Hurricane Sandy Research and Implications for Access to Care and Primary Care Policy and Operations

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What did we study?

• Objective: Assess Hurricane Sandy’s impact on primary care providers’ services on the Rockaway Peninsula.
• Understand Sandy-related operational challenges for primary care practices using the Rockaway Peninsula as a case study.

Impact on Primary Care Access Post-Disaster: A Case Study from the Rockaway Peninsula
Why did we study that?

• Geographically isolated
• Population characteristics
  – High proportion of Medicaid coverage & low-income households
  – Health Professional Shortage Area
• Prolonged impact from Sandy
  – Zone A evacuation area
  – Disrupted transportation system
• Rockaways experience can inform other areas
  – Heavily impacted
  – Mix of urban and suburban geography
How did we study that?

• Practice Characteristics
  – Years in Location
  – Panel Size
  – Pre-storm emergency plan

• Storm Impact
  – Physical issues
  – Relocation
  – Post-storm needs

• Support & Coordination
How did we study that?

• Methodology
  – Compiled list from commercial list and internal databases
  – Identified all primary care sites
  – In-person interviews in Spring 2014

• Response Rate of 87% (n=40)

• Concerns
  – Conducted 16-18 months post-Sandy
  – Unable to reach closed/permanently relocated practices
What did we find?

Years in location

- 8% in 0 to 5 years (n=3)
- 20% in 6 to 10 years (n=8)
- 73% in More than 10 years (n=29)
What did we find?

Relocation

- Did not close, 5%
- Relocated within Rockaways, 18%
- Relocated outside Rockaways, 5%
- Did not relocate, 76%
- Temporarily closed, 95%
What did we find?

Issues caused by Sandy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of primary care sites</th>
<th>Electrical</th>
<th>Heat loss</th>
<th>Water damage</th>
<th>Structural damage</th>
<th>Mold issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What did we find?

Time to reopen

Percentage of primary care sites

- 1 or 2 days (n=1): 3%
- 3 or 4 days (n=4): 11%
- 5 or 6 days (n=0): 0%
- 1 to 2 weeks (n=7): 19%
- 2 to 4 weeks (n=11): 30%
- More than 1 month (n=14): 38%
What did we find?

Coordination/Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Medical Van (n=1)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoration Center (n=2)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Organization (n=3)</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacies (n=17)</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Primary Care Providers (n=15)</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received Support (n=8)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Practical and policy applications

- Increased emergency response and recovery planning needed within primary care sector
- Coordination regarding time period to reopen could help minimize primary care access deficits
- All-hazards and scalable approach needed to prepare for different types of disasters
Thank you!

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