

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE
Health and Medicine Division
Board on Health Sciences Policy

Public Sessions of the Committee on Best Practices for Assessing Mortality and Significant Morbidity Following Large-Scale Disasters

Public Agenda
October 7 – 8, 2019

DAY 1
Town of Paradise
Paradise Town Hall
5555 Skyway Road
Paradise, CA 95969

DAY 1
Butte County Health
Department
202 Mira Loma Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

DAY 2
Sacramento County Office of
Emergency Services
3720 Dudley Blvd
McClellan Park, CA 95659

Committee Statement of Task

An ad hoc committee will conduct a review and assessment of the current state of the field and best practices in assessing and quantifying mortality and significant morbidity following large-scale disasters, with a specific focus on disasters declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The purpose of this study is to describe the current landscape of mortality and significant morbidity data collection and information sharing processes used by state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) public health agencies, and to propose areas for future resource investment to enhance these practices. In identifying and evaluating best practices and resources, the committee will focus on those applicable to SLTT public health preparedness and response practitioners.

Specifically, the committee will:

- Describe the importance of mortality and significant morbidity data after disaster impact, their use, and the organizations that capture these data or could benefit from use of the data.
- Describe the current architecture, methodologies, and information systems currently in use or available to SLTT public health agencies for the sharing and reporting of this data, highlighting the diversity of processes and identifying potential best practices. In doing so, the committee may consider current guidance for attributing deaths directly and indirectly to a specific disaster, the role of information technology systems, including limitations, and continuity mechanisms to ensure continued data collection in a post-impact environment.
- Identify current challenges to collecting, recording, and reporting mortality and significant morbidity data after disasters, including, as feasible, challenges related to lack of standardization for data collection and disaster attribution, coordination, and training. This shall include an analysis of timing for attribution of death to a specific incident (e.g. acute, delayed) and potential impacts on individuals and organizations.
- Identify best practices for collecting, recording, and reporting mortality and significant morbidity data after disasters, and recommend priority areas of emphasis and allocation of

resources to enhance SLTT mortality and significant morbidity data collection and reporting after disasters, considering feasibility, sustainability and impact to SLTT and healthcare organizations.

- Review analytic approaches and statistical methods for disaster-related mortality and significant morbidity and identify best practices for conducting prospective tracking and retrospective studies.

This study is intended to focus on non-infectious disease related disasters (e.g. hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.) as defined in the Stafford Act. Syndromic surveillance, long-term surveillance and surveillance of responders are outside the scope of this study.

Workshop Objectives:

- **Conduct site visit in Paradise, California.**
- **Hold formal public information gathering sessions with town officials and engage in informal discussions with local residents and business owners in Paradise and Butte County.**
- **Conduct background discussions on topics relevant to the statement of task and define areas for future recommendations and conclusions.**
- **Identify the uses for collecting mortality and morbidity data during or immediately following a large-scale disaster (real-time), as well as following the disaster and prior to the next disaster (inter-disaster period).**
- **Describe the current systems, capabilities, and challenges at state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) levels for collecting and reporting mortality and morbidity data both during and following a large-scale disaster.**
- **Discuss the different methodological approaches to quantifying mortality and morbidity given the available data sources. Identify the benefits and drawbacks of different methods, and considerations for determining which method to use in a given situation.**
- **Propose areas for future resource investments to enhance systems and capabilities at the SLTT level to better collect, report, and quantify mortality and morbidity data during and following large-scale disasters.**

DAY 1: October 7, 2019
OPEN SESSION

Time	Session
SESSION 1: COMMITTEE BREAKFAST	
9:00 – 10:00am	<u>Moderator:</u> Ellen Mackenzie, Committee Chair, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health <u>Panelists:</u> Sacramento County Coroner Kimberly Gin will join the committee breakfast to discuss her office’s work during the Camp Fire in Paradise.
10:00am	ADJOURN and DEPART for Paradise
SESSION 2: PARADISE TOWN HALL	
1:00 – 2:30pm	<u>Moderator:</u> Ellen Mackenzie, Committee Chair, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health <u>Panelists:</u> Various representatives from the fire department, law enforcement, healthcare providers and administrators, civil leaders, town hall staff, and key community members will come discuss their experiences during the Camp Fire in Paradise.
2:45pm	ADJOURN and DEPART for Butte County
SESSION 3: BUTTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	
3:15 – 4:45pm	<u>Moderator:</u> Ellen Mackenzie, Committee Chair, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health <u>Panelists:</u> Various representatives from the fire department, law enforcement, healthcare providers and administrators, civil leaders, town hall staff, and key community members will come discuss their experiences during the Camp Fire in Paradise.
5:00pm	ADJOURN and DEPART for Sacramento

DAY 2: October 8, 2019
OPEN SESSION

Time	Session
SESSION 4: COMMITTEE LUNCH	
12:30 – 1:30pm	<u>Moderator:</u> Ellen Mackenzie, Committee Chair, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health <u>Panelists:</u> Sacramento County Coroner Kimberly Gin and Health Program Coordinator Hannah Aalborg will join the committee lunch to continue discussions their office’s work during the Camp Fire in Paradise.
1:30pm	ADJOURN Open Session