

Preface

Public Health Preparedness: Strengthening the Nation's Emergency Response State by State presents data on preparedness activities taking place at state and local health departments in 50 states, 4 localities (Chicago, the District of Columbia, Los Angeles County, and New York City), and 8 U.S. insular areas located in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.¹ All are funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement.

Reports on public health preparedness are an important part of CDC's overall focus on demonstrating results, driving program improvements, and increasing accountability for the nation's investment in public health preparedness. CDC has now released three preparedness reports; this is CDC's second report with state-by-state data on preparedness activities. It includes updates (when available) to data presented in CDC's first state preparedness report, *Public Health Preparedness: Mobilizing State by State (2008)*,² as well as new data on state and local preparedness activities. In 2009, Congress expressed its desire for CDC to continue to report state-by-state data.³

Section 1 of this report focuses on core public health functions and provides national-level data on preparedness activities in laboratories and response readiness. Section 2 includes 54 data fact sheets for each of the 50 states and 4 localities, followed by a description of preparedness progress and challenges in the 8 U.S. insular areas.

Also included in this report are snapshots of preparedness and response activities and accomplishments occurring during the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. Activities conducted in 2008 and 2009, the primary timeframes for data in this report, helped build and

strengthen capabilities in the states and at CDC that were essential for responding to the pandemic.

All reported activities were supported by CDC's Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response funding (which includes PHEP). This report does not describe all preparedness activities conducted at CDC or in states and localities. For a description of the broader range of CDC preparedness and response activities, see CDC's second preparedness report, *Public Health Preparedness: Strengthening CDC's Emergency Response (2009)*.⁴

How Different Audiences Can Use This Report

This report was written for a variety of audiences. States and localities can use this information to broaden their knowledge about progress and gaps in preparedness across their jurisdictions and throughout the nation.

Congress and other policymakers can gauge national public health preparedness as they read about many of the activities that states, localities, and insular areas have undertaken to improve public health preparedness.

Other federal departments and agencies and CDC partners (e.g., key public health associations) may gain a greater understanding of the scope of federally funded preparedness activities. This may help to generate new ideas for collaboration.

Within CDC, programs can use the report to gain a broader understanding of how states, localities, and U.S. insular areas are preparing for public health emergencies, their capabilities and gaps, and the challenges they face. This information can also be used as a tool to guide CDC's technical assistance to recipients of PHEP funds.

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