



# Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps

*Engaging volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resiliency.*

## Medical Reserve Corps

Briefing for the White House Subcommittee  
on Disaster Reduction

Office of the Surgeon General  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health  
April 2011

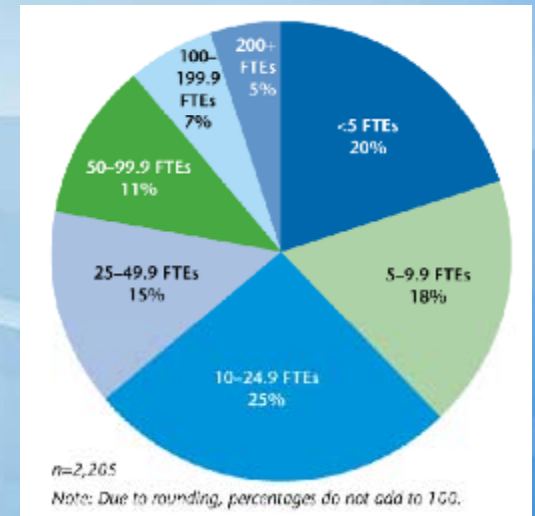


*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*

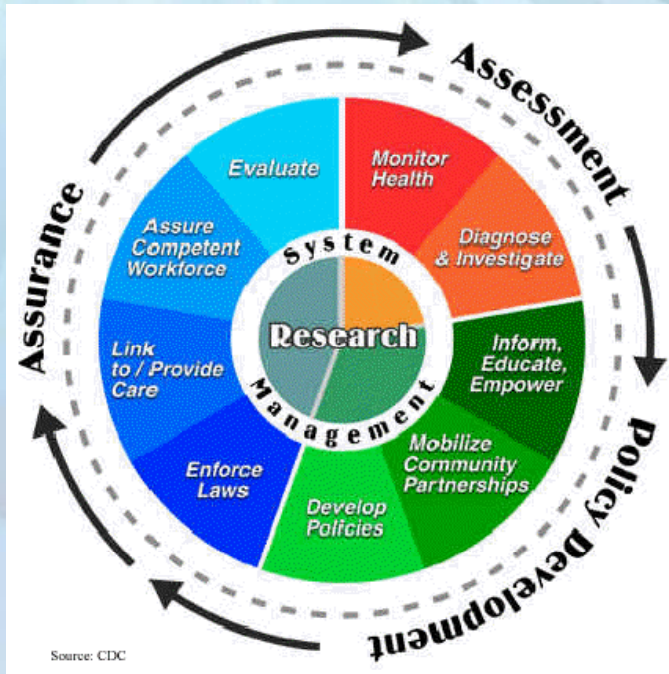
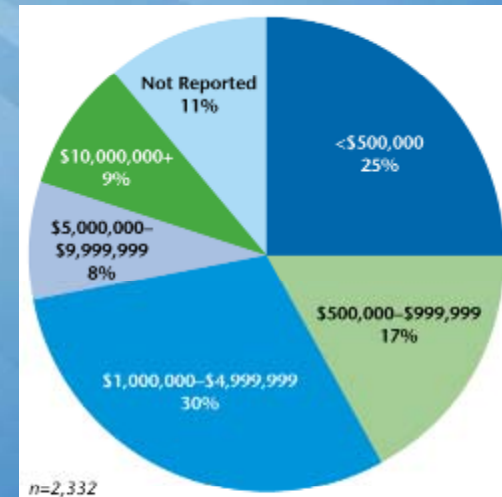


# Public Health

FTEs



Funding



Engaging volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response, and community resiliency.

