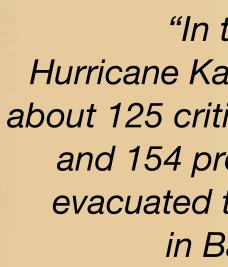
Disaster Information for Special Populations

OBJECTIVES

To provide relevant information for community officials and health and human services providers regarding the needs of special population groups in planning and preparation before, and response and recovery after, disasters and emergencies.

To provide information to assist members of special population groups in preparing for disasters and emergencies.



METHODS

A Web site on health issues related to disasters and special populations was created after natural disasters such as hurricanes and wildfires, diseases such as SARS and West Nile Virus, and the terrorist attacks of 9/11 illustrated the need to ensure widespread access to knowledge about populations with unique needs in these situations. The population groups addressed on the Web site include the mentally and physically disabled; the aging; minority, ethnic, and language groups; women and children; and others whose situations require that different or specialized measures be taken both in preparation for and response to disasters. The information resources are intended to be used for planning and response purposes by community public health and emergency planners and by families and individuals.

"In the days after Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, about 125 critically ill newborn babies and 154 pregnant women were evacuated to Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge."

> Rama Lakshmi The Washington Post August 17, 2006

"Pregnant women face greater risks like premature births, low-birth-weight babies and infant deaths during the stressful conditions of a disaster. This can make delivering a child difficult and potentially life-threatening."

Theresa Shaver, Executive Director White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood The Washington Post August 17, 2006

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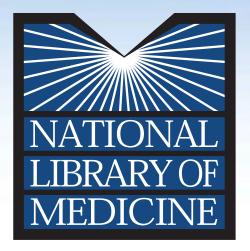
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RESULTS

The resource became public in January 2008 (http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/specialpopulations anddisasters.html) with approximately 75 links plus subject searches of MedlinePlus and PubMed. The authors found a very large number of sites on the subject and selection was a challenge. Many state and local government and organizational sites were of high quality; however, the selected links presented on this page are primarily national in scope.

ARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY Office for Civil Rights 200 Independence Ave., SW Rm 509F National Library of Medicine Washington, DC 2020 S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Right **Outreach Activities & Resources JRRICANE KATRINA BULLETIN:** Y and DISCLOSURES IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS SIS Specialized Information Services aregivers. We provide this bulletin to emphasize how the HIPAA Privacy Rule allows patier formation to be shared to assist in disaster relief efforts, and to assist patients in receiving the SIS Home > Outreach Activities & Resources > Special Populations and Disasters Providers and health plans covered by the HIPAA Privacy Rule can share patient **Special Populations: Emergency and Disaster Preparedness** formation in all the following ways: Disabled Seniors referring patients for treatment (including linking patients with available Hearing Impaired providers in areas where the patients have relocated), and coordinating patient care with others (such as emergency relief workers Visually Impaired hers that can help in finding patients appropriate health services). Women and Gende Providers can also share patient information to the extent necessary to seek Pregnancy vment for these health care services Children NOTIFICATION. Health care providers can share patient information as necessar Diabetes dentify, locate and notify family members, guardians, or anyone else responsible for e individual's care of the individual's location, general condition, or death. Native Americans Foreign Language Materials The health care provider should get verbal permission from individuals, when ossible; but, if the individual is incapacitated or not available, providers may Información en Españo hare information for these purposes if, in their professional judgment, doing so is Guidance for Organizations and Governmen the patient's best intere Guidance for Employers and the barries for a state of the second stat CDC Home Search Health Top Law and Policy Lessons Learned from Prior Disasters Searches from the National Library of Medicin Disclaimer ews & Information Disabled lelp for People with Diabetes Affect Some of the following documents are available in \nearrow DisabilityPreparedness.gov In the wake of recent hurricanes, people with diabete Emergency Evacuation Planning Guide for People with Disabilities (PDF, 900 KB) challenges to their health care. If you are an evacuee importance to identify yourself as a person with diabete National Fire Protection Association conditions, so you can obtain appropriate care. It is also Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities prevent dehydration by drinking enough fluids, which a Departmental Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Transportation when drinking water is in short supply. In addition, it is mething containing sugar with you at all times, in cas **Emergency Preparedness Initiative (EPI)** To prevent infections, which people with diabetes are m health of your feet, and get medical treatment for any v National Organization on Disability Emergency Preparedness: Addressing the Needs of People with Disabilities (PDF, 900 KB) The CDC has compiled many hurricane health and s National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University other languages. Below are additional links which may be especially use **Evacuation Preparedness Guide** For simple publications explaining the basics about dia Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions, Western University of Health Sciences • Insulin, Drug, and Equipment Advice <u>Health Advice</u> Drug Resources for Evacuees with Diabetes <u>Health Coverage</u> <u>General Hurricane Recovery Information</u> Insulin, Drug, and Equipment Advice . Insulin Storage and Potency Switching Between Products in an Emergency nttp://www.fda.gov/cder/em Patients should try to keep their insulin as cool as possible, avoiding direct heat and direct sunlight as well as freezing if placed on ice. Although a physician should supervise when switching insulin products, here are recommendations for emergency situations 2. Safety of Drugs Exposed to Hurricane Conditions http://www.fda.gov/cder/emergency/defau Drug products should be discarded if they came in contact with flood or contaminated water. In the case of urgently needed life-saving drugs, if the container is contaminated but the contents appear unaffected (pills are dry), the pills may be used until a replacement can be obtained.







CONCLUSIONS

The authors were impressed with the large volume of documents available related to the special requirements of special population groups. It is of critical importance that those planning for disaster response recognize that there are groups with special needs and prepare for them.

