



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2017 National Preparedness Report

The *National Preparedness Report* summarizes the progress that the Nation has made in becoming more secure and resilient across five mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. The report identifies cross-cutting findings that apply across the mission areas, as well as key findings for each individual mission area. The report offers all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and the public practical insights into preparedness to support decisions about program priorities, resource allocation, and community actions.

## What is the *National Preparedness Report*?

The *National Preparedness Report* is an annual requirement of *The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006* and a key element of the National Preparedness System. The report evaluates and measures gains that individuals and communities, private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and all levels of government have made in preparedness. It also identifies where challenges and opportunities for improvement remain. The *2017 National Preparedness Report* focuses primarily on preparedness activities undertaken or reported during calendar year 2016 and summarizes progress in building, sustaining, and delivering the 32 core capabilities outlined in the *National Preparedness Goal*.

## CROSS-CUTTING FINDINGS

The *National Preparedness Report* identifies four cross-cutting findings that stretch across the different mission areas. Analysts identified these findings through the evaluation of preparedness indicators—such as training participation and exercise frequency—that apply to all 32 core capabilities; assessments submitted by states and territories; and analysis provided by Federal agencies.

Environmental Response/ Health and Safety, Intelligence and Information Sharing, Operational Communications, Operational Coordination, and Planning are five core capabilities in which the Nation has developed proficiency, but in which it likely faces a future capability gap.

Cybersecurity, Economic Recovery, Housing, Infrastructure Systems, Natural and Cultural Resources, and Supply Chain Integrity and Security remain national areas for improvement. One additional core capability—Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities—emerged as a new area for improvement in 2016.

States and territories reported similar levels of capability compared to 2015, highlighting that larger-scale preparedness investments are necessary to drive major improvements on an annual basis; since 2012, states and territories reported proficiency increases in the Mitigation mission area, but proficiency decreases in the Prevention, Protection, and Recovery mission areas.

Exercises conducted under the National Exercise Program tested all 32 core capabilities, and especially highlighted improvements and lessons learned for Intelligence and Information Sharing, Public Information and Warning, and Operational Coordination, as well as core capabilities in the Recovery mission area.

## KEY FINDINGS

The 2017 *National Preparedness Report* offers 30 key findings that highlight successes and challenges across the five mission areas. The key findings are based on the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data from all levels of government and the private and nonprofit sectors. Several criteria contribute to the identification of findings—including quantitative data that show trends over time, demonstrated progress in establishing or implementing national-level strategies and policies, and significant shifts in resources to support preparedness. The sections below highlight selected key findings that address areas that may be of high public interest.



### Prevention

The Prevention mission area prepares the Nation to avoid, prevent, or stop an imminent terrorist attack within the United States. In 2016, events such as the June attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and the September bombings in New York City and New Jersey highlighted the importance of Prevention capabilities. A key finding in this mission area is:

- *In 2016, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, in collaboration with Federal, state, and local partners, implemented an enhanced process for assessing fusion center performance.*



### Protection

The Protection mission area secures the homeland against acts of terrorism and human-induced or natural disasters. Throughout 2016, malicious cyber activities, such as ransomware attacks on critical services, highlighted the need for strengthened Protection capabilities. Selected key findings in this mission area include:

- *Lessons learned from the 2015 Office of Personnel Management data breaches continue to prompt actions to better safeguard sensitive data on government employees and contractors, and to update procedures for background investigations and security clearances.*
- *Among the different measures adopted to address the Zika epidemic, state, territorial, and local governments, as well as Federal agencies, effectively distributed preventative supplies and communicated protection measures.*



### Mitigation

The Mitigation mission area reduces loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Record flooding in areas of Louisiana, Texas, and West Virginia, along with a sixth consecutive year of drought in California, underscored the value of risk-mitigation activities. Selected key findings in this mission area include:

- *Federal departments, the private sector, and industry groups have launched new efforts to improve understanding of the value of stronger building codes and to increase their adoption.*
- *As the costs of wildfire suppression rise, public and private initiatives to fund wildfire risk reduction projects are emerging.*



### Response

The Response mission area focuses on saving lives, protecting property and the environment, and meeting basic human needs after an incident. Throughout 2016, a number of events demonstrated the importance of building these capabilities, including Hurricane Matthew—a major hurricane that led to flooding as it traveled up the Southeast coast. Selected key findings in this mission area include:

- *Federal agencies demonstrated agility by anticipating and reacting to evolving response needs during Hurricane Matthew.*
- *Public- and private-sector partners are collaborating to advance diagnostics, case monitoring, and case management in response to the Zika virus outbreak.*



## Recovery

The Recovery mission area focuses on maintaining and restoring important community assets after an incident, such as housing, infrastructure, businesses, and health and social services, as well as ensures consideration for natural and cultural resources. In 2016, the Flint Michigan Water Contamination was one of several examples that showed how Recovery capabilities help communities coordinate and tackle challenges. Selected key findings in this mission area include:

- *Re-establishing child care services is an important element in helping families to recover, but most child care centers face severe challenges after a disaster.*
- *Recent flooding events highlight ongoing gaps in delivering housing solutions efficiently and effectively after disasters.*

## ONGOING CHALLENGES



While the 2017 *National Preparedness Report* highlights numerous achievements toward implementing the *National Preparedness Goal*, it also points to areas where progress has been slow to occur. As identified in this and previous *National Preparedness Reports*, the Nation still faces a number of persistent and emerging challenges. These include:

- *Detecting and preventing attacks by homegrown violent extremists*
- *Balancing competing demands between increasing security and minimizing disruptions to travel and commerce*
- *Inspiring individuals to prepare for emergencies*
- *Improving responder capacity and coordination in catastrophic events*
- *Comprehensively addressing the housing needs of disaster survivors*

These challenges require sustained effort and innovative approaches to overcome. Future reports will continue to monitor and assess our Nation's progress in addressing these and emerging preparedness challenges.