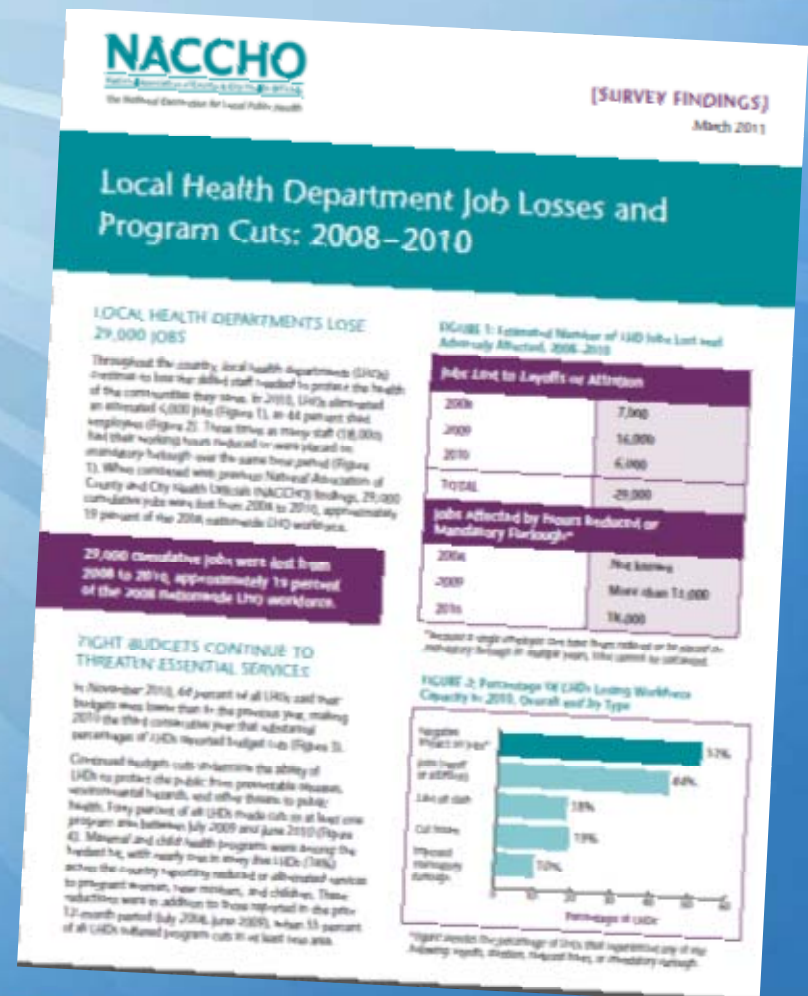
Source: NACCHO, 2008 Profile of Local Health Departments

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/profile/resources/2008report/index.cfm>



# Public Health

- Recent NACCHO Survey:
  - 29,000 jobs lost to layoffs and attrition
    - ~ 19% of the nationwide LHD workforce
  - 18,000 LHD employees subjected to reduced hours or mandatory furloughs



Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.

Source: NACCHO

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/lhdbudget/index.cfm>



# Preparedness



## Personal Preparedness in America:

Findings from the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey  
August 2009



- Key Findings:
  - 29% of Americans have not prepared at all
  - Others...over confident?
    - of those who perceived themselves to be prepared:
      - 35% - no plans
      - 77% - no drills
      - 73% - did not know evacuation routes

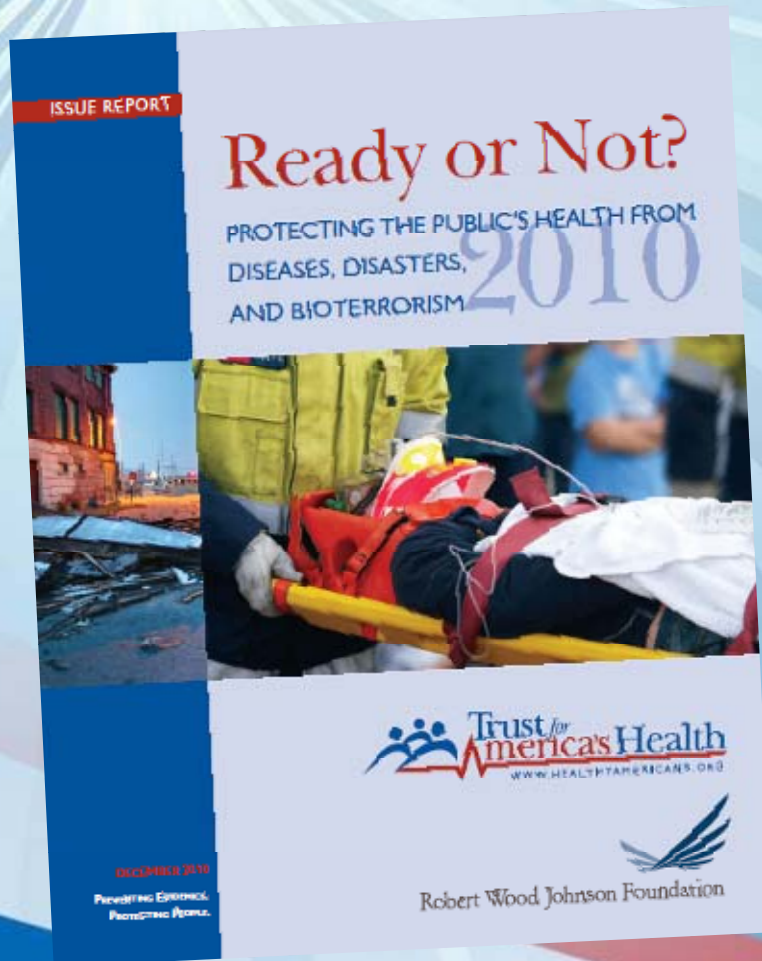
*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*

