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Catastrophic Disasters: *The Way Forward: Getting There Together*

July 20, 2007



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Roles and Responsibilities

- ◆ **Responsibility for health and mental health care rests with the jurisdictional governmental authority**
- ◆ **Red Cross role is to supplement the existing health care delivery system**



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Red Cross & Healthcare Systems Interface

- ◆ **Three structural levels**
 - **Local chapters (800)**
 - **Service Areas (8)**
 - **National Headquarters**

- ◆ **Red Cross interfaces with jurisdictional entities**
 - **Health & mental health departments**
 - **Other health & mental health care providers**
 - **Professional associations**



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Red Cross Role in the National Response Plan (under Revision)

- ◆ **ESF 6, Mass Care, Housing and Human Services**
 - Feeding
 - Sheltering
 - Bulk Distribution
 - Welfare Information

- ◆ **ESF 8, Public Health & Medical Services**
 - Provides emergency first aid
 - Supportive Counseling
 - Augments community health personnel, if able
 - Provide non health professional personnel if able
 - Provides health information to those affected by the disaster



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Collaboration in Planning and Preparedness

- ◆ **Agreements/memorandums of understanding**
- ◆ **Working collaboratively to develop disaster response plans**
 - Clarifies who does what to whom
 - Decreases silos and assumptions
 - Maximizes coverage/resources and reduces duplication
- ◆ **Joint participation in community/state/national drills**



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Existing Governmental Partnerships

- ◆ **Centers for Disease Control**
 - Existing MOU since 1987
 - Health surveillance & reporting during disasters
 - Preparedness Today”, co branded website, for terrorism preparedness education
 - Red Cross liaisons in CDC Ops Center when activated

- ◆ **Department of Health & Human Services**
 - Strategy for meeting medication needs
 - Initial Shelter Health Assessment



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Existing Governmental Partnerships (cont)

- ◆ **US Public Health Service**
 - Human Resources
 - Training
 - Subject Matter Expertise

- ◆ **Medical Reserve Corps**
 - Letter to define levels of response/roles/methods for engagement
 - Human Resources



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Hurricanes Katrina/Rita Surveillance/Public Health Activities

- ◆ **Harvard/Hopkins Field Teams**
 - Public Health Assessment/Shelter Assessment
 - Population-based Cluster Survey/Shelter Nurse Supervisor Survey
 - Public Health Surveillance
 - Health Manager Training
 - Evacuee Education Project
 - Report and Recommendations
- ◆ **ARC Health Record (2077) Analysis**
 - 31,000 Health Records analyzed out of >100,000 records gathered and stored at NHQ



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Harvard/Hopkins Field Teams – Demographics

◆ Shelter Population, Louisiana

- 23% children under 18 (of this, 33% were under 5, 7% were infants)
- 10% over 65 years of age
- Of female evacuees, 4% were known to be pregnant with an additional 3% “unsure but possibly”
- 52% had either no regular health care provider or absolutely no access to a health care provider



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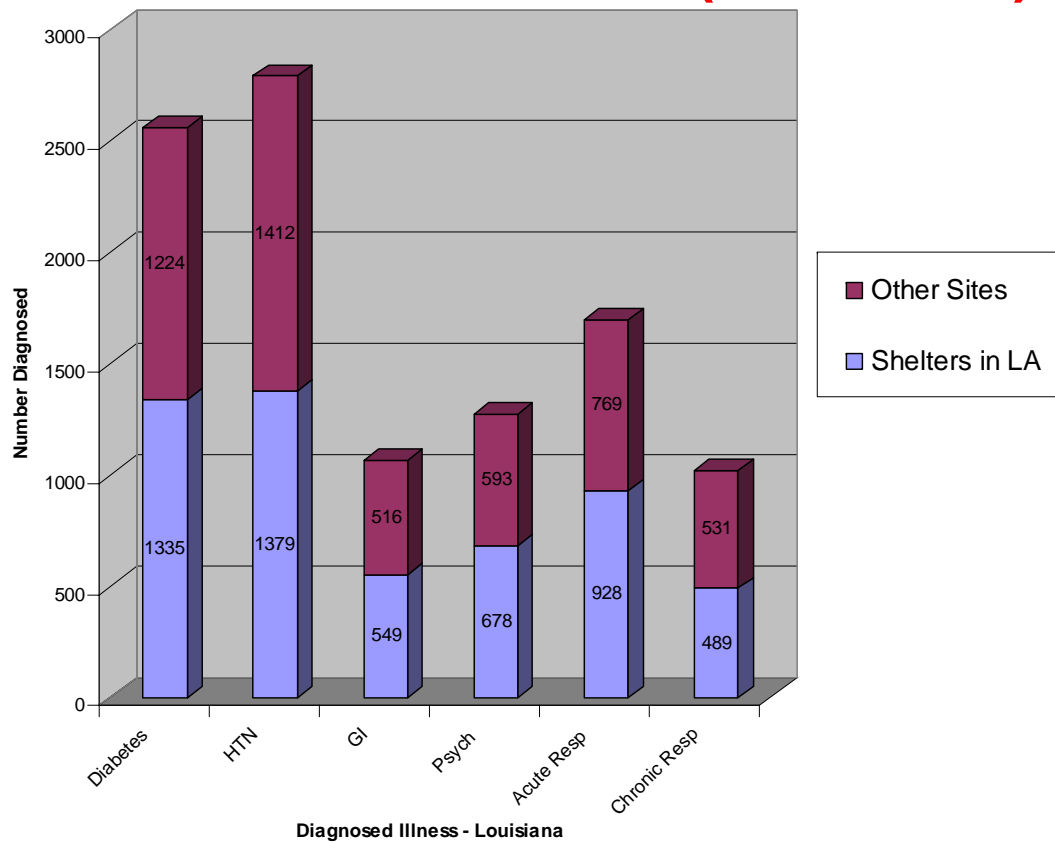


Harvard/Hopkins Field Teams – Demographics (cont)

- 56% had at least one chronic disease
- Of those clients taking medication regularly, 47% did not have their medication at time of survey. Two weeks later, 21% were still lacking their medication.



Harvard 2077 Analysis – Diagnosed Illnesses (Louisiana)



- ◆ Hypertension (14.6%)
- ◆ Diabetes (13.4%)
- ◆ Acute Respiratory Illness (8.9%)
- ◆ Psych-related Illness (6.6%)
- ◆ GI Illness (5.6%)
- ◆ Chronic Respiratory Illness (5.3%)