



**PREPARE**

*Detect ★ Investigate ★ Respond ★ Recover*



# The Analytical Hierarchy Process: A New Tool for Complex Decision-Making in Public Health Preparedness Workshop title

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# Presentation Goals

## Analytical Hierarchy Process

- **Introduce Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP)**
- **Demonstrate utility in everyday life**
- **Showcase AHP<sup>2</sup> (All-Hazards Preparedness)**



# The Analytical Hierarchy Process

- ◆ When making complex decisions “numerous competing factors of the decision challenge ones cognitive ability to adequately evaluate and process the information” → intuition <sup>+</sup>
- ◆ A multi-attribute analysis technique that organizes complex systems/unstructured problems with many elements of different influence.
- ◆ Easy to use, automatable algorithm, well-accepted by policy makers.
- ◆ Uses stakeholder perceptions to find the most important elements influencing complex decisions (only as good as the experts).
- ◆ Mirrors our brains’ decision making process.

<sup>+</sup> Forman and Selly, “Decision by Objectives: How to Convince Others that You are Right”, World Scientific, 2001, p. 310.

Dr. Thomas L. Saaty  
University of Pittsburgh



# Our Complex System:

How to relate preparedness and response factors that may come into play during CRN emergencies?

- Multiple factors contribute to preparedness and response for chemical, radiological and nuclear (CRN) emergencies.
- Factors have different levels of importance depending on the situation – **NO 'one-size-fits-all' approach** to CRN emergencies.
- Input from **EXPERTS** is critical to generate valid findings and build recommendations to meet identified challenges.
- To meet this need we developed a straightforward, **customizable online AHP survey tool (AHP<sup>2</sup>)** ← directly applicable.



# Presentation Goals

## Analytical Hierarchy Process

- Introduce Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP)
- **Demonstrate utility in everyday life**
- Showcase AHP<sup>2</sup> (All-Hazards Preparedness)



# Illustration of AHP through example: How to buy a car

These cars are my possible choices. How should I decide?



In this case, only 1 or 2 experts!



5

Context-specific survey & application of weights.

4

Calculate factor, subfactor, & criteria weights.

3

Pair-wise comparison survey of factors, subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).

2

Build hierarchy elements: factors, subfactors, criteria.

1

Select elements contributing to the overall problem.



The context dependent =>  
Comparison of cars



5

Context-specific survey &  
application of weights.

The context independent =>  
comparison of different **attributes**

4

Calculate factor,  
subfactor, & criteria weights.

3

Pair-wise comparison survey of factors,  
subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).

2

Build hierarchy elements:  
factors, subfactors, criteria.

1

Select elements contributing  
to the overall problem.

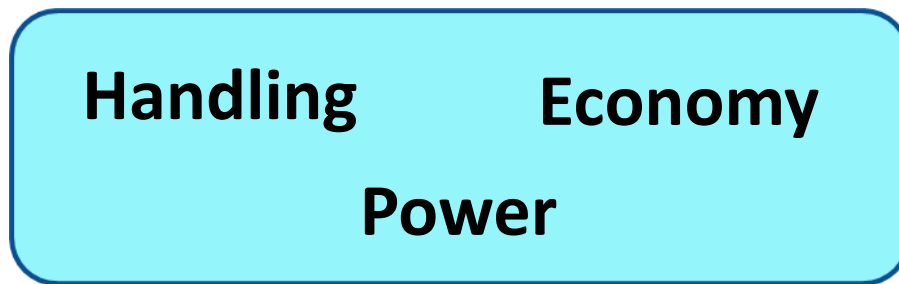




# Step 1:

Identify elements contributing to the overall problem

Choose a car based on key elements:

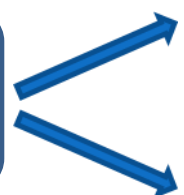


**= Factors**

Secondary elements also contribute to choice...



