



*United States Department of*

**Health & Human Services**

**Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response**



# **Preparing for Children's Needs in Disasters: Activities, Tools, and Resources from HHS**

**Daniel Dodgen, Ph.D.  
Division Director**

**Division for At Risk Individuals, Behavioral Health,  
and Community Resilience  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
Preparedness and Response**

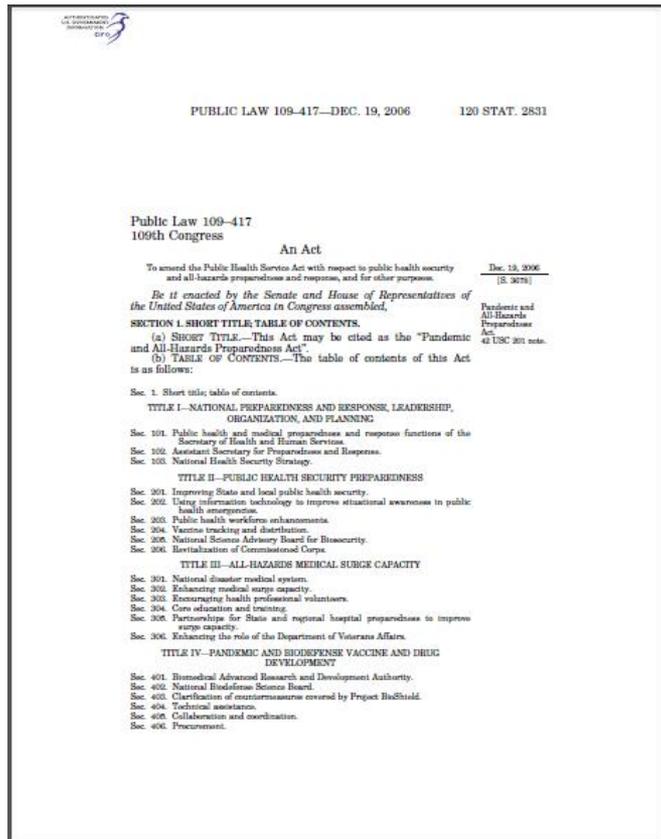


# Overview

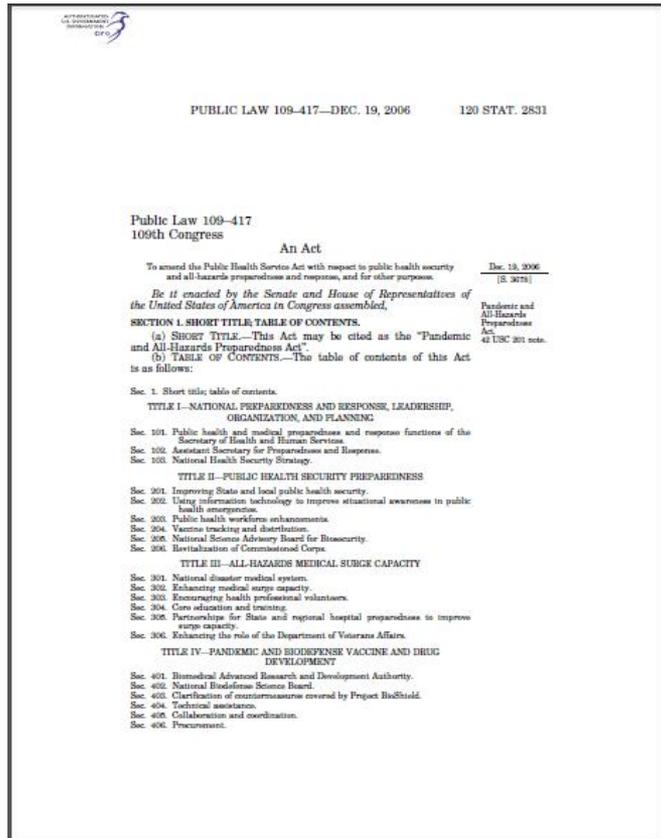


1. Drivers for HHS Preparedness for Children
2. HHS CHILD Working Group Report
3. Resources and Tools for Preparedness for Children
4. Emerging Issues: Ebola

1. *Behavioral Health*
2. *Child Care*
3. *Education*
4. *Public Health & Medical*
5. *Children in Congregate Care*
6. *Human Services*



- The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-417)
- Defined the term *at-risk individuals* as, “...children, pregnant women, senior citizens and other individuals who have special needs in the event of a public health emergency...”



