The National Academies of
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Health and Medicine Division
Board on Health Sciences Policy

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

Public Agenda

NAS Building, Room 120
2101 Constitution Ave NW
Washington DC 20418

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:

- **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: August 29, 2019

OPEN SESSION

Time	Session
9:00am	Welcome and Opening Remarks • **Ellen MacKenzie**, Committee Chair, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
SESSION 1: HURRICANE MARIA IN PUERTO RICO – CASE STUDY *90 minutes (5 minutes for opening remarks followed by moderated discussion and Q&A)*	
9:15 – 10:45am	<u>Moderator</u>: **Maureen Lichtveld**, Committee Member, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine <u>Panelists</u>: • **Francisco Murphy Rivera**, Physician, Adjuntas, Puerto Rico • **José Cordero,** Department Head, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Georgia • **Maria M. Juiz Gallego**, Supervisor of the Division of Quality Assurance, Demographic Registry of Puerto Rico • **Judith Mitrani-Reiser**, Director of the Disaster and Failure Studies Program, NIST
10:45 – 11:00 am	**BREAK**
SESSION 2: FLORIDA SYSTEM FOR ASSESSING POST-DISASTER MORTALITY AND SIGNIFICANT MORBIDITY – CASE STUDY *90 minutes (5 minutes for opening remarks followed by moderated discussion and Q&A)*	
11:00am – 12:30pm	<u>Moderator</u>: **Charles Rothwell**, Committee Member, National Center for Health Statistics (retired) <u>Panelists</u>: • **Carina Blackmore**, State Epidemiologist and Director, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection, Florida Department of Health • **Kenneth Jones**, State Registrar, Florida Department of Health • **Stephen Nelson**, District 10 Medical Examiner and Chairman of the Florida Medical Examiners Commission • **Sandon Speedling**, Health Officer, Florida Department of Health
12:30pm	**LUNCH**

SESSION 3: CURRENT CAPABILITIES IN ASSESSING AND USING MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY DATA IN REAL-TIME DURING A LARGE-SCALE DISASTER *90 minutes (5 minutes for opening remarks followed by moderated discussion and Q&A)*	
1:15 – 2:45pm	<u>Moderator:</u> **Sue Anne Bell**, Committee Member, University of Michigan School of Nursing <u>Panelists:</u> • **Tara Das**, State Registrar, Texas Department of State Health Services • **Edward Kilbane**, Physician-Forensic Pathologist, National Disaster Medical System • **Mac McClendon**, Director of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Harris County Public Health • **Rebecca Noe**, Epidemiologist, Capacity Building Branch, Center for Preparedness and Response, CDC
2:45 – 3:00pm	**BREAK**
SESSION 4: CURRENT CAPABILITIES IN ASSESSING AND USING MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY DATA DURING THE INTER-DISASTER PERIOD *90 minutes (5 minutes for opening remarks followed by moderated discussion and Q&A)*	
3:00 – 4:30pm	<u>Moderator:</u> **W. Craig Vanderwagen**, Committee Member, East West Protection <u>Panelists:</u> • **Dee Ann Bagwell**, Policy and Planning Director, LA County Department of Public Health • **Carla Britton**, Senior Epidemiologist, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium • **Devin George**, State Registrar, Louisiana Department of Health • **Amy Davidow**, Associate Professor, Rutgers School of Public Health • **Chesley Richards**, Deputy Director for Public Health Science and Surveillance, CDC
4:30pm	**ADJOURN Open Session**

DAY 2: August 30, 2019

OPEN SESSION

Time	Session
8:30am	Welcome and Opening Remarks • **Ellen MacKenzie**, Committee Chair, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
SESSION 5: LOOKING FORWARD – BEST PRACTICES AND TOOLS FOR ASSESSING AND USING MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY DATA DURING A LARGE-SCALE DISASTER IN REAL-TIME *90 minutes (5 minutes for opening remarks followed by moderated discussion and Q&A)*	
8:45 – 10:15am	Moderator: **Richard Serino**, Committee Member, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Panelists: • **Tegan Boehmer**, Chief, Health Studies Section, National Center for Environmental Health, CDC • **Kelly Baker**, Registrar, Vital Records, Oklahoma State Department of Health • **Frank DePaolo**, Deputy Commissioner for Forensic Operations, City of New York
10:15 – 10:30am	**BREAK**
SESSION 6: LOOKING FORWARD – BEST PRACTICES AND TOOLS FOR ASSESSING AND USING MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY DATA DURING THE INTER-DISASTER PERIOD *90 minutes (5 minutes for opening remarks followed by moderated discussion and Q&A)*	
10:30am – 12:00pm	Moderator: **Elizabeth Frankenberg**, Committee Member, University of North Carolina Panelists: • **Steven Schwartz**, Director, Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC • **Umair Shah**, Director, Harris County Public Health • **Skip Skivington**, Vice President of Health Care Continuity Management and Support Services, Kaiser Permanente • **Kevin Yeskey**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, ASPR
PUBLIC COMMENT *30 minute session*	

12:00 – 12:30pm	Moderator: **Ellen MacKenzie**, Committee Chair, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
	• Members of the public are invited to sign up to provide comments on the workshop topic (3 minutes each)
12:30pm	**ADJOURN Open Session**