Research Priorities for Eliminating Disparities Related to Violence and Disasters: Value of Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration

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Overview

- Health disparities and vulnerable populations
- Advancing the Nation's Health: A Guide to Public Health Research Needs, 2006-2015:
 - Health disparities research priorities related to violence and disasters in vulnerable populations
- Role of collaboration in accelerating elimination of health disparities: Federal Collaboration on Health Disparities Research (FCHDR)
- FCHDR related research priorities related to disasters and violence in vulnerable populations





Health Disparities and Vulnerable Populations: Problem and Need for Action

- Health disparities can be observed across many subpopulations and conditions
- Individuals who experience disparities by race, ethnicity, age, gender, geography, or disability status are especially vulnerable
- Disparities in healthcare access and quality of care may be exacerbated during emergencies
- Anthrax, SARS and Hurricane Katrina suggest that real or perceived injustice may impede acceptance and effectiveness of response efforts
- Vulnerable populations may disproportionately suffer during emergency events



Vulnerable Populations

- Pregnant women
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons with chronic diseases
- Persons with HIV/AIDS, TB, or Hepatitis
- Inmates of prisons and jails
- Homeless persons
- Immigrants and refugees
- Poor, single-parent families, and public housing residents
- Migrant-, farm-, and other low-wage workers
- Racial and ethnic minority populations
- Tribes of Indian Country
- Other vulnerable populations



Source: Protecting Vulnerable Populations, **CDC Pandemic Influenza Overview For DEOC/Field Staff 26 January 2007**, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Illustration of Vulnerability

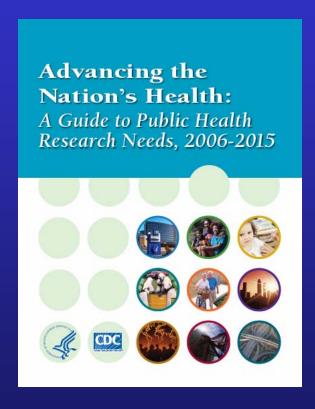
"Long before the storm hit before the waters rose and the winds descended, this was a vulnerable population...Many young people, elderly, very poor people who lived together didn't have access to health care or had very poor health care. The educational infrastructure was eroded significantly. So when you put all that together, the poor, the black and vulnerable were already poor, black and vulnerable long before the hurricane hit. Many are persistently poor, structurally unequal people living in conditions of squalor".



Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Author, Professor, comments regarding New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina, Recovery documentary, Courtesy of 1211 Productions



Advancing The Nation's Health: A Guide To Public Health Research Needs, 2006-2015



Tool to help build and strengthen public health research needed to achieve health impact



Source: Advancing the nation's health: A guide to public health research needs, 2006–2015, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/PHResearch/cdcra/index.htm



Health Disparities in the Research Guide

- All research themes evaluated for relevance to health disparities
- Includes separate section on specific examples of priority research for health disparities
 - Burden of Disease, Social Determinants of Health, Health Disparities Prevention and Elimination
- Addresses four fundamental research domains
 - Surveillance, Measures, Translation, Community-based Participatory Research
- Specific health disparities topics also included in selected chapters





Research Guide Priorities for Vulnerable Populations

- Identify, measure, and understand the factors and dynamic processes that influence the vulnerability of defined community populations
- Describe and explain how diverse communities detect, interpret, respond to, and communicate perceived and actual public health threats
- Identify, develop and evaluate strategies and policies to prevent, mitigate, and treat adverse health effects
- Identify, evaluate, and model the components of risk, including hazards, vulnerabilities, and resources

Source: Advancing the nation's health: A guide to public health research needs, 2006–2015. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC





Research Priorities for Vulnerable Populations (Cont'd)

- Evaluate community-based mental-health care aimed to assist people in coping with the consequences of various public health emergencies
- Identify models to incorporate pre-existing dynamics, exposures, and other conditions within vulnerable communities that influence the probability and severity of negative outcomes during an event
- Identify and evaluate alternative partners that can be relied on to help coordinate public health functions and reach minority populations and communities
- Identify specific risk factors associated with fatal and nonfatal injuries, and develop and evaluate interventions for reducing such injuries



Source: Research Examples from *Advancing the nation's health: A guide to public health research needs*, 2006–2015. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Research Priorities for Vulnerable Populations (Cont'd)

- Understand how ongoing and multiple risk or protective factors and dynamic processes interact to affect vulnerability and/or resilience before, during, and after public health emergencies
- Explore approaches to effectively intervene in the mechanisms or pathways that link socio-cultural, physical, psychological, preexisting health, and economic characteristics to community vulnerabilities during public health emergencies to reduce negative outcomes
- Examine risk and protective factors associated with injury and risktaking behavior, particularly among adolescents and other vulnerable populations that are most impacted by injury
- Develop interventions that modify environments and behaviors to reduce the leading causes of unintentional injury in vulnerable populations

