



DiversityPreparedness.Org E-Newsletter

Produced by the Center for Public Health Readiness & Communication at the Drexel University School of Public Health, developed with support from the USDHHS Office of Minority Health

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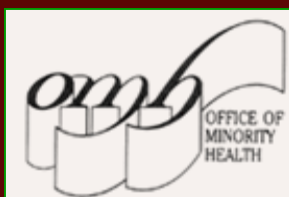
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Dear Colleagues,

This issue of the DiversityPreparedness.org E-Newsletter contains information on upcoming events, recent publications, and features Collaborating with Faith-Based Organizations as the Topic of the Month—providing links to variety of resources and planning tools. Additionally, our Voices for the Field Section includes a piece from Multnomah County, Oregon on their efforts to integrate the needs of culturally diverse communities into public health preparedness training and education.

Topic of the Month: Collaborating with Faith-Based Organizations

Recent disasters and public health emergencies has prompted an acknowledgement that government agencies alone lack sufficient capacity to meet the needs of all communities in times of disaster and public health emergency—thus partnerships with faith-based organizations (FBOs) and other community entities are critical to fostering community resilience. According to a **Pew Survey**, 85% of African Americans and 84% of Latinos express having a religious affiliation, compared to 78% of whites. FBOs are also well positioned to meet the needs of diverse populations in times of crisis as they are trusted sources of information and knowledgeable about the cultural and linguistic characteristics of the community. Below is a select list of planning tools, guidance documents, journal articles, expert organizations and other resources to inform collaborative partnerships between FBOs and public health/ emergency service providers.



Organizations & Initiatives:

- **National Disaster Interfaiths Network:** NDIN is a national network of disaster interfaith organizations working together to reduce disaster-caused human suffering through the exchange of information and cooperative support. The NDIN website provides a searchable library of resources and directory of FBOs.

Organizations & Initiatives:

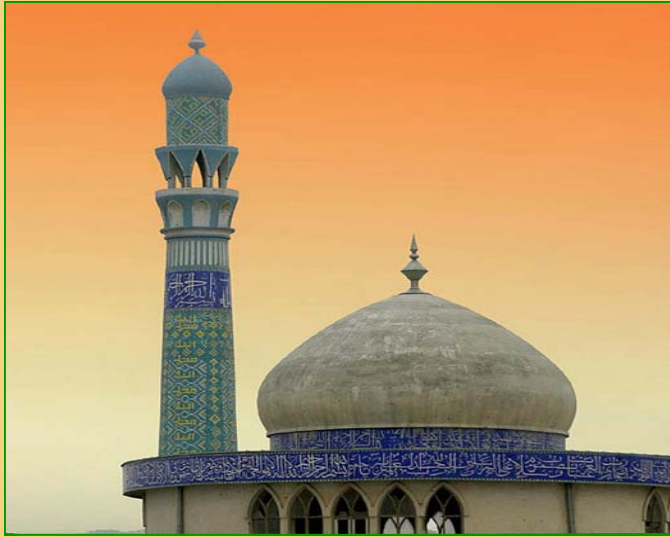
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives:** The CFBCI is one of the 12 federal agency offices/centers under President Obama's Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships initiative. The aim of the Center is to maximize the appropriate participation of faith-based and community organizations in Departmental programs.
- **Muslim Consultative Network:** The Muslim Consultative Network promotes interfaith dialogue, civic engagement, and provides a number of services to New York City's Muslim community, including disaster education, training, and mitigation.

Planning Tools & Guidance:

- **Faith-Based & Community Organizations Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Checklist:** This checklist provides guidance for religious and community organizations in developing and improving influenza pandemic response and preparedness plans. The checklist is available in both **English** and **Spanish**.
- **Guidance for Risk Communicators in Collaborating with Faith-Based African American Communities for Pandemic Flu Preparedness:** This series of videos from the Southern Center for Communication, Health & Poverty provides expertise from those conducting public information/risk communication with African American faith-based communities.
- **H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Community and Faith-based Organizations:** This document provides H1N1 guidance for CBOs and FBOs and information about community engagement, vaccine distribution, communication, vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, mental health, childcare, and work environments.
- **Strategies for Improving Influenza Immunization Rates among Hard-To-Reach Populations:** This article discusses how influenza pandemic planning should include community engagement and extension of strategies beyond traditional providers to involve FBOs and CBOs serving hard-to-reach populations.

