

Critical Issues For Children in Disasters



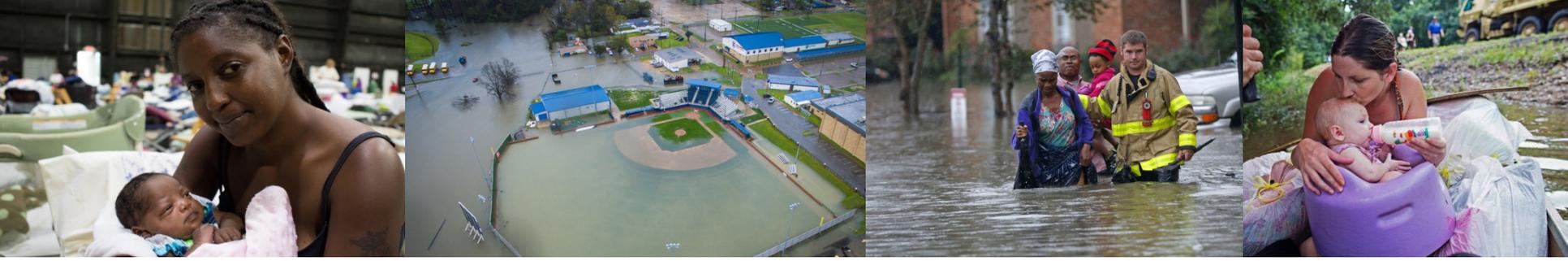
Drew Bumbak, Chair
IAEM-USA
Children in Disasters Caucus

#IAEM16



How many children are separated from their parents on a routine workday?

69 Million



Why focus on children in disasters?

- Highly vulnerable
- Unique needs
- 23% of the U.S. population

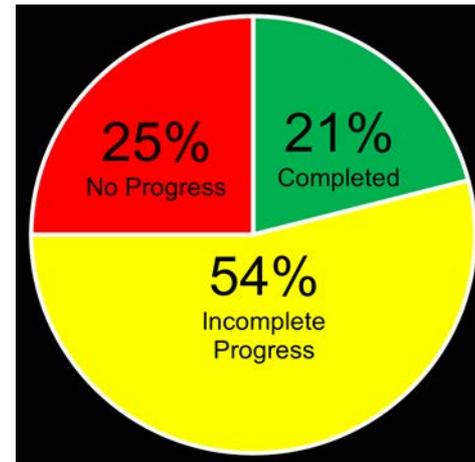


Why focus on children in disasters?

