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Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Populations: Best Practices Regarding Maternal and Infant Health throughout the Four Phases of the Disaster Cycle

Pregnant women, lactating persons, new mothers, and infants represent vulnerable populations that require special consideration and time-sensitive care in emergencies, disasters, and pandemics (Callaghan et al., 2007; DeYoung and Mangum, 2020). This poster will review and examine maternal and infant health best practices throughout all four phases of the disaster cycle, including the current scientific literature related to infant feeding in emergencies and healthcare continuity during and post-disaster.

The information presented is critical for emergency management professionals to be aware of to ensure that their organizational capacities properly meet the specific needs of mothers and infants throughout the disaster response, recovery, mitigation, and preparedness phases. A future research agenda will be outlined to further assess and better understand maternal and infant health needs and to better anticipate, identify, and meet the needs of these vulnerable groups.

Presentation Theme: Focuses on maternal and infant health throughout all four phases of the disaster cycle: response, recovery, mitigation, and preparedness. This is a literature review that examines the current scientific literature related to infant feeding in emergencies and healthcare continuity pre-disaster, during, and post-disaster. This information will help to make emergency management professionals aware of these groups' unique challenges and needs, to ensure that their organizational capacities properly meet the specific needs of mothers and infants.

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