

MRC Region II Round-Up: March 2009



I. Unit Buzz

New & Noteworthy: Please join me in welcoming Richard Burdis, Essex MRC (NJ) Unit Leader, to the MRC!

1. Niagara County MRC (NY) Assists County Staff in Administering Flu Vaccinations at Local CBOs
2. Puerto Rico MRC Rolls Out Training Blitz in February
3. Manalapan MRC (NJ) Sponsors Red Cross Shelter Operations Training
4. Monroe County MRC (NY) Engages Faith-based Senior Citizen Group on Preparedness Issues

II. Spotlight: 2009 National Volunteer Week: April 19th – 25th

III. News & Notes

1. Full Program Information for the 2009 Integrated Summit is Now Available
2. NACCHO Announces Advance Practice Centers RFP
3. OCVMRC Announces Spring MRC Deployment Training
4. GAO Releases Report on Pandemic Influenza
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4. Improved Recognition of Heart Attack and Stroke Symptoms After a Community-based Intervention for Older Adults, Georgia, 2006-2007

V. Dates to Watch Out For

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I. Unit Buzz

1. *Niagara County MRC (NY) Assists County Staff in Administering Flu Vaccinations at Local CBOs:* Niagara County MRC assisted county staff in providing flu vaccinations at a number of community-based organizations over a three day period in February.
2. *Puerto Rico MRC Rolls Out Training Blitz in February:* Puerto Rico MRC held 13 training sessions across the island in February.
3. *Manalapan MRC (NJ) Sponsors Red Cross Shelter Operations Training:* Manalapan hosted a Red Cross Shelter Operations Training on February 17th. Over 25 individuals participated in the training.
4. *Monroe County MRC (NY) Engages Faith-based Senior Citizen Group on Preparedness Issues:* Monroe County MRC presented on preparedness to a group of 40 senior citizens at a local church. Participants discussed public health issues as well as personal preparedness.

II. Spotlight: 2009 National Volunteer Week: April 19th – 25th

The theme for National Volunteer Week, commemorated April 19-25, is "Celebrating People in Action." The theme captures the meaning behind this signature week – honoring the individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities.

National Volunteer Week 2009 "Celebrating People in Action," presents an opportunity for individuals, families, nonprofit organizations and government entities alike to celebrate the ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things through service.

For more information on National Volunteer Week visit <http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>.

Need some volunteer recognition ideas? Check out the following publication: "Ways to Recognize Volunteers All Year Long" - <http://4-h.illinois.edu/staff/ways.pdf>. The document was developed by a 4H group in Illinois and includes some nice recognition ideas.

My favorite idea? Deliver a packet of vegetable or flower seeds to volunteers with a note that says "Thanks for helping us grow."

III. News & Notes

1. Full Program Information for the 2009 Integrated Summit is Now Available

Full program information for the 2009 Integrated Summit in Dallas is now available on the conference website: <http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org./program/>. Due to the exhaustive nature of programming, please take some time to review the program agenda.

The Program Office has also developed a summary of available workshops that may be of interest to MRC leaders. This workshop list is available on the MRC website (<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/2009TrainingSummit>).

Other MRC activities of interest include:

MRC Recognition and Networking Event: Sunday, April 5, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

MRC Regional II Breakout Meeting: Monday, April 6, 3:00–5:00 p.m. (see survey above)

2. NACCHO Announces Advance Practice Centers RFP

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NACCHO, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is requesting proposals from local health departments to develop new, innovative solutions or enhance currently existing Advanced Practice Center (APC) tools and resources for public health preparedness. Funding will be available for the period of Oct. 1, 2009 through Sept. 29, 2010.

For more information on this RFP please visit <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/APC/rfp-2009.cfm>.

