Mental Health Surveillance

CSTE Disaster Epidemiology Workshop
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Division of Behavioral Surveillance (DBS) MH Surveillance Activity

- **Focus**: Integrate mental health and public health surveillance activities
- **Recent Projects**
  - MMWR Supplement*:* Mental illness surveillance among adults in the U.S., September 2, 2011. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/other/su6003.pdf.
  - Gulf States Population Survey (GSPS): 1-year (Dec 2010 – Dec 2011) phone survey to assess mental health status of coastal population most directly affected by Deepwater Horizon oil spill. http://www.cdc.gov/OSELS/ph_surveillance/gsps.html.

DBS MH Surveillance

- **New Project**
  - "Mental Health Surveillance for Public Health Response to Disasters." 3-yr project supported by CDC's Office for Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR).
  - Specific Aims:
  - Project Year 1 (2012): conduct needs assessment with state epidemiologists to identify needs, priorities, capacity , etc. for disaster MH surveillance response (in collaboration with CSTE)
  - Project Year 2 (2013): bring together state epis, MH SMEs and other stakeholders to develop standardized protocol(s) for disaster MH surveillance for use by states and CDC (contingent on funding).
  - Project Year 3 (2014): pilot MH survey following a disaster (contingent on funding).

Disaster MH Surveillance

Examples of MH Responses to Disasters

- Change in sleep
- Uncertainty
- Grief
- Fear
- Anger/violence

- PTSD
- Depression
- Generalized Anxiety

- Substance abuse
- Smoking
- Self medicating
- Physical inactivity

Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress

Disaster MH Surveillance

- Surveillance data is pivotal for understanding MH consequences of disasters.
- CDC's and States MH response efforts are challenged by limitations in existing surveillance assets, data, and collection methods. For example:
  - MH surveillance not part of core PH surveillance
  - Compartmentalization of MH and PH at state and local levels
  - Limited baseline data
  - Lack of standardized MH surveillance protocols
  - Interpretation and dissemination of MH surveillance data

Disaster MH Surveillance: CDC & CSTE

- Need better integration of PH and MH
- First step: CDC & CSTE conduct needs assessment with state epidemiologists to explore:
  - The nature of relations between state epidemiologists and mental health personnel during a response
  - Use of existing MH surveillance systems
  - MH surveillance needs and priorities during a response
  - How state epidemiologists use MH surveillance data in the context of disaster response
  - Barriers to use
  - Other pertinent issues related to mental health surveillance in the context of disaster response.

Planning Group

- CSTE
  - Michael Heumann
  - Martha Stanbury
  - Erin Simms
- CDC
  - Deborah Gould
  - Bill Reeves
  - Amy Wolkin

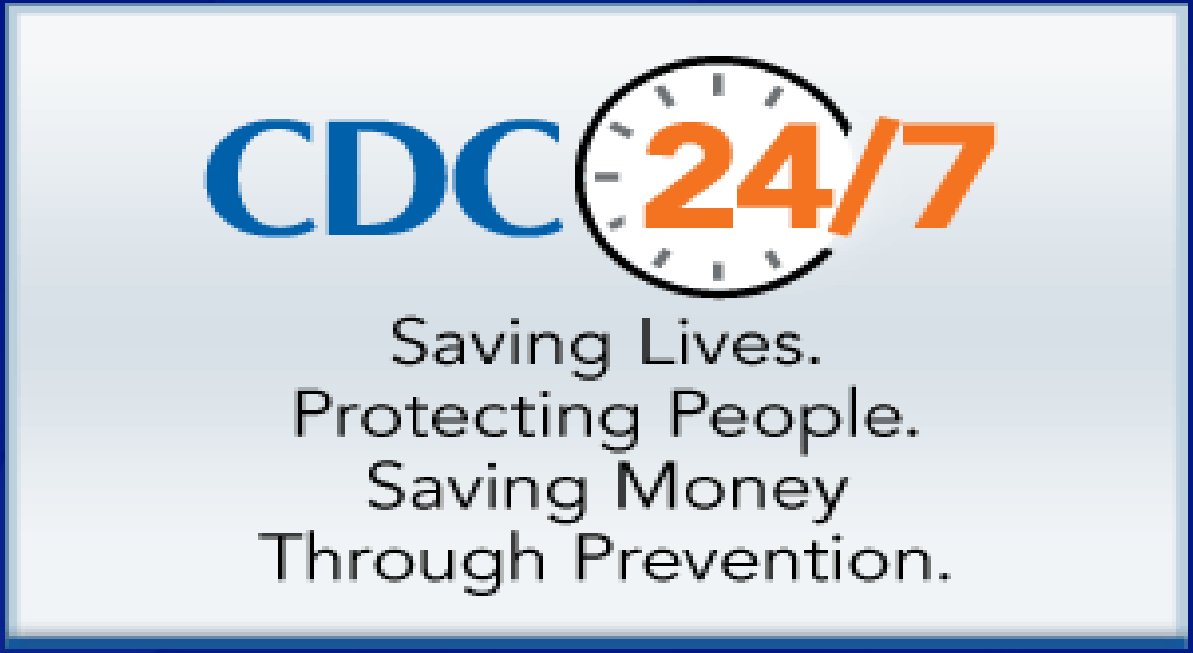
Next Steps

- Finalize work plan for CDC & CSTE Cooperative Agreement for Project Year 1
- Conduct phone interviews/focus groups with state epis to inform assessment questionnaire
- Conduct online assessment
- Analyze results
- Disseminate reports

Results from the assessment will be used in to inform the development of standardize disaster MH surveillance protocol that can be used by CDC and states.

Discussion

- The nature of relations between state epidemiologists and mental health personnel during a response
- Use of existing MH surveillance systems
- MH surveillance needs and priorities during a response
- How state epidemiologists use MH surveillance data in the context of disaster response
- Barriers to use
- Other pertinent issues related to mental health surveillance in the context of disaster response



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