

## Introduction

In emergency preparedness and response communication, public health information is a critical element. In times of disaster, almost all incidents disproportionately affect populations with Access and Functional needs. Addressing AFN is critical in all hazards planning and is mandated for inclusion in federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial public health emergency plans.

## What is AFN?

Access and Functional Needs refers to the needs of populations that are considered to be “at risk”. These populations are at an increased risk for an adverse outcome when navigating an emergency or disaster. The term Access and Functional Needs has been interchanged with terms like vulnerable populations, people with disabilities, special needs groups, and unserved/underserved communities.



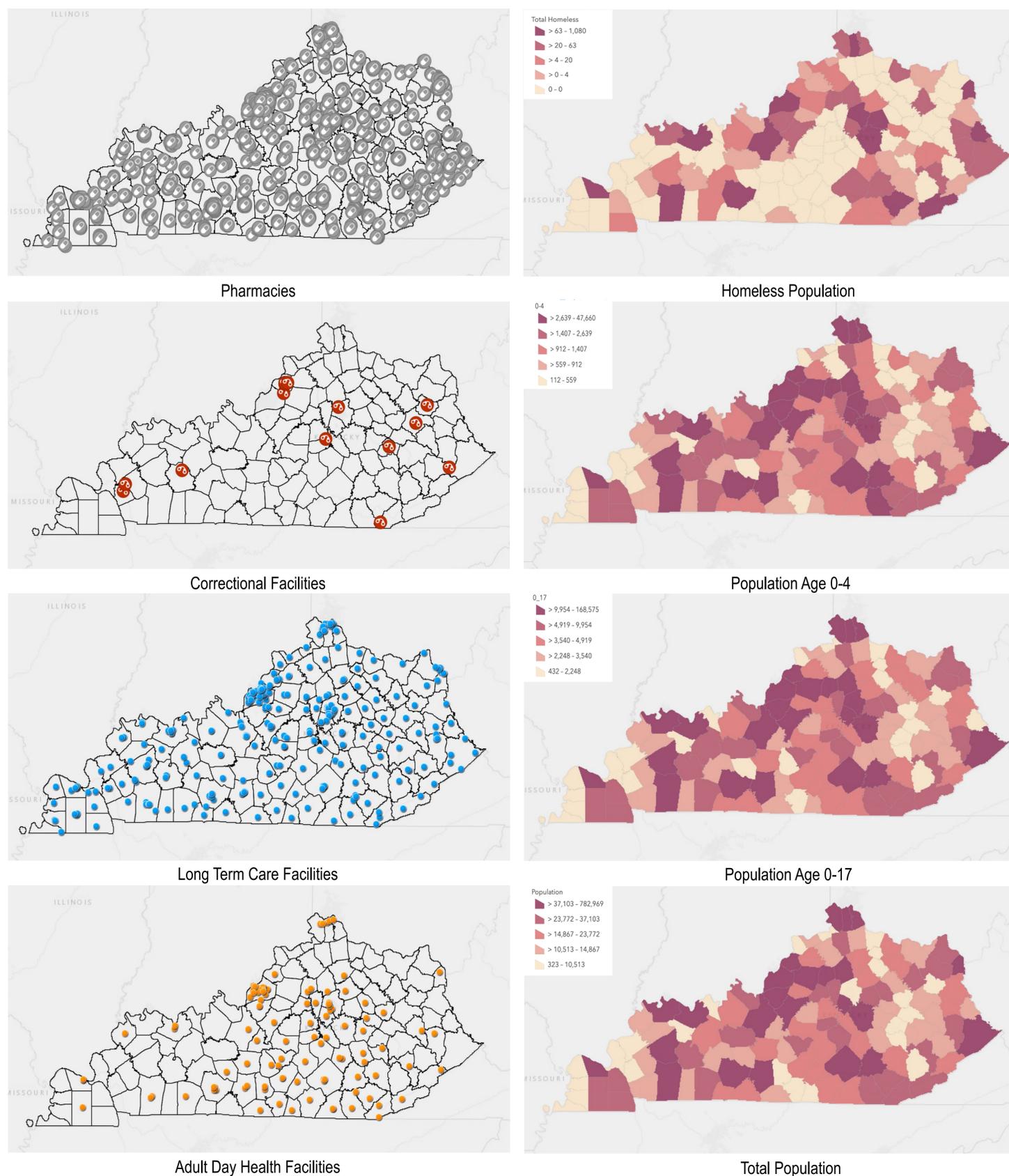
## Uses

The AFN assessment will be used to improve planning, response, and recovery efforts by increasing awareness of local needs and resources. It will also be used to identify gaps in resources or training that need to be corrected.

## Benefits

Knowing what populations are in a community and what needs those individuals/groups have is important in prevention and preparedness. This project can lead to improved up-to-date information for planning, response, and recovery efforts.

## Maps



## Methodology

Publicly accessible websites were utilized to collect the information for this project data. These sources included the United States Census and the CDC Social Vulnerability Index. Multiple requests from partner agencies were also utilized.

The agencies contacted include:

- The Office of the Inspector General
- The Kentucky Board of Pharmacy
- The Kentucky Department of Corrections/Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice.

After this data was collected and organized, multiple members of the Department of Public Health generated map images to be displayed on an independently-hosted web app.

## Conclusion

During disaster planning it is critical that the needs of every member of the population be accounted for. Utilizing Access and Functional Needs data will allow emergency management personnel and first responders to better understand the populations they will be working with.

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## Acknowledgments

Western Kentucky University  
 Kentucky Department for Public Health:  
 Meagan Hurst, MPH  
 Rhiannon Simon, MPH  
 Gunnar Kennedy, MPH  
 Maria Church, ADAC