Source: Citizen Corps

<http://www.citizencorps.gov/ready/2009findings.shtml>



# Ready or Not?



- Key Findings:
  - The Good...14 states scored 9 or higher on ten key indicators of public health preparedness...no state scored lower than a 5
  - The Bad...“the almost decade of gains is in real jeopardy due to severe budget cuts by federal, state, and local governments”

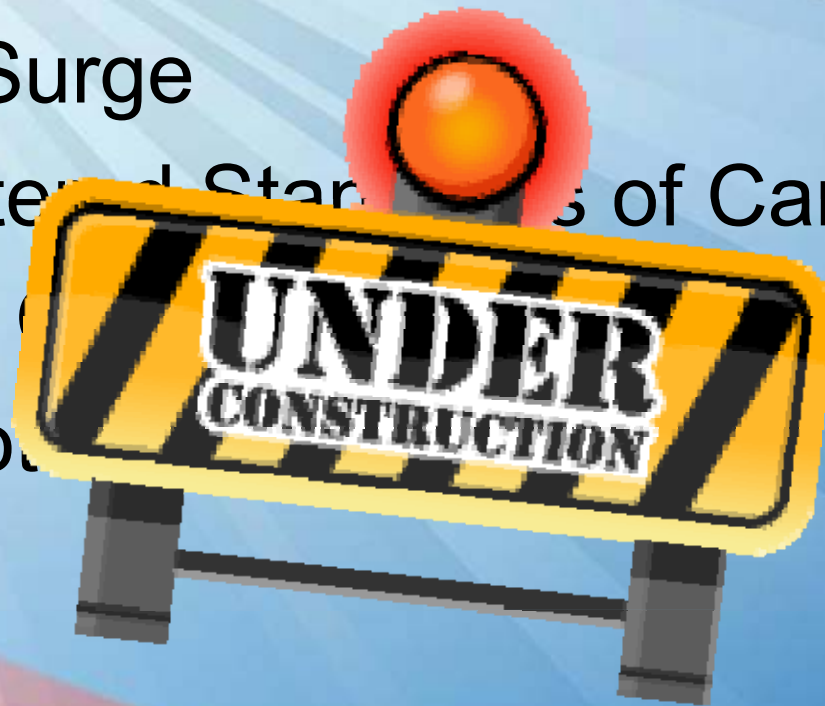
*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*

Source: Trust For America's Health  
<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror10/>



# Emergency Response

- Mutual Aid/EMAC
- Medical Surge
- Ethics/Alternate Standards of Care
- Alternate ( )
- Legal Protection
- Etc....





