

Translating Research in Disaster Preparation and Emergency Response for People with Disabilities into Policy and Practice

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■ **Session Purpose**

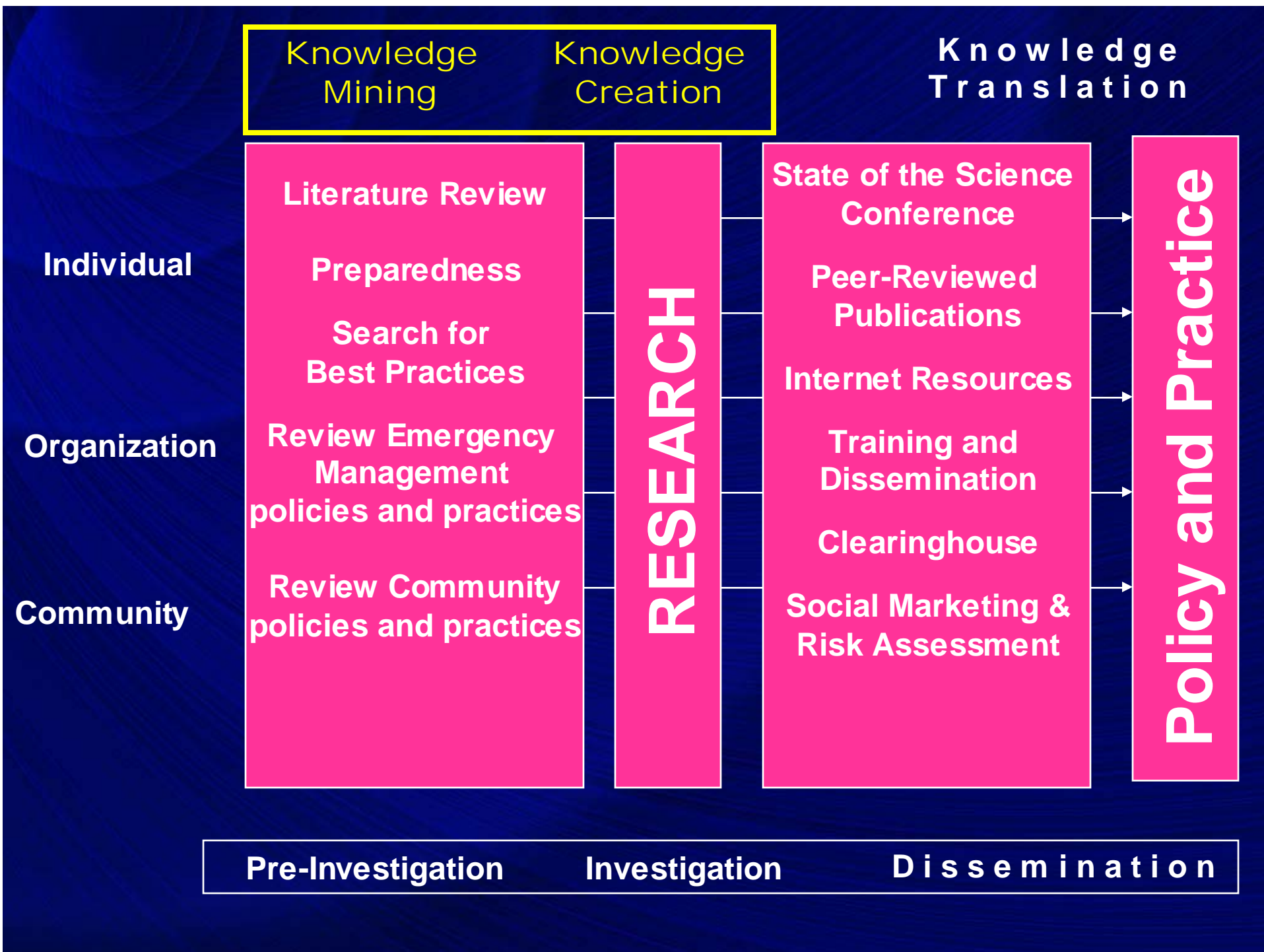
This session will consist of two parts:

- ✓ **Presenters will summarize current research literature and identify recommendations for policy and practice.**
- ✓ **Panel reactants will discuss possible ways to use knowledge translation to implement those recommendations.**



LESSONS LEARNED: WHAT DO WE KNOW AND HOW WELL DO WE KNOW IT?





