

**Florida Department of Health  
Responder Safety and Health County Health Department  
Self Assessment Executive Summary, March 2011**

The Responder Safety and Health (RSH) County Health Department (CHD) Self Assessment findings are the first step in establishing a comprehensive RSH program at both the state and local level. The RSH CHD Self Assessment tool is a cross-sectional survey designed to assess the current status of RSH plans at CHDs. The purpose of the RSH CHD Self Assessment is to take a collective snapshot of the current RSH plans at the Florida's CHDs and utilize the results to support the development of statewide standard operating guidelines. The method of survey distribution was through an e-mail to all 67 CHD Administrators/Directors. The survey was open for data collection for 18 days, from January 10, 2011 to January 28, 2011.

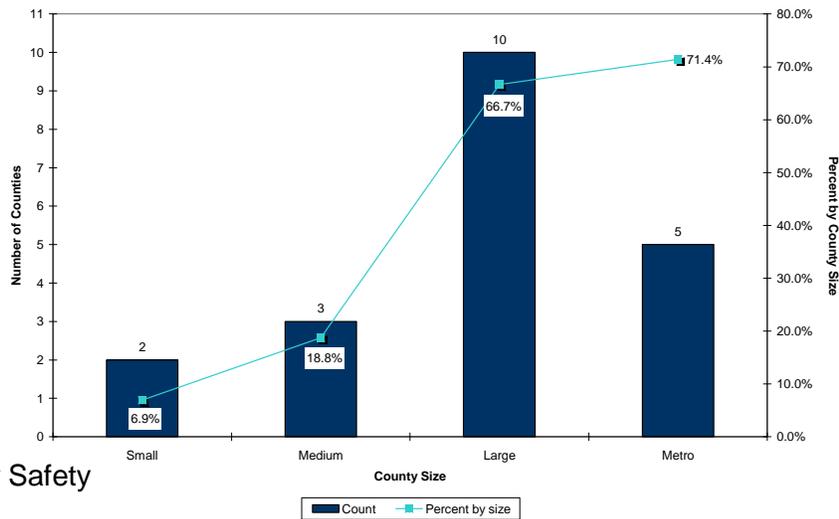
The benefits of developing a RSH Plan/SOG include:

1. Guidelines for RSH plan for local use
2. Facilitation of information sharing statewide
3. Responders will be able to work more effectively in deployed areas
4. Potential to improve coordination of regional and statewide trainings
5. Elimination of duplication
6. Identification of Best Practices
7. Reduction of identified gaps statewide

**Results**

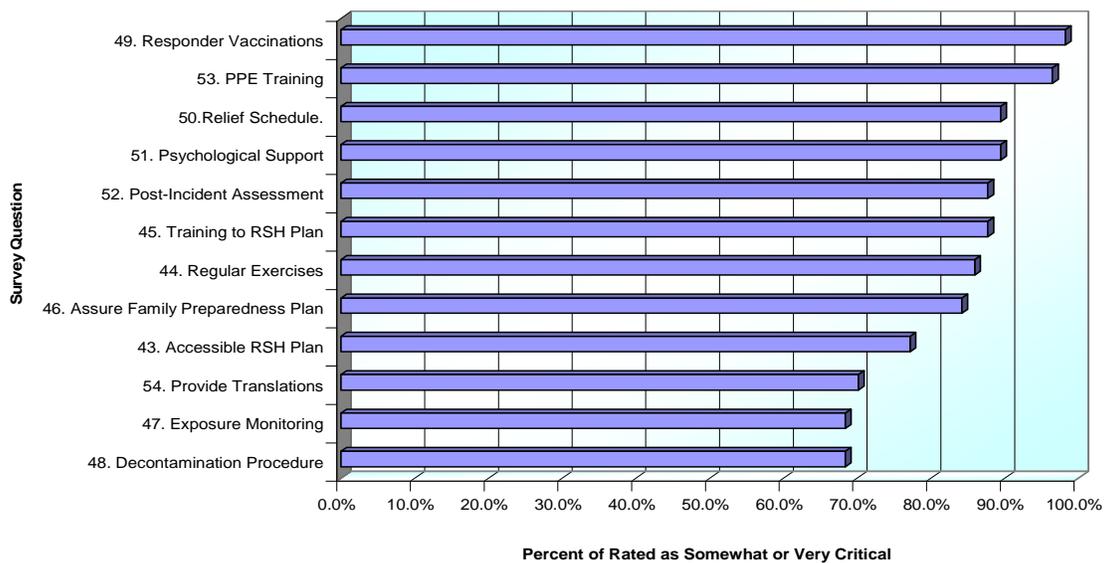
- All 67 Florida CHDs were sent the self assessment:
  - 57 (85%) responses
- The response rates by FDOH determined county size are:
  - 23 (73%) small
  - 13 (81%) medium
  - 14 (93%) large
  - 7 (100%) metro
- The self assessment reveals that 20 (35%) of the 57 CHDs report having a Responder Safety and Health plan, procedure, or policy.
  - Metro and large CHDs were 15.5 times more likely to report a RSH plan than medium or small CHDs.
  - Completeness of RSH plan was given a top score of 20.
    - 8 (40%) of CHDs with RSH plans scored a 15 or higher.
- Of reporting CHDs:
  - 32 (56/1%) have an Employee Health Program
  - 15 (26.3%) have both an Employee Health Program and a RSH Plan.
  - Metro CHDs (85.7%) were most likely to have an Employee Health Program
- In Florida, all CHDs:
  - Provide safety and health training
  - Have identified an incident commander
  - Encourage employees to develop a personal/family preparedness plan.
- Of 57 reporting counties:
  - 86% have an adequate supply of PPE
  - 80.7% have identified a Safety Officer for emergencies
  - 70.2% have appointed a Safety Officer for both business operations and emergencies

**Figure 1. County Size of Florida Counties with a RSH Plan, 2011**



- 57.9% have a respiratory protection program
- 50.9% have a cache of medical countermeasures readily available
- 38.6% of counties conduct fit testing annually
- Preparedness Priorities Questions
  - Top Three Critical Components:
    - Assure that responders are vaccinated before an emergency (98.2%)
    - Assure that responders receive proper training on personal protective equipment (PPE) use (96.5%)
    - Implementation of a work relief schedule (89.5%), and assure psychological support for responders (89.5%)
  - Top Three Disaster Types: Measuring Preparedness Level:
    - Hurricanes or Tropical Storm (100%)
    - Infectious Disease Outbreak (98.2%)
    - Flood (96.5%)

**Figure 2: Ranking of Responder Safety and Health Plan Components by Florida County Health Departments, n=57**



**Recommendations for the DOH and ESF8 Responder Safety and Health Project**

1. By June 30, 2011, deploy a Responder Safety and Health internet web site as a one-stop location for Responder Safety and Health resources.
2. During 2011-12, develop tactical documentation to support the DOH Emergency Operations Plan, Responder Safety and Health Annex, which is scheduled to be complete by June 30, 2011.
3. During 2011-12, disseminate tools and resources to support enhanced County Health Departments Employee Health Programs.
4. During 2011-12, disseminate tools and resources to enhance County Health Department Responder Safety and Health Plans.
5. During 2011-12 develop a Responder Safety & Health Annex to the Florida Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.