# Volunteerism

- 63.4 million Americans (>25% of the U.S. population) volunteered through an organization in 2009
  - 8.1 billion hours of service
  - worth an estimated \$169 billion
- “Generic” vs. skill-based
- Planned vs. spontaneous
- Affiliated vs. unaffiliated





# Benefits of Volunteering

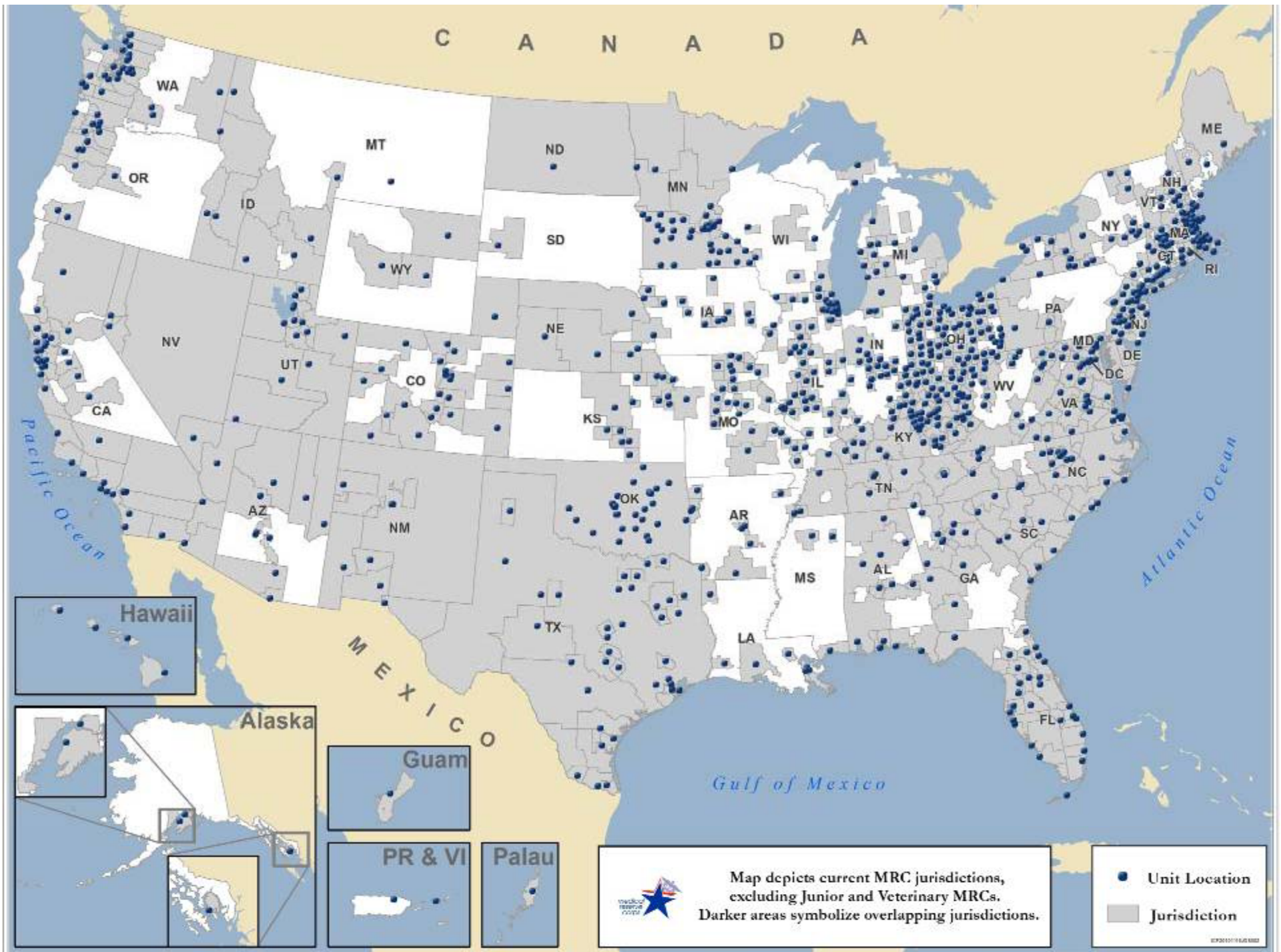
- Pride, satisfaction, accomplishment
- Health Benefits
  - Live longer
  - Lower rates of depression
  - Less incidence of heart disease
  - <http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/volunteering/benefits.asp>
- Strengthen communities
- Lessen vulnerability and build resilience
  - Reduce Disaster Risk