**(Factor)**



Breaking Distance

Turning Radius

**= Subfactors,  
Criteria**

Construct the AHP Hierarchy



# Steps Involved:

5

Context-specific survey & application of weights.

4

Calculate factor, subfactor, & criteria weights.

3

Pair-wise comparison survey of factors, subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).

2

**Build hierarchy elements: factors, subfactors, criteria.**

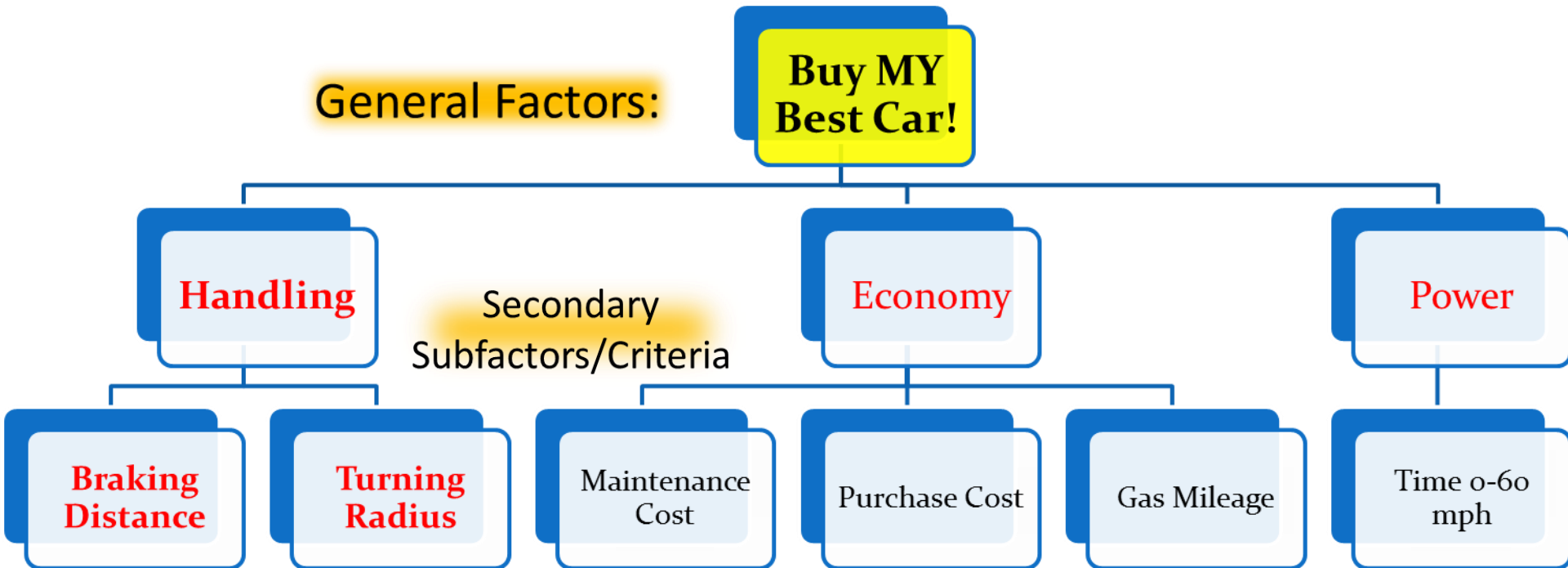
1

Select elements contributing to the overall problem.



