



Health Impacts of Drought

by Gina Anderson, RN, MSN
Emergency Preparedness Office
California Department of Public Health

BEPREPAREDCALIFORNIA



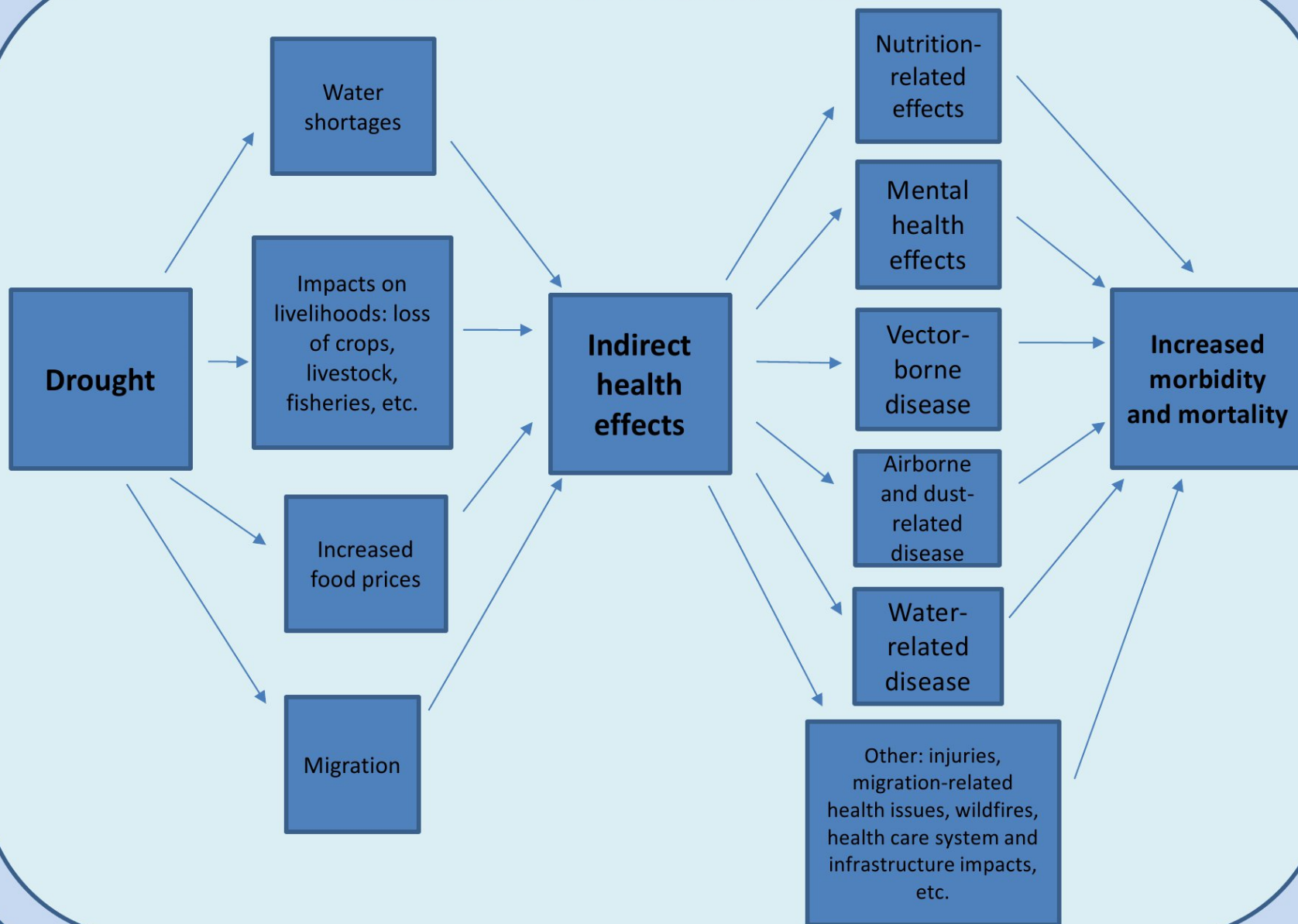
Drought-Related Public Health Impacts

- Probability varies widely
- Depends on:
 - Severity, baseline population vulnerability, existing health and sanitation infrastructure, and available resources
- Socio-economic environment influences community resiliency
- Difficult to make a direct correlation

BEPREPAREDCALIFORNIA

Infrastructure: health, sanitation, available resources

Baseline public health: capacity for resilience





Proposed CDPH Monitoring Indicators

- Vector: West Nile Virus
- Food: production, prices, impact on vulnerable populations
- Water: Contaminates, increased use of disinfectants, seawater intrusion
- Fish: Lower numbers, higher burden of contaminants
- Wildfires: Air quality, ED visits for respiratory issues

BEPREPAREDCALIFORNIA



Potential for Increased Wildfires

- Dry conditions due to drought
- Fires have tripled compared to previous years
 - > 900 fires since January per Cal Fire
- High potential for fires which lead to evacuation and the need for shelters