# MRC “At A Glance”

- National network
- Mission: Engage volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency
- Key Points:
  - Organize/utilize locally
  - Affiliate/integrate with existing programs and resources
  - Volunteer management -- identify, screen/verify credentials, train

*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*





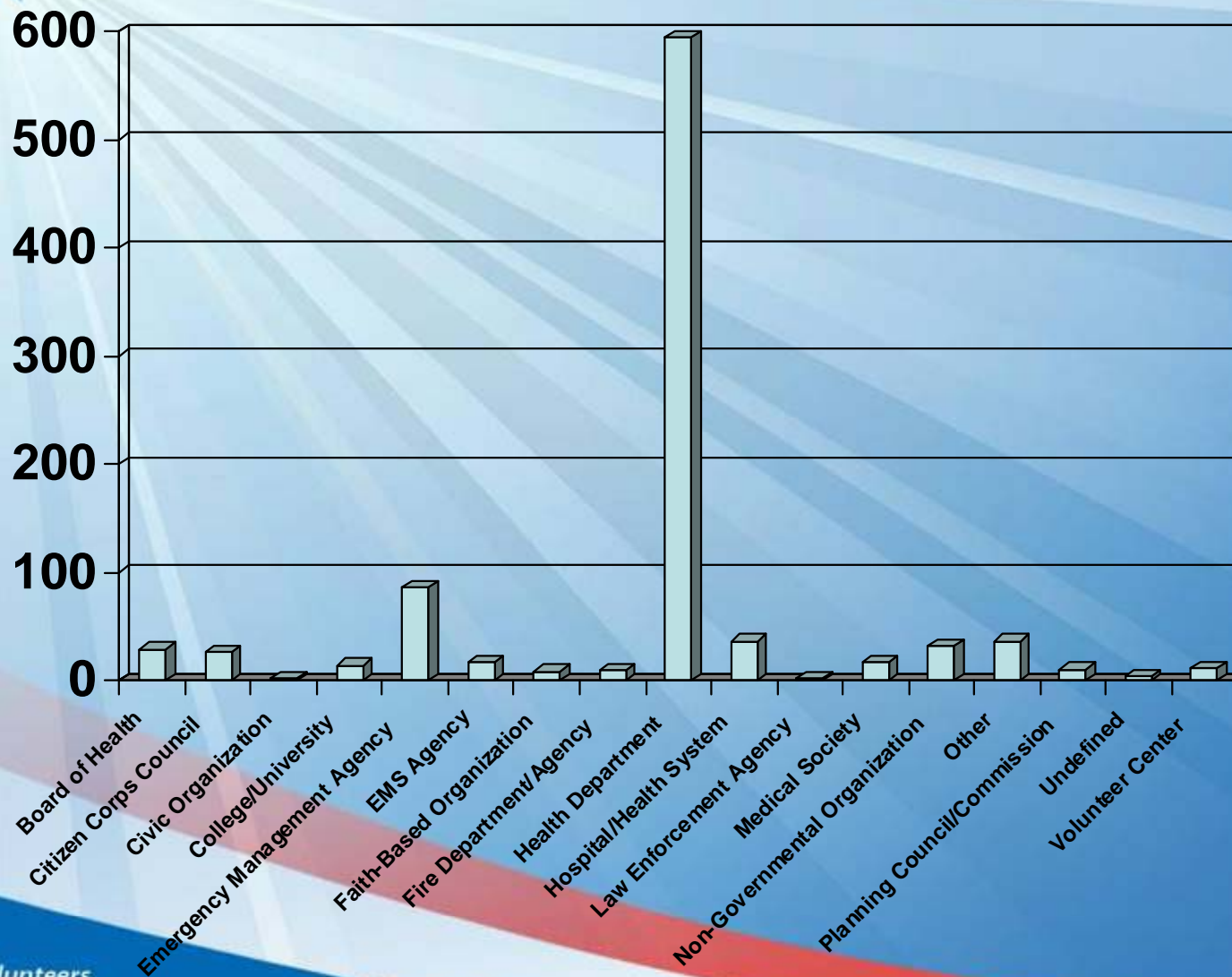
# MRC Models

- Community-based = No “typical” MRC
- All MRC units:
  - Provide an organization structure for utilizing members
  - Pre-identify members
  - Verify professional licensure/certification
  - Train/prepare
- Units vary by:
  - Housing organizations
  - Partner organizations
  - Types/number of volunteers
  - Local mission/activities

