

HHS emPOWER Initiative

Shaping decisions that protect health in prolonged power outages

For the more than 3.8 million people in the United States who rely on electricity to power medical and assistive equipment and health care services, a power outage can be a matter of life or death. Advances in technology – from oxygen concentrators to electric wheelchairs and dialysis – enable people to live at home independently yet prolonged power outages can force these residents to seek immediate help in local hospitals or shelters simply because the battery of their life-sustaining equipment has drained causing the equipment to fail.

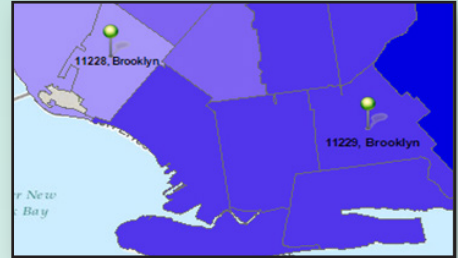
To help communities prevent these life-threatening situations, HHS launched the emPOWER Initiative. The initiative encompasses three national capabilities which ASPR developed in partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to enhance situational awareness and support emergency preparedness, response and recovery for Medicare beneficiaries whose lives depend on electrical medical and assistive devices and health care services.

The **HHS emPOWER Map** integrates de-identified Medicare claims data (so privacy is protected) with real-time NOAA weather tracking and GIS interactive mapping to highlight the number of people who use electrically dependent medical equipment in a geographic area by state, territory, county and zip code. Together, this data helps health officials, emergency managers, and community organizations anticipate and plan for the needs of electricity-dependent community members who might be at risk and need community support in prolonged power outages.

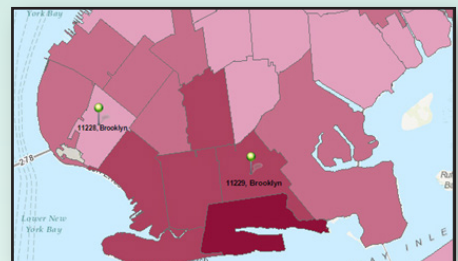
Through the **HHS emPOWER Initiative's Emergency Planning Datasets**, state health departments currently can request and soon also will be able to access, via an ASPR portal, a monthly de-identified dataset that includes aggregated Medicare beneficiary claim totals at the state, territory, county, and zip code level for eight types of durable medical equipment – ventilators, oxygen concentrators, enteral feeding machines, intravenous pumps, suction pumps, at-home dialysis machines, electric wheelchairs and scooters, and electric beds – as well as, beneficiaries who rely on specific healthcare services, including dialysis, oxygen tank services, and home health visits. State health departments can use and share the de-identified data with local health departments and, as appropriate, other emergency and community partners. ASPR is working to expand this capability in the future to include rest services that health departments can consume readily within their own GIS-systems.

With the **HHS emPower Initiative's Outreach Response Individual Datasets**, public health authorities that meet certain privacy protection requirements can submit official requests to CMS, via ASPR, for the secure disclosure of limited individual level data. This information includes addresses of Medicare beneficiaries who use the eight types of electrically-dependent DME or healthcare services to facilitate outreach and life-saving assistance in a disaster.

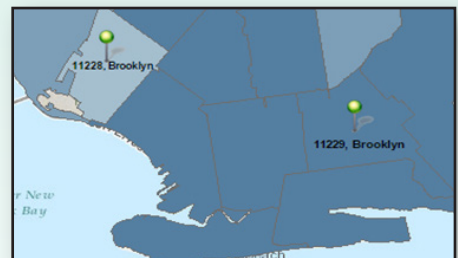
To get started, visit www.phe.gov/empowermap or contact dhsp@hhs.gov.



In one zip code, more than 260 beneficiaries received dialysis in a facility in the past 90 days



More than 900 beneficiaries in one zip code relied on oxygen concentrators or ventilators in the past year



In the past 90 days, more than 1,100 beneficiaries in specific zip codes received home health services

