

Additional Information and Resources

Integration of Maternal and Child Health into Disaster Preparedness and Response: Federal Public Health and Medical Efforts

February 11, 2013

I. Program for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Division of Reproductive Health (DRH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Disasters have been associated with an increase in maternal risk factors among pregnant women, such as hypertensive disorders and anemia, and poor birth outcomes including preterm birth, low birth weight, and intrauterine growth restriction. Moreover, disasters can introduce major barriers to health services access, with the potential to limit access to acute care, infant care, and reproductive health services.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Program, DRH, CDC, was established to respond to reproductive health needs of the US population after natural or man-made catastrophic events. Over the past two years, program staff have partnered with various federal, state, and local agencies to develop tools that better assess post-disaster factors affecting pregnant and postpartum women and infants. These tools include:

- **Reproductive Health Assessment after Disaster (RHAD) Toolkit**

A public domain tool designed to assess the reproductive health needs of women aged 15-44 affected by natural and man-made disasters. Questionnaire topics include safe motherhood, infant care, family planning, gender based violence, health and risk behaviors, and family stressors and service needs. The data gathered will promote and enhance evidence-based local programs and services to improve the reproductive health of women and their families.

Find this tool online: <http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/reproductivehealth/>

- **Pregnancy Estimator Tool**

Designed to aid individuals and communities in estimating the number of pregnant women within a geographic area, this tool provides important information in preparing for and responding to the special needs of this unique population.

Find this tool online: <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/Emergency/index.htm>

- **Post-disaster Indicators**

Designed in collaboration with state and federal partners, this tool promotes use of consistent measures across post-disaster studies, builds scientific knowledge regarding disaster effects on these populations, and identifies salient conditions and outcomes to be monitored via surveillance or post-disaster data collection.

This tool will soon be available online: <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/Emergency/index.htm>

For more information on these tools or on the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program, please e-mail DRHEmergencyprep@cdc.gov.

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II. Behavioral Health, Physical Health, and Other Preparedness Resources

- The **Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH)** is the first national hotline dedicated to providing year-round disaster crisis counseling. This toll-free, multilingual, crisis support service is available 24/7 via telephone (1-800-985-5990) and SMS (text 'TalkWithUs' to 66746) to residents in the U.S. and its territories who are experiencing emotional distress related to natural or man-made disasters. Helpline staff provides counseling and support, including information on common stress reactions and healthy coping, as well as referrals to local disaster-related resources for follow-up care and support. Visit the SAMHSA website at <http://www.samhsa.gov/disaster/> for additional information and resources related to disaster behavioral health.
- **Tips for Talking With and Helping Children and Youth Cope After a Disaster or Traumatic Event: A Guide for Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers;** <http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac/docs/KEN01-0093R.pdf>.
- **National Child Traumatic Stress Network** pages on disasters and terrorism include training modules on psychological first aid and an expert speaker series; <http://www.nctsnet.org/trauma-types/natural-disasters> and <http://www.nctsnet.org/trauma-types/terrorism>.
- CDC's **Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)** ensures that clinicians have the up-to-date information they need. COCA is designed to provide two-way communication between clinicians and the CDC about emerging health threats, such as pandemics, natural disasters, and terrorism; <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/calls/>. Examples of past conference call sessions include: 1) The Community Assessment Tool—Readiness from a Total Healthcare Perspective; 2) State Level Pediatric Emergency Preparedness; and 3) Engaging Youth in Public Health Preparedness and Response.
- **PED-Prepared** is a pediatric disaster resource clearinghouse that brings together information, tools, and resources to assist health care providers, emergency planners, and families prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster or pandemic involving the pediatric population; <http://www.emscnrc.org/pedprepared/>. Specific topics include children with special health care needs, community disaster planning, and family reunification.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides monthly **Youth Preparedness** technical assistance workshops nation-wide and has compiled other interactive resources to help children and teenagers become part of the family emergency planning and preparedness process; <http://www.citizencorps.gov/getstarted/youth/youthindex.shtm>.

For more information, please visit www.phe.gov/abc or e-mail ABC.Info@hhs.gov.