



**Office of Minority Health's Agenda to Integrate Racial and Ethnic Communities
into Emergency Preparedness**
Public Health Preparedness Summit,
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Overview of Presentation


- ◆ Mission OMH
- ◆ Background on Disasters
- ◆ Disparities in Disasters Affecting Racially and Ethnically Diverse Communities (RED)
- ◆ Rationale for Cultural Competency in Disaster Preparedness
- ◆ Preparedness and Crisis Response
- ◆ OMH's Center for Public Health and Emergency Preparedness for Disadvantaged Communities
- ◆ Summary



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Office of Minority Health

- ◆ **Mission: to improve and protect the health of racial and ethnic minority populations.**
 - Develops health policies and programs to promote the elimination health disparities
 - Serve as key advisor to the HHS Secretary and Office of Public Health and Science on public health activities affecting American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Blacks/African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders



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Rationale for Cultural Competency in Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response

- ◆ The U.S. population is becoming increasingly diverse
- ◆ Minorities are disproportionately vulnerable to and impacted by disasters
- ◆ Cultural competency can be used as a tool improve the quality of services and outcomes for all those affected by disasters
- ◆ Several laws and mandates address cultural competency concepts, including:
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Executive Order 13166
 - Legislation in California, New Jersey, New Mexico, and State of Washington

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What is a Disaster?

- ◆ Disaster: a potentially traumatic event that is collectively experienced, has an acute onset, and is time-delimited.

Two Types:

Natural

- ◆ Earthquakes
- ◆ Tornadoes
- ◆ Floods
- ◆ Tsunamis
- ◆ Hurricanes



Man-Made

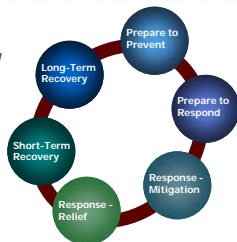
- ◆ Terrorist attacks
- ◆ Car accidents
- ◆ Plane crashes
- ◆ Fires
- ◆ School shootings

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Phases of a Disaster

- ◆ Preparation: tasks and activities necessary to build, sustain, and improve the ability to prevent, protect, respond, and recover from a disaster event.
- ◆ Response: mitigating the impact of a disaster, including immediate actions to save lives, protect property, and meet basic human needs.
- ◆ Recovery: includes both long- and short-term efforts to assist communities in achieving their pre-disaster states.



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Persisting Disparities for RED Communities

- ◆ Literature from the past 30 years strongly indicate that racial/ethnic minorities suffer disproportionately at each phase of an emergency



Sources: DP Andrulis, NJ Siddiqui, and JL Gantner. Preparing Racially And Ethnically Diverse Communities For Public Health Emergencies. *Health Affairs*, September/October 2007; 26(5): 1269-1279; Perry et al., 1982; Fothergill et al., 1999; Perry et al., 2003; Pastor et al., 2006; Munez, 2006; Messias and Lacy, 2007; Carter-Pokras et al., 2007; Elder et al., 2007

Disparities in All Phases of Disaster

- ◆ **Preparation:** Minorities are more likely to be under-prepared for disasters, less likely to be involved in preparedness activities, and less likely to receive preparedness training.
- ◆ **Response:** Minorities who do not speak English may encounter barriers during the response phase, such as inability to read relief information or other important messages.
- ◆ **Recovery:** Minorities have slower and more difficult recoveries due to lower incomes, fewer savings, greater unemployment, less insurance, poorer access to information, and bias in the search for long-term housing.

