Kids: They Aren't "Little Adults"

Children are more vulnerable in emergencies and disasters

Anatomic Differences

Children breathe in more air relative to their size compared to adults, **absorbing harmful materials from the air more readily.**

Children are **more prone to absorb chemicals or radiation** through the skin.

They are more likely to **sustain serious injury** with blood loss and head trauma **from blasts or other blunt forces** due to their small body size.

Children are at a substantially greater risk for **developing hypothermia**, which can happen from cold temperatures at disaster sites or from decon washes.

Equipment Differences

Advance preparation is needed to ensure there are equipment, supplies, and medications suitable to meet the wide range of ages and body sizes within the pediatric population.

Developmental Differences

Children may not be able to communicate their symptoms or feelings.

They lack the cognitive abilities and skills to know how to respond to a dangerous situation and may be unable to follow the directions of someone trying to help them.

Sources:

- blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters, 2014
- childrenscolorado.org, 2023

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