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**Title:** What does the Public Health Community Expect from Modelers during an Emergency Response? CDC Perspective

**Abstract:** CDC and other public health leaders need data in order to be able to make informed decisions when preparing for and responding to Public Health Emergencies such as epidemics or pandemics of infectious diseases, or possible bioterrorist threats. Cortical decision often need to be made ahead of when relevant data from the field are available, and thus public health decision makers increasingly turn to modelers to provide estimates of the needed data. Simple spreadsheet models that can be rapidly built, are straight-forward and relatively easy to understand with clear data inputs and outputs are often the preferred method of producing data that meet the requirements set by the decision makers. Such spreadsheet-based models allow decision-makers, who are not modeling experts, to see how outputs change with different variables. Models can be updated to include hypothetical scenarios or future data that are not currently included. These models enable leaders to understand possible consequences of various decisions.

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