CDC Countermeasure Tracking Systems

Countermeasure and Response Administration

What is the CDC Countermeasure and Response Administration (CRA)?

Countermeasures are interventions taken to help prevent or slow the spread of disease. An important way the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) helps keep our nation safe when public health emergencies (i.e., an influenza pandemic, natural disaster, or national security emergency) occur is by distributing and tracking the use of medicine and supplies used to address the health threat. Such medicine and supplies are commonly called medical countermeasures.

When responding to events that put people's health at risk, public health officials need timely, accurate information about their countermeasure supply, distribution, and use at the local, state, and national levels.

CRA is an emergency response system that state public health departments can use to track the administration of vaccine doses and amount of dispensed pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. Specifically, CRA data gives public health officials key information on the availability and dispensing of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment. Through analysis of CRA data, officials also gain insight into the scope and demographics of populations served.

CRA is one of three Web-based applications comprising CDC's Countermeasure Tracking Systems (CTS) program. The three CTS applications are used separately or in combination, depending on the situation. The CTS applications are:

- Countermeasure and Response Administration (CRA),
- Inventory Management and Tracking System (IMATS), and
- Countermeasure Inventory Tracking (CIT) Dashboard.

The three CTS applications are easy to use, require minimal training, and are available to public health departments for free.

CRA was developed by CDC's Division of Health Information and Surveillance to support emergency preparedness and response at CDC, and state and local public health departments.

CRA System Features

CRA's adaptable features reduce the need to develop a new tracking application for every new emergency. CRA is Internet accessible by using any standard Web browser, and it also can be deployed on a stand-alone basis to support operations when the Internet is not accessible. CRA enables public health departments to report data to CDC even if they are using non-CRA immunization-data collection systems.

Key CRA capabilities are

- Managing multiple simultaneous events and countermeasure types,
- Customizing the system for event-specific configurations,
- Providing data-entry screens adapted for countermeasures administered and dispensed,
- Collecting data singularly or in aggregate formats,
- Exporting data that enables jurisdiction-level reporting, and
- Synchronizing data from stand-alone (non-Internet based) deployments.

When has CRA been used?

In 2009 during the response to the H1N1 influenza (swine flu) pandemic, CRA was used to monitor the amount of vaccine administered during the first weeks of the vaccination campaign to protect against the virus. This helped public health officials quickly evaluate vaccination campaign effectiveness.

State public health departments use CRA to monitor and report persons returning from West Africa with Ebola exposure.

For more information, e-mail CTSHelp@cdc.gov *or visit* http://www.cdc.gov/cts/cra/.

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