

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Name of Presenter

Organization

Date



What is the MRC?

- The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities
- The MRC started as a demonstration project by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2002 after the events of September 11 identified a need to organize and train medical volunteers to assist in emergencies
- In 2006, Congress passed the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, which formally established the Medical Reserve Corps “to provide for an adequate supply of volunteers in the case of a Federal, State, local, or tribal public health emergency”
- Today, the MRC network comprises more than 200,000 volunteers in roughly 800 community-based units across the U.S. and its territories



What does the MRC do?

- MRC units engage in their local communities to improve emergency response capabilities, build community preparedness and resilience, and strengthen public health
- No MRC unit is the same – specific engagement activities vary by community need, volunteer skills and interest, and partner support



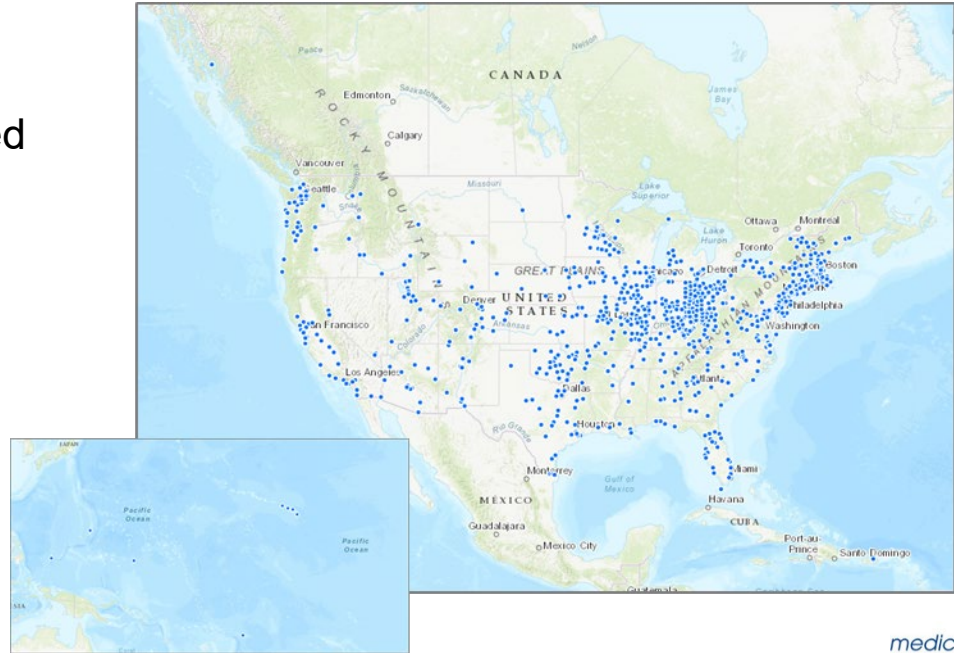
How do MRC units benefit the community?

- Bolster local public health and emergency response infrastructures by providing supplemental personnel
- Enable communities to meet specific health needs
- Give community members the opportunity to offer their skills and time to make their communities healthier and safer

