

# Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP) Hurricanes Irma and Maria—Puerto Rico Data Fact Sheet

September 2018

The [Emergency Prescription Assistance Program](#) (EPAP) is funded by the Stafford Act and is designed to help disaster survivors access prescription medicines. EPAP can also be activated by the Public Health Service Act under the authority of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). The program utilizes normal business operations (e.g., electronic prescription claims processing, utilization of the normal pharmaceutical supply chain for distribution and dispensing) to pay for prescription medications for eligible persons.

This fact sheet provides a summary of the EPAP data collected and analyzed for **Puerto Rico only** following Hurricanes Irma and Maria from **November 2, 2017 to May 18, 2018**.

To request additional data beyond what is provided in this document, contact the HHS/ASPR [Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange \(TRACIE\)](#) at [askasprtracie@hhs.gov](mailto:askasprtracie@hhs.gov) or 1844-5-TRACIE (587-2243).

## Hurricanes Irma and Maria- Puerto Rico EPAP Claims

- The EPAP was enacted for residents in Puerto Rico on three separate occasions post-storm:
  - November 2, 2017-January 2, 2018;
  - January 18, 2018-March 15, 2018; and
  - April 13, 2018-May 18, 2018.
- A total of 12,069 claims for prescription drugs, durable medical equipment (\$420.83), and 36 vaccines (\$630.00) were processed through EPAP for a billable amount of \$1,056,037.45
- The total cost of EPAP to include program activation and deactivation fees was \$1,133,794.08.

## Patient Demographics

- A total of 1,848 patients were served from November 2, 2017 to May 18, 2018.
- Prescription numbers ranged from 1 to 74 per patient, with an average of 6.5 prescriptions per patient.
- Average age of patients was 46.7 years old.

## Pharmacy Demographics

- 245 pharmacies in Puerto Rico processed at least one EPAP claim.
- Average cost per prescription was \$88.27.

## Pharmacy Services

The figure shows the top 5 drug categories, measured by number of paid claims.

- Antihypertensives: 1,574
- Antidiabetic: 1,101
- Analgesics-Narcotics: 875
- Anti-asthmatic: 538
- Anticoagulants: 53

## Additional EPAP Information

This [overview fact sheet](#) includes more information on EPAP. Interested in EPAP data associated with other weather events? Check out these factsheets:

- [Hurricane Gustav Data Fact Sheet](#)
- [Hurricane Ike Data Fact Sheet](#)
- [Louisiana Floods Data Fact Sheet](#)
- [Superstorm Sandy Data Fact Sheet](#)

