

Emergency Planning For Vulnerable Populations

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Helping people.



United Way
of Greater St. Louis

TOPICS TO ADDRESS

- Vulnerable populations, defined...
- Making the case for planning...
- Determinants of vulnerability
- Impacts to preparedness
- Every disaster requires consideration for the more vulnerable
- Ferguson – a new type of disaster to be considered



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS DEFINED...

- Any individual, group, or community whose circumstances create barriers to obtaining or understanding information, or the ability to react as the general population.
- Circumstances that may create barriers include, but are not limited to age; physical, mental, emotional, or cognitive status; culture; ethnicity; religion; language; citizenship; geography; or socioeconomic status.⁸

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS – WHO ARE THEY?

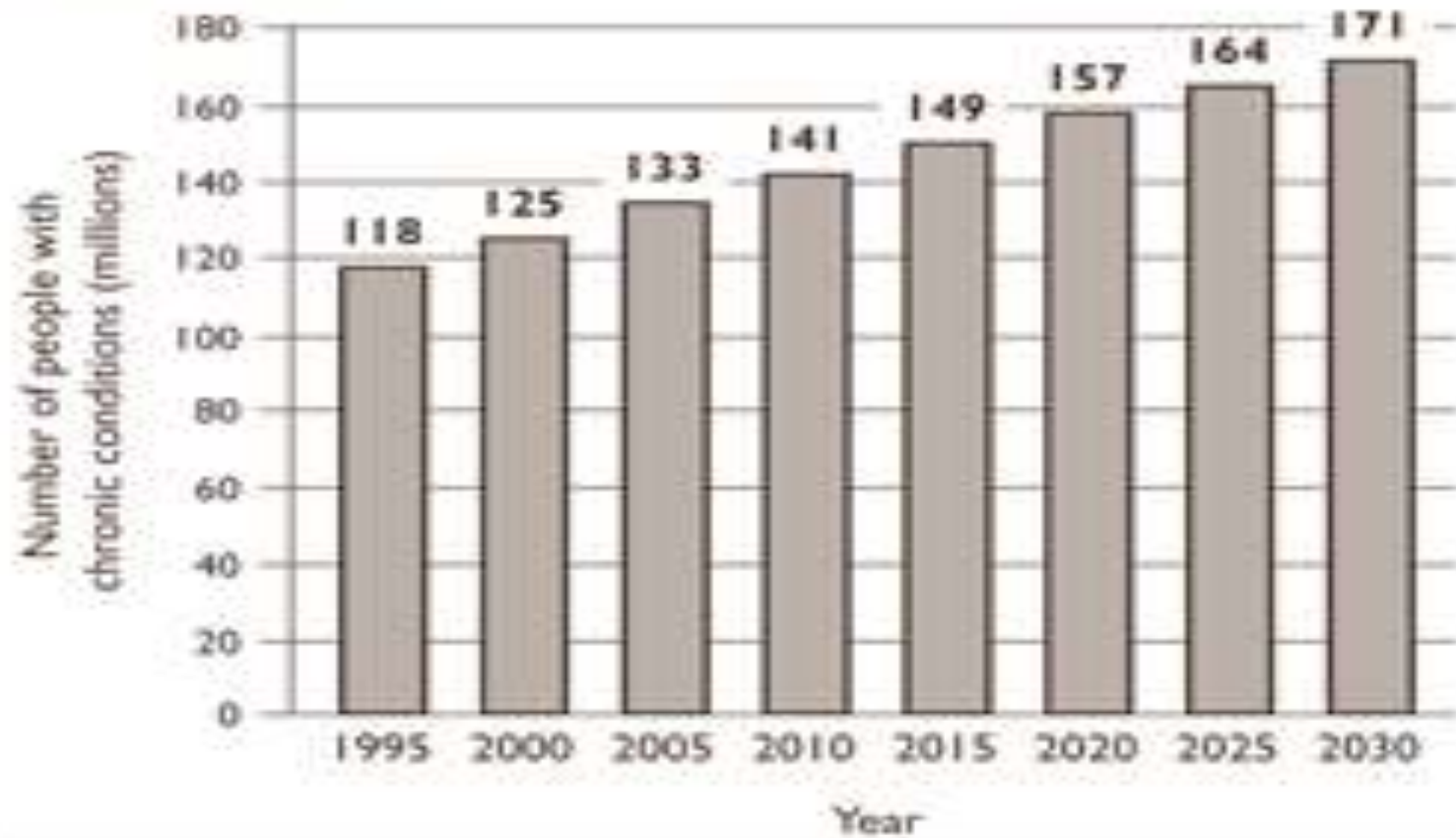


MAKING THE CASE FOR PLANNING

- One measure of the strength of a community's response and recovery system is its attentiveness to its most vulnerable citizens—children, the frail elderly, the disabled, and the impoverished and disenfranchised.
- It is a cruel fact: disasters discriminate. To not plan for groups that can't advocate or support themselves during disaster is not an option.
 - National Center for Disaster Preparedness

MAKING THE CASE FOR PLANNING

Figure 1. The Rapid Increase in the Number of People with Chronic Conditions



Source: Reference 12.

MAKING THE CASE FOR PLANNING



MAKING THE CASE FOR PLANNING

“Vulnerable populations are those most at risk , not simply because they are exposed to hazard, but as a result of marginality that makes their life a permanent emergency.”

“Rendering the world unsafe:
vulnerability
as a western discourse”



DETERMINANTS OF VULNERABILITY

Vulnerability is determined by social, economic and physical characteristics.

These factors influence not only how people cope in crisis but also the resources for everyday living.

This is sometimes called their health...

DETERMINANTS OF VULNERABILITY

Are the same as determinants of health...

- Income and social status
- Social support networks
- Education
- Employment and working conditions
- Social environments
- Physical environments
- Genetic endowment
- Personal health practices
- Coping skills
- Healthy child development
- Health services
- Gender
- Culture

