

Understanding and Responding to the Needs of Children After Large-Scale Disasters

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast

Thursday, May 22, 2008 • 12:00-1:30 p.m. (Central Time)

1:00-2:30 p.m. (Eastern) • 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Mountain) • 10:00-11:30 a.m. (Pacific)



As communities across the country are planning and preparing their responses to large-scale disasters (natural, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive), special attention needs to be paid to populations considered at high-risk for negative consequences. One of the highest risk groups is children. By understanding the emotional needs of children in the face of these traumatic events, preparations can be made that will improve outcomes and promote resilience.

Disasters can leave children feeling frightened, confused, and insecure. Whether a child has personally experienced trauma, has merely seen the event on television, or has heard it discussed by adults, it is important that healthcare professionals be informed and ready to help if reactions to stress begin to occur.

Children may respond to disasters by demonstrating fears, sadness, or behavioral problems. Younger children may return to earlier behavior patterns, such as bedwetting, sleep problems, and separation anxiety. Older children may also display anger, aggression, school problems, or withdrawal. Some children who have only indirect contact with the disaster but witness it on television may develop distress.

During this conference, faculty will discuss how children may respond to traumatic events, with a focus on CBRNE incidents. Ideas for interventions, including a new model of Psychological First Aid will be presented. Finally, recommendations for preparation considerations will be explored.

Program Objectives:

1. Discuss at least three reactions children may have after a traumatic event.
2. List at least two ways that CBRNE events may increase concerns for children and their caregivers.
3. Describe the components of Psychological First Aid important to increasing resilience in children after traumatic events.
4. Discuss a continuum of care model for children from triage to evidenced-based interventions after traumatic events.

Faculty:

Robin H. Gurwitch, PhD

Professor, Department of Pediatrics
University of Oklahoma Health
Sciences Center
National Center for School
Crisis and Bereavement
National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Conference Details:

Target Audience: Individuals involved in preparing and responding to large-scale disasters, including professionals in health and mental health, public health, education and first responders.

Registration: www.adph.org/alphn

CEUs: None for this program

Satellite Technical Information: Ku & C bands

Webcast Access: On the day of the program, go to www.adph.org/alphn and click on the "view webcast" link.

Conference Materials: Posted on ADPH website approximately one week before the program.

Conference Details Questions: Call 334-206-5618 • Email: alphn@adph.state.al.us

PROGRAM FORMAT:

You are invited to join an in-depth question and answer session hosted faculty from the South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness. The content of the discussion will be determined by you. Your questions will be answered live as they are received throughout the broadcast.

You can email your questions in advance to: alphnquestions@adph.state.al.us

The South Central Center for Public Health Preparedness is a partnership of the state health departments in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi and the Schools of Public Health at UAB and Tulane University, with funding from the CDC.