BEPREPAREDCALIFORNIA

Need for Sheltering



BEPREPAREDCALIFORNIA



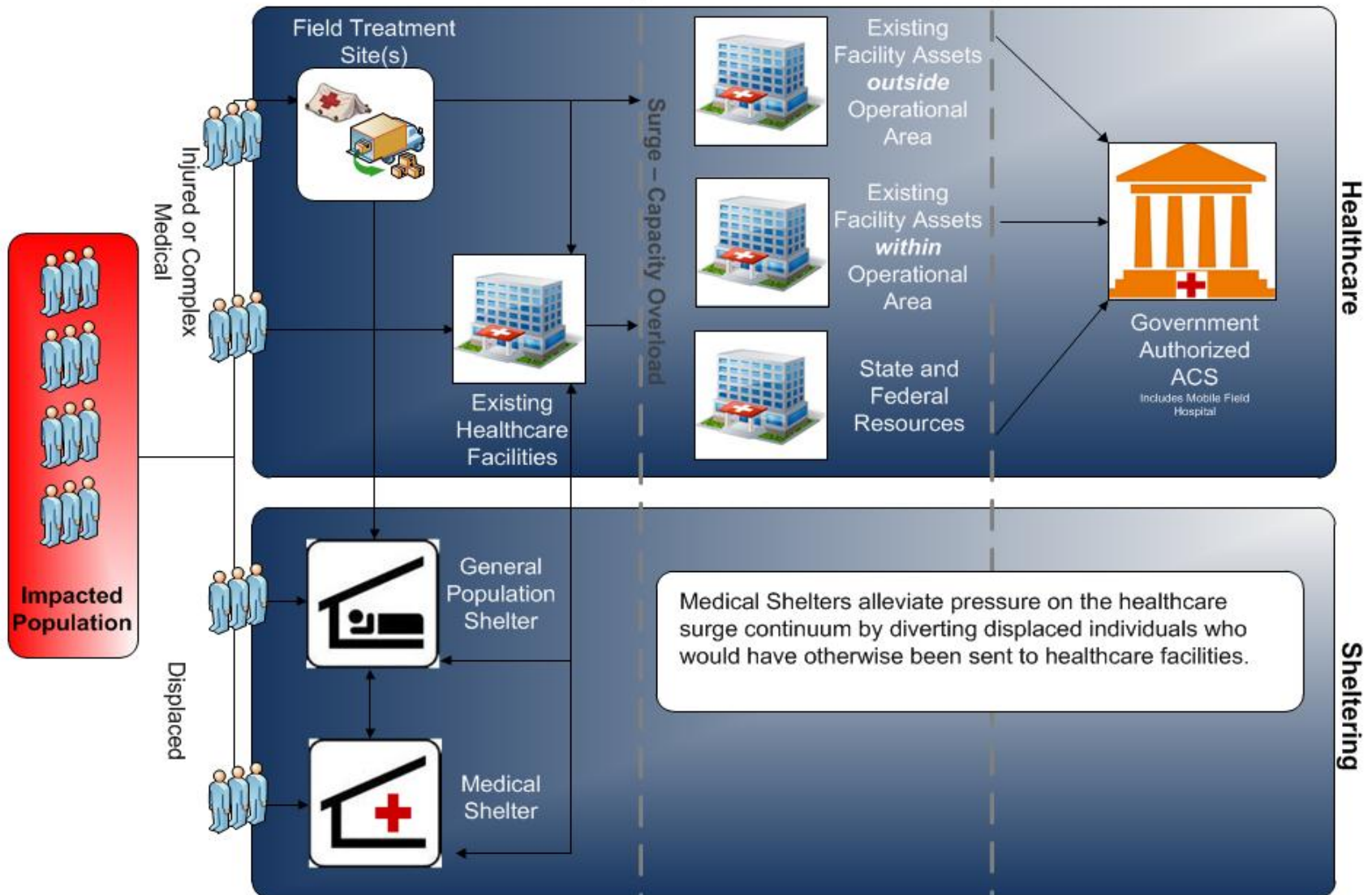
Public Health Role

- Support the public health and medical mission at a General Population Shelter
- Activate and operate a medical shelter

BEPREPAREDCALIFORNIA

Continuum of Care

Incident	Phase 1: Emergency	Phase 2: Healthcare Surge	Phase 3: Establishment of Government Authorized Alternate Care Sites (ACS)
----------	--------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------



NOTE: Activation of any site within the healthcare surge continuum is incident driven (e.g., not all sites will be activated for all incidents).



Sheltering Persons with Medical Needs

- Medical Shelters
 - Temporary location providing medical care and support beyond that which can be provided at a general population shelter to displaced individuals to maintain their usual level of health during an incident



Activation Indicators

- Displacement of individuals with medical needs from their homes
- Immediate needs exceed ability to evacuate to a “like facility”
- Higher level of medical skill, resources, or infrastructure than available in a General Population Shelter



Operational Approaches

- Stand-alone
 - Intensive undertaking
 - Resource intensive
- Collocated
 - Shared resources
 - Families and friends stay together
 - Requires coordination



Other Considerations

- Potential for extreme heat
 - Vulnerable populations at risk
 - Need for cooling centers

BEPREPAREDCALIFORNIA



gina.anderson@cdph.ca.gov

(916) 319-8185