

Understanding the Superstorm Sandy Profiles: Risk Factors for Depression or Proxy Disorders At-a-Glance

Superstorm Sandy Devastates New Jersey

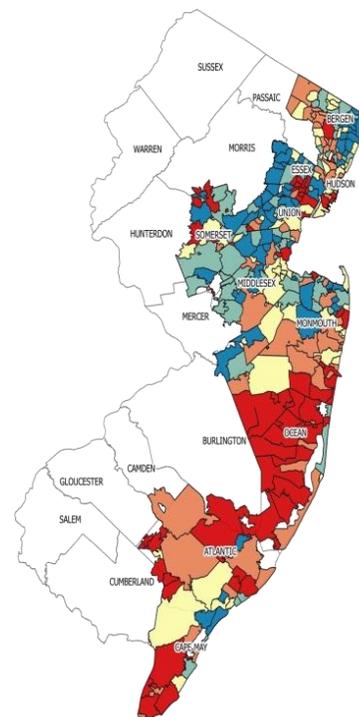
On October 29, 2012 Superstorm Sandy hit the Eastern Seaboard of New Jersey displacing thousands of residents and destroying homes and businesses.

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



Risk Factors for Depression or Proxy Disorders

A major goal in enhancing a community's ability to coordinate behavioral health services during and after a disaster is to identify beneficiaries who are at risk of developing depression or proxy disorders. Through literature and data analysis, HQSI identified five pre-existing conditions that may increase a beneficiary's risk for these disorders. They are:

- Alzheimer's disease and related disorders or senile dementia
- Sleep disturbance
- Substance or alcohol abuse or tobacco use
- Hip/pelvic fractures
- Amputations

What's in This Section of The Profiles?

Observations on the annual trend and widespread presence of the top five risk factors for developing depression or proxy disorders

- County: Pages 35-40; Community: Pages 30-34

How to Use These Profiles

- The top five risk factors for depression or proxy disorders data can help providers determine which population may need more attention or extra planning when preparing for the treatment of beneficiaries with possible behavioral health conditions

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>