

# Health Equity and AFN in PHEP

Updates from Montana PHEP

May 10, 2024



DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES**

# Overview of Health Equity and AFN

# Health Equity

We want to ensure that everyone has a fair and full opportunity to be as healthy as possible, which requires:

- Valuing every person and their health
- Improving environmental, economic, & social conditions that can harm people's health
- Working with different groups in specific, respectful ways to address health issues that affect them.
- Eliminating preventable health disparities.

Adapted from [Frameworks Institute](#) & [CDC Health Equity](#)



# Real World Example

- 71% of people who died in Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina were over age 60. Due to lack of evacuation facilities, health conditions that made evacuation challenging, high poverty, and isolation. 65% of elderly residents who lived in their own homes did not have transportation.
- This devastating outcome is **not** inevitable. We can make specific changes to systems and practices to save lives and build resilient communities.
- Shows importance of supporting/incorporating access & functional needs in emergency preparedness & response.

Statistics from [White House Report](#) & ([Aging Disaster: Mortality, Vulnerability, and Long-Term Recovery Among Katrina Survivors](#)).



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# Access and Functional Needs

AFN are defined as anything that may limit an individual to act or access help before, during, or after an emergency or disaster. Populations with AFN may need specific assistance to maintain their health and independence. Consequently, they are excessively affected by public health emergencies and disasters and should be prioritized in emergency planning.

## **Who?** Individuals with/in...

- Disabilities
- Chronic health conditions
- Institutional settings
- Communication differences
- Limited access to resources
- Historically underserved or excluded communities
- Visitors and tourists
- Pregnant individuals & children



# Federal Health Equity Priorities for PHEP



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	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5	Priority 6	Priority 7	Priority 8	Priority 9	Priority 10
	Develop Threat-Specific Approaches	Enhance Partner Coordination	Expand Local Support	Improve Admin & Budget Prep.	Build Workforce Capacity	Modernize Data Collection & Systems	Strengthen CERC	Incorporate Health Equity Practices	Advance PH Lab Capacity & Capability	Prioritize Community Recovery
Cap. 1: Community Preparedness										
Cap. 2: Community Recovery										
Cap. 3: Emergency Operations Coord.										
Cap. 4: Emergency Public Info & Warning										
Cap. 5: Fatality Management										
Cap. 6: Information Sharing										
Cap. 7: Mass Care										
Cap. 8: MCM Dispensing & Admin.										
Cap. 9: MCM Distribution										
Cap. 10: Medical Surge										
Cap. 11: Nonpharmaceutical Interventions										
Cap. 12: PH Laboratory Testing										
Cap. 13: PH Surveillance & Epi Investigation										
Cap. 14: Responder Safety & Health										
Cap. 15: Volunteer Management										

# Summary

- Identify populations disproportionately impacted by jurisdictional risks
- Use data sources (e.g., CDC's Social Vulnerability Index) to inform how you prioritize populations
- Develop culturally, linguistically, and accessible appropriate risk messages to meet the diverse needs of community members
- Work with partners that represent AFN populations to promote health equity and social justice for the whole community
- Include health equity representatives on advisory committees and in your incident command structure
- Include partners that represent prioritized populations in exercises and planning





# Exercises and Planning

- Develop and coordinate plans with partners to meet the needs of at-risk populations including:
  - People with **behavioral health** needs
  - Women who are **pregnant**
  - **Children**
  - **Older adults**
  - **People with disabilities**
  - Minorities and other populations with a **disproportionate burden of disease**
  - People from **underserved** populations
  - People with **limited English proficiency** and non-English speaking populations



