



National Infrastructure Protection Plan

Healthcare and Public Health Sector

The Healthcare and Public Health (HPH) Sector is one of 18 critical infrastructure sectors established under the authority of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7). Each sector is managed by a Sector-Specific Agency (SSA) that provides sector-level performance feedback to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable assessment of national, cross-sector critical infrastructure protection and resilience programs. In accordance with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), each SSA is responsible for developing and implementing a Sector-Specific Plan (SSP), in collaboration with public and private sector partners, and for encouraging the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms.

Sector Overview

Protection of critical infrastructure in the HPH Sector is essential to maintaining a resilient Nation. The HPH Sector constitutes 17% of the Gross National Product and protects all sectors of the economy from hazards such as terrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and natural disasters. Because the vast majority of the sector's assets are privately owned and operated, collaboration and information sharing between the public and private sectors is essential to increasing resilience of the Nation's HPH critical infrastructure. Operating in all U.S. States, Territories, and tribal areas, the HPH Sector plays a significant role in response and recovery across all other sectors in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. While healthcare tends to be delivered and managed locally, the public health component of the sector, focused primarily on population health, is managed across all levels of government—national, State, regional, local, tribal, and territorial.

The HPH Sector is highly dependent on fellow sectors for continuity of operations and service delivery, including the Communications, Emergency Services, Energy, Food & Agriculture, Information Technology, Transportation Systems, and Water Sectors.

Sector Vision

The HPH Sector's vision is to achieve overall resilience against all threats—natural and man-made. Implementing this vision will prevent or minimize damage to, or destruction of, the Nation's HPH infrastructure. It also will preserve the sector's ability to mount timely and effective responses to both routine and emergency situations as it strives to protect its critical workforce from harm resulting from terrorist or criminal activities, natural disasters, and serious infectious disease outbreaks, including those originating outside the United States.

Sector Partnerships

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as the SSA for the HPH Sector, partners with DHS to implement the NIPP sector partnership model and risk management framework. HHS supported the formation of a Healthcare Sector Coordinating Council (SCC) that comprises sub-councils representing private sector industries and interest areas within the sector. HHS also established a Government Coordinating Council (GCC) including representatives from all levels of government. As the partnership has matured, the SCC and GCC have established a series of collaborative work

groups and invited subject matter experts to assist in achieving specific critical infrastructure protection goals and objectives. The Research and Development Work Group addresses the sector's research needs and capability gaps, focusing this year on dependencies on water and the medical supply chain. The Information Sharing Work Group is working to enhance the sector's current processes for communication and information exchange via the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and via participation in regional and national-level exercises. The Cybersecurity Work Group addresses threats and vulnerabilities related to information systems, and is currently developing a primer on cybersecurity issues for the sector. The Risk Management Work Group establishes the sector's overall strategy for assessing and mitigating risk, and is currently leading the sector's efforts to identify critical assets, networks, and systems within the sector.

Engaging the public-private partnership is a key component to enhancing the credibility of developed products and helping to protect the HPH system. This continued collaboration aims to increase the sector's ability to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from all-hazards incidents.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Focus

Given the relatively large number of sector assets, particularly hospitals and clinics, protecting and preventing damage to any one asset is less vital than the ability to continue to deliver care. The focus is more on the sector as a system that must remain resilient in the face of all hazards. The HPH Sector focuses on consequence management as a form of risk reduction, integrating critical infrastructure protection principles with surge planning, response, and recovery operations.

Priority Programs

Within the HPH Sector, protective programs have evolved as a result of the changing regulatory landscape, emergency response and recovery requirements, and rapid advancements in technology. Some of these programs include:

- **The Homeland Security Information Network** for the HPH community (HSIN-HPH) is the Nation's primary web portal for public-private collaboration to protect HPH critical infrastructure. It is the principal means by which DHS and HHS share sensitive but unclassified (SBU) information with their trusted partners. Through HSIN-HPH, users have access to:

- Timely, relevant, and actionable information about threats, vulnerabilities, security, policy, cybersecurity, and incident response and recovery activities affecting the HPH community;
- Best practices for protection and preparedness measures for HPH stakeholders; and
- Critical infrastructure preparedness and resilience analysis and research products.
- **Federal Grants Programs** focus on enhancing and encouraging sector facility protection and preparedness, such as the HHS Hospital Preparedness Program and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement, the DHS Urban Areas Security Initiative, the Metropolitan Medical Response System, and the Buffer Zone Protection Program.
- **Vulnerability Assessments** are conducted on critical assets within the HPH Sector through various programs such as HHS's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and DHS's National Protection and Programs Directorate.
- **Theft and Exploitation Prevention Programs** through the Select Agent Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Energy's Global Threat Reduction Initiative.
- **Drug, Biologic, and Medical Device Shortage Programs** within the Food and Drug Administration.
- **Various Private Sector Initiatives** led by HPH SCC member organizations such as RxResponse.

For questions or more information, please contact NIPP@dhs.gov or CIP@hhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/nipp or www.phe.gov/preparedness/planning/cip/.



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