National Health Security Preparedness Index
Measuring Progress and Sustainment

With the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) sought to develop the first annual measure of health security and preparedness at the national and state levels to assess progress and sustainment of capabilities. This index was needed to provide objective information about how well communities, states, and the Nation are prepared for public health and other emergency situations. It was critically important to the CDC to assess where the nation stands in terms of preparedness and to help guide efforts to achieve a higher level of health security preparedness. The CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Assistant Director for Policy, engaged Booz Allen Hamilton to provide consultative management services, public health and preparedness expertise, as well as statistical and modeling insight to facilitate development of a National Health Security Preparedness Index (NHSPI).

Identifying Appropriate Qualitative and Quantitative Measures

Booz Allen, a leading strategy and technology consulting firm, worked with the CDC and other federal agencies, as well as with academic and practitioner organizations, to operationalize an evaluation framework focused on measures for inclusion in the Index to evaluate state and local efforts toward public health and healthcare preparedness. As part of this effort, Booz Allen assisted CDC in conducting an environmental scan of current practices and measures in the field, as well as a review other established indices. Booz Allen identified more than 15,000 candidate national health security qualitative and quantitative measures for the Index.

Building the Index

Working with stakeholders, Booz Allen reduced the candidate list to 120 measures for the first launch of the Index. With this body of measures, the Booz Allen team developed a complete model of the Index, including statistical analyses, dashboard visualizations, performance measure benchmark and target setting, communication tools, and feedback analysis plans.

Testing and Improvement

Within 8 months of project initiation, Booz Allen submitted a complete working Index model to the CDC. This allowed the CDC to share the Index methodology and components with all 50 state health departments, senior officials, and the public to elicit feedback. CDC has engaged Booz Allen to design improvements based on the feedback for inclusion in a beta version launch planned for October 2013.

Ready to Help You

Our work with the CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response Assistant Director for Policy is just one example of how Booz Allen’s global strategy and technology consultants can help government organizations use advanced statistical and modeling techniques to conduct analysis that supports vital national health security preparedness and sustainment goals.

See our ideas in action at boozallen.com