

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS AUGUST 16-31 / PART 2

08/16/2012

DALLAS WEST NILE

VO: 27

An outbreak of West Nile virus has engulfed Dallas County, with nearly 200 cases of human infection and 10 deaths, leading the mayor of Dallas to declare a state of emergency and to authorize the first aerial spraying of a pesticide in the city since 1966. The high number of infections and deaths from the mosquito-borne disease marks the nation's worst outbreak of West Nile in a year that has already logged a record number of cases across the country. The virus has become endemic in the United States since the first outbreak in 1999. An official with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the Dallas-area outbreak was probably a harbinger of a larger spread of the virus into other parts of the country. In Cook County, Ill., which includes Chicago, human cases of infection rose steadily this week, from 5 on Monday to 8 on Wednesday to 10 on Thursday, though no deaths had been reported, the authorities said. Texas officials say the statewide death toll so far is 17, the most West Nile-related fatalities of any state. In said that as of Tuesday, 693 cases of infection had been reported nationwide. Louisiana had six deaths, according to the report, and no other state had more than one.

UNEMPLOYED SINGLES FINDING JOBS

VO: 19

As the economy slowly recovers, single people are finding jobs much faster than their married peers. Single men and women lost about 5 million jobs during the financial crisis, and have since gained back 90% of them, according to the Labor Department. That's not too shabby, especially considering the jobs recovery has been so slow. But married people, who make up a slightly larger part of the adult population, lost even more jobs and have gained far fewer back. Of the 6 million jobs they lost, they've recouped only about 22%. Could employers be favoring single workers? That's unlikely, economists say. The real story probably lies in other demographic factors. The first clue is the timing. Singles slowly started recovering jobs in 2009, whereas married people didn't see a recovery begin until 2011. That could be of their own choosing, according to University of Chicago Economist Bruce Meyer. He suggests that in dual-earner households, married people have slightly more freedom to take their time in searching for a new job that's a good fit. "It may be that among many married couples, it's less crucial that both work," Meyer said. "If one is laid off and the other is working, the unemployed spouse can afford to take a while to look for a job." A single person who has no other financial support, probably can't afford to be as picky.

US CHILDREN SUGAR FREE

VO: 28

The number of U.S. children who drink sugar-free beverages has doubled in the past decade, a new study finds - though the health implications of the trend, if any, are unclear. Using data from a federal health survey, researchers found that by 2008, 12.5 percent of children were drinking artificially-sweetened beverages. That was up from six percent a decade earlier. U.S. adults are downing more diet drinks too. One-quarter of Americans surveyed in 2007-2008 said they'd had a diet drink in the past day, versus 19 percent in 1999-2000, the researchers report in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. It's not surprising to see such trends, but the size of the increase among kids was a bit unexpected, according to senior researcher Dr. Miriam B. Vos, of Emory University in Atlanta. And whether the pattern is good or bad is unknown.

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08/17/2012

DREAMERS AND COLLEGES

VO: 22

Araceli Cortes had made up her mind: After being brought to the U.S. as a child, graduating from high school and attending some college in California, she was going to return to Mexico to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. She quit her job, bought an airline ticket and reserved a seat to take a medical school entrance exam. Then, a week before her departure, President Barack Obama announced that young illegal immigrants like Cortes would be given the chance to remain in the United States and obtain a work visa. Cortes canceled her ticket and decided to stay. This week, she and thousands of other immigrants began the application process. But she and many other student immigrants could face some tough obstacles. "It's not giving me much," Cortes, 20, said. "It's just a two-year permit." Obama was clear in announcing the order: This was not a path to citizenship, but rather an opportunity to avoid deportation and work. For the students who are illegal immigrants and have graduated from college, the new policy means they will have the opportunity to work in their field of study, something they could only do as independent contractors or unpaid interns before. For younger immigrants like Cortes -- as many as 65,000 of whom are estimated to graduate from high school each year -- some barriers to earning a college degree will be removed. The main hurdle, however, will remain cost. Federal loans and grants, the largest source of aid for college students, require students to have a green card or U.S. citizenship.

