

CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

The Center for Public Health and Disasters is designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a Center for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP).

The health of America's communities hinges on a competent workforce able to deliver essential public health services. The CPHPs are charged with the responsibility to improve the competency of front-line public health workers to respond to current and emerging public health threats.

This designation allows the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters to continue its efforts at working with state and local partners to improve national capacity to prepare for and respond to bioterrorism and other public health threats and emergencies.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Center for Public Health and Disasters promotes interdisciplinary efforts to reduce the health impacts of domestic and international, natural and human-generated disasters.



UCLA CPHD
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...advancing interdisciplinary efforts to reduce the health impacts of disasters on human populations.



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BACKGROUND

The UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters (CPHD) was established in 1997 to address the critical issues faced when a disaster impacts a community. The Center is based in the Department of Community Health Sciences in the UCLA School of Public Health.

CPHD faculty and staff have diverse backgrounds that include emergency medicine, environmental health, urban planning, engineering, international health, health services, epidemiology, gerontology, sociology, and community health.

Director: Steven J. Rottman, MD, FACEP
Associate Director: Linda B. Bourque, PhD
Assistant Director: Kimberley I. Shoaf, DrPH

A UNIQUE SYNERGY

The UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters facilitates interaction between public health and medicine, engineering, physical and social sciences, and emergency management.

The Center collaborates with state and local public health agencies, community-based organizations, schools, hospitals, and agencies in the public and private sector.

This interdisciplinary emphasis, integrated with a comprehensive approach to emergency public health, is applied to the education and training of practitioners, the conduct of collaborative research, and service to the community.

RESEARCH

Sound science serves as the foundation for community assessment and programming. The Center's research agenda, data sets, innovative tools, and expert leadership maintain CPHD's position at the forefront of research in disaster public health and emergency management.

CPHD areas of research include the health impacts of disasters, impact modeling, and the study of public health practice in large-scale emergencies.

SERVICES & RESOURCES

A major role of the Center is to provide training and assistance to state and local public health departments as well as health care professionals, schools, and other agencies to improve their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

CPHD offers a variety of emergency preparedness services and resources. CPHD utilizes a competency-based approach to tailor these to an agency's specific organizational structure, resources, and geographic location.

Services and resources include:

- ◆ Plan writing
- ◆ Assessment of an agency's institutional capacity
- ◆ Training needs assessments
- ◆ In-person trainings on public health preparedness, ICS, SNS, among other topics
- ◆ Exercises and drills
- ◆ Writing a Disaster Plan: A Guide for Public Health Departments
- ◆ Hazard Risk Assessment Instrument (HRAI)

COURSES

CPHD teaches courses in the UCLA School of Public Health and was the first such program in the United States to offer multiple graduate level courses in emergency public health. These courses are offered through the department of Community Health Sciences and can be taken as a specialization in emergency public health.

- ◆ CHS 254 - Intentional Disasters: Complex Emergencies and Forced Migration
- ◆ CHS 256 - Interdisciplinary Response to Infectious Disease Emergencies
- ◆ CHS 257 - Program Planning in Community Disaster Preparedness
- ◆ CHS 258 - Cooperative Interagency Management in Disasters
- ◆ CHS 295 - Selected Topics in Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Assistance
- ◆ CHS 440 - Public Health and National Security at the U.S.-Mexico Border
- ◆ CHS 451 - Post-Disaster Community Health
- ◆ CHS 484 - Risk Communications

Classes are available to interested professionals through UCLA Extension. By making these courses available to front-line disaster practitioners through Extension, MPH students who have a strong theoretical and research background are brought together with individuals who are skilled and experienced in disaster management.

For more information about the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters, visit our website
<http://www.cphd.ucla.edu>