Emergency Preparedness for the Deaf

Linda Gelzer

Tornado
This Month

- Tornado siren
- Resident Advisor
- Hallmates
- Emergency Texts
- Emails

For the Deaf…

Gannon

More Vulnerable During Emergencies

More likely than hearing people to:

- Lose property
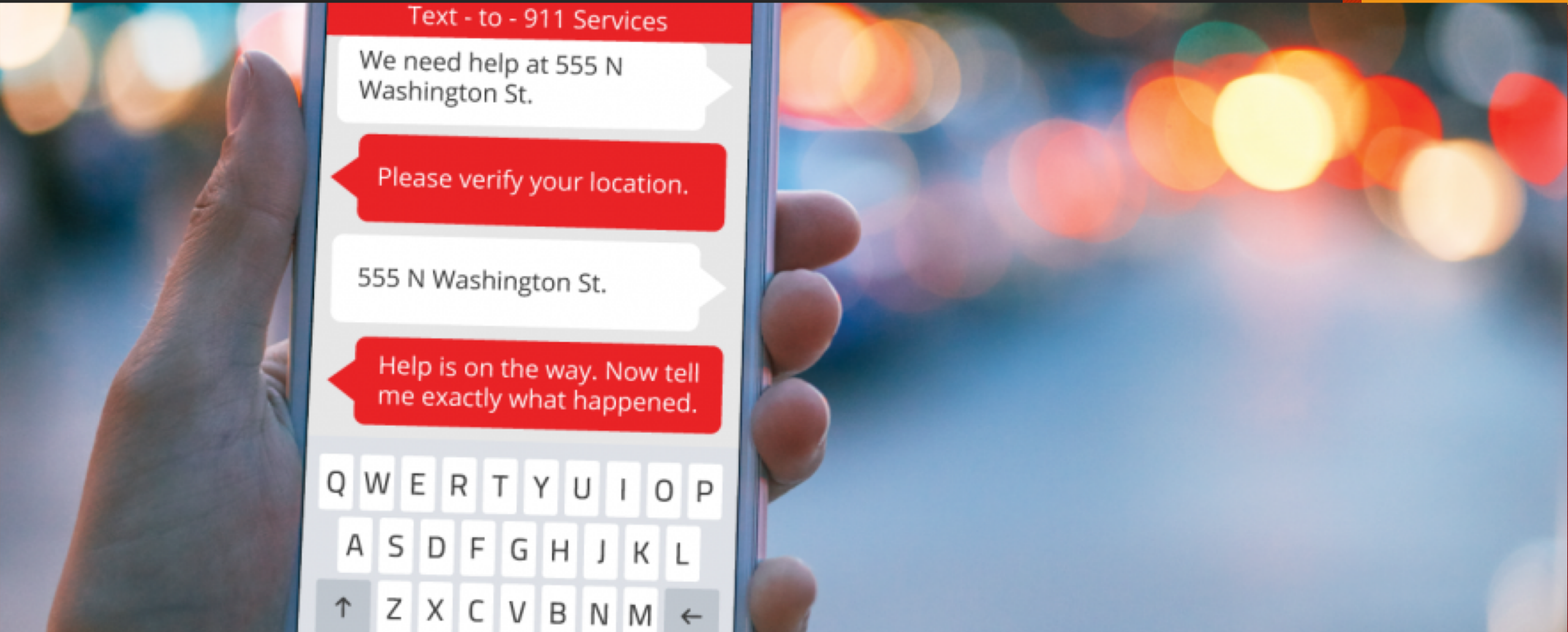- Be injured
- Die

Neuhauser

Technology Unusable for Some

- Power outages
- Other disabilities
  - Deaf-blind
  - Other physical

Tannenbaum-Baruchi, Off-the-Grid Missions

Text-to-911 Services

August 6, 2018

TEXT TO 9-1-1
PSAP READINESS REPORT - CURRENT and FUTURE
BY COUNTY AS OF June 6, 2018*

*BASED ON SUBMITTED READINESS REPORTS TO THE
FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
