Welcome to:

Health Equity in Emergency Preparedness and Response

Hosted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)
Office of Health Equity (OHE)

Session Description and Learning Objectives

- Session Description: When preparing and responding to emergencies, it is crucial to embed health equity from the start to ensure that all people have equal access to life-saving information, services, and programs. Emergencies, such as a natural disaster or a pandemic, can have devastating impacts on whole communities. People in racial and ethnic minority communities, people with disabilities, people living in geographically isolated areas, and other groups often face systemic barriers and health disparities that are exacerbated during an emergency.
- Learning Objectives: At the end of this session, participants will be able to:
 - 1. List at least two ways that CDC is embedding health equity into its emergency preparedness and response work.
 - 2. Describe how CDC works with partners to ensure that marginalized groups are included in emergency response efforts.
 - 3. Explain how three of CDC's partners work in the community to address health disparities during emergencies.

Agenda for Meeting

- Moderator messages Sarah Anderson, CDC Office of Health Equity (OHE) Policy
- Introduction to Health Equity and OHE, Dr. Leandris Liburd, Acting Director, OHE
- OHE and Emergency Response, Capt. Carolina Luna-Pinto, Acting Director, OHE's Office of Minority Health
- Office of Readiness and Response, Julia Smith-Easley, Acting Lead, Behavioral Science, Community Mitigation, and Equity Team
- Partner presentations
 - National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
 - Choose Healthy Life
 - Southern Plains Tribal Health Board
- Question and Answer Session
- Resources and Survey

Logistics and Accessibility Information

- Slides will be shared with participants following the webinar.
- Please feel free to put any questions you have into the Q&A box at the bottom of your Zoom screen. Q&As will only be visible to participants if the question is answered. We likely will not have time to get to every question, but the slides will include numerous resources and ways for you to contact CDC if you require further assistance.
- CART
 Captions: https://www.streamtext.net/player?event=18380OHEPartnerWebinarHealt-hequity
- ASL Interpretation and Spanish Simultaneous Translation are available. Click the "Interpretation button" at the bottom of your Zoom screen.

This information will be put in the chat.

Welcome Messages and Introduction to CDC's Office of Health Equity

Leandris C. Liburd, PhD, MPHActing Director, Office of Health Equity

CDC Office of Health Equity (OHE)

Mission and Vision

- Mission: The Office of Health Equity exists to ensure health equity is embedded in an all-of-public health approach to overcoming persistent health disparities and health inequities across a range of population groups that disproportionately experience poor health outcomes.
- Vision: All people have the opportunity to attain the highest level of health possible.



https://www.cdc.gov/healthequity/

Office of Health Equity Partner Webinar Series

- Health Equity Partner Webinar Series: slides and information about each webinar are posted to OHE's website
 - October 2023: Respiratory Virus Season and Health Equity: Information about Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), COVID-19, and Flu
 - January 2024: Promoting Equity in Health Communications
 - March 2024: Health Equity Science and Data for Action
 - June 2024: Advancing Health Equity Through Workforce Development
- Blog posts with more information about each webinar and the work of our partners: <u>Conversations in Equity | Blogs | CDC</u>

Connect With Us!

- <u>Subscribe to Health Equity Partner Updates</u>: Subscribe to this email list for updates and information about events related to the CDC Office of Health Equity.
- <u>Health Equity Matters</u>: quarterly e-newsletter that shares news, perspectives, and progress related to minority health and health equity.



- Health Matters for Women: monthly e-newsletter that provides information on what is happening in women's health around CDC and other agencies.
- <u>Conversations in Health Equity</u>: blog devoted to increasing awareness of health inequities and promoting national, state, and local efforts to reduce health disparities and achieve health equity.
- Engage with us on (Twitter) @CDCHealthEquity and LinkedIn @CDCHealthEquity

Stay tuned for more Office of Health Equity partner calls!

OHE and Emergency Response

Capt. Carolina Luna Pinto
Acting Director, OHE's Office of Minority Health

Addressing Health Equity During Emergency

Responses



CDC launched the **Chief Health Equity Officer (CHEO) Unit** (May 2020)

2 First-ever unit in a CDC emergency response tasked solely with addressing health disparities and health inequities

Developed an "all-of-response" approach to address the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 on some population groups

Taskforces: Community Interventions and Critical Populations (CICP), Tribal Support Section (TSS) within the State, Tribal, Local, Territorial, Support TF, and Disability Advisors

Lessons Learned for Health Equity Integration into Emergency Responses





Identify, establish, and adequately train and staff the CHEO Unit.

