

[Assessment of training needs for disaster mental health preparedness in black communities](#). Danielle J. Laborde¹, PhD; Kristen Brannock¹, Theodore Parrish², PhD
J Natl Med Assoc. 2011;103

Reducing racial disparities in post-disaster mental health requires the integration of unique and complex community challenges in disaster planning. We conducted focus group discussions with 13 community leaders and seven clinical providers in eastern North Carolina to inform the adaptation of a competency-based training model in post-disaster mental health for black communities. The audience-specific perspectives on training priorities were identified by thematic analyses. Community leaders who did not share a history with the community and clinical providers were not aware of internal networks and other community resources. Conversely, most black community leaders and clinical providers were unaware of established local disaster preparedness structures. All participants identified training in outreach to reduce mental health stigma and cultural competence as priority components of training. Black community leaders also were concerned about their inclusion in local planning and leveraging resources. These and other insights on cultural considerations and training needs guided the development of learning objectives, content, and field testing of the feasibility of trainer the trainer delivery of post-disaster mental health training for clinical providers and community leaders serving vulnerable black populations.