CANDIDATES FAKE FOLLOWERS

VO: 29

There's a virtual dust-up over how Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney amassed more than 100,000 new Twitter followers in just a few days. It may seem trivial, but not to social networking junkies or campaigns mindful of the need to project an image of digital popularity and power. An analysis by the technology firm Barracuda Labs found most Twitter users who followed Romney one July weekend were probably fake, although it's impossible to know who's behind the spike. Romney went from 673,000 to 814,000 followers in that time. That number has since risen to more than 861,000. President Barack Obama has 18 million followers. The Romney campaign's digital director, Zac Moffatt, says the campaign did not purchase the followers. He says the number isn't even something they care about.

ARMY SUICIDE RATE HITS ALL-TIME HIGH IN JULY

VO: 32

There's some disturbing news about suicide and the U-S Army. Military officials reported Thursday there were 38 confirmed or suspected soldier suicides in July. That's the highest monthly count since the Army began keeping detailed statistics. The number includes active and non-active duty soldiers in the Army National Guard and Reserve. So far in 20-12, the Army has confirmed 120 suicides. Last month, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta told a Congressional committee the U-S military was facing an "epidemic" of suicides. And he said it was in need of improvements in mental health services for active duty and returning troops.

GAS DRILLING-CO2 DROP

VO: 23

Government officials say the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere in the U.S. is at its lowest level in 20 years. Officials say the biggest reason is that many power plant operators have switched from dirtier-burning coal to cheap and plentiful natural gas. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that traps heat in the atmosphere.

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08/20/2012

AERIAL SPRAYING FOR WEST NILE-SUNDAY NIGHT

VO: 23

Aerial spraying for mosquitoes carrying the west nile virus started up again tonight (sunday) In dallas county, texas. Storms canceled last night's spraying. Airplanes are spraying pesticides in an effort to stop the spread of the west nile virus. About 220-thousand acres were scheduled to be sprayed tonight in several cities.

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08/21/2012

AUTO LOANS LATE PAYMENT

VO: 29

More Americans are making their car payments on time, a trend that has sent the rate of overdue auto loans to the lowest level on records dating back more than a decade. The rate of U.S. auto loan payments at least 60 days overdue fell in the second quarter to 0.33 percent. That's down about 25 percent from the same period last year and 8 percent from the first three months of this year, credit reporting agency TransUnion said Tuesday. The latest rate marks the lowest level since TransUnion began tracking auto loan data in 1999. The highest rate recorded by the company was 2.39 percent in the first quarter of 2000. All told, the auto loan delinquency rate has fallen on an annual basis for 11 consecutive quarters. Among the factors contributing to the decline: lower interest rates that help more car buyers qualify for financing, and a strong market for used cars, which has provided more of an incentive for borrowers to avoid falling behind on payments by increasing the market value of their investment. The trend, however, also is due to a shift in car owners' mindset since the last recession. That's when many borrowers made keeping up with their car payments a priority over other types of financial obligations, including credit cards and home loans. "You need your car to get to work, or if you have to seek employment, you need a car to get to the interviews," said Peter Turek, a vice president of TransUnion's financial services business unit. While borrowers are being more diligent about their auto loan payments, they also are carrying larger balances.

AMERICANS TO TRAVEL MORE THIS LABOR DAY

VO: 26

The recent uptick in gas prices isn't stopping Americans from trying to get out of town on the last major travel holiday of the summer. A Triple-A (AAA) Labor Day travel survey shows 33-million people will travel 50 miles or more during the long weekend. The automotive and travel services group says the vast majority of travelers, 28-point-2 million of them, will hit the roadways for their trip. Since last year's survey, the number of travelers is up two-point-nine-percent, even though the average price of gasoline is up 14 cents since then. The Labor Day survey looks at the travel period between Thursday, August 30th and Monday, September 3rd.

