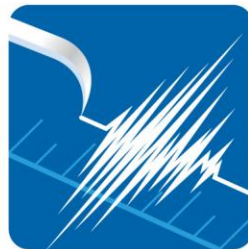


# HEALTHCARE READY

STRENGTHEN. SAFEGUARD. RESPOND.



Health Equity and Disaster Response

*Nicolette Louissaint, PhD*

# Our Story

**Mission:** Healthcare Ready leverages unique relationships with government, nonprofit and medical supply chains to build and enhance the resilience of communities before, during and after disasters.

## Hurricane Katrina



## Lessons Learned

- Protecting public health after a disaster requires continued access to essential medicines
- Better coordination & communication between sectors was needed
- Partnership to resolve issues in real-time was needed

## Call to Action

- Rx Response (now Healthcare Ready) was built as a critical new asset to help ensure the continued flow of medicine to patients during:
- Severe natural disaster
  - Large-scale terrorist attack
  - Pandemic influenza

# The Landscape

## *Whole of Society Challenge*

▶▶▶ HEALTHCARE READY



# Emergency Management Lifecycle



# Understanding Disasters And Continuity of Care

## Populations

Populations whose health is already compromised are more vulnerable than healthy people to the stresses and disruptions caused by disasters

## Preparedness

Early decisions and plans can help decrease later exacerbations of chronic conditions after a man-made or natural disaster

## Training

The challenge of teaching people to be prepared: Similar barriers in teaching people self management skills for any chronic condition, but there is no “one-sized-fits-all” solution

# Definitions Of Vulnerable US Pandemic And All-hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) “At-risk Populations”

People with limited English language skills

Geographically or culturally isolated people

Homeless people

Senior citizens

Children

People who are physically or mentally disabled

# Health Preparedness

## *Focusing on Populations of Greatest Need*

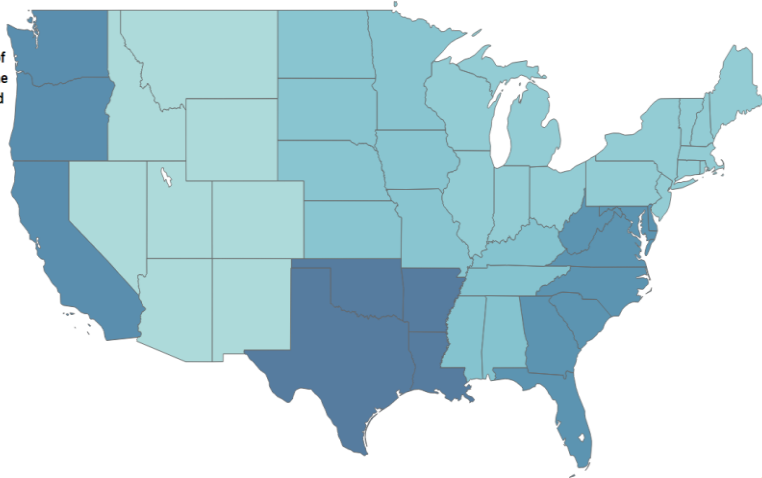
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# Concern, Anticipation, and Risk

30%  70%  
% of People Who Believe a Disaster is Likely  
(next 5 years)

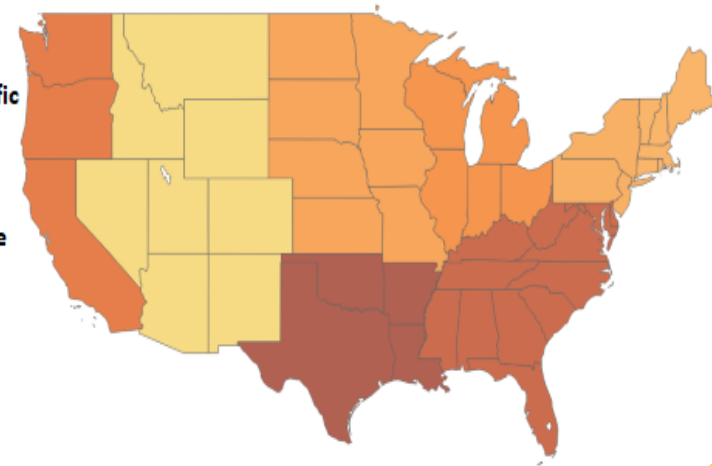
\*Hawaii and Alaska are part of the Pacific Census Division, the regions measured and colored here. They share the same color as CA.



