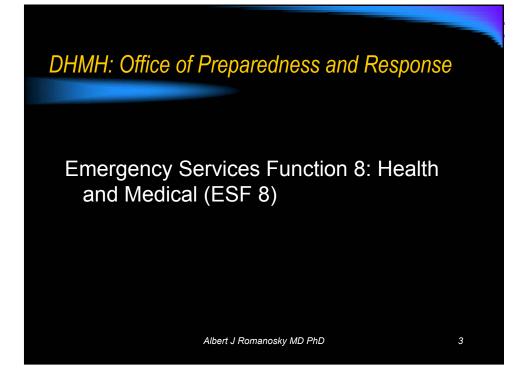
Rural Health and Medical Emergency Preparedness

Albert J Romanosky MD PhD Office of Preparedness and Response Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Albert J Romanosky MD PhD

Agenda

- Role of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)
- Rural threats and targets
- Rural emergency preparedness
- Maryland activities to facilitate rural planning, preparedness and response
- Success stories

















Issues of Rural Emergency Preparedness

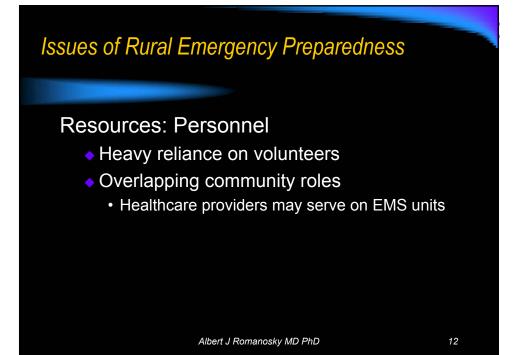
Perceptions

- Rural facilities and planning ignored in favor of urban/suburban regions
 - Funding
 - Expertise

Planning guidelines and recommendations

- Focused on urban and suburban regions
- May not account for variances in rural communities and facilities
 - Cookie cutter approach
 - · Held to same standards
 - May not be able to meet the standards or recommendations

Albert J Romanosky MD PhD



Issues of Rural Emergency Preparedness

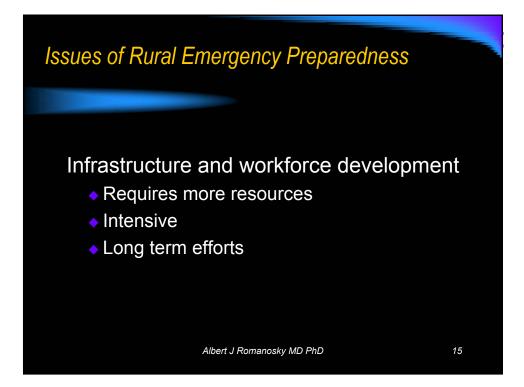
Resources: Personnel

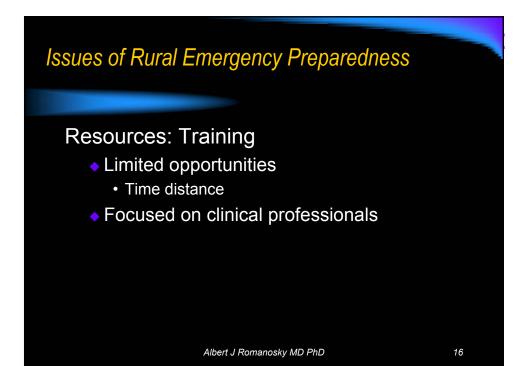
- Limited staff / little reserve capacity
 - · Assume expanded planning and response activities
 - · Greater reliance on contract staff
 - Lack of required specialists/less diversity
 - Emergency planners
 - HAZMAT
 - ALS EMTs
 - Emergency/Disaster/Critical Care medicine trained staff
 - Epidemiologists and other public health staff
 - Behavioral and mental health practitioners

Albert J Romanosky MD PhD

13







Issues of Rural Emergency Preparedness

Resources: Financial

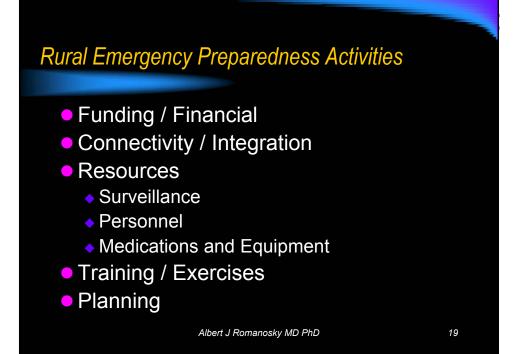
- Preparedness planning
 - Relatively more expensive
- Limited tax base/financial resources
- Planning and response
 - Greater dependence on state and federal funding
- Sustainability of funding
 - · Who and what gets cut first?
 - May have greater detrimental effect Albert J Romanosky MD PhD