# Step 2:

## Build AHP Hierarchy for car scenario

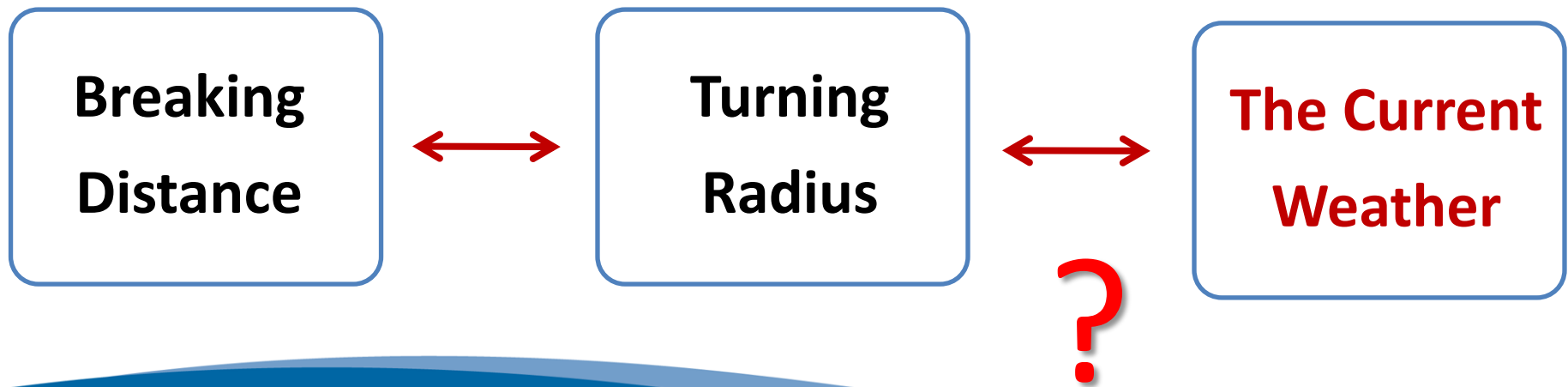


### Alternatives (Context):



# Important Caveat in Building the Hierarchy

**Example: Does it make sense to compare these factors in buying a car?**



# Steps Involved:

5

Context-specific survey & application of weights.

4

Calculate factor, subfactor, & criteria weights.

3

**Pair-wise comparison survey of factors, subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).**

2

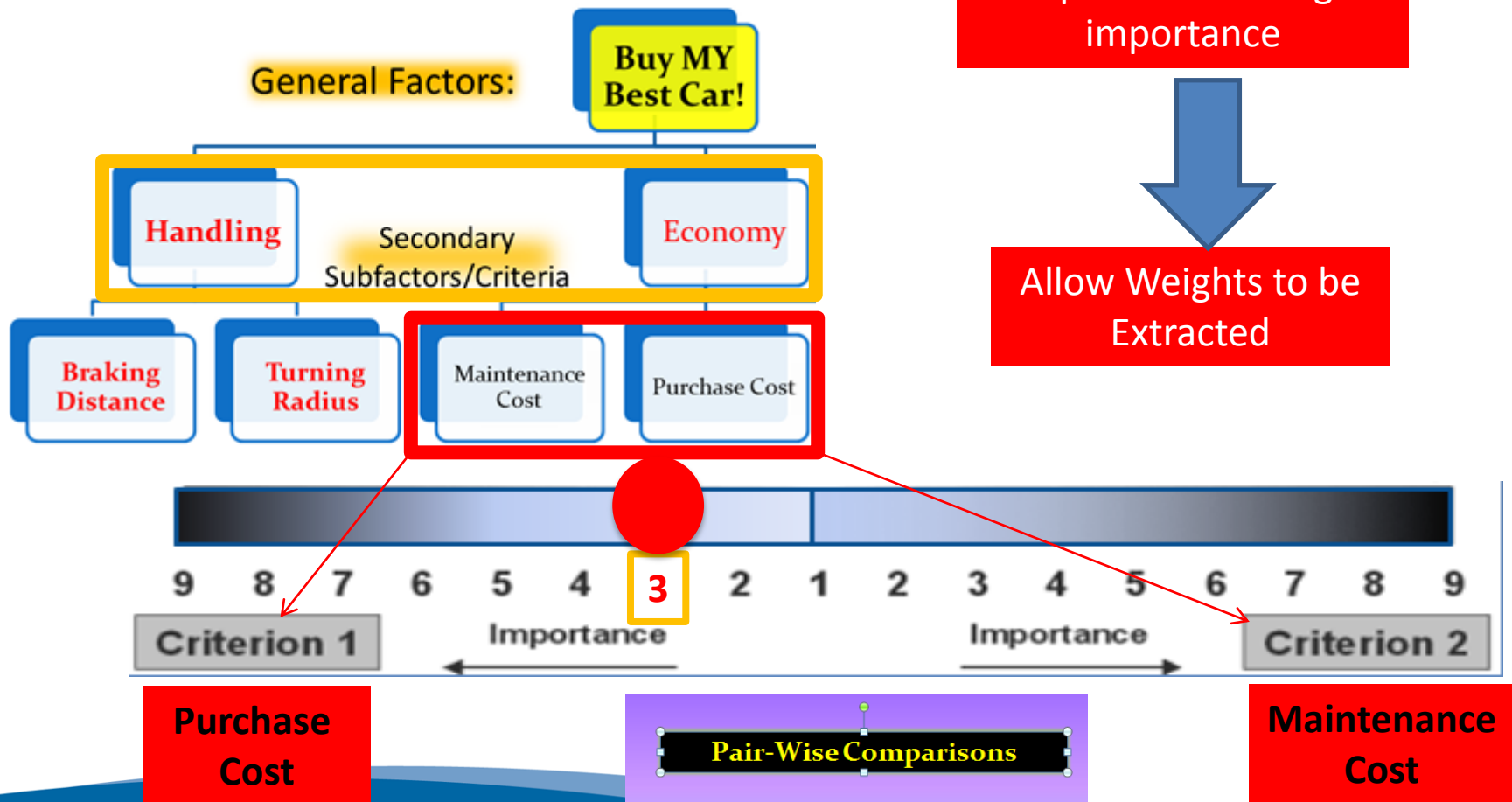
Build hierarchy elements: factors, subfactors, criteria.

