

Vulnerable Populations and Emergency Management

Broadcast Date: December 4, 2006

Faculty

Hilary Styron

Director

Emergency Preparedness Initiative

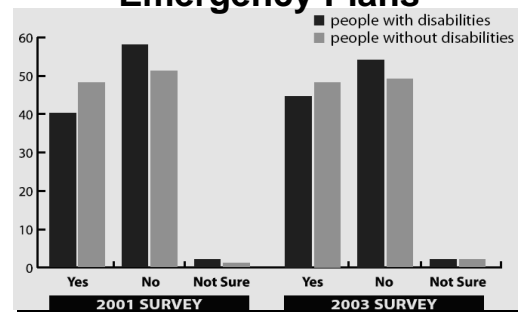
National Organization on Disability

Washington, DC

EPI Objectives

- People with disabilities are included in all phases of emergency planning and response at all levels.
- Contribution to the nation's overall preparedness by enlisting the special qualities of resourcefulness, determination, and ingenuity of people with disabilities.
- That the special needs of people with disabilities are addressed prior to an emergency to minimize the adverse impact.

Knows Whom to Contact About Home or Work Emergency Plans



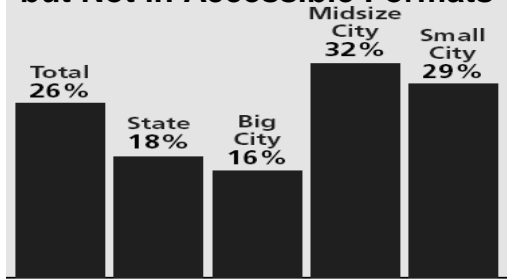
2005 Harris Survey

- 54% of people with disabilities know whom to contact about emergency plans in their community, up from 44% in 2003.
- 47% of people with disabilities have made plans to safely evacuate their homes, a significant increase from the 2003 survey results of 39%.

2004 Survey of Emergency Managers

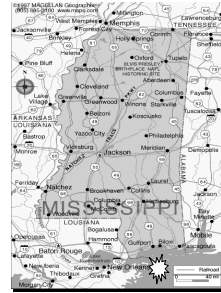
- 76% did not have a paid expert to deal with emergency preparedness for people with disabilities.
- 73% said no funding had been received to address emergency planning for people with disabilities.
- 39% had not purchased specialized equipment.
- 36% said no special training had been offered.

Have Public Awareness Campaign Directed at People with Disabilities, but Not in Accessible Formats



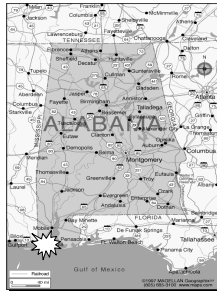
Demographics – Biloxi

- In Biloxi, Mississippi, 10,700 people (25%) are classified in the 2000 Census as people with disabilities.



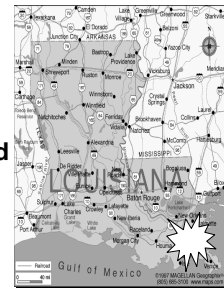
Demographics – Mobile

- In Mobile, Alabama, 43,000 people (24%) are people with disabilities.



Demographics – New Orleans, LA

- Almost 250,000 of the residents of the New Orleans metropolitan area described themselves as disabled in the 2000 Census. 21.3% of the city's residents were people with disabilities.



According to the 2000 Census

- Sensory Disability
 - 23,467 people “long-lasting conditions” of “blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment.”
- Mobility Disability
 - 107,883 people “condition that substantially limits basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying.”

According to the 2000 Census in New Orleans

- Mental Disability
 - 64,016 people
- Daily Living Assistance
 - 54,014 people stated that because of a long-lasting condition they have difficulty dressing, bathing or getting around inside their home.

Kaiser Family Foundation Poll

People from New Orleans who were evacuated to the Astrodome and other large facilities in Houston:

“Which of these was the biggest reason you did not leave?”