Research:

- **Understanding the Role of African American Churches and Clergy in Community Crisis Response:** This qualitative study examines the extent to which government and non-profit agencies engaged African American clergy and churches as key resources in responding to the urgent needs of people of color in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath.
- **Church-based Social Capital, Networks and Geographical Scale- Katrina evacuation, relocation, and recovery in a New Orleans Vietnamese American community:** This study examines the role of social capital and networks to explain the evacuation, relocation, and recovery experiences of a Vietnamese American community in New Orleans, Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
- **The Eye of the Storm: How the Government and Private Response to Hurricane Katrina Failed Latinos:** This advocacy piece discusses the reluctance of immigrants to ask for preparedness or recovery help and explores opportunities to utilize FBOs as an avenue to prepare diverse communities for disasters.
- **Hurricane Recovery: Federal Government Provided a Range of Assistance to Non-profits following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita:** This GAO report to Congressional requesters describes how the federal government worked with FBOs and CBOs to facilitate recovery efforts following hurricanes Katrina and Rita as well as steps being taken to address challenges and strengthen relationships.
- **Faith-Based and Community Organizations' Participation in Emergency Preparedness and Response Activities:** This report, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, provides a review of studies to assess the capacity of FBOs and CBOs to meet community needs before, during, and after disasters and increase engagement and collaboration.



New Articles & Promising Practices:

- **Culturally-Specific Populations Emergency Communications Project- Project Summary:** This resource provides a summary of a pilot project implemented in Multnomah County, Oregon to improve community health and preparedness through culturally competent risk communication and partnerships with CBOs and FBOs.
- **Korean Fire Evacuees Turn to Churches:** This article discusses the role of churches and local businesses in serving the Korean community following the 2007 Southern California wildfires.
- **Red Cross Bolstering Minority Outreach- Recruitment a Priority After Storms Expose Sensitivity Gaps:** This article discusses the efforts of the American Red Cross to partner with FBOs serving diverse communities following Hurricane Katrina.
- **FEMA- Reaching Washington State's Diverse Communities:** This press release describes FEMA's efforts to partner with FBOs to inform Washington State's culturally diverse communities about recovery aid available to those affected by the January 2009 winter storms.
- **Vietnamese Fishermen in Gulf Fight to Not Get Lost in Translation:** This CNN story discusses the integral role of FBOs as service providers, community advocates, and liaisons to Vietnamese fishermen who had been affected by the Gulf Coast oil spill.

Below are links to current initiatives, upcoming events, as well as recently published reports and articles.

Initiatives, Events & Training:

2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit

February 22-25, 2011

Atlanta, GA

The Summit is one of the largest meetings of public health, emergency management, and other professionals to share their best practice training models, tools, or other resources that advance the field of public health preparedness. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

2011 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit

May 1-5

Grapevine, Texas

The 2011 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit aims to provide a forum for conducting training, discussing issues, sharing information, and networking amongst the constituent groups of various national-level organizations involved in preparing for and responding to public health and medical emergency events. Abstracts are being accepted until February 1, 2011. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

World Conference on Disaster Management

July 19-22, 2011

Toronto, Canada

The theme of the 2011 World Conference on Disaster Management is targeted to practitioners from a wide range of sectors working in emergency management and response and focuses on a variety of topics, including risk communication and community resilience. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

Guidance for Risk Communicators in Collaborating with Faith- Based African American Communities for Pandemic Flu Preparedness

This series of videos from the Southern Center for Communication, Health & Poverty provides expertise from those conducting public information/risk communication with African American faith-based communities. To access the videos [CLICK HERE](#).

"Inclusive" Just-In-Time Tools

The NACCHO Advanced Practice Center of Multnomah County, Oregon has developed a series of just-in-time training and education tools that incorporate issues pertaining to culture and language. One of the trainings is focused on **mass prophylaxis/POD operations** and the other on **public health investigations**. A **white paper** on the conceptual constructs of the inclusive just-in-time training approach is also available.

Recent Publications:

Racial Disparities in Exposure, Susceptibility, and Access to Health Care in the US H1N1 Influenza

This article, recently appearing in the *American Journal of Public Health*, presents the finding of a nationally representative survey to examine racial/ethnic disparities in H1N1 exposure, susceptibility to complications, and access to health care during the H1N1 influenza pandemic. To access the article [CLICK HERE](#).

