

GHS2026 Conference Workshops

***Day One - Tuesday 9 2026, 4pm-6pm
Room 303***

Infodemiology as a tool for developing pandemic resilience and preparedness

Disaster preparedness and emergency response systems are designed around adult populations, yet children represent a significant portion of those affected during disasters and public health emergencies. Pediatric patients bring distinct clinical, developmental, and psychosocial considerations that can complicate response operations in scenarios such as mass casualty incidents, hazardous material exposures requiring decontamination, and emerging infectious disease events. Pediatric care also requires specialized expertise and staffing models that differ from adult care, creating additional operational challenges for healthcare systems during disaster response.

Aim:

Children present unique challenges across disaster scenarios, but pediatric needs remain inconsistently integrated into existing preparedness frameworks. This work examines how pediatric considerations intersect with key areas of disaster response and highlights operational experiences that illustrate gaps, opportunities, and practical strategies for more fully integrating children into preparedness planning.