- 59% of the dependent population
- Inaccurately categorized
- Preparedness gaps

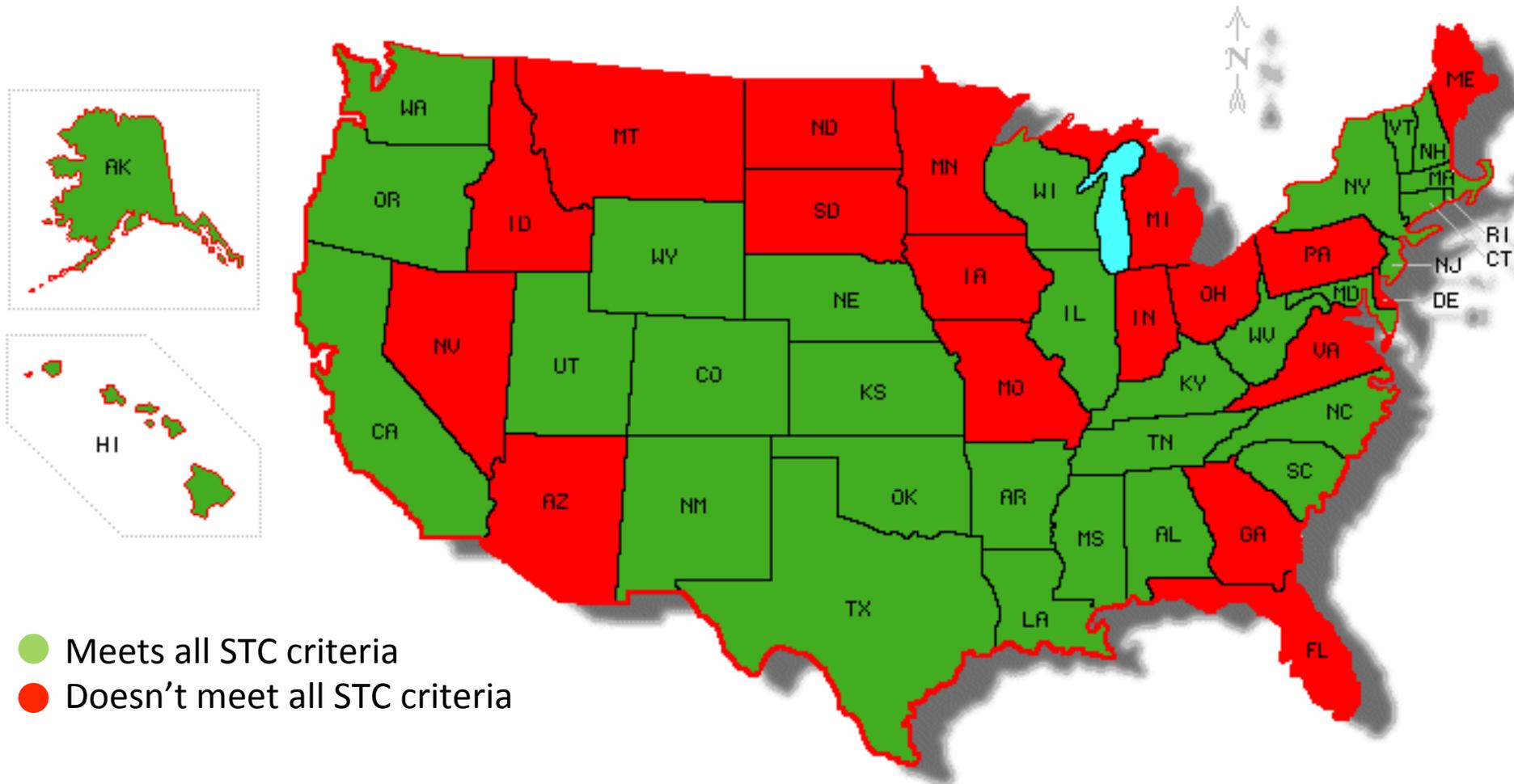
Children's Needs Have Not Been a National Priority

11 years after Katrina



Only 21% of NCCD recommendations
are complete.

The record on children's needs at the state & local level is mixed





Reality Check

- What agency in your state oversees childcare organizations?
- What agency in your state is responsible for children's welfare?
- Does your state mandate childcare facilities meet the Save The Children standards?



Reality Check

- Do your plans address the needs of children?
- Do you involve local child serving organizations in planning & preparedness?
- Have you exercised your plan using children?

Objectives

- Explain the importance of children's task forces in effective disaster preparedness planning.
- Develop effective reunification plans for individual jurisdictions.
- Describe the challenges of protecting children in shelters (and the attendant controversies therein).
- Identify 2 ways to better meet children's disaster needs.