- Foundations of Health Equity Training Plan



Address structural drivers of health through partners engagement to improve the health for the most affected populations in an emergency.



Improve the quality of data needed to advance health.

Foundations of Health Equity Training Plan

- Free, self guided, and available online
- 13 on-demand trainings that cover health equity related domains, including:
 - organizational policy
 - infrastructure
 - communication
 - community engagement
 - racism
 - New trainings, including trainings from OHE, will be added on an ongoing basis.





^{*}CDC TRAIN account (free) is required to access the on-demand trainings.

Successes to Build From



Increased disability and health equity data collection

Increased development of health equity products

Elevated discussions regarding the importance of addressing the underlying factors contributing to disparities

Facilitated partnership building and coordination of activities

CDC Health Equity Power of Partnerships Alliance

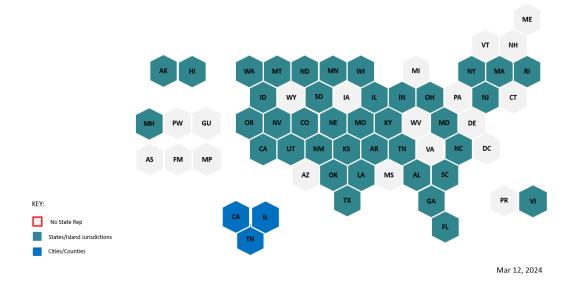
Mobilizes and maintains intersectional health equity alliance of partners within local Offices of Minority Health (OMHs), Office of Health Equity (OHEs), Offices of Women's Health/Maternal and Child Health Units (OWHs/MCH), community-based organizations, and non-governmental organizations and assists communities with meeting local health needs, especially during emergencies.

Impact:

- Promote urgent public health actions and communications that equitably benefit all populations.
- Enhance CDC's reach to disproportionately affected populations (DAPs).

Key Focus Areas:

- Build capacity for emerging communication channels and real-time info dissemination.
- Cultivate equity-focused scenario exercises to improve emergency responses.

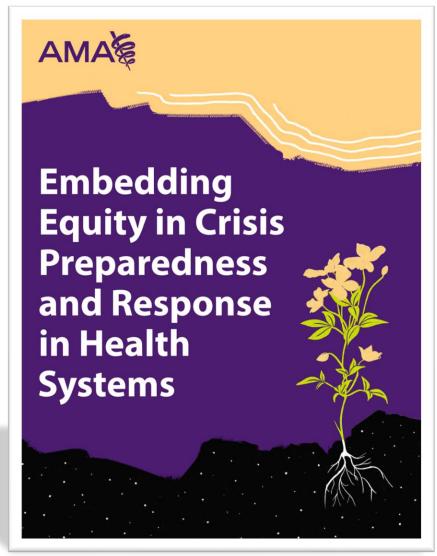


An Emergent Network for Diffusion





Embedding Equity in Crisis Preparedness and Response in Health Systems Tool



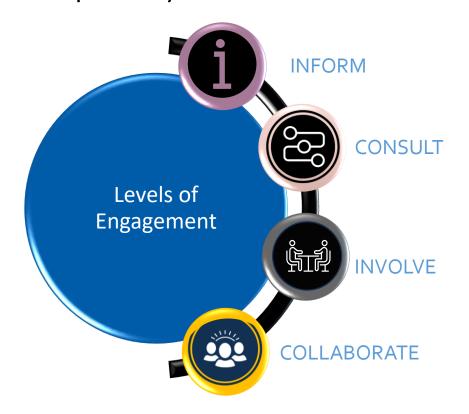
- Designed to support health care professionals championing equity in health care organizations and sectioned into 4 parts:
 - 1. Provides recommendations for embedding equity in crisis preparedness
 - **2.** Case studies from 12 organizations
 - Discusses the allegory of the Gardener's Tale for lessons on equity
 - 4. Includes **workbook** to help organizations assess and develop action plans for implementing equity in crisis response

