

2021 “Breakthrough” Series

# Addressing SDOH Issues for Essential Workers in Emergency Management

April 29, 2021

Presented by MHP Salud, Farmworker Justice, Health  
Outreach Partners, and Migrant Clinicians Network



In case of technical difficulties - yours or ours - please send us an alert using the chat box feature.

This session will be recorded and available for you to share with your team.

# The SDOH Academy

The SDOH Academy is a coordinated curriculum of community-based SDOH interventions. Multiple HRSA-funded training and technical assistance partners created The Social Determinants of Health Academy. It's a series of virtual trainings to help staff from health centers, health center controlled networks, and primary care associations develop, implement, and sustain SDOH interventions in their clinics and communities.

## About the 2021 “Breakthrough” Series

Using our [core competencies framework](#), the SDOH Academy is offering a “[Breakthrough Series](#)” of webinars and office hours where SDOH Academy faculty will help you “break through” the clutter to find the: resources, experts, and peer linkages.

Each webinar will equip participants with the tools needed to increase their competency in four core areas SDOH response strategies.

## About the 2021 “Breakthrough” Series

- **Target Audience:** Staff from health centers, PCAs & health center-controlled networks
- **Time Commitment:** April 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 3-4PM ET main presentation, with optional office hours from 4-4:30 PM ET
- **Registration:** Register for each webinar at <https://sdohacademy.com/2021-breakthrough-series>
- **Recordings:** All trainings are recorded and made available on the [SDOH Academy website](#)

# The Faculty



# Learning Objectives for Session 4

1. Explore critical vulnerabilities of essential workers during public health crises and natural disasters
1. Discuss the role of health centers in addressing clinical, outreach, and legal protections for essential workers
1. Share resources and strategies to address SDOH issues for essential workers during and after an emergency

# Faculty for Session 4



Jillian Hopewell  
Director of Education and  
Training  
Migrant Clinicians Network