# Resources



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# CMIST Framework

Communication



Independence



Maintaining  
Health



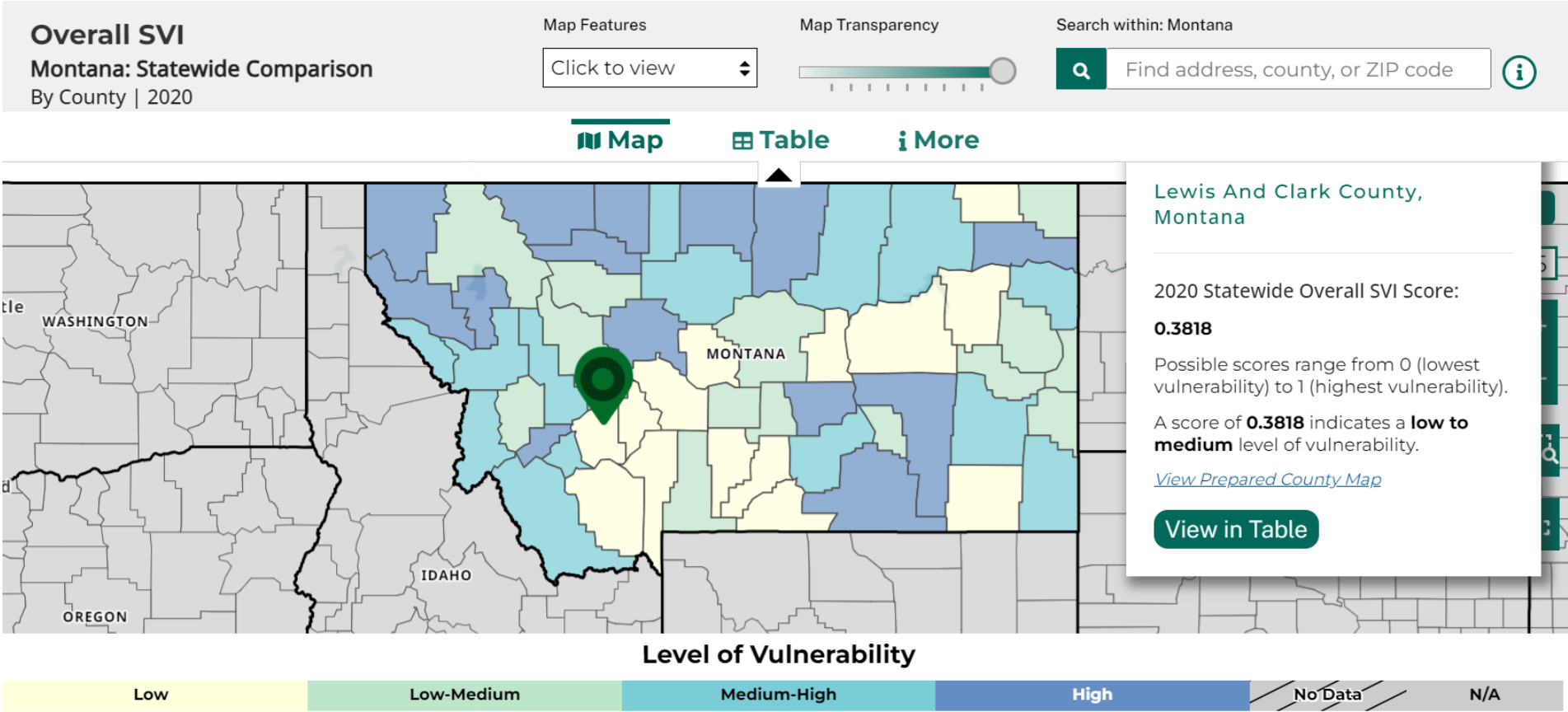
Support &  
Safety

Transportation

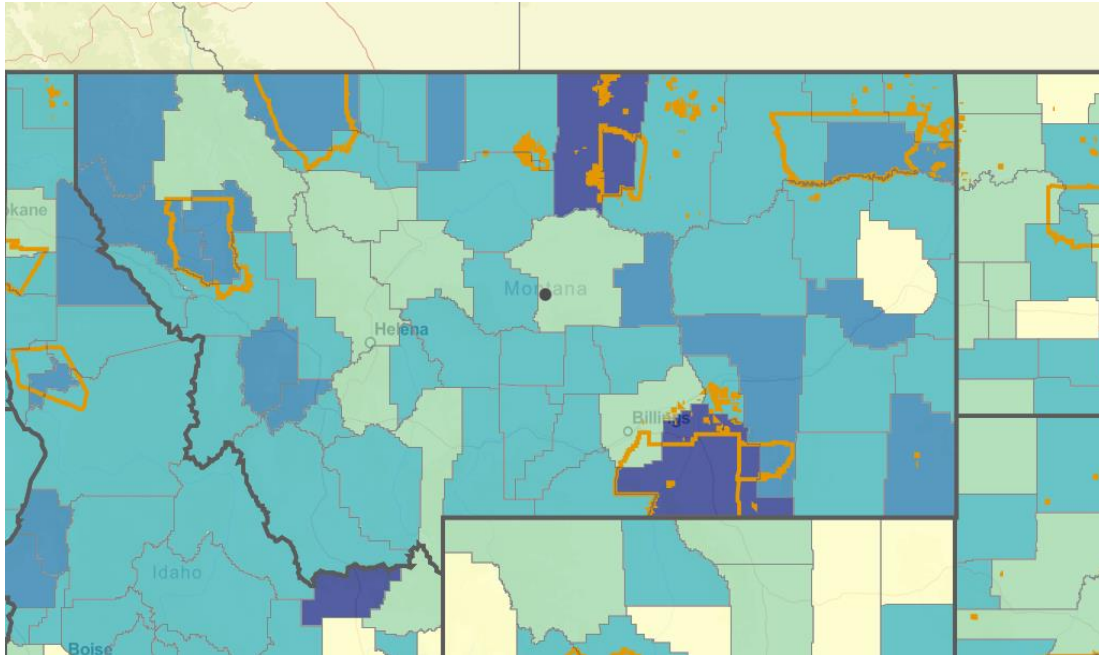


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# CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)



