

Research Synopsis

Pandemic Influenza Preparation Planning in U.S. States

This project surveys and analyzes public health preparations and planning among individual U.S. states for the possibility of a human influenza pandemic disaster.

Case Studies Supported: Bioterrorism

Principal Investigator:

Institution: CREATE, USC

Other Investigators: Shilpa Madhavan, Yale

Brief Description:

Practically and constitutionally, the majority of public health disaster response must take place at the state and local levels. This study will analyze to what extent American states' existent pandemic influenza preparedness and implementation plans address current or future challenges. It will specifically focus on progress and shortcomings in planning and implementation within key preparedness areas, including avian- (zoonotic) and/or human influenza disease surveillance; vaccine and antiviral medications prioritization policy; public health and medical care surge capacity; community infectious disease control measures (including hygiene recommendations); health communication strategies; mass casualty preparation; and the related allocation of state funding (from Federal *or* state sources) for the above preparedness and response components.

Objectives:

This research will (a) develop a systematic approach to comparatively assessing pandemic planning and program implementation across the states; (b) analyze areas of progress and shortcomings, including funding, conceptual or organizational issues; (c) allow identification of particular areas of need in which further Federal guidance, research and/or leadership might be needed.

Interfaces to other Center Projects:

This work will maintain a close interface with Drs. von Winterfeldt's and O'Sullivan's bioterrorism projects, as well as Dr. O'Sullivan's pandemic influenza policy project.

Interfaces to non-Center Projects:

This project is being conducted in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Secretary, Private Sector Office, which is acting as a central liaison with the White House taskforce on pandemic influenza.

Major Products and Customers:

This study will be relevant to state- and federal-level personnel seeking to rationalize and improve public health/pandemic preparedness. Customers include DHS – IP; DHS – ORD; California OHS and related states' emergency and/or homeland security policy offices, and local (e.g. LA County) jurisdictions.

Technical Approach:

The initial stage will develop a systematic matrix of variables for easily portraying planning and preparedness measures across the 50 states, and populating the matrix with data collected from national and state sources. Follow-up in the second stage will include deeper research into the actual, as opposed to planned, organization integration, implementation and funding.

Major Milestones and Dates:

1. Develop systematic matrix of variables to facilitate the analysis of and comparison of preparedness across states—June 19, 2006
2. Examine the states' planning for community infectious disease control measures, health communication strategies, mass casualty planning, and surge capacity—July 6, 2006
3. Complete assessment of state planning for influenza surveillance and vaccine and antiviral prioritization—July 13, 2006
4. Analyze states' actual progress toward implementation and integration of state preparedness plan—July 27, 2006
5. Final analysis of state influenza preparedness and development of recommendations for further preparedness planning—August 4, 2006.
6. Final product to be completed by August 11, 2006.