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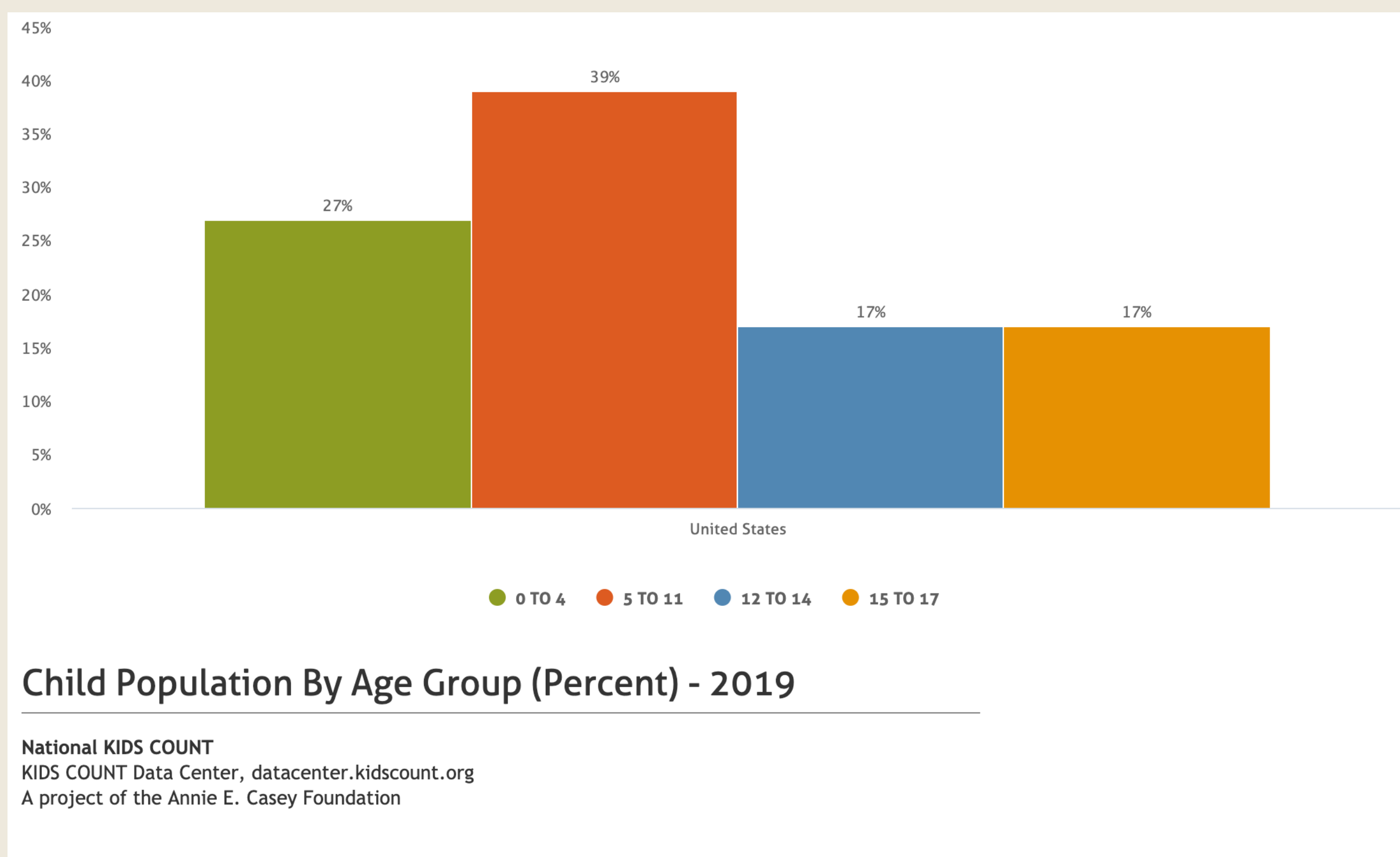
# Pediatric Readiness is Essential for Pediatric Disaster Readiness

*The National Pediatric Readiness Initiative Assures that Children are Always Included in Emergency and Disaster Planning; Creating Systems of Care Responsive to and for Children.  
Pediatric Readiness is a Whole Community Effort that Supports a Pediatric Ready Disaster Resilient Community.*

## AFFILIATIONS

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EMSC IIC  
Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation & Improvement Center



## Introduction

On average, children comprise more than 20% of a community's population yet are rarely considered in whole community threat assessment or disaster preparedness and readiness. As a result, children are left out of strategic planning and risk devastating consequences with long-term adverse effects. The disaster community experiences children as a "niche" population with pets more commonly included in whole community disaster plans than children. The EMSC National Pediatric Readiness project creates the essential infrastructure to support disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. While health care providers vary in their capability to care for children in normal and disaster conditions, a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for Pediatric Disaster Education is essential to leveling the playing field for children. Adopting the CONOPS strengthens EMSC Pediatric Ready efforts creating systems of care responsive to and for children.