Percentage of Americans that believe a catastrophic disaster is likely to impact them in the next five years. Darker areas indicate a great percentage of people thought disasters likely to affect them. Broken down by [US Census Divisions](#).

20%  44%  
% of People MOST Concerned about a Natural Disaster

\*Hawaii and Alaska are part of the Pacific Census Division, the regions measured and colored here. They share the same color as CA.



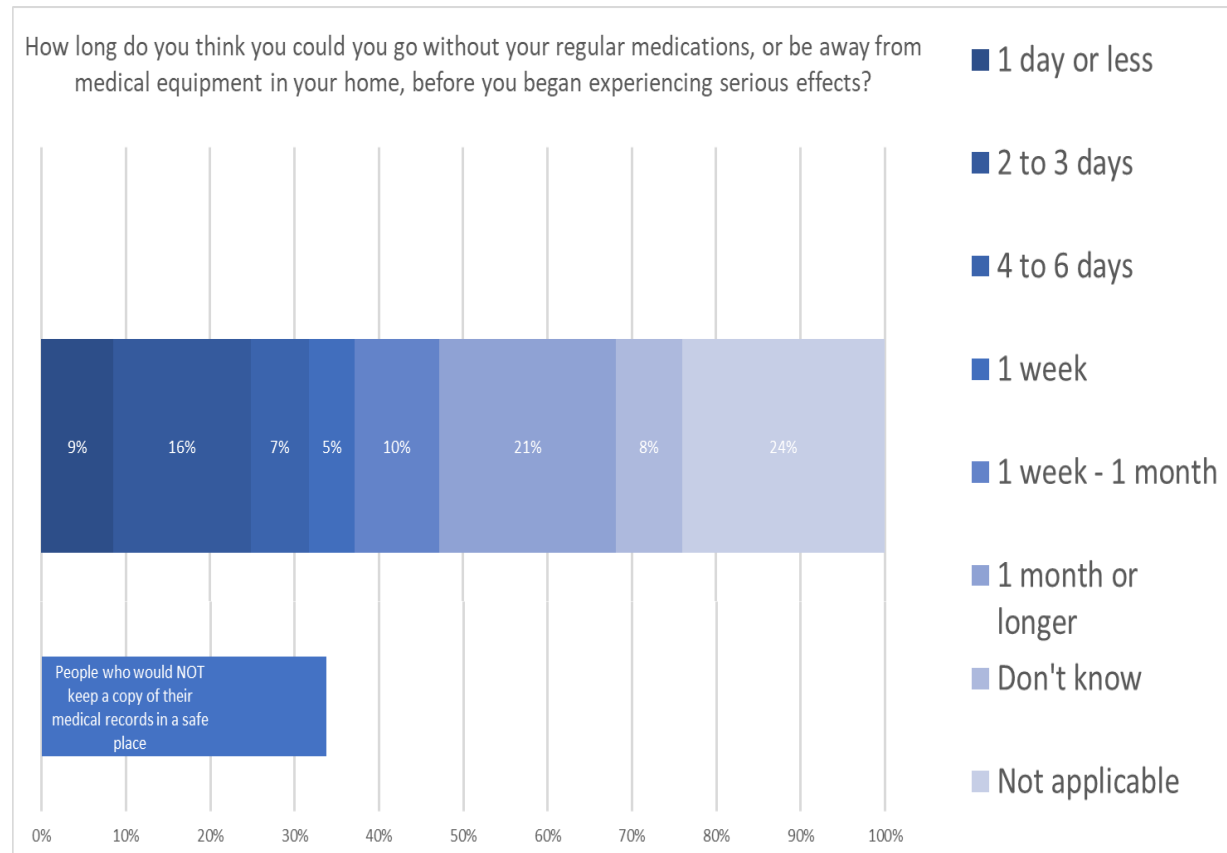
Percentage of Americans most concerned about a natural disaster, where darker areas indicate a higher percentage of people concerned. Broken down by [US Census Divisions](#).



# US Preparedness Poll

**25% of respondents believe they couldn't go more than three days without serious negative effects from a lack of medication or necessary medical equipment.**

- One-third of those polled reported they would **not** be likely to keep a copy of their medical records in a safe place as a preparedness measure.