Alexis Guild  
Director of Health Policy and  
Programs  
Farmworker Justice



Hansel Ibarra  
Program Director II  
MHP Salud



Gabriella Castillo  
Program Director  
Health Outreach Partners



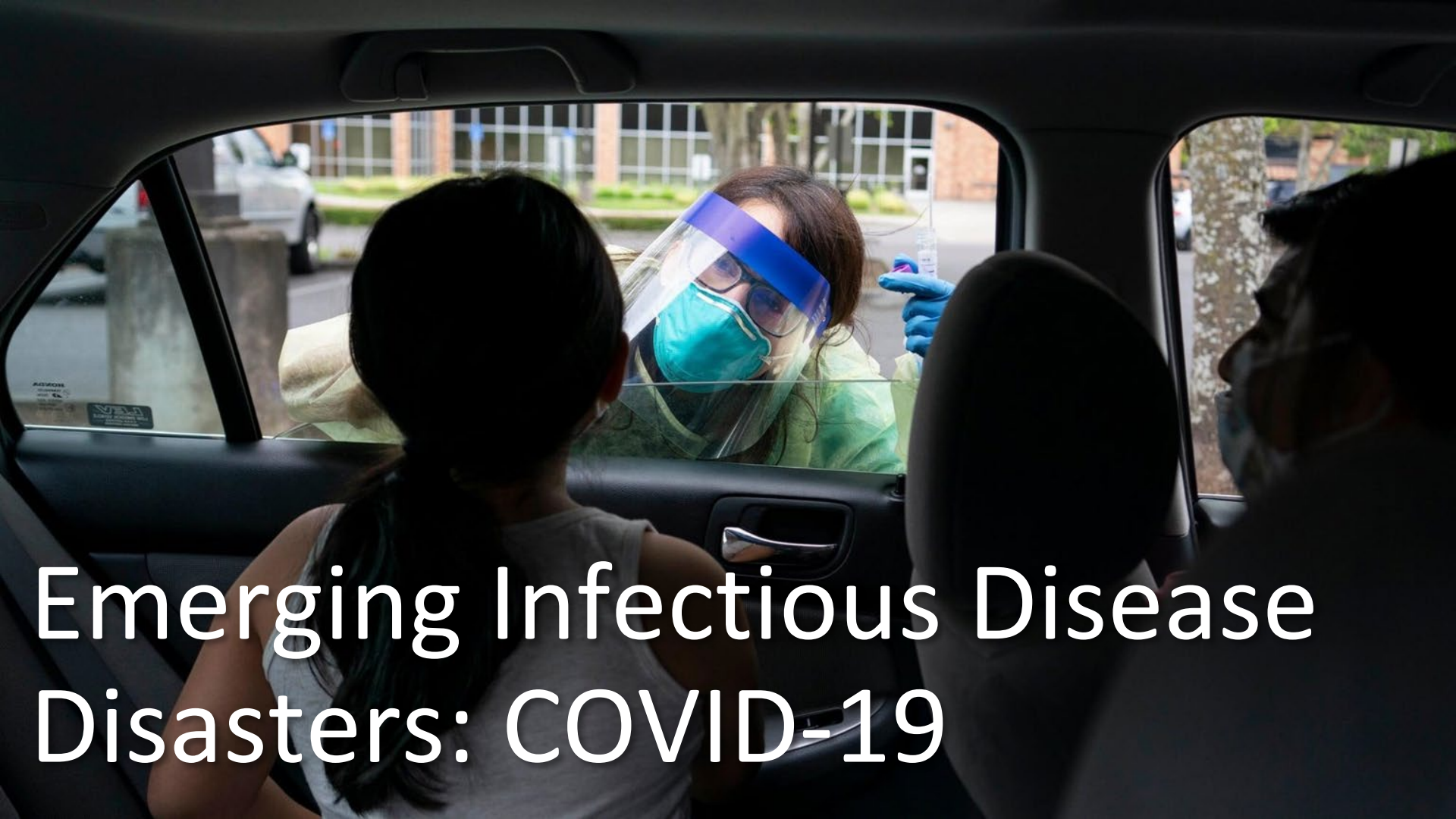
# Dinamica/Icebreaker

- Your name
- Organization
- Years of experience in the field
- sweets (cookies, chocolate, etc) vs sour candy  
(chamoy, salty, limon)

# Agenda

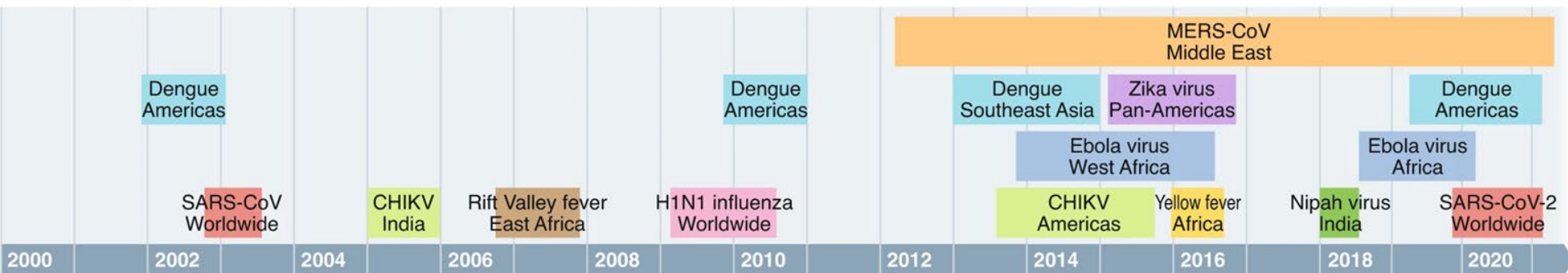
- Welcome
- Overview - essential workers and emergency preparedness
- Policy and legal protections
- Role of Community Health Workers
- Outreach resources and materials
- Q&A

# Disasters



# Emerging Infectious Disease Disasters: COVID-19

a 21st century viral disease outbreaks





# Natural Disasters: Hurricanes







Flood





Drought

t





# Earthquake




# Wildfires





Climate Change and Climate Refugees  
~200 million/year 2050





Extreme heat kills more people than hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and lightning combined. As climate change becomes more severe it is predicted that heat-related deaths will increase substantially.