- Mandated inclusion of at-risk individuals (including children) in:
  - ✓ Preparedness planning & response strategies
  - ✓ Grant guidance
  - ✓ Strategic National Stockpile contents
  - ✓ Curriculum development and training
  - ✓ Identification and dissemination of best practices on disaster outreach and care



# CHILD Working Group



2011 Report of the  
Children's HHS Interagency Leadership on Disasters  
(CHILD) Working Group:  
Progress and Future Directions

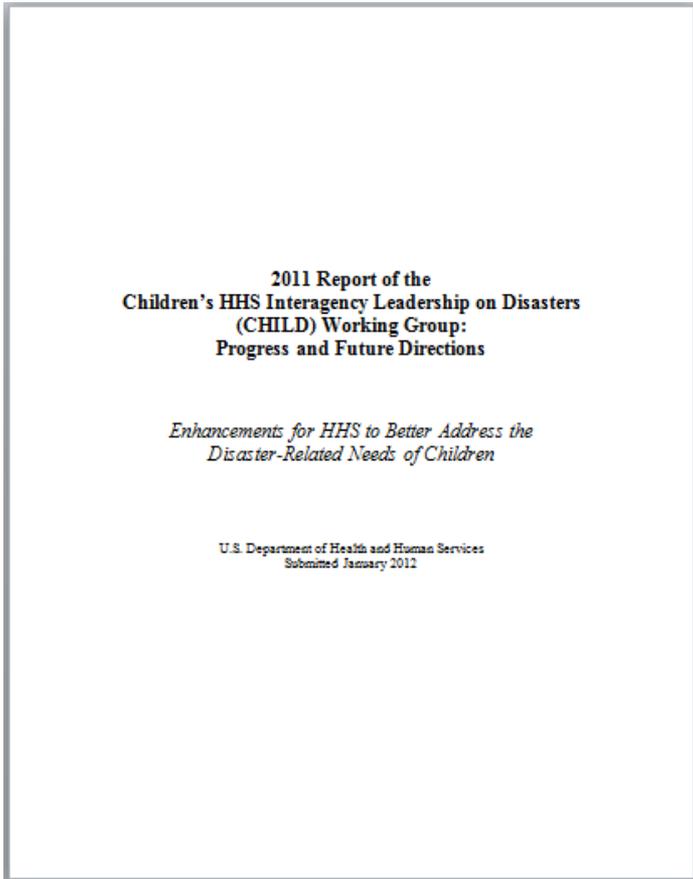
*Enhancements for HHS to Better Address the  
Disaster-Related Needs of Children*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Submitted January 2012

- Children's HHS Interagency Leadership on Disasters Working Group
- Established in 2010 by the HHS Administration for Children & Families and Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response
- 21 HHS agencies represented; four subcommittees