OMH's Center for Public Health and Emergency Preparedness in Disadvantaged Communities (Center without Walls)

- ◆ Serve as a resource to OS and ASPR for emergency/disaster incidents, specifically for minority communities
- ◆ Facilitate the participation of racial and ethnic communities in all facets of emergency preparedness
- ◆ Develop an overall strategic approach to address public health disasters, pre and post
- ◆ Develop specific tools to enhance the capacity of first responders and
- ◆ Provide technical assistance to minority communities to enhance their knowledge of emergency preparedness planning and execution processes

Center for Public Health and Emergency Preparedness in Disadvantaged Communities (cont.) Projects

- ◆ *Drexel Center for Health Equity*
- ◆ *Cultural Competency Curriculum for Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response (OMH)*
- ◆ *Regional Coordinating Center for Hurricane Response (Morehouse School of Medicine)*
- ◆ *Project Reconnect (AAPCHO)*
- ◆ *Emergency Preparedness and Response*
- ◆ *Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices among Latinos (NCLR)*

Drexel Center for Health Equality

- ◆ *Initiatives to advance emergency preparedness programs and policies for RED communities*
- ◆ *National Consensus Panel on Emergency Preparedness and Cultural Diversity— brought together expertise and perspectives of key agencies and individuals in emergency management and cultural competence/disparities reduction*
- ◆ *To provide guidance to national, state and local agencies and organizations—development of effective strategies to advance public health emergency preparedness and eliminate disparities for racial and ethnic communities across all stages of an emergency event*

Drexel Center for Health Equality

- ◆ *To develop a national consensus statement on integrating RED communities across the full spectrum of emergency preparedness activities and strategies*
- ◆ *To establish guiding principles of what would comprise a culturally competent approach to emergency preparedness and would eliminate disparities for racial and ethnic communities*
- ◆ *National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities*

OMH's Cultural Competency Curriculum for Disaster Preparedness and Crisis Response (CCC-DPCR)

- ◆ *Online continuing education course targeting emergency medical service personnel, disaster mental health providers, and disaster organization workers (FEMA, Red Cross, Commissioned Corps)*
- ◆ *Will feature video vignette case studies, self-assessment exercises, and pre- and posttests designed to measure knowledge gain*
- ◆ *E-learning training program to be launched in 2009*



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Regional Coordinating Center (RCC) for Hurricane Response

- ◆ *RCC administered by Morehouse School of Medicine*
- ◆ *Organize resources of NIH-funded Centers of Excellence in Partnerships for Community Outreach on Health Disparities and Training (EXPORT Centers)*
- ◆ *Mitigate the public health emergency impact of Hurricane Katrina/other natural disasters on RED communities, Gulf Coast areas*
- ◆ *Build partnerships with community health centers, local health departments, private health care providers, etc.*
- ◆ *Build a replicable/sustainable model of balanced community health system for the benefit of the larger community*

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Project Reconnect-Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum

- ◆ *Targeted Cancer Evacuees from Hurricane Katrina*
- ◆ *Assist evacuees to receive comprehensive cancer control services in their new communities*
- ◆ *Preparing displace evacuees to return to their pre-Katrina communities*
- ◆ *Develop a model to approach for future disasters of this nature*

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OMH Cultural Competency Tools for Disaster Scenarios (www.thinkculturalhealth.org)

- ◆ **Cultural Competency Curriculum Modules (CCCMs)**
 - Released in December 2004
 - Accredited for physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists
- ◆ **Culturally Competent Nursing Modules (CCNMs)**
 - Released in March 2007
 - Accredited for nurses and social workers
- ◆ **Health Care Language Services Implementation Guide (HCLS-IG):**
 - Web-base version released in June ;
 - Target audience includes all health care organizations



Summary

- ◆ **OMH Agenda on Emergency Preparedness**
- ◆ **Mitigating disparities in disaster preparedness and crisis response has become a national concern**
- ◆ **Disasters disproportionately affect RED communities**
- ◆ **Including minority communities in all disaster phases is critical in mitigating disparities**
- ◆ **Incorporating cultural competency principles preparedness plans and interventions**
- ◆ **OMH's Center for Public Health and Emergency Preparedness in Disadvantaged Communities-- promote inclusiveness of minorities in all phases disaster planning, response and recovery**

Questions/Comments



"I will now take questions from the floor"
