



HHS Maternal-Child Health Emergency Planning Toolkit



The [HHS Maternal-Child Health \(MCH\) Emergency Planning toolkit](#) is designed to **improve the capacity of health care, public health, and social services professionals to address maternal and child health in emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.**

The toolkit, built with federal MCH experts and partners, outlines basic planning steps, highlights key resources and promising practices, and explains critical data and information to be integrated into emergency planning for MCH populations.

View the [HHS MCH Emergency Planning Toolkit](#) today!

Which MCH Populations are Included?

This toolkit provides guidance and advice to address the needs of women who are pregnant, postpartum, and/or lactating and typically developing infants and young children in emergencies.



Why Focus on MCH Populations?

Women who are pregnant, postpartum, and/or lactating, and infants and young children have specific access and functional needs that must be considered in planning for and providing support during and/or after a disaster or emergency.

Evidence suggests that disasters and emergencies cause stress that can result in and/or increase the risks of adverse birth outcomes among pregnant women, such as spontaneous miscarriages, preterm births, and low-birth-weight infants.

Infants and young children have specific food and fluid requirements, immature immune systems, and dependency on others for care. These characteristics interact with emergency conditions such as poor sanitation, food and water shortages, and overcrowding to create heightened risk for illness and death.

What Will I Learn?

The toolkit is divided into modules focused on emergency preparedness, response, and recovery, with mitigation and community resilience information embedded throughout. It also provides comprehensive case studies to connect the concepts to a potential emergency scenario.



The toolkit aims to support health care, public health, and social services professionals in:

1. Identifying and engaging partners at the local, state, national, and federal level;
2. Understanding health equity concepts and frameworks as it applies to MCH populations;
3. Applying emergency preparedness measures to build organizational resilience; and
4. Understanding the needs of MCH populations before, during, and after various emergency scenarios.

How Can I Learn More?

Learn more about supporting individuals with access and functional needs:

- [ASPR At-Risk Individuals Resource Library](#)
- [HHS/ASPR Access and Functional Needs Web-based Training](#)
- [HHS emPOWER Program Web-based Training](#)
- [HHS emPOWER Program Platform](#)