



MRC ★ In Touch

In This Issue:

Featured article

Tips

MRC/NACCHO
Connections

Announcements



American Stroke Month

LINKS

MRC

2010 Integrated Medical,
Public Health, Preparedness,
and Response Training
Summit

MRC at NACCHO

Featured Article

MRC LA Unit Participates in KidneyWise Event

At least 50 million Americans are affected by chronic kidney disease (CKD). This disease is common among people who have high blood pressure, heart disease, or diabetes. To help combat the rapid growth of CKD, a charitable organization—KidneyWise, is dedicated to helping people who suffer from CKD through research, education, and community involvement.

The KidneyWise Executive Director contacted the MRC Los Angeles (LA) unit coordinator, in order to coordinate a walk event with the MRC to help build awareness and raise money for CKD in the Los Angeles area.

MRC Involvement

A total of 13 MRC LA volunteers participated—11 volunteers walked to raise money for KidneyWise, while other volunteers distributed information and answered questions about public health preparedness. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the MRC unit's sponsoring organization, was also present at the event.

WiseCommunities is a KidneyWise program that aims to modify personal behavior and build social capital in communities. During the walk event, WiseCommunities hosted a tent where MRC LA volunteers handed out various materials to people. The materials included preparedness checklists, guides, nutritional information, ways to stay fit, and information on low cost health services. The MRC encouraged attendees to take an online "Be Wise" survey in the tent, which assesses a person's social capital. Social capital includes the resources, tools, services, and other supportive assets already existing in the community.

The MRC LA and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health then linked results from the survey to resources in the county. The survey helped both volunteers and attendees learn more about the health determinants and barriers in the community. Based on the results, KidneyWise and the MRC then offered information to help make a positive impact on the social capital of individuals.

MRC LA unit coordinator, Jee Kim estimates that, "We spoke or interacted with approximately 70 people at the informational tent." In addition, MRC volunteers engaged in conversation with participants about emergency preparedness, health screening, and dietary and cooking tips for persons with a chronic illness.

Hundreds of people participated in the walk event and received critical information about emergency preparedness and how to stay healthy. The large participation rate provided high visibility for the MRC. Approximately 13 people demonstrated an interest in joining the MRC.

Future Collaboration

MRC LA and KidneyWise plan to continue working together on the KidneyWise Social Capital Project in Los Angeles County. The joint collaboration for the walk event will hopefully serve as a model for other MRC units to work with KidneyWise across the nation.

Tips

1. For more information about how to partner with KidneyWise in your community, please visit <http://www.kidneywise.org>.
2. Research local charitable organizations that your MRC can partner with to promote public health and emergency preparedness in your community.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

NACCHO's Advanced Practice Centers

NACCHO's Advanced Practice Centers (APC) Program consists of a network of local health departments that exist to serve the public health community, developing resources and training on topics such as biosurveillance; vulnerable populations; risk communication; countermeasure distribution; and workforce development.

The Mesa County Health Department received a grant from NACCHO to serve as an APC and is working with a local hospital to develop a "Blueprint for the Use of MRC Volunteers in Hospitals." This project will identify roles in the hospital setting during a medical surge emergency; conduct tabletop and functional exercises using MRC volunteers; participate in Just-in-Time Training; identify steps on how to implement a medical volunteer program in hospitals; and other public health-related activities.

There are seven other APC sites nationwide. To find out if there is an APC site near you, or to discover more about NACCHO's APC program, visit <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/APC/index.cfm>.

To view MRC tools included in the 2009 APC Resource Catalog, download the catalog at <http://eweb.naccho.org/prd/?NA300PDF>.

For more information about the APC site in the Mesa County Health Department (MCHD), visit <http://www.health.mesacounty.us/APC2/index.cfm>.

Announcements

2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit

The 2010 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit will be held June 2-6, 2010 in Las Vegas, NV. The Web site address for information regarding this training event is <http://www.integratedtrainingsummit.org>.

Register Today for NACCHO Annual

Join 1,000 of your colleagues for the year's largest gathering of local health officials in the United States! NACCHO is the only national organization that hosts annual conferences that specifically address the needs and concerns of local health officials. NACCHO's conferences are vital, one-of-a-kind, learning and networking opportunities for local health officials and their public health partners from all geographic regions of the nation to share perspectives and engage in dialogue on common key public health practice issues.

<http://www.naccho.org/events/nacchoannual2010/>

NACCHO's H1N1 Blog

Are you interested in learning about other MRC units' and local health departments' challenges, successes, strategies, and more with H1N1?

NACCHO's H1N1 blog presents stories from the field provided by local health departments (LHDs) about the H1N1 influenza pandemic. In addition to a source for important updates and information on H1N1, it is a forum for LHDs to share their ideas, experiences, and expertise. Visit the blog today!

<http://www.naccho.org/communications/blog/H1N1/index.cfm>

Emergency Guidebooks Available

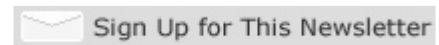
Pocket size customized Crisis Guidebooks are a resource that might be of interest to you. For further information, please visit the website

<http://www.crisisguidebooks.com>.

H1N1 Stories from the Field

NACCHO has been collecting stories from the field from local health departments nationwide. Discover what practices have worked for health departments and what lessons were learned during the H1N1 response. You can also submit your own story from the field.

http://www.naccho.org/topics/H1N1/stories_search.cfm



Click [here](#) to unsubscribe

1100 17th Street, NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20036