**Populations At-Risk and Emergency Planning Utilizing C-MIST**

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**Introduction**

Arkansas State University, Arkansas Department of Health, and Oak Ridge Associated Universities partnered to deliver five regional workshops in the state of Arkansas targeting emergency planners responsible for developing and/or executing EOPs inclusive of at-risk populations. The workshop provided introductory content on at-risk populations and discussed in depth each of the five modules of the C-MIST framework.

**Workshop Goals:**
1. Discuss the relationship between at-risk population preparedness and community resilience.
2. Utilize the C-MIST framework to facilitate inclusive Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).
3. Help facilitate communication between at-risk populations and emergency planners.

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**Background**

Arkansas State University Regional Center for Disaster Preparedness Education was tasked by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) to:
- Conduct a series of 5 workshops across the state of Arkansas related to at-risk populations and EOPs.
- Present the C-MIST Framework in the five Arkansas Department of Health Regions.
- Conduct all workshops before the project deadline of June 30, 2018.
- Provide ADH with a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) compliant after-action-report (AAR) no later than 90 days past project completion.

**C-MIST**

The C-MIST framework is a tool for identifying functional needs of at-risk populations before, during and after a disaster. By utilizing C-MIST, emergency planners and health care workers are able to plan inclusively and foster resilient communities.

- Communication
- Medical Maintenance
- Independence
- Supervision
- Transportation

**Workshop Outline**

The workshop began with introductory content on at-risk populations including current statistics in the United States. The second segment of the workshop focused on the five modules of the C-MIST framework, with specific information and statistics related to each C-MIST component. Each module included a brief tabletop exercise to first plan for pandemics, followed by how planning changed if the context became a chemical event, earthquake, civil unrest, or wildfire.

**Tabletop Exercise**

A tabletop exercise was included in each module to first plan for pandemics, followed by how planning changed if the context became a chemical event, earthquake, civil unrest, or wildfire.

- Communication needs in Pandemic
- Medical needs in Pandemic vs. Chemical Incident
- Independence needs in Pandemic vs. Earthquake
- Supervision needs in Pandemic vs. Civil Unrest
- Transportation needs in Pandemic vs. Wildfire

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

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**Workshop Locations**

| Locations for each of the five ADH Public Health Regions (Figure 1) were selected and venues secured. |

**Target Audience**

The targeted audience for the workshop was emergency planners.

**Recruitment**

The primary method of recruitment was via e-mail list serve. Potential participants were identified by ADH and the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM). Workshop announcements were distributed via these list-serves. A secondary method of participant recruitment was word of mouth. Individuals who were interested in attending or learning more about the workshop were able to register or inquire via e-mail.

**Workshop Agenda and Material**

The workshop agenda was developed based on the C-MIST Framework and the goals of the workshop. Content material was subsequently developed to address the goals. Using the C-MIST Framework and the goals of the workshop, goals, workshop content for each of the five modules was developed and sent to ADH for approval.

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**Panel**

A panel of representatives of at-risk populations were included in each workshop to better facilitate communication between at-risk populations and emergency planners, to promote inclusive planning, and to provide a voice for those with functional and access needs. Panels comprised of representatives of at-risk populations were included in each workshop in order to give a voice to those with access and functional needs and to promote inclusive planning.

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**Results**

The evaluation asked participants to indicate their level of agreement on a four-point scale indicating their ability to perform a variety of tasks as a result of the workshop.

- 92% Agree they can perform a variety of tasks as a result of the workshop.
- 96% Agree they can perform a variety of tasks as a result of the workshop.
- 99% Agree they can perform a variety of tasks as a result of the workshop.
- 99% Agree they can perform a variety of tasks as a result of the workshop.

**Implications For the Future**

- Conduct research to find a framework to develop C-MIST certification.
- Build on current workshop material to create a more in-depth course.