Critical Issue 1: Children's Task Forces

How they work

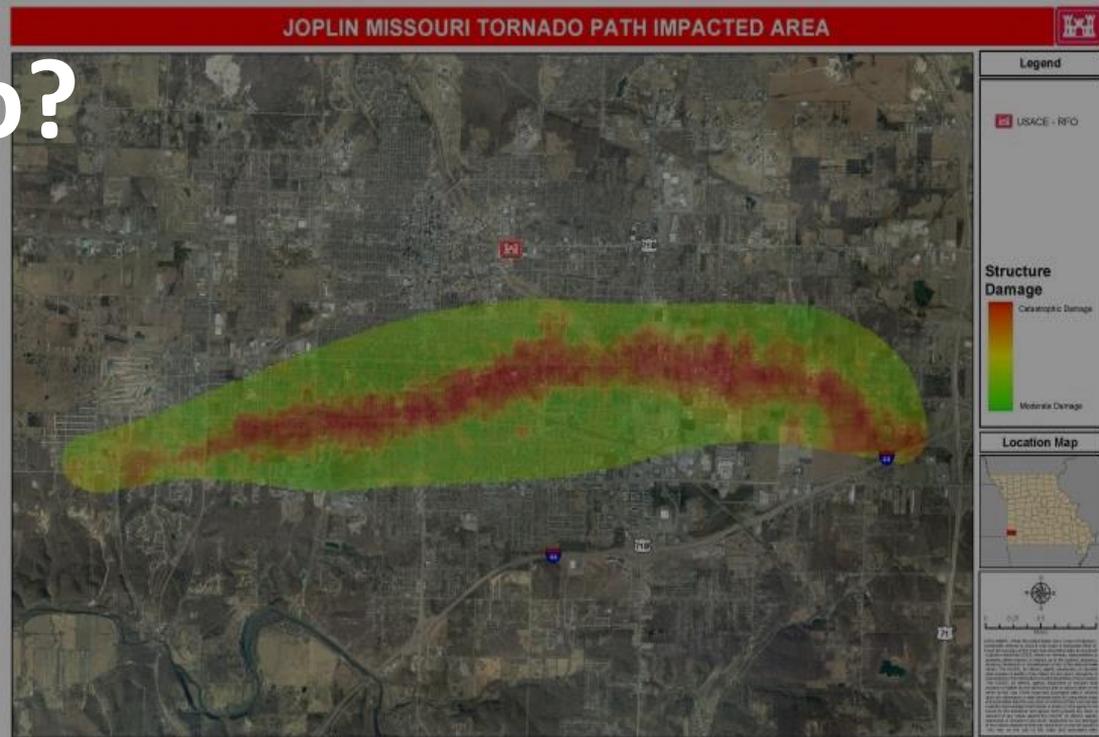
Why they are needed

What are Children's Task Forces?



Multi-disciplinary collaborations focused solely on children's disaster needs

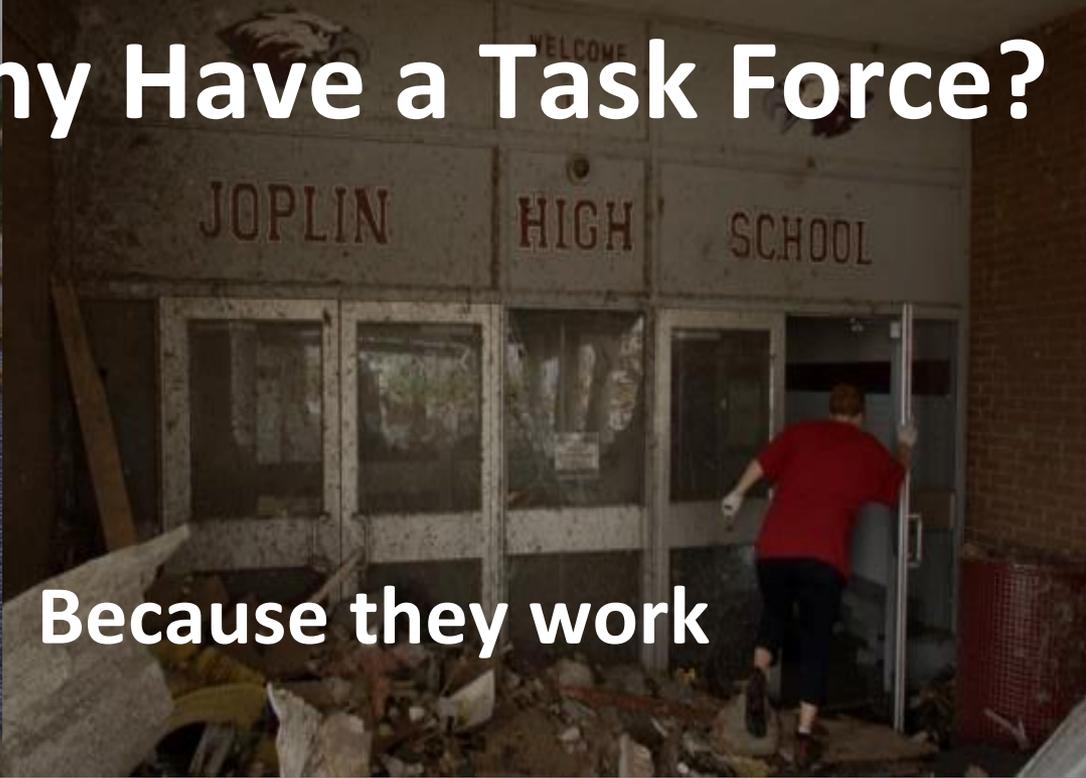
What do they do?



