

Gaps Identified

- Hurricane Helene highlighted a **lack of coordinated cross-agency emergency planning** for AFN populations
- Individuals were **not trained or understanding of how to address AFN** in shelters
- Uncertainty of how to incorporate emPOWER data** into emergency response due to it being the first time it had ever been requested
- Lack of proactive, targeted messaging** for the access and functional needs population

Objectives

- Utilize emPOWER data and work with the Planning District Commission to create heat maps of individuals dependent on electrically-powered or home oxygen medical devices in the Mount Rogers Health District
- Develop a resource list of medical resources in the district to leverage during emergencies
- Create an Access and Functional Needs Working Group, bringing together diverse and experienced partners that serve AFN populations
- Define training and individuals necessary to fill Access and Functional Needs Coordinator and Officer roles during emergency response
- Create targeted emergency preparedness messaging to reach AFN populations

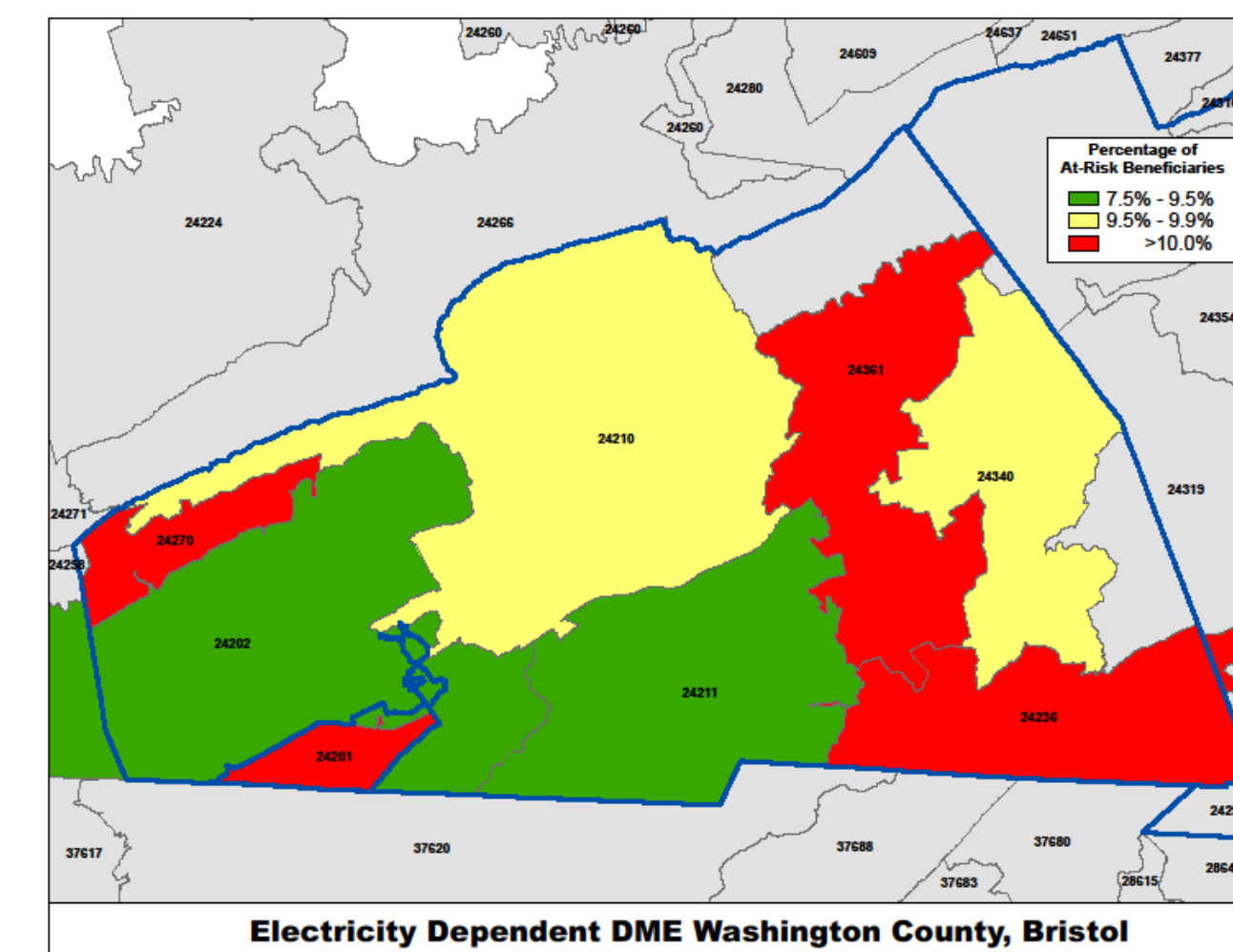
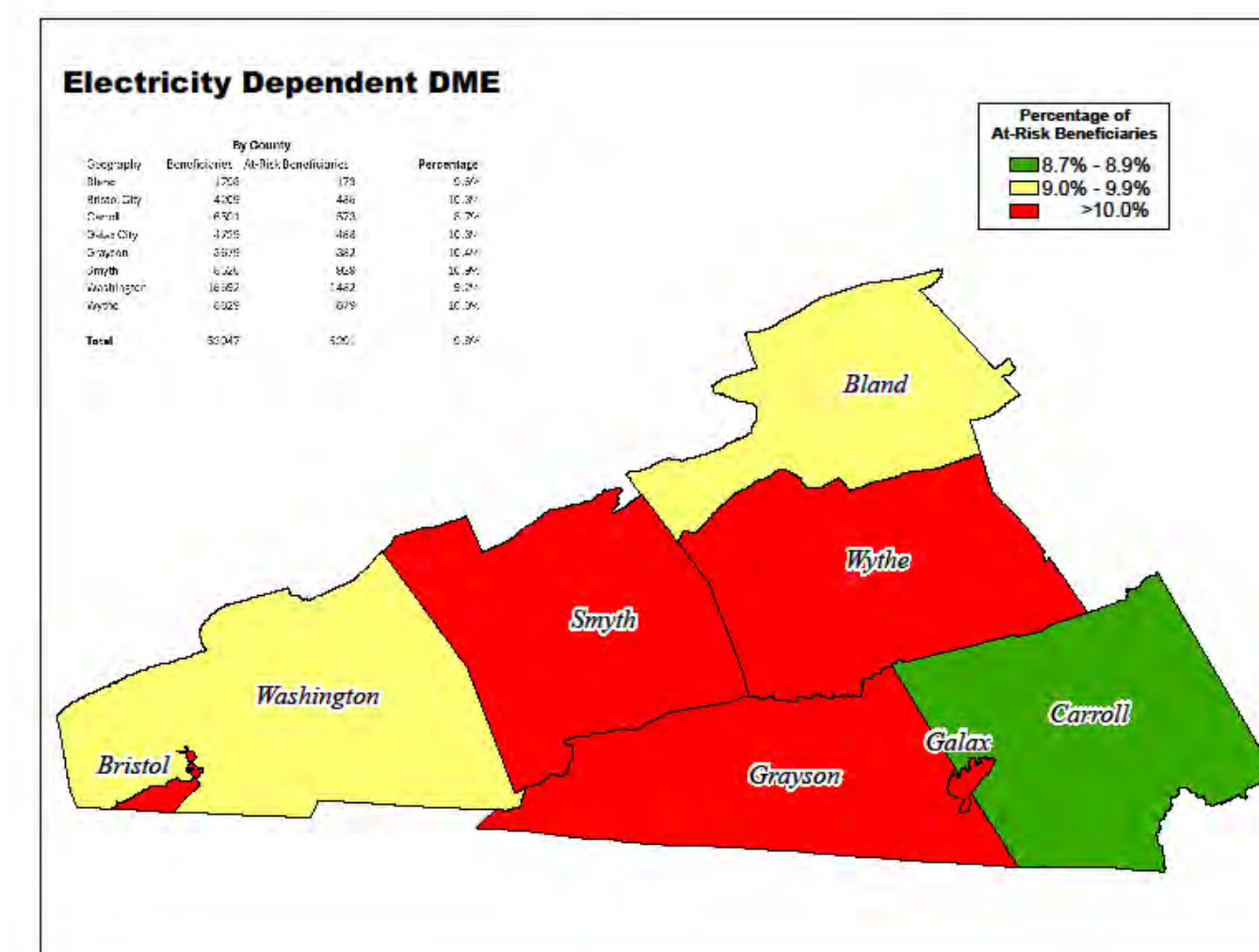
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Project Outcomes

- Developed heat maps in collaboration with the Planning District Commission
- Held first AFN Working Group meeting on July 15th
 - 20 attendees & 14 organizations represented
 - Next meeting scheduled for October
- Developed foundational preparedness messaging for AFN populations



Be Prepared - Gather Your Emergency Information
Record your emergency plan details and contact information for all household members below.

