NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Program
Regardless of the Disaster: Research is Vital!
“Timely research is critical to prevent injury & illness and support recovery”
Lurie, Manolio, Patterson, Collins, Frieden. NEJM Mar 2013

Exposures / Stressors

Health Risks & Effects

Recurrent Critical Research Needs

Value of Interventions

Ecosystem Effects
Need for Public Health & Earth Sciences Research

• Is it safe?
  – For whom, what, when, and where
  – Longer-term physical & mental health impacts
  – Safety of homes, residences, work places

• Did our strategies work?
  – Protect the public for the long-term
  – Restore the environment
  – Improve preparedness & recovery
Widespread Contamination
Complex Mixed Exposures

Study: 27,500 Responders*
- Asthma 28%
- Sinusitis 42%
- Lung Tests 42%
- PTSD 9%
- Panic 8%
- Depression 28%

NIH Disaster Research Response (DR2) Project

Objectives

1. Identification of important research questions and priorities
2. Improved access to data collection tools for researchers
3. Improved NIEHS & partner capability to quickly collect data
4. Trained researchers versed in disaster tools and issues
5. Integration into planning and emergency response systems
6. Research process including public health, academia, and impacted workers and communities
Examples:
- NAS Rapid Workshops
- DOI SSG
- Gov’t & NGO Experts

Research Issue Identification & Prioritization

Process Barriers

Infrastructure Barriers

Relationships Coordination Engagement

Data collection
- Samples & Medical Tests
- Logistics
- Training

Funding
- IRB & OMB
- Site Access

Integration into NRF
- Research Networks
- Community partners
NIH Disaster Research Response Program

Tools & Resources
- A searchable database of federally reviewed research tools including surveys, questionnaires, clinical forms, etc., meant to help establish baselines and cohorts for research following disasters. Click for more.

Training & Exercises
- Training and Exercise materials designed and utilized to prepare scientists to conduct research in the post-disaster field environment. Materials are now available for nationwide researcher and disaster planner use.

Protocols
- An NIH initiative to develop pre-approved research study protocols and research design templates. These tools will be available for use in the planning and rapid implementation of time-sensitive data collection and research after a disaster. Research study protocols will undergo IRB and CMB review and approval for immediate use after an event.

Networks
- The Environmental Health Science Disaster Research Network is a new group consisting of NIEMS-sponsored research centers, grantees, and academic partners interested in facilitating improved national research capabilities and responding to environmental emergencies and disasters.

Collaborations & Projects
- Information on initiatives to advance disaster research capabilities across the federal government including:
  - HHS Science Preparedness Research Intra-agency Team (SPIRT)
  - NIOSH Disaster Science Research Initiative to Enhance Responder Safety & Health
  - Intra-NIH Disaster Interest Group (DIG)

News & Events
- Click for a full list of upcoming Disaster Research Response (DR2) events as well as summaries and archived materials from past events.
  - Next Event: Interagency Federal Partners meeting, January 16, 2015, 1:00 p.m., Natcher Center, Room D, NIH, Bethesda, MD

Research Responder Training & Education

- **Training & Education** “those involved in research/data collection”
  1. National response plans and HHS mechanisms
  2. Training to use DR2 and other data collections tools, protocols, etc.
  3. Site/Situation Specific Health and Safety Issues

- **Training Exercises** on identified scenarios and issues

**Training Exercises**

- 2014 Los Angeles & 2015 Houston

- Participants: federal, state, local, academia and community, industry

- Evaluate State and partner research capabilities & DR2 concepts & training tools

- Discussion: integration & issues of concern
DR2 Outreach, Implementation, & Integration with Partners
Environmental Health Science (EHS) Network

**What:** working with our partners to…

- Help develop and prioritize DR2 concepts, tools, website, training materials
- Build off acute response “Public Health Practice” (surveillance, x-sectional surveys)
- Get timely environmental exposure and toxicology data to support health research

**Who:**

- **New EHS Network Workgroup**
  - NIEHS Training Program, Academic Centers, & Grantees
- **Federal Partners (HHS Agencies and Others)**
- **Other Stakeholders**
  - Public Health, Responders, & Community (incl. “citizen science”)
THANK YOU!

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DR2 Project Webpage