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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

“Preparedness Promoters:” A Community-Based Method to Assess Vulnerability and Resilience in Marginalized Populations

Immigrant and migrant populations run a higher risk of being excluded in emergency planning and preparedness efforts. By definition, this makes them both a marginalized and vulnerable population. Florida—where there are many pockets of dense Caribbean and Hispanic/Latino populations and much of the state is heavily exposed to natural hazards—seems like it would be the frontline example of inclusion in emergency management policy and practices. This research serves two purposes. First, this paper examines the emergency management plans of the metropolitan areas with the largest immigrant and migrant populations from the Caribbean and Latin America to find best and worst practices for multi-cultural inclusion in emergency planning. Then, through a literature review of other studies that have assessed the resilience and vulnerability of similar groups elsewhere in the United States, the end goal is to develop an assessment tool that can be replicated throughout the Gulf Coast region where Hispanic and Caribbean populations are either moving to or growing in.

The key findings in this study conclude that while a few comprehensive emergency management plans in Florida do address social vulnerability, it

is not a common practice and more often than not fails to make the priority list. Additionally, this study proposes that using the Promotores de Salud community leader model to conduct disaster preparedness assessments in hard-to-access communities could provide useful data and develop social resilience at the same time.

Presentation Theme: Whole-community inclusion in emergency planning and preparedness

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: Advisor and Department: Dr. William E. Bertrand; Disaster Resilience Leadership Academy