

Community Paramedics Help in Disaster Relief Efforts

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June, 2013

\$1.25

Flooding Begins

June 20, 2013



325 mm or 12.8 inches of rain in less than 48 hours



Complex High Needs Evacuees

Demographics



Frail Elderly

Lower Socioeconomics

Homeless

No Social Support
Networks

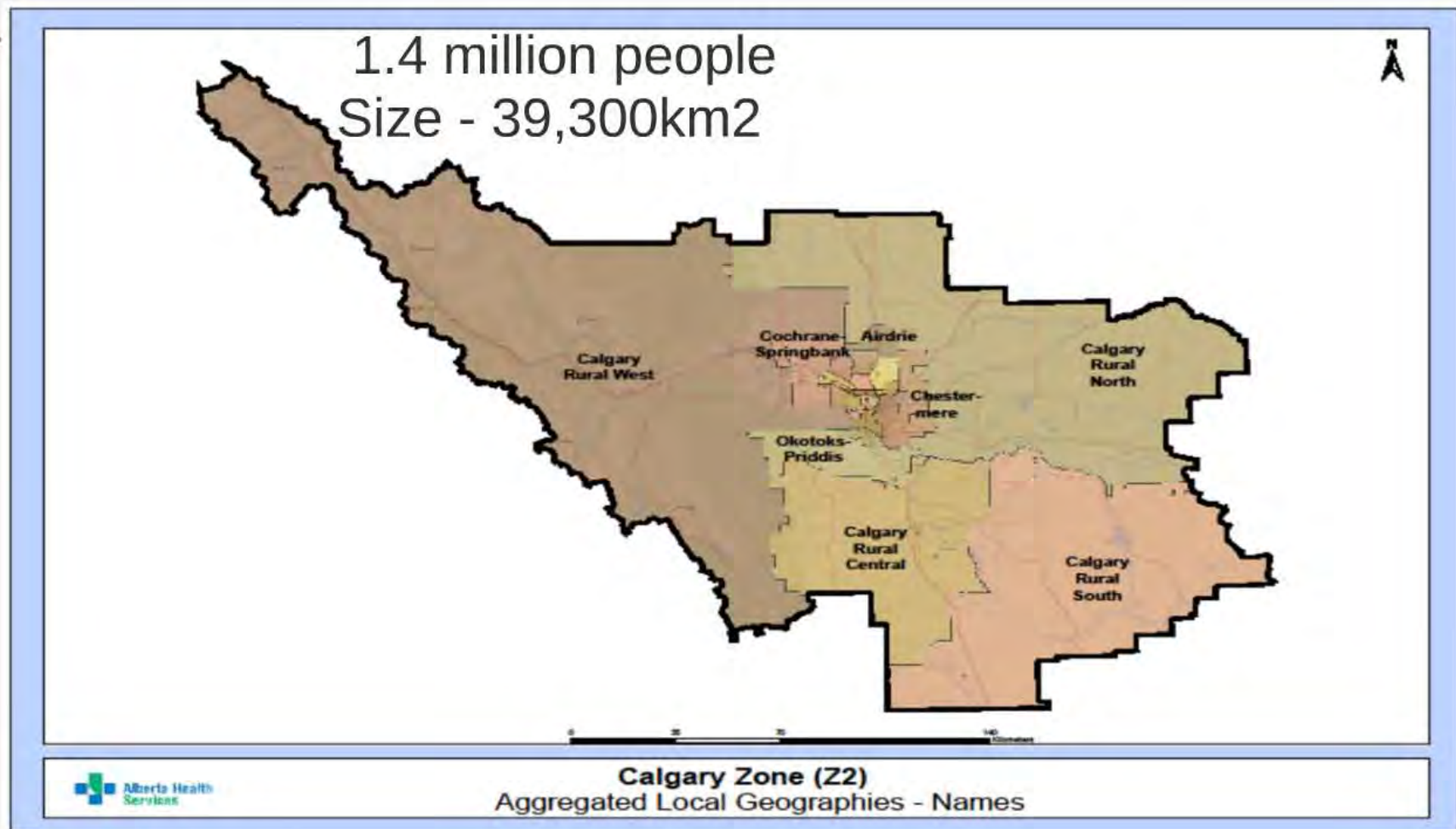
Chronic Disease

Secondary Surge of Patients



Lack of medications

Calgary & Southern Alberta



City of Calgary



Flooding Begins

June 20, 2013



325 mm or 12.8inches of rain in less than **48 hours**

Bow river = **8x normal**

Elbow River = **12x normal**

4 People Killed

Total damage estimates exceeded **C\$1.7 billion**

Costliest disaster in Alberta's history

An aerial photograph of Niagara Falls, showing the massive volume of water cascading over the edge. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and a thick plume of white mist rises from the base of the falls. In the foreground, a small blue boat is visible in the turbulent rapids below the falls. To the right, a paved walkway with a railing is crowded with people watching the scene. In the background, a large, light-colored building is situated on a grassy bank. The overall scene captures the raw power and scale of the natural wonder.

2800 m³/s

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Evacuation Begins and Shelters Formed

80,000 People Evacuated



- 32 Communities
- 6 Evacuation Sites
- 400 Water Rescues
- 15 hours





Complex High Needs Evacuees

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Chronic Disease

Secondary Surge of Patients



Lack of medications

Exacerbation of chronic disease

Mental illness

Minor trauma

EMERGENCY



Community Paramedics Deployed!!

June 20, 2013



Total 10 CPs

4 CP Units

0600-2200

**Roaming
coverage to 11
sites**

Community Paramedics Role

Access to Primary and Urgent Care



Assessments

Diagnostics (ECG, SPO₂, temp, blood)

Physician Facilitated Diagnosis (orders)

Medication Administration and Management (IV & PO)

