Disaster Outreach and Collaboration for Kids Project

By Kate Carpenter and Ryan Rafferty

In September 2011, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Library of the Health Sciences (LHS) received a Disaster Health Information Outreach and Collaboration award from the US Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, and the National Library of Medicine to implement the “Disaster Outreach and Collaboration for Kids Project.” With the assistance of a project advisory committee comprised of pediatricians, librarians, and a pediatrician/librarian, the AAP and UIC/LHS began an exploration of ways to improve preparedness and response efforts for the specialized audience of children by supporting pediatricians and librarians to work collaboratively and also to improve use of and access to disaster medicine and public health information. A key component of the project is to conduct a survey of pediatricians and librarians to compile information about their current involvement in disaster preparedness, information sharing, partnerships with each other, roles of each group, and potential avenues for promoting collaborations. As there is a current lack of information on existing partnerships, especially those between pediatricians and health sciences librarians, the information gathered could serve as a baseline assessment for future projects and training tools. Another important component of the project was to develop and share a web page with relevant strategies and resources (see http://www2.aap.org/disasters/NLM-Project.cfm).

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