Joint Public Health and Law Enforcement Investigations

“Enhancing Relationships to Improve Readiness”

U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation
History has shown there is a demonstrated willingness to employ non-traditional weapons.

Biological agents pose new challenges to public health and law enforcement investigations.

Investigations require coordination between public health (PH) and law enforcement (LE):
- Identify the biological agent
- Prevent spread of disease
- Apprehend those responsible
Challenges

- Separate and independent investigations
  - Mutual awareness or understanding
  - Information exchange
- Lack or cooperation between PH and LE may hinder the response
  - May causes delays in response
Intervention Opportunity Timeline
Law Enforcement/Public Health Continuum

Number of Cases

NON-SPECIFIC ILLNESS

SEVERE ILLNESS

RELEASE

Incubation

Env Surveillance

Diagnosed Disease Reports

Symptom surveillance
National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats

Goals

1. Improve global access to the life sciences to combat infectious disease regardless of its cause
2. Establish and reinforce norms against the misuse of life sciences
3. Implement a coordinated approach to influence, identify, inhibit, and interdict those who seek to misuse the life sciences
4. Reinvigorate the BWC as the premier forum for global outreach and coordination

◆ FBI and CDC best practices and guides for joint criminal-epidemiological investigations
Joint Investigations: Purpose

For PH and LE agencies to work jointly when responding to biological threats:
- Information sharing
- Risk/threat assessments
- Interviews

Benefits:
- LE has assistance/information from disease investigation experts that may assist in investigating an attack
- LE information may assist PH in preventing further spread or decreasing the impact of future attacks
Joint Investigations Training

**Purpose:**
- Develop relationships between public health and law enforcement
- Promote an understanding of investigative methods
- Facilitate communication and information exchange
Joint Criminal-Epidemiological Investigations Course

- Two-day curriculum of lectures and exercises
  - Facilitated by CDC and FBI instructors
- Number of Courses: 21  Participants: >1000
Joint Training (continued)

Objectives:

- Define law enforcement and public health roles in bioterrorism responses/investigations
- Review notification protocols for WMD threats
- Identify differences between public health and law enforcement terminology and investigations
Outcomes:

- Opportunity for public health and law enforcement interaction in a jurisdiction.

“I think the information sharing exercise demonstrated the need to truly establish relationships between public health and law enforcement, because during our session people were not willing to share!”

-Participant in Portland, OR

“…very helpful in bringing concepts into perspective and showing how public health and law enforcement is different, yet very interrelated; especially with bioterrorism events.

-Participant in Orlando, FL
Training Results

- Positive feedback of improved relations between PH and LE communities
  - Establishment of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between PH and LE
    - New York City (NE)
    - Los Angeles (West)
    - Kansas City (Midwest)
    - Jacksonville (SE)
    - Others
Outcomes:

- Reports of successful investigations where shared methods and improved communications were helpful in responding to threat agent investigations
  - Inhalational Anthrax (2006)
  - THC (marijuana) Poisoning (2006)
  - Gastrointestinal Anthrax (2009)
  - Norovirus Cruise Ship (2009)
  - Border Research Incident (2009)
Joint Crim-Epi Handbook

- FBI, CDC, and Department of Defense created first draft in 2001 after series of exercises
- Published in 2003, updated in 2006; currently being revised
- Contains best practices, guidelines and practical examples
- Available at: http://www2.cdc.gov/phlp//docs/CrimEpiHandbook2006.pdf
FBI, FDA, and USDA created first draft in 2008

Purpose: Provide an introduction to the food and agriculture sector and criminal terrorist investigations so joint investigations by law enforcement personnel and food/agriculture regulatory agencies develop a better understanding of each other’s information requirements and investigative procedures.
Domestic and International Outreach

- Revision of Bioterrorism Security Risk Assessment Form
- DOJ/FBI Process and Criteria for Sharing Select Agent Program Information
- FBI/CDC Joint Criminal and Epidemiological Investigation Training Program
- FBI International Biological Threats Forum (IBTF)
- INTERPOL Bioterrorism Prevention Program
- International Counterproliferation Program (ICP)
- Biological Sciences Outreach Program
- Synthetic Biology Program
Joint Investigations Training: International

- International Partners
  - Numerous

- Courses/Exercises/Trainings
  - Interpol
  - G8
  - ASEAN
  - Organization of American States
  - Southern Caucasus (Georgia)

International Joint Interview Exercise: Exercise participants and case patient (actor)
Conclusion

- Effective method to develop partnerships with public health and law enforcement
- Benefits extend beyond response to intentional events
- Useful model for other countries
Questions?

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DISCLAIMER

“The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.”