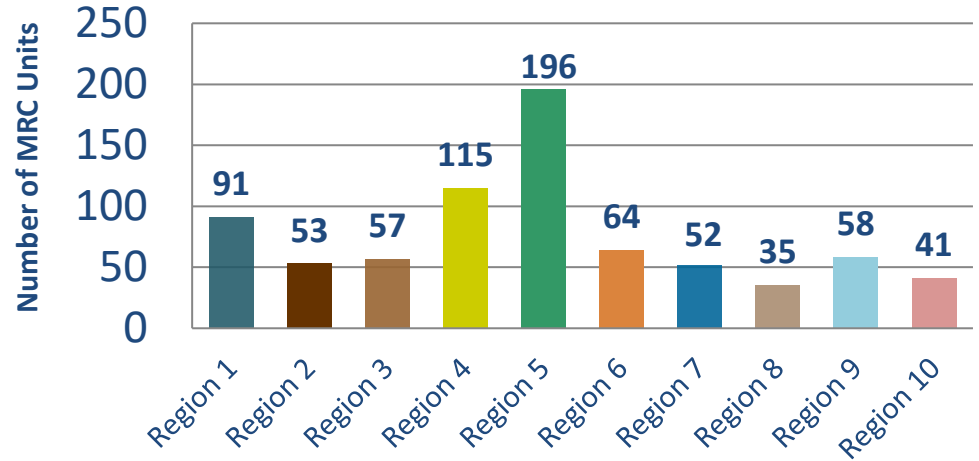
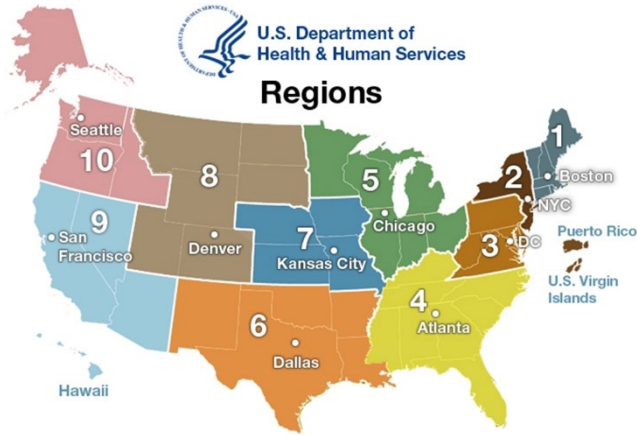


Where are MRC units located?

- There are roughly 800 MRC units located across the U.S. and its territories, including:
 - 48 states
 - American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Puerto Rico, and Northern Mariana Islands
- Size of MRC units ranges from fewer than 50 to more than 2,500 volunteers

