

Program for Emergency Preparedness and Response

Bridging the Fields of Reproductive Health and Disaster Epidemiology



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Outline

❑ Background

- Pregnant women and disasters
- Women of reproductive age and disasters

❑ DRH's Program for Emergency Preparedness and Response

❑ Tools and Activities

- Reproductive Health Assessment After Disaster (RHAD) Toolkit
- Pregnancy Estimator
- Indicator Development Work Group

Pregnant Women and Catastrophic Events

- ❑ **Classified as 'at-risk individuals'**
- ❑ **Post-event data often not collected**
- ❑ **Disproportionate burden known for some infectious diseases**
- ❑ **Few studies examined associations of US disasters and birth outcomes**
 - Exposure associated with poor birth outcomes
 - Showed increases in maternal risk factors



Disaster and Women of Reproductive Age (WRA): What We Do Not Know

- ❑ **Inconsistent changes in birth rate after disaster**
 - Increases after Hurricane Hugo and OK City bombing
 - Decreases after Hurricane Katrina and 1997 ND Red River Flood

- ❑ **Little known about disaster effects on WRA in US**
 - No routine surveillance of disaster-affected WRA
 - Inconsistent reports of intimate partner violence
 - Inadequate studies on contraceptive use, access to medical and social services, risk behaviors, etc.



DRH Program for Emergency Preparedness and Response

Objectives, Target Population, And Areas Of Focus



DRH's Program for Emergency Preparedness and Response

- ❑ **Purpose: Prepare DRH to respond to reproductive health needs of the US population after natural or man-made catastrophic events by:**
 - Gathering epidemiologic/surveillance data to guide action
 - Developing recommendations and tools to guide public health response specific to pregnant and lactating women and newborns
 - Developing a plan to reduce fertility risks, infertility, or inadequate contraception
 - Developing a plan to communicate with clinical, public health and government partners and pregnant women regarding preparedness and response
 - Developing a human resources preparedness plan for DRH

DRH's Program for Emergency Preparedness and Response (continued)

- ❑ **Target population:** Pregnant/postpartum women, infants, women of reproductive age
- ❑ **When DRH would respond:** catastrophic events
- ❑ **Areas of focus:** science/clinical, communication, and human resources.

