

# MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

## *Epidemiology Response Team*

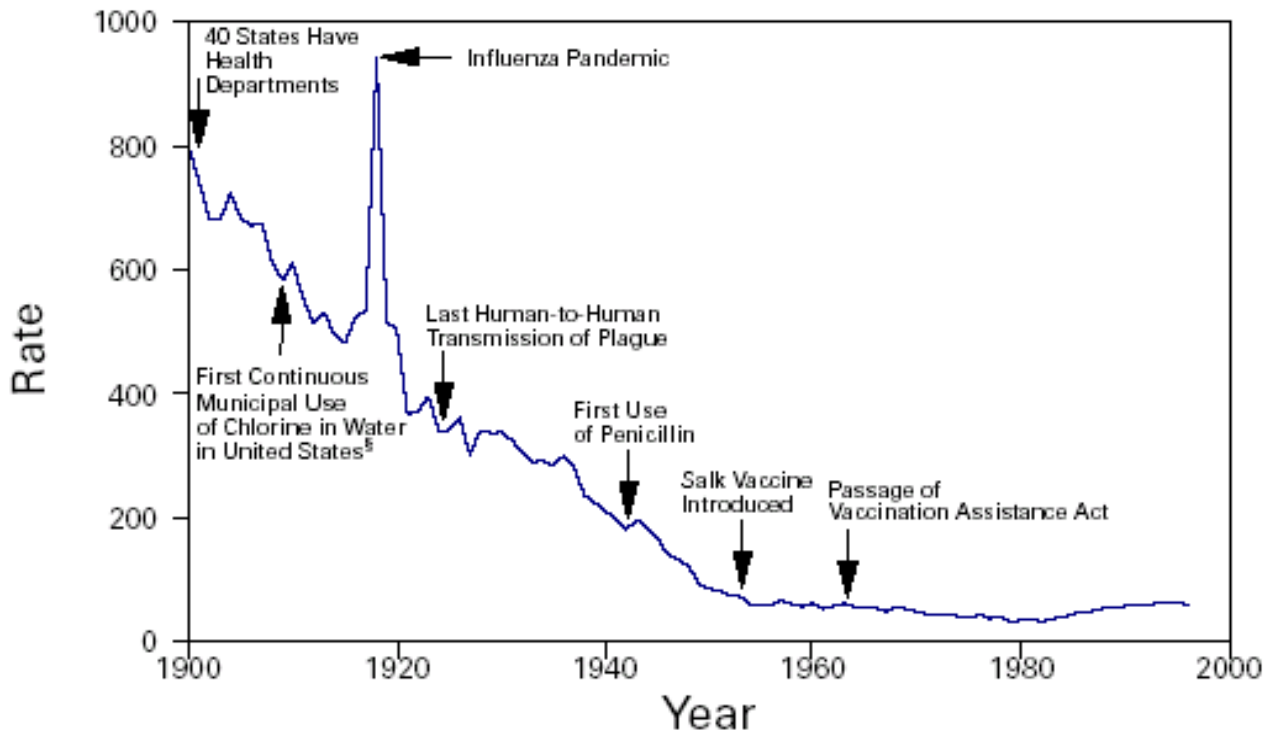


2009 HHS Training Summit  
Dallas, TX  
Claudia Vento



# What is Epidemiology?

FIGURE 1. Crude death rate\* for infectious diseases — United States, 1900–1996†



The study of the incidence, distribution, and control of disease in a population.

\* Per 100,000 population per year.

† Adapted from Armstrong GL, Conn LA, Pinner RW. Trends in infectious disease mortality in the United States during the 20th century. *JAMA* 1999;281:61–6.

<sup>5</sup> American Water Works Association. Water chlorination principles and practices: AWWA manual M20. Denver, Colorado: American Water Works Association, 1973.



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# What is an Epidemiology Response Team?

**A group of MRC volunteers  
who have received  
specialized training in  
epidemiology.**



# What kind of specialized training do they need?

- ★ An Overview of Category A Biological Agents (all RRMRC volunteers)
- ★ Epi 101 – Epi for the Non-Epi
- ★ Epi 201 - Interviewing in Outbreaks
- ★ Epi 301 - Case Studies
- ★ Epi 401 - Completing forms
- ★ Epi 501 - After Action Reporting



# An Overview of Category A Biological Agents

- ★ Historical Perspective
- ★ Biological Agents
- ★ Health Threats  
Incidents and  
Response





# Epi 101 – Epi for the Non-Epi

- ★ Overview of Public Health and epidemiology
- ★ Communicable Disease Surveillance
  - ★ Active – Health Department initiates
  - ★ Passive – Reportable diseases
  - ★ Syndromic – Review of daily cases



# Epi 101 – Epi for the Non-Epi

## ★ Descriptive Epidemiology

★ Deals with the questions who, what, when and where

## ★ Analytic Epidemiology

★ Deals with the questions why and how



# Epi 201 - Interviewing in Outbreaks

- ★ Who, Where and Why
- ★ Goals
- ★ Trust
- ★ Confidentiality
- ★ Communication



"I'm sure you'll agree, we don't want an epidemic."



