

## ABSTRACT

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the WTC and subsequent Anthrax attacks on the US Postal Service in 2001, public health departments across the nation have been elevated into a first responder role to provide mass prophylaxis in the event of a public health emergency. Since these events rarely occur, Public Health professionals lack opportunities to practice and increase their emergency response capacity. In fall 2006, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC-DPH) - Service Planning Areas (SPA) 1 & 2 initiated the lead role in partnering with the City of Santa Clarita to execute a drive-thru Point of Dispensing (POD) by providing seasonal influenza (Flu) prophylaxis while simultaneously exercising emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) provides federal dollars to support first responder agencies in their efforts to collaborate and partner with other agencies and local jurisdictions to increase capacity and build resiliency to protect the public in the event of a widespread disaster. LAC-DPH achieved four critical objectives by conducting this drive-thru POD: (1) Develop and sustain collaborative partnerships with fellow first responder agencies such as law enforcement, fire, local city emergency management departments and community partners (2) Develop alternative mass dispensing models critical in a public health event such as pandemic influenza, where traditional dispensing models would be contraindicated (3) Utilize alternative resources, such as nursing students and instructors, to provide vaccines (4) Expand and improve Public Health emergency response to ensure a prepared competent public health workforce and local community partners.



## BACKGROUND

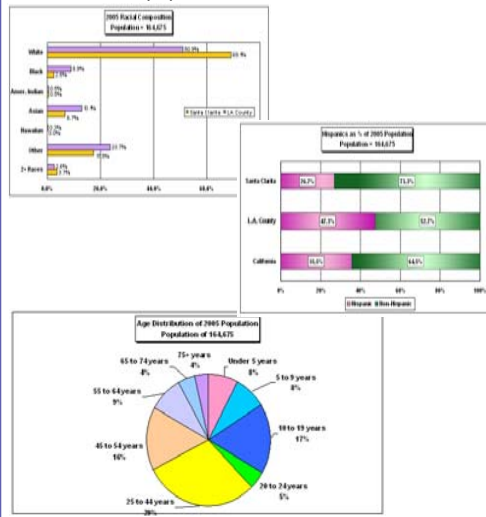
### Los Angeles County

- 4,000 square miles
- Population:
  - 9.9 million residents
  - 1 million tourists
  - 1 to 2 million undocumented residents
  - Invisible borders with neighboring counties
- 167 PODs required
- Staffing required 48,096
- Estimate: 12 million people to prophylax in 48 hrs

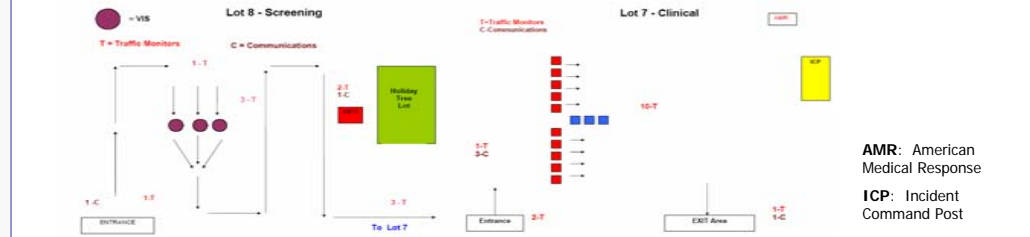


### City of Santa Clarita

- Fourth largest city in Los Angeles County, CA
- Population:
  - City of Santa Clarita: 177,045 (California Department of Finance Estimate, as of January 1, 2008)
  - Including unincorporated areas of the Santa Clarita Valley: over 275,000.
- Location: 35 miles (56 km) northwest of downtown Los Angeles
- Santa Clarita population characteristics:



## MODEL



## EVENT DETAILS

### Number of Participants

Staff	98
Clients	838 (in 511 cars)
Controllers	3
Evaluators	6
Observers	15

### Participating Agencies and Contributions

<b>California Highway Patrol</b>	• Traffic control
<b>City of Santa Clarita</b>	• Staff • Traffic flow design • Exercise set-up and logistics • Client recruitment
<b>College of the Canyons</b>	• Location • Student nurses
<b>Los Angeles County Department of Public Health</b>	• Planning and direction • Subject matter expertise • Train-the-Trainer courses • Staff • Flu vaccine • Other supplies
<b>Los Angeles County Fire Department</b>	• ICS mentoring
<b>Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department</b>	• Security

## DISCUSSION

### Successes of project

- Feasibility of drive-thru approach for mass prophylaxis
- Utilization of health sciences students as potential responders
- Collaboration between partnering agencies
- Foundation for continued alliances
- Well received by community

### Challenges

- Student nurses not prepared to vaccinate infant and pediatric patients
- Radio communications
- Inconsistent use of ICS (Incident Command System)
- Traffic safety concerns
- Weather conditions on exercise day (heat wave)

## TAKE-AWAYS

- Continued training on Incident Command
- Incorporate ICS into routine Public Health activities
- Further planning in traffic flow and safety plans
- Improve communications
- Enhance trainings to include adequate instruction on safety, radio communications
- Create a cache of POD supplies

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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