

Emerging Issues in Maternal and Child Health

Are We Ready Yet?

Integrating MCH into Public Health Preparedness Plans

Thursday, August 3, 2006

3:00-4:30 PM (EST)

Background

The possibility of public health emergencies and disasters, combined with recent threats and actual occurrences, underscores the importance of developing plans to minimize the public health impact of these unfortunate events on the nation.

However, a preparedness plan is only as effective as its ability to protect. It is important to consider specific populations to increase the likelihood that they are protected in the event of an emergency or disaster. To this end, public health professionals representing the needs of MCH populations must participate in planning efforts and implement appropriate strategies to ensure the safety and security of women, children, and their families.

Goal

This session will provide examples of health departments working to ensure that the needs of MCH populations are met in the event of a public health emergency or disaster.

Objectives

As a result of this session, participants will be able to:

- Review the methodologies of LHD preparedness efforts which have incorporated the needs of MCH populations.
- Identify lessons learned in developing these efforts.
- Discuss challenges in effectively reaching MCH populations and strategies to overcome them.
- Access resources and tools to assist in the development of plans and/or strategies.