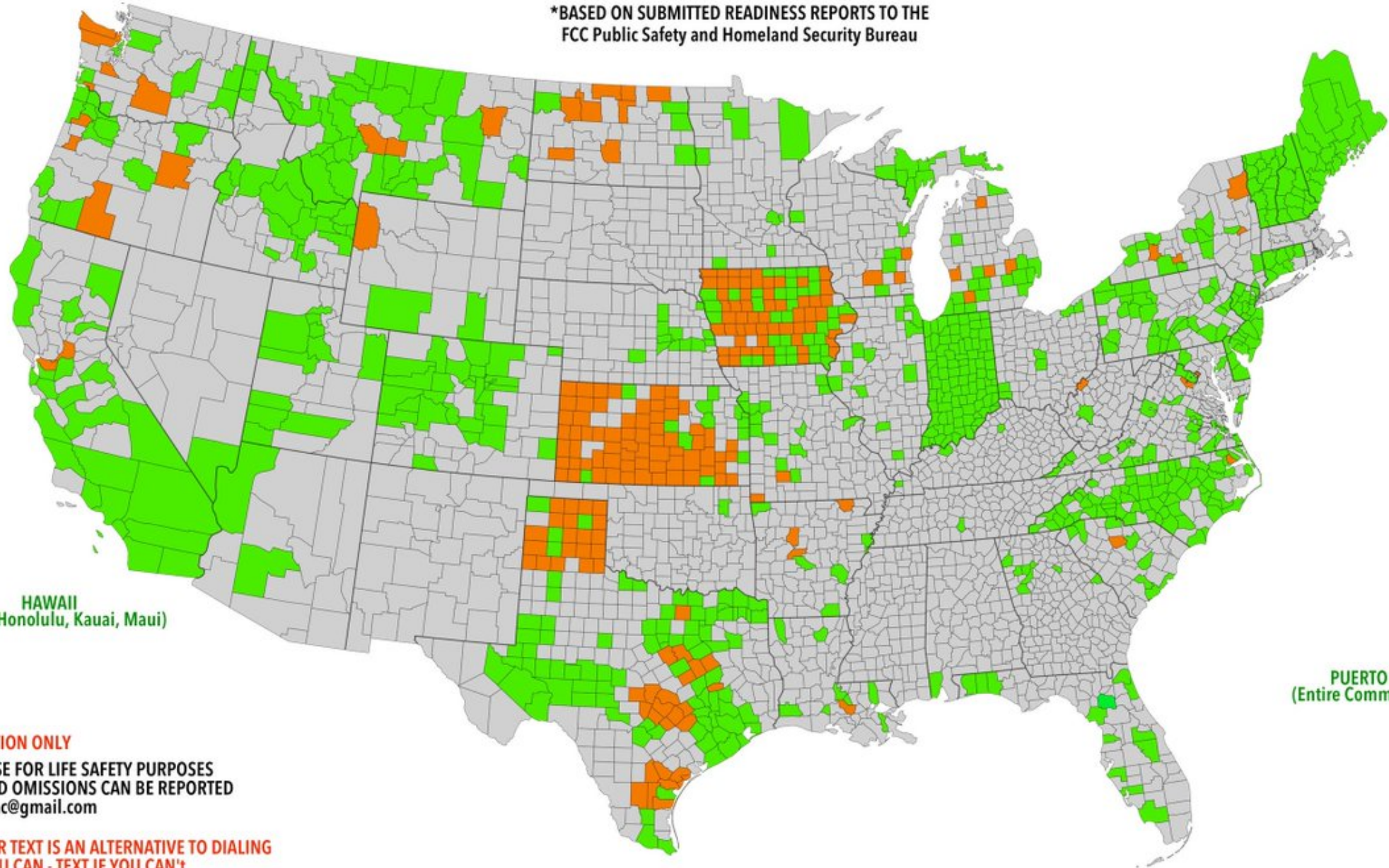
HAWAII
(Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui)

PUERTO RICO
(Entire Commenwealth)

INFORMATION ONLY

DO NOT USE FOR LIFE SAFETY PURPOSES
ERROR AND OMISSIONS CAN BE REPORTED
TO jbbymac@gmail.com

REMEMBER TEXT IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO DIALING
CALL IF YOU CAN - TEXT IF YOU CAN'T

Potential Reasons

- Diversity

- Failure to plan

- Insufficient programs

- Lack of information distributed

- Inadequate training

Deaf Population in America

- 48 million
- 1/20 or 5%
- Diverse
- Some methods of communication:
  - American Sign Language
  - Manually Coded English
  - Spoken English