CDC Program Examples

Community and Partner Engagement

Advancing Health Equity

Coordinate with, support, and meaningfully engage a wide range of community and public health partners during emergency response and as part of fall and winter respiratory season activities





Roles in Promoting and Supporting Equitable Respiratory Season Intervention Strategies

Medical Professionals, Lay Health Providers, Pharmacies

Employers

Communities and Other Partners

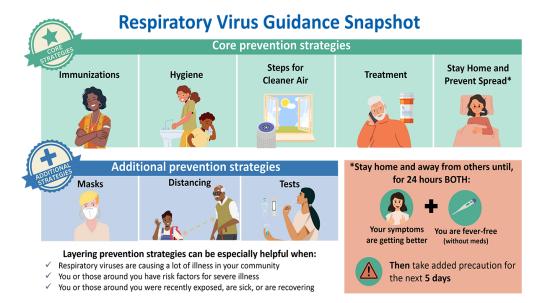
State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Health
Departments

Families, Friends, and Individuals

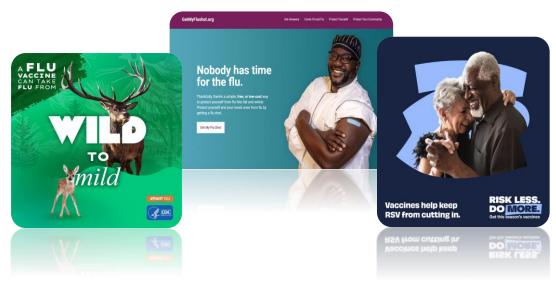
Federal Agencies

Example Resources

- Resources to Prepare for Flu, COVID-19, and RSV: www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/tools-resources/
- Provider Toolkit: Preparing Patients for Fall and Winter Virus Season:
 www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/hcp/tools-resources/index.html
- Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel: www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html
- Partnering for Vaccine Equity (P4VE)
 https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-equity/php/about/
- Vaccine Resource Hub communication materials for racial and ethnic minority communities in multiple languages https://vaccineresourcehub.org/resources?fi eld last reviewed=All&field date=All&race ethnicity focus%5b420%5d=420



Campaigns



Partnering for Vaccine Equity (P4VE)

- Launched by CDC in 2021 with supplemental COVID-19 funding
- Original Purpose: Address disparities in COVID-19 and influenza vaccine uptake among adults in racial and ethnic populations
- Partner Activities: Community outreach events, trusted messenger training, vaccine clinics, culturally tailored education and communications
- 2024 and Beyond: P4VE program will include all partners funded to address vaccine equity in children and adults across multiple focus populations (e.g., racial and ethnic minorities, rural communities, pregnant people, etc.)



Impact Snapshot:

a Link

2.4 million
vaccinations from clinics
held in partnership with
vaccine providers

410,000

trusted messengers
trained to conduct vaccine
outreach in their communities



572,000
clinicians and healthcare personnel
engaged through training and
communication efforts

New Emergency Preparedness and Disability Inclusion Web Portal

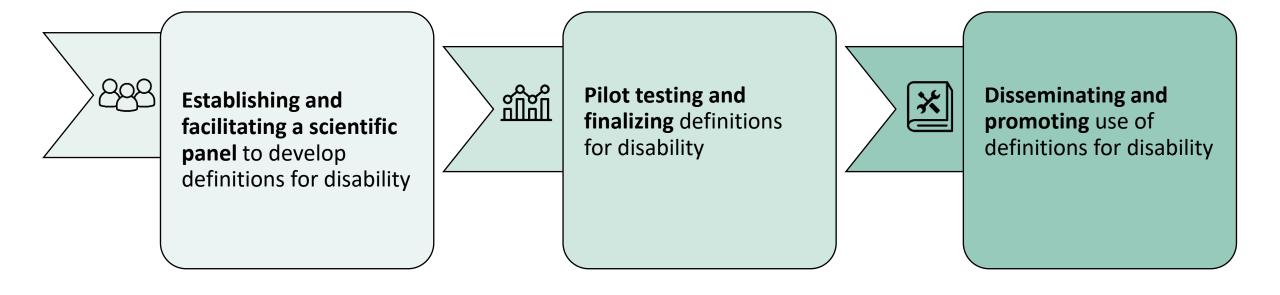
- Importance of disability inclusion
- Information for people with disabilities