Federal Assessments

2006 Nationwide Plan Review



Nationwide Plan Review Phase 2 Report

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation

June 16, 2006

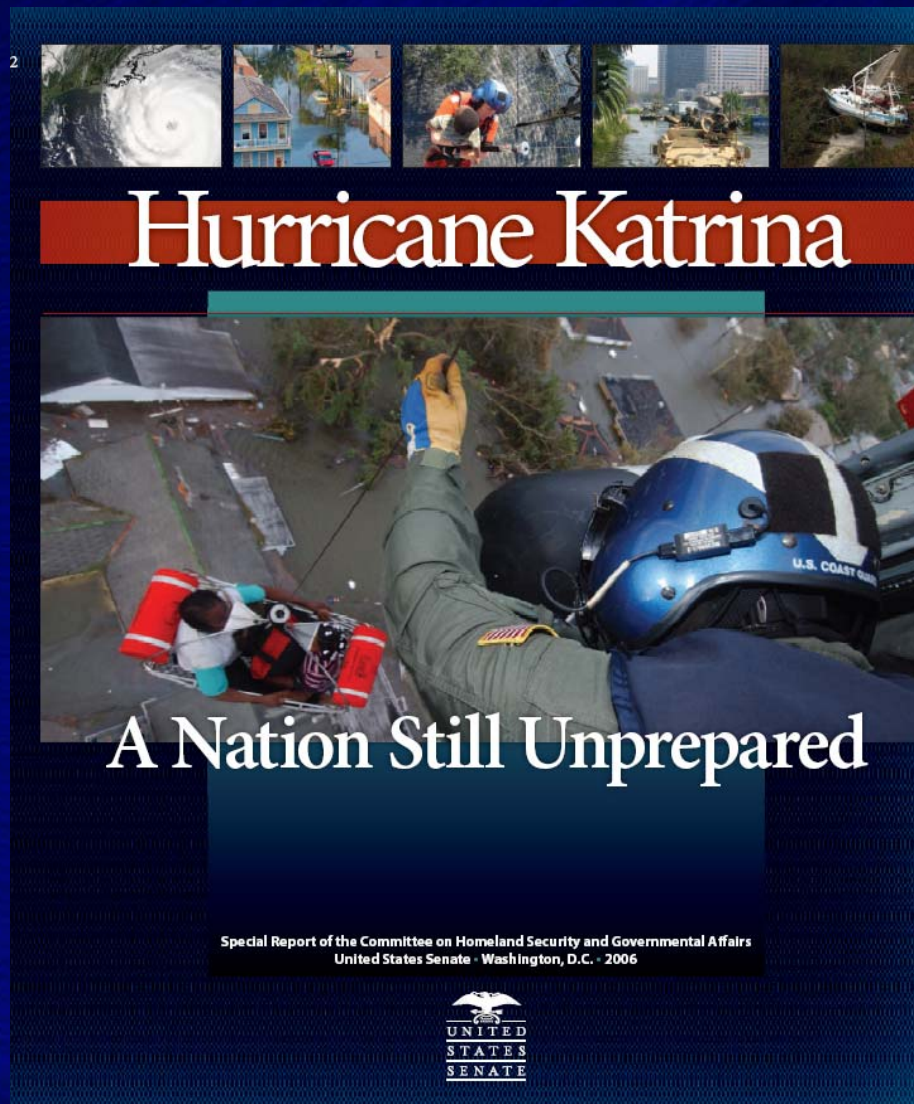


Homeland
Security

https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/Prep_NationwidePlanReview.pdf