Engelman, Mitchell

American Sign Language (ASL)

- Definition from the North Carolina Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:
  - "A fully developed autonomous, natural language with a unique grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and cultural heritage"
- Not based on English
- Used by Deaf people in the United States and Canada

State of North Carolina, Camp

Manually Coded English (MCE)

A category of communication systems that includes several specific varieties

Borrows vocabulary from ASL

Uses these signs with English grammar

Communication

Spoken English

- Speechreading/lipreading
  - Under ideal conditions, 30% can be understood
- Residual hearing
- Hearing aids or Cochlear Implants
  - Not normal hearing
  - Dependent on the individual

Communicating

One size does NOT fit all.

Failure to Plan

- 55 emergency preparedness plans nationally

- 31% mention Deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH)

- Inadequate planning

Ivey

Insufficient Programs

Number of emergency preparedness programs in the United States: 15

- For the deaf: 7

- For emergency responders working with the deaf: 5

- For government agencies: 4

- For ASL interpreters: 2

- For deaf-blind citizens: 1

Engelman

Lack of Information Distributed

- No published documents
- Organizations for the D/HH
  - Only 36% gave information

Engelman

Inadequate Training

Emergency management agencies:

- 1 out of 2 offered training about D/HH

Engelman

Improvements

- Apps instead of emergency calls

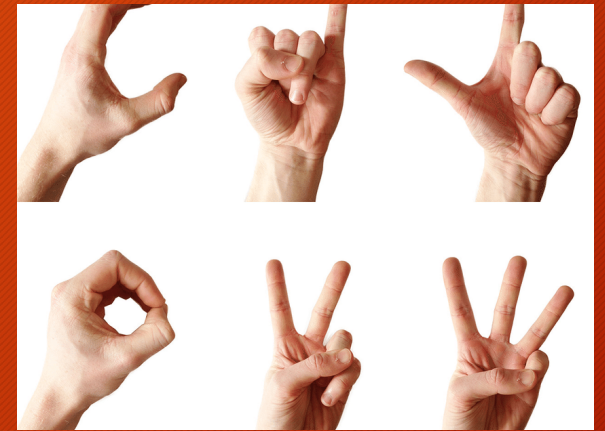- Training

- Other private organizations

Apps to Call 911

- RapidSOS

- Not designed specifically for D/HH

- Mentions equal access for D/HH in blog post

- Not helpful for those without a smartphone

Cahn

Training for Law Enforcement

Palm Beach, Florida:

- ASL signs
- Fingerspelling
- Videophone use
- Picture cards

Training for the Deaf

Seattle, Washington
- Preparation for emergency situations
- Communication during those situations

This interactive workshop will be for anyone who wants to know more about how to prepare for different types of emergency situations and how to communicate with others that may not know sign language.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

with Jim House, Disability Integration Manager CIEP

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020
6 - 8 PM

HSDC

HANNAH GRUNBAUM CONFERENCE ROOM

1625 19TH AVE
SEATTLE, WA 98122

- LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED -

Please RSVP and contact Devin Myers at 206-428-3068 or dmyers@hsdc.org for reasonable accommodations or other considerations by February 25th 2020.

HSDC
Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center

hsdc.org

WASILC
Washington State Independent Living Council

Training at Gardner-Webb University

- ASL Club
- For those who do not know ASL
- To communicate with ASL users
- Teach emergency signs
- 2 this year
- 2 next year

Emergency Signs **WORKSHOP**

C.E.T.L. Office in Dover Library

Thursday, October 10 @ 9:25 a.m.

Other Private Organizations

- International Deaf Emergency
- YouTube channels for information in ASL

Remaining Problems

- No one-size-fits-all solution
- Remember the diversity
- Access is rarely universal
- No system is perfect

Specific Issues

- Unequal information through different mediums
- Literacy problems
- Technology inaccessible for some

Unequal Information Through Different Mediums

Potential Mediums:

- Captioning
- Emergency text alerts
- Sign Language Interpretation

Tannenbaum-Baruchi, Bridgett

Problems with Mediums:

- Delayed
- Incomplete
- Just summarizing
- Unclear/confusing
- Not shown on TV screen
- Missing altogether
- Too small to see
- Not evaluated for success
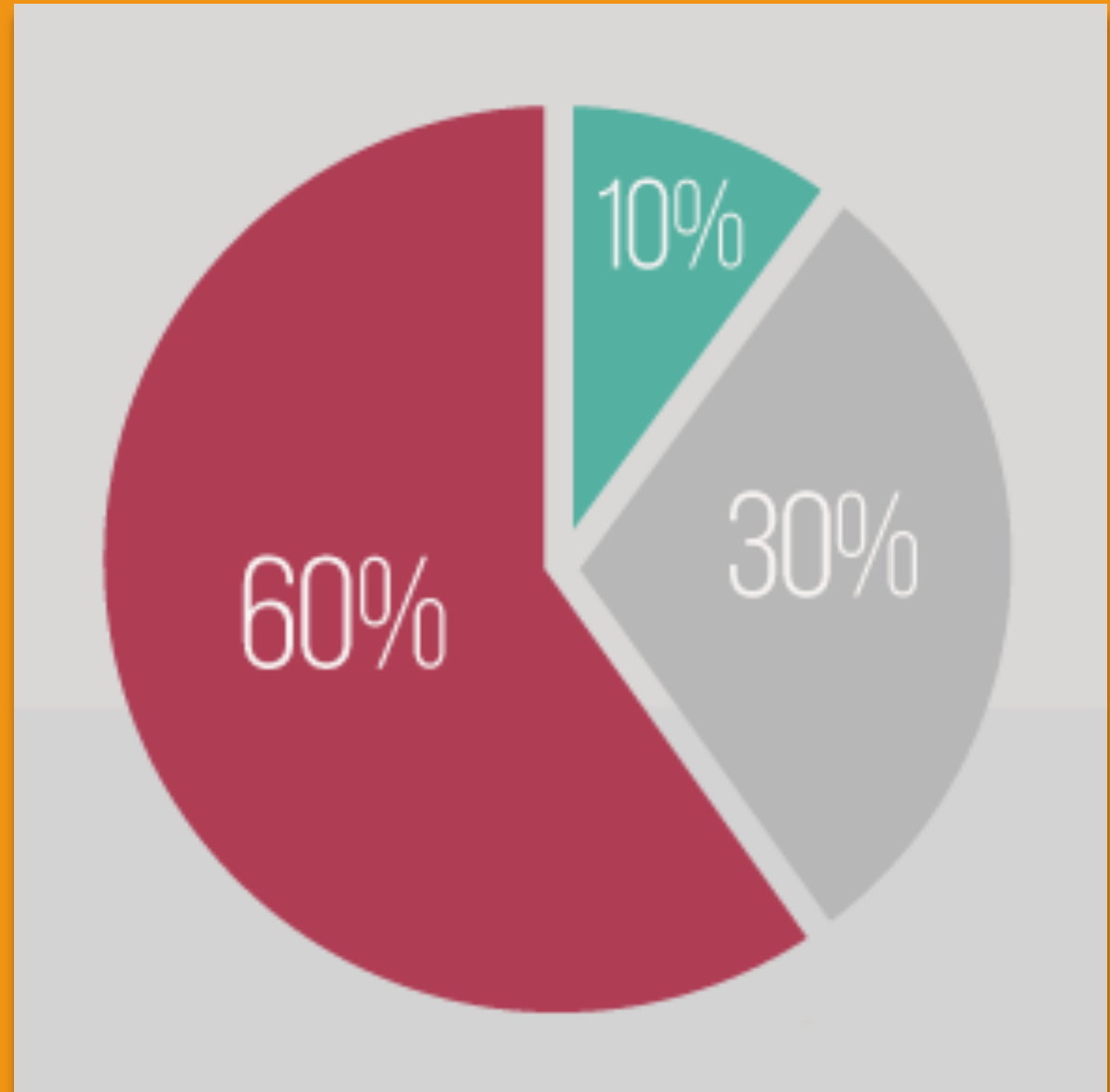
Another kind of "access"

- Manatee County, Florida
- Huricane Irma
- Unqualified and unprofessional interpreter
- "Pizza want you are. Need be bear monster."