Annual Preparedness Report Features Commentary on Preparedness and Diverse Populations

Ready or Not?, a reported released annually by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, featured a commentary on strategies and priorities for meeting the needs of racially and ethnically diverse populations across all phases of an emergency. The report uses a series of indicators and metrics to grade and rank all 50 states and DC on their level of preparedness. To view the full report [CLICK HERE](#).



Voices from the Field: Just-in-Time Training Tools Address Cultural Awareness in Local Preparedness Efforts

**By: Aron Stephens, MPH
Program Developer
Advanced Practice Center
Multnomah County Health Department**

"Public health programs and policies should incorporate a variety of approaches that anticipate and respect diverse values, beliefs and cultures in the community"—it's one of **12 Principles of the Ethical Practice of Public Health** listed in the document developed by the Public Health Leadership Society in 2002, and it's a value seemingly ubiquitous to traditional public health practice. Yet, within the burgeoning discipline of public health preparedness, it's a standard seeking to find its footing amidst a climate of ever-changing and developing strategy and direction. As the federal government continues to determine how to most effectively position and measure the impact of preparedness amidst other public health disciplines, health departments are working autonomously to enhance and strengthen this area of service at the local level.

With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the Advanced Practice Center (APC) at Multnomah County Health Department (Portland, Ore.) has developed new resources, which allow local health departments to train staff and volunteers in responding to public health emergencies in a more culturally sensitive and thoughtful way. A staff allocation decision making guide as well as two Inclusive Just-in-Time Training (I-JITT) tool kits have been developed for preparedness leaders and training staff to enhance current workforce training programs. Using the I-JITT model, the tool kits developed enhance traditional JITT programs by allowing preparedness leaders and trainers to better meet the intellectual, behavioral and emotional needs of responders, while acknowledging learning styles and the cultural context of a response environment.

Voices from the Field: (Cont.)

The model, developed in partnership with Dr. Christine Cress of Portland State University and the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (Seattle, Wash.), pays close attention to the affective--or emotional--needs of responders, as well as cultural considerations of a response. Sparse empirical research in this area combined with a lack of culturally focused resources available to the preparedness community served as the impetus for the creation of these resources.

The Multnomah County APC is currently working with other health departments to apply and evaluate each of it's tools over the next program year. "The goal is to better understand how our tool kits can strengthen JITT programs across the country, and how to improve them", says Beth McGinnis, APC Program Supervisor. "It would be exciting to see that our tool kits are having a positive impact in addressing the culture gap within the field of preparedness."

Twelve health departments have lined up to help evaluate the tool kits so far, with one department undergoing an extensive 12 month application and evaluation process. Clark County Public Health, a mid-sized health department in Vancouver, Wash., utilized the I-JITT Tool Kit for Mass Prophylaxis/Point of Dispensing (POD) Operations in a recent exercise, and feels that the tool kit not only has the potential to help responders work with culturally specific groups, but also to help address culture within the training environment.

Maria Maribona, Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator for Clark County believes, "The beauty of Inclusive JITT is that it allows for effective dialog and health education with diverse emergency responders through the use of interactive training methods. Adults learn and feel confident of their learning, by doing. I-JITT allows the trainer to address learning styles and responder needs as well as the cultural context. It's a win-win."

Each APC tool has been vetted and evaluated by local, regional and national subject matter experts to ensure it meets certain criteria. Many reviewers offered substantive feedback related to enhancing the cultural component of the I-JITT tool kits, which was considered. Users of the I-JITT tool kits will find a section of the training curricula devoted entirely to culture that includes sample language to help trainers deliver information about language barriers, conflict resolution, organizational culture and more.

The demographics of the nation's communities and the public health workforce continue to shift, requiring additional robust tools and resources for dealing with changing dynamics of the response environment. Lessons learned from past disasters, such as the Gulf Coast's experience with the inequities of Hurricane Katrina, underscore the need for more culturally sensitive preparation and operational tactics. Maribona states, "We used the toolkit with our Medical Reserve Corps and evaluations indicated that it was the best training to date. We plan to have the toolkit printed and added to our Go-Kits."

*Multnomah County APC toolkits can be downloaded and ordered from the NACCHO APC Web site. Questions or inquiries can be directed to Aron Stephens, MPH, Program APC Program Developer at aron.stephens@multco.us or 503.988.3663 x23325.

We encourage you to share the [National Resource Center](#) with your peers and colleagues and welcome you to link to the website. Please also feel free to e-mail your comments and any feedback to our team. We look forward to working with you to making this site a resourceful and useful tool in advancing the preparedness of our nation's diverse communities.

Sincerely,

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