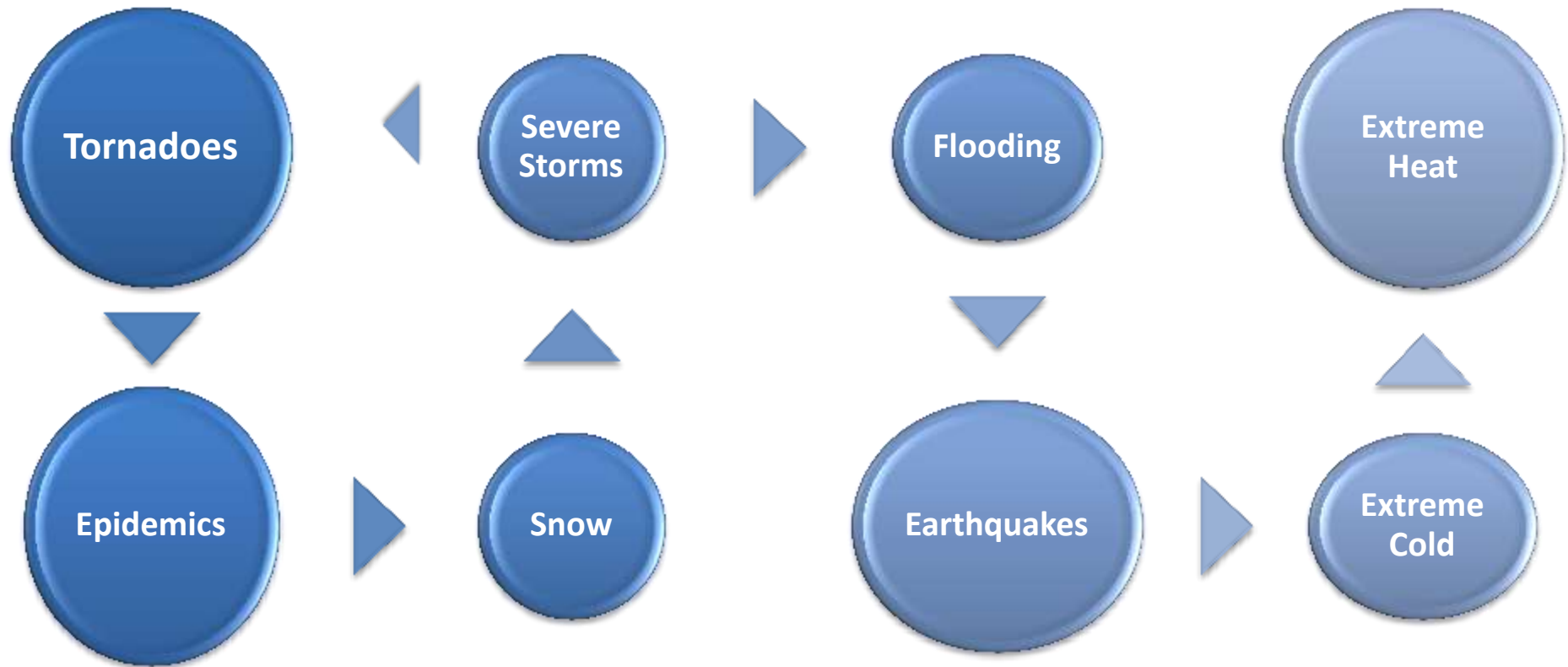
IMPACTS TO PREPAREDNESS

- People who are more vulnerable to a particular hazard will require more help during an impact
- Reducing vulnerability (increasing resiliency) will help to solve problems before they occur
- BUT, the factors that increase vulnerability also hinder traditional preparedness activities

IMPACTS TO PREPAREDNESS

“May you live in interesting times.”

Chinese proverb...



FERGUSON:
ON THE FRONTLINES AND LOOKING FORWARD
Humanitarian Response to Civil Unrest

TOPICS TO ADDRESS

- What Happened In Ferguson To Initiate a Response?
- How Did United Way Determine Its Involvement?
- What Did We Do?
- What Did We Learn?
- What Do We See Ahead?

PROTESTS IN FERGUSON – ANOTHER TYPE OF DISASTER...



WHAT HAPPENED

- Following the shooting death of Michael Brown on August 9, 2014, several weeks of protests and subsequent reactions prompted media attention, heightened tensions, *traumatized a community, limited mobility for area residents, depleted available resources, and damaged local businesses.*
- Tensions mounted over the course of nearly 4 months in anticipation of a Grand Jury decision.
- The Grand Jury made its announcement on November 24 which incited further protests and *resulted in significant damage to local businesses and additional strain on residents' daily lives.*

TIMELINE OF INITIAL RESPONSE

- **August 9:** Triggering event occurs *impacting residents and the whole community – specifically seniors, children, employees, delayed start of school year, access to supplies, food, etc.*
