Objective
Focus Area 2: Assessing Risk
Years have systems of workplace, home, and community disaster preparedness. To determine whether counties that have experienced a disaster in the past five years have systems of workplace, home, and community disaster preparedness.

Focus Area 1: County Programs, Policy, and Practice

Objectives

- To identify ways to improve the involvement of people with disabilities in emergency planning and response.
- To determine whether county disaster coordinating agencies are able to reach people with disabilities during a disaster.
- To determine whether counties have systems in place to assist people with disabilities during a disaster.
- To identify gaps in the current emergency planning and response systems that affect people with disabilities.

Methods

- The FEMA Emergency Management and Planning Data System (EMPDS) was used to analyze current emergency planning and response systems for people with disabilities.
- A survey was conducted to gather information from county disaster coordinating agencies and other relevant organizations.

Past Lessons Learned

- Of the 61% who did not evacuate before the hurricane hit, 38% said they were either physically unable to leave or had to care for someone who was physically unable to leave.
- Among those people with disabilities employed full or part time, 32% say no plans were made to accommodate people who have disabilities.

Scope of the Problem

- According to the National Organization on Disability, people with disabilities are more affected by disasters than people without disabilities.
- According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 66% of people with disabilities do not know whom to contact about an emergency in their community.
- According to the Washington State Health and Social Services Department, 27% of people with disabilities who evacuated during the 9/11 terrorist attacks were either physically unable to leave or had to care for someone who was physically unable to leave.

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