Children and Disasters: What We Need to Know Now

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• Vulnerable
• Voiceless
• Invisible
• Data deficiencies
• Long “memories”
The children’s preparedness glass...
Three points/questions
#1 Are experiences actually “lessons learned”?

(10/24/12 – 5/31/13)
10/29/12 – 5/31/13

Sandy

Newtown

Boston

West, TX

Washington, DC

Midwest

Moore, OK

El Reno, OK

Mt. Vernon, WA
10/29/12 – 5/31/13

Sandy
8/85 (NJ,NY,PA)
20/26

Newtown

Boston
1/3

West, TX
0/15

Midwest

Moore, OK
10/24

Washington, DC

El Reno, OK
7/20

46/176 (26%) child/adolescent fatalities (est.)
...and a few close calls

New York: No NICU fatalities in NYU-Langone evacuation

Boston, MA: Not too many kids at the finish line

West, TX: Classes out in intermediate school; high school track team hungry

Moore, OK: Tornado only hit one of the hundreds of schools without storm cellars or safe places for children

Mt. Vernon, WA: No kids in the vehicles that went off the collapsed bridge
215 Days

• Hurricane/ “superstorm”
• School shooting
• Terrorism
• Industrial accident
• Severe flooding
• Tornadoes
• Infrastructure failure
Coming attractions...

• More severe weather
• H7N9
• Cyber attack
• Nuclear plant melt-down
• IND
• Chemical spill
• Earthquakes
• ?
So, what have we learned?

• Protect children in schools
• Protect hospital back-up generators
• Pre-emptive evacuation protocols
• Vulnerable population needs
• Sheltering children
• Disaster communications
• Recovery
...etc.
Recovery
(We must have learned something)
Functionality

Time

Normal (pre-existing)

New Normal

Disaster

Vulnerable Children & Families

Infrastructure
Functionality

Time

- Normal (pre-existing)
- Infrastructure
- Vulnerable Children & Families
- "façade" recovery
- New Normal
- Population recovery

Disaster
Functionality

Recovery Time / Stress

“Buffer” Resiliency
Borderline
Ineffective / Negative Capacity

“Resilience Erosion”
FEMA

Bank

Red Cross

State & local

Robin Hood

Personal assets

? ? ?
#1 Are “experiences” actually lessons?

#2 Goals are good; do we have them? Have we reached them?
Vulnerable

Resilient & Safe
#1 Are experiences actually “lessons”?

#2 Goals are good; do we have them? Have we reached them?

#3 Do we get the “denominator” problem?
What’s been done
What’s actually needed
Starting Line

Current State

Ideal Realistic

100% Prepared

Good to go!
Good to go!
...or kids still at great risk?
Leadership buy-in, embedded expertise, NCCD, advocates

End-user priorities

Federalism & politics

Budget & scale issues

Insufficient research base
Leadership buy-in, embedded expertise, NCCD, advocates

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Preparedness and Response Funding FY10 - FY14

- Hospital Preparedness Programs (ASPR) – cut 35%
- State and local preparedness programs* (DHS) – cut 62%
- Academic PH Preparedness Centers (CDC) – cut 100%

*available through National Preparedness Grants Program
Leadership buy-in, embedded expertise, NCCD, advocates

End-user priorities

Federalism & politics

Budget & scale

Insufficient research base
Can high functioning community-based models of pediatric preparedness replace macro governmental initiatives and large-scale funding?
For children:
Hoping for the best, preparing for the worst?
OR

...hoping for best, but, given the economy, political deadlock and where kids stand generally in terms of national priorities, hoping that we’ll keep dodging bullets?
END