Collaborative Care



Pharmacist



Physician



**KEEP
CALM
IT'S
OVER
¥**

Repatriated Residents

Change in Healthcare Needs



Minor Trauma

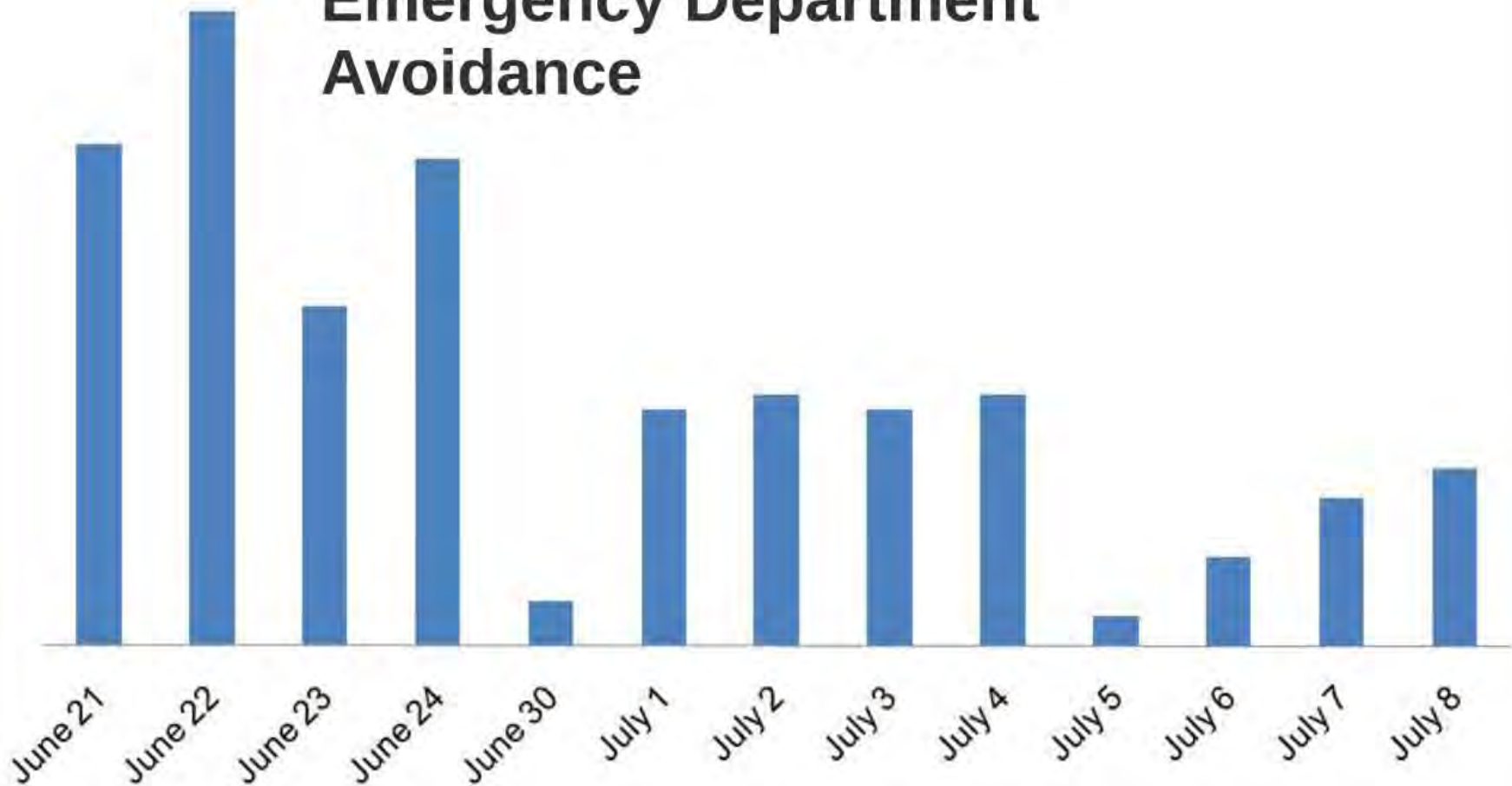
Tetanus

