

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, October 30, 2015

E-Edition Date: Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Article Title: *Bacon, hot dogs, cured meats: WHO now links them to cancer*

Section: Main, A3

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **scaremongering**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

“This is still very relevant from a public-health point of view, as there are more than 30,000 new cases per year” of colon cancer, he said. “But it should not be used for **scaremongering**.”

Comprehension Questions

1. PARIS —The World Health Organization (WHO) threw its global weight behind years of doctors’ warnings and declared what on Monday?
2. Meat producers are angry, vegetarians are feeling vindicated, and cancer experts are welcoming the most comprehensive pronouncement yet on the relation between what two things?
3. The WHO’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France, analyzed decades of research and ended up putting processed meats in the same danger category as what items? What is the main link between the items listed?
4. Why aren’t the results shocking in the United States?
5. But the U.N. agency’s findings could shake up public-health attitudes elsewhere, such as European countries. Why?
6. This could hurt the American meat industry, which is arguing vigorously against linking their products with cancer, contending what?
7. While U.S. rates of _____ have been declining, it is the No. 2 cancer for women worldwide and No. 3 for men, according to the WHO.
8. A group of 22 scientists from the IARC evaluated more than 800 studies from several continents about meat and cancer. The studies looked at more than a dozen types of cancer in populations with diverse diets over the past 20 years. What was their analysis?
9. The agency made no specific dietary recommendations and said it did not have enough data to define what?
10. An analysis of 10 of the studies suggested that a 50-gram portion of processed meat daily — or about 1.75 ounces — increases the risk of colorectal cancer over a lifetime by about _____ percent.
11. An ounce and three-quarters of processed meat is roughly equivalent to what?
12. Experts have long warned of the dangers of certain chemicals used to cure meat, such as nitrites. What does this chemical do in a human’s body?
13. It is also known that grilling or smoking meat can create suspected _____.

14. The cancer agency noted research by the Global Burden of Disease Project suggesting that _____ cancer deaths per year worldwide are linked to diets heavy in processed meat.
15. Doctors in rich countries have long counseled against eating lots of red or processed meat — and not just because of the cancer danger but because of the heart risks from what other two ingredients?
16. The WHO researchers defined processed meat as what?
17. The report said grilling, pan-frying or other high-temperature methods of cooking red meat produce what?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

- How many times do you eat processed meat at home or out at restaurants each week?
- Will this article and the new study change how much you eat processed meat? Why or why not?
- Does the findings by WHO surprise you? Why or why not?
- The American meat industry is arguing vigorously against linking its products with cancer, contending that the disease also involves lifestyle and environmental factors. Do you agree or disagree with their statement? Why?
- What has the American Cancer Society suggests choosing what kind of meat to eat?

Independent experts stressed that the WHO findings should be kept in perspective. “Three cigarettes per day increases the risk of lung cancer six fold,” or 500 percent, compared with the 18 percent from eating a couple slices of bologna a day, said Gunter Kuhnle, a food-nutrition scientist at the University of Reading.

“This is still very relevant from a public-health point of view, as there are more than 30,000 new cases per year” of colon cancer, he said. “But it should not be used for scaremongering.”

- Do you agree with the above statement? Why or why not?

Essay

The World Health Organization released a report Monday on the dangers of hot dogs, bacon and other processed meats. Sales of fresh and processed meats reached \$25.5 billion in the year ending Aug. 22, up 5.1 percent from the same period a year before, according to research firm The Nielsen Company.

More than 18.5 million hot dogs and nearly 4.2 million sausages were expected to be eaten at baseball parks during the 2015 MLB season, according to the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council (NHDSC). In peak hot-dog season — which runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day — Americans typically eat 7 billion hot dogs, according to the NHDSC.

- What do you think about the above statistics on the amount of processed meats Americans consume during Memorial Day to Labor Day?
- Do you think the new study and findings will equate to people eating less processed meats in the United States and throughout other countries? Why or why not?
- Will it impact the way you eat processed meats? Will you share this information with your family and friends? Why or why not?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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