1

Select elements contributing to the overall problem.



# Step 3: Pair-Wise Comparisons



# Steps Involved:

5

Context-specific survey & application of weights.

4

Calculate factor, subfactor, & criteria weights.

3

Pair-wise comparison survey of factors, subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).

2

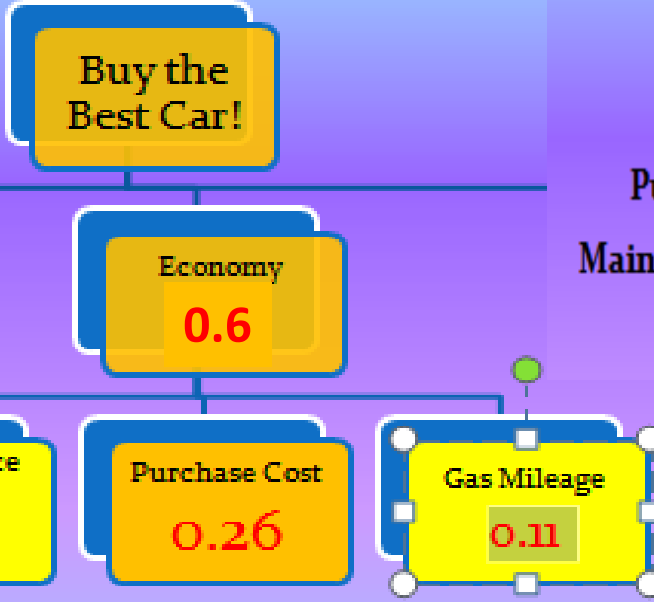
Build hierarchy elements: factors, subfactors, criteria.

1

Select elements contributing to the overall problem.