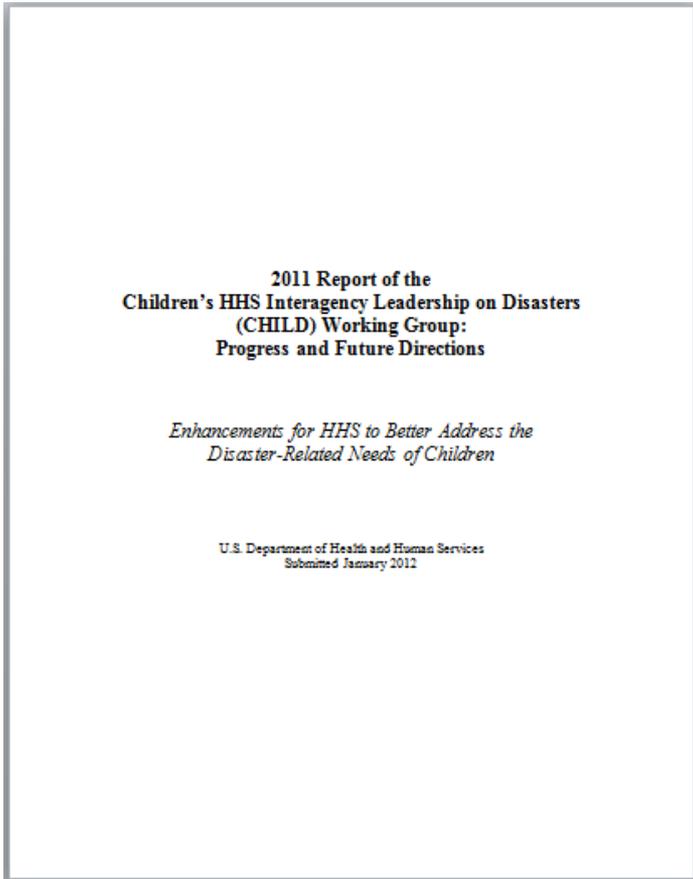
# CHILD Working Group



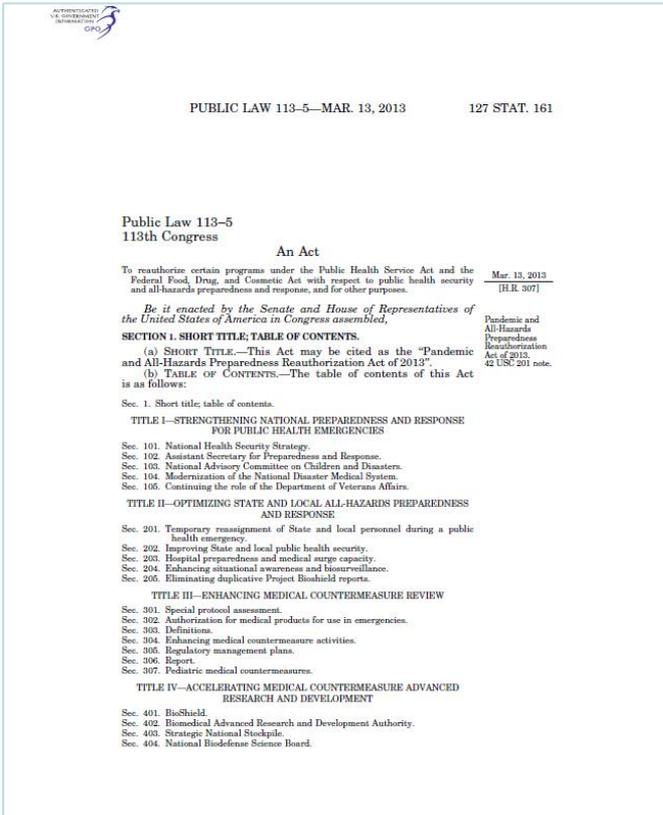
- Created to:
  - ✓ Comprehensively integrate the disaster-related health and human services needs of children across HHS disaster policy, planning, and operations activities
  - ✓ Assess current capabilities and facilitate coordination at the policy and response levels
  - ✓ Develop a set of recommendations to enhance departmental efforts