# Epi 301 - Case Studies

- ★ Variety of scenarios
  - ★ Instructor and student versions
- ★ Review scenario
- ★ Students “discover” the disease



# Epi 401 - Completing Forms

- ★ CDC smallpox forms
- ★ Smallpox Jeopardy



# Epi 501 - After Action Reporting

- ★ Review incidents from the past year
  - ★ How the situation evolved
  - ★ Duration
  - ★ Number of cases
  - ★ Outcome

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# Optional Trainings

★ Rabies

★ MRSA

★ Forensic Epidemiology



# Epi Volunteers

- ★ Support local health departments
- ★ Gather information
- ★ Interview
- ★ Screen
- ★ Pick up samples
- ★ Deliver information



# Events

- ★ Rabies
- ★ Possible TB outbreak
- ★ Norovirus



# Challenges

- ★ Very few opportunities to practice
- ★ This is good and bad...

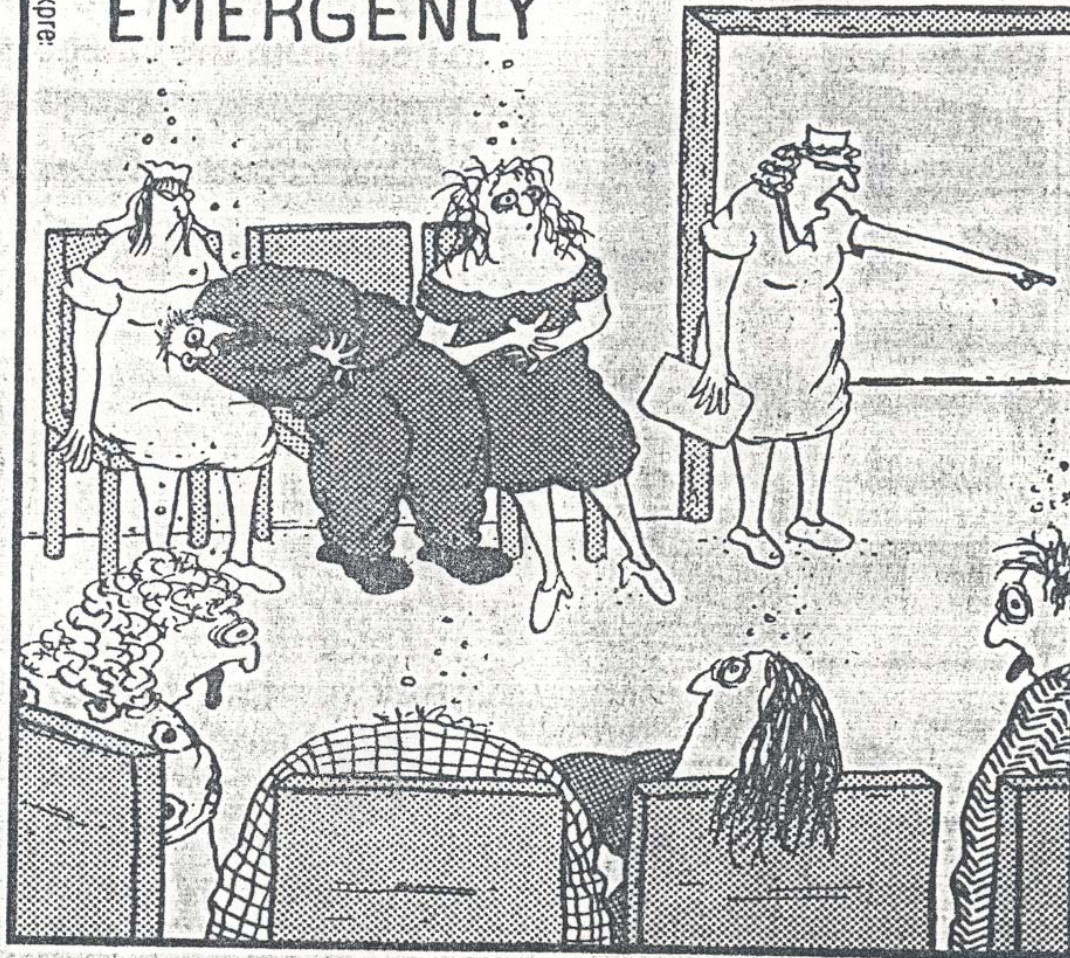
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# EMERGENCY



**“Those of you who ate the chicken at the Fowler-Doherty wedding can come with me. And we’d appreciate it if you three bridesmaids would stop chanting, ‘Kill the caterer!’”**

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