# Poll

What public health or natural disaster have you experienced in your organization? Check all that apply



# Social Determinants of Health in Disaster Management

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# Before

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- Information about risk
- Resources to prepare for disaster
- Lack of inclusion in disaster preparedness efforts
- Access to communication platforms



# During

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- Housing risk
  - ✓ Homes more vulnerable
  - ✓ Location more vulnerable
- Access to resources to mitigate the effect (i.e. air conditioners, generators)
- Economic loss
  - ✓ Resources more tied up in material goods than in less tangible savings





# After

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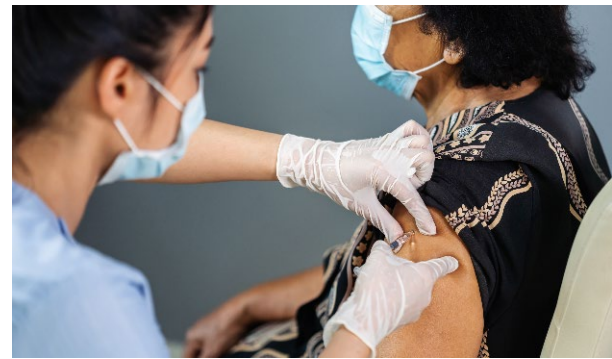
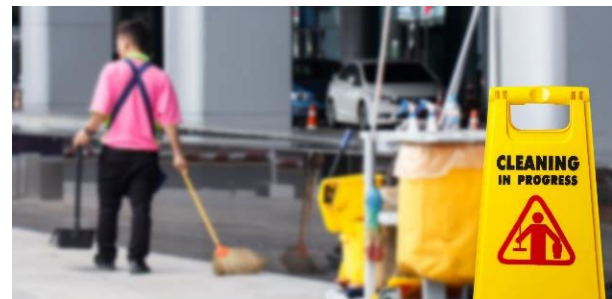
- Finding and obtaining aid
- Lack of access to housing
- Food insecurity
- Stress, anxiety, depression associated with lack of resources and trauma
- Access to healthcare and other services
- Role in clean-up and other services that allow communities to “return to normal”.



Chat:  
Who are essential  
workers?







More than 70%  
of immigrants  
in the United  
States work in  
jobs classified  
as “essential”







# Elephant in the Room



Low wage workers forced into a basic needs versus safety dilemma that places them at much great risk



# Farmworkers

“You hear the job that we do is essential, but you realize as a worker you are not treated as essential. You are treated as dispensable.”

*Gerardo Reyes Chavez,  
Coalition for Immokalee Workers*



## Blame workers

- “Home and social conditions” cause of meatpacking outbreaks”
- “Living circumstances in certain cultures”
- “They go to work in school buses, and they’re all packed in there like sardines.”







# Community Trust

# Partnerships





# Regulatory and Policy Solutions



# Issues experienced by essential workers during a

- Working conditions
  - Lack of sick leave
  - Fear of employer retaliation
  - Lack of protective equipment
- Access to public benefits, including emergency benefits (housing, food, medical care)
  - Information
  - Eligibility
  - Language






# Legal Protections

- COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard
  - CA & VA (all workers)
  - WA, OR, MI, WI (agricultural workers)
- California Wildfire Standard
- Other occupational safety and health protections (agriculture)
  - Field Sanitation Standard (OSHA)
  - Worker Protection Standard (EPA)
  - Heat Illness Standards (CA, WA, MN)



Courtesy of Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo de Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO)

# Role of Medical-Legal Partnerships

I-HELP™		How Lawyers Can Help
Income & Insurance		Food stamps, disability benefits, cash assistance, health insurance
Housing & utilities		Eviction, housing conditions, housing vouchers, utility shut off
Education & Employment		Accommodation for disease and disability in education and employment settings
Legal status		Assistance with immigration status (e.g. asylum applications); Veteran discharge status upgrade; Criminal background expungement
Personal & family stability		Domestic violence, guardianship, child support, advanced directives, estate planning