# CHILD Working Group



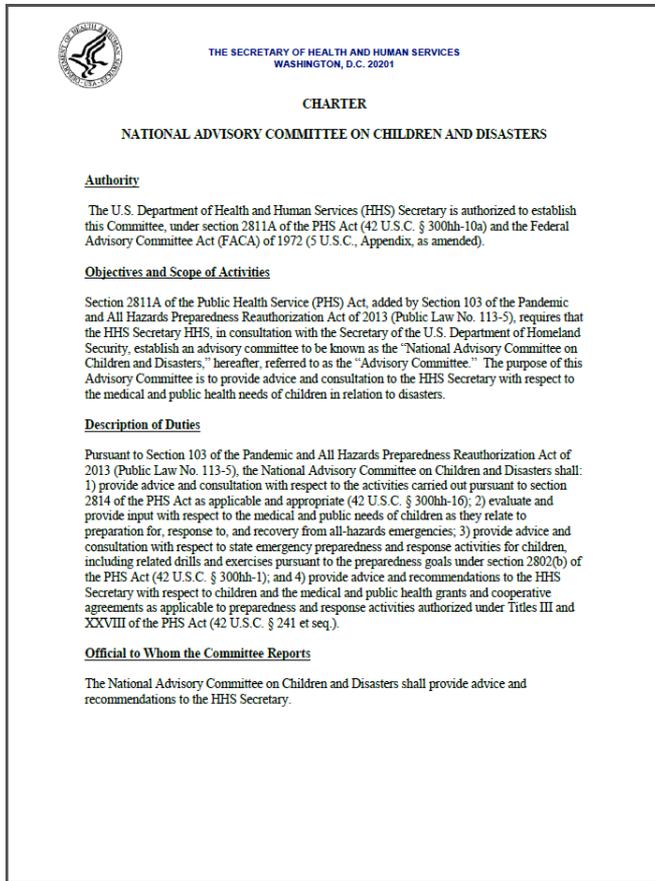
- Additional areas of focus in 2012-2013:
  - ✓ Children at heightened risk (e.g., special health care needs and other sub-populations of children historically under-represented in planning efforts)
  - ✓ Neonates and pregnant/breastfeeding women
  - ✓ Enhancing interdepartmental and NGO collaboration
- Demonstrating progress toward 2011 recommendations



- The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-5)
- Authorized the establishment of a new National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters (NACCD).
- Increased attention to NDMS training and competencies that address at-risk individuals’ needs.

- The NACCD will:

- ✓ Have at least two non-federal health care professionals with expertise in pediatric medical disaster planning, preparedness, response, or recovery
- ✓ Have at least two representatives from state, local, territorial, or tribal agencies with expertise in pediatric disaster planning, preparedness, response, or recovery
- ✓ Provide advice and consultation on children's disaster health and medical needs, drills and exercises, and grants and cooperative agreements.



# Progress on 2011 Recommendations





- Catastrophic Mass Violence Resources
  - Talking to Children about the Shooting
  - Psychological Impact of the Recent Shooting
  - Tip Sheet for Youth Talking to Journalists about the Shooting
  - Tips for Parents on Media Coverage
  - Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth after the Recent Shooting
  - After a Crisis: Helping Young Children Heal
  - Parents Tips for Helping Preschool-Aged Children after Disasters
  - Parents Tips for Helping School-Aged Children after Disasters
  - Guiding Adults in Talking to Children about Death and Attending Services
  - Restoring a Sense of Safety in the Aftermath of a Shooting: Tips for Parents and Professionals
- Resources in Response to the Bombings
  - Parents Tips for Helping Preschool-Aged Children after Disasters
  - Parents Tips for Helping School-Aged Children after Disasters
  - Tips for Parents on Media Coverage
  - After a Crisis: Helping Young Children Heal
  - Talking to Children about the Bombings
  - Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth After the Bombings
- For Children and Families Who Were Injured
  - [www.AftertheInjury.org](http://www.AftertheInjury.org)
  - What Does Your Child Need?
  - For Parents, Teens, and Children
- For Pediatric Providers
  - Healthcare Toolbox
  - Trauma-Informed Pediatric Care

- HHS, VA, and NACCHO partnered to develop a six-hour, interactive, online Psychological First Aid (PFA) course available through SAMHSA's National Child Traumatic Stress Network.
- NIMH, ASPR, and SAMHSA collaborated on a funding opportunity to advance the study of disaster behavioral health effects and interventions.



# Behavioral Health



- Other progress since 2011 in Mental and Behavioral Health.
  - *HHS Disaster Behavioral Health Concept of Operations* completed 2011, revised 2013, implemented multiple times
  - SAMHSA launched the *Disaster Distress Helpline* (DDH), the first hotline dedicated to providing disaster crisis counseling in 2012.
  - SAMHSA Disaster App



# Medical Countermeasures



- A Pediatric and Obstetric Integrated Program Team was established to provide guidance to HHS, identify gaps, and make recommendations related to pediatric and OB MCM needs.
- *FDA Public Workshop on Ethical and Regulatory Challenges in the Development of Pediatric Medical Countermeasures 2012.*





- HHS partners have worked together to make investments in MCMs that include coverage for pediatric populations. Such expanded or recent (2012-2014) approvals include products to treat:
  - ✓ Plague
  - ✓ Inhalational anthrax
  - ✓ Influenza
  - ✓ Botulism



# Medical Countermeasures



- CDC held four meetings related to planning for an anthrax exposure:
  - ✓ Clinical management (2011)
  - ✓ Anthrax anti-toxin and post-exposure prophylaxis (2012)
  - ✓ Pregnant, post-partum, and newborn issues (2012)
  - ✓ Pediatric clinical guidelines with AAP (2012)

# Child Physical Health



- NDMS has developed the capability to deploy pediatric specialists and subspecialists to augment traditional response teams; the USPHS Commissioned Corps has pediatric specialists on its teams.
- ASPR has hosted three workshops with pediatric transport stakeholders to address a national strategy for pediatric patient movement in a large disaster.



# Child Physical Health



- NICHD reorganized, launched Pediatric Trauma and Critical Illness Branch.
- Since 2011, all new PHS Officers trained by the ACF OHSEPR in *At-Risk Individuals in Disasters and Public Health Emergencies*.
- HRSA developed “PEDPrepared,” an *informational clearinghouse of pediatric disaster resources* specifically targeted to health providers, disaster and emergency planners, families, and others.
- HRSA awarded State Partnership Regionalization of Care (SPROC) demonstration grants in 2012 to create *regionalized systems of pediatric emergency care for rural, tribal, and insular communities* in Alaska, Arizona, California, Montana, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania.

# Child Physical Health



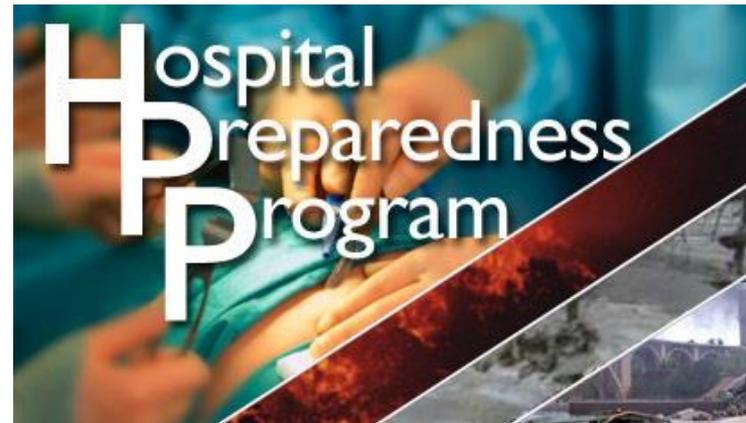
- ASPR hosted two technical assistance webinars (2013, 2014) for the awardees and coalitions funded by the Hospital Preparedness Program and their partners on “Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions.” Also one on behavioral health.
- HRSA hosted a webcast on *Kids in Disasters: Facing Our Challenges*, which highlighted innovations in pediatric disaster preparedness: “A Novel Imaging System for Reunification of Children Separated during Disaster” and “Refining Pediatric Disaster Triage Algorithms and Education in the Pre-hospital Setting.”



# Hospital Preparedness Program



- ASPR's Hospital Preparedness Program funds 50 states, DC, 8 territories, and 3 metropolitan areas to develop healthcare coalitions that can prepare for, respond to and recover from the public health and medical impacts of disasters and emergencies.
- ASPR and EMSC awardees are working together to increase the percentage of hospitals that have pediatrics included and exercised in their disaster plans, and healthcare coalitions that include pediatric expertise.





- ACF led the development of a new website specific to “Early Childhood Disaster-Related Resources,” which provides tools for three targeted audiences: children and families, early childhood development professionals, and policy makers.
- *ACF Children and Youth Task Force in Disasters: Guidelines for Development, 2013*



# Child Care & Child Welfare



- ACF has trained all of the nation's Head Start executives and State Administrators for Family Violence Prevention and Services on disaster preparedness, including attention to the needs of children exposed to domestic violence.