Federal Assessments, Continued

Senate Committee on Homeland Security Report



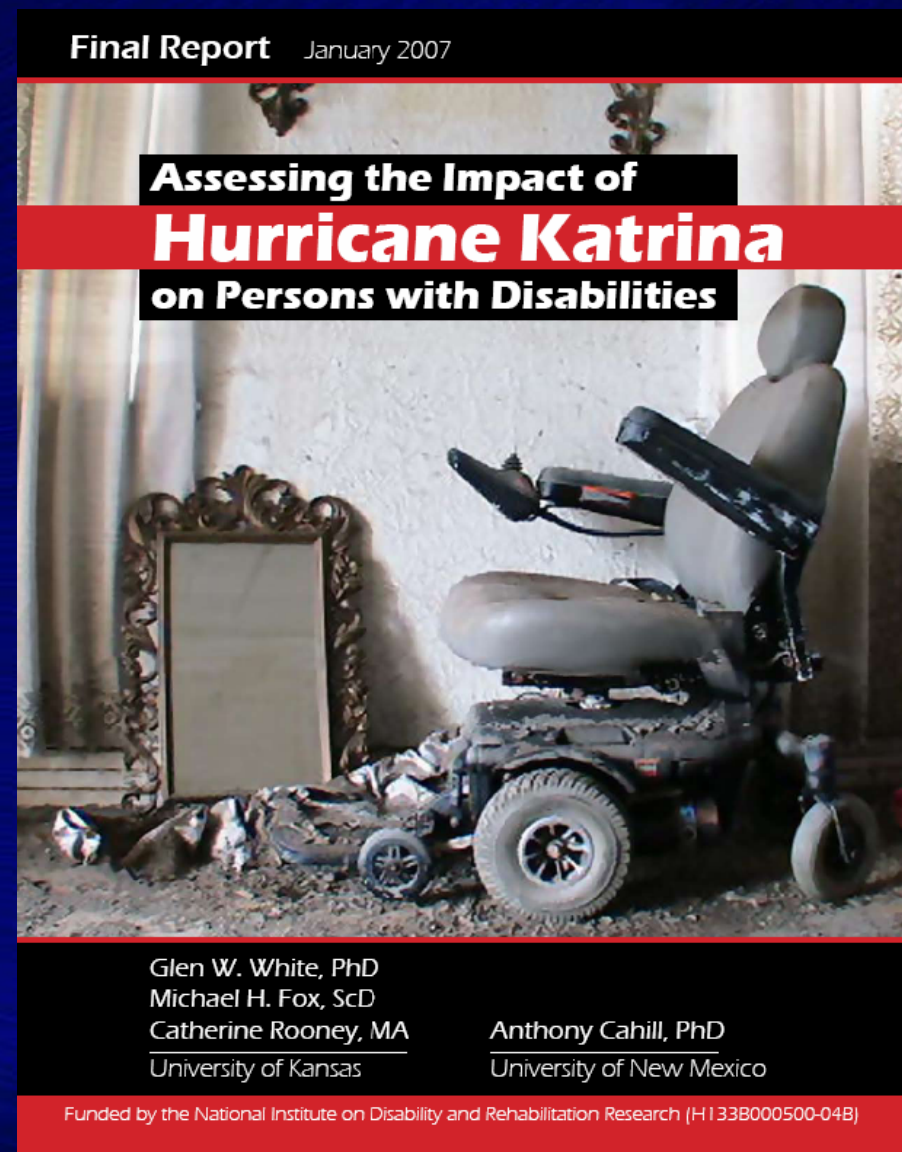
http://hsgac.senate.gov/_files/Katrina/FullReport.pdf

■ Federal Assessments, Continued

- ✓ 2005 “Failure of Initiative....” Report
http://katrina.house.gov/full_katrina_report.htm
- ✓ Inspector General’s Report on Nursing Homes
<http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-06-06-00020.pdf>
- ✓ “Lessons Learned” Information Sharing
www.lis.gov

University Assessments

Impact of Hurricane Katrina



http://www.rtcil.org/products/NIDRR_FinalKatrinaReport.pdf

Nobody Left Behind

Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Mobility Impairments



<http://www.nobodyleftbehind2.org/>

■ University Assessments, Continued

University of Maryland Center for
Health and Homeland Security



Vulnerable Populations: Emergency Preparedness Conference

http://www.umaryland.edu/healthsecurity/mtf_conference/index.html#info

The Impact of Southern California Wildfires On People With Disabilities April 2004

Disability
Organization
Assessments

California
State Independent
Living Council (SILC)



<http://www.calsilc.org/impactCAWildfires.pdf>

Disability Organization Assessments, Continued



THE IMPACT OF HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: A LOOK BACK AND REMAINING CHALLENGES

http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2006/hurricanes_impact.htm

■ **Disability Organization Assessments, Continued**

✓ **2005 AARP Report: *We Can Do Better***

<http://www.aarp.org/research/assistance/lowincome/better.html>

✓ **2006 Transport Policy Institute *Lessons
Learned From Katrina and Rita***

<http://www.vtpi.org/katrina.pdf>

✓ **2005 National Council on Disability
*Saving Lives Report***

http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2006/hurricanes_impact.htm

■ **What's The Bottom Line For You?**

- ✓ **Studies are of varying quality**
- ✓ **We know a lot about what went right, what went wrong, and what we can do to improve**
- ✓ **“Translational Research”**: converting what we know into what to do about what matters.

