

Data and Situational Awareness for Medical and Public Health Preparedness and Response A Workshop Series

Virtual | July 16, 21, 28, 2026 | 12:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. ET
In-Person Capstone Session | September 23, 2026 | 8:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. ET



Workshop Series Overview

The overall aim of this workshop is to examine how data can be used to support situational awareness and inform decision-making for medical and public health preparedness and response.

1. **Examine human and behavioral factors that influence decision-making in crisis**, including how decisions are made under conditions of uncertainty.
2. **Consider data gaps and blind spots affecting underrepresented and at-risk populations**, and how these limitations influence situational awareness and decision-making during disasters and emergencies.
3. **Assess current data systems, sources, governance structures, and approaches for establishing and maintaining a common operating picture** to support situational awareness, including challenges related to data quality and quantity, availability, interoperability, privacy, and security.
4. **Explore how data are translated into actionable information for decision-makers** across public health, healthcare, emergency management, and related sectors, including how data inform the execution, evaluation, and continuous refinement of decisions over the course of a response.
5. **Identify opportunities to strengthen data-driven situational awareness and cross-sector coordination** to support more effective preparedness and response and highlight future systems and structures that support resilient, adaptive, and usable decision-making during disasters and emergencies.

[Webinar 1 \(July 16\): Behavioral Decision-Making](#)

[Webinar 2 \(July 21\): Data Systems, Reliability, and Governance](#)

[Webinar 3 \(July 28\): Decision-Makers and Operationalization](#)

[Capstone Session \(September 23\): From Data to Action: Exploring Frameworks for Decision-Making](#)

Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies

This workshop series is being convened under the auspices of the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies, a standing activity of the National Academies. The Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies provides a neutral venue to identify and elevate critical issues in medical and public health emergency preparedness and response proactively—with a focus on bridging the gaps between research, policy, and practice. The Forum fosters in-depth discussion and collaboration to examine barriers, identify research, explore innovative operational and policy solutions, and inspire action among stakeholders in support of sustaining and advancing health security. Formed in 2007, the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies convenes and engages leaders at federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels

Staff Contact Information

Lisa M. Brown, M.P.H., Senior Program Officer lbrown@nas.edu

Learn more about our work here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/forum-on-medical-and-public-health-preparedness-for-disasters-and-emergencies>