Sutures

Wound Care

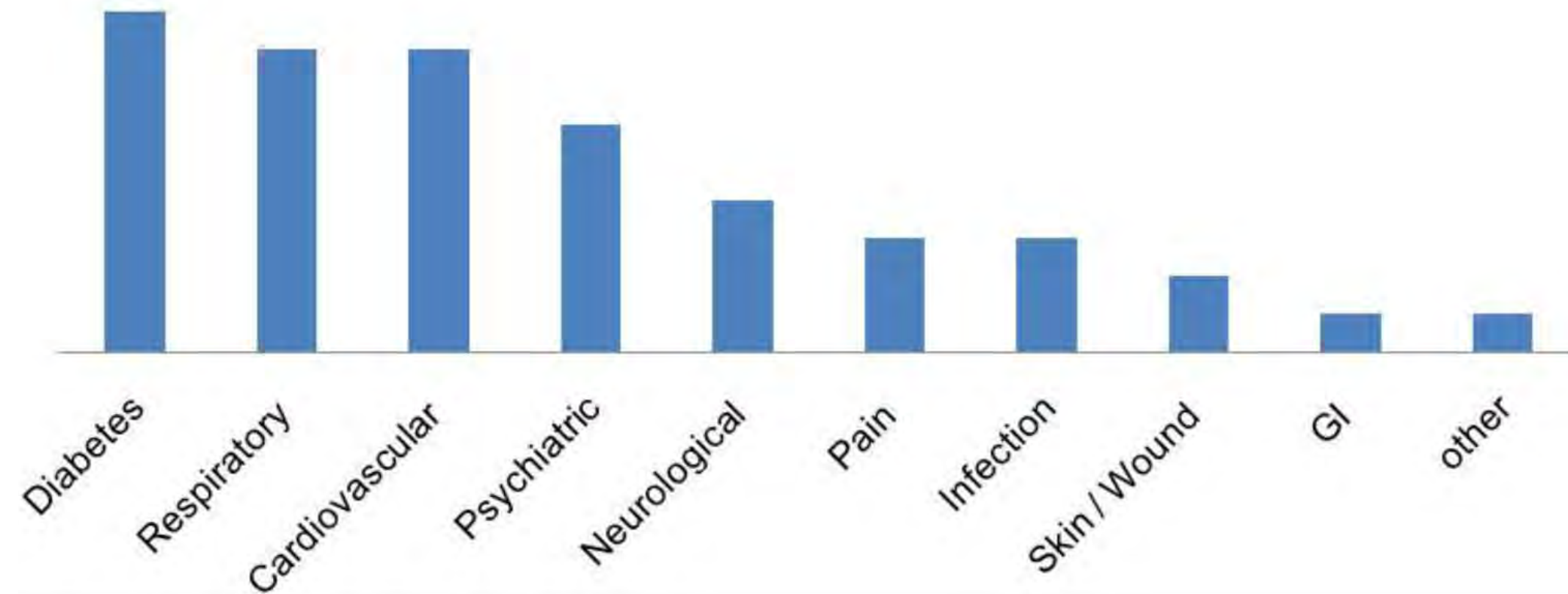
232 Flood Events

**Estimated 80% or 185 events
resulted in an EMS or
Emergency Department
Avoidance**



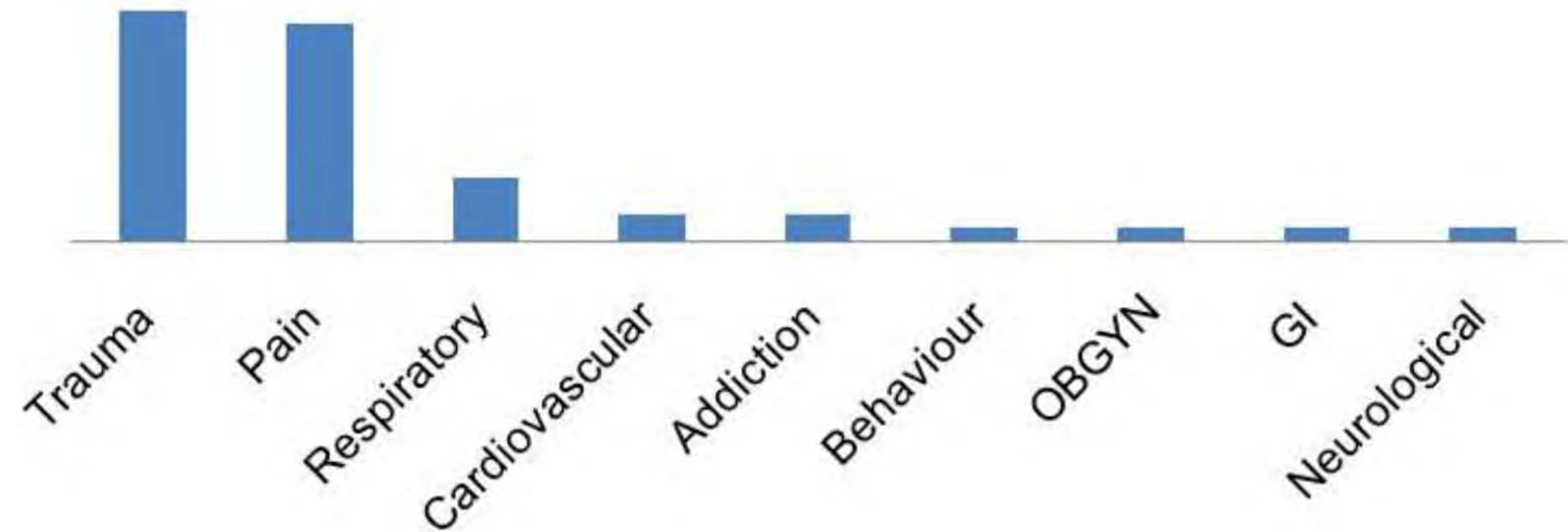