Resources with advanced filters



https://www.cdc.gov/disability-emergency-preparedness/index.html

Improving Data on People with Disabilities During Emergencies: Defining Disability for Syndromic Surveillance



Disability Specialists Program 2021-2023

Building Capacity For Inclusion Of People With Disabilities In Preparedness Planning, Response, And Recovery



Built and sustained partnerships

Developed accessible materials



Used data for action



For stories from the field, scan the QR code.

Office of Readiness and Response

Julia Smith-Easley, MPH, CHES (she/her)
Acting Lead, Behavioral Science, Community Mitigation, and Equity Team
Community Based Solutions and Health Equity Branch
US CDC Office of Readiness and Response | Division of Readiness and Response Science

Health Equity + Readiness and Response Science

The Division of Readiness and Response Science (DRRS) applies and advances scientific principles and evidence-based methods to:



to **public health threats** effectively and efficiently

CDCReady Responder

- **Build and expand** pools of qualified, responseready, and available responders.
- *Include* staff not already connected to the response community.
- *Train* staff to apply their talents to response work.
- *Create opportunities* for staff to build new skill sets and professional connections.



Priority Populations and Settings

Priority Population and Settings Network (PPSN)

- Comprised of >130 members with diverse expertise in various populations, settings, and topics
- Address access and functional needs of disproportionately affected populations
- Facilitate trainings, technical assistance, and coordination across areas of expertise
- Improve dissemination and implementation of evidence-based science



Community Based Solutions and Health Equity

Expertise:

- Schools and children
- Correctional facilities and people who are incarcerated
- Shelters and people experiencing homelessness
- Behavioral and equity science

Functions:

- Work with partners to prepare for emergencies
- Represent priority risk populations during emergencies
- Build the evidence base related to these populations
- Translate science into setting-specific tools
- Support CDC CIOs working with these settings







Strengthening Equity in Readiness and Response

 Standardize health equity measurement in emergency response

 Advocate for needs of people with disabilities during emergencies

 Assess community engagement readiness and response capacity

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness tools
- Regional Centers for Public Health Preparedness and Response



Chief Health Equity Officer (CHEO) Toolkit

- Coming soon!
- Support operationalizing CHEO Unit
- Provide health equity considerations in public health emergencies
- Provide guidance on evaluation of health equity efforts

Chief Health Equity Officer (CHEO) Toolkit



Toolkit overview



Integrating CHEO Units



Leveraging Data



Engaging Communities



Evaluating Equity Impact

Partner Presentations



National Association of State Directors

Developmental Disabilities Services

Regina Rodriguez Sisneros, Director of Equity Initiatives & System Innovations

Dan Berland, Director of Federal Policy

Definition of Underserved Communities

The federal government's Executive Order 13985 describes underserved communities as groups of people who have not been given the same chances to fully participate in economic, social, and civic life. These communities often have difficulty accessing essential resources or services, making it difficult for them to thrive.

Here are some examples of underserved communities:

- People with disabilities
- Older adults (seniors)
- People who do not have much money (socioeconomically disadvantaged)
- People who speak limited English
- People of color
- Members of religious minority groups
- LGBTQI+ populations
- People living in rural areas
- Communities affected by ongoing poverty or inequality

Persons Living with a Disability in the United States

The word "disability" refers to a condition that affects a person. It is a physical or mental impairment that can greatly limit one or more important activities in that person's life.

 CDC reports that over 70 million or 1 in 4 adults in the United States (28.7%) have some type of disability.

 7.39 million people with an intellectual or developmental disability in the United States

Emergency Preparedness Considerations for Individuals Livingwith Disabilities And Older Adults

- People with disabilities and older adults may have health issues that can make situations like crises more dangerous for them. They might also need special services and support that can be hard to find during emergencies.
- Everyone, including caregivers, should be ready for possible crises by planning how to react.
 Those who provide long-term care and support should train their staff on handling emergencies, such as evacuations, lockdowns, and staying safe indoors.
- The needs of people with disabilities are not a separate part of emergency preparedness; they must be considered in every aspect of planning and readiness. Community leaders and first responders need to be ready to help meet the health and safety needs of older adults and people with disabilities. They should involve these groups in emergency planning and, whenever possible, offer services and support in shelters.

