Meet the presenters

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Georgia Dept. of Public Health
Environmental Health Emergency Planner

Frank Winters, Former NYS Geographic Information Officer
With COVID restrictions and policies expiring, lessons were learned when it comes to fatality management surge, public health and environmental health data analysis.

GIS reporting tools enhanced real time resource awareness using the Morgue Bed Availability Reporting (MBAR) tool to identify potential fatality management surge. However, in some cases, GIS reporting tools showed data aggregation, deduplication, and spatial data data analysis in New York.
Agenda

- Covid-19 fatality management at onset
- Morgue Bed Availability Reporting (MBAR) Tool and Fatality Surge Support and Coordination
Byron Lobsinger

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- Environmental Health Emergency Planner
  - Environmental Health Strike Team Program
  - Fatality Management Coordination and Support Planning
  - Geospatial Planning
Statewide Agencies and Organizations

- GBI Body Recovery Team
- GBI Forensics Division
- Georgia Coroners Association
- Georgia Medical Examiners
- Metro Atlanta Mass Fatality Workgroup
- Georgia Emergency Management Agency
- Georgia Dept. of Transportation
- American Red Cross

- Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
- Crime Victim Compensation
- Funeral Associations
- Crematory Associations
- Dept. of Public Health
  - Risk Communications
  - Vital Records
  - Environmental Health
- Georgia Hospital Association
COVID-19 Fatality Management Surge
COVID-19 Fatality Management Surge

Fatality Projections
Fatality Management Surge
Fatality Management Surge

- **Morgue surge planning**
  - Implement surge capacity plan
    - Sister facilities
    - Mortuary Enhanced Remains Cooling (MERC) system
    - Expand capacity: Utilize empty floor space – gurneys, rack with trays
    - Contact Regional Coordinating Hospital (RCH)
      - Cold storage surge support
      - Body Bag surge resources
Fatality Management Surge

- **Morgue surge planning**
  - Partner facilities
    - Funeral homes
    - Hospitals
    - County morgue
  - Cold storage container vendors
    - Local / Regional
Fatality Management Surge

- County EMA
  - Adjacent Counties
  - Resource request to State Operations Center (SOC)
- Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) SOC
  - Assign to ESF-8
COVID-19 Fatality Management Surge

- Mass Fatality Morgue Trailers – 7
  - Capacity – 20 medium size
  - Strategically staged
Fatality Management Surge
COVID-19 Fatality Management Surge

- Cold storage cargo containers
- GEMA supported deployment
- Retro-fitted as temporary morgues
- Deployed to major metro hospitals - 9
- National Guard built shelving
- 20’ and 40’ Containers Capacity – 24 / 48
COVID-19 Fatality Management Surge

• Locally acquired cold storage units are highly encouraged

• FDA provided sanitation guidance for CS units to return to food grade transport post incident. May 2020

• FDA -Refrigerated Human Remains Storage units back to Food Storage Units https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/returning-refrigerated-transport-vehicles-and-refrigerated-storage-units-food-uses-after-using-them
COVID-19 Facility Management Surge

Rural Water Authority Provided Power Support
COVID-19 Deaths Over Time
COVID-19 Deaths Over Time

- April 2020
  - Deployed 9 cold storage containers to major hospitals
- July 2020
  - Demobilized six cold storage containers
COVID-19 Deaths Over Time

- Three cold storage containers remained active until August 2021
  - Shoreline connected to power
  - GBI HQ purchased the container
    - Remains in use today
COVID-19 in Georgia (as of 9-13-2021)

- Over 20,000 fatalities
- Cold storage units were demobilized from hospitals
- Hospitalized with Covid: 5952 / Vents: 1112
- Mass fatality morgue trailer (MFMT) deployed - 6
- Rack with 4 trays deployed - 1
- Body bag surge support ongoing as needed
COVID-19 Deaths Over Time
MBAR Tool

Email
An email would be helpful to enhance communications during a disaster

Morgue Beds Available
The number of bodies that can be added to the morgue

Normal morgue capacity
Total normal daily capacity, without cold storage surge equipment

Morgue SURGE capacity
If no additional surge capacity, this is the same as normal capacity

Mobile Morgue capacity
If the facility has its own mobile morgue trailer or cold storage unit, how many bodies can it hold?

MERC capacity
Mortuary Entrance Remains Cooling (MERC) unit body capacity (4, 8, 16, 24); if you do not have it, no entry needed

Date Submitted
mm/dd/yyyy

Important notes to report
Such as if the facility or county has no capacity, what adjacent county(ies) are used
### Morgue Bed Availability Reporting (MBAR) Tool

Survey 123 Connect template

Minimize selections

- 159 Counties
- Facility Type
  - Coroner
  - Crematory
  - Funeral_Establishment
  - Hospital
  - Medical_Examiner
  - Other

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Survey 123 Connect template
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• Facility Name (936 to select from)
• Relevant – used the Other filter
• Choice_filter- by the Facility_Type
• Autocomplete
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### MBAR Tool

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MBAR Tool
MBAR Tool

- Challenges
  - Data input was good
    - Not mandated
    - Another report
  - Secure view sharing
- Improvement planning
  - Hub secure view access (in progress)
    - Promotes secure local/regional use
  - Encourage local/regional use during exercises
    - Enhances tool familiarity
  - Training as requested
COVID-19 Fatality Management Surge

- Body transport and preparation
  - Body bags
    - Two for safety
- PPE shortages
- Timely pickup was good
- Final service challenges
  - Social distancing
    - Limited capacity

- Unexpected decisions
  - Financial
  - Interment
  - Cremation
  - Burial
COVID-19 Fatality Management Surge

- Highest Demonstrated Capability *
- Onset through Dec. 2020
- Daily: 223/day
- Weekly: 1555

*If all fatalities equally distributed across the state
Byron Lobsinger
Georgia Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Emergency Planner
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Spatial Data Policy
Data in the hands of the right people to provide deep insight

Frank Winters – retired
NYS GIO
Joint Statement on the Value of GIS in the Pandemic


11 orgs co-signed

You may need to create a free account.
National Pandemic GIS Task Force

https://www.napsgfoundation.org/pandemic-gis-task-force/
A Collaboration Between

NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials

NSGIC
National States Geographic Information Council

URISA
Fostering Excellence in GIS

astho™

NAPSG Foundation
Send the address to a geocoder, while it is being entered for the first time.

Iterate until a valid location address is entered.

123 Main St, Sunny Town, NY 12345

P.O. Box 123, Sunny Town, NY 12345
The geographic coordinates are then sent to a GIS web service (API) to return the census tract for that location. Census tract ID can be stored with the address record.
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1 500 from Tracts with score 1 + 500 from Tracts with score 5 = 3,000 score on destination Tract
Questions?