



# MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

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[www.medicalreservecorps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)

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## Featured Article

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### San Bernardino MRC Organizes Active Shooter Preparedness Event to Increase Community Resilience

The San Bernardino MRC in California was chosen to receive one of the 167 Challenge Awards awarded in 2016. In alignment with the building and sustaining community resiliency focus area, the San Bernardino MRC exemplified the nature and purpose of the awards by outlining five goals to help their community recover from their recent shooting tragedy and build resiliency. Their project, "Active Shooter Awareness, Prevention, Response, & Recovery Training," set out to help the community through the following goals:

- Learn specific actions they could take to prevent and prepare for potential active shooter incidents;
- Assist and respond to law enforcement and first responders;
- Recognize potential violent indicators in individuals;
- Manage consequences of an active shooter incident; and
- Understand mental health issues that may contribute to these acts or impact the victims and community.

During the project, the San Bernardino MRC recognized that their community members have been on high alert as they approach the one-year mark of the mass shooting last year. Concerned with scenarios such as an active shooter in the area or onsite, large companies have begun employee training on how to assess the severity of situations, and train employees on how to correctly and decisively react in a safe manner. However, smaller companies and nonprofits may not have the resources to develop or provide the appropriate training and tools. The San Bernardino MRC recognized the necessity of providing the community with the information, training, and resources that can help in the event of a future mass shooting. The hope was to not only develop tangible plans and preparations to respond, but to also build community resiliency and lessen pre-existing fears of another attack.

The project included a seminar style workshop and a hands-on training conducted by law enforcement. Both of these training environments gave the community and law enforcement a unique opportunity to get to know each other and provided an outlet to help with the healing process. Coping strategies were also addressed during the training, which provided attendees with information on how to recover from the aftermath of an attack. The event closed with mental health speakers from the San Bernardino County Mental Health Agency and addressed the sometimes overlooked mental health issues caused by such traumatic incidents.

The San Bernardino MRC was overwhelmed with community involvement and the level of interest in the Active Shooter training and awareness event. More than 300 attendees participated in both the seminar and the "Run, Hide, Fight" training day. The event was open to surrounding MRC units, educators, churches, and non-profits and proved to be extremely valuable for the community. One attendee stated that they "wanted to say thank you to your organization for giving me (and the others who attended) the opportunity to attend the seminar last week. It was so well organized, and the sessions helped me understand a little more about how to be prepared. I have shared the information with my colleagues, and encouraged them to attend the seminar when it is offered next time".

To learn more about the MRC Challenge Awards, please visit the following link: [MRC Challenge Awards](#)

## MRC/NACCHO Connections

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MRC Core Competencies Update for January Well Check Webinar

NACCHO will be providing updates on the MRC Core Competencies and introduce new resource tools to support MRC Unit Coordinators implement the competencies. The MRC Well Check webinar is scheduled for January 10, 2017 from 2-3:00 ET. Watch for additional information on the MRC Listserv.

## 2017 MRC Network Profile Survey is Coming Soon

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the 2015 Network Profile report, and gave suggestions for the next one. NACCHO is pleased to announce the 2017 Network Profile of the MRC Survey will launch **Jan 9<sup>th</sup>**! In the next month, you will receive a personalized link in your inbox to complete the MRC Network Profile survey by early February.

The data from the previous MRC Network Profile reports have been a significant resource that has helped shape the strategic direction to lead the MRC network toward greater capability, efficiency, and success. This next report will build upon the data obtained in previous MRC Profile studies. Make sure your voice is counted by completing the 2017 MRC Profile survey- with every unit leader contributing to its success, this report can be as useful and robust as the last two.

### What topics will be covered in the upcoming MRC Network Profile survey?

If you are a unit leader that has joined the network within the past two years, the MRC Profile survey covers a wide range of topics pertaining to a MRC's infrastructure and practice. Some areas of interest include the following topics:

- Unit leader and volunteer demographics
- Funding
- Partnerships
- Recruitment, screening, training and communications processes
- Activities and services
- Legal protections

For more information and reports about previous MRC Profile studies, please visit the [NACCHO MRC webpage](#). If you have any questions about the 2015 Network Profile, please email [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org).

## Lake County MRC Challenge Award Project Update

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The Lake County MRC Challenge Award Project was highlighted in the October 2016 MRC In Touch Newsletter for their community impact through a outreach campaign addressing second hand smoking. They were recently recognized for their work in an article for the Journal for Public Health Management Practices, *Strengthening the Capacity of Local Health Departments to Reduce Exposure to Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems*, November 2016, which can be found [here](#). You can also download NACCHO's MRC Electronic Smoking Device Factsheet [here](#).

## Announcements

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### NACCHO Preparedness Summit April 25-28, 2017 in Atlanta

The goal of the Preparedness Summit is to provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, and practical tools to enhance the participants' capabilities to plan and prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other public health emergencies.

In addition to the four day conference there will be a one day MRC Leadership Workshop on Monday, April 24th. Spaces will be available for participants attending through local travel funding. NACCHO will be offering scholarships to cover a portion of 2017 conference expenses for MRC Coordinators through a competitive application process, based on financial need, experience, and interest in sharing local best practices. Additional information on the MRC Leadership Workshop registration will be available in early January.

Information on the 2017 Preparedness Summit can be found [here](#).

### Share Your Story from the Field

NACCHO's [Stories from the Field website](#) features stories about local public health successes and challenges. This website provides a means for local health departments to share their experiences and demonstrate the value of public health. Several featured stories from the field demonstrate how the MRC continues to benefit local health departments and showcase innovative roles for the MRC. View "[Helping Seniors Stand Strong](#)", "[Public Health Emergency Program Targets Diverse Communities via Change Agents](#)", and "[Expanding a Peer Education](#)

[Program that Works to Target Marijuana Use: Youth for Truth](#)” to learn more about MRC/local health department collaboration and innovative MRC projects. Do you have a story that you would like to share? Visit the [website](#) or email [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org).

## National Health Security Awards applications accepted through December 31, 2016

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response](#) (ASPR) are **extending the application deadline until December 31, 2016** for the second annual *National Health Security Awards Program*. This national honor recognizes local health departments (LHDs) that have demonstrated significant accomplishments in implementing health security-related initiatives within their jurisdictions. *Last year two MRC Units were recognized along with their local health department for this prestigious honor.*

**All award winners will be provided with free travel, accommodations, and waived registration to the [2017 NACCHO Annual Conference](#), where they will receive public recognition.**

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**NACCHO**

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

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

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