NASDDDS Partnerships

- NASDDDS works closely with federal agencies to receive emergency preparedness information so that we can regularly disseminate important messages to state staff.
- During the COVID-19 response, we were part of a terrific collaboration between the CDC and the disability community to ensure that CDC guidance and terminology could be easily understood by disability support systems and people with disabilities themselves.
- We conduct impromptu meetings, education webinars, and frequently send out emergencyrelated communication via our listsery.



Examples of State-Specific Emergency Preparedness

Louisiana – established the "Get a Game Plan" website. Dedicated website and materials for emergency preparedness GetaGamePlan.org

- Includes a section for "Individuals with Disabilities"
- Information reviewed and updated annually, with input from program offices for persons with disabilities and aging
- Resource shared through a variety of communication media
- Reflects the deep collaboration between disability support systems and emergency response systems in LA to make sure that disability considerations are part of all efforts



Examples of State-Specific Emergency Preparedness

California - During response, ensure a system that quickly identifies specialized populations, such as those served who require electricity for medical equipment, are non-ambulatory, and/or live alone or with limited supports.

- Outcome: The Department utilizes Everbridge Mass Notification System to send critical messaging to target specialized populations. Additionally, the Department has built a GIS platform to assist with situational awareness and monitor statewide events.
- <u>CalHHS Emergency Resource Guide California</u> Health and Human Services
- Emergency Preparedness Guide (ca.gov)



ACL – Emergency Preparedness Resources for Older Adults & People with Disabilities

Administration for Community Living (ACL) Emergency Preparedness Website includes:

- Instructions for Individuals, such as a Medical Information Card or Communication Card, to be prepared in advance
- Steps for Community-Based Organizations/Providers to develop and action plan for emergencies and offer training to support staff.
- Community Preparedness: Older adults and people with disabilities are frequently overlooked during the disaster planning, response, and recovery process.
 Emergency management planning must integrate older adults and people with disabilities of all ages—and their caregivers—into every aspect of community emergency planning, response, and recovery.

Choose Healthy Life

Rev. Kimberly L. Williams, Executive Director

Dr. Reed Tuckson, Medical Advisory Board

The CHL Model

A Proven, Sustainable, and Scalable Model to Address Health Equity in the Black Community through the Black Church

- Create a network of Black Churches the most trusted institutions in the community – that are committed to addressing health equity
- Establish and sustain a faith-based health workforce to address COVID-19 through testing/vaccination, promote wellness, address health equity, and ensure pandemic preparedness in the community
- Collaborate with local healthcare organizations with a vested interest in providing support to underserved communities
- Deliver measurable and sustainable impact that drives health equity and a decrease in morbidity and mortality in the communities served



 Prepare a scalable and transferrable model that can adapt to and address new emergencies and public health crises

Bringing Faith & Science Together



National Black Clergy Health Leadership Council

Nationally recognized clergy leaders lead CHL initiatives in their respective regions

Co-Chaired by Rev. Al Sharpton





Ensure CHL has the latest trusted health information to deliver to our communities



CHL Medical Advisory
Board

Nationally leading physicians and public health experts advise CHL programming

Supported by Black Coalition Against COVID, and Coalition for Trust in Faith & Science



Results to Date: Key Metrics - (Feb. 2021 - Jun. 2024)

Blueprint for Wellness™ Data – Nov. 2022 through Jun. 2024

Blueprint for Wellness™ Screenings

16,771

COVID and Event Data – Jan. 2021 through May 2024

Participants Vaccinated for COVID

209,275

Participants Tested for COVID and Kits distributed

135,564

CHL Church & Wellness Events

9,693



Mobility and Scalability in Emergencies

CHL Access to Underserved Communities

- Network of 120 Choose Healthy Life churches across 13 states
- Partnership with the Black Church allows significant access to underserved communities during health emergencies
- Directly connected to 350,000+ community members through COVID care, now cater wellness services to them
- Connected to broader community through Social Determinants of Health Services (food insecurity, housing, economic instability, clothing, etc.)