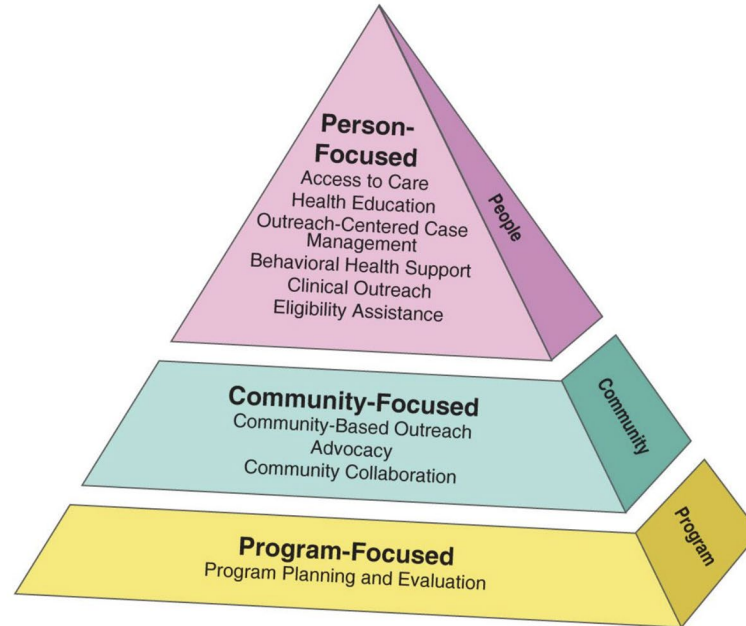
National Center for Medical -Legal Partnership

# Outreach Role

- Facilitates access to primary care
- Provides health education
- Provides case management
- Connects communities to Social Services
- Helps inform Health Care delivery to be culturally responsive
- Advocate on behalf of underserved populations



# National Outreach Guidelines



Resource: <https://outreach-partners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/National-Outreach-Guidelines-Full.pdf>



# Outreach Workers and Community Health Workers Disaster Preparedness

- Emergency Preparedness Planning should include outreach and community health workers.
- Identify Partnerships, linkages and collaborations.
- Prepare for Communications and Information Sharing
- These roles can document the work they do and are included in evaluation of emergency drills, projects, and actual emergency assessments.<sup>4</sup>



# Poll

Does your organization have a community health worker (CHW) or outreach program?

# Community Health Worker



A Community Health Worker is a trusted member of their community, who builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.





# CHW Role in Emergency Preparedness

- Types of Emergencies
  - Natural disasters
  - Pandemics
  - Chronic diseases
  - Foodborne illness outbreaks
  - Non health emergencies

CHWs are invested in their communities and can help the community return to a sense of normalcy after a disaster occurs.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6443984/>

<https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/12276>

<https://mhpsalud.org/?a=download&key=b5d7fef9cffd55dd87686cf90ec27119>



# CHW Role in Emergency Preparedness



- Role in emergency preparedness
  - Before/ Getting ready
    - Prepare a plan of action
    - Offer resources (sand bags, shelter/housing, etc)
    - Collect census information
    - Mobilizing communities responses
  - During
    - Serve as a relay point for information
    - Connect community with key partners
  - After/ Recovery
    - Screening and assessing
    - Support groups
    - Provide information
    - Connect community with key partners

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6443984/>

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# CHW Role in emergency preparedness

## ➤ COVID-19

- Maine CDC is using CHWs to spread info/educational efforts/contract tracing

They have a Vaccination plan

<<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/immunization/documents/covid-19-vaccination-plan-maine-interim-draft.pdf>>

## ➤ Farmworker care coalition

Utilize CHWs to reach the farmworker communities. The coalition focuses on four areas: Disaster preparedness, education, public health and social justice.

