



The National Association of County and City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



NACCHO's Preparedness Programs

Advanced Practice Centers

Develop cutting-edge tools and resources that will help local health departments nationwide prepare for, respond to, and recover from major emergencies. NACCHO's eight Advanced Practice Centers provide unique contributions to equip the nation for a preparedness emergency.

All Hazards Preparedness Integration and Policy

Ensures that NACCHO's public health preparedness programs and policies meet the needs of local public health and integrate effectively with the work being done at the state and federal levels.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Assists the Office of the Surgeon General's MRC program in its work to support local MRC units. NACCHO provides capacity-building support for the MRC's growth and works to educate state and local health officials and partner organizations about the relevance, timeliness, and need for the MRC.

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR)

Prepares local health department staff to respond, in partnership with community organizations, to any public health or medical emergency. PPHR's goal is to fully integrate local health departments into the response community.

Public Health Preparedness Technical Assistance

Prioritizes the development of tools that assist local health departments to further cultivate an all-hazards emergency response infrastructure. NACCHO maintains searchable online clearinghouses of preparedness-related tools and resources and the Preparedness Peer Assistance Network, a Web-based referral service that pairs emergency preparedness practitioners to Peer Advisors in other local health departments for guidance on preparedness topics.

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

Provides resources, information, and technical assistance about SNS and the Cities Readiness Initiative to help local health departments prepare for a public health emergency. NACCHO's SNS program serves as a conduit between local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

www.naccho.org

NACCHO's Work With the Medical Reserve Corps Program (MRC)

What is the MRC?

- The MRC is a community-based, civilian, volunteer program that helps build the public health infrastructure of communities
- Each unit is organized and trained to address various challenges from public health education to disaster response
- MRC volunteers supplement existing local emergency and public health resources
- Volunteers include physicians, nurses, pharmacists, as well as lawyers, clergy, and other interested community members

Core Competencies for MRC Volunteers

Why Core Competencies?

MRC volunteers come from various backgrounds with varying credentials, capabilities, and professional experience. While diversity is a strength of the MRC program, it makes standardization difficult. Volunteers must be competent to fulfill the mission of the MRC in their community.

Core Competencies represent the baseline knowledge that all MRC volunteers should have, regardless of their role within the MRC unit. MRC Core Competencies provide:

- A core set of standard activities
- A framework for training
- A description of what a community can expect from their MRC
- Interoperability between MRCs and collaboration with external partners

In addition to the Core Competencies development, NACCHO assists the MRC with the following capacity-building activities:

- Coordinating the distribution of grant funding
- Developing a national marketing strategy
- Publishing a quarterly national newsletter
- Assisting in the planning of regional and national meetings
- Developing materials, resources, and tools to strengthen the knowledge and skills of MRC members

The document is titled "MRC Core Competencies Matrix" and is dated April 2007. It is published by the Office of the Surgeon General. The cover features the MRC logo and the text "MRC Core Competencies Matrix". The content includes a "PROLOGUE" section and a "THE CORE COMPETENCIES MATRIX" section. The Prologue states that the matrix is a targeted guide for training MRC volunteers at the local level. The Core Competencies Matrix is organized into three categories: 1. Overview: A group of competencies related to a certain topic. 2. Specific Competencies: The demonstrable skills an individual should have in order to be activated as an MRC volunteer. 3. Supportive Trainings: Not necessarily trainings, but of which an individual has, has access to, or can be trained to obtain. The matrix also includes a section on "Using the Competencies Matrix" and a "PLANNING AND DELIVERY" section.

Primary Care and Preparedness at NACCHO

NACCHO works to enhance the capacity of local health officials to:

- Assess the availability of primary care services in their jurisdictions.
- Develop policies to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.
- Ensure that all who need care receive it by directly providing services or by working with community health centers and others to ensure that they are provided.

NACCHO Activities

In 2006, NACCHO examined local health department involvement in emergency preparedness planning with primary care providers and published the resulting data in "Emergency Preparedness Planning & Response: Primary Care and Local Health Departments."

Other publications include:

- Local Health Departments & Community Health Centers: Examples of Collaborations
- Sharing the Responsibility: Partners in Improving the Health of Communities

"Emergency preparedness planning and response is a key way in which local health departments can collaborate with the primary care community at large, and specifically with community health centers"

The fact sheet is titled "FACT SHEET: Emergency Preparedness Planning & Response: Primary Care and Local Health Departments" and is dated December 2006. It includes a bar chart showing the percentage of local health departments that have primary care providers involved in emergency preparedness planning and response. The chart shows that 78% of local health departments have primary care providers involved in emergency preparedness planning and response, compared to 65% for emergency medical services (EMS) and 55% for public health. The fact sheet also includes a section on "PLANNING AND DELIVERY" and a "CONCLUSION" section.

Available online at www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/primarycare.cfm