Far-Reaching and Deployable Community Health Workforce

- CHL's Health Navigators form an extensive network within trusted community institutions, allowing them to harness strong local ties and deliver rapid, effective health services and education during emergencies.
- Positioned across numerous communities, these navigators are equipped to mobilize quickly.









Mobility and Scalability in Emergencies (continued)

- Black Coalition Against COVID (BCAC) and Coalition for Trust in Health & Science (CTHS)
 - Amplifies efforts through the trusted health communications and resources of BCAC and CTHS, ensuring widespread awareness and participation.
 - BCAC and CTHS are integral in mobilizing resources and disseminating information swiftly during health crises, ensuring communities receive the support and education needed to navigate emergencies.
- Purposeful Community Outreach
 - BCAC's Town Halls and CTHS's Health Education outreach are designed to engage community members in open dialogue and facilitating easy pathways for support in the face of public health emergencies.











"The Fierce Urgency of NOW"

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

Southern Plains Tribal Health Board

Chevy Bullington-Condon – Emergency Management Project Lead

Michelle Clark – Project Lead, PHS II, PRSS

Environmental Health & Hazards Program (2020-2022)

Created and disseminated an EH & Hazard needs assessment to Tribal partners in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

- 14 different Tribes participated in the EH & Hazards needs assessment
- Created 10 different infographics covering identified topics from the assessment
- Created SWOG reports for each participant, including links to specific need/trainings identified
- Created and Environmental Health and Hazards Resource Toolkit
- Worked with Kat Media to create an environmental health educational video that aired on GoodHealth TV in clinics located in TX, OK, and KS
- Created a weekly texting tree broadcast communication plan to send out weekly resources, trainings, and seasonal messages about environmental health topics



For more information:

- Text "ENV" to 55251
- Email info@spthb.org

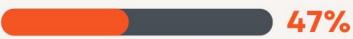




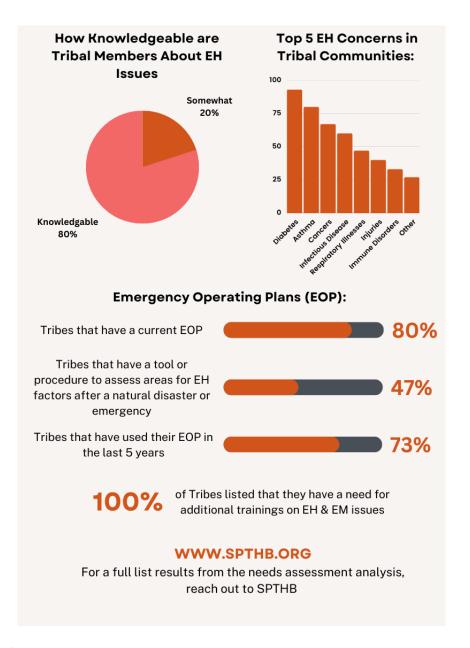
Percentage of Tribes that currently have an EH Department



11 out of 14 Tribal Participants have Emergency Management (EM) Personnel



Tribes that reported there is no system(s) in place to track or monitor EH issues that arise in their communities.

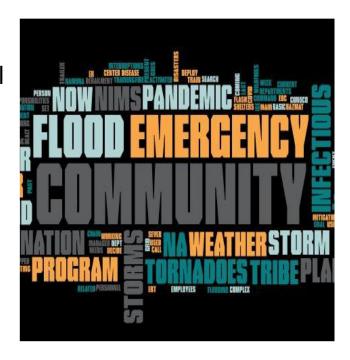


www.spthb.org

Environmental Health & Hazards Program: (2020-2022)

Environmental Health related projects funded by SPTHB:

- Created at least 2 education and outreach opportunities for the tribal community members to pass out backpacks. Pre-filled emergency preparedness backpacks, included (but were not limited to) multi-function emergency radio, light sticks, emergency whistle, first aid/trauma kits, survival blanket, poncho, hand warmers, waterproof matches, Swiss army knife, rope, masks, etc.
- Purchased five (5) defibrillators; six (6) portable generators; two hundred and forty-two (242) hand-crank weather radios (one per household); CPR and AED training for five employees; and provide Data Analysis Training for three (3) people in the Tribe.
- Installed two (2) 8' X 20' Safe Rooms. The Safe Rooms can hold up to 55 individuals.
- Purchased one (1) 10,000-gallon vertical water storage tank; twenty-five (25) portable generator inverters; two (2) truck bed water tanks; two hundred (200) customized cooler packs; two-hundred and fifty (250) 5-gallon portable water containers; and materials (pamphlets) for education and outreach