■ **Lessons Learned: Pre-Disaster Planning**

- ✓ **Too little personal preparedness planning by individuals with disabilities**
- ✓ **Too little organizational disaster planning by agencies providing services to people with disabilities**
- ✓ **Too little planning for the needs of this population by emergency management agencies**

■ **Planning, Continued....**

- ✓ **Too few plans at all levels include strategies to keep health care facilities functioning in large-scale disasters**
- ✓ **Too few plans include effective strategies to coordinate and manage volunteer efforts in every phase of disasters.**

■ Planning, Continued....

- ✓ “The majority of...plans cannot...manage catastrophic events”
- ✓ “Both plans and exercises are scaled to familiar events”
- ✓ “Think the unthinkable”

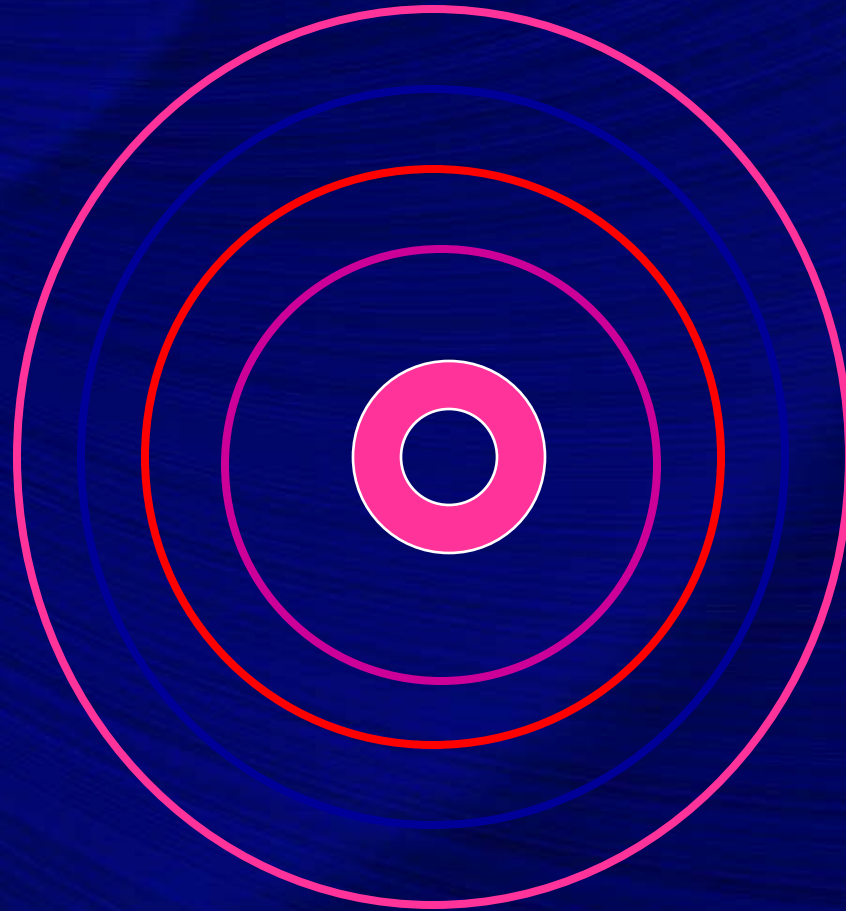
■ **Lessons Learned: Pre-Disaster Information & Communication**

- ✓ **Little or no communication exists between local emergency management agencies and individuals with disabilities**
- ✓ **Little or no communication exists between local disability organizations and emergency management agencies**
- ✓ **Few community education campaigns are targeted at people with disabilities.**

■ **Lessons Learned: Response**

- ✓ **Most initial search and rescue is carried out by citizens/survivors**
- ✓ **Individuals first turn to other members of “communities of interest” of which they are members**
- ✓ **Survivors arrive at shelters/evacuation points/hospitals by private means, bypassing official systems**

- **Lessons Learned:
All Response Is Local**



■ **Lessons Learned: Identifying & Locating People with Disabilities – When Registries Failed, Why?**