Prescription Management

Patient's Past Medical History

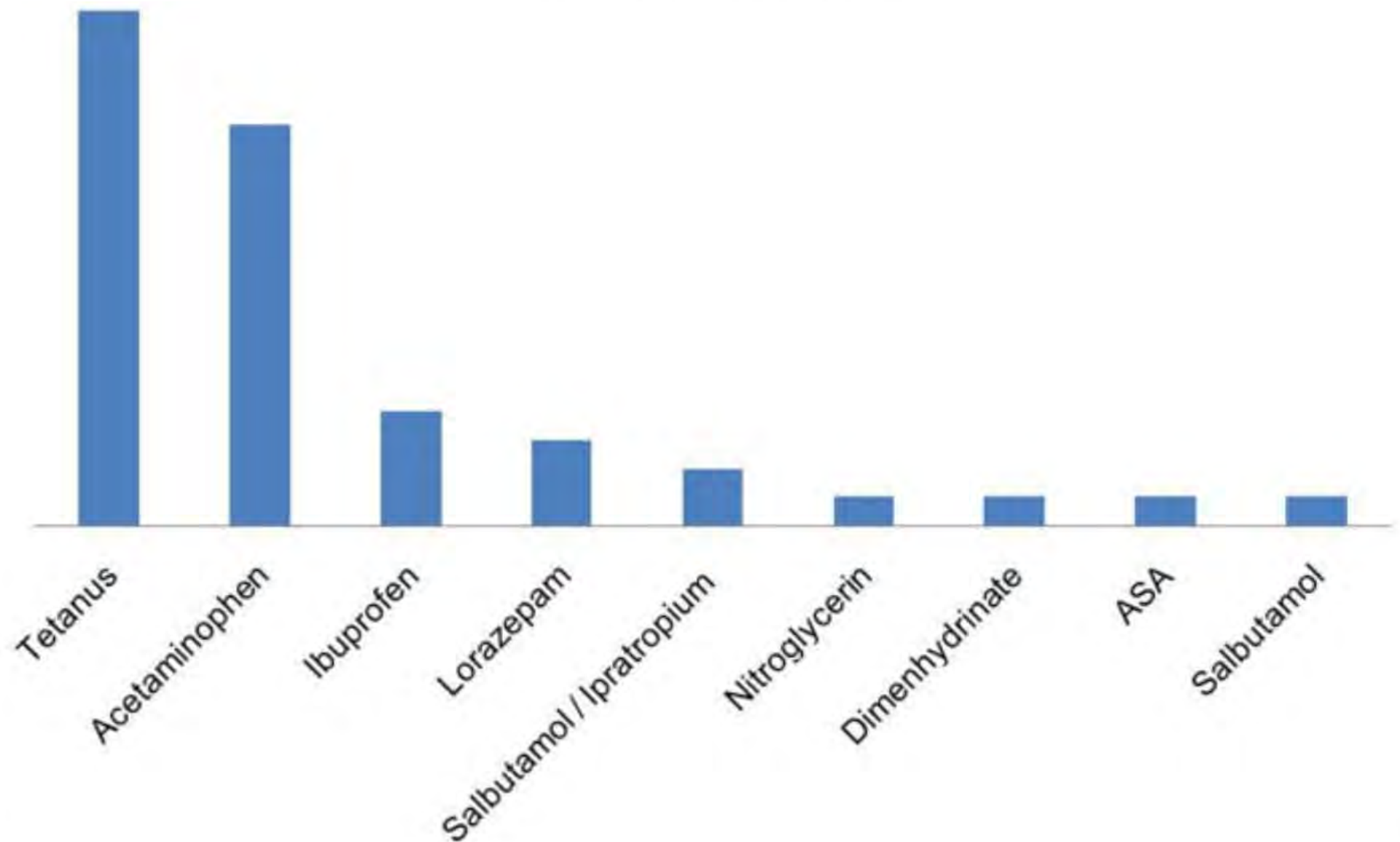


Clinical Presentations

Medication Administration

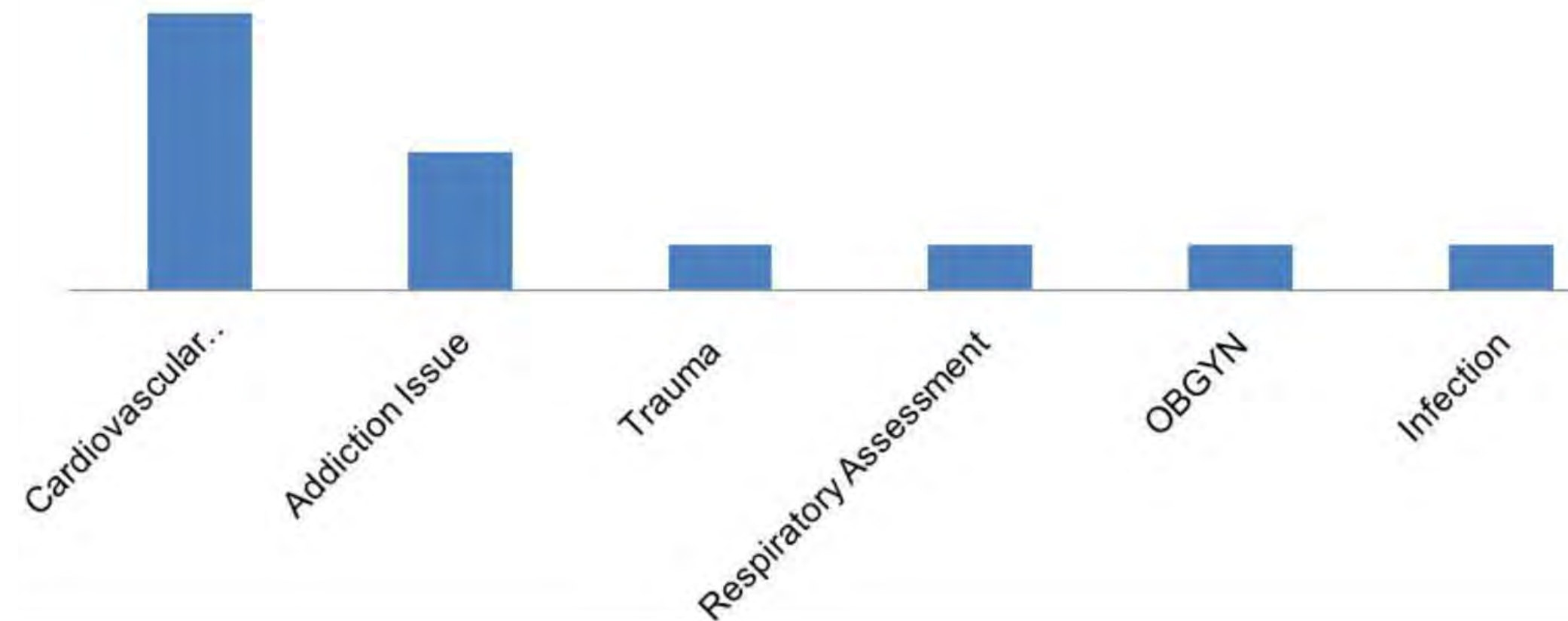