*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*



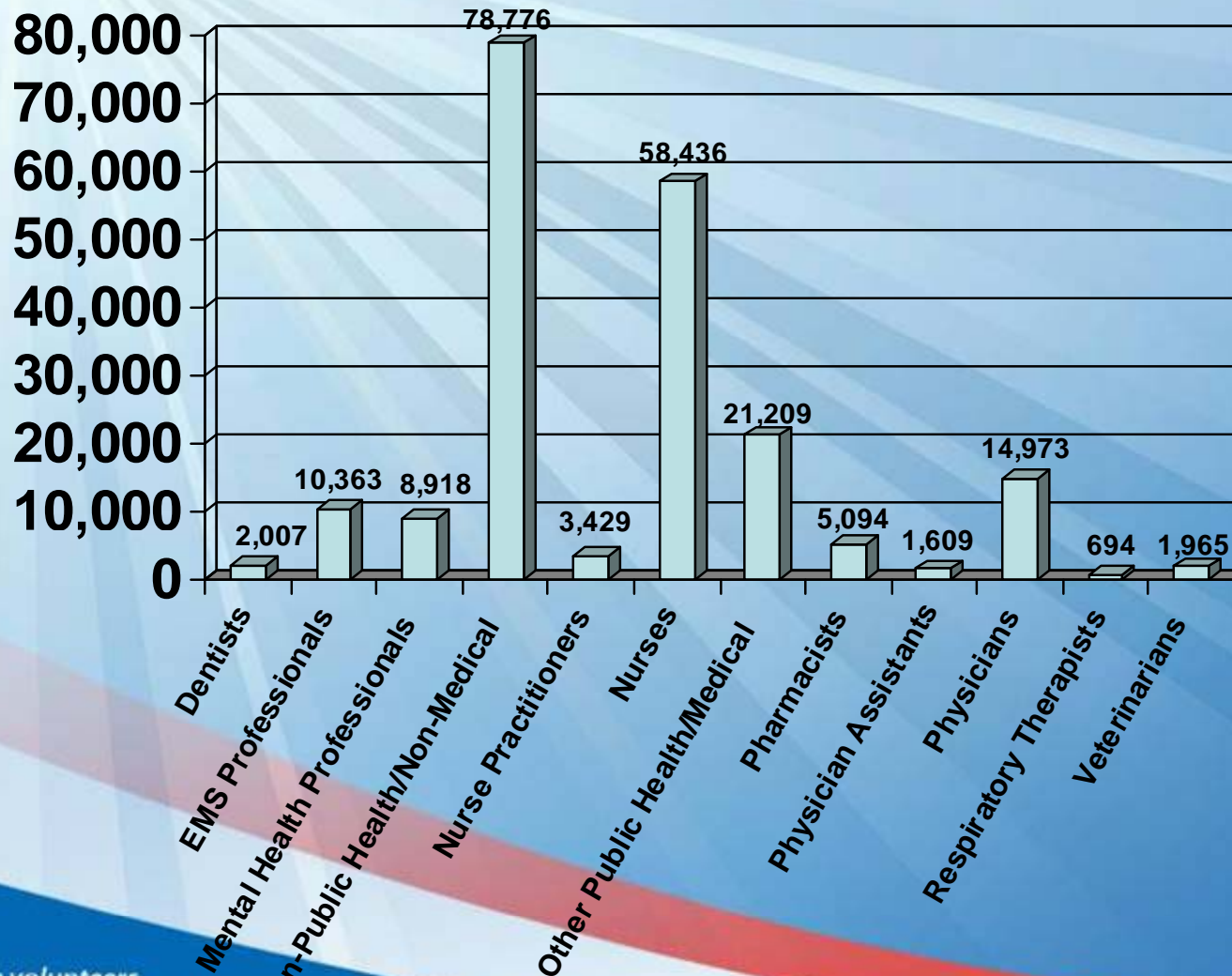
# Housing Organizations



Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.



