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Bridging Barriers: Advocating for Inclusive Disaster Management for Immigrant Communities

Immigrant populations face unique vulnerabilities during disasters that remain largely overlooked in emergency management. This work synthesizes findings from a literature review identifying four interconnected dimensions of vulnerability: legal status barriers, economic burden, limited informational resources, and structural challenges. While current literature subsumes immigrants within broader minority classifications, this analysis reveals distinct experiences shaped by immigration status, language, and culture that warrant targeted interventions. The work presents recommendations for developing inclusive, culturally responsive approaches that recognize immigrants' needs while leveraging their resilience. Despite comprising over 14% of the U.S. population, immigrants remain underrepresented in disaster planning. This contribution challenges conventional frameworks and champions innovative solutions through interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement. By centering immigrant voices, emergency management can evolve toward more just, inclusive practices, creating positive change in an increasingly diverse America.

Presentation Theme: My research analyzes the unique vulnerabilities of immigrant populations during disasters and proposes evidence-based recommendations for emergency managers to develop more inclusive, culturally responsive approaches that enhance community resilience.

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