



Supportive Environments for Healthy Communities

Issue 27 October 7, 2011 | Focus on Hand Washing - Global Handwashing Day Edition

This *WASHplus Weekly* was prepared as a contribution to Global Handwashing Day, celebrated each October 15. Global Handwashing Day was created by the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing in 2008 to foster and support a global culture of hand washing with soap. Included in this issue of the *Weekly* are studies on hand washing and neonatal mortality, hand washing studies from Bangladesh and Tanzania, an interesting October 2011 review of nutrition and infection and links to videos and websites. Please contact WASHplus if you know of other hand washing studies or resources that can be featured in future issues. We also welcome suggestions about topics for future issues of the *WASHplus Weekly*.

REPORTS/JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **Anal Cleansing Practices and Faecal Contamination: A Preliminary Investigation of Behaviours and Conditions in Schools in Rural Nyanza Province, Kenya**, *Trop Med Int Health*, Sept. 2011. S McMahon, Center for Global Safe Water, Emory University. ([Abstract](#))

The objective of this study was to learn how children in rural schools in Nyando District, Kenya clean themselves after defecation. It found that anal cleansing behavior is linked with access to materials, age, social pressure, perceived personal risk of illness and emotional factors. Materials used for anal cleansing include schoolbook paper, leaves, grasses, stones, corncobs and one's own hands. Anal cleansing is a necessary human activity. However, because of social taboos, there are few articles on the topic. School health plans overlook it as well. Researchers need to determine if and how current practices could harm child health to inform policy.
- **The Canacla: A New Technology for Handwashing**. *BMC ProceedingS*, June 2011. B Vanhercke. ([Presentation](#)) ([IPS News Article, June 2011](#))

The Canacla is a new technology for hand washing, a technology that contributes to better health and reinforces sustainable development.
- **Clean Birth and Postnatal Care Practices to Reduce Neonatal Deaths from**

Sepsis and Tetanus: A Systematic Review and Delphi Estimation of Mortality Effect, *BMC Public Health*, April 2011. H Blencowe, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. ([Full-text](#))

The objective of this study was to review the evidence for clean birth and postnatal care practices and estimate the effect on neonatal mortality from sepsis and tetanus for the Lives Saved Tool (LiST). Findings indicate that low quality evidence supports a reduction in all-cause neonatal mortality, cord infection and neonatal tetanus with birth attendant hand washing. According to expert opinion, clean birth and particularly postnatal care practices are effective in reducing neonatal mortality from sepsis and tetanus. Further research is required regarding optimal implementation strategies

- **Early Child Growth: How Do Nutrition and Infection Interact?** *Maternal & Child Nutrition*, Oct. 2011. K Dewey, University of California, Davis. ([Full-text](#))

It is well known that the relationship between child nutrition and infection is bidirectional, i.e. frequent illness can impair nutritional status and poor nutrition can increase the risk of infection. What is less clear is whether infection reduces the effectiveness of nutrition interventions or, vice versa, whether malnutrition lessens the impact of infection control strategies. The objective of this paper is to review the evidence regarding this *interaction* between nutrition and infection with respect to child growth in low-income populations. Interventions that combine improved nutrition with prevention and control of infections are likely to be most effective for enhancing child growth and development.

- **The Effect of Handwashing at Recommended Times with Water Alone and with Soap on Child Diarrhea in Rural Bangladesh: An Observational Study**, *PLoS Med*, June 2011. S Luby, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research. ([Full-text](#))

Standard public health interventions to improve hand hygiene in communities with high levels of child mortality encourage community residents to wash their hands with soap at five separate key times, a recommendation that would require mothers living in impoverished households to typically wash hands with soap more than ten times per day. These observations suggest that hand washing before preparing food is a particularly important opportunity to prevent childhood diarrhea, and that hand washing with water alone can significantly reduce childhood diarrhea.

- **Focus on Hand Washing**, *WASHplus Weekly*, April 2011. WASHplus. ([Full-text](#))

From the WASHplus Project, this issue contains links to recent hand washing journal articles, reports and websites.