# FEMA Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool (RAPT)



Petroleum, MT

County Population: 434

FEMA Community Resilience Challenges Index - Percentile: 71 of 100

*CRCI aggregates the area's standard deviation values for all 22 CRCI in*

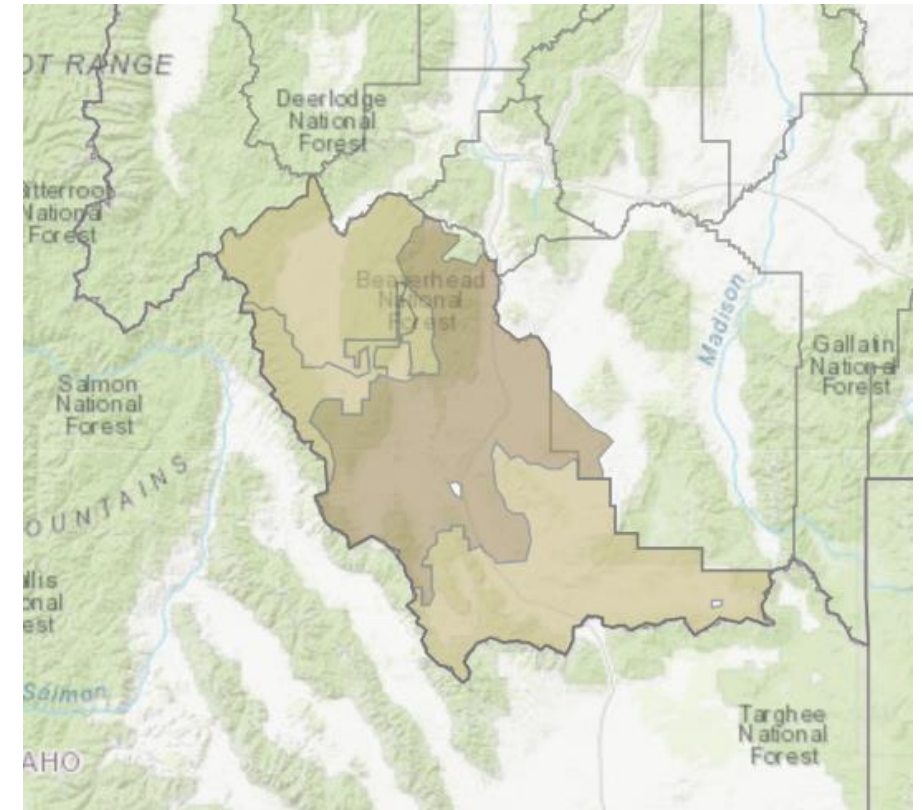
*\*CRCI in Puerto Rico does not include the Households with Limited Eng.*

The top 3 drivers of the CRCI value for this county are:

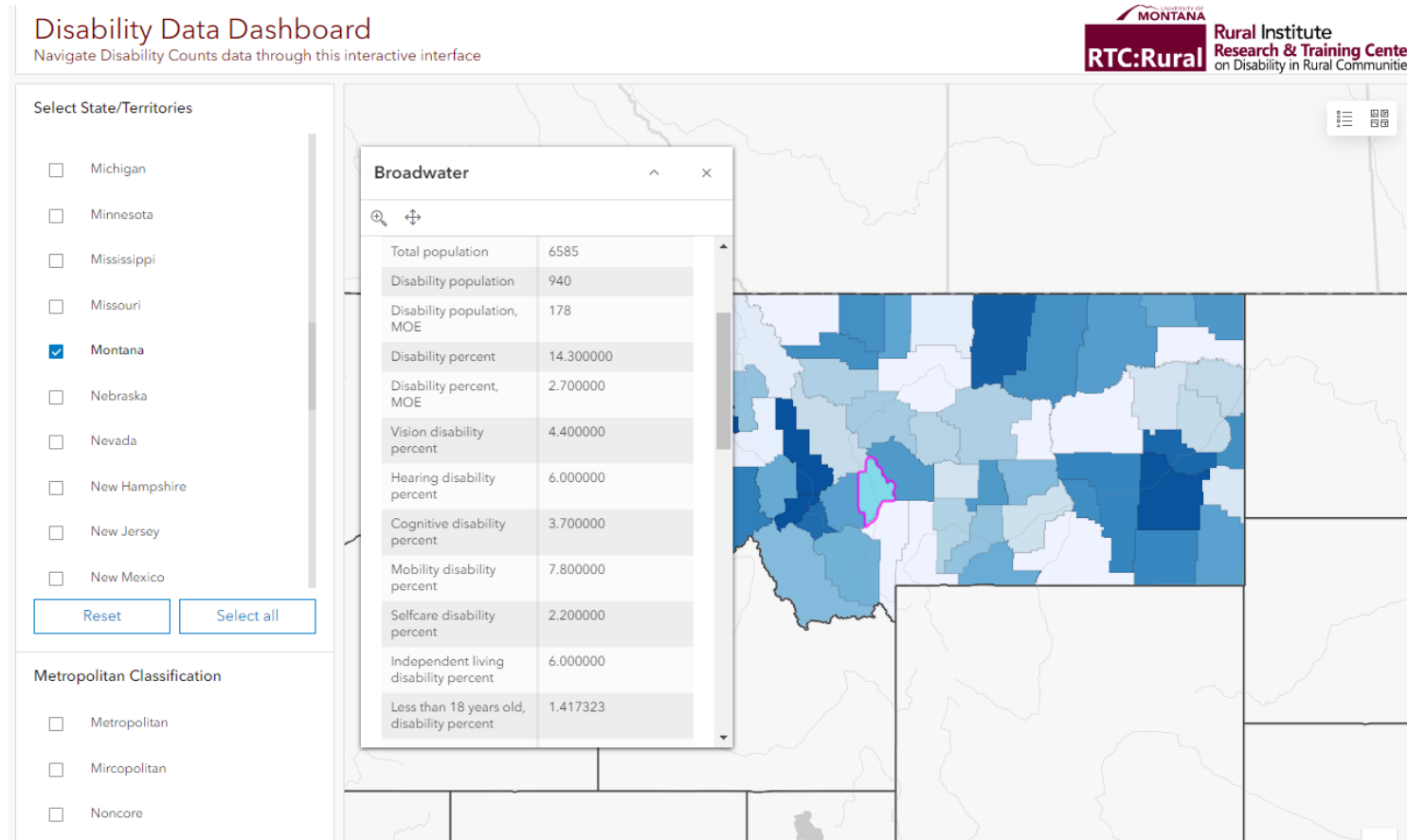
- 1) Lack of Economic Diversity
- 2) Percentage of the population that do not affiliate with a religion
- 3) The number of health-diagnosing and treating practitioners per 1,000 people

# HHS emPOWER

Geographic Area	Beneficiaries	At-Risk Beneficiaries
59725	2,145	232
59736	42	11
59739	149	14
59746	65	11
59761	77	11



# Disability Data Dashboard



# G197: *Integrating Access and Functional Needs into Emergency Management*

- Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
  - Virtual option on May 13-14, 2024: Scan QR code
  - In-person on November 6-7, 2024 in Buena Vista, CO: Email Sadie Martinez at [cdps\\_dhsem\\_afn@state.co.us](mailto:cdps_dhsem_afn@state.co.us)
- Possible Montana offering in fall 2024





# MTPHI Quick Guide

**BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES:  
SUPPORTING POPULATIONS  
WITH ACCESS AND  
FUNCTIONAL NEEDS  
IN MONTANA PHEP**



SCAN TO ACCESS GUIDE IN  
OUR RESOURCE LIBRARY



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# MTPHI Quick Guide (continued)

## Guide Goals:

- Montana contexts are at the core of this guide
- Specific consideration for rural, frontier, and tribal communities
- Translate health equity concepts into PHEP language and actions you can take
- Include a range of categories related to PHEP deliverables and topics
- “Choose your own adventure” (not a linear step-wise guide)



# Quick Guide Contents

**Introduction  
to Access  
and  
Functional  
Needs**

**Ideas and  
steps for  
action by  
category**

**Montana  
examples  
from the  
field**

**Resource links for tools, templates, and additional information.**



# Using the Guide

**Scan** the whole guide for an overview of categories in which AFN work can be furthered and types of ideas for implementation.

