ASPR's HHS emPOWER Map

"Data. Awareness. Preparedness. Resilience"

Over 2.4 million individuals in the United States rely upon electricity-dependent life maintaining medical and assistive equipment to live independently in their homes. Disasters, particularly those with prolonged power outages, are life threatening to these individuals. In many situations, their equipment will immediately fail to operate or within hours as their back-up batteries run down. Consequently, many individuals rapidly seek access to power and care in hospital emergency departments or in shelters. Others that are unable to evacuate without assistance, shelter-in-place, thus further endangering themselves during disasters. Each scenario requires advance planning and until now was difficult to anticipate and plan for as many public health, health care, and emergency management officials continued to report that they did not have access to timely and accurate information regarding electricity-dependent at-risk populations in their communities.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), in partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), developed the HHS emPOWER Map to enhance federal, state, territory, county, and community situational awareness of and emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, and resilience activities for at-risk populations that rely upon electricity-dependent medical and assistive equipment and may be adversely impacted during an emergency or prolonged power outage.

HHS emPOWER MAP OVERVIEW

The HHS emPOWER Map is a public and interactive map that provides the de-identified total number of Medicare beneficiary claims for certain electricity-dependent medical and assistive equipment that include: ventilators, oxygen concentrators, enteral feeding machines, intravenous (IV) infusion pumps, suction pumps, at-home dialysis machines, wheelchairs, scooters, and beds. The data is updated monthly and provided both geospatially and in table format at the national, state, territory, county and zip code levels. The map also features real-time National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) severe weather tracking capabilities to aid community members in identifying areas that may be impacted by severe weather and at risk for prolonged power outages. Together, this data can assist community partners, including hospitals, first responders (e.g. fire, emergency medical services, law enforcement), shelters, community organizations, and electric companies to better anticipate, plan for, and rapidly identify areas and populations that may rapidly need assistance during an emergency.

SAMPLE USE CASES

State and local planners can identify optimal shelter locations and power needs for equipment users.

Hospitals, healthcare coalitions, emergency medical services, and fire departments can anticipate and plan for a surge in assistance requests and hospital visits during prolonged power outages.

Public health, emergency management and electric company officials can prioritize power restoration for areas that are densely populated with electricity-dependent populations.

Communication campaigns can provide targeted information to equipment users about how to prepare for an emergency and community resources and shelters that can assist them in an emergency.

HHS emPOWER Map is located at: www.phe.gov/empowermap, send questions to eccc@hhs.gov.

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