- **Physical Interventions to Interrupt or Reduce the Spread of Respiratory Viruses**, *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*, July 2011. T Jefferson. Cochrane Collaboration. ([Abstract](#))

The objective of this study was to review the effectiveness of physical interventions to

interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses. Results from this review suggest that the spread of respiratory viruses can be prevented by hygienic measures, such as hand washing, especially around younger children. Simple and low-cost interventions would be useful for reducing transmission of epidemic respiratory viruses. Routine long-term implementation of some measures assessed might be difficult without the threat of an epidemic.

- **Tanzania: A Handwashing Behavior Change Journey**, 2011. Water and Sanitation Program. ([Full-text](#))
Working with the government and with non-governmental organizations, the Water and Sanitation Program sought to increase rates of hand washing with soap among women and children, especially at critical junctures. Initial support started in 2005 with the development of the Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing and small-scale formative research, which showed that while knowledge of the reasons to wash hands was high, the practice was low, with just 4 percent of mothers and 5 percent of children reporting that they wash hands with soap.
- **Variability in Hand Contamination Based on Serial Measurements: Implications for Assessment of Hand-cleansing Behavior and Disease Risk**, *Am J Trop Med Hyg*, Apr 2011. P Ram, University of Buffalo. ([Abstract](#))
Measuring hand contamination at critical times, such as eating, can be challenging. Because hand contamination measured at random cannot reliably predict hand contamination at times of potential pathogen transmission, single random hand rinses are not valid proxy measures for hand washing behavior

2011 VIDEOS

- **Handwashing Campaign for Schools in Kenya**, 2011. ([Video](#))
A national hand washing campaign has been launched to actively promote hygiene among school children in Kenya. The Unilever sponsored campaign comes at a time when Lifebuoy holds the Guinness world record for the most number of people hand washing with soap at a single location.
- **It's in Your Hands: Tippy Tap**, 2011. ([Video](#))
A video about the construction and use of a tippy tap, a water saving device for hand washing. [Tippytap.org](#) is a partnership between Watershed Management Group, [www.watershedmq.org](#) and Grampar, [www.gampari.org](#). Filmed and directed by Andrew Hinton at Pilgrim Films

WEBSITES

- **Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap (PPPHW)**, ([Website](#)) ([Twitter](#))
Founded in 2001, the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap (PPPHW) works to save children's lives by promoting hand washing with soap. It seeks

to bring greater attention to hand washing as a key public intervention. Today, the PPPHW is present in 15 countries across four continents.

- **Global Handwashing Day 2011**, ([Website](#)) ([Facebook](#)) - Global Handwashing Day (GHD), celebrated each October 15, was created by the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing in 2008 to foster and support a global culture of hand washing with soap. Each year, over 200 million people are involved in celebrations in over 100 countries around the world.

- **Water and Sanitation Program - Enabling Technologies for Handwashing with Soap**, ([Website](#))

This webpage is meant to serve as a "one-stop shopping" online reference on enabling technologies for hand washing with soap for program managers.

- **Hygiene Central**, ([Website](#)) ([Twitter](#))

Website of the Hygiene Centre, a research group at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine. The Centre conducts research to develop a better understanding of hygiene and sanitation practices that can be used to inform public health policy.

- **WASH Advocacy Initiative**, ([Website](#))

The WASH Advocacy Initiative is a collaborative advocacy effort to bring universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Check its website for a listing of Global Handwashing Day events.

Each *WASHplus Weekly* highlights topics such as Urban WASH, Indoor Air Pollution, Innovation, Household Water Treatment and Storage, Handwashing, Integration and more. If you would like to feature your organization's materials in upcoming issues, please send them to Dan Campbell, WASHplus knowledge resources specialist, at dacampbell@fhi360.org.



About WASHplus - WASHplus, a five-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, creates supportive environments for healthy households and communities by delivering high-impact interventions in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and indoor air quality (IAQ). WASHplus uses proven, at-scale interventions to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit www.washplus.org or email: contact@washplus.org.

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