<<https://sites.google.com/site/farmworkercarecoalition/home>>

## ➤ California fires

This book explains the need for disaster planning when it comes to California's fires, existing inequalities and the usage of outreach workers

<<https://www.nap.edu/read/25622/chapter/4>>

## ➤ Houston Hurricanes

University of Houston utilizes CHWs to help those who are most vulnerable in the community. They utilized CHWs to assist in the preparing and recovery stages of Hurricane Harvey.

<https://uh.edu/honors/Programs-Minors/co-curricular-programs/data-and-community-health/community-health-worker-initiative/>





# Promoting CHWs as Possible Solution for Emergency Preparedness

- Quotes promoting CHWs as possible solution for emergency preparedness
  - The immediate objective of utilizing CHW's is to enhance primary and behavioral healthcare capacity and health literacy, especially among disadvantaged and underserved populations.
- Community health workers (CHWs) and promotores de salud are playing an increasingly important role in the delivery of high quality and equitable health related services, particularly to vulnerable populations.



[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269850785\\_The\\_Utility\\_of\\_Community\\_Health\\_Workers\\_in\\_Disaster\\_Preparedness\\_Recovery\\_and\\_Resiliency](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269850785_The_Utility_of_Community_Health_Workers_in_Disaster_Preparedness_Recovery_and_Resiliency)

[https://healthforce.ucsf.edu/sites/healthforce.ucsf.edu/files/publication-pdf/Supporting%20the%20Integration%20of%20Community%20Health%20Workers%20into%20Health%20Care%20Teams\\_2017\\_06\\_26.pdf](https://healthforce.ucsf.edu/sites/healthforce.ucsf.edu/files/publication-pdf/Supporting%20the%20Integration%20of%20Community%20Health%20Workers%20into%20Health%20Care%20Teams_2017_06_26.pdf)

## CHW Quote

As a CHW, Ms. Medrano has witnessed many notable health improvements among program participants. She mentioned, “After attending our first session, participants felt motivated to improve their health and really wanted to continue with the program...talking about the [self-care] was a wake-up call because they did not want an amputation or to lose their eyesight. This motivated them to eat better, count their carbs, and do physical activity.” -Linda Medrano, MHP Salud Community Health Worker



# Health Center Emergency Preparedness and Management

This tip sheet focuses on how outreach workers can support three of the basic emergency management expectations for health centers, including: Emergency Management Planning, Linkages and Collaboration and Communications and Information Sharing.

Including Outreach Workers  
and Community Health  
Workers in  
Health Center Emergency  
Preparedness  
and Management

Tip Sheet by  
Health Outreach Partners and MHP Salud



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# Resources (Farmworker Justice)

- COVID-19
  - [Farmworker Justice Issue Brief on COVID-19 Sick Leave Protections](#)
  - [Webinar: New Medical-Legal Partnership Practices and Strategies in Agricultural Worker Communities \(FJ & National Center for Medical Legal Partnership\)](#)
- Emergency Preparedness
  - Farmworker Justice Brochures on Federal Assistance in the Event of a Major Disaster - [Food, Housing, Income](#) (available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole)
  - [Farmworker Justice Health Policy Bulletin 2021](#)
- Occupational Safety and Health Protections
  - [Clinician's Guide to OSHA Field Sanitation Standard](#)(FJ & MCN)
  - [Clinician's Guide to EPA Worker Protection Standard](#)(FJ & MCN)
- Medical-Legal Partnership
  - [FJ Medical-Legal Partnership Guide for Agricultural Worker-Serving Organizations](#)
  - [National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership](#)

# Other Resources

- Public Housing During Emergencies and Disasters
  - [Considerations for Residents of Public Housing](#)
- Covid-19
  - [A National Learning session from the Frontlines of Refugee, Migrant and Immigrant Health](#)
  - [FAQ: The Covid19 Vaccine and Migrant, Immigrant, and Food and Farmworker patients.](#)
  - [Guidance to Protect from Covid -19 During National Disaster Response and Recovery](#)

# Q&A





**Do you have more questions or would like to engage us further?**

**Stick around after the end of the webinar for official Q&A.**



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