on Louisiana nursing programs; nursing program roles in disaster; and awareness of nurse emergency preparedness competencies were queried.

**Results:** 34 of 42 surveys were returned. 20 were complete. Nursing programs were located state-wide and found in 7 of 9 Louisiana regions. Surveyed programs offered a Bachelors degree (45%); Graduate degree (35%); Associate degree (35%) and vocational or Licensed Practical Nursing (35%).

**Conclusions:** The majority of Louisiana nursing programs and their health communities have been impacted by federally declared disasters. Coordinated efforts to improve nursing program preparedness education, roles and responsibility are warranted as vulnerability increases.

## (A33) Application of the Modular Emergency Medical System (MEMS) for Community Response to All-Hazards Public Health Emergencies

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The Modular Emergency Medical System (MEMS) is a flexible and scalable model for community-based response to all catastrophic emergencies. This paper highlights the development of MEMS at the local and regional levels, including training exercises to demonstrate MEMS capabilities, implementation strategies, and its role in the H1N1 response and vaccination clinics. The MEMS was introduced in 2002 as a bioterrorism response by the US Army Edgewood Biological and Chemical Command (ECBC). All-hazards MEMS, as part of a Regional Response System (RRS), was developed by the New England Center for Emergency Preparedness (NECEP) working with state and federal partners. The MEMS presents a modular response framework to mobilize communities and local resources to meet the medical surge demands during a catastrophic event. The modular components of MEMS empower a community-based response to catastrophic emergencies. The Neighborhood Emergency Help Center (NEHC) provides triage and initial treatment, or can function as a point for dispensing prophylaxis medications or vaccinations. During a medical surge, the Acute Care Center (ACC) moves non-critical patients outside of the hospital setting, creating more space for critical care patients. The Community Outreach (CO) module supports casualties recovering in their own homes, under quarantine, and other home-care support. The Casualty Transportation System (CTS) operates between MEMS components, patients' homes and outside of the affected area, meeting all transfer needs. The Medical Control Center (MCC) and Multi-Agency Coordinating Entity (MACE) provide command, control, and coordination of community emergency medical services (EMS), hospital, and public health response assets. Local, regional, and statewide exercises have demonstrated the capabilities of MEMS in Northern New England. The MEMS system, specifically with the MACE concept, was used in New Hampshire during the 2009 H1N1 event. These proven implementation strategies will assist local communities in developing and refining all-hazards response plans.

## (A34) Space Technology to Support Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Medical and Rescue Teams

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Space technology plays important role during emergency as well as non-emergency situation to provide the information that is relevant for disaster preparedness and to the rescue and emergency medical teams. During emergency situation, first and immediate information rescue and medical teams like to have is the area impacted, severity of the disaster and the population at risk. Such information is of critical nature for emergency medical teams in order to plan and mobilize the medical personnel, resources and infrastructure needed to provide effective medical services. Space based observation is the most efficient way to provide this preliminary information. Often emergency maps generated based on the space based observations are useful to the medical and rescue teams during emergency situation while detailed information from the field is still awaited. UN-SPDIER offers the platform for providing such services effectively by connecting with the end users the international and regional mechanism that provides such information. During non-emergency phase, the space technology contributes in strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts, especially through telemedicines and Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies. These tools integrated with Geographical Information System (GIS) provide effective mechanism for predicting risks (risk mapping) and early warning. It also ensures the rapid distribution of information during catastrophic events. In recognition of these needs the United Nations General Assembly established the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER). The programme aims at providing universal access to all types of space-based information by: being a Gateway to space information for disaster management support; serving as a Bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities; and being a Facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening.

## (A35) Building National and Community Resilience

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Each year a report is prepared for the World Economic Forum on global risks. It outlines the issues most likely to impact on society, and makes recommendations on actions required. The 2010 report concludes that global risks are becoming more volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous; and it comments on the increased number of high-impact, hard to predict 'black swan' events over the past decade. Indeed, recent disasters such as the Haiti earthquake which killed over 250,000 people, the eruption of Mount Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland, the rapid onset of the 2008/09 global financial crisis, and terrorist attacks around the world have all contributed to a heightened awareness of personal risk and vulnerability. In less than a decade the term resilience has evolved from the disciplines of