



*United States Department of*  
**Health & Human Services**

Office of the Secretary  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

# **Emergency Preparedness Research**

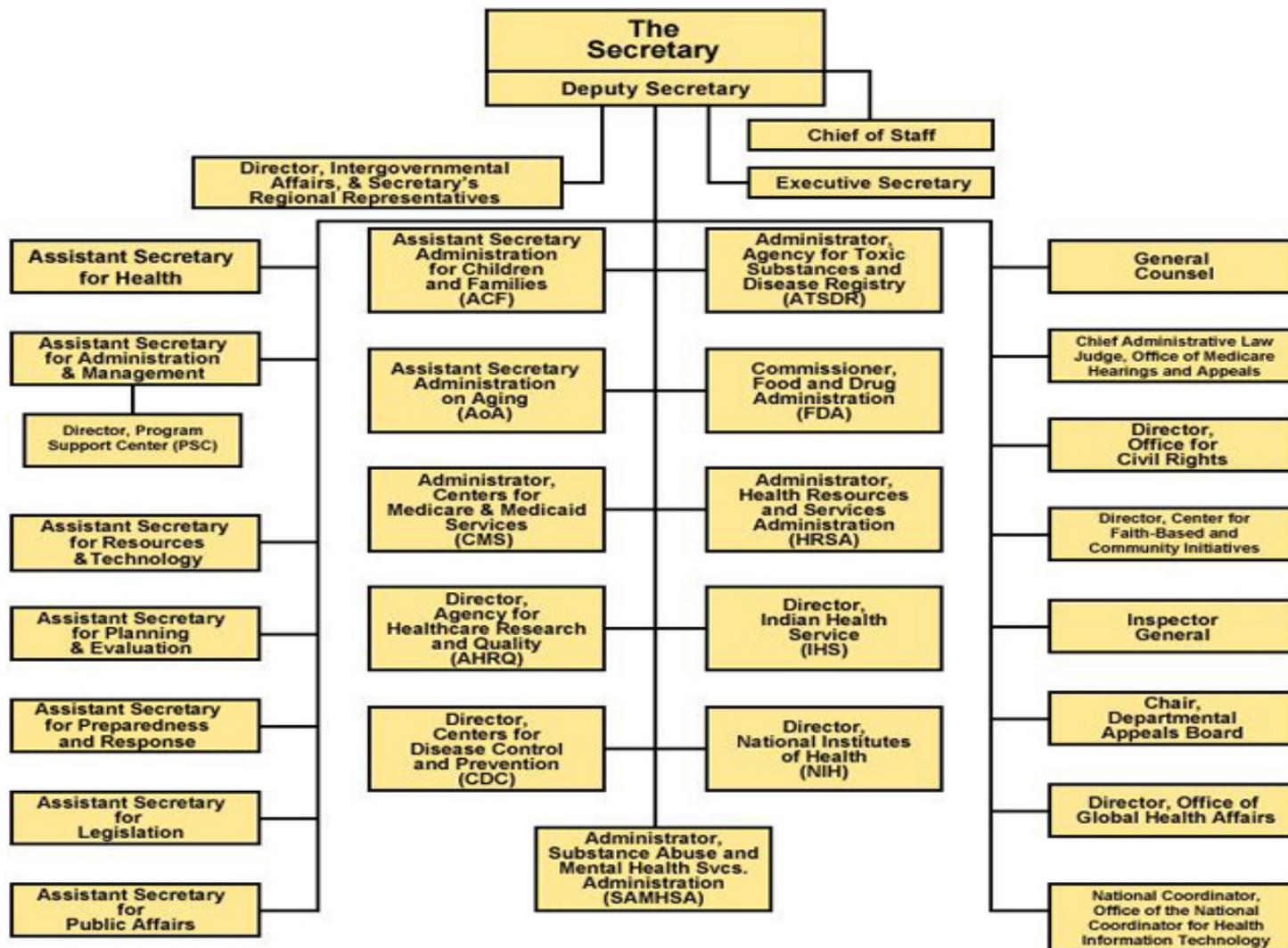
## **An ASPR Initiative**

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# Overview

- HHS/ASPR Office
- Legislative and Presidential Mandate Language
- Current Problem
- Ongoing efforts

# Department of Health and Human Services



# Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response

- Offices

- Immediate Office
- Biomedical Advanced Research Authority
- Office of Policy and Strategic Planning
- Office of Medicine, Science and Public Health
- Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations (OPEO)



# ASPR

## Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations

- Responsible for developing operational plans, analytical products, and training exercises to ensure the preparedness of the Office, the Department, the Federal Government and the public to respond to domestic and international public health and medical threats and emergencies.
- OPEO is the lead for interagency planning and response activities required to fulfill HHS responsibilities under ESF #8 of the NRF.
- OPEO maintains a regional planning and response coordination capability, and maintains control of the National Disaster Medical Systems (NDMS).

