

Disaster Surveillance: Perspectives from Federal, State, and Local levels

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Objective

In this panel, attendees will learn about how disaster surveillance was conducted in response to Hurricanes Irma and Harvey, as well as the role of CDC at the federal level in supporting local response efforts. By hearing and discussing the challenges faced and solutions identified, attendees will be better able to respond in the event of a low-frequency/high-consequence disaster occurring within their jurisdiction.

Introduction

In this panel, the presenters will discuss their perspective in responding to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Hurricane Harvey made landfall on August 25th and over the course of 4 days dropped approximately 27 trillion gallons of water on Texas and Louisiana.¹ The flooding that ensued was unprecedented and forced over 13,000 people into shelters.² These individuals needed to have their basic needs -food, shelter, clothing, sanitation- met as well as their physical and mental health needs. The George R Brown Conference Center (GRB) and NRG Stadium Center were set up as mega-shelters to house shelterees. Hurricane Irma made landfall on September 10th in the Florida Keys as a Category 4 Hurricane. The Hurricane caused 72 deaths³ and forced thousands of people into shelters.⁴ These weather events created novel challenges for local response efforts. Decision makers needed timely and actionable data, including surveillance data.

Keywords

disaster epidemiology; informatics; preparedness

References

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