The Public Health Nurse’s Role in Disaster Preparedness

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Public Health Nursing Webinar
July 31, 2013
Objectives:

- Discuss the types of disasters, including natural and human made
- Identify what Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) of the National Response Framework apply to public health nursing during disaster
- Describe the public health nursing role in disaster preparedness
“Disaster” Defined

- Disaster- dis·as·ter *n.*

  a. a sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss, or destruction; *broadly:* a sudden or great misfortune or failure

  b. An occurrence causing widespread disruption, destruction and distress requiring external assistance;
What is a “Disaster”? 

A disaster is present when need exceeds resources!

\[ \text{DISASTER} = \text{Need} > \text{Resources} \]

A response NEED that is greater than the RESOURCES that are available!
TYPES OF DISASTERS

**Human-Made Events**
- Warfare, Transportation accidents,
- Bombing, Structural collapse, Fires,
- Pollution, Hazardous Materials
- Incident (Oil Spill), Civil unrest,
- Terrorism (CBRNE incidents), Cyber
  attacks, Airplane crash, Water supply
  contamination

**Natural Disasters**
- Earthquake, Volcano, Hurricane,
- Flood, Tornado, Landslide, Avalanche, Pandemics/Epidemics, Tsunamis,
- Extreme heat and cold, etc.
National Overview

  - National Preparedness
    - 5 Preparedness Mission Areas:
      1. Prevention
      2. Protection
      3. Mitigation
      4. Response
      5. Recovery
- 2004 – National Response Plan (NRP)
- 2006 – Pandemic & All Hazards Preparedness Act
2008 – National Response Framework (NRF evolved from NRP)
  • National Incident Management System (NIMS) – PPD 5 to include Incident Command System (ICS)
  • Emergency Support Functions (ESFs): 15 total
    ▪ ESF 8: Public Health & Medical

Two national documents to be aware of that guide disaster preparedness, response and recovery:
  ◦ Homeland Security Presidential Directive 21
    • Public Health & Medical Preparedness
    • National Health Security Strategy
Disaster Management
The Disaster Management Cycle
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES (PHNs) & DISASTERS

- Public Health Nurses play a critical role in coordinating and implementing *any* disaster response plan

  - Largest segment of the public health workforce; Most trusted profession
  - Community advocates
  - Unique skill sets

- Must understand the disaster cycle and be able to be integrated at every phase
PHNs & Disasters (continued)

- Services provided should be consistent with the scope of practice; PHNs clinical knowledge regarding disease pathophysiology and epidemiology in conjunction with community assessment skills can serve a crucial role in emergency preparedness and response.

- Participation in healthcare policy development.
Prevention (Mitigation)
Prevention Measures

- All-hazards mitigation
- Structural & Nonstructural
- Deter potential threats
- Take action to eliminate threats
Examples of Prevention Activities

- Hazard vulnerability assessment/risk assessment
- Increase security
- Increase testing specific to the event; increased surveillance
- Mass prophylaxis/immunization
- Assessment & identification of potential hazards/vulnerabilities
- Isolation & quarantine
- Halting of CBRNE threats
Preparedness
Preparedness

- Personal

- Professional
  - Disaster competencies -
    - International Council of Nurses (ICN) Framework of Disaster Nursing Competencies (ICN and World Health Organization, 2009)
    - Public Health Preparedness and Response Core Competencies (ASPH, 2010)

- Community

- Training, Drills & Exercises
Response
Response

- National Response Framework; NIMS; ICS
  - Event begins and ends at the local level

Public health nurses bring leadership, policy, planning and practice expertise to disaster preparedness & response
- First responders; triage
- Epidemiology; surveillance
- Rapid needs assessment
- Risk communication
- Assist with medical surge capacity
Recovery
Recovery

- Flexibility is important; attempt to return to “usual” operations.

- Community assessment

- Psychological support

- The public health nurse is the community and client advocate
The mission of public health, core functions, and essential services do **NOT** change in a disaster – Neither does the practice of public health nursing
PARTNERSHIPS & TEAMWORK

PUBLIC & PRIVATE

Local

Regional

Federal

State

Images from: LA DHH
The Role of Public Health Nurses in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

A Position Paper

Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN) Public Health Preparedness Committee

Goal for Completion: September 2013

APHN website  www.phnurse.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disaster Phase</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Planning</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PREVENTION (MITIGATION)</strong></td>
<td>Prevent a disaster or emergency; Minimize vulnerability to effects of an event.</td>
<td>Assess a group of elderly citizens for their awareness about preventing heat stroke.</td>
<td>Develop community education plan to increase awareness about preventing heat stroke.</td>
<td>Conduct community education activities to increase awareness about preventing heat stroke.</td>
<td>Evaluate community education activities on preventing heat stroke.</td>
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<td><strong>Preparedness</strong></td>
<td>Assure capacity to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies.</td>
<td>Assess the populations at risk for special needs during a disaster.</td>
<td>Develop plans to care for special needs populations during a disaster.</td>
<td>Conduct training, drills and exercises related to care of special-needs persons.</td>
<td>Evaluate plans for serving populations with special needs.</td>
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<td><strong>Response</strong></td>
<td>Provide support to persons and Communities affected by disasters and emergencies.</td>
<td>Serve on a response team to determine the impact and specific health needs of hurricane survivors. Triage victims.</td>
<td>Develop plans to rotate staff on response teams to prevent stress and burnout among responders.</td>
<td>Deploy staff to shelters after a hurricane, in accordance with local and/or state emergency response plans.</td>
<td>Participate in after action reviews and/or debriefings to evaluate quality of health services provided and lessons learned.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recovery</strong></td>
<td>Restore systems to functional level.</td>
<td>Serve on team to assess community assets and potential for recovery from a recent flood.</td>
<td>Collaborate with partners and community leaders to plan long-term recovery priorities after a flood.</td>
<td>Participate in restoring community services after a flood.</td>
<td>Serve on team to evaluate long-term impact on persons displaced by a flood.</td>
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*Source: ASTDN 2007*
Recommended Resources

National, Public Health, and Nursing References for understanding
Public Health Nurse Practice in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery


Association for Community Health Nursing Educators (ACHNE) Task Force on Disaster Preparedness. 2008. *Disaster preparedness white paper for community/public health nursing educators.*  


http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/publications/A_Natl_Strategic_Plan_for_Preparedness.htm


8 components: *National preparedness goal, National preparedness system, National planning frameworks.*  
http://www.fema.gov/preparedness-1/learn-about-presidential-policy-directive-8#NPF

FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI). 2013. *Independent study program (ISP).*  
http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.aspx


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Click on the "Evaluation Forms" link which will take you to the evaluation form in Survey Monkey
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Thank you!

Questions please email: educationchair@maphn.org
The link to the archives and the PP slides are available at
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Thank You!