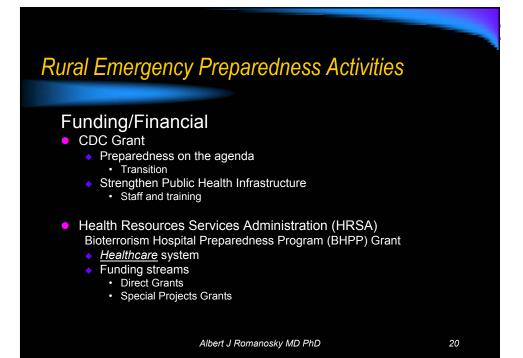
Issues of Rural Emergency Preparedness

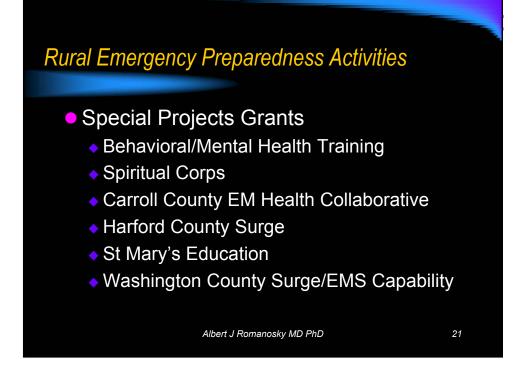
Geography

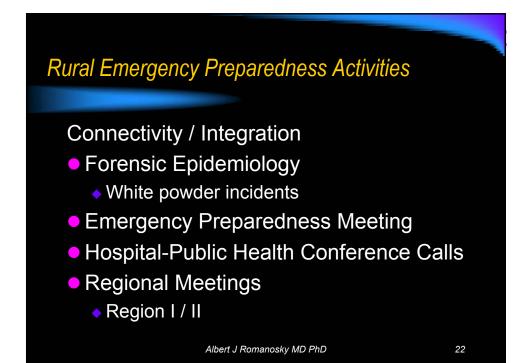
- Long distances
 - Between facilities and supporting organizations
 EMS, Fire, Hazmat, Healthcare
 - · Long supply lines and transport times
 - May require facilities to maintain larger supply and equipment stockpiles
- Cross border planning
 - Interstate
 - Healthcare facilities
 - Local and county government

Albert J Romanosky MD PhD

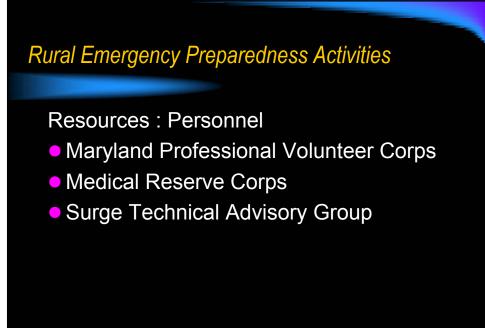


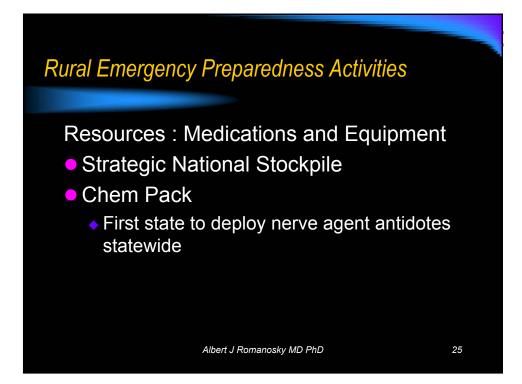


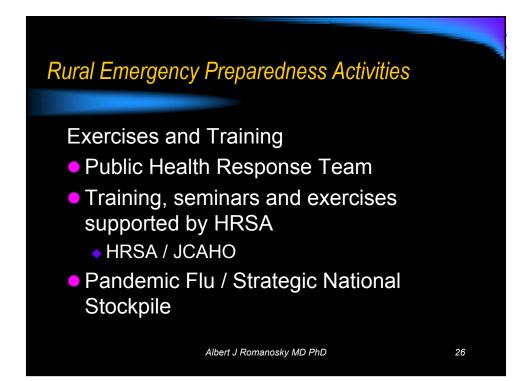












Rural Emergency Preparedness Activities

Planning

- Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)
 - Surge
 - Isolation and Quarantine
 - Healthcare Facility Evacuation
- Office of Preparedness and Response
 - Office of Local Health

Albert J Romanosky MD PhD



Summary

- Rural areas have heightened vulnerabilities and threats
- Several DHMH OPR programs have supported rural healthcare emergency preparedness activities
- Emergency Preparedness activities for rural areas have resulted in several success stories

Albert J Romanosky MD PhD

29

 Questions?

Contact Information

Al Romanosky, MD, PhD Office of Preparedness and Response DHMH, Rm 316 201 West Preston St Baltimore, MD 21201 410.767.0823 aromanosky@DHMH.state.md.us

Albert J Romanosky MD PhD