FOR EMERGENCIES
• Call 911 if in immediate danger or witnessing a crime
• Call 911 if there is a serious injury or life-threatening emergency

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Emergency System in Household:
Local Meeting Place:
Meeting Place Outside of Neighborhood:
Out of Area Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number:
Date Card was Updated:
Any Additional Important Information:

HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS REFERENCE CARD

Name	1	2	3	4
Date of Birth:				
Phone Number(s):				
Work/School Address:				
Doctor's Name & Number:				
Prescriptions (names, strengths, prescriptions):				
Allegies & Special Medical Needs:				
Insurance Carrier/Policy Number:				
Board Type:				

ELECTRICALLY OR HOME OXYGEN DEPENDENT PREPAREDNESS TIPS
Essential Tips to Keep You Prepared!

- Have Multiple Back Up Plans**
 - Prepare an emergency kit and backup medical equipment, for example, oxygen that doesn't require electricity
 - Communicate your emergency plan to friends and family and ask them to check on you during emergencies
 - Be prepared to evacuate if necessary
- Consider a Back Up Power Source**
 - A generator outdoors can be used for electricity during a power outage
 - An inverter allows you to charge batteries through your car's cigarette lighter or 12-volt port
 - Ask your provider and insurance about assistance programs to help purchase a backup power source
- Utility Priority Medical Programs**
 - Ask your utility company if your medical equipment qualifies you to be listed as a life-sustaining equipment customer
 - Some companies may offer priority utility restoration or assist you with emergency planning for outages
- Know How to Evacuate**
 - If you need power for life-sustaining equipment, plan to evacuate
 - Allow additional travel time
 - Consider and plan for transportation, dietary, and medical needs
 - Bring medications with you and write down contacts for health providers
- Learn About Your Equipment**
 - Read instructions and ask medical equipment provider questions about backup power source options for your equipment
 - Keep record of make, model, and serial number of medical devices
 - Place information in one location with manuals for your equipment
- Talk to Your Provider**
 - Talk to your provider about your emergency plan and how to prepare for your specific medical needs
 - Discuss options for backup medical equipment, medications, and medical resources during emergencies

DIALYSIS OR OUTPATIENT TREATMENT DEPENDENT PREPAREDNESS TIPS
Essential Tips to Keep You Prepared!

- Have Multiple Back Up Plans**
 - Prepare an emergency kit and backup medical equipment, consider your specific medical needs
 - An inverter allows you to charge batteries through your car's cigarette lighter or 12-volt port
 - Ask your provider and insurance about assistance programs to help purchase a backup power source
 - Be prepared to evacuate if necessary
- Consider a Back Up Power Source**
 - A generator outdoors can be used for electricity during a power outage
 - An inverter allows you to charge batteries through your car's cigarette lighter or 12-volt port
 - Ask your provider and insurance about assistance programs to help purchase a backup power source
- Know Alternate Treatment Facilities**
 - Ask your provider about alternate treatment facilities in case your primary facility closes
 - Make plans for transportation, dietary, and medical needs
 - Write or download directions to alternate facilities that can be used without cell service or WiFi
- Know How to Evacuate**
 - If you need power for life-sustaining equipment, plan to evacuate
 - Allow additional travel time
 - Consider and plan for transportation, dietary, and medical needs
 - Bring medications with you and write down contacts for health providers and health insurance information
- Learn about Your Treatment**
 - Ask your healthcare team questions about your treatment and what to do in an emergency
 - If you have medical equipment, keep record of make, model, and serial number of medical devices
 - Place information in one location with manuals for your equipment
- Talk to Your Provider**
 - Talk to your provider about your emergency plan and how to prepare for your specific medical needs
 - Discuss options for backup medical equipment and medications

- Began planning for damage assessment priority index incorporation
- Began planning stages of a district-level AFN playbook
- Developed a district-wide medical resource list
- Identified and compiled potential training resources for AFN coordinators and officers

Challenges

- Shortage of local durable medical equipment suppliers
- Navigating a changing federal public health landscape and how it affects local operations
- No clear training model for AFN coordinators and officers made it difficult to determine which training is useful
- Lack of emergency preparedness messaging specific to AFN populations

Major Activities

- Completed an Infection Prevention visit and learned to use an ATP machine
- Observed a restaurant inspection
- Shadowed integrative health mobile units and Narcan training with Population Health
- Completed FEMA IS-100, 200, 700, & 800
- Shadowed epidemiological processes for infectious and chronic disease surveillance
- Engaged with numerous partner organizations
- Attended a Criminal Epidemiology Workshop hosted by the CDC & FBI

Key Takeaways

- Cross-agency collaboration** is essential to emergency planning and allows diverse perspectives and unique ideas to be considered
- Location is important.** Mount Rogers HD is over 100 miles across, and each locality faces its own unique challenges, understanding the differences in location is crucial
- Data provides context** that may otherwise be overlooked. emPOWER data allowed us to locate the most vulnerable areas of the health district for specific medical needs

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