



*United States Department of*  
**Health & Human Services**

Office of the Secretary  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

**At Risk Populations  
in  
The Pandemic and All-  
Hazards Preparedness Act**

## At Risk Definition in PAHPA

- AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS-
- The term 'at-risk individuals' means children, pregnant women, senior citizens and other individuals who have special needs in the event of a public health emergency, as determined by the Secretary.
- Note: HHS has adopted a broader functional needs definition that addresses diverse categories of special needs, including disability.

## “At Risk” Provisions

- The National Health Security Strategy must include provisions “taking into account the public health and medical needs of at-risk individuals in the event of a public health emergency”
- Annual review of SNS must take into account at risk individuals
- Provisions in prior public health emergency legislation that single out children’s needs replace “children” with “at risk individuals”
- All-Hazards Public Health and Medical Response Curricula and Training may include course work related to medical management of casualties, taking into account the needs of at-risk individuals
- In carrying out the functions under BARDA, HHS may give priority to products that are likely to be safe and effective with respect to children, pregnant women, elderly, and other at-risk individuals

## Other HHS Responsibilities

- The Secretary, acting through such employee of the Department of Health and Human Services as determined by the Secretary and designated publicly (which may, at the discretion of the Secretary, involve the appointment or designation of an individual as the Director of At-Risk Individuals), shall--
  1. Oversee the implementation of the National Preparedness goal of taking into account the public health and medical needs of at-risk individuals in the event of a public health emergency;
  2. Assist other Federal agencies responsible for planning for, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies in addressing the needs of at-risk individuals;
  3. Provide guidance to and ensure that recipients of State and local public health grants include preparedness and response strategies and capabilities that take into account the medical and public health needs of at-risk individuals in the event of a public health emergency;
  4. Ensure that the contents of the strategic national stockpile take into account at-risk populations;

## Other HHS Responsibilities

- The Secretary ... shall--
  5. Oversee the progress of the Advisory Committee on At-Risk Individuals and Public Health Emergencies and make recommendations with a focus on opportunities for action based on the work of the Committee;
  6. Oversee curriculum development for the public health and medical response training program on medical management of casualties, as it concerns at-risk individuals;
  7. Disseminate novel and best practices of outreach to and care of at-risk individuals before, during, and following public health emergencies; and
  8. Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, prepare and submit to Congress a report describing the progress made on implementing the duties described in this section.'

# The Way Ahead ... Potential Strategies for implementation of PAHPA



## Working Definition

Before, during and after an incident, some victims of disasters may have additional needs in one or more of the following functional areas: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care. In addition to those individuals specifically recognized as at-risk in the statute, i.e., children, senior citizens, and pregnant women, individuals who may need additional response assistance include those who:

- have disabilities;
- are from diverse cultures;
- have limited English proficiency or who are non-English speaking;
- are transportation disadvantaged;
- have chronic medical disorders;
- and have pharmacological dependency.

## Potential Operationalization of PAHPA provisions:

- Develop plans and strategies that address the needs of at-risk individuals.
- Identify additional needs of at-risk individuals in public health emergencies
- Develop guidance to assist emergency personnel in locating and communicating with “at-risk” individuals
- Develop plans and strategies to address the healthcare needs of “at-risk” individuals.
- Establish a framework for Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial and local public health officials to collaborate and share plans and strategies

- Solicit stakeholder and Federal partner input
- Develop guidance to help State and local public health grants account for the medical and public health needs of at-risk individuals in the event of a public health emergency.
- Coordinate with the SNS to ensure the needs of at-risk individuals are taken into account in the stockpile.
- Develop curricula related to at-risk individuals for the public health and medical response training program on medical management of casualties
- Disseminate novel and best practices of outreach to and care of at-risk individuals

## Questions

- Develop plans and strategies
- Identify additional needs of at-risk individuals
- Assist emergency personnel in locating and communicating with “at-risk” individuals
- Develop plans and strategies to address the healthcare needs of “at-risk” individuals
- Establish a framework for health officials to collaborate and share plans and strategies
- Solicit stakeholder and Federal partner input
- Help State and local public health grants address health needs of at-risk individuals
- Coordinate with the SNS to address at-risk individuals through the stockpile
- Develop curricula for medical management of casualties
- Disseminate novel and best practices of outreach to and care of at-risk individuals
- General reactions to the possible strategies?
- What experience do members of the audience have with some of the strategies discussed?
- Are there places you would like to point us to get more information?
- What issues do you see relevant to PAHPA that we have overlooked?