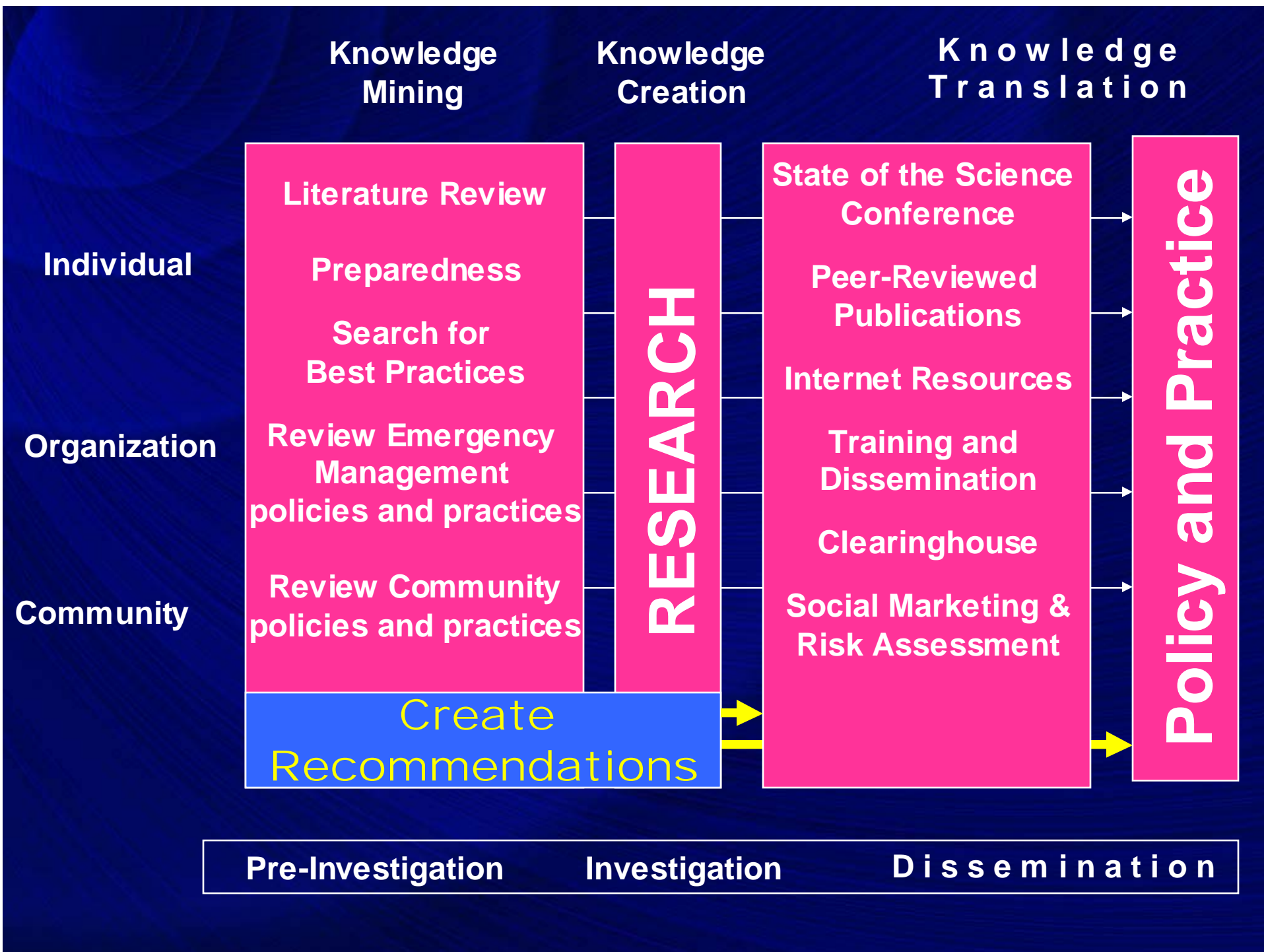
- ✓ **They gave insufficient attention to what information is needed**
- ✓ **They gave insufficient attention to who will need the information, when**
- ✓ **They were overly complex**
- ✓ **They had an over-reliance on technology**

■ **Lessons Learned: Identifying & Locating People with Disabilities**

- ✓ **They failed to take into account local, “naturally-occurring” social networks or communities of interest**
- ✓ **They ignored registries of resources in addition to individuals**