SB 1070 BACK IN COURT

VO: 30

Arizona's immigration law, SB 1070, is back in court on Tuesday morning. A coalition of civil rights groups is trying to block the so-called "show me your papers" provision from taking effect. The provision, Section 2B, is often called the heart of Arizona's controversial law. It says if police are enforcing other laws, and they come across people they suspect are in the country illegally, they must check their immigration status. Two years ago federal District Judge Susan Bolton blocked that provision of the law, among others, from taking effect while the case was litigated. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court struck three provisions because they preempted federal law, but found that Section 2B could go into effect. That hasn't happened yet because now a coalition against the law is raising new challenges, including civil rights claims. Opponents of the law say Section 2B will result in racial profiling and prolonged detentions.

AZ: DREAMERS WITHOUT GED

VO: 30

Anti-immigrant legislation in Arizona is creating hurdles for undocumented youth wishing to enroll in the new federal "deferred action" program announced by the Obama Administration last June, that would defer deportation for certain undocumented immigrants and allow them to obtain work permits for a renewable period of two years. To qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), applicants need to have been younger than 16-years-old when they entered the country illegally. They must also meet other criteria, such as being enrolled in high school or having earned a diploma or General Education Development (GED) certificate, and an absence of certain criminal convictions. But in Arizona, a state law - Proposition 300 -- approved by voters in 2006, bars state-funded schools from offering free GED classes to undocumented immigrants, making the path to DACA eligibility difficult for those who may have aged out of the high school system but still wish to become eligible for the new federal program.

MORE HISPANICS IN UNIVERSITIES

VO: 29

As the number of students enrolled in American colleges continues to grow, it might be no surprise that a majority of that growth comes from Latinos. That's according to a new analysis of Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center. From 2010 to 2011, the number of students aged 18 to 24 attending American colleges grew from 12.2 million to a record 12.6 million, and Latinos account for the largest share of that growth. It found that the increase in number of young Latinos enrolled in college outpaced all other ethnic groups. Latino college enrollment grew 15 percent in the last year, while white enrollment grew by just 3 percent, and Asian and African-American enrollment actually fell, by 8 percent and 3 percent respectively. Latinos are now the largest ethnic minority on four-year college campuses. The country's huge Latino population growth has a lot to do with that. But Pew researchers also said a record number of young Latinos are graduating from high school, making them eligible to attend college.

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08/22/2012

ICE DEFFERED ACTION CALLS

VO: 33

US Citizenship and Immigration Services will open its phone lines again to the public to answer questions exclusively about deferred action. The Enlace event will take place Wednesday Aug 22 between 7:30 and 9 pm Eastern time. The public may call 888-989-4980 or send questions via Twitter.

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08/23/2012

VISA "U"

VO: 28

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today marked a significant milestone in its efforts to provide relief to victims of crimes by approving the statutory maximum 10,000 petitions for U nonimmigrant status, also referred to as the U-visa. This is the third straight year USCIS has reached the statutory maximum since it began issuing U-visas in 2008. Each year, 10,000 U-visas are available for victims of crime who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse and are willing to help law enforcement authorities investigate or prosecute those crimes. A U-visa petition requires law enforcement certification of assistance in the investigation or prosecution of crimes. "The U-visa is an important tool aiding law enforcement to bring criminals to justice," said USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas. "At the same time, we are able to provide immigration protection to victims of crime and their families. Both benefits are in the interest of the public we serve." In recent years, USCIS has greatly expanded its public education and outreach effort through partnerships with law enforcement agencies and service providers. As part of this effort, USCIS officers have traveled to more than 40 cities, including Denver, New York City, Newark, and San Antonio, to train federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and immigrant-serving organizations on immigration protections available to individuals who are victims of human trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes.

WEST NILE OUTBREAK EVER

VO: 14

The number of West Nile virus infections in the United States has jumped more than 60 percent in the past week in what federal officials say is one of the country's biggest-ever outbreaks of the disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control said on Wednesday that 1,118 cases and 41 deaths had been reported so far this year, up from fewer than 700 cases and 26 deaths just one week ago.