Environmental Health & Hazards Program:

Trainings Hosted by SPTHB:

- 1. Adult CERT Basic Training
- 2. Youth CERT Basic Training
- 3. Emergency Management Institute (EMI) 4-hr 0583 Training: Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments
- **4. EMI 4-day 0580 Training:** Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments
- 5. "Emergency Management Skills Matrix"
 Webinar at the 2021 SPTHB Training Summit
- 6. "Environmental Health Hazards in the Home" Webinar presented at the 2022 SPTHB Training Summit
- 7. "Community Lifelines in Emergency Operating Plans" webinar presented at the 2022 SPTHB Training Summit









2023-2024 Emergency Management Program:



- Created a comprehensive emergency management contact list for Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas
- Created an Introduction to Tribal Emergency
 Management Toolkit with 2 Tribal partners
- Coordinated with Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) to create a jurisdictional risk assessment, utilizing the THIRA framework
- Completed 4 jurisdictional risk assessments from June 2023 to September 2024 with Tribal partners in Oklahoma.
 - Based upon the findings of said assessment, our partners were able to:
 - Update 12 existing EM plans
 - Develop 4 new EM plans
 - Create 2 THIRAs
 - Create 1 HMP

2023-2024 Emergency Management (EM) Program:

PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE EM PROGRAM:

- Assisted 1 Oklahoma tribal partner in securing over 100 mattress donations to assist their tribal communities impacted by severe weather or circumstances.
- Provided 1 Oklahoma Tribe unmanned aerial vehicle training and one firstperson view drone to be used for emergency response activities, aerial surveying, and environmental monitoring prior to the end of the fiscal year.
- Assisted 1 Oklahoma tribe in securing two additional dogs (patrol/security and human remain detection) and a full-size rescue mannequin for their K9 program
- Provided 8 tribes with webcams and wireless headsets for their emergency management programs
- Provided 8 Oklahoma tribes work gloves, safety vests, tarps, blankets, heavyduty trash bags, hardhats, flashlights, safety glasses, chainsaws, and shovels

TRAININGS HOSTED BY THE EM PROGRAM:

- Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Training at the ITEMC Conference in 2023
- Tribal Emergency Management 101 Training in 2024
- Able to certify 43 participants through American Red Cross CPR/AED First-aid training(s)
- Assisted a Tribe's Youth CERT Program for two years









Questions and Answers

Feedback Survey

A survey link will be put in the chat. We would appreciate your feedback so that we can improve our future webinars.

https://omhhe.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV 1TcqcfRPAyMsz66



Thank you!

For more information, contact CDC

1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov 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.





CDC Health Equity Resources

- Health Equity Office of Health Equity CDC
- Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication | Gateway to Health Communication | CDC
- Health Equity Video Series | Health Equity | CDC
- Health Equity In Action | Health Equity (cdc.gov)
- CDC's CORE Commitment to Health Equity | Health Equity | CDC
- Foundations of Health Equity Training Plan CDC TRAIN an affiliate of the TRAIN Learning Network powered by the Public Health Foundation
- Three Principles to Communicate About Health Equity Concepts (CHEC) |
 Health Equity | CDC

Emergency Preparedness Resources

- Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) | CDC
- Emergency Preparedness and Disability Inclusion, Resources | CDC
- HHS Disaster Human Services Capabilities Playbook (hhs.gov)
- Embedding equity in crisis preparedness and response in health systems
 American Medical Association (ama-assn.org)
- Emergency Partners Information Connection (EPIC) (cdc.gov)
- Reaching At-Risk Populations in an Emergency | CDC
- Office of Readiness and Response | CDC
 - Readiness Report | Office of Readiness and Response | CDC
 - Emergency Preparedness Funding | Office of Readiness and Response | CDC