Medications Administered by Community Paramedics

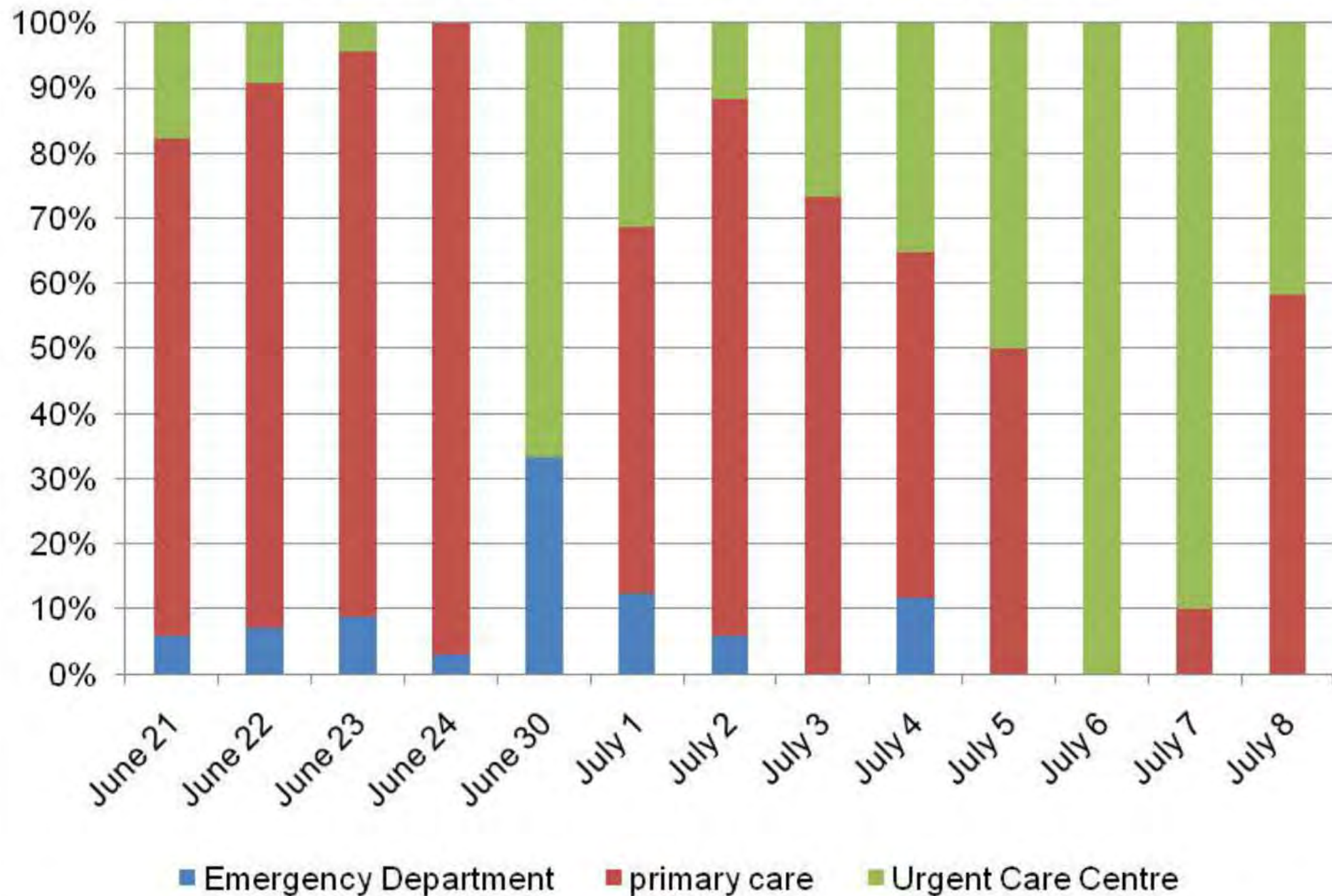


Transports - Clinical Presentations

(11 EMS, 1 IFT, 1 Private Vehicle)



Daily Level of Care Comparison



