



# MRC ★ In Touch

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June—National Safety Month

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## Featured Articles

### Geary County MRC Increases HIV/AIDS Testing with High Risk Population

Geary County faces some of the highest numbers of HIV/AIDS cases in Kansas. More than half of the county's population is female, which comprises the fastest growing percentage of new HIV/AIDS cases in Geary County. This is largely attributed to a nearby military base and a youthful community.

To honor and promote National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on March 10, the Geary County MRC used a mobile unit to test females for HIV/AIDS, in various locations from March 5–10. This five-day event provided a 1,562.5% increase in HIV/AIDS testing in the community. Two MRC unit coordinators from the Geary County MRC screened 133 individuals, provided 665 educational materials, and 2,660 prophylactic measures.

The MRC mobile unit was funded by a grant received by the Junction City Geary County Health Department, which the Geary County MRC is housed within, from the U.S. Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health for National Women and Girl's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The mobile testing unit is also sponsored by the health department and local organizations.

### Challenges and Successes

Due to the limited space inside the mobile unit, it was a challenge for MRC volunteers to provide the privacy desired for patients who were being tested. However, despite this factor, the mobile testing clinic was well received by the community, and individuals continue to request information about when the next event will take place.

Not using needles to test individuals was vital and helped increase the number of individuals tested at the mobile unit. In addition, advertising in the community was crucial to help make the event a success. Information about the mobile testing sites was promoted on the radio and publicized in a front-page story in the local newsletter. Local businesses hosting testing sites for the mobile unit, posted information via social media.

Dani Holliday, Community Planner of the Geary County Health Department and unit coordinator of the Geary County MRC unit says, "We look forward to doing this event again in the future with the help of local, state, and national partners."

*Funding for this activity was made possible in part by the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS), Office on Women's Health. The views expressed in written materials or publications and by speakers and moderators at HHS-sponsored conferences, do not necessarily reflect the official policies of HHS;*

*nor does the mention of trade names, commercial practices or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. government.*

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

### **Your Voice is Needed to Help Fight Against Extreme Spending Cuts**

In January 2013, budget cuts totaling 8% of spending across federal departments are set to go into effect due to an agreement between Congress and the White House made last summer in the debate over raising the debt ceiling. NACCHO is compiling information on how an 8% cut would impact communities nationwide.

Your voice is needed to make the case for why these cuts are too extreme. Please fill out a form via the link, with details of what a 8% cut would mean in your program or health department.

<http://www.naccho.org/advocacy/fy13-sequestration.cfm>.

## Announcements

### **Prepare, Respond, and Recover from a Hurricane**

June 1 marks the beginning of hurricane season To ensure your community is ready to prepare, respond, and recover from a hurricane, visit

[http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/hurricane\\_preparedness.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/hurricane_preparedness.cfm).

### **NHSS Implementation Plan Released**

The first National Health Security Strategy Implementation Plan (NHSS IP) was recently released. The NHSS IP is based on the NHSS, which addresses 10 specific strategic objectives for U.S. health security. The tasks mentioned in the plan are meant to serve as models and catalysts for action in communities nationwide. Local health departments, public health agencies, and other community partners are encouraged to initiate and complete the actions in the plan—every individual has a role in national health security.

For more information about the NHSS IP, please visit <http://www.phe.gov/preparedness/pages/default.aspx>.

To view a PDF of the NHSS IP, please visit <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/authority/nhss/ip/Documents/nhss-ip.pdf>.

### **Facebook Preparedness Apps Available**

Two new Facebook apps, bReddi and Project: Lifeline, were recent winners of a nationwide contest, sponsored by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

For more information or to access bReddi and Project: Lifeline, please visit <http://www.phe.gov/lifeline/> or directly through Facebook.

## Register for Interactive Food Defense Workshop

NACCHO and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be hosting an Interactive Food Defense Workshop at NACCHO Annual on July 11, during 12:30 PM–2:30 PM, PDT. Jason Bashura, MPH, RS, from the FDA's Food Defense Oversight Team, will discuss the FDA's current and future food defense planning tools and resources, including the latest tool, Food Related Emergency Exercise Bundle (FREE-B).

Register for the workshop as part of your NACCHO Annual registration at <http://www.nacchoannual.org/register/> or contact Becky Johnson at [rjohnson@naccho.org](mailto:rjohnson@naccho.org), if you want to attend the session separately from NACCHO Annual.

## Read the Latest Edition of MRC *In Focus*

Read about MRC units nationwide that have made impacts in their communities by participating in public health initiatives and preparedness and response activities.

To view the spring 2012 edition of MRC *In Focus*, please click here <https://medicalreservecorps.gov/File/NationalNewsletters/MRCInFocus-Spring2012.pdf>.

## CDC Older Adult Preparedness Portal

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released an older adult preparedness portal and a cross-sector preparedness guide in an effort to help communities, states, and partners both plan for and protect vulnerable older adults during an emergency. The Web portal provides tools, resources, and other related materials.

For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/EmergencyOlderAdults/>.

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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