# MRC Volunteers



Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.



# MRC Activities

<b>Activity Focus</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>
Administrative	921	1,054
Preparedness	1,576	1,496
Public Health	1,121	2,819
Response	774	1,834
Training	2,076	2,241
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,468</b>	<b>9,444</b>

*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*



# Activities/Priorities

- Emergency Management
  - Preparedness
  - Response
  - Recovery
- Public Health
  - Ambassador's of the Surgeon General
    - Vision for a Healthy and Fit Nation
    - Promote Wellness
  - Disease and injury prevention

*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*





# Preparedness

- Personal/Family
- MRC Unit
  - Training
  - Drills/Exercises
- Community



*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*



# Emergency Response

- Large public gatherings
- Snow/Ice Storms
- Fires/Fire Fighter Rehab
- Haiti Repatriation/Triage
- Flooding
- Hurricane
- H1N1



*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*



# H1N1 Activities

- Vaccination clinics
  - Mass vaccination
  - School-based vaccination
- Phone banks
- Triage
- Community education and awareness
  - Flu prevention education
- Flu surveillance





# Disaster Risk Reduction

$$\downarrow \text{Risk} = \downarrow H \times \downarrow V$$

$$V = (\downarrow E \times \downarrow S) / \uparrow R$$

Many thanks to Dr. Mark Keim, CDC/NCEH, for introducing me to the concept of DRR



# Public Health Activities

- Build resilience ( $\uparrow R$ )
- Reduce susceptibility ( $\downarrow S$ )

Healthier people before a disaster...

Less susceptible to illness or injury  
during or after disaster



# Reduce Susceptibility

- Disease prevention
  - Reduce obesity
  - Screening
  - Immunization
- Health promotion
- Health care



*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*



# Local MRC Activities

- The Texas State Guard Medical Brigade MRC (Austin, TX), Starr County MRC (Rio Grande City, TX), and Cameron County MRC (San Benito, TX) units had more than 600 volunteers assist with Operation Lone Star at which more than 12,000 people received over 61,000 **medical and dental screening** services.
- Twenty-five members of the Black Belt MRC (Tuskegee, AL) participated in a health fair by conducting blood pressure, blood sugar, and BMI **screenings** for attendees.
- Laurel County MRC (London, KY) volunteers attended a local obesity forum to discuss the effects of obesity on the health of the public. The unit established a committee to find ways to **lower obesity rates** and improve health.
- MRC of Larimer County (Fort Collins, CO) assisted with 8,000 **meningococcal vaccinations** after an outbreak at the university.



# Local MRC Activities

- MRC of Scott County (Shakope, MN) provided **free medical care to the underinsured and uninsured** utilizing the Scott County Free Mobile Health Clinic.
- The MRC of El Paso County (Colorado Springs, CO) assisted in staffing a large-scale dental clinic that offered **free oral healthcare services** at no cost to more than 1,500 community members.
- Maine Township Regional MRC (Park Ridge, IL) held a two week campaign to offer **free physicals, sight, hearing and dental check-ups as well as cholesterol and diabetes screening** at an area senior housing facilities.
- Eight members of the Coastal South Carolina MRC (Port Royal, SC) participated in a mass access medical clinic at which approximately 4,000 people received **medical and dental services** over two days.
- Greater Monadnock MRC (New Ipswich, NH) participated in a regional **Medication Take Back** event in conjunction with local law enforcement and the DEA in response to prescription drug abuse.

*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*





# Let's Move

- Goal: solve the challenge of childhood obesity within a generation
- Let's Move City or Town
  - Local commitments
- Million PALA Challenge
  - HealthierMRC Challenge
- Build/improve play spaces



*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*



medical  
reserve  
corps

# Questions and Discussion

*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*



Robert J. Tosatto, RPh, MPH, MBA  
Captain, US Public Health Service  
Director, Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps  
Office of the Surgeon General

Room 18C-14, Parklawn Building  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857  
(301) 443-2528  
robert.tosatto@hhs.gov

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

*Engaging volunteers  
to strengthen public health,  
emergency response, and community resiliency.*