Gaul

Literacy problems

- Written language
- Signed language

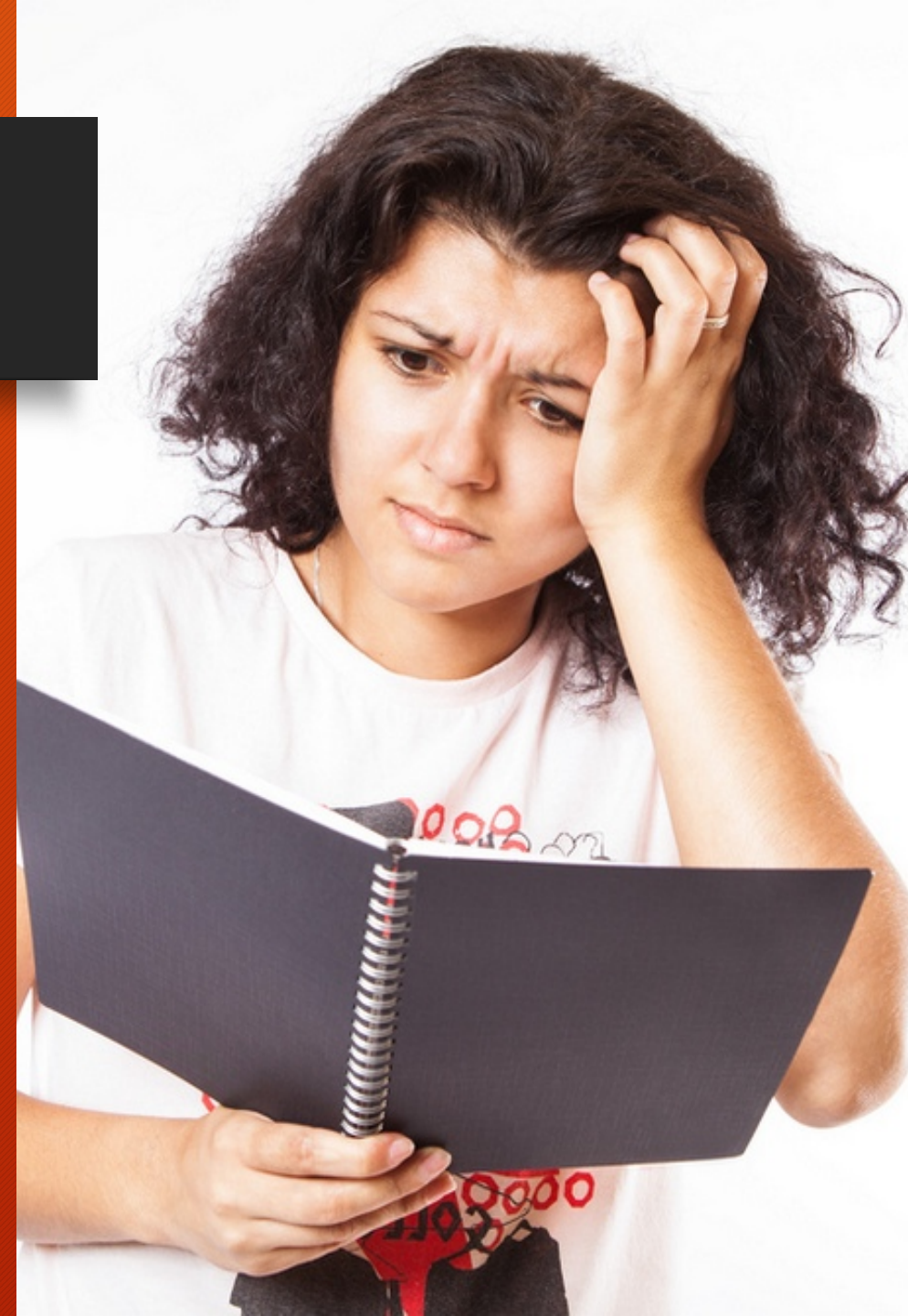# International Adult Literacy Survey

Deaf Adults in the US:

- 60% fluent in ASL but not written English
- 30% not fluent in either
- 10% fluent in both

Neuhauser

Reading Level

- Average Deaf reading level: 4th grade
- Average hearing reading level: 8th grade
- Emergency preparedness material: 11th grade

Neuhauser, Friedmann, Snow

Use of Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI's)

- Certified Deaf Interpreters
- Education level/vocabulary
- Other signed communication methods

Bridgett

Goal: Redundancy

- *"Emergency communication systems should be 'redundant' – the message should be sent out to as many people and in as many formats as possible."*

  – The National Association of the Deaf

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