- **August 16 - 24:** UW & COAD partners deploy to the Dellwood Community Center
 - Addressed lack of food resources, personal care, baby supplies, hygiene items, and access to health resources
 - Provision of basic needs to prevent homelessness and aid in stabilization of residents
 - Respond to calls for mental health and trauma counseling for children and adults

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION – INITIAL RESPONSE



What's Helpful To Know About Trauma After Upheaval In Ferguson

news.stlpublicradio.org



Community Resources

Mound City Bar Association

For more information contact:
Chalana A. Oliver
Phone: (314) 889-8699

The Association of Black Psychologists

For more information email Dr. Marva Robinson at: dr.marva.robinson@gmail.com

Better Family Life

Missouri Career Center (NGCC) Florissant
Phone: (314) 367-3440

JobKeeper

Website: www.niagroupstl.com
Phone: (314) 831-5433

Wells, Inc.

Wells, Inc. mission is to provide venues where urban young girls can acquire understanding of technical and social skills necessary to assume leadership

For more information email Brittney "B. Marcel" Wells at: bwellshcheerleader@gmail.com

200 Black Men

For more information contact:
Joseph Anderson
Phone: (314) 367-7778
E-mail: office@100blackmenstl.com

The Ethics Project

The Ethics Project's mission is to improve the well-being of our youth and strengthen our community by addressing the impact of crime, incarceration and injustice on children, families and the community as a whole.