MELONS-SALMONELLA

VO: 24

The Food and Drug Administration has identified an Indiana farm tied to a recent salmonella outbreak linked to cantaloupe and says the operation has launched a formal recall of the melons. Chamberlain Farms of Owensville could be one source of the multistate outbreak, the FDA said in a news release Wednesday evening. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that of 178 people infected in 21 states, two people have died and 62 have been hospitalized. Chamberlain Farms earlier had agreed to withdraw its cantaloupe from distribution, but the FDA said the formal recall will aid that effort and boost awareness. Salmonellosis causes diarrhea, fever and cramps. Most recover without treatment, but it can be deadly for some.

TATTOO INFECTION

VO: 27

Contaminated tattoo ink caused at least 22 skin and soft tissue infections last fall in four U.S. states, according to an analysis released on Wednesday. The infections prompted an investigation by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that uncovered 22 confirmed cases, 4 probable cases, and 27 possible cases of contamination-related infections in New York, Washington, Iowa and Colorado

POLL: ATTITUDES SOFTEN OVER CHILDREN OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

VO: 21

The poll finds that 41% favor such measures, up from 28% in 1995, the only other time PDK asked the question. The findings, part of the group's annual poll on public attitudes toward public schools, also finds "clear partisan divides" on the issue, with 65% of Democrats vs. 21% of Republicans favoring school funds for these kids. One in three (33%) independents support the idea. PDK Executive Director William Bushaw said he's "both hopeful and disappointed" at the new findings - hopeful that more Americans see the importance of underwriting kids' schooling regardless of their immigration status, but disappointed that a majority of Americans still don't support it. Bushaw said he suspected that high-profile debates over restrictive state immigration laws in Arizona and Alabama gave the issue higher prominence in people's minds. Wendy Puriefoy, president of the Public Education Network, which advocates overhauling schools in low-income communities, said that 41% support was "very disheartening," given the public's generous attitude toward education. "We're all immigrants, and we've always helped each other. And the fact that people are thinking that they don't want to help each other anymore just doesn't feel like what most Americans I know believe in their hearts," Puriefoy said. The poll of 1,002 adults May 7-June 4 - with a margin of error of +/-4 percentage points - ended about a week and a half before President Obama's June 15 announcement that he would "lift the shadow of deportation from these young people" by offering them temporary relief. Bushaw said he wouldn't be surprised if public support has inched up more since then.

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08/24/12

NOTHING TO REPORT

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08/27/2012

CIRCUMCISION-PEDIATRICIANS

VO: 24

The newborn penis has been the subject of more than a little ink lately. San Francisco tried in vain to curtail circumcision. Germany recently ruled that the procedure constitutes "bodily harm." "Intactivists" rail against circumcision even as most baby boys born in the U.S still get circumcised. Until now, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has remained fairly neutral on the subject. But on Monday, the influential pediatricians' group updated its policy statement from 1999, stating that the "preventive health benefits of elective circumcision of male newborns outweigh the risks of the procedure." The organization stopped short of routinely recommending the procedure for all baby boys, noting that the decision of whether circumcision "is in the best interests of their male child" should be left up to individual families. But they added that those families that choose circumcision - and most U.S. families still do, although the practice has been on the decline should be reimbursed by insurance. "There has been a change in tone," says Dr. Doug Diekema, a member of the AAP task force on circumcision and a pediatrician at Seattle Children's Hospital. "We are saying that based on our review, male circumcision does have significant health benefits that outweigh the risks of the procedure."