3. OCVMRC Announces Spring MRC Deployment Training

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) is pleased to provide a training opportunity for MRC volunteers, unit leaders, and state coordinators who are interested in future federal deployment activities. The Spring 2009 MRC Deployment Training will take place on May 18–22, 2009, in Bethesda, MD. Expenses for those attending the course will be covered by OCVMRC.

The Spring 2009 MRC Deployment Training will begin with disaster preparedness and response related lectures and hands-on activities facilitated by subject matter experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and OCVMRC. The training will culminate with participants putting the knowledge and skills learned into practice as they take part in a mass casualty triage exercise. For additional information please visit <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/deployapp.cfm>.

4. GAO Releases Report on Pandemic Influenza

On February 26, 2009 the GAO released a report titled *Influenza Pandemic: Sustaining Focus on the Nation's Planning and Preparedness Efforts*. Over the past several years the GAO has conducted a body of work to help the nation better prepare for, respond to, and recover from a possible influenza pandemic, which could result from a novel strain of influenza virus for which there is little resistance and which therefore is highly transmissible among humans. GAO's work has pointed out that while the previous administration had taken a number of actions to plan for a pandemic, including developing a national strategy and implementation plan, much more needs to be done. However, national priorities are shifting as a pandemic has yet to occur, and other national issues have become more immediate and pressing. Nevertheless, an influenza pandemic remains a real threat to our nation and the world.

For this report, GAO synthesized the results of 11 reports and two testimonies issued over the past 3 years using six key thematic areas: (1) leadership, authority, and coordination; (2) detecting threats and managing risks; (3) planning, training, and exercising; (4) capacity to respond and recover; (5) information sharing and communication; and (6) performance and accountability. GAO also updated the status of recommendations in these reports.

The full GAO report is available at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-334>.

5. President Obama's Plan to Expand National Service Moves Forward

On Monday, March 18, the House passed H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act bill. The bill contains a wide range of provisions expected to expand service opportunities and strengthen program management. The White House expressed its support for the legislation in a [Statement of Administration Policy](#) released by the Office of Management and Budget on Monday. The Senate also took action on national service, as the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee approved S. 277, the Serve America Act.

To track the progress of this initiative please visit <http://www.nationalservice.org/>.

IV. Research in Brief

1. Health Effects of Relocation Following Disaster: A Systematic Review of the Literature

Uscher-Pines L. *Health Effects of Relocation Following Disaster: A Systematic Review of the Literature*; Disasters. 2009 Mar;33(1):1-22. Epub 2008 May 21

This paper reviews the literature on the effects of post-disaster relocation on physical and mental health, and develops a conceptual framework to guide future research. Forty articles were selected for full-text review and incorporation

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into the conceptual framework. Twenty-four articles were reviewed for results and methodology. These overwhelmingly tracked mental health outcomes. Only four (16 per cent) focused on physical health. Eight of ten showed an association between relocation and psychological morbidity. Certain outcomes (such as mortality, injury and cardiovascular disease risk factors) revealed inconsistent results, but these were rarely studied. Despite the frequency of post-disaster relocation and evidence of its effect on psychological morbidity, there is a relative paucity of studies; the few examples in the literature reveal weak study designs, inconsistent results, and inattention to physical health impacts and the challenges facing vulnerable populations. Further research guided by theory is needed to inform emergency preparedness and recovery policy.

2. Interdisciplinary Approach to All-Hazards Preparedness: Are You Ready? How Do We Know?

Levy LA, Rokusek CF, Bragg SM, Howell JT. *Interdisciplinary Approach to All-Hazards Preparedness: Are You Ready? How Do We Know?*; J Public Health Manag Pract. 2009 Mar; 15(2 Suppl):S8-12

The Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP) at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine is part of the National Education Strategy Team supported by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. It developed and implemented an extensive interdisciplinary community-focused, all-hazards preparedness program as a template for use nationally. CBAP provides discipline-customized education and training experiences in emergency and disaster preparedness using multiple formats. In addition to addressing competencies that all responders must have, the CBAP National Education Strategy Team has special emphasis areas in personal planning, vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, the employment of "cells" in the community, evidence-based evaluation including a unique casualty objective-structured clinical examination, use of student and faculty and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, all-hazards preparedness aimed at school children, and programs addressing campus violence. CBAP emphasizes that all-hazards preparedness is an academic discipline that necessitates those trained have periodic updates to maintain their currency.

