

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

**Committee on Best Practices in Assessing Mortality and Significant
Morbidity Following Large-Scale Disasters**

Webinar: Methodological Considerations for Estimating
Excess Mortality and Morbidity

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020
2:30–4:00pm ET**

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on Best Practices for Assessing Mortality and Significant Morbidity Following Large-Scale Disasters is hosting this webinar as part of the committee's broader effort to learn from the perspectives of researchers who are using excess mortality to assess disaster impact. The committee's statement of task can be found on the last page of this agenda. Rather than the findings from the research, the committee is specifically interested in learning more about the methodological challenges researchers face in conducting such research and how these challenges can be addressed, including:

1. Critical assumptions that must be made and what is needed to make better informed assumptions.
2. The identification of accurate baseline data and coping with a lack of baseline data.
3. The selection of exposed and comparison populations across different disaster contexts, determinations of which outcomes to measure (including causes of death and morbidity), when to measure them, and for how long.
4. Selection of statistical methods when using large databases that lead to more precise estimates
5. Addressing privacy and confidential concerns and other barriers to data sharing and use
6. Potential roles that researchers can play to support state and local stakeholders and federal policy makers in analyzing morbidity and mortality data.
7. Recommendations on what is needed (resources, tools, partnerships, etc.) to develop more accurate and timely estimates of disaster impact.

2:30 pm	Welcome and Panel Introduction <i>Michael Stoto</i> , Georgetown University, Committee Member <i>Sue Anne Bell</i> , University of Michigan, Committee Member
2:40 pm	Panel Presentations <i>Scott Zeger</i> , Johns Hopkins University [accepted] <i>Troy Quast</i> , University of South Florida [accepted]
3:00 pm	Discussion with Committee
4:30 pm	Adjourn Webinar

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.

Call in details:

Time: Feb 18, 2020 2:30 PM Eastern

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://nasem.zoom.us/j/984765734>

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16465588656,,984765734# or +16699006833,,984765734#

Or Telephone:

US: +1 646 558 8656 or or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free)

Meeting ID: 984 765 734

International numbers available: <https://nasem.zoom.us/j/984765734>