Drive coordination on children's issues



Why Have a Task Force?



Because they work



Where?

- Joplin, MO (2011)
- Hurricane Sandy (NJ & NY, 2012)
- Hurricane Isaac (LA, 2012)

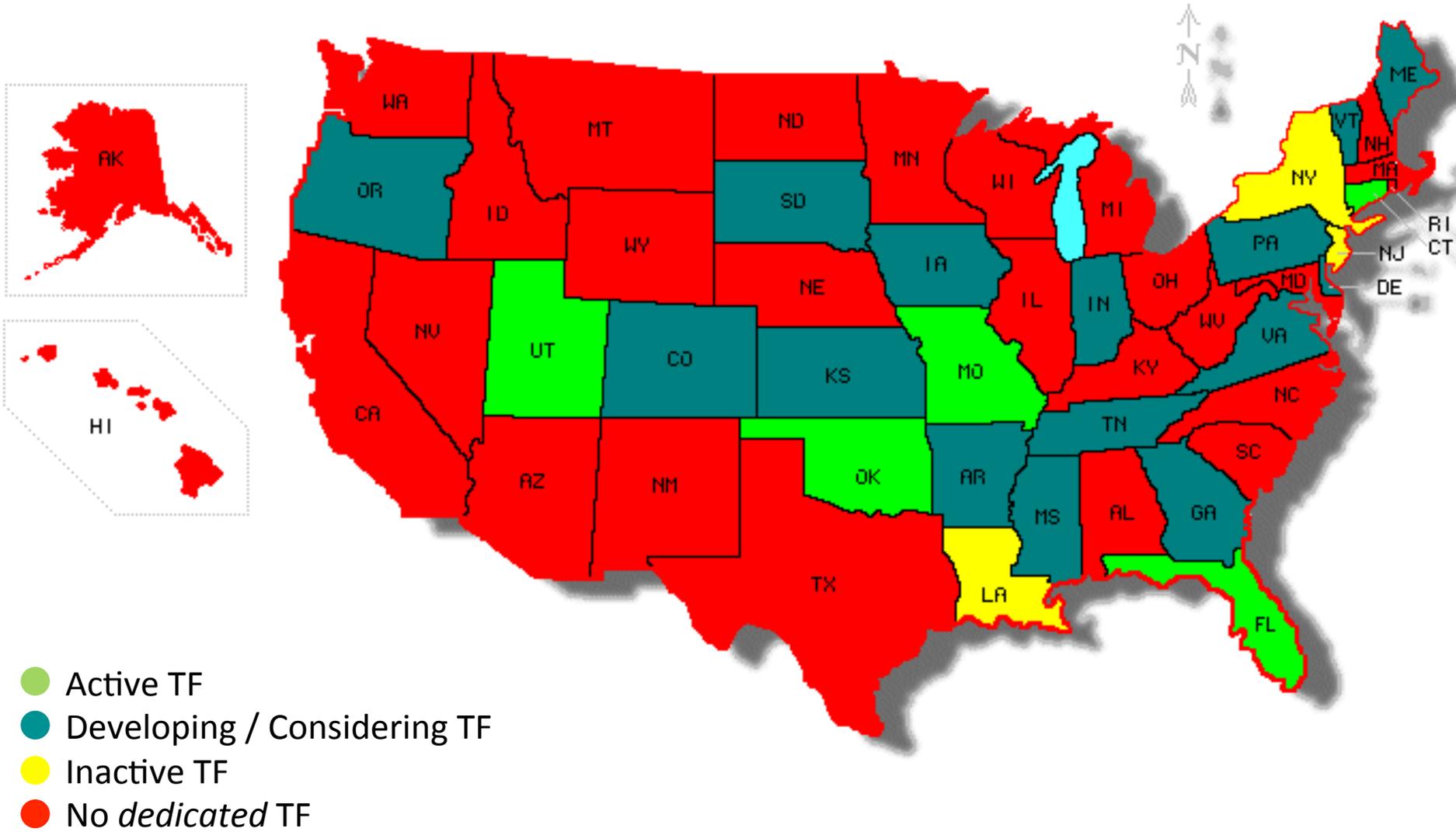


How are we doing?

