Public Health Emergency Planning & Response

ADA National Network Learning Session
April 14, 2016

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Outline

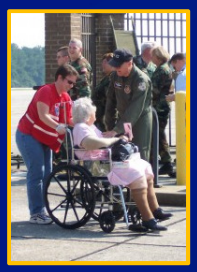
- **Context**
  - Why is this important?
- **Vulnerable Populations**
  - Who are they?
  - Which federal agencies focus on them?
  - How do you incorporate them in preparedness planning?
- **Persons with Disabilities**
  - What is CDC doing to take into account person with disabilities?

CDC is the nation's health protection agency, working 24/7 to protect America from health and safety threats, both foreign and domestic. CDC increases the health security of our nation.

A Strong Public Health System is a Critical Investment

Hurricane Katrina, 2005

- 140,000 of those displaced were poor
- 44% of storm victims were African American
- 88,000 older adults were displaced
- 183,000 children were displaced



T Gabe, G Falk, M McCarty, VM Mason. Hurricane Katrina: social-demographic characteristics of impacted areas. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Report for Congress. November 4, 2005. Accessed May 29, 2014, URL: http://gnocdc.s3.amazonaws.com/reports/crsrept.pdf

Hurricane Sandy, 2012

- 85% of the affected were African American or Latino
- 45% were below the federal poverty line
- 26% had asthma
- 18% had diabetes

Schmeltz M et al. Lessons from Hurricane Sandy: a Community Response in Brooklyn, New York. Journal of Urban Health. 2013; 90(5).

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Who are Vulnerable Populations?

Basic Definition

- A group of people who may need extra help during a disaster or public health emergency
- Examples
  - Hurricane Katrina – People without cars could not get out of New Orleans (Access Need)
  - Tornado Alerts – People with difficulty hearing may not know there is a tornado (Functional Need)

http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/atrisk.aspx

Multiple Official Definitions

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Population vs. Functional Needs

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"**In Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Mitigation** for an incident, populations may have additional needs in one or more of the following areas: communication, medical care, maintaining independence, supervision, and transportation….."

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At-Risk Populations Attachment to the All Hazards Plan. June 2013

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"….populations who may have additional access and functional needs include those who **have disabilities, live in institutionalized settings, are from diverse cultures, have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking, are transportation disadvantaged, have chronic medical disorders, and have pharmacological dependency."**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At-Risk Populations Attachment to the All Hazards Plan. June 2013

CDC's All Hazard Plan Populations in At-Risk Attachment

- Children
- Pregnant, postpartum, and lactating women
- Adults with disabilities
- Older adults
- Persons with chronic medical disorders
- Persons with mental illness
- Individuals in prisons, jails, corrections and immigrant detention centers
- Persons with limited English proficiency

CDC, At-Risk Attachment to the CDC All Hazards Plan (AHP) – DRAFT. 2014

CDC's All Hazard Plan Populations in At-Risk Attachment

- American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)
- Additional racial and ethnic minorities
- Low-income populations, single-parent families, and public housing residents
- Homeless persons

CDC, At-Risk Attachment to the CDC All Hazards Plan (AHP) – DRAFT. 2014

Population-Based Definition

- **Geographic**
- **Demographic**
- **Biological**
- **Socioeconomic**

- **Often used by public health and social services**
  - Address the unique needs of the specific population
  - Examples: Children, Pregnant Women, Individuals with Disabilities

Functional Needs-Based Definition

- Communication
- Medical care
- Independence
- Supervision
- Transportation

- Often used by emergency management
  - Categorize individuals according to services they need
  - Example: Individuals who have difficulty with independence and cannot accomplish activities of daily living without support

Isaacson J et al "Moving Beyond "Special Needs": A Function-Based Framework for Emergency Management and Planning." *Journal of Disability Policy Studies* . 2007;17(4): 230-237.

