

CHS 451
Post Disaster Community Health

Fall, 2004
Tuesday 12-2:50 PM
CHS 71-257

Instructor:

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Course Description:

This 4 unit graduate course will provide students with a set of strategies for addressing the impact of public health emergencies on populations both in the United States and abroad. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to assess the needs of affected populations and formulate plans to address critical health parameters such as water, sanitation, food, shelter, and surveillance for communicable diseases.

Prerequisites:

CHS 295, Graduate Student Status, or Consent of Instructor

REQUIRED TEXT:

A compendium of articles has been prepared as a reader for this class.

Additional readings to be provided by instructor.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on the following parameters:

10% Classroom participation
30% Assignment I
30% Assignment II
30% Assignment III

Classroom Participation:

In addition to engaging in discussions of classroom topics, each student will have an opportunity to make a brief summary presentation to the class concerning an article related to assessing and responding to a public health emergency. The articles may be drawn from the scientific literature (e.g. references found in the textbook readings, other journals), current events as reported in the newspapers or national news magazines, or via the internet. The purpose of this exercise is to broaden the students' thinking about the relevance of post disaster community health for a public health emergency. Thus, students should be prepared to relate their chosen articles to the principles of disaster public health.

Students will sign up for specific dates for these presentations, and provide copies of the articles for their classmates.

Assignments:

There are three written assignments for this course. Students will be assigned to groups, with each group functioning in the role of an Emergency Public Health Team. Materials will be provided to each team concerning an existing country that has been impacted by a catastrophic public health disaster. Information will be provided concerning the underlying living conditions and population parameters, as well as consequences of the disaster. Teams will be required to develop a 12 page, double spaced, 12 point font report for each assignment, addressing specific emergency public health problems based as follows.

Assignment I:

Assess the disaster impact on the target community, and address issues of potable water and sanitary hygiene.

DUE DATE: October 26

Assignment II:

Establish a surveillance and control system for communicable diseases; plan a health care program for the impacted population.

DUE DATE: November 16

Assignment III:

Develop a mass shelter and feeding plan for the target population; assess and plan a response for mental health needs and identification and care of vulnerable populations.

DUE DATE: December 13 (Date of Scheduled Final Exam for this course)

Course Schedule

Week 1
October 5

Course Overview
Why Disasters are a Public Health Problem
Likely Emergency Public Health Problems in Need of Solutions

Readings:

Public Health Impact of Disasters (Shoaf and Rottman)
The Nature of Disaster (Noji)

Week 2
October 12

Tools of Rapid Assessment

Readings:

Disaster Assessment: The Emergency Health Evaluation of a Population Affected by a Disaster (Lillibridge)
Use of a Modified Cluster Sampling Method to Perform Rapid Needs Assessment after Hurricane Andrew (Hlady)
A Modified Cluster Sampling Method for Post-disaster Rapid Assessment of Needs (Malilay)
Ch. 5 Initial Assessment, Immediate Response (UNHCR)
Rapid Assessment of Injuries Among Survivors of the Terrorist Attack on the World Trade Center (MMWR)

Week 3
October 19

Water and Sanitation

Readings:

Ch. 16 Water (UNHCR)
Ch. 17 Environmental Sanitation (UNHCR)
Keeping Clean Water Clean in a Malawai Refugee Camp (Roberts)

Week 4
October 26

Infectious Diseases: Surveillance and Control Strategies

Readings:

Infectious Disease Emergencies in Disasters (Howard)
Stop Propagating Disaster Myths (de Ville de Goyet)
Ch. 4 Operational Aspects of Disease Surveillance after Disaster (PAHO)
Infectious Disease Control in a Long-term Refugee Camp (Elias)
Practical Field Epidemiology to Investigate a Cholera Outbreak in
Mozambican Refugee Camp in Malawi (Moren)
Public Health Impact of Rwandan Refugee Crisis (Goma Epi Group)
The Communicable Disease Surveillance System in Kosovar (Brusin)
Tuberculosis in East Timorese Refugees (Kelly)
Emergency Measles Control Activities-Darfur (MMWR)

Week 5
November 2

Health Care Services for Displaced Populations

Readings:

The Health Care System (Perrin)
Medical Care of Displaced Populations (Perrin)

Week 6
November 9

APHA National Meeting

NO CLASS SESSION

Week 7
November 16

Mass Sheltering and Feeding

Reading:

Assessments of Mortality, Morbidity, and Nutritional Status in Somalia
during the 1991-1992 Famine (MMWR)
Ch. 15 Food and Nutrition (UNHCR)

Comparison of nutrient composition of refugee rations and pet foods
(Lancet)
The Unseen Face of Humanitarian Crisis in Eastern Democratic Republic
of Congo (Porignon)
Ch. 12 Site Selection, Planning and Shelter (UNHCR)
Dilemmas and Challenges for the Shelter Sector (Saunders)

Week 8
November 23

Mental Health Considerations

Readings:

Children's Reactions to Disasters (Coffman)
Age Differences in the Psychological Consequences of Hurricane Hugo
(Thompson)
Mental Health Outreach Program Following the Earthquake in Armenia
(Kalayjian)
Mental Health in Emergencies (WHO)
Suicide after Natural Disasters (Krug)

Week 9
November 30

Vulnerable Populations

Readings:

Targeting the Vulnerable in Emergency Situations (Davis)
Assistance: Friend or Foe (Forbes-Martin)
Women, Health and Humanitarian Aid in Conflict (Palmer)
What Happened to Elderly People in the Great Hanshin Earthquake
(Tanida)
Health Needs of Older Adults Displaced to Sudan (Godfrey)

Week 10
December 7

GUEST SPEAKER: TBA