

FUNCTIONAL NEEDS DEMOGRAPHICS

Who Are People with Special Needs?

The term “special needs” is widely used within disaster services and the emergency management field. It generally includes an extremely broad group of people, including people with disabilities, people with serious mental illness, minority groups, non-English speakers, children, and the elderly. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2004). Other lists also add single working parents, people without vehicles, people with special dietary needs (FEMA 2004), pregnant women, prisoners, people who are homeless, etc. While there appears to be little consensus on exactly who should be included in the special needs category, our data show that these groups represent a large and complex variety of concerns and challenges for disaster planning and response. Many of these groups have little in common beyond the fact that they are often left out of programs, services and emergency planning. (Kailes, 2000; National Council on Disability, 2005).

Current Functional Needs Demographic Information for Burke County is as listed with the table below:

Demographic 2000 Census	Sensory	Physical	Mental	Self-Care	Going outside the home
16 to 64	37	61	22	10	30
65+	66	102	27	27	66
Category Totals	103	163	49	37	96
Grand Total					448

All portions of Burke County have access to vehicles or other modes of transportation. There are no language barriers, cultural, and religious needs that have been identified.

Assistance for language (deaf-braille) would be requested through NDDDES. The State Emergency Operations Center has connectivity to the Interagency Project for Assistive Technology.

Assistance encountered cases of cultural or religious needs can be addressed through the Ministerial Association.