



July 2014

www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Featured Article

Rhode Island MRC Naloxone and Overdose Prevention Education Program Saves a Life

On May 27, the efforts of the Rhode Island MRC, through the Naloxone and Overdose Prevention Education (NOPE) Program, saved a life. The NOPE Program, funded by the NACCHO MRC Challenge Award, leverages the Rhode Island MRC volunteer base to provide opioid overdose prevention education. Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in Rhode Island adults, claiming four lives each week.

Through the NOPE program, Rhode Island MRC volunteers and the Department of Corrections' Health Services Branch have collaborated to expand the state's ongoing fatal opioid overdose prevention efforts, including bringing these efforts to substance abuse treatment programs and community corrections. Thus far, NOPE has trained 1,008 healthcare providers and public safety professionals in overdose prevention and the use of Naloxone, and a quarter of these individuals have been trained as trainers.

From March 27 through April 26, the NOPE Program provided training to all 233 Rhode Island state troopers and detectives on overdose recognition and response, including the administration of Naloxone. These efforts came into practice on the night of May 27 when a state trooper discovered a passenger with a faint pulse and sporadic labored breathing during a traffic stop. The passenger may have ingested a large quantity of Oxycodone pills, and the trooper administered a dose of Naloxone to the passenger through a nasal mist. The subject regained consciousness a short time later and was transported to a local hospital where he was stabilized and expected to recover. Rescue personnel believe that the Naloxone administered by the trooper stabilized the subject's breathing and most likely kept him from going into full respiratory failure.

Following the success of the state police trainings, NOPE, in collaboration with key partners, is developing a toolkit which will facilitate the training, policies, and logistical preparations necessary to implement a successful law enforcement Naloxone program in Rhode Island public safety organizations and in other organizations across the country. Learn more about the NOPE Program in this [video](#), featuring MRC unit coordinator Erin McDonough. See the article below for an update on NACCHO's MRC Challenge Award winners, including how you can stay informed as their projects progress.

NACCHO/MRC Connections

Meet the NACCHO MRC Challenge Award Winners!

NACCHO is excited to announce that profiles of MRC Challenge Award Winners are now live on <http://mrcnaccho.org>. Visit the site to learn more about the 29 Challenge Award winners' unit composition and project goals. Challenge Award winners have posted blog, photo, and video updates and will continue to provide more summaries and resources as their projects progress.

The Challenge Award is a competitive funding opportunity that supports MRC units to develop new projects and programs that can be replicated on a national level. Nearly 200 MRC units from across the United States applied for the award and the top 29 most promising applicants were selected to receive the award in late 2013.

NACCHO has also posted video interviews featuring eight Challenge Awardees filmed during the 2014 Preparedness Summit. [View the playlist](#) on NACCHO's YouTube page to learn more about the projects Challenge Awardees are implementing in their communities.

Stay tuned for more information about the 2014 NACCHO MRC awards this fall!

Announcements

National Immunization Awareness Month Toolkit Now Available

In preparation for August, National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), the National Public Health Information Coalition has posted the [2014 NIAM communications toolkit](#) with updated information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. The toolkit is designed to help health communicators, immunization program managers, immunization coalitions and other partners work together to communicate about the importance of immunizations during the month of August.

The toolkit contains a number of resources for each week, including the following:

- Key messages
- Vaccine information
- Sample news releases and articles
- Social media messages
- Web links and resources from CDC and other organizations
- Web banners, logos and social media graphics

[Download the toolkit now](#) to help plan for MRC immunization activities during August.

Radiation Disaster Issues in Children: A Case-Based Approach

The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health has launched a new resource entitled "Radiation Disaster Issues in Children: A Case-Based Approach." This online lesson is for healthcare providers and presents a scenario in which an improvised nuclear device is detonated in a medium-sized American city. Three pediatric case examples highlight algorithms and other resources that can be used in patient management during and after a radiological disaster. [View the online lesson now.](#)

CDC Releases the Social Vulnerability Index

The Association for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry at the CDC has created a tool to help emergency response planners and public health officials identify and map the communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a hazardous event. The [Social Vulnerability Index](#) (SVI) uses U.S. Census data to determine the social vulnerability of every Census tract-- subdivisions of counties for which the Census collects statistical data. The SVI ranks each tract on 14 social factors, including poverty, lack of vehicle access, and crowded housing. The SVI can help public health officials and local planners better prepare for and respond to emergency events like hurricanes, disease outbreaks, or exposure to dangerous chemicals.

The SVI can also be used to:

- Estimate the amount of needed supplies like food, water, medicine, and bedding;
- Help decide how many emergency personnel are required to assist people;
- Identify areas in need of emergency shelters;
- Plan the best way to evacuate people, accounting for those who have special needs, such as people without vehicles, the elderly, or people who do not understand English well; and
- Identify communities that will need continued support to recover following an emergency or natural disaster.

[View the tool now](#) to help your community plan for its unique risks and vulnerabilities.

Are You Going to NACCHO Annual?

[NACCHO Annual](#) is the only conference that specifically address the needs and concerns of local health officials, and this year will take place July 8-10 in Atlanta. During this year's event, NACCHO is looking to film a brief video with MRC unit leaders to help promote the launch of the new MRC Connect web and mobile application later this summer. If you are attending NACCHO Annual and would like to help us by appearing in this video, please email mrc@naccho.org to sign up and for more details.

Missed the NACCHO Annual registration deadline? Join us in Atlanta beginning July 8 and register onsite.



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local public health departments.

1100 17th St, NW, 7th Floor Washington, DC 20036

P 202-783-5550 F 202-783-1583

© National Association of County and City Health Officials

Please contact Alyson Jordan, NACCHO's MRC Communications Specialist, with any questions or suggestions for the newsletter at 202-783-5528 or at ajordan@naccho.org.