**Pick** a category, review the ideas, and identify a few actions to implement.

**Review** the Dig Deeper Resources for implementation support and context.

**Identify** necessary community partners to discuss and prioritize ideas and get buy-in for selected strategies.

**Start** implementing!



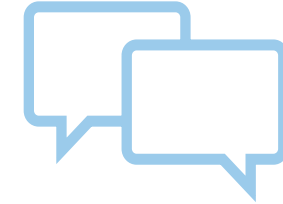
# Ideas for Action Categories



**Develop and Strengthen Partnerships**



**Identify AFN in Your Community**



**Engage and Communicate with Community Members**



**Increase Your Organization's Capacity to Respond to AFN**



**Prepare and Plan with an Emphasis on Inclusion**



# Ideas for Action: Develop & Strengthen Partnerships

## Strategy:

Strengthen relationships with AFN individuals and organizations and build partnerships that are mutually beneficial.

- ▣ Invite a point of contact from an AFN partner for coffee to learn about their organization and share about your programs and services. Some discussion topics are:
  - What populations does your organization serve? In what geographic area(s)?
  - What services do you provide and to how many people?
- ▣ Share ideas for collaboration and ask your partners how they prefer to be involved. Some options are:
  - Testing the accessibility of PODs, shelters, and other buildings
  - Providing feedback on plans
- ▣ Send a thank you email or note after your meeting.
- ▣ Share training opportunities with your partners to strengthen knowledge of AFN and emergency management within the community (see [build capacity section](#) for trainings).



# Ideas for Action: Develop & Strengthen Partnerships

## Strategy:

Strengthen relationships with AFN individuals and organizations and build partnerships that are mutually beneficial.

## Dig Deeper Resources

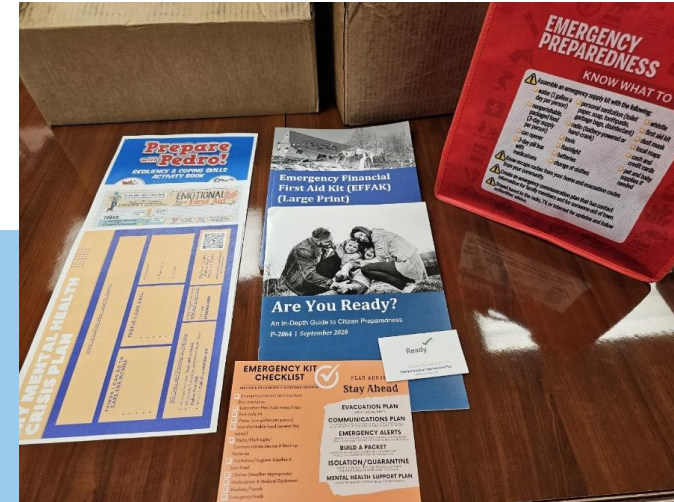
- This [Opportunities to Engage Checklist](#) on page 79 shares more ideas for partner involvement.

- [AARP Disaster Resilience Toolkit](#) provides guidance for leaders on reducing risk and protecting older adults.



# Montanans in Action

**Big Horn County** attended local Farmers Markets and handed out emergency kit bags with preparedness information printed on the bag.



## MONTANANS IN ACTION

**Missoula County** is improving partner engagement by offering webinars on PHEP and AFN to the Fire Department, Northwestern Energy, transportation services, and more. They cover the role of PHEP and the importance of a whole community approach in emergency preparedness and response. Partners are invited to discuss their emergency plans and brainstorm how to better include AFN populations. Missoula County also conducted personal preparedness workshops for individuals who use Center for Independent Living (CIL) services. They shared tips on how to prepare, what to include in a preparedness kit, and how to sign up for alert systems.

