



Where Do We Go From Here?

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Minority Challenges in Emergency Care

In contrast to whites, blacks are more likely to...

- Be uninsured
- Use the ED for primary care
- Wait longer at the ED
- Not receive pain medication in the ED

Minority Challenges in Disaster Preparedness: Sept 11, 2001

In contrast to whites, blacks were more likely to...

- Suffer severe and preexisting health problems
- Be uninsured
- Not have a primary care provider
- Distrust the "government" and "healthcare system"
- Work in jobs involving close public contact

Minority Challenges in Disaster Preparedness: Katrina

- 32% were unemployed
- 42% graduated from high school
- 32% earned < \$10,000 a year
- 70% had no bank account or credit card
- 52% had no health insurance
- 32% did not have their medications
- 40% were physically unable to leave (NOLA) or had to care for someone unable to leave

Realities of Minority Health and Disaster Management

- Blacks are more vulnerable during "good times"—and **inordinately** more vulnerable during a medical disaster.
- We must **specifically** address this reality if we are to advance emergency care and disaster preparedness for **all** citizens

NMA and EHBTF

Recommendations (1-2)

1. Provide specialized disaster training for health care providers.
2. Include minorities at all levels of disaster planning and emergency management.

NMA and EHBTF

Recommendations (3-4)

3. Ensure that emergency plans **specifically** address minorities and other vulnerable populations.
4. Perform disaster needs assessments of minority and other vulnerable populations.

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Recommendations (5-6)

5. Ensure that medical distribution plans can overcome identified access barriers for minorities and other vulnerable populations.
6. Provide culturally-relevant disaster education materials and resources.

New Research Directions

- n Racial impact studies of emergency care and disaster management
- n Population density of primary care providers in urban settings
- n Model for “medical homes” for the uninsured
- n Role of community organizations as “first responders”

The Future

- **Rising tide will not lift all boats.**
- **We are only as strong as our weakest link.**