After the Big One: Hurricane Preparation and Health Relief
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Abstract
In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina impacted over 15 million people. Devastation through population displacement, poor preparation, and water contamination directly affected a significant portion of these people's physical and mental health. Through an in-depth evaluation of the social responses, we have developed a more adequate plan. We achieved this through an informational brochure, a post-distribution survey, and letters to companies to increase education and address regulations and policies; reducing health concerns for future hurricanes.

Problems
- Mold developed from standing water
- Generators brought inside produced a build up of carbon monoxide gas
- West Nile Virus increased due to the wet environment
- Over 11 million gallons of oil contaminated water due to poor regulations
- Lack of mental health resources

Health Effects
- Mold
  - Infections
  - Respiratory illnesses
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- West Nile Virus
- Water Contamination
  - Sewage
  - Oil Spills
- Mental Illness
  - Depression
  - Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
  - Anxiety

19.1% of recorded illnesses due to skin or wound infection
22.5% of recorded illnesses due to acute respiratory infection
37.5% prevalence of mild-moderate or serious mental illness

Anticipated Results
Increase:
- Education among affected population
- Water quality

Decrease:
- Incidents of stated health problems
- Oil spills

No Effect:
- Immediate destruction
- Weather damages
- Drowning incidents

Maximizing Pamphlet Efficiency
In order to increase the number of individuals reading the pamphlet there needs to be:
- Repetitive encouragement from officials
- An incentive such as a coupon or certificate included
- Annually updated information
- A timely distribution
- Translate into multiple languages

Methods
Informational pamphlet
- Post-distribution survey
Drafted letters to oil companies and FEMA
- Addressing regulations and policies
- Responsibility of responders

References