# Research Priorities within Legislative Language

- PAHPA
  - ASPR
    - ❖ `(3) COUNTERMEASURES- Oversee advanced research, development, and procurement of qualified countermeasures (as defined in section 319F-1) and qualified pandemic or epidemic products (as defined in section 319F-3).
    - ❖ `(C) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES- Promote improved emergency medical services medical direction, system integration, research, and uniformity of data collection, treatment protocols, and policies with regard to public health emergencies.
  - Education and Training
    - ❖ 7) PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH- In consultation with relevant public and private entities, the Secretary shall define the existing knowledge base for public health preparedness and response systems, and establish a research agenda based on Federal, State, local, and tribal public health preparedness priorities. As a condition of receiving funding from the Secretary under this subsection, a Center shall conduct public health systems research that is consistent with the agenda described under this paragraph.
  - National Health Security Strategy
    - ❖ `(2) EVALUATION OF PROGRESS- The National Health Security Strategy shall include an evaluation of the progress made by Federal, State, local, and tribal entities, based on the evidence-based benchmarks and objective standards that measure levels of preparedness established pursuant to section 319C-1(g). Such evaluation shall include aggregate and State-specific breakdowns of obligated funding spent by major category (as defined by the Secretary) for activities funded through awards pursuant to sections 319C-1 and 319C-2.

## Research Priorities within Presidential Directive Language

- HSPD #21

- (14) Ultimately, the Nation must collectively support and facilitate the establishment of a discipline of disaster health. The specialty of emergency medicine evolved as a result of the recognition of the special considerations in emergency patient care, and similarly the recognition of the unique principles in disaster-related public health and medicine merit the establishment of their own formal discipline. Such a discipline will provide a foundation for doctrine, education, training, and research and will integrate preparedness into the public health and medical communities.
- (38) Within 1 year after the date of this directive, the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, shall establish an academic Joint Program for Disaster Medicine and Public Health housed at a National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The Program shall lead Federal efforts to develop and propagate core curricula, training, and research related to medicine and public health in disasters. The Center will be an academic center of excellence in disaster medicine and public health, co-locating education and research in the related specialties of domestic medical preparedness and response, international health, international disaster and humanitarian medical assistance, and military medicine. Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Defense authorities will be used to carry out respective civilian and military missions within this joint program.

## The Emergency Care Coordination Center

- HSPD #21

- (41) Within 180 days after the date of this directive, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Secretaries of Transportation and Homeland Security, shall establish within the Department of Health and Human Services an Office for Emergency Medical Care. Under the direction of the Secretary, such Office shall lead an enterprise to promote and fund research in emergency medicine and trauma health care; promote regional partnerships and more effective emergency medical systems in order to enhance appropriate triage, distribution, and care of routine community patients; promote local, regional, and State emergency medical systems' preparedness for and response to public health events. The Office shall address the full spectrum of issues that have an impact on care in hospital emergency departments, including the entire continuum of patient care from pre-hospital to disposition from emergency or trauma care. The Office shall coordinate with existing executive departments and agencies that perform functions relating to emergency medical systems in order to ensure unified strategy, policy, and implementation.

# The Challenge

- **Public Health Disaster Research: Surveying the Field, Defining Its Future**
  - David M. Abramson, PhD, MPH, Stephen S. Morse, PhD, Andrew L. Garrett, MD, MPH and Irwin Redlener, MD
    - ❖ DISASTER MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS - 1(1): 57-62 2007
  - *There is a greater emphasis on process evaluations, such as the effect of a specific training program on increasing a particular knowledge base, than on outcome evaluations such as whether a specific knowledge area is associated with improved disaster response*
  - *Within the preparedness phase, there is a considerable need for outcomes research.*
  - *Health-related disaster research poses challenges ranging from study design problems to logistical issues. Methodologically, there is an inherent problem of a small number of cases, and rarely an opportunity to standardize data collection efforts to allow for a comparative case approach, much less meta-analyses.*
  - *Inasmuch as prospective research designs are difficult to develop, the field must generally rely on observational and quasiexperimental research designs.*

## Ongoing Efforts within HHS and ASPR

- ASPR
  - CRI
  - BARDA
    - ❖ Simulation/Modeling
    - ❖ Countermeasure Enterprise
  - OPEO
    - ❖ HPP
    - ❖ ECCC
    - ❖ NDMS
- HHS Partners
  - AHRQ
  - NIH
    - ❖ NLM
    - ❖ NICHD
  - CDC
  - CMS
- Other Federal Partners-DOD, VA, DHS, DOT



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*Emergency  
Preparedness*

**Emergency  
Care**

**Hospitals**

**Public Health**

**Foundations**

# Questions?

