



## Needs Assessment Survey: Disaster mental health services for children

Sponsored by: The Pediatric Workgroup Mental Health Task Force  
King County Healthcare Coalition

Purpose: To determine current resources utilized and needed by healthcare providers:

- to counsel families about disaster preparedness planning
- to intervene when a family or child experiences a disaster
- to prepare clinic staff to provide psychological first aid in a disaster
- to recognize children and families who are high risk as a result of a disaster and in need of a mental health professional

**Please indicate your answer by checking the box next to your chosen response.**

- 1) Do you currently provide direct care for pediatric patients?     Yes     No
  
- 2) Do your patients request information about disaster preparedness? (*check 1*)  
 Seldom             Sometimes             Often
  
- 3) Do you include disaster preparedness planning advice or printed materials in anticipatory guidance given at health supervision (well-child) visits?  
Advice?     Yes     No                      Printed materials?     Yes     No
  
- 4) Do you have general disaster preparedness planning materials available in your office?  
Examples: "3 Days, 3 Ways, Are You Ready?" or planning checklists, etc.  
 Yes             No
  
- 5) If "Yes," do materials include information on typical reactions of children after disasters, helpful support strategies and warning signs that indicate the need to seek professional help?  
 Yes             No
  
- 6) Would you be interested in user-friendly materials referenced in question 5?  
 Yes             No
  
- 7) Type of materials preferred: (*check all that apply*)  
 Pamphlets                       List of resources  
 Links to websites with downloadable materials  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 8) Have you encountered difficulty in referring patients to a mental health professional?  
 Yes             No

9) Reasons for difficulty obtaining services of a mental health professional:  
(check all that apply)

- Financial issues, including insurance-related
- Reluctance on part of family or patient
- Waiting time for appointment
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**In a disaster, a mental health professional will be even more difficult to access.  
All healthcare providers must be ready to handle patients and families in distress.**

“Psychological First Aid” (PFA) is an evidence-informed approach supported by disaster mental health experts as the “acute intervention of choice” to help children and their families in the aftermath of a disaster.

10) If a 2-hour train-the-trainer course were offered on the impacts of disasters on children and families and how to assist them, including information about PFA, would you be interested in having someone from your clinic attend to be trained as a trainer for your clinic?

- Yes       No

11) Is your clinical practice in King County?  Yes       No

**If “No” to questions 10 or 11, you have completed your portion of the survey. Thanks!**

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12) In what region of King County is your clinic or place of practice located?

- City of Seattle (Zone 5)
- Eastside, north of I – 90 (Zone 1)
- South King County, south of I – 90 (Zone 3)

13) Your preference for location of a training course: (check 1)

- Eastside or South Seattle location
- City of Seattle location
- Anywhere in King County

14) Your preference for day of the week for training course: (check all that apply)

- Monday                       Wednesday                       Friday
- Tuesday                       Thursday

15) Your preference for time of day for training course: (check 1)

- Morning (between 9 am and noon)                       Afternoon (between 2 pm and 5 pm)
- Midday (noon until 2 pm)                       Anytime (between 9 am and 5 pm)

**Thank you!!** The information you have provided will help in preparedness planning for disaster mental health services for children.