

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES DISASTER

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Vulnerable Communities



Photo credit: Craig Ruttle, Associated Press

Vulnerable Communities

What are Vulnerable communities?

Used to be called “Special Needs”

- disabilities

- mental illness

- non-English speakers

- children

- elderly

- other listings

2000 Census Data

Most typical population-

- o People with disabilities including mental illness
- o Non-English speaking
- o Children <15 years old
- o People > 65 years old

Accounts for 141 million people

49.99% of the population

Does not include institutionalized populations

Vulnerable Communities



abilities

a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual (ADA)

Long term vs short term

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Functional Limitations

Mobility issues

Weight issues

Pregnancy

Short term vs long term

Transportation issues

Medical equipment issues

Medication issues

Communication issues

Non-English speaking

Don't speak English well

Can't hear or see well or at all

Cognition issues

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Children

First stage–

- o Fright
- o Disbelief
- o Denial
- o Grief
- o Feelings of relief

Second stage–

- o Developmental regression
- o Emotional distress
- o Aggressive behavior

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Regress to earlier stage

- Thumb sucking
- Bedwetting
- Being afraid of strangers
- Being afraid of the dark
- Cling to the “safe”

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Same reactions as younger children

- Withdraw from friends
- Compete for more attention
- Fear going to school
- Become aggressive
- Hard to concentrate

Adolescence

2-14

- Vague physical complaints
- Avoid chores, schoolwork
- Compete for attention
- Resist authority
- Become disruptive

Later ages

- Feelings of helplessness
- Feelings of guilt
- Denial

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derly

Medications

Evacuation

Community/experiences

Vulnerable Communities



Chris Costa, Hoboken Patch

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