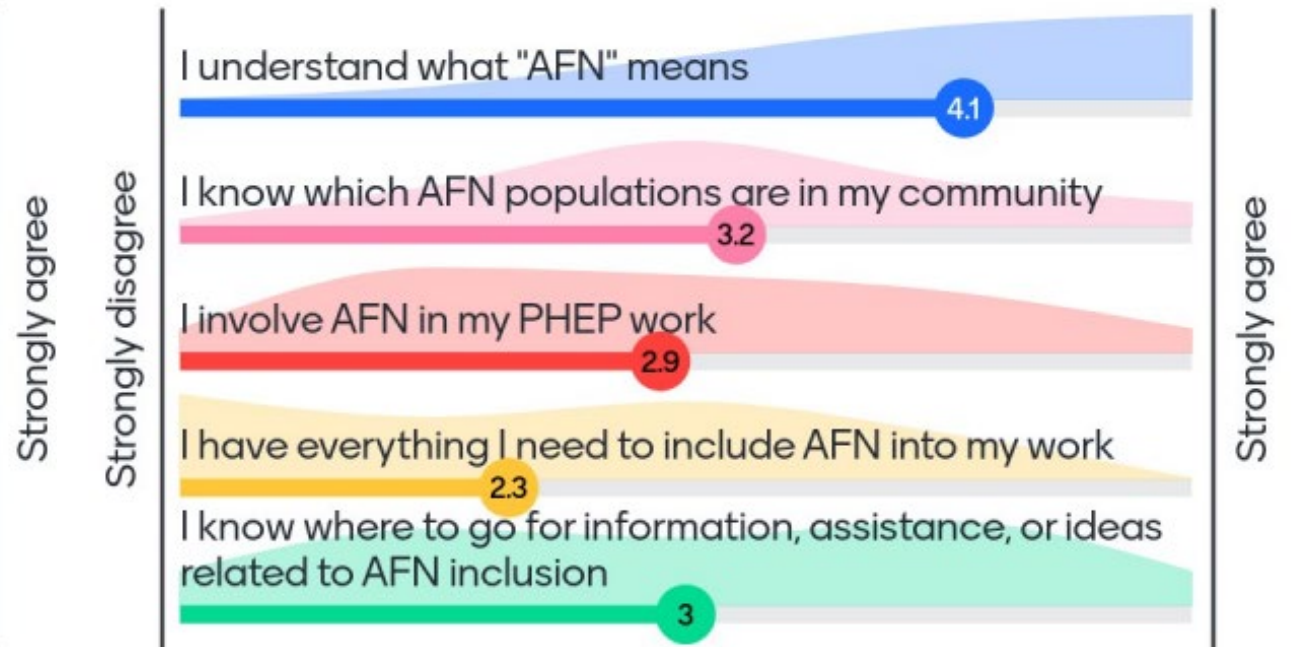
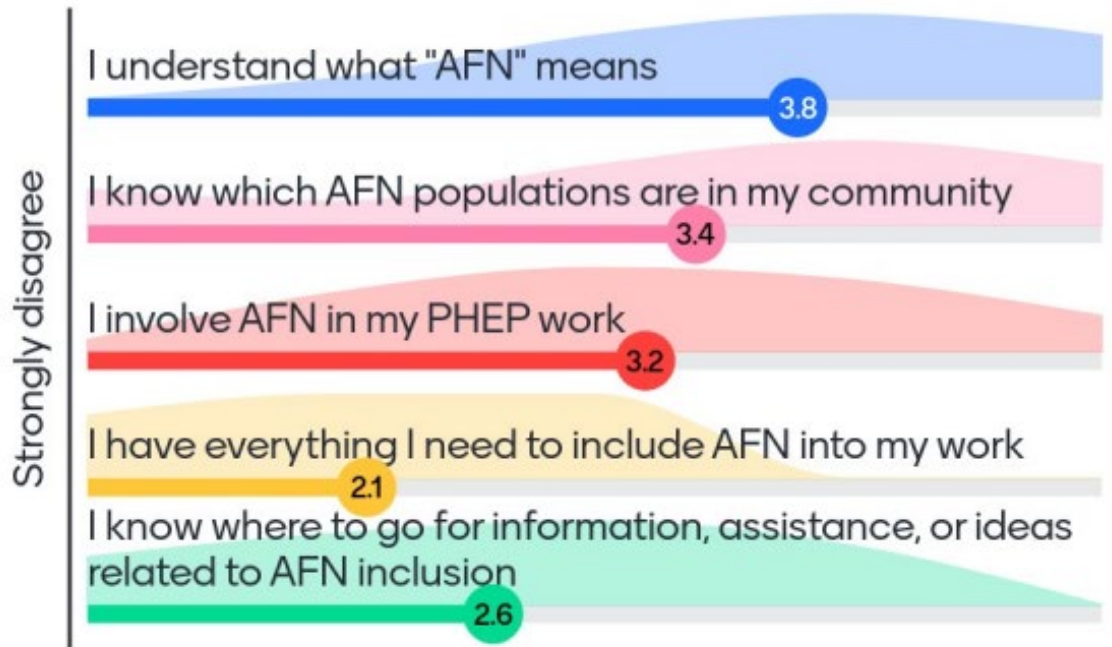