3. Facing Pandemic Influenza Threats: The Importance of Including Poultry and Swine Workers in Preparedness Plans

Gray GC, Kayali G. *Facing Pandemic Influenza Threats: The Importance of Including Poultry and Swine Workers in Preparedness Plans*; Poult Sci. 2009 Apr;88(4):880-4

Recent research has shown that poultry and swine workers, especially those with intense exposures, are at increased risk of zoonotic influenza virus infections. In multiple studies, US poultry workers and poultry veterinarians have evidence of previous infections with avian influenza virus. Similarly, US swine workers have strong evidence of previous and acute infections with swine influenza viruses. Mathematical modeling has demonstrated that such workers may accelerate the spread of pandemic viruses in their rural communities. Because these workers may contribute to the novel generation of viruses and serve as a bridging population in the cross-species sharing of influenza viruses, it seems prudent to include poultry and swine workers in influenza preparedness programs. Possible preventive and control interventions include special education programs to increase workers' use of personal protective equipment such as gloves, increased surveillance for influenza viruses among workers and their animals, recommendations that workers seek medical attention should they develop influenza-like illness, and workers' priority receipt of annual and pandemic influenza vaccines.

4. Improved Recognition of Heart Attack and Stroke Symptoms After a Community-based Intervention for Older Adults, Georgia, 2006-2007

Bell M, Lommel T, Fischer JG, Lee JS, Reddy S, Johnson MA. *Improved Recognition of Heart Attack and Stroke Symptoms After a Community-based Intervention for Older Adults, Georgia, 2006-2007*; Prev Chronic Dis. 2009 Apr;6(2):A41. Epub 2009 Mar 16

INTRODUCTION: In Georgia, mortality from stroke is 16% higher and from cardiovascular disease is 9% higher than it is nationally. Although 75% of Georgia adults have 2 or more modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease, less than half recognize all major heart attack and stroke warning symptoms. To reduce disability and prevent death from cardiovascular events, high-risk population groups should be able to recognize symptoms and seek immediate medical attention. **METHODS:** We evaluated a 4-month education intervention in 40 senior centers in Georgia. The intervention focused on improving knowledge of heart attack and stroke symptoms and on promoting lifestyle behaviors that prevent and manage cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Participants in a convenience sample completed a pretest questionnaire, the intervention, and a posttest questionnaire (N = 693, mean age, 75 years, 84%

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female, 45% black). RESULTS: After the intervention, recognition of all 5 symptoms of heart attack increased from 29% at the pretest to 46% at the posttest, and recognition of all 5 symptoms of stroke increased from 42% at the pretest to 65% at the posttest (for both conditions, $P < .001$). In linear regression analyses, independent positive predictors of change in knowledge were younger age and higher education. Most risk factors for cardiovascular disease were not predictive. CONCLUSION: The results of this evaluation provide an evidence base for the effectiveness of this intervention in improving knowledge about heart attack and stroke symptoms, which may translate to greater preparedness in these older adults for response to cardiovascular events.

VI. Dates to Watch Out For

4/4/09 – 4/8/09	2009 Integrated (MRC) Summit (Dallas, TX)
4/19/09 – 4/25/09	National Volunteer Week
4/26/09	Spring MRC Deployment Applications Due
5/4/09 – 5/8/09	2009 New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference (Atlantic City, NJ)
5/11/09 – 5/17/09	National Women's Health Week
5/18/09 – 5/22/09	Spring MRC Deployment Training (Bethesda, MD)

Questions? Comments?

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