BUILDING RESILIENCE FROM LIVED EXPERIENCE

SUMMARY
In this brief written narrative, Louisiana Title V leaders discuss how Hurricane Ida (2021) impacted the state’s newborn screening program – including efforts to implement their continuity of operations plan with limited communication capacity and how they made modifications to address new challenges as they arose.

KEY WORDS
Systemic leadership and communication
Newborn screening
Continuity of operations
Staff support
Infrastructure and interoperability

SYSTEMIC FACTORS ADDRESSED
Poverty
Communication access
Health care access
Population mobility

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES
Even during an emergency, you should still get the time-critical services and resources you need. There are people responsible for ensuring you have access even though it may not be from the provider or place you normally receive those services.

FOR HEALTH AND RELATED SYSTEMS
Every emergency situation is different but having a standard plan and revisiting it at strategic times with staff and community partners (e.g., labs, birthing hospitals) make it easier to modify practices and fulfill the most urgent responsibilities.

FOR COMMUNITIES
Investment in systems (e.g., web-based platforms for data management case surveillance) can help ensure that those displaced by severe weather can still receive screening and receive needed follow-up care, resources, etc.

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