



# Issues in bioterrorism response

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# Criminal Acts Intended To Coerce Governments and Populations To Change Policies

- New faces of terrorism
- Lessons from 9/11 and anthrax
- Importance of dual use
- Community health security systems
- Challenges for the future

# New Faces Of Terrorism

- Ideology vs. poverty
- Middle class vs. uneducated
- Mass casualties vs. messages
- Non-state vs. state origin
- Domestic vs. foreign

# Lessons From 9/11 and Anthrax

- Public health infrastructure has decayed
- Communications failures were rampant
- Lab and investigatory capacity were overwhelmed
- Our surveillance and information sharing systems are underdeveloped and inadequate
- Involved 'community response' must be broad

# Uniqueness of Biological Events

- Slow to evolve
- Progressive nature
- Occult presentations
- Distinguishing natural from man-made
- Focus on surveillance and response
- Vaccines and antibiotics
- Fear!!!

# Systems are being built and rebuilt

- Dual use is critical
  - Cost effectiveness
  - New and emerging infections
  - Antibiotic resistance
- Must serve interests and needs of health delivery and public health systems
- Must involve broader public

# Community Health Security Systems

- Public Health
- Medical
- EMS
- Public Safety
- Defense and intelligence
- Media
- Community organizations
- Disaster organizations

# Federal, State and Local Responses

- Federal funds
- State organizations
- Local responses



# Challenges

- Maintenance of interest and effort
- Coordination
- Who is in charge
  - Law enforcement vs. health?
- Communications
  - Between entities
  - Data sharing and surveillance
- Media
- Spokespersons

# Challenges

- Research needs- vaccines, antibiotic resistance
- Public health needs
  - Surveillance techniques e.g. syndromic approaches
  - Lab capacity and reporting
  - Preparedness and response
  - Trade-offs??
  - National vaccine strategy
- Cost effectiveness (people, beds, and funds)
- Ethical and civil liberties
- Academic openness vs. security

# The Intelligence-Health Interface

- National Intelligence Fusion Center
- Privacy
- HIPAA
- Security Clearances
- Standards???

# Challenges for compliance community

- Lack of standards
- Inconsistent measures, metrics, reporting formats
- Unclear data sharing agreements and procedures
- Meeting needs of bioterrorism surveillance, public health, and health care simultaneously

# Looking Ahead

- Living with risk
- Maintaining our values
- Serving as effective stewards of societal resources
- Strengthening our security
- Maintaining our perspective