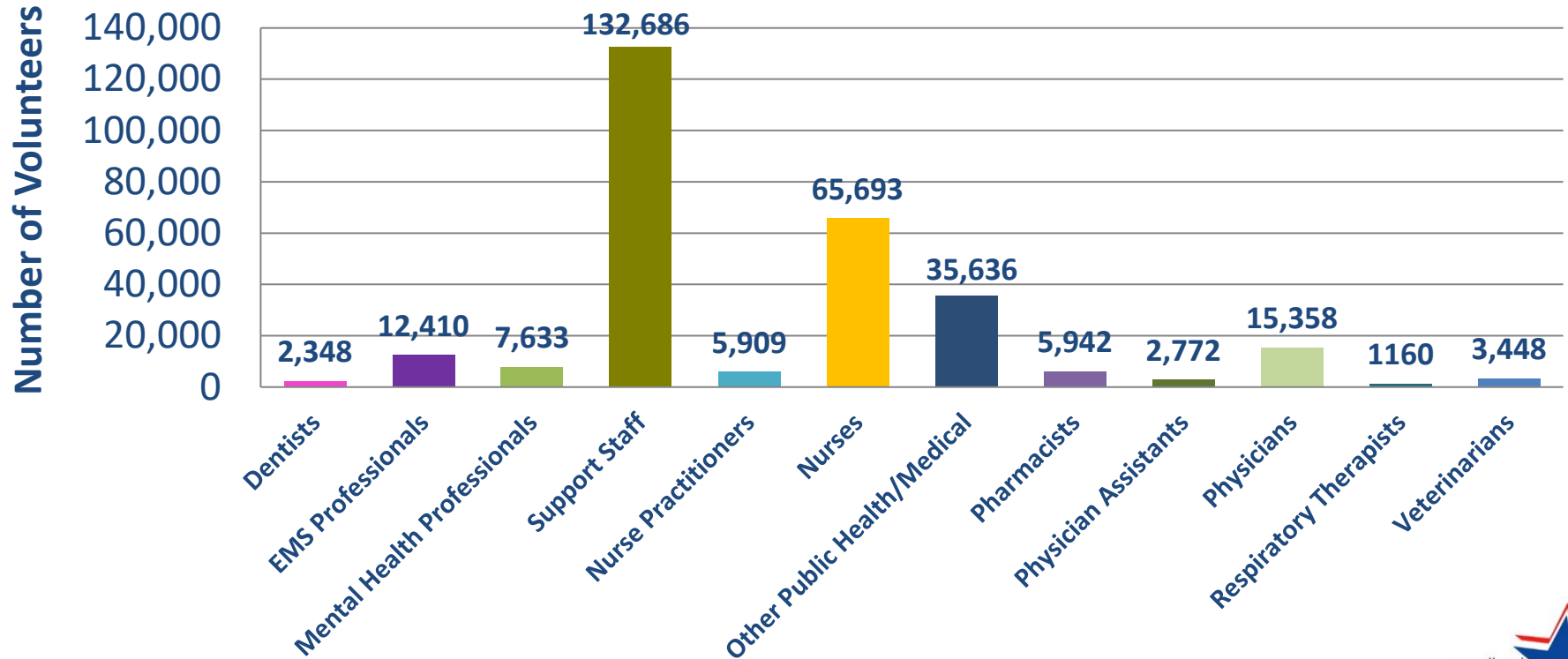


Number of MRC Units by Region



Data as of June 2021

Types of MRC Volunteers



Data as of June 2021



At a Glance: MRCs in the Community

In the most recent MRC Network Profile, below are the types of emergency responses MRC units participated in.

Natural
Disasters
68%



Infectious
Disease
Outbreaks
28%



Human Induced /
Civil Hazards
12%



Technological
Hazards
4%



Foodborne
Illness
3%



Hazardous
Materials
Spills
3%



Other
Emergencies
17%



Source: 2017 MRC Network Profile



At a Glance: COVID-19 Response



1 million+ volunteer
hours dedicated
to COVID-19
response in 2020-2021



Common MRC Missions

- Testing
- Epidemiology and Surveillance
- Medical Surge
- Community Screening
- Call Center Operations
- Behavioral Health
- Community Education
- Community Outreach
- Logistics
- Training
- Mass Vaccination

Includes MRC units in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands

At a Glance: 2020 Responses

- After an **earthquake** struck Southwest Puerto Rico, the **MRC of Puerto Rico (PR)** conducted shelter support, medical assessments, and community needs assessments of impacted populations
- In response to **Hurricane Isaias**, members of the **Capital MRC (NC)** set up a medical shelter for displaced nursing home and home health patients. In addition, the **New Castle County MRC (DE)** and **Western Tidewater MRC (VA)** supported shelters and **Delaware County MRC (PA)** assisted with an evacuation/reception center. **MidCarolina SMAT (NC)** also deployed its medical shelter support trailer to assist local response efforts
- After a **derecho** passed through Iowa and caused widespread power outages, volunteers with the **Johnson County MRC (IA)** made wellness check calls and in-person wellness checks on local community members with special medical needs. **Grundy County MRC (IA)** volunteers helped with recovery and clean-up after the storm



MRC of Puerto Rico (PR) supports earthquake response efforts



Capital MRC (NC) sets up a shelter in anticipation of Hurricane Isaias



At a Glance: 2020 Responses (cont.)

- MRC units in **Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Hawaii** responded to a series of **hurricanes and tropical storms**. Volunteers provided evacuation support, sheltering support, triage/first aid, medical needs tracking, and medical assessments, including COVID-19 screenings for evacuees
- Several MRC units in **Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Oregon, Utah, and Washington State** responded to **wildfires and grassland fires**. Volunteers provided evacuation and clean air shelter support, veterinary medical support, medical supply management, and responder rehab
- **MRC units** administered vaccinations in response to **Hepatitis A outbreaks** in communities across the country
- **Several MRC units** responded to **winter weather events** in early 2020, assisting at shelters and warming centers



Alamo Area MRC (TX) volunteers respond to Hurricane Laura, providing medical assessments and COVID-19 screenings for evacuees

MRC Program Communications

- Visit the [MRC website](https://phe.gov/mrc) at <https://phe.gov/mrc>
- Join the [MRC Program Office's One-way or Two-way Listservs](https://www.phe.gov/mrc/unit-leader-resources/Pages/MRC-Listservs.aspx): <https://www.phe.gov/mrc/unit-leader-resources/Pages/MRC-Listservs.aspx>
- Join [MRC-TRAIN](https://www.train.org/mrc): <https://www.train.org/mrc>
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