Small Victims, Big Challenges: Pediatric Triage, Treatment, and Recovery in Disasters

The federal Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) recognizes that disasters place children, pregnant women, senior citizens, and others individuals at risk for increased morbidity and mortality. In response to the PAHPA, the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response has developed Small Victims, Big Challenges: Pediatric Triage, Treatment and Recovery in Disasters (EM 250), which introduces clinicians acting as first receivers to the unique challenges encountered with children in a disaster.

Small Victims, Big Challenges is recommended for physicians and other clinicians. The advanced, online course is instructor-led and includes the following topics:

- Identifying the emotional responses to a traumatic event, including behavioral, physical, and cognitive responses.
- Identifying required and desirable personnel, equipment, and infrastructure for pediatric disaster preparedness.
- Demonstrating the ability to triage children who are victims of multiple casualty incidents, using internationally accepted criteria (JumpSTART™).
- Describing and identifying clinical manifestations and appropriate treatment for child victims of natural and human-caused disasters.
- Summarizing the mental health needs of infants, children, and adolescents in disasters.
- Identifying key elements for designing an exercise for children with special needs.
- Applying lessons learned to new and updated plans, treatments, preparedness, procedures, response, and recovery activities.

The course, along with a flyer and description, may be accessed online at http://ynhhs.emergencyeducation.org/courses/em250/preview_welcome.asp. (Small Victims, Big Challenges is the first course listed under the Special Populations heading.)

The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response is committed to developing and delivering services that advance healthcare planning, preparedness, and response for emergency events and disasters through collaborative partnerships and coordinated programs within Connecticut, across the nation, and around the world. Through a number of domestic and international partnerships, the Center delivers many programs and services, including assessments, planning, education and training, and drills and exercises. To learn more about the Center’s activities, please visit its Web site at http://yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency.