

MAIN FINDINGS

1. Although most organizations have made disaster preparations for their senior clients by storing emergency supplies and planning to deliver basic services, they still do not feel prepared to meet the seniors' needs. In particular, organizations were very concerned about being inadequately prepared to meet seniors' medication needs.

“[Our] biggest concern will be medications for seniors. Many have multiple medications they have to take every day. If there is no supply they will be even more at risk.”

—Staff Person, Chinatown CBO

2. Front line staff expressed the need for better disaster coordination, including clear roles and more involvement in the planning process.

3. Executive Directors and front line staff both feel that trainings and drills need to be done on a more regular basis, and disaster plans need to be complete and current.

“There is a definite ability here in Chinatown for effective neighborhood coordination. But how can we do this in a methodical way?”

—Executive Director, Chinatown CBO

4. In order to meet the needs of senior clients following a disaster most organizations are engaged in some level of neighborhood coordination. Organizations feel they need leadership and clear roles to further develop this coordination.

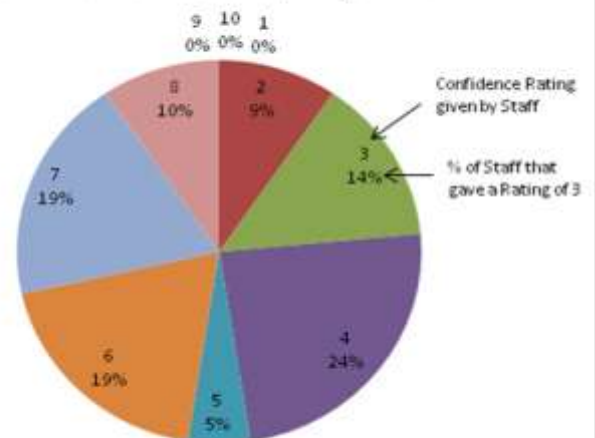


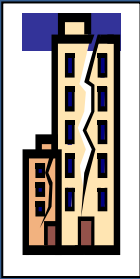
SELECT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. NICOS and SF CARD should aid organizations in developing or completing disaster plans, including input from front line staff.
2. The CDPC needs to establish itself as the leading entity for Chinatown disaster preparedness and build their visibility within the community.
3. Policy should be created at the federal, state or local level to create a voucher system for reimbursing businesses that share resources such as food, water, medicine and first aid supplies with the community after a disaster occurs.
4. In all disaster planning, CDPC needs to account for the unique needs of seniors, including mobility, medications, and language.

Front Line Staff's Confidence in their Organization's Preparedness

1= Not Confident 10= Completely Confident





Preparing for Disaster in San Francisco Chinatown: Addressing the Vulnerabilities of Seniors

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PARTNERS



San Francisco State
University MPH Program
Student Assessment Team



NICOS Chinese Health Coalition

A coalition of 30 non-profit and private organizations working to improve the quality of health and self-sufficiency of the San Francisco Chinese Community.

Chinatown Disaster Preparedness Committee

Dedicated to providing resources of disaster preparedness that suit Chinatown's specific needs.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this community assessment was to look at the needs and efforts for disaster preparedness among San Francisco Chinatown organizations that serve seniors.

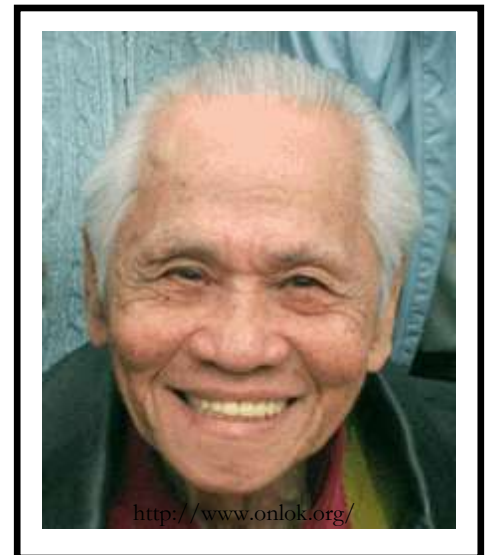
Key Questions

1. What are organizations doing to prepare for a disaster?
2. How do organizations help senior clients prepare for a disaster?
3. What do organizations' staff need to feel prepared to help senior clients during a disaster?
4. How are organizations working together for disaster preparedness?

METHODS

17 Chinatown Community Based Organizations that serve seniors were included in the assessment.

- **12 In-depth Interviews** with Executive Directors
- **3 Focus Groups** with 24 Staff that work directly with senior clients



“Our clients depend on us very much. We try to get them prepared so they don’t panic during a disaster. [Seniors] are listening, but we don’t know that they’re actually doing anything [to prepare].”

– Staff person, Chinatown Community Based Organization