Project Director
Dr. Vladimir Davidiants



American University of Armenia (AUA)
#37; Marshal Bagramian av. 40,
Yerevan, 375011
Republic of Armenia
Tel. 271825

Encl. AMPHR and commentary.

EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
 ARMENIAN NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
 ARMENIAN MONTHLY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT
 February 1993 No.2

Category	Six Months Ago	Last Month	This Month (Jan.,1993) *	% Change from 6 Months Ago
PEDIATRIC				
Birth Rate/1000 pop	21.6			
% of Low Birthweights	4.7%	-	6.4%	+36%
% < 80% weight/height ^o	4.6%	-	0.8%	-82%
% < 70% weight/height ^o	6.5%	-	6.1%	-6%
% Breastfeeding at 4 mos.	63.5%	-	73.3%	+15.4%
% Breastfeeding at 1 year	42.7%	-		
ADULTS				
Pensioners				
% Weight Loss >5kg	51%	62%	46.8%	-8.2%
% Diet Worse than 3 mo ago	91%	96%	69.5%	-23.6%
% Cut Size of or Skipped Meals	91%	88%	89.8%	+1.3%
Avg. Total Household Monthly Income	473rbl.	1433rbl.	1555rbl.	+229%
MARKET INDICATORS				
Market Basket *	8025rbl.	22837rbl.	32400rbl.	+304%
Official Minimum Salary	600rbl.	1200rbl.	2000rbl.	+233%
Petrol 20 L	600rbl.	10000rbl.	8000rbl.	+1233%
Rubles/dollar	130rbl.	460rbl.	515rbl.	+296%
MORTALITY				
Crude Mortality Rate/1000 pop	6.5			
Infant Mortality Rate/1000 pop	17.9			
MORBIDITY**				
Diarrheal Illness	11.76	20.42	12.25	+4.2%
Tuberculosis	0.3	0.77	0.44	+46.7%
Brucellosis	1.86	1.70	1.42	-23.6%
Polio	-	-	-	-
Hepatitis(viral)	4.47	13.35	14.33	+220.6%
Hepatitis A	3.45	12.36	12.83	+271.9%
Measles	0.03	0.08	0.3	+900%
REFUGEES***				
% Weight Loss \geq 5 Kg	-	-	71.2%	-
% Without Fresh Water	-	-	27.6%	-
% Without Access to Health Care	-	-	55.2%	-

* Data collected for family of 2 adults and 2 children

** Rate/100000 pop.

*** Results of pilot surveys.

COMMENTARY

The situation in Armenia is still critical. The transport and energy blockade by Azerbaijan has put the economy of the Republic and its 3,6 mln. population in dire straits. The situation is aggravated by the fact that the amount of gas, coming as transit from Georgia, is not enough to take care of even minimum needs of Armenia. The supply of fuel and other vitally important goods by car via Georgia is also complicated by an unstable political situation in the country. In fact, all connections with the outer world (both transport and civil) are conducted by air, which is the most expensive way.

Due to no heating all schools and pre - school institutions have been closed since December 1, 1992. The apartments, institutions and enterprises are not heated at all. Interruptions of electricity supply bring to stoppages in water - supply and freezing and wrecking of water - pipes. The research has shown that in some regions of the city no drinking water is provided for weeks, people do not bathe for weeks, the average temperature in the apartments is +5, +8 degrees C. The hospitals are not heated, electricity supply interruptions do not allow to sterilize the medical equipment properly. Ambulance teams attend only to the emergency cases, because of shortage of gasoline. For the same reason the electric transport (trams, trolley - buses) does not work, the metro and the buses work at limited rate. The telephone exchanges are switched off completely.

The situation is aggravated by hyperinflation of rouble in the CIS and in Armenia in particular (almost 300% during the last 6 months), the price of gasoline has gone up for 1000%. The ratio of food expenses to the minimum salary is very high. By the decree of the president of the Republic issued on the 01.01. 1993 and thanks to the new price index it has become possible to reduce the ratio, but it is still very high and is equal to 4.

The population receives bread with coupons: 200 - 250 grams per capita a day.

All mentioned above has been reflected in the public health indices, which in terms of physical and social factors should be considered as unsatisfactory.

Monthly information on birth and death rate is not available yet. But the dynamics of long - term analysis shows the increase of death rate, decrease of the birth rate and population decrease.

The overall unfavorable situation has been reflected in the indices of morbidity, which increases by all parameters.

Our research in December showed, that almost the half of the polled pensioners were selling their personal belongings to buy food for the Christmas holidays. This phenomenon was reflected in stable low index for pensioners.

The cases of frost- bites and carbon monoxide poisoning (due to use of home - made stoves) have become more frequent.

About 1 mln trees have been spontaneously cut down.

The situation was drastically worsened in the last decade of January due to explosion of the gas- pipe in the territory of Marneul region of Georgia (the region is inhabited by Azeris). the gas - pipe provided the minimum amount of gas, necessary to maintain the viable functions. the electric transport, including the metro, has stopped completely, the telephone exchanges

have been switched off, electricity in the apartments is not provided for days.

The critical situation is typical for the whole Armenia and the capital. It is the most serious in the zones of the earthquake, where the majority of the population lives in prefabricated houses.

* * *

In order to receive a complex evaluation of the public health conditions according to the World Public Health parameters (physical, social and psychic) the project team starts the research of the psychic status of the population of Armenia in February, 1993.

Until further notice.

* * *

EPHISS CDC/ANIH USAID project tanks for help and assistance in gathering data and taking part in project activities:

Armenian Minister of Health	Dr. A. Babloian
Deputy Minister for Maternal Care	Dr. V. Demirchian
Deputy Minister for Sanitation and Epidemiology	Dr. A. Mertschian
Director of State Sanitation and Epidemiology Station	Dr. P. Dilbarian
Yerevan City Department of Health	Dr. A. Sargisian
Chief Doctors of polyclinics	J. Hovanesian, A. Arakelian, H. Harutunian A. Nargisian, V. Karapetian, N. Hovanesian S. Muradian, E. Sargisian

The Provost & Vice-President of American University of Armenia	G. Gibson
---	-----------

The Staff of American University
of Armenia.

Sincerely,

Project Director
Dr. Vladimir Davidiants

February 03, 1993.