# 2012-2013 CHILD Updates



## Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Newborns

*Recent activities include:*

- A toolkit to assist local and state public health departments to assess conditions, needs, and outcomes among disaster-affected women of reproductive age, including pregnant and post-partum women.
- Discussion of future applications of prenatal care records and mobile-phone messaging communications to support women's disaster preparedness, resilience, and access to services.
- Supported research on the perinatal effects of recent natural disasters.
- Multi-agency commitment to improving the availability of medical countermeasures that can be used safely and effectively in infants and pregnant women.



# 2012-2013 CHILD Updates



## Children at Heightened Risk

*Recent activities include:*

- Implementation of Children and Youth Task Forces in Disasters, which have focused on supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families by restoring critical services including Child Care, Head Start, behavioral health, financial assistance, and housing.
- Preparedness messaging designed for low-income families with children, establishing the connection between responsible fatherhood and household preparedness efforts.
- Surveys of pediatricians and parents of children with special health care needs regarding knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about influenza and influenza treatment.
- Strategic education and outreach to promote influenza preparedness for children with neurologic and neurodevelopmental disabilities.



# 2012-2013 CHILD Updates



## Interdepartmental and Non-Governmental Organization Collaboration

*Recent activities include:*

- Synchronization between HHS grant programs at the national, programmatic level and among awardee coalition activities.
- Website development to provide tools on early childhood disaster preparedness for children and families, early childhood development professionals, and policy makers.
- Partnership with non-governmental organizations to conduct impact assessments of child care systems and address disaster-caused gaps in child care after disasters.
- Capacity and quality improvement evaluations on the readiness of the nation's hospitals to care for pediatric patients after disasters.



# Tools

## Connect with your:

- ▶ AAP Chapter Contact for Disaster Preparedness
- ▶ ACF Regional Emergency Management Specialist [online](#) or by e-mailing [hswatchofficer@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:hswatchofficer@acf.hhs.gov)
- ▶ EMSC Grantee Program State and Territorial Contacts
- ▶ FEMA Regional Disability Integration Specialist by e-mailing [fema-disability-integration-coordination@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-disability-integration-coordination@fema.dhs.gov)
- ▶ Regional Emergency Coordinators

- ASPR Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions Webinar
- <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/webinar-resources-130620.aspx>
- ASPR Pediatric Preparedness for Healthcare Coalitions Webinar (Part II)
- <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/meetings/Pages/default.aspx>

# Tools

- HRSA/EMSC: PEDPrepared
- <http://resources.emscnrc.org/pedprepared/>



**Welcome to**  
**PEDPrepared**

A Pediatric Disaster Resource Clearinghouse that brings together information, tools, and resources to assist health care providers, emergency planners, and families to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disaster or pandemic involving the pediatric population.

Select A Category . . .

-  Healthcare Providers
-  Community and Emergency Planners
-  Families and Caregivers

- CDC: Caring for Children in a Disaster

- <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/children/>

## Caring for Children in a Disaster

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Parents, teachers, doctors and nurses are just some of the people who can help children get ready for and cope with disasters. [Parents and parents-to-be](#) can prepare so that the family can stay as safe as possible during and after a disaster. [Schools and childcare centers](#) can stay prepared, too. Check out these resources to help keep kids safe in an emergency.



### Families

- Being prepared
- Info for parents and parents-to-be
- Info for kids

More

### Schools and Childcare Centers

- Emergency Planning
- Helping Children Cope
- Safer Schools

More

### Emergency & Health Professionals

- Info for Evacuation Centers
- Preparedness Resources for Pediatric Health Professionals

More

### Public Health Matters Blog

[Helping Children Cope With a Disaster](#)

It is difficult to deal with something that you don't understand. Children often become distressed after a disaster, especially if it has directly impacted them or someone they care about.