ILLEGAL KIDS

VO: 27

Nearly 45,000 such parents were removed in the first six months of this year, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Behind the statistics are the stories: a crying baby taken from her mother's arms and handed to social workers as the mother is handcuffed and taken away, her parental rights terminated by a U.S. judge; teenage children watching as parents are dragged from the family home; immigrant parents disappearing into a maze-like detention system where they are routinely locked up hundreds of miles from their homes, separated from their families for months and denied contact with the welfare agencies deciding their children's fate. At least 5,100 U.S. citizen children in 22 states live in foster care, according to an estimate by the Applied Research Center, a New York-based advocacy organization, which first reported on such cases last year. When nursing mothers are torn from their babies, when children come home from school to find their parents missing ... when all this is happening, the system just isn't working and we need to change it. U.S. President Barack Obama And an unknown number of those children are being put up for adoption against the wishes of their parents, who, once deported, are often helpless to fight when a U.S. judge decides that their children are better off here. Immigration lawyers say that - despite the ICE policy changes - they see families destroyed every day. "I had no idea what was happening," says Janna Hakim of the morning in 2010 when a loud knocking at her Brooklyn apartment door jolted her awake. It was the first Friday of

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08/28/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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08/29/2012

PARENTS TO COLLEGE KIDS: LIVE AT HOME, GET A JOB

VO: 38

Parents are doing whatever they can to send their kids to college without leaving them drowning in debt upon graduation. That includes asking their college-bound kids to live at home and commute to classes or major in areas of study that will lead to more lucrative careers. Many parents are even asking their children to start saving for college when they're as young as 13, a Fidelity survey of 2,000 families with children 18 or younger found. The study found that the average family hopes to pay for 57% of the total cost of college -- saying that the rest will come from loans, scholarships or gifts. But still many are coming up woefully short, with families reporting that they are only on track to meet 30% of their savings goals.

ANESTHESIA AND CHILDREN

VO: 23

Excellere Partners, a Denver-based private equity firm focused on partnering with middle-market entrepreneurs and management teams, announced today that it has completed its investment in PhyMed Management, LLC, the management services company to Anesthesia Medical Group, P.C. (AMG), a leading provider of outsourced anesthesia, interventional pain management and other complementary services to hospitals and surgery centers. This represents the second platform investment in Excellere Capital Fund II, L.P. Nashville, Tenn.-based AMG is one of the largest providers of anesthesia services in the U.S., with more than 60 physicians and 200 certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA), serving medical facilities within Tennessee. Excellere continues to pursue investments within five targeted industries: healthcare; specialty foods; industrial technology and services; business services; and education and training. Since its founding in 2006, the firm has distinguished itself by deploying its proprietary buy-and-build investment strategy and value creation processes, which were developed to support the entrepreneurial companies with which it partners and invests.

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08/30/2012

ISAAC GAS PRICES

VO: 22

Drivers are being hit with the biggest one-day jump in gasoline prices in 18 months just as the last heavy driving weekend of the summer approaches. As Hurricane Isaac swamps the nation's oil and gas hub along the Gulf Coast, it's delivering sharply higher pump prices to storm-battered residents of Louisiana and Mississippi -- and also to unsuspecting drivers up north in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The national average price of a gallon of gas jumped almost five cents Wednesday to \$3.80, the highest ever for this date. Prices are expected to continue to climb through Labor Day weekend, the end of the summer driving season. "The national average will keep ticking higher, and it's going to be noticeable," says Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst at Gasbuddy.com. The wide storm shut down several refineries along the Gulf Coast and others are operating at reduced rates. In all, about 1.3 million barrels per day of refining capacity is affected. So, it's no surprise that drivers in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida saw gas prices rise by a dime or more in the past week. But some states in the Midwest are suffering even more dramatic spikes. Ohio prices jumped 14 cents, Indiana prices soared 13 cents and Illinois prices jumped 10 cents on Wednesday alone according to the Oil Price Information Service. Days before Isaac is expected to douse those states with rain, the storm forced the shutdown of a pipeline that serves a number of Midwest refineries. Drivers in the region were angry and confused. "I saw gas in my neighborhood for \$3.56 a gallon just Tuesday morning, and now I'm paying \$3.95. It's terrible," said Mary Allen of Cincinnati as she paid \$20 for just over five gallons of gas. She wondered how Isaac could drive up gas prices in Ohio -- and then resigned herself to a holiday weekend without travel. The price surge is happening at the wrong time and the wrong place for Dickson Stewart, a 56-year-old electronics consultant, who is driving from Minneapolis to Savannah, Ga. this week. He stopped at a BP station in downtown Chicago Tuesday -- home to some of the highest retail prices in the country -- and paid \$4.49 a gallon to fill up his Jeep Wrangler.

