Dear Colleagues,

This issue of the DiversityPreparedness.org E-Newsletter contains information on upcoming events, training and education, recent publications, and features Heat Waves as the Topic of the Month—providing links to a variety of translated materials, research articles, and planning tools.

**Topic of the Month: Heat Waves**

Global climate change is predicted to bring more extreme weather events—such as heat waves. If history is any indicator, the health effects of these events are likely to disproportionately affect racial/ethnic minorities. A review of the 1995 Chicago heat wave found that the heat-related mortality rate among African Americans was 1.5 times that of Whites and nearly twice that for those over age 84, while a similar review of the 1980 heat wave in Texas found the disparity to be 3:1. A MMWR review of heat-related deaths among crop workers, a high risk population, found that 71% the workers were from Mexico, Central, or South America. Socioeconomic factors, such as limited access to air conditioning and outdoor occupation, contribute to these disparities in addition to language barriers that inhibit risk communication strategies. Below is a select list of resources and translated materials to inform efforts to prevent heat-related mortality and morbidity in culturally diverse communities.

**Research:**

- **Disparities by Race in Heat-Related Mortality in Four US cities-The role of air conditioning prevalence:** This article explores the association between air conditioning prevalence, race, heat-related mortality in Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, and Pittsburgh.

- **Heat-Related Deaths among Crop Workers- United States, 1992—2006:** This MMWR reviewed heat-related deaths among crop workers and found that 71% the workers were from Mexico, Central, or South America, with 60% of all heat-related deaths occurring in July.
• Mortality in Chicago Attributed to the July 1995 Heat Wave: This article looks at factors, such as race, associated with mortality during the Chicago heat wave of 1995.


• The 2006 California Heat Wave- Impacts on Hospitalizations and Emergency Department Visits: This article discusses racial/ethnic differences in hospitalizations and emergency department visits for specific illnesses during the 2006 California heat wave.

• Heat Wave- A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago: This book provides an assessment of the social and political factors which contributed to the 793 deaths attributed to the 1995 Chicago heat wave. The chapter “Race, Place, and Vulnerability: Urban Neighborhoods and the Ecology of Support” focuses on specific racial/ethnic communities in the urban environment.

Translated Materials:

• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention- Extreme Heat: This CDC website provides a variety of heat-related resources. English; Chinese; French; German; Haitian Creole; Portuguese; Spanish; and Vietnamese.

• National Agriculture Safety Database- Heat Stress: This flyer provides the reader with information to identify symptoms of heat stroke and exhaustion and the emergency procedures for both. English; Spanish

• Ready New York- Beat the Heat Guide: This brochure provides information on heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and respiratory problems and provides tips to stay cool and conserve energy. English; Chinese; Haitian Creole; Korean; Russian; Spanish

• Heat Waves: This handout provides information on heat waves associated health conditions such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat strokes. English; Arabic; Bosnian; Somali; Spanish

• Power Outages: This handout provides information on power outages and tips to mitigate their potential health effects. English; Arabic; Chinese Simplified; Chinese Traditional; French; Hindi; Japanese; Korean; Russian; Somali; Spanish; Vietnamese

Events & Training:

• Considering Complexity: Culture, Language, Trust, and Preparedness

This presentation, from the New York Citizen Corps Disaster Volunteer Conference, outlines individual and organizational-level challenges relating to culture, language, and trust that contribute to racial/ethnic disparities in disaster and public health emergency outcomes. It also discusses recommendations from the National Consensus Panel on Emergency Preparedness and Cultural Diversity. To view the presentation CLICK HERE.

• Communicating Without English in an Emergency: Tools from Minnesota

Emergency Communication and Health Outreach (ECHO) Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Health have developed two new resources, a Planning Guide and Planning Template, to aid the development of plans to communicate with communities with limited-English proficiency before, during, and after an emergency. The proceeding of the June 7 Webinar “Communicating Without English in an Emergency: A webinar for government and community organizations” is also available on the ECHO website.
American Public Health Association:
Annual Meeting
Washington, DC
October 29–November 2, 2011
Early bird registration is open for the 2011 APHA Annual Meeting until August 19, 2011. Among the many scientific sessions are a variety of presentations on issues relating to preparedness and diverse populations. Including:

- Engaging and Planning for Racially and Ethnically Diverse Communities in a Pandemic: Recommendations of the National Consensus Panel on Emergency Preparedness and Cultural Diversity;
- Increasing Public Health Capacity for Emergency Preparedness in Southern California Latino Communities Using Local Community Health Workers;
- Hospital Perceptions of Disaster Planning Efforts to Address Vulnerable Populations’ Needs;
- Preparing a Culturally Competent Public Health Nursing Workforce: An Innovative Approach Through the Prism of Disasters;
- Addressing Special Populations through the Public Health Incident Command System;
- Earthquake Emergency Preparedness: Perceptions of Minority Indigenous Peoples;
- Disaster preparedness, Food, and Food safety Issues Among Limited English Proficient Immigrants;
- Prepare Today for Peace of Mind Tomorrow: Emergency Preparedness Among Latino immigrants; and
- Using the Promotora Model to Increase Community Emergency Preparedness.

Recent Publications:
Disaster Preparedness of Linguistically Isolated Populations: Practical Issues for Planners
This article, recently appearing in Health Promotion Practice, presents findings from a series of focus groups that were conducted in Houston, Texas to inform the development of effective emergency communication and service delivery strategies in linguistically isolated communities. To access the full summary and article CLICK HERE.

Socioeconomic Status, Demographics, Beliefs and A(H1N1) Vaccine Uptake in the United States
This article, recently appearing in Vaccine, presents the results from a nationally representative survey which explored sociodemographic characteristics and beliefs associated with H1N1 vaccine uptake in the United States. The results suggest that perceptions of safety and seasonal flu vaccination were determinants of H1N1 vaccination and are presented by race/ethnicity. To access the full summary and article CLICK HERE.

Pandemics and Health Equity: Lessons Learned from the H1N1 Response in Los Angeles County
This article, recently appearing in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, explores racial/ethnic disparities in H1N1 vaccination rates in Los Angeles County. Rate ratios of vaccination were as follows: White, reference; African American, 0.5; Asian, 3.2; Hispanic, 1.5; Native American, 1.9; and Pacific Islander, 4.3. To access the full summary and article CLICK HERE.

Attending to Social Vulnerability when Rationing Pandemic Resources
This article, appearing in the Journal of Clinical Ethics, presents recommendations from the Minnesota Pandemic Ethics Project on health resource rationing in pandemics with an explicit focus on socially vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic minorities. To access the article CLICK HERE.
We encourage you to share the National Resource Center with your peers and colleagues and welcome you to link to the website. Please also feel free to e-mail your comments and any feedback to our team. We look forward to working with you to making this site a resourceful and useful tool in advancing the preparedness of our nation's diverse communities.

Sincerely,

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