## Pediatric Readiness is Whole Community

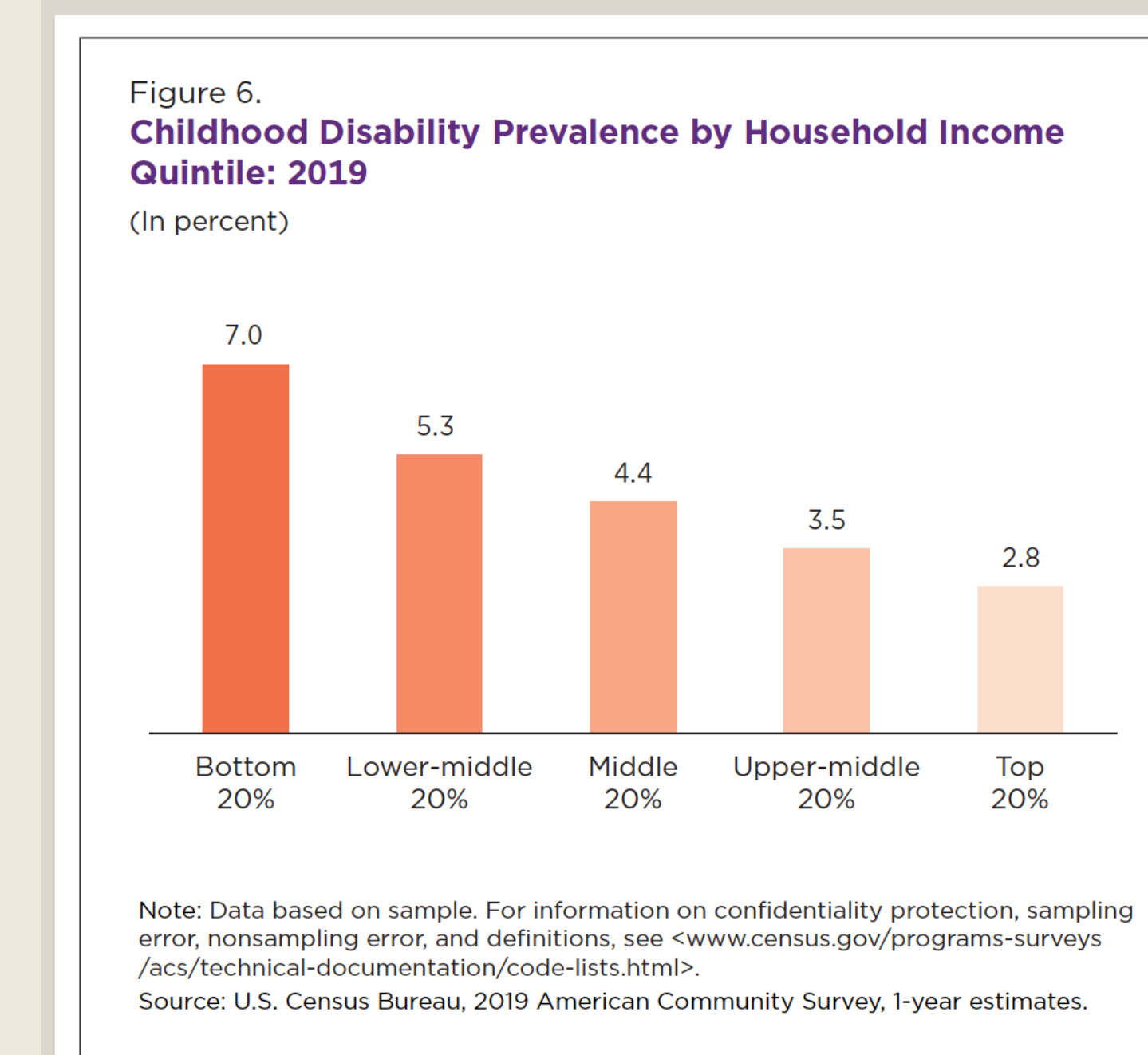
The more Health Care Providers who are first receivers and responders in disaster understand the children in their community are the better prepared they can be.

### Nationally (2019 Census)

- There are > 72 million children less than 18 yo in the US.
- Children are 22.2% of the total US population
- 32% of the child population is < 6 yo
- 1 in 5 children is disabled. The percentage of children with a disability increased from 3.9% in 2008 to 4.3% in 2019. Rates of disability are highest in children from tribal communities.
- 16.8% of children live in poverty.
- 22.6% of all children are on public assistance.

## Social Determinants, Disparity Awareness, Equity and Disaster

Children in poverty experience food and housing insecurity along with reduced access to health services that worsen their outcomes and ability to recover when disaster strikes. Children of Color experience higher rates of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and have a higher risk of death and disability during disasters due to inequities, poverty, and other social determinants of health. These factors contribute to generational (lifelong) impacts when disaster strikes.



### CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES AND MEDICAL NEEDS ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE IN A DISASTER

These families have fewer resources to put together a disaster supply of essential items or be able to rapidly evacuate. They require additional community and health care system support to achieve readiness. Parents of these children may not know how to reach out for help.

## Pediatric Readiness Helps Create Disaster Ready Children

Children are positive influencers and engage their parents when they learn disaster readiness in school.

Children can become disaster leaders. Consider reaching out to Youth Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs as part of our pediatric ready efforts.

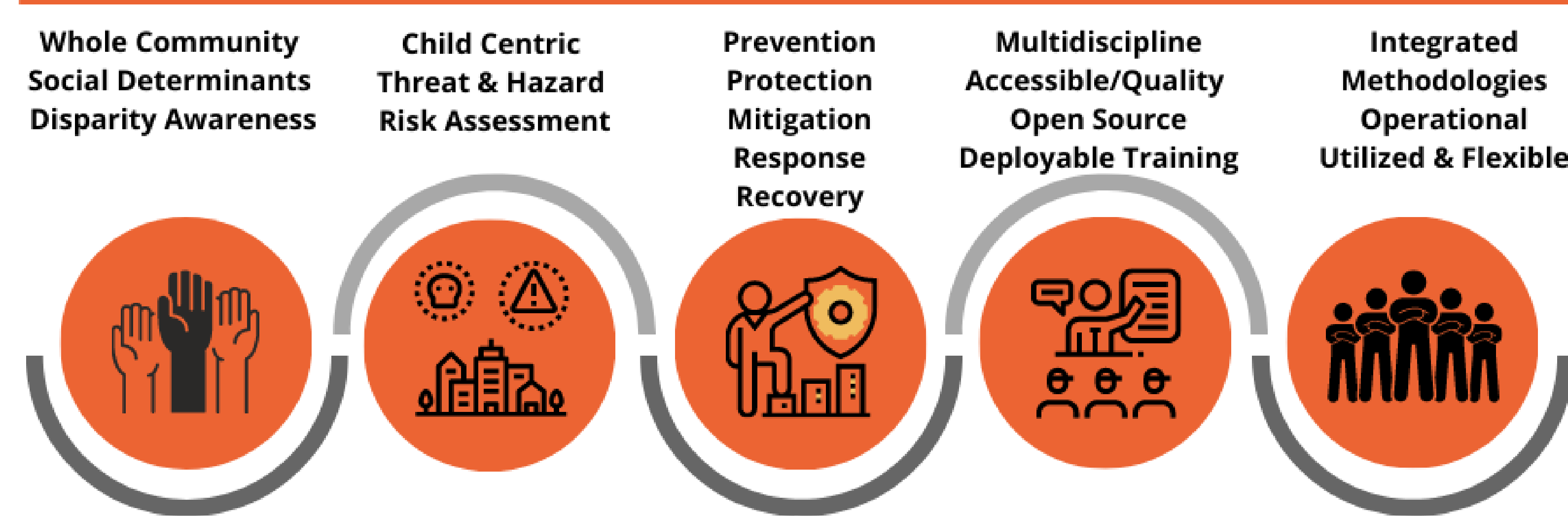
Children can learn confidence during an emergency by learning how to call 911 and what to say in an emergency as young as four. Perform CPR in middle school and learn how to Stop-The-Bleed as a teen.

Children who are disaster-ready are known to experience less anxiety and fewer long-term mental health impacts.



Scan QR code  
Learn to call 911 for kids  
Toddler Firefighter Videos  
Fire Safety for Preschoolers

## LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD Pediatric Disaster Education Concept of Operations



EGLPCDR/EIIC EDUCATION WORKGROUP 2020

### Pediatric Disaster Education Concept of Operations (CONOPS)

Adoption of a pediatric disaster education concept of operations creates a common operating picture for engagement, collaboration and peer to peer learning across disciplines and across jurisdictions.

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## Objective: Awareness

EMSC State Coordinators and public-private partners play a vital leadership role in the creation of Pediatric Ready Systems of Care that is protective in disaster

## Prevention, Protection, Mitigation Response & Recovery

A community's recovery is measured by what happens to its children. We know that if children are not included in all phases of disaster readiness devastating consequences follow with long-term adverse impacts.

## Just-In-Time Pediatric Education Resources Exist for All Hazards

Pediatric ready and disaster materials addressing children are available but underutilized. Connect to these key resources and share them with the emergency managers and hospital leaders in your community. Scan these QR codes to link to these important resources.

Children and Disaster Risk Analysis  
Eastern Great Lakes Pediatric Consortium for Disaster Response Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)



National Pediatric Disaster Coalition.  
Offers a listserv, social media & links to key resources dedicated to children and disaster.



EMS Innovation and Improvement Disaster Domain. Offers toolkits and links to just-in-time resources from Pediatric Disaster Centers of Excellence.



American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)  
Children and Disasters web resources approved by the AAP.

