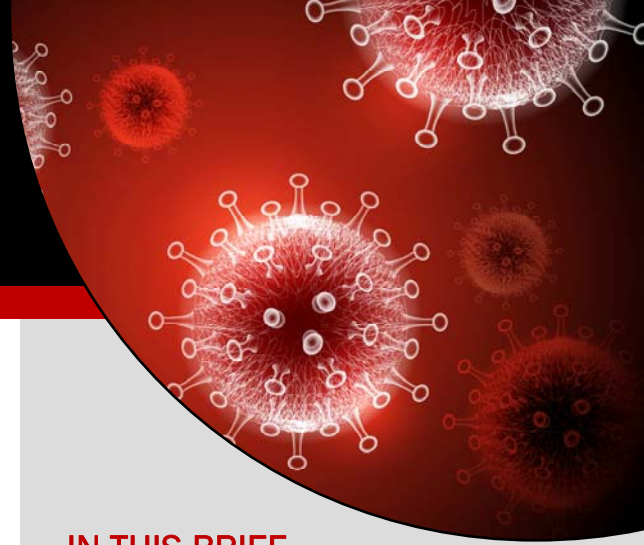


MONITOR & MITIGATE

The Impact of COVID-19 on Public Safety



Introduction to the Study

Overview

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has imposed costs on your ability as a first responder to do your job. Risk exposure in your job has increased, yet you must maintain operations in order to ensure the safety of your community.

As a key stakeholder within the homeland security enterprise (HSE), your organization's and personnel's resilience in the face of the pandemic is of concern to DHS. START therefore seeks to collect data on COVID-19 impacts on first responder communities and provide evidence-based best practices.

Objectives

The goal of the project is to measure the impact of COVID-19 on first responder organizations, identify and share best practices you can put in place to protect yourself in the short term, and identify strategies to make first responder organizations more resilient to pandemics in the future. Specific objectives include:

1. Build situational awareness of COVID-19 and its effects on first responders.
2. Analyze and understand literature regarding past pandemics' effects on first responders and other public safety organizations.
3. Provide initial best-practice guidelines for public safety organizations in public health emergencies.
4. Monitor current events, collect data, and rapidly synthesize information for use by first responders.
5. Review practices and planning guidance and analyze data to identify and disseminate evidence-informed practices.

IN THIS BRIEF

- Project Overview
- Intro to COVID Effects
- Outline of Project Deliverables
- Ways to Help

RELEVANT FOR



PROJECT TEAM

START

START is a research and education center based at the University of Maryland. A Department of Homeland Security Emeritus Center of Excellence, START supports social scientific research related to terrorism and counter-terrorism, risk and resilience, and irregular warfare.

Second Sight Training Systems

SSTS is a research and training company focused on providing research driven online and instructor-led training to military, security, and law enforcement.



Resource Referrals

For project news and updates:

- Visit www.start.umd.edu/COVIDFirstResponders
- Subscribe to START's newsletter at www.start.umd.edu/newsletters
- Follow us on social media with #COVIDFirstResponders

Approach

We will be undertaking a three-phase, mixed-methods approach. The project team will review relevant and available literature, conduct interviews with first responders, leverage available survey data, analyze community-level contextual factors related to infection and mortality, and study the overall impact on service delivery in a sample of first responder organizations. The team will frame results by looking at three types of COVID-related effects, namely:

1. Environmental - Changes in level and type of demand for services due to the pandemic.
2. Direct - Illness driven absenteeism, reduced productivity, and mortality of personnel.
3. Indirect Effects - The effects of COVID-related absenteeism, productivity losses, mortality (direct effects), and changes in demand (environmental effects) on operations and ability to provide services.

Outputs

- A series of short bulletins, providing insights from the literature, interview findings, and data analysis.
- Best practices resource guide for first responder agencies and organizations.
- Analysis of COVID-19 and effects on first responder operations.
- An online toolkit for first responder organizations to assist in your planning for and response to pandemics.



There are a variety of ways that you can contribute to this effort and help protect your brothers and sisters in the first responder community:

1. [Participate](#) in an interview with the research team.
2. Share research and best practices with other members of the first responder community.
3. Wear a mask and stay safe.

CONTACT



Amy Pate / Barnett Koven
infostart@umd.edu
www.start.umd.edu



Nathan Meehan
info@seconsight-ts.com
www.seconsight-ts.com

start.umd.edu/COVIDFirstResponders

AUTHORS

- Amy Pate (START)
- Nathan Meehan (SSTS)
- Barnett Koven (START)

This project is funded by the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Social Science Technology Center as Task 2 of "Advance Situational Awareness Capabilities in Support of Targeted Violent and Threat Prevention in the United States" (award #70RSAT20FR0000082). The views and conclusions contained in the document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the University of Maryland, or START.