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### **“Are We Ready?” Disaster Preparedness for People with Chronic Conditions or Disabilities**

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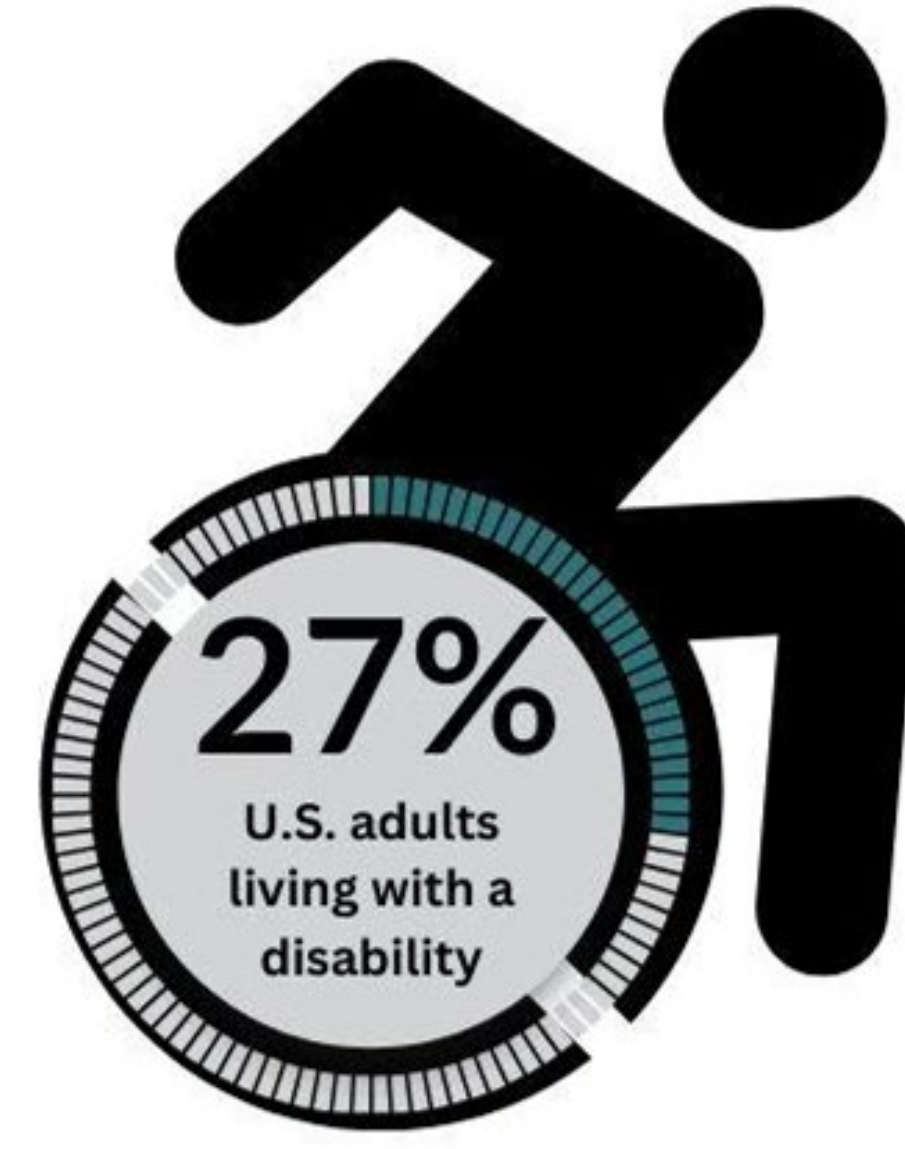
# “Are We Ready?” Disaster Preparedness for People with Chronic Conditions or Disabilities

Reality

Theoretical

## Background

- Disaster preparedness = **CRITICAL**
  - Highlighted by COVID-19
  - Exacerbated by climate change
- Persons with chronic conditions or disabilities (PCCD) → face more risks
  - Worse health disparities & barriers at baseline
- Natural disasters = ↓ health outcomes
  - increased for PCCD
- Aging demographics → increased chronic diseases
  - greater number people at risk



(CDC 2023b)

## Importance of Preparedness

- Post-disaster= worse health disparities for PCCD
  - Need tailored interventions
- Health promotion and equity= core nurse values
  - Aid communities in enhancing health outcomes and resilience

## Quality Improvement Framework

Advancing Research and Clinical Practice Through Close Collaboration (ARCC) Model uses:

- control theory
- cognitive behavioral therapy to:
  - implement Evidence Based Practice
- increasing patient safety
- improving healthcare quality
- enhancing population health outcomes

Collaboration with diverse stakeholders fosters inclusive strategies, enhancing healthcare facility accessibility and addressing systemic biases.

## Key Concepts & Outcomes

- Improve disaster preparedness & resilience w/focus on PCCD
- Involves promoting individual/family, community, & policy-level interventions = ensure equitable access to resources & support during disasters
- Aim: To create a more inclusive & resilient society → leading to better health outcomes for ALL individuals affected by disasters

## Interventions & Solutions

Build a 3 day emergency kit



Encourage community building

Screen patients & give resources



Application/assessment by COPEWELL (Composite for Post-Event Well-Being) for recommendations

## Key Players

- PCCD & families
- Community-based partners & advocacy groups
- Rural clinic staff
  - Nurses, medical assistants, providers, case management, & leadership/executive team



6 in 10 Americans have chronic conditions

(CDC 2023a)

## Evaluation

*Individual:* 20% of patients/families will have at least a 3 day emergency kit 1 month after screening

*Community:* Screen at least 50% of people seen at the clinic with the questionnaire by the end of the month & give appropriate resources for positive screenings

*Policy:* Apply for COPEWELL assessment before next year, ultimately having assessment & recommendations for the community to enact

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023b). *Disability Impacts All of Us*. Disability and Health Promotion. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html>

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