FORECLOSURES SALES

VO: 19

Sales of bank-owned homes and those already on the foreclosure path fell sharply in the second quarter, yet their share of all U.S. home purchases increased. Foreclosure listing firm RealtyTrac said Thursday that foreclosure sales fell 12 percent from the first quarter and declined 22 percent from the second quarter last year. Foreclosure sales include bank-owned homes and properties in some stage of foreclosure, such as short sales -- when the home sells for less than what the seller owes on the mortgage. The firm says foreclosure sales accounted for 23 percent of all home sales in the second quarter. That's up from 22 percent in the first quarter and 19 percent a year earlier. Foreclosure sales also posted the biggest annual increase in average sales price since 2006.

CA DREAMERS DRIVERS LICENSES

VO: 26

A June executive order from President Obama will let undocumented immigrants stay in the U-S for at least two years under certain conditions. For example, they must prove they were younger than age 16 when they came to the U.S.; lived here at least five years; and enrolled in school or the military. The bill in the California legislature would make those immigrants - a group some call DREAMers - eligible for drivers licenses. State Senator Anthony Cannella was one of three Republicans to support the measure: The bill now moves to the Assembly for a final vote later this week. Lawmakers Pass Open Carry Ban on Rifles, Shotguns California lawmakers have sent a ban on openly carrying unloaded shotguns or rifles in public to the desk of Governor Jerry Brown. The measure follows a similar ban approved last year on

openly carrying unloaded handguns in public. Republicans strongly opposed the bill. Assemblyman Tim Donnelly argued many Californians are simply expressing their fundamental right.

ARIZONA MUST DENY 'DREAMERS' MEDICAID

VO: 26

Illegal immigrants who receive temporary reprieves from deportation will not be eligible for Medicaid benefits, federal health officials say. Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer's office says the finding by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services should resolve the debate surrounding her Aug. 15 executive order telling state agencies to deny all public benefits to young undocumented immigrants who receive deferred action. However, the ruling, issued Tuesday, addresses only federal health-care eligibility. Questions still remain about whether states can deny driver's licenses and other benefits covered under Brewer's order, which was issued the day President Barack Obama's new deferred-action program took effect. The program allows as many as 80,000 Arizonans under 31 years old who were brought to this country illegally as children to apply to stay and work in the U.S. In a letter Tuesday to state Medicaid directors, CMS Director Cindy Mann said those who receive deferred action won't be eligible for Medicaid or the children's health-insurance program, known in Arizona as KidsCare, because "the reasons that (the U.S. Department of Homeland Security) offered for adopting ... the process do not pertain to eligibility for Medicaid." The letter does not otherwise address the legal status of undocumented immigrants who receive work permits through the deferred-action program.

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8/31/12

MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN

DRUGS AND MEMORY

PKG: 1:18

Teenagers who become hooked on cannabis before they reach 18 may be causing lasting damage to their intelligence, memory and attention, according to the results of a large, long-term study published on Monday. Researchers from Britain and the United States found that persistent and dependent use of cannabis before the age of 18 may have a so-called neurotoxic effect, but heavy pot use after 18 appears

to be less damaging to the brain.

JOBS FOR AUTISTIC ADULTS

VO: 50

Programs are out there to help young adults with autism find and keep a job. But no one yet

knows whether they work, according to a study published Monday. Combing the medical literature for evidence on the question, Researchers were able to find only five studies. All were generally low-quality, the team reports in the journal Pediatrics.

====END OF REPORT=====