# Linking hazards with vulnerability (holistically)

Hurricanes/  
Natural Disasters

- Chronic care
- Functional and access needs/ low mobility
- Low income/unable to evacuate

Disease  
outbreaks

- Immunocompromised (elderly, children, etc.)
- Co-morbid patients
- Unvaccinated

CBRNE events

- Co-morbid patients
- Functional and access needs/ low mobility
- Immunocompromised

# Disaster Response

HEALTHCARE READY



# How we support during emergencies

## Facilities

*Healthcare  
Facilities*

## People

*Providers,  
Patients, Staff*

## Patients



### Sit-Reps

- Vital updates on challenges and resources
- Shared daily with ESF-8



### Event-specific Web Pages

- Amplify messages & resources



### Coordination Calls

- Expedited information sharing
- Introduce partners & foster collaboration



### Social Media

- Amplify messages & resources
- Connect partners to resources



### Training & Convenings

- Just-in-time training
- Cross-sector collaboration



### Patient Assistance

- Donation coordination
- Rx programs
- Refill assistance



# Linking to Populations of Need

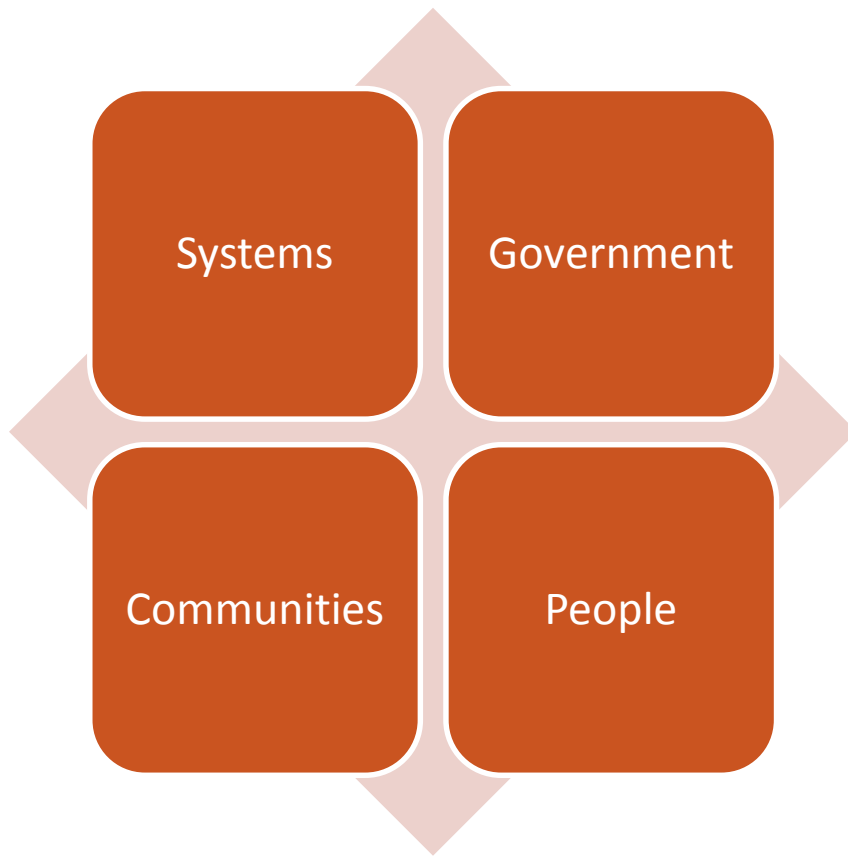
## **Emergency Solutions** (Disaster Infrastructure)

- Shelters
- Mobile clinics
- NGO medical teams
- Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs)

## **Existing Infrastructure** (Healthcare Infrastructure)

- Healthcare systems (hospitals, outpatient clinics)
- Ancillary care (dialysis centers, pharmacies, health clinics)
- New partners (urgent care clinics)

# The Challenge Ahead



- Getting more local (building community-level resilience)
- Integrating disaster resilience into broader efforts (planning, sustainability)
- Clarify core equity issues
- Building disaster health readiness into all systems and programs

# Let's Connect!

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Executive Director

[www.HealthcareReady.org](http://www.HealthcareReady.org)

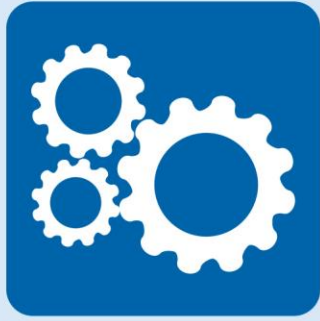
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