

第 39 回 APACPH(Asian-Pacific Consortium for Public Health)国際会議 (2007)

(埼玉県坂戸市) 2007.11.22-25 (Abstract Book p211)

Health crisis response by non-professional volunteers

Toshiyuki Ojima¹, Shinya Hayasaka¹, Chiyo Murata¹, Tatsuya Noda¹, Tomoko Haraoka²,
Machiko Miwa³, Itsuko Horiguchi⁴, Yoko Hatono⁵, Ichiro Fukunaga⁶, Shinya Iwamuro⁷

1 Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Hamamatsu University School of Medicine

2 Graduate School of Nursing, Hamamatsu University School of Medicine

3 Faculty of Community Health Nursing, Hamamatsu University School of Medicine

4 Department of Public Health, Juntendo University School of Medicine

5 Department of Public Health Nursing, National Institute of Public Health

6 Institute of Health Planning

7 Health Promotion Research Center, Japan Association for Development of Community Medicine

Objective: The mission of the study project is to clarify how non-professional volunteers can effectively respond to health crises such as earthquake or outbreak of infectious diseases and how the volunteers can be kept healthy during their activities.

Methods: On-site surveys with observation and interview were conducted for the 2007 Noto Peninsula Earthquake and the 2007 Niigata Prefecture Offshore Chuetsu Earthquake cases in Japan. Moreover, literature review, observation and interview in other health crisis cases, and focus group discussion among public health specialists from various kinds of organizations were conducted.

Results: During earthquake cases, volunteers ensured refugees to wash hand, gargle, and dump old foods in order to prevent infectious diseases or food poisoning. Moreover, volunteers provided mental care services for refugees. However, it might be a burden for refugees when too many volunteers visit shelters to care them. As a result of focus group, we concluded that it will be useful if volunteers take over shopping of foods or other necessities for people with fever at home during pandemic flu outbreak, though we have not experienced it yet. Any community activities in normal times that help residents know each other may be useful for disaster preparedness. Volunteers may be powerful aides to exterminate mosquitoes and puddles while outbreak of West Nile fever or other insect mediated infections. There is a good manual to keep volunteers healthy and safe. English papers about non-professional volunteer activities are few except reports from US or Taiwan.

Conclusion: Non-professional volunteer activities are thought to be useful for disaster response. Good practices and studies have already been conducted in order to keep volunteers healthy and safe during disaster response activities. Further studies, however, are needed how volunteers can help people during outbreak of infectious diseases.

Key Words Health crisis, Volunteer, Disaster response