Public Health and Emergency Management Crosswalk

Functional Need	Population
Communication	Children Older Adults Limited English Proficiency Racial/Ethnic Minorities
Medical Care	Individuals with Chronic Medical Conditions
Independence	Individuals with Disabilities
Supervision	Children Older Adults
Transportation	Older Adults Individuals with Disabilities

Note: This is only one example of how a crosswalk might look

Incorporating Populations in Preparedness Planning

- **Planning**
  - Ensure plans include at-risk populations
  - Exercise the plans and include at-risk population scenarios
- **Example**
  - Plan: use school buses for evacuation

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  - **Problems: Wheelchairs? Walkers? Children without their parents?**

Incorporating Populations in Preparedness Planning

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- **Example**
  - Plan: use school buses for evacuation
  - Problems: Wheelchairs? Walkers? Children without their parents?
  - **Solutions: Ensure bus is wheelchair accessible; have someone on each bus who can assist with loading and unloading; create a plan for unaccompanied minors**

Incorporating Vulnerable Populations in the CDC Ebola Response

- **CDC Ebola Response**
  - Thousands of staff
  - Complex structure
  - Many activities occurring at once
- **Need a staff member who can be the "voice" of vulnerable populations**
  - Ensure that their needs are being recognized
  - Help to get the "right people" involved to address those needs

Vulnerable Populations Officer

- A dedicated person in the response
- Sits at the "At Risk Desk" in the EOC

- "***Serve as the voice*** for all vulnerable populations during plans and briefings, and will serve as a liaison to definitive subject matter experts. They will not be expected to have expertise in all populations, but rather to represent the collective expertise of CDC's subject matter experts."

CDC IMS Ebola At-Risk Populations Desk Officer Rotation Assignment Sheet

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CDC IMS Ebola At-Risk Populations Desk Officer Rotation Assignment Sheet

Vulnerable Population Officer & Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

The VP Officer has a list of SMEs for each vulnerable population.

Integrating Vulnerable Populations in the CDC Ebola Response

- The Vulnerable Populations Officer does this for ALL vulnerable populations.
- This enables CDC to reach out to the right subject matter experts and the right external partners to get the right information.
- Result: CDC has increased capacity to address vulnerable populations during a response.

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Disability and Health: Emergency Preparedness

- **Emergency Readiness for People with Disabilities**

http://www.cdc.gov/features/emergencypreparedness/index.html

- **Tips for First Responders**

http://cdd.unm.edu/dhpd/pdfs/FifthEditionTipsSheet.pdf

- **Disability Preparedness**

https://www.disability.gov/?s=&fq=topics_taxonomy:%22Emergency+Preparedness%5E%5E%22

Disability and Health: Emergency Preparedness

- Preparing for and responding to pandemic influenza: implications for people with disabilities

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19797741

- Effective Emergency Preparedness Planning: Addressing the Needs of Employees with Disabilities

http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/effective.htm

Disability and Health Data System (DHDS)

You can answer questions such as

- What is the percentage of adults with disabilities in each state?
- What is the percentage of adults with select functional disability types in each state?

You can use DHDS to

- Identify differences in key health indicators between adults with select functional disability types.
- Identify data patterns across the country using interactive maps.

People with Disabilities – You Can Be Prepared

Planning ahead is required to protect yourself and your family when emergencies occur. You are in the ideal position to plan for your own safety as you best know your abilities and needs during and after an emergency or disaster. You can prepare for emergencies by planning ahead with your family and/or care attendants.

- "Ready Now!" Toolkit
- Get Ready! Toolkit
- Smart911

Which Federal Agencies Address Specific Populations?

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - Individuals with disabilities
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
  - Children and families
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - Individuals with chronic medical conditions
- Veterans Affairs (VA)
  - Older adults
  - Individuals with chronic medical conditions
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Multiple vulnerable populations

Helpful Links

- ASPR At-Risk, Behavioral Health & Community Resilience (ABC): http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/default.aspx
- CDC OPHPR: http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/
- CDC Social Vulnerability Index: http://svi.cdc.gov/
- CDC Preparedness Resources: http://www.cdc.gov/learning/archive/emergency-preparedness.html

Helpful Links

- FEMA

http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/897

- American Red Cross

http://www.redcross.org/prepare/location/home-family/disabilities

Questions?

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response
Office of the Director