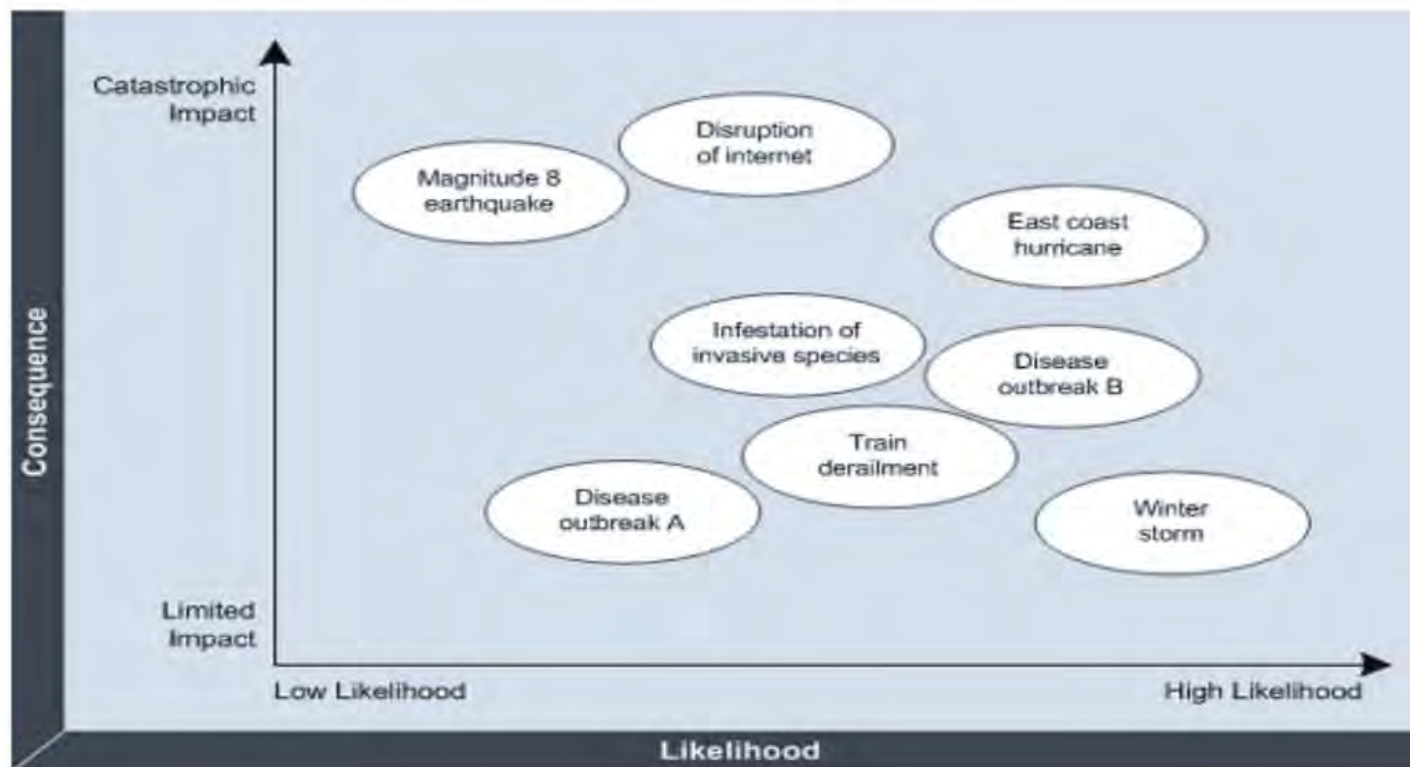
Tools of Preparedness

1. Understand Your Needs -
Conduct a Hazard, Risk,
Vulnerability (HRV)
assessment
2. Engage stakeholders early
and be part of local
emergency planning



Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability Assessment (HRV)

5 Steps



Step 1 - Set the Context

What is the assessment designed to protect?



