

ACCESS
and
FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

COMMUNITIES

Introduction

The following list of AFN Communities has been developed primarily from CalOES publications, with major subcategories from a number of sources including FEMA.

It is not intended to be a definitive list, as there may be other AFN communities that will be identified in the future that will need to be added. And there are certainly numerous smaller subcategories to each AFN community that could be included as well.

Each hospital should decide whether to expand or condense this list, based upon their knowledge of the AFN communities present in the geographic area they service.

Overview

- U.S. Census Bureau: In California, 20+% of the population has a registered disability; the real number is thought to be well over 25%, as many individuals with a disability are believed to be unwilling to report it, largely thru fear of discrimination.
- FEMA: 30% to 40% of the population has AFN; [this is probably well understated].
- The AFN Community represents a huge portion of the U.S. population. Individuals with AFN can have extensive and diverse needs, which may increase significantly during a disaster.

Individuals with Chronic Conditions

CDC: 50% of all adults have a chronic health condition; 25% have two or more.

Major subcategories:

- *End Stage Renal Disease, requiring hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis, and affecting nearly a half-million individuals, per the National Kidney Foundation*
- *Respiratory Failure, including Acute Lung Injury (ALI) and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) caused by lung disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary embolism, pneumonia, or cystic fibrosis; or by injury, muscular dystrophy, stroke, etc., requiring ventilator or home-oxygen use. National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates incidence of ALI at 200,000 per year, and ARDS at 150,000 per year.*
- *Special nutritional needs and/or dietary restrictions: Dietary requirements and/or restrictions due to a medical disorder or disease. CDC: Over 4% of the population has a food allergy.*
- *Long-term acute care dependent: Individuals who require extended care in a hospital or subacute care setting, such as a Long Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH), as their complex needs exceed the capacities of a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)*
- *Victims of abuse, violence or neglect (domestic, sexual, elder, child, etc.) Data varies widely; many sources claim that most incidents of abuse are unreported.*
- *Alcohol and/or substance abuse issues. NIH: 6% of population have Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD); 9% of population have used an illicit drug within past 30 days*
- *Medication dependent (heart disease, hypertension, insulin, anti-seizure, antidepressants and antipsychotics, pain killers, antibiotics, etc.) CDC: 45% of the population takes at least 1 prescription medication, while 17% take 3 or more*

Individuals with Physical Disabilities

CDC: 16% of population has one or more Physical Disabilities.

Major subcategories:

- *Mobility Impaired (including those requiring bariatric equipt.) Individuals who have serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. Disabilities include para/quadruplegia, MS, cerebral palsy, dystrophy, polio. Also includes those who require bariatric equipment. 7½% of the population has difficulty walking, and most must use either a cane, walker, wheelchair or powered scooter.*
- *Blind or Vision Impaired – 9% have significant vision issues*
- *Dexterity Impaired (most often caused by arthritis) Individuals who have limited function, or loss of function, of one or more extremities - 5%*
- *Deaf or Hard of Hearing - 15% have difficulty hearing or use a hearing aid*
- *Speech Disabilities (due to ADD, apraxia, dysarthria, etc.) - 2% have significant speech impairment*

Women who are Pregnant

U.S. Census Bureau: 3-4% of the nation's women are pregnant at any given time.

In order of AFN:

- *High Risk, 3rd Trimester - 2% of all pregnancies*
- *High Risk, 1st and 2nd trimesters - 5% of all pregnancies*
- *Low and Moderate Risk, 3rd trimester – about 25% of all pregnancies*
- *Low and Moderate Risk, 1st and 2nd trimesters – about 70% of all pregnancies*
(Note: approx. 33% of all pregnancies terminate thru abortion or miscarriage)

Pediatrics

U.S. Census Bureau: 24% of the population is under age 18.

AFN generally decreases with progression toward maturity.

- *Neonatal (birth to 1 month) <1%*
- *Infants and Toddlers (1 month to 2 years old) - 2%*
- *Children (2 to 12 years old) – 13%*
- *Adolescents (12 to 18 years old) – 8%*
- *Minors with Cognitive and/or Developmental Issues – CDC: 3%*
(Autism Spectrum, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, significant hearing or vision loss, intellectual disability, learning disability, etc.)

Geriatric/Elderly/Senior Citizens

U.S. Census Bureau: 15% of the population is 65 or older.

At age 65, half have AFN. By 80, nearly all have AFN and most have at least one severe disability.

- *Individuals 65 years of age or older who have issues with Activities of Daily Living (ADL): Eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, moving around, and continence. May need regular assistance from family members or home-health workers; may need to reside in an assisted living setting, and ultimately a long term care facility.*
- *Individuals 65 years of age or older who have issues with Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL): Shopping, housecleaning, managing finances and medications, making and keeping appointments. May not be able to live independently, and may require the services of a caregiver.*

People Living in Institutionalized Settings

Less than 1% live in a rigid institutionalized setting, as state and federal governments move toward funding community-based services and support systems that enable individuals with even the most severe disabilities to live in regular neighborhoods. However, those who do require institutionalized care are among the highest level of need if forced to evacuate.

Individuals with Injuries

Individuals who are suffering from a significant injury or illness, whether related to the current disaster or not, have AFN. All current inpatients and outpatients; those with the highest degree of AFN include recent post-op and ICU patients.

Individuals with Religious, Ethnic or Cultural Needs and Restrictions

U.S. Census Bureau: Roughly 33% of Americans belong to an ethnic or racial minority group; 11% are foreign-born. Their diverse AFN can affect every aspect of emergency care.

Individuals with Developmental, Cognitive or Intellectual Issues

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reports that over 18% of the population has some form of mental illness, while 4% of the adult population has severe mental health issues, (active psychoses, major depression, suicide ideation, self-harming behaviors, and addiction). This community is often one of the least prepared to cope with the effects of a disaster. These individuals may not be capable of giving informed consent.

Individuals with Limited English or Non-English Speaking

The Center for Immigration Studies reports:

- *20% of the nation's population speak a language other than English in their homes*
- *10% cannot converse in functional English*
- *In California, 45% of the population speak a language other than English in their homes; perhaps 20% cannot converse in functional English*
- *Although this AFN community is huge, the effect of a disaster should be relatively low due to extensive bilingual signage, bilingual media reporting and interpreter services.*

Individuals with Low Income, Living in Poverty, or Homeless

U.S. Census Bureau:

- *50% of nation's population earns "low income" (defined as between 100% and 199% of the level of poverty)*
- *15% lives at or below poverty level*
- *Half a million are believed to be homeless; many more live in unstable housing situations*
- *May be medically underserved, underinsured or uninsured*
- *Are often educationally disadvantaged*
- *All have AFN*

Individuals Who Are Transportation Disadvantaged

Federal Transit Administration: 33% of the nation's population depends upon others for their transportation needs, either family/friends/volunteers, public transportation, or expensive private transportation. These individuals are:

- *Too young or too old to drive*
- *Too disabled, too injured or too ill to drive*
- *Never obtained a driver's license, or had privileges suspended/revoked*
- *Have a driver's license, but don't own or have access to a vehicle*

Individuals with Communication Barriers or Illiteracy

Communication barriers are sometimes due to a physical disability but are more often related to inadequate education or cultural issues.

U.S. Department of Education:

- *14% of the population can't read*
- *21% read and write at or below a 5th grade level*



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