

## Understanding the Superstorm Sandy Profiles: Depression Screening At-a-Glance

### Superstorm Sandy Devastates New Jersey

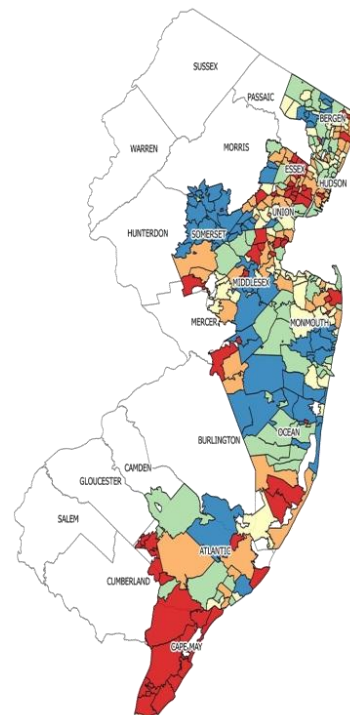
On October 29, 2012 Superstorm Sandy hit the Eastern Seaboard of New Jersey displacing thousands of residents and destroying homes and businesses.

The disaster placed more than 822,000 Medicare Fee-for-Service beneficiaries at an elevated risk for behavioral health issues, especially those with pre-existing mental health conditions.

### Project Framework

HQSI received funding from Medicare for a special innovations project designed to develop data profiles to assist 10 selected communities—within the 10 FEMA-declared disaster counties—form targeted, community-based approaches to:

- Increasing Medicare-covered depression screenings among at-risk beneficiaries residing in the 10 targeted communities
- Using behavioral health data to enhance each community's ability to coordinate behavioral health services during and after a disaster



### Depression Screening

A depression screening is one of the quickest and easiest ways to determine whether or not a beneficiary is experiencing depression. Medicare Part B began covering an annual, 15-minute depression screening for beneficiaries in October 2011. However, this screening must be done in a care setting that can provide follow-up treatment and/or referrals.

One of the main goals of this project is to increase the use of this benefit among the 10 selected communities. Therefore, this profile not only provides data on the annual use of this service, it also provides a breakdown of providers billing Medicare for offering beneficiaries with screening services by type and location.

### What's in This Section of the Profiles?

Observations on the annual trend, widespread presence, and percent change as well as the quarterly use of the depression screening benefit

- County: Page 43; Community: Page 36

### Location of providers billing for the depression screening benefit

- Community: Page 37

### Types of providers most frequently visited by beneficiaries for depression screening

- County: Page 57; Community: Page 37

## How to Use These Profiles

- The data on the widespread use of the depression screening along with the location and types of providers most frequently visited by beneficiaries for this service can help communities develop targeted approaches to increasing these services among their beneficiary population.

## Where to Find the Profiles

All 10 county and community profiles are available on the HQSI website at:  
<http://www.hqsi.org/index/Super-Storm-Sandy/Super-Storm-Sandy-Profiles.html>