# Tools

- NIH/NLM: Health Resources on Children in Disasters and Emergencies
- <http://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/children.html>

The screenshot shows the website for the Disaster Information Management Research Center (DIMRC). The header includes the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services logo and the URL www.hhs.gov. The main title is "Disaster Information Management Research Center" with the tagline "IMPROVING ACCESS TO DISASTER HEALTH INFORMATION". The National Library of Medicine logo is also present. The navigation menu includes "SIS Home", "About Us", "Site Map & Search", "SIS News", and "Contact Us". The breadcrumb trail is "SIS Home > DIMRC Home > Disasters > Children in Disasters". The main heading is "Health Resources on Children in Disasters and Emergencies". A "Share" button is visible. The left sidebar contains a list of links: "About", "Databases", "Resources by Topic", "Partner Organizations", "Additional Organizations and Agencies", "Suggest a Resource", and "Disclaimer". The right sidebar features a "Featured Sites" section with the text "2014 EMSC Program Meeting July 29 to August 1, 2014 Arlington, Virginia".



# Emerging Issues: Ebola



## ASPR Activities

- Ebola Information for Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Settings
- <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ebola/Pages/default.aspx>

## ASPR/ABC Activities

- Compiled an annotated resource list related to the access and functional needs of at-risk individuals and on behavioral health as it relates to Ebola.
- Convene the Federal Disaster Behavioral Health Group.
- Co-lead the Disaster Human Services Working Group with ACF.

The screenshot shows the 'Public Health Emergency' website. The main heading is 'Ebola Information for Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Settings'. Below this, there is a paragraph of introductory text. To the right, there are two sidebars: 'National Calls and Webinars' and 'In the Spotlight'. The main content area features five blue-bordered boxes with icons and text:

- EMS Providers:** EMS personnel, agencies and systems can take steps now to prepare for a patient that may be infected. These resources can help EMS professionals better evaluate risks, identify potentially infected patients, identify concrete steps that you can take to prepare to handle issues related to patient management, and more. [Learn More >>](#)
- Clinicians & Healthcare Professionals:** Clinicians and healthcare workers need to take the time now to learn what they need to do to most effectively manage an Ebola patient. These resources can help you diagnose and treat a patient; collect, transport, test and submit specimens; safely monitor and transport a patient; and protect staff. [Learn More >>](#)
- Hospitals & Healthcare Facilities:** Hospitals and healthcare facilities can more effectively manage an incident in their hospitals if they plan ahead. This section includes information to enhance emergency management, infection control, patient management, communication procedures and more. [Learn More >>](#)
- Healthcare Coalitions:** Healthcare coalitions and systems can help keep everyone safe by working together effectively. The resources in this section highlight concrete activities that can help detect possible Ebola cases, protect employees, improve coordination, and respond appropriately. [Learn More >>](#)
- Subscribe & Stay Informed:** Frequently monitor CDC's Ebola website and subscribe to updates from CDC for the most current information. CDC is available 24/7 for consultation. State and local health departments with questions should contact the CDC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 770-485-7100 or via email at [ecoreport@cdc.gov](mailto:ecoreport@cdc.gov).



# Emerging Issues: Ebola



## HHS Resources

- Disaster Lit: Resource Guide for Disaster Medicine and Public Health
- <http://disasterlit.nlm.nih.gov/search/?pg=2&rc=276&search=Search&searchTerm=s=ebola%20OR%20hemorrhagic>
- What Children Need to Know About Ebola
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/what-children-need-to-know-about-ebola>

The screenshot shows the Disaster Information Management Research Center website. The search bar contains the text "ebola OR hemorrhagic". The search results display a list of records, with the first record being "11. Ethical Issues Related to Study Design for Trials on Therapeutics for Ebola Virus Disease: WHO [World Health Organization] Ethics Working Group Meeting, 20-21 October 2014: Summary of Discussion". The source is listed as "World Health Organization (WHO)", the date published is "11/05/2014", and the format is "PDF (368 KB)".

The screenshot shows the Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness & Response website. The page title is "What Children and Families Need to Know about Ebola". The page content includes a search bar, a navigation menu with "HOME", "ABOUT", "DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT", and "RESOURCES", and a "Was this page helpful?" poll with "YES" and "NO" buttons. The main text discusses the need for support for children and families during the Ebola outbreak and provides information for Head Start and Early Head Start providers.

# Questions?



Emergency Preparedness Resources for  
At-Risk Individuals, Behavioral Health & Community Resilience

 [www.PHE.gov](http://www.PHE.gov)

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