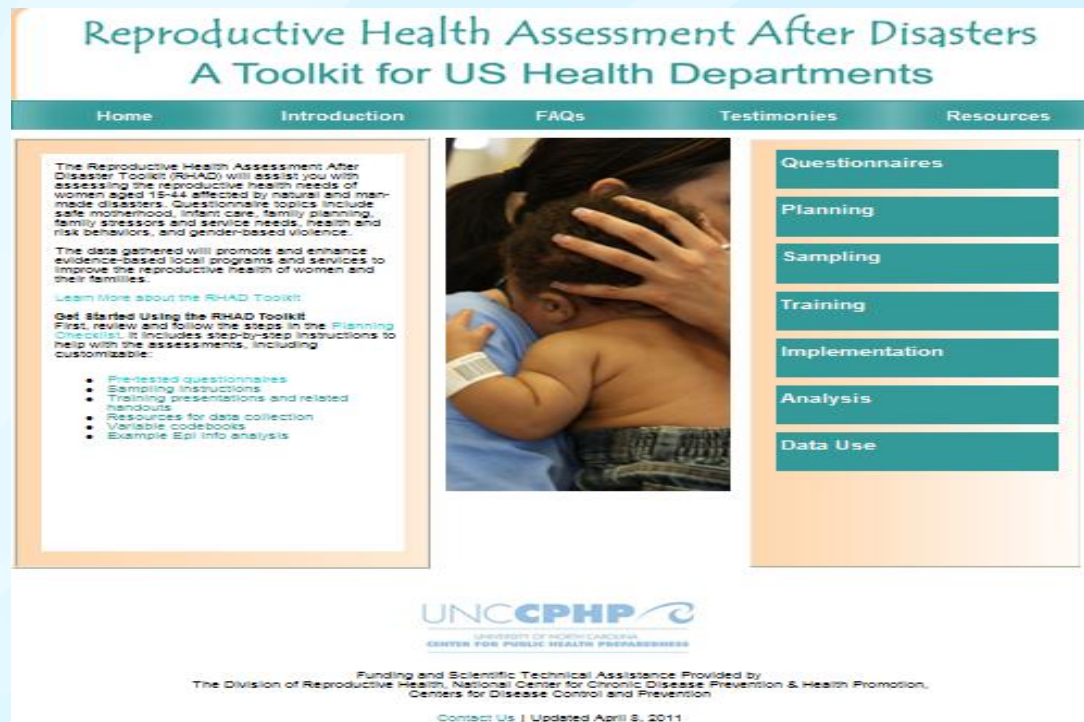


New Tools and Activities

RHAD Toolkit

❑ Reproductive Health Assessment After Disaster (RHAD) Toolkit

<http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/reproductivehealth/>



What is Included in the RHAD Toolkit

- ❑ **Pre-tested questionnaires**
 - Pregnant and Postpartum Women
 - Women of Reproductive Age
 - Topics include safe motherhood, infant care, family planning, family stressors and service needs, health and risk behaviors, and gender-based violence.
- ❑ **Variable codebooks**
- ❑ **Sampling instructions for 2 stage cluster sampling with referral**
- ❑ **Interviewing training resources**
- ❑ **Resources for data collection and analysis**

Pregnancy Estimator

❑ When There is an Emergency: Estimating the Number of Pregnant Women in a Geographic Area

Provides estimation tool for a jurisdiction

Calculates number of pregnant women at a point in time

Uses pregnancy rates



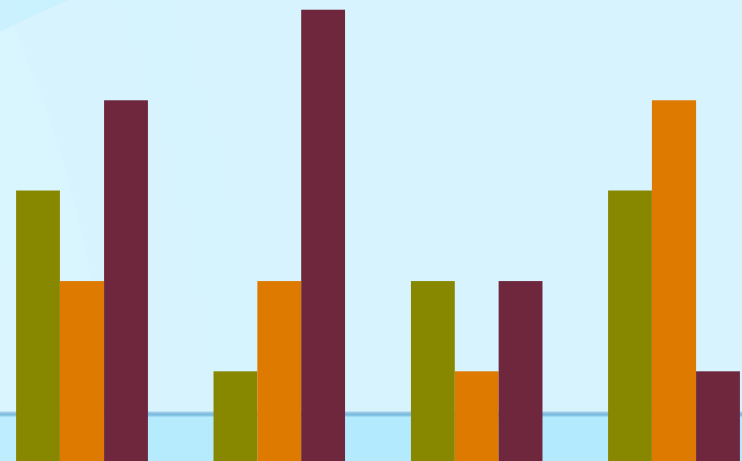
When There is an Emergency: Estimating the Number of Pregnant Women in a Geographic Area



Tell us what you think by emailing comments to DRHemergencyprep@cdc.gov

Indicator Development Work Group

- ❑ **Purpose: To develop/select a list of common epidemiologic indicators for pregnant and postpartum women (P/PP) women and infants affected by disaster**
 - To identify salient conditions and outcomes to be monitored via surveillance or post-disaster data collection
 - To promote use of consistent measures across post-disaster studies
 - To build scientific knowledge regarding disaster effects on P/PP women and infants



Roundtable at CSTE National Conference:

Building Epidemiology Capacity in Reproductive Health Preparedness Science

- ❑ **Seek input from local, state, tribal and federal perspectives regarding:**
 - critical post-disaster reproductive health indicators among pregnant and postpartum women and infants
 - suggested topics and approaches for conducting assessments, research, and surveillance
 - strategies to enhance partnership and collaboration in building capacity in reproductive health preparedness science

Contact Us

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.