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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

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4603	12.04.2018	12.04.2018	Bengaluru Karnataka	www.bangaloremirror.com/English http://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/others/waterborne-diseases-are-on-the-rise-in-bengaluru/articleshow/63720410.cms
Title:	Waterborne diseases are on the rise in Bengaluru, Karnataka			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Bengaluru, SSU-Karnataka			

In 2017, food poisoning and waterborne diseases were the most common outbreaks reported in Karnataka. On top of that, death due to acute diarrheal disease (ADD) was the highest in 2017, compared to the past three years. And causing great concern now are hospital reports of an increased incidence of gastroenteritis (GE) especially in areas which rely on water from tankers.

On an average, city hospitals are witnessing around five patients daily at their outpatients departments. Experts in the city blame it on poor quality of water and also, the temperature variation that the city is witnessing. According to the health and family welfare department of the state, in January and February, the Bengaluru division has witnessed around 14, 809 cases of GE.

Meanwhile, if we look at the health and family welfare data since 2013, the number of typhoid cases has gone up from 61,485 in 2013 to 97,406 in 2017. The number of cases of ADD has come down but, surprisingly, death has risen among such patients from 12 in 2014 to 15 in 2017. Experts find this to be a grave cause of concern as these are numbers of enteric disease being reported year round. Earlier, this used to

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

22-Sham Nath Marg, Delhi – 110 054

For more information please contact: Media Scanning & Verification Cell: - Phone (011)23946029

Email: - idsppediaalert@gmail.com, idspp-misc@nic.in, idspp-npo@nic.in

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be confined to peak summer.

“The number of patients suffering from these diseases is a year- round phenomenon now in the city. The reasons include poor water quality and a fall in overall public hygiene in Bengaluru. Apart from failing to handle the city's water resources, the government agencies have even failed to maintain waste disposal and city-wide sanitation in a proper manner,” said Dr Pankaj Singhai, senior consultant internal medicine, Manipal Hoapitals.

The public health centres (PHC) in the city are also grappling with patients complaining of stomach ache and other water borne diseases. Most PHCs have witnessed a substantial rise in the number of patients complaining of nausea and suffering from frequent bouts of diarrhoea and vomiting. Most of the patients are from low-lying slum areas where the water supply takes a hit in summer. Meanwhile, the health officials with the integrated disease surveillance programme said that the numbers are not alarming and there is no outbreak. Better diagnosis and high population density are the prime reasons why such cases are rising in the city. Steps are being taken to monitor the situation and keep it under control, they assured.

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Email: - idsmediaalert@gmail.com, ids-m-sc@nic.in, ids-n-po@nic.in

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