



# MRC ★ In Touch

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## Featured Article

### North Central Mississippi MRC Participates in Fatal Vision Training

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Everyday, almost 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver." To help prevent such tragedies from occurring in the Lafayette/Oxford community, eight North Central Mississippi MRC volunteers participated in a four-hour "Fatal Vision" training. Volunteers assisted with demonstrating the five levels of impairment while driving under the influence to 56 driver education students, ages 15–18 years old.

MRC Director, Judy Warren, contacted the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to see if the safety fair would travel to Lafayette County and work in schools by highlighting the "rollover simulator" and "fatal vision" goggles. Warren also contacted the county school system to see if the MDOT volunteers could be brought into the school before spring break.

Before the Fatal Vision training, the MRC volunteers received a brief overview and demonstration of how each exercise works by the school recourse officer. The volunteers were then divided into four groups of two people each, to assist students with exercises such as passing a ball at varying distances, walking a straight line, and driving a remote car around barriers while wearing the fatal vision goggles.

Webb says the "students seemed very impressed with the goggles; some were amazed, while others expressed concern about the varying levels of impairment." The five levels of impairment include Level 1 (less than .06+); Level 2 (.07-.10+); Level 3 (.12-.15+), Level 4 (.17-.20+), and Level 5 (.25+).

Volunteers of the North Central Mississippi MRC unit were pleased to be part of this activity with the local county schools and look forward to potentially assisting other schools with continuing to reinforce the importance of not driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

For more information about impaired driving facts, visit the CDC webpage at [http://www.cdc.gov/MotorVehicleSafety/Impaired\\_Driving/impaired\\_drv\\_factsheet.html](http://www.cdc.gov/MotorVehicleSafety/Impaired_Driving/impaired_drv_factsheet.html).

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

### Roots of Health Inequity

In July, a Wed-based learning community, "The Roots of Health

Inequity" (working title), will be available to all local health departments (LHDs). The Web-based community is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health and will offer health department staff a place to investigate the relationship between social injustice—the fundamental cause of health inequities—and everyday public health practice.

The community will use self-paced activities and exercises, as well as rich multimedia and resource materials, to help users explore, reflect, analyze, and strategize.

Participants in the community will explore social processes that continually produce health inequities in the distribution of disease and illness; strategize more effective ways to act on the root or fundamental causes of health inequity; and form relationships with other LHDs committed to working on ensuring health equity.

If you are interested in more information or if you would like to volunteer to test and offer feedback on early versions of the community, please visit the link below.

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/justice/roots.cfm>

## Announcements

### **"In Focus" Now Available to Read Online**

Catch up on the latest MRC stories and news nationwide by reading the spring 2011 edition of "In Focus" online on the OCVMRC website.

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/NewsEvents/InFocus>

### **NACCHO's Public Health Preparedness Team Hosts Vulnerable Populations & Risk Communication PREP-inar**

Rachel Abbey, from the Montgomery County (MD) Advanced Practice Center, and Carina Elsenboss, from the Seattle & King County (WA) Advanced Practice Center, conducted a lively webinar discussion on vulnerable populations and risk communication on May 26, 2011.

This NACCHO Preparedness Prep-inar is free and available in two formats. For more information, visit the link below.

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/prepinars.cfm>

### **Important Contract Deadlines**

#### **2010–2011 CBA Contract Deadline**

The Capacity Building Award (CBA) contract must be submitted by July 22, 2011 to be processed by the July 29, 2011 deadline.

#### **2011 MRC Special Project**

Award Contract Deadline: June 30, 2011

For any questions, please follow up with [MRCAdmin@naccho.org](mailto:MRCAdmin@naccho.org).

Watch the MRC two-way Listserv and the NACCHO website for future updates later in the summer for future CBA updates. Also, please remember to update your OCVMRC profile.

### **AIDSVu: CDC's National HIV Surveillance Database**

A project with the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University

and the CDC's national HIV surveillance database, called AIDSvu, contains HIV surveillance reports from state and local health departments.

It also provides a view of the geography of HIV in the United States, 30 years into the epidemic. This online tool allows users to explore the HIV epidemic by age, gender, race, and HIV testing center locations and is available at the link below.

<http://aidsvu.org>

To submit information for either MRC: In Touch or MRC: In Focus, please contact Megan Skupien at [mskupien@naccho.org](mailto:mskupien@naccho.org) or (202)783-1376.



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