

**Report 83: Health Impacts from Disasters with Emphasis on Vulnerable Populations**

**Convener:** Beverly Wright

**Brief History:**

The expectation that the impact of climate change will increase extreme weather events will result in more frequent and intense natural disasters with climate justice implications and the political climate supporting lacked enforcement of regulations will result in increased man-made/ industrial accidents requires that public health play a stronger role in response.

**Discussion Highlights:**

A major deterrent to the establishment of a response protocol that protects the public health is the lack of historical data to inform the rational design of an appropriate response. It seems that the action plan after a natural/man-made disaster or industrial accident occurs after the incident occurs. The discussion focused on the development of capacity at NIEHS to address these issues.

**Recommendations:**

**Build mechanisms for the purposes of conducting rapid response assessments in response to natural and man-made disasters.**

- A. Perform evaluation of previous disaster preparedness and response outcomes in order to determine needs and data gaps for development of protocol for future use by NIEHS
- B. Interagency workgroup w/ NIH, CDC, FEMA, NOAA, DOD w/ intramural and extramural for disaster research response
- C. Create MOUs focusing on communities that are susceptible and vulnerable that require rapid response capacity. This will necessitate both NIEHS interagency working group, intramural and extramural program working with these communities (i.e. PARTERSHIPS-HBCUs/MSIs, 501 (c) community organizations)
- D. Extend the reach of NOAA and NASAs capacity to local/community levels towards enhancing disaster preparedness
- E. Funding of regional centers modeled after National Hazard Centers (i.e. risk communication)

Conduct vulnerability assessments to determine probable risks for disaster response

GIS mapping of risk data.

**Discussion Participants:**

Beverly Wright	Darryl B. Hood	Wendy Thomas	Richard Dennison
Sacoby Wilson	Tom Sinks	John Balbus	Richard Kwok
Joseph Hughes			