From Research To Policy and Practice: Employing Knowledge Translation





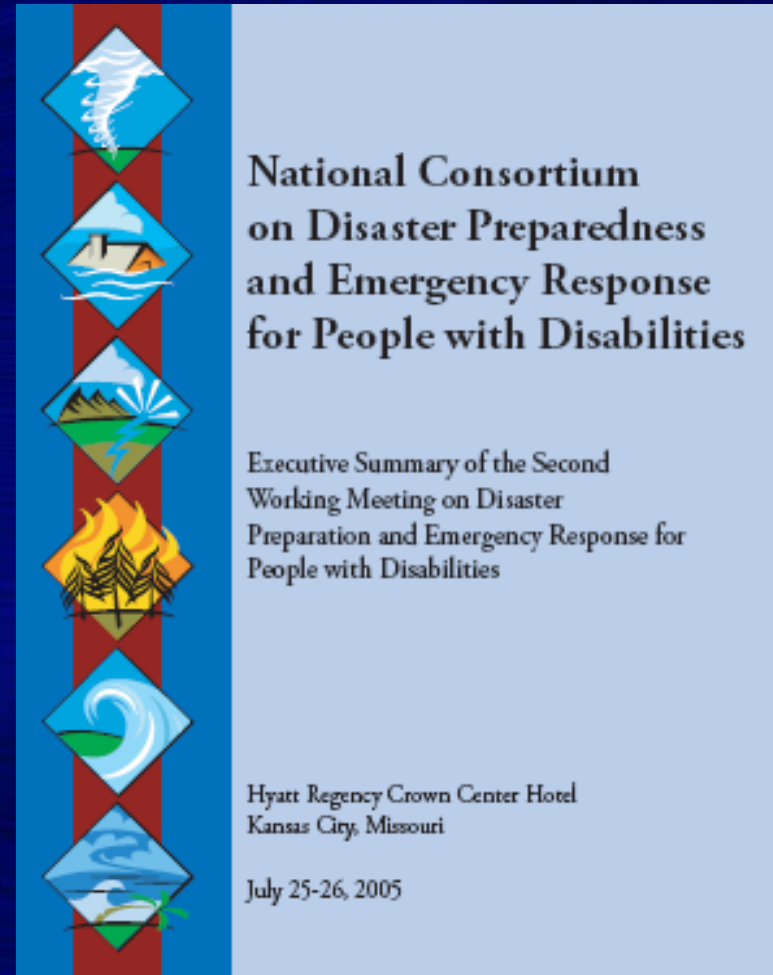
■ Research To Policy and Practice

Prelude:

Many of the observations we have given in the summary of research are fairly well-known and will not come as a surprise. However, there still remains unmet needs and just because they are well-known does not make them less important.

■ Action Plans: An Example

- ✓ Education and Training
- ✓ Increase Involvement of PWD
- ✓ Clearinghouse
- ✓ Research



■ **Research To Policy and Practice: Personal and Organizational Preparedness Planning**

- ✓ **The issue is not a lack of information and recommendations**
- ✓ **How do we translate them into policy and practice?**
- ✓ **What structures/mechanisms are there for dissemination and utilization?**
- ✓ **What principles of social marketing / incentives can be used?**

■ **Research To Policy and Practice: Community Planning**

- ✓ **There are too few programs developed to help communities increase their capacity to respond to people with disabilities**
- ✓ **“All response is local” which means communities are first line of defense**

■ **Research To Policy and Practice: Community Planning Continued**

- ✓ **We don't have enough practices, policies, and programs to help with this task.**
- ✓ **Additional knowledge mining and/or creation may be needed.**

■ **Research To Policy and Practice: Inclusion**

- ✓ **Federal policy says that people with disabilities must be actively involved in every phase of the planning process.**
- ✓ **Too often this does not happen.**
- ✓ **We need to develop effective mechanisms to bring about this involvement.**

■ **Research To Policy and Practice: Information**

- ✓ **Extensive informational resources exist for preparedness for people with disabilities.**
- ✓ **Too few comprehensive dissemination mechanisms exist to get this information out.**

■ **Research To Policy and Practice: Information**

- ✓ **More attention needs to be given to additional clearinghouse activities.**

■ Research To Policy and Practice: Additional Research Needs

- ✓ We know too little about medium and long-term recovery of people with disabilities.
- ✓ Additional knowledge mining and creation are needed.



Reactor Panel Comments