As of July 2016, only 5 states have *dedicated* Children's Disasters Task Forces



Dedicated Children's Disasters Task Forces



How to start a Task Force?

- 
- Use provided resources
 - Reach out
 - Work together

Resources

- Templates
- White Paper



- Contacts
- Best Practices



Critical Issue 2: Reunification

Bringing them back together.
Quickly and Safely.

Separation from parents



CAUTION / CUIDADO

**LOST
CHILDREN**



More acute in Weekday &
Catastrophic Disasters

WHY?

A large crowd of people, including many children, is walking across a street. In the background, there is a white van and a red fire truck. The scene appears to be outdoors, possibly during a school event or a community gathering. The text is overlaid on the image.

What's different about weekdays?

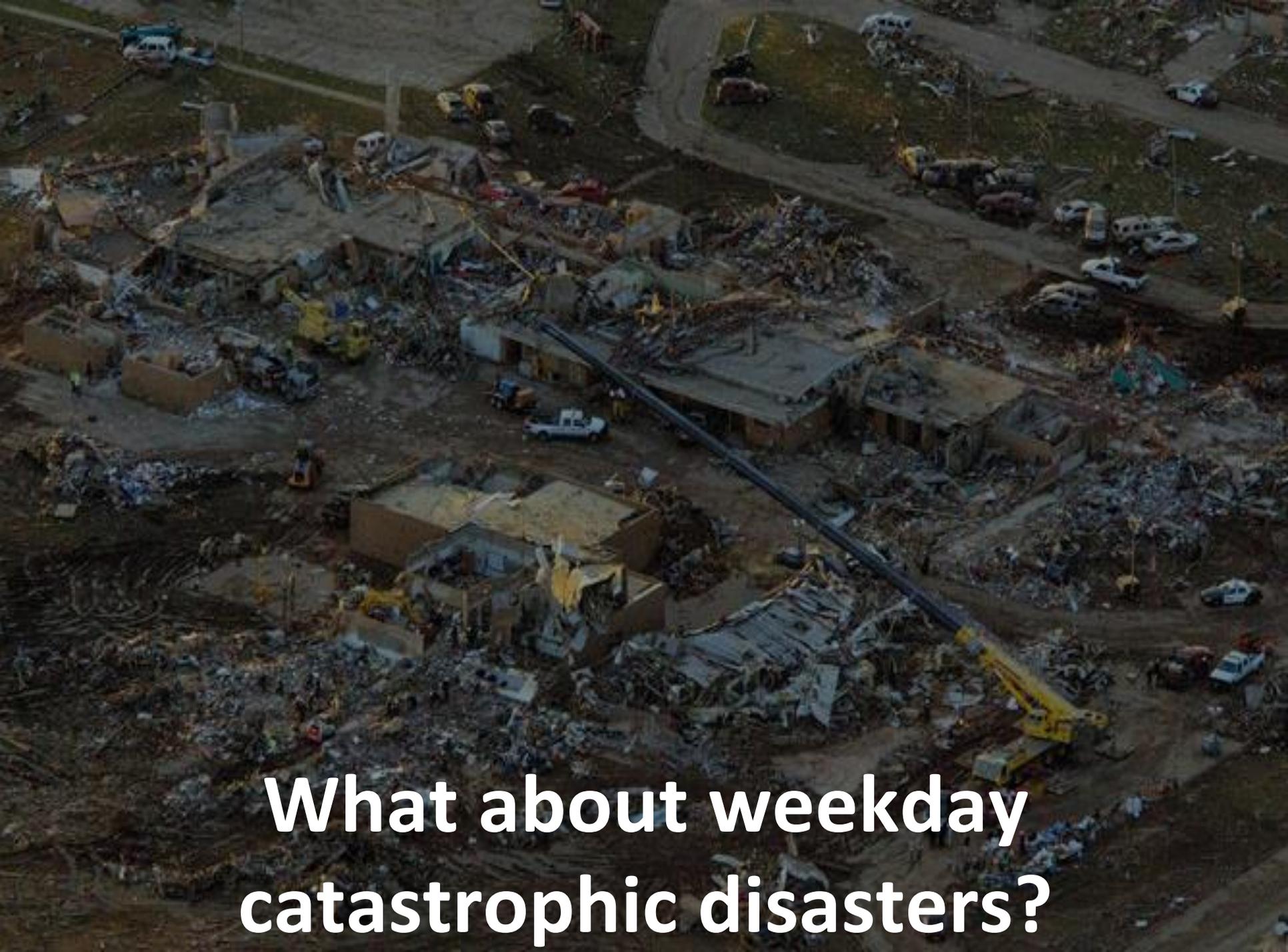
69 Million

children separated from parents

Why catastrophic disasters?