- 37%: “I just didn’t want to leave.”
- 22%: “I was physically unable to leave.”
- 23%: “I had to care for someone who was unable to leave.”

Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report Findings

Purpose: The singular purpose of this project was to capture a snapshot in time through a representative sampling of experience and observation on the ground.

Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report Findings

Field Team: Each team consisted of three experienced emergency management professionals, one of which served as a team leader; one a subject matter expert in disability and aging populations during disasters; and another was responsible for transfer of data to the analysis team.

Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report Findings

Field Operations: Four teams were deployed to major hub shelters and operations centers in areas immediately affected by Katrina as well as to shelters in outlying areas, including those that are hundreds of miles away.

Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report Findings

Deployment: The teams deployed for a total of four days including two days for travel and two full days for field operations to the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Houston, Texas.

Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report Findings

Analytical Team: Assembled for a total of six days, the analytical team consisted of five subject matter experts experienced in special needs and emergency management.

Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report Findings

Report Evaluation: Using an evaluation tool created by the Analytical Team, the ground teams assessed shelter conditions as related to disability and aging populations.

Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report Findings

- The survey was organized into four major areas:
 - Sheltering
 - Management, policies and training
 - Resources
 - Community-based organizations

Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report Findings

- “Extremely poor conditions”
- “There was major shelter client despair.”
- Lack of space
- Overcrowding
- Lack of food and drink
- No privacy areas

Special Needs Assessment 4 Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report Findings

- Unsafe play area
- Criminal activity
- No mental health or social services on-site
- Scores of evacuees outside shelter in tents
- Several riots involving evacuees and law enforcement

Significant Findings

- 85.7% of community-based providers of services for seniors and people with disabilities do not know how to access the emergency management system.
- 54% of the shelter operators did not have any working agreements with disability and aging specific organizations.

Special Needs Assessment for Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE) Report

- 50% of those interviewed had policies, plans, and guidelines in place prior to Hurricane Katrina.
- 36% has someone with expertise onsite to provide guidance regarding appropriate accommodations.

- Most underserved group: persons were deaf or hard of hearing.
- Less than 30% of shelters had access to American Sign Language interpreters.
- 80% did not have TTY's.
- 60% did not have TVs with open caption capability.
- Only 56% of shelters had areas where oral announcements were posted.

Arc of New Orleans

- 24-hour assisted residential living for 25 people.
- Pre-established relocation point in Georgia.
- Educated and trained staff, families of staff members, and residents.
- Rehearsed transportation routes, alternate routes pre-established.
- 100% evacuation success!

Arc of Houma

- 24-hour residential assisted living for 65 people.
- Pre-established relocation point in northern Louisiana.
- Pre-established transportation provider.

Arc of Houma

- Each resident had an evacuation duffle bag: one week of medication, clothing, inflatable mattress, blanket, food and water, personal items.
- Practiced with staff, their families, and residents. Evacuated twice.
- Cost operation \$100K out of their budget 100% successful evacuation!

General Populations Shelter or Shelter

- A facility selected to provide a safe haven
- Equipped to house, feed, provide a first aid level of care
- Minimal support services on a short-term basis (e.g. Astrodome)



Special Needs Shelter or Medical Needs Shelter

- Similar to a general population shelter in-service, however, can provide a higher than first aid level of care.
- There is currently no standard or consistency with these types of shelters.



Special Needs Shelter or Medical Needs Shelter



Refuge of Last Resort

- This is a facility not equipped with supplies or staff like a shelter.
- It is a place to go as a “last resort.”
- There is no alternative left in which one can get out of harm’s way.
- These are often spontaneous.



Educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.



Promotes the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue departments at all levels: volunteer, combination, and career. Citizen advocates can assist local fire departments in a range of activities including fire safety outreach, youth programs, and administrative support.



Strengthens communities by helping medical, public health and other volunteers offer their expertise throughout the year as well as during local emergencies and other times of community need.



Works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. VIPS serves as a gateway to resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs.



Incorporates terrorism awareness education into its existing crime prevention mission, while also serving as a way to bring residents together to focus on emergency preparedness and emergency response training.