



American College of
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

POLICY STATEMENT

Approved June 2016

Disaster Data Collection

Revised June 2016, August
2007

Originally approved
October 2000

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) believes key stakeholders should develop real-time syndromic surveillance to capture a majority of clinical illnesses and injury patterns on a mass scale. Early identification can improve the response to an incident or reduce an epidemic's potential, leading to a reduction of morbidity and mortality, as well as overall cost.

ACEP further supports prospective and retrospective disaster data collection and research which is critical for future disaster preparedness and response. Accurate data collection in a disaster can be difficult without government mandate and assistance.

Therefore, ACEP supports the following:

- EMS and public health systems and agencies play an active role in real-time disaster data collection and sharing.
- Real-time reporting of all injuries and illnesses related to officially declared disasters and terrorist events.
- Real-time use of local health agency disaster collection databases to track disaster-related injuries and illnesses to enhance local disaster response.
- A coordinated response across health care and emergency response agencies for the purpose of a public health syndromic surveillance network to identify an infectious disease outbreak or other public health concerns.
- Documentation of disaster related ICD-10 codes for the purposes of data and research.