5,192 children separated in Katrina



**What about weekday
catastrophic disasters?**

Reunification Problems



- No reunification plans
- Untested plans

Reunification Problems

- Tracking
- Critical missing
- Large distances



Reunification Problems

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in the United States, showing the aftermath of a major disaster, possibly a hurricane. The image is heavily overcast and has a dark, somber tone. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by residential houses, many of which are partially submerged in floodwater. Debris is scattered across the streets and yards. In the background, a large, multi-story building with a red roof stands near the beach. The ocean is visible on the right side, with waves crashing against the shore. The overall scene depicts a state of chaos and destruction.

- Different systems
- Lack of information
- Multiple reports

Reunification Solutions



Post-Disaster Reunification of Children: A Nationwide Approach

November 2013



FEMA



American Red Cross



MULTI-AGENCY REUNIFICATION SERVICES PLAN TEMPLATE

Jurisdiction

Month/Day/Year

Version 1
May 1, 2015

Reunification Solutions

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[UNACCOMPANIED MINORS REGISTRY](#)

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Welcome to the Unaccompanied Minors Registry

If you locate an unaccompanied minor, **please call your local law enforcement agency immediately.** Then complete the following.

The Unaccompanied Minors Registry supports the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) by allowing the public to report information related to children who have been separated from their parents or legal guardians as a result of a disaster. This tool will enable NCMEC to provide assistance to local law enforcement and assist in the reunification of displaced children with their parents or legal guardians. If you experience any trouble reporting online, please contact NCMEC 24-hours a day, at [1-800-THE-LOST](tel:1-800-THE-LOST) ([1-800-843-5678](tel:1-800-843-5678) FREE).

An unaccompanied minor is a child who has been separated from parents, legal guardians, and other relatives and is not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

This site is a secured site. UMR uses Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology to encrypt information on this application over the internet.

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Reunification Solutions



Children's Disaster Reunification Plan Pilot Program

Reunification Solutions



- Plan
- Exercise your plan

Critical Issue 3: Protecting Children in Shelters

Keeping them safe in the worst of times.



Disasters increase vulnerability to sex offenders & traffickers



Why?