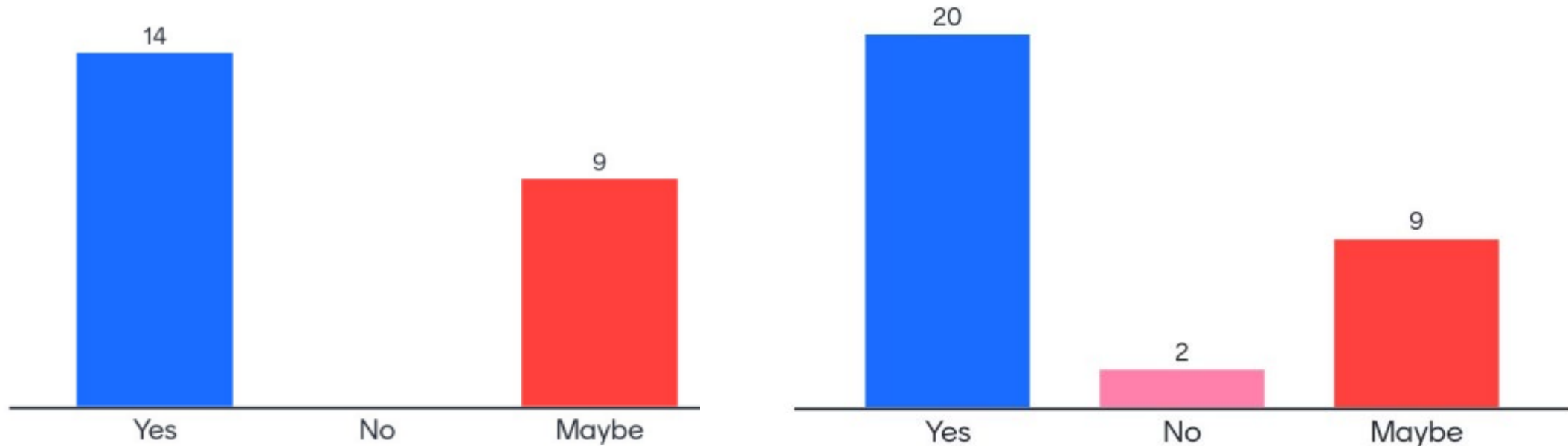
# Feedback: Poll Results



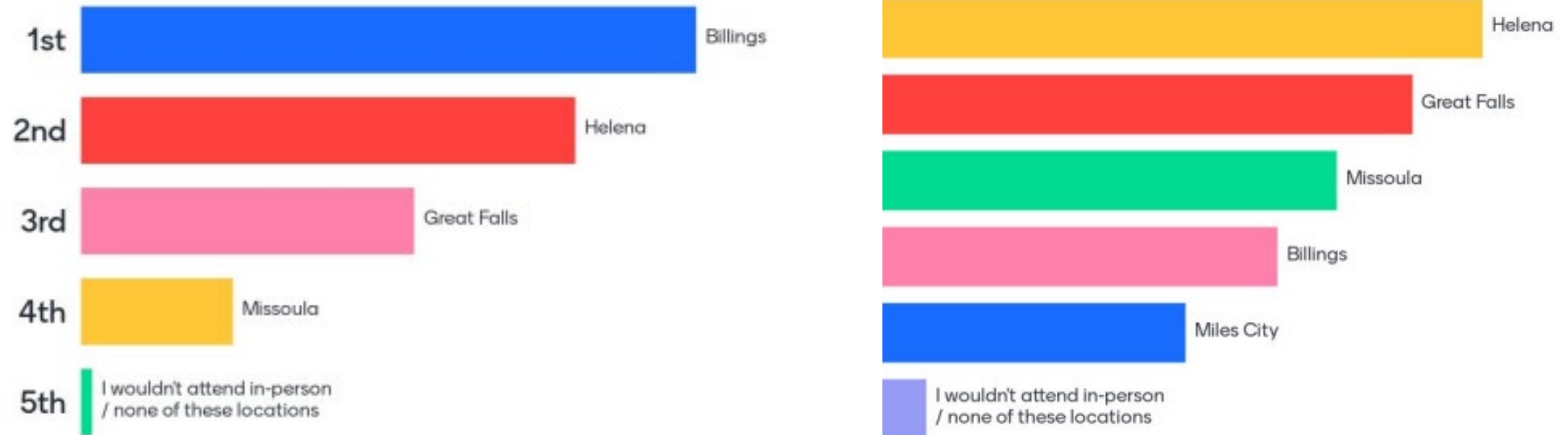
# How do you feel about Access and Functional Needs (AFN) in PHEP?