For more information contact:
Christy Griffin
Phone: (314) 489-3528
Email: theethicsproject@gmail.com

Community Action Agency of STL County, Inc.

Phone: (314) 863-8013
Email: info@caastlc.org

St. Louis Metro Clergy Coalition Community

Website: prayingwithourfeet.org

Girls Incorporated of Saint Louis

For more information contact:
Crystal Lumoy
Phone: (314) 385-8088
Email: crystal.lumoy@girlsinvest.org

UMSL

Free trauma and counseling services to those affected by recent events in Ferguson.

For more information call: 314-518-5834

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION – INITIAL RESPONSE

<http://www.cnn.com/videos/topvideos/2014/08/22/ac-dnt-howell-ferguson-brown-shooting-community.cnn>

IN THE WAKE OF INITIAL PROTESTS IN FERGUSON



Impact by the Numbers

- **25+** - COAD / UW partners
- **800** - Client intakes on site
- **30** - Crisis Counseling Sessions
- **2,150** - Hot meals served
- **597** – Households receiving emergency utility, rent and mortgage assistance *valued at \$227,649.11*
- **269** – Children participating in respite activities
- **120** – Received legal counseling
- **100+** - Treated by medical personnel
- **5** – Semi trucks of food and household products distributed
- **174** – Volunteers / 860 hours
- **10+** - Local / national media interviews
- **1,933** – Additional intakes still requesting to be seen...



HIGHLIGHTED KEY GOVERNMENTAL & NGO PARTNERS

The American Red Cross

The Salvation Army

The Urban League

St. Louis Area FoodBank

Legal Services

Deaconess Nurses

Community Action Agency of STL County

Catholic Charities

UW 2-1-1

UW Volunteer Center

STL City/County COAD

STL Regional Coalition of COADs

In God's Hands

Better Family Life

Boys & Girls Club

Girls, Inc

Crisis Nursery

U City Children's Center

Children's Service Fund

STL County Dept. of Human Services

/ Health / EMA

City of Ferguson

City of Dellwood

St. Louis County

City of St. Louis

Ferguson Florissant, Normandy,

Jennings & Riverview School Districts

SEMA

State of Missouri

... AND MORE...

HOW WE DETERMINED OUR CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT

- Emergency Response for Basic Needs
- Requests for Leadership by Corporate & Community Partners
 - *UW Ferguson Fund*
 - *\$1m Emergency Relief Appropriation awarded by STL County for Basic Needs, Counseling, Needs Assessment to United Way of Greater St. Louis*
- Community-Wide Uncertainty on Best Path Forward

THE COMPLETE PICTURE POST AUGUST 2014

Existing Basic Needs Were Exacerbated...the remaining 1,900 + continued emerging needs...

- Multi Agency Resource Centers
 - 10/18 & 10/19
 - 375 households served
 - 3/7/15 – Impacted employees only
 - 35 served; 3 recommended for job placement
 - Food, utility assistance, counseling (additional \$230k approximately)
- Food for Ferguson-Area Residents
 - 1000 boxes of dry goods & \$10 gift cards to assist with perishables
 - Replenishment of depleted food pantries
- Coordinated with partners for counseling for students returning to schools after periods of closure; deployed on site

THE COMPLETE PICTURE POST AUGUST 2014

- Staffed County EOC during activation / on standby for STL City EOC
- Coats for Area School Districts
 - 447 Coats Distributed with support from YMCAs, Corporate Partners and Key Donors
- Mental Health Counseling
 - Continues through 9/2015
- Employment Support for Displaced Workers from Damaged Businesses
- Continued Agency Coordination
 - 81 COAD / UW / Partner agencies were convened and coordinated for various levels of response

LEARNING WE HAVE GAINED

- Humanitarian crises are another disaster
- Impact of Tragedy on a Community In a Region
- Timing Matters
- Reaching the Impacted Population Quickly with Limited Data
 - Respecting the Process of Input Discovery, But Needing to Act Now
- Additional opportunities for Government Relationships and Non Profit Sectors

Thanks for the opportunity to share...

For more information or to connect with the United Way
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regina.greer@stl.unitedway.org

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