Protecting Children in Shelters

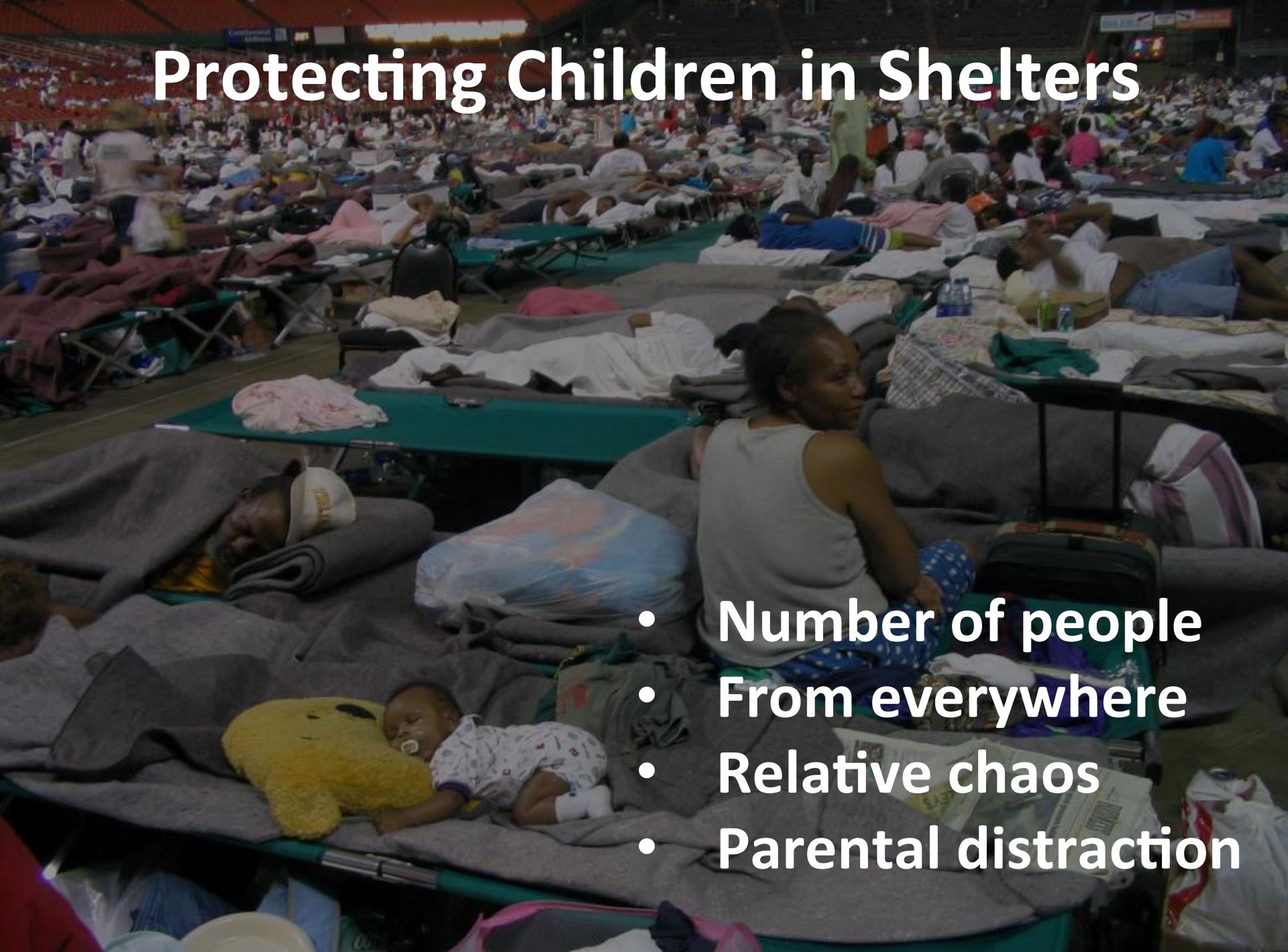
They are even more vulnerable in shelters

Why?



Protecting Children in Shelters

- Number of people
- From everywhere
- Relative chaos
- Parental distraction



Problems Protecting Them

A high-angle, wide shot of a massive outdoor temporary shelter. The ground is covered with hundreds of rows of folding cots, each with a green sheet. People are scattered throughout the area, some sitting on the cots, others standing and talking. The scene is densely packed, illustrating the scale of the emergency response.

- No national standard
- Different approaches
- No case law
- Conflicting rights

Solutions

- **NCCD recommendations**
- **Common standard**
- **Unified approach**
- **Educate**
- **Avoid creating case law**
- **Protect everyone**



Critical Issue 4: Meeting Children's Disaster Needs Better

Living up to our obligation to them.

Meet children's disaster needs better

A photograph of Joplin High School building. The building has a modern design with dark grey or black vertical siding and large, multi-paned windows. A red section of the building on the left has the words "JOPLIN HIGH SCHOOL" written in white. The sky is overcast and grey.

- **Address & implement the NCCD recommendations**
- **Meet the STC National Report Card Criteria**

Meet children's disaster needs better

- Work at the local and state level
- Address “low hanging fruit”



Meet children's disaster needs better

- **Build on other's work**
 - FEMA
 - Other EMs (local & states)
 - IAEM Children in Disasters Caucus





Questions

Contact

Drew Bumbak

dbumbak@yahoo.com

571-329-2084

IAEM Children in Disasters Caucus

<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=groups/us-caucuses/children-in-disasters&lvl=2>

BACKUP SLIDES (HIDDEN)



If the total was just \$100...



Just 8 cents for children's needs

Children's Needs have not been a National Priority

- **Between 2004 and 2012**, ~ 0.08% of Federal preparedness grant money went to children's needs
- Out of **\$16.7B**, only **\$13.2M** dedicated to children's needs