

SUPERSTORM SANDY HEALTH & WELLBEING ASSESSMENT REPORT

Warren County - April, 2014



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A. County Demographics

1) Summary of individuals surveyed (N=72)

Survey Demographics		
		Percentage of Respondents
Sex	Male	30%
	Female	70%
Age	18 -29	8%
	30-44	15%
	45-54	26%
	55-64	37%
	65-74	11%
	75 years and older	3%
Ethnicity/Race	Asian/ Asian-American	1%
	Black/African-American	0%
	White/Caucasian	99%
	Hispanic/Latino	0%
	Other	0%
Housing Characteristics	Single-Family Home	92%
	Attached Home	5%
	Apartment/Condo	3%
	Mobile Home	0%
	Other	0%
	1-Person Household	11%
	2- Person Households	29%
	3- Person Households	32%
	4- Person Households	15%
	5 or More - Person Households	12%

B. Impacts of Hurricane Sandy

B1. Impact on Finances:

Percentage of survey respondents who reported the following impacts had a financial impact due to Superstorm Sandy:

Reported Impact:	Percentage of Respondents
Lost power	98% - Average of 8 days
Home was damaged	31%
Car was damaged	0%
Displaced from home	17%
Stayed with or at:	
Friends & relatives	92%
Shelter	0%
Hotel	8%
Still displaced a year out	6%
Temporary loss of income (Less than 6 Months)	24%
Permanently loss of income (more than 6 months)	0%

B2. Impact on Personal Health

a) Percentage of respondents and their self-reported health status before and after Superstorm Sandy:

Health Status	Very Good (%)	Good (%)	Neither good nor poor (%)	Poor (%)	Very Poor (%)
Before Superstorm Sandy	50%	44%	6%	0%	0%
After Superstorm Sandy	43%	44%	13%	0%	0%

b) Percentage of respondents who described their recovery from Superstorm Sandy as:

Status of Reported Recovery	Percentage
Completely recovered	74%
Mostly recovered	17%
Recovered about halfway	6%
Recovered a little	3%
Not Recovered at all	0%

c) Percentage of respondents who needed service provider assistance, such as a visiting nurse, meal delivery, or other home-based care service as a result of Superstorm Sandy; 9%

c1) Percentage of “yes” respondents who are still receiving service; 6%

d) Percentage of respondents who said they visited a hospital for Medical Care as a result of the storm; 0%

B3. Top Concerns Reported Due as Result of Superstorm Sandy

a) As a result of Superstorm Sandy, what were the top five (5) Health & Well Being concerns reported by respondents, and percentage of respondents who reported these concerns?

Top 5 Health & Wellbeing Concerns	Percentage of Respondents
1. Work/Working	18%
2. Having enough money	15%
3. Having a safe place to live	13%
4. Using the recovery resources	13%
5. Having a good neighborhood/neighbors, Access to affordable healthy food, or Having a caring family/relationships	11%

b) As a result of Superstorm Sandy, what were the top five (5) services utilized by respondents, and percentage of respondents who reported these services?

Top 5 services utilized	Percentage of Respondents
1. FEMA	1%

c) As a result of Superstorm Sandy, what were the top five (5) mental health issues reported by respondents, and percentage of respondents who reported these issues? Only 13.8% of total respondents answered this question.

Top 5 Mental Health Issues	Percentage of Respondents
1. Being overprotective of your family's safety	7%
2. Avoiding reminders of the storm	4%
3. Persistent physical symptoms	4%
4. Feeling numb, withdraw, or disconnected	1%
5. Having bursts of anger or intense irritability	1%

d) As a result to Superstorm Sandy, what were the top five (5) conditions that respondents identified as preventing them from a successful recovery?

Top conditions preventing successful recovery
1. Tree damage
2. Not enough money to fix damage
3. Unemployment
4. Loss of income due to power outages
5. Insurance claim delays

C. NJ Residents' Awareness of Resources

Percentage of respondents who are aware of the following services/resources, and are still in need of these services/resources:

Type of Services/Resource	% Aware	% still in need of the Service/Resources
Case Management	34%	
Counseling Services	43%	
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	87%	1%
NJ Hope and Healing	17%	
NJ 211	23%	
NJ Register Ready	13%	
Sandy Homeowner and Renter Assistance Program (SHRAP)	27%	2%
United Way/Red Cross/Charity	85%	

Narrative:

Focus group participants indicated that they were mostly fully recovered from Hurricane Sandy. One individual mentioned damage to the roof of his home and the continued interactions with his insurance company. Other participants of the focus group mentioned similar stories from neighbors or family members who did not have lasting economic or psychological effects, but were still sorting out insurance payments for property damage more than one year after the storm. For the most part damage to participants' properties was limited to trees falling down on in their yards or on structures. Additionally, almost all of the participants lost electricity or had travel difficulties. No participants indicated any lingering health problems. Three participants indicated that they volunteered with local organizations (i.e. CERT) to provide residents with water and assist at the local shelter.

D. Key Informant Interview Summary

Organization (Name, City, County)	Did the key informant feel that his/her organization was adequately prepared to assist individuals affected by Sandy?	Has the organization been able to meet the needs of individuals seeking services due to Sandy?
Warren County OEM	Yes but was hampered by lack of resources (power/gasoline)	N/A – does not serve individuals, but is involved with FEMA and NJSP recovery efforts
NORWESCAP – WIC Program	Yes, the number of people seeking services dropped	Yes, services have returned to normal demand
WCHD	Yes, the Health Department distributed water and ice throughout the county	N/A - individuals seeking post-Sandy services have sought help through Human Services
Human Services – Mental Health	Yes, Disaster Recovery Crisis Counselors were able to deploy to shelter	No post-Sandy specific services are needed at this time
Human Services - Director	No, power outages and lack of communication/direction from OEM created problems	Yes, providing recovery resource connections with SHRAP grants

Narrative:

Power outages created difficulties in communication between WCHD/Human Services/OEM. Respondents from Human Services felt that they could have provided more mental health assistance if their services had been requested (they were only requested at the Red Cross/WCHD shelter). Respondents from OEM are concerned that resource acquisition issues will reappear in the future.

E. Evaluation Criteria

A. Survey:

1. How many surveys did you distribute?
More than 150 paper surveys were distributed at 6 libraries throughout Warren County. The survey was also made available online and was promoted through social media, posters throughout the county, and LINC messages.
2. How many survey responses did you receive? N=72
3. How many individuals contacted your local health department (either by phone, fax, email or telephone) inquiring about health and/or other assistance after receiving the survey?
No residents contacted the Health Department.

B. Key Informants:

1. How many key informants interviews did you conduct? 5

C. Focus Groups:

1. How many focus groups did you conduct? 1

2. What was the total number of focus groups participants for all focus groups conducted? 6

3. Did you connect any participants of the focus group(s) who reported unmet needs to resources?
Click here to enter text.

3a. If yes, how many?

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