Community Paramedic Perspective: Continued health of people during large scale emergencies

IDENTIFY



Step 2 - Identify Potential Risks & Vulnerabilities



Community Paramedic Context:

Frail Elderly

Complex High Needs
Populations

Current Health System
Capacity

Step 3 - Assess Identified Risks and Vulnerabilities



Assess.

1. Complex High Needs Populations

2. Patient Surge and System Capacity

Step 4 - Risk & Vulnerability Evaluation

Impact of Recovery Timeframe



Step 5 - Risk, Vulnerability Management

Focus planning on
Community Paramedic
involvement and
collaboration with
existing healthcare
system



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Engage Stakeholders Early



@gapingvoid

1. **Understand** who the local emergency management agencies are in your area
2. **Create** partnerships and share HRV assessment
3. **Collaborate** around emergency management planning that includes Community Paramedicine

OUTCOMES



System

Reduced Secondary Surge of patients to 911, EMS and Emergency Departments



OUTCOMES

Professional

Increased Support and Utilization of Community Paramedicine



Patient

Improved Access to Primary and Urgent Healthcare



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Lessons
Learned

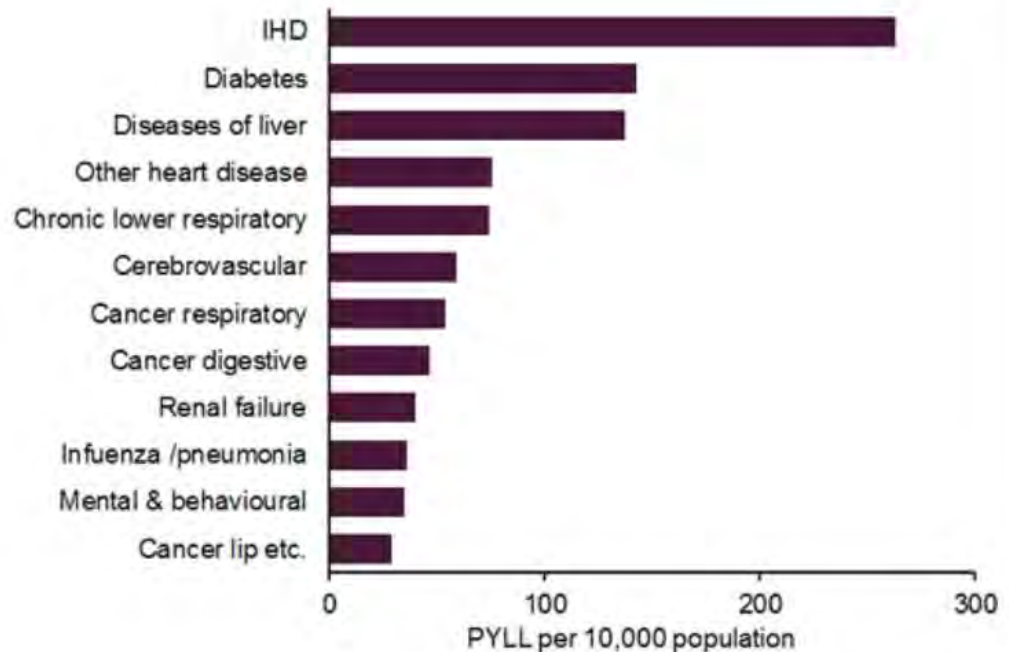
Lesson #1

Future disaster planners should not assume that most victims of a disaster require hospitalization



Lesson #2

The greatest medical need for displaced disaster victims is continuation of chronic disease care at evacuation sites and acute care during repatriation



Lesson #3

An integrated health network that includes physicians, community paramedics, pharmacies and allied health workers is well equipped to handle the complexities of a major disaster



WE LOST SOME STUFF
WE GAINED A COMMUNITY
THANK YOU!