Source: Research Examples from *Advancing the nation's health: A guide to public health research needs*, 2006–2015. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Call for Collaboration

- Complex, challenging issues call for
 - New or improved solutions to eliminate health disparities through research, practice and policy
 - Interdisciplinary approaches
 - Partnerships across the federal government
 - Partnerships with researchers and practitioners in the field





Collaboration to Accelerate the Elimination of Health Disparities

"Research ... to identify evidence-based strategies to prevent and eliminate health disparities in the 21st century must be planned, overseen, and conducted through the collaborative efforts of public health experts worldwide"





Source: Advancing the nation's health: A guide to public health research needs, 2006–2015. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC



Federal Collaboration on Health Disparities Research (FCHDR)

- CDC, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Public Health Science, Office of Minority Health, formed the Federal Collaboration on Health Disparities Research (FCHDR) to explore the complex nature of health disparities and the role research could play in advancing health disparity elimination results and efforts
- FCHDR is an outgrowth of broader HHS efforts to coordinate research and data, and CDC's efforts to promote research using Advancing the Nation's Health: A Guide to Public Health Research Needs, 2006–2015 and CDC's Health Protection Goals, all of which emphasize eliminating health disparities





FCHDR Accomplishments

- Held four meetings with Federal Partners between May 24, 2006 and September 17, 2007 involving up to 11 federal departments or federal agencies and over 100 scientists and managers
- Identified and prioritized over 165 health disparities research priorities
- Selected the top four research focus areas for collaboration:
 - Systems-wide approach to reducing obesity
 - Co-morbidities and multiple chronic conditions
 - Culturally appropriate access to mental health care
 - Built environment and vulnerable populations





FCHDR Accomplishments (Cont'd)

- Engaged non-federal partners in discussions on strategies to eliminate health disparities
- Identified Co-Leads for FCHDR: U.S. Department of Human Services (HHS), Office of Public Health Science (OPHS), Health Disparities Council and Interagency Committee on Disabilities Research in the U.S. Department of Education
- Formalized Steering Committee, FCHDR structure, and conditionally adopted FCHDR charter
- Identified an organizational home in HHS, OPHS, Health Disparities Council
- Identified dedicated staff and resources within HHS/Office of Minority Health to sustain the work started as a result of the two initiatives







Agencies Involved in FCHDR to Date

Department of Health and Human Services

- Office of the Secretary*
 - Office of Public Health and Science*
 - Office of Minority Health*
 - Office on Women's Health*
 - Office for Civil Rights*
- Administration for Children and Families
- Administration on Aging
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality*
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry*
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
- Center for Medicaid Services*
- Food and Drug Administration*
- Health Resource Services Administration*
- National Institutes of Health*
- Indian Health Service*
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*
- **Department of Agriculture***

- Department of Housing and Urban Development*
- Department of Commerce
 - Census Bureau
- Department of Education*
 - National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research*
- Department of Justice*
 - National Institute of Corrections*
 - National Institute of Justice*
 - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*
- Department of Labor
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- Department of Transportation
 - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency*
- Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Veterans Health Administration*



*current collaborative participants



FCHDR Research Priorities for Vulnerable Populations

- Research response operations to reduce disparities (issues of planning, conducting exercises, the displacement of populations, and countermeasure delivery)
- Investigate hazard impact mitigation (i.e., primary prevention)
- Examine ways to evaluate and develop interventions to mitigate impact of hazard exposures
- Assess and develop research infrastructure and training capacity
- Investigate community-based participatory research on vulnerable populations for known hazards



Source: FCHDR May 2006 Meeting Summary Report



FCHDR Research Priorities for Vulnerable Populations (Cont'd)

- Assess the impact of armed conflict and other complex humanitarian emergencies on children and other vulnerable populations
- Examine and identify percentage of populations exposed to a life-changing event who can be affected by post-traumaticstress disorder
- Investigate community-based participatory research on vulnerable populations for known hazards
- Improve the understanding of trauma across the life span as a factor in physical and mental health

Source: FCHDR May 2006 Meeting Summary Report





FCHDR Next Steps

- Develop first year and 90 day action plans
- Create 3-5 year high-level plan on research priorities and direction
- Develop strategies for collaborating across agencies on Funding Opportunity Announcements for health disparities research
- Draft publications for critical health disparities research areas
- Conduct a meta-analysis of health disparities work to date to improve long-term research tools that can be used for health disparities elimination interventions
- Continue engagement of nonfederal partners to develop strategies for identifying and funding opportunities





Keys to Successful Research Collaboration

- Buy-in at the top
- Understanding and flexibility for differences in missions and approaches
- Clear, concise, and personal communication
- Clear structure, resources and organizational support
- Staff and resources needed to sustain collaboration
- Technology for information exchange
- Relationship/team building
- Evidence of early accomplishments
- Based on Systems Thinking approach





For information on FCHDR

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