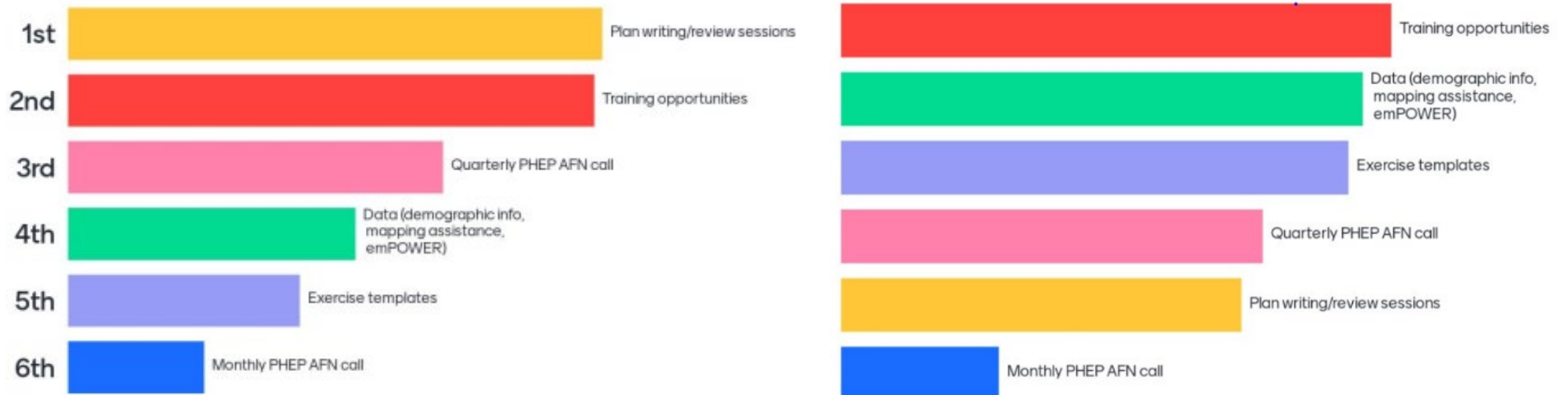
# Would you sign up for a 2-day, in-person G197 course?



# Where would you attend an in-person G-197 course?



# How can MT PHEP support you in your work with AFN?



# What would be most helpful for you in improving your work with AFN?

Rural implementation	Attend our LEPC to support a local subcommittee	Identifiable information when needed	County specific data
Frontier implementation	Simple step by step for improvements	Ideas for very small frontier counties to make this an easier process	Integrate DES into PHEP
Find people who want to work	Ways to motivate afn populations to participate in planning	resources to help individuals during a chaotic disaster	Coordinating list of AFN contacts
Plans	Discussion on small community with limited everything	Exercises	Resources



# What would be most helpful for you in improving your work with AFN?

I have no qualified staff member who can devote the needed time to any Phep requirements. We cannot catch up

Building linkages with AFN orgs and resources through a resource like CONNECT referral system.

Templates for inviting people to the table, and example work plan for getting through the first year locally of getting something off the ground

Individual consultations

Persuade/voice to help convince higher ups in county

Collaborative

Working with DES in this area for county planx

In person traning

Connection to resources

This guide presented

Increasing community interest and involvement

Training and any ideas





# Questions?

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