# Step 4: Calculate the Weights



	Purchase Cost	Maintenance Cost	Gas Mileage
Purchase Cost	1	3	5
Maintenance Cost	1/3	1	5/3
Gas Mileage	1/5	3/5	1



**WEIGHTS ARE:**

$$W_{\text{Maintenance}} = 0.384$$

$$W_{\text{Purchase}} = 0.156$$

$$W_{\text{Gas Mileage}} = 0.066$$

**BUILD TABLE OF WEIGHTS FOR ALL THE FACTORS, SUBFACTORS AND CRITERIA**

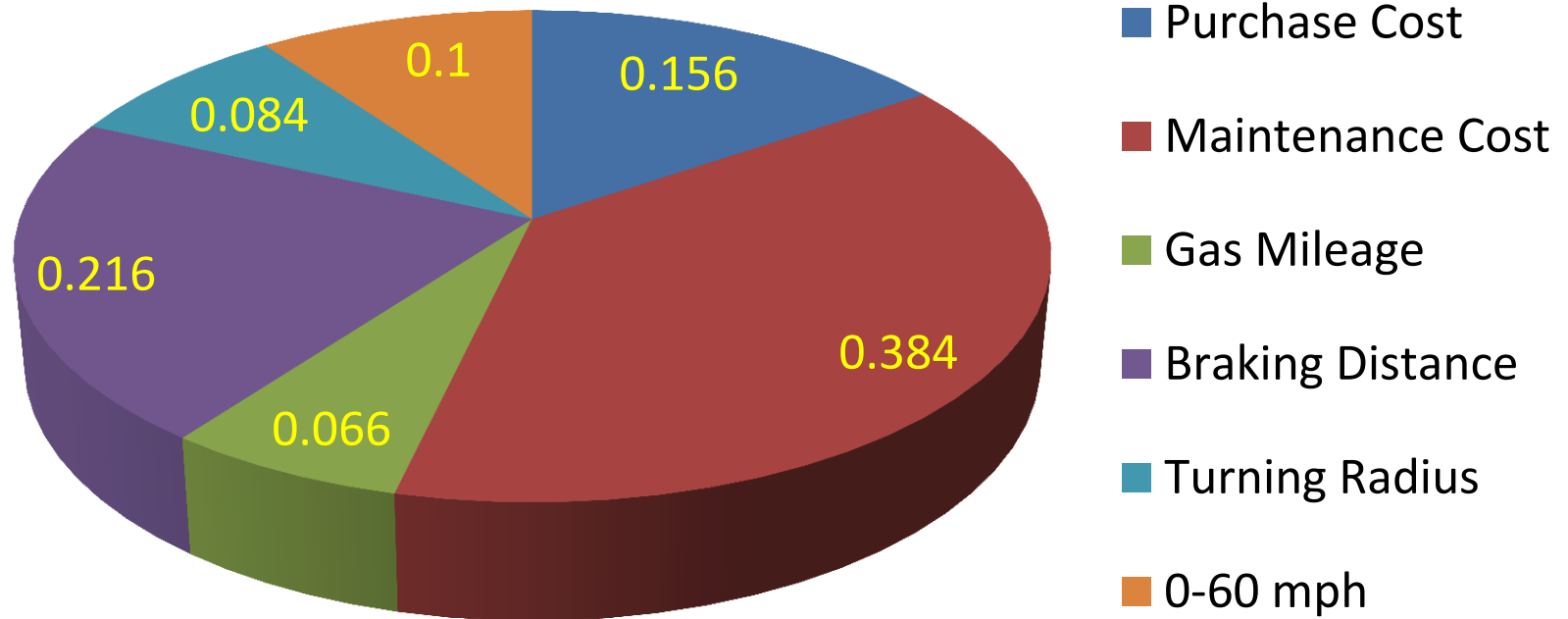




# Putting it All Together: The Final Weights



# Putting it All Together: Potency (Profile of Weights)



The context dependent  
Comparison of cars



**5**

**Context-specific survey & application of weights.**

**4**

**Calculate factor, subfactor, & criteria weights.**

**3**

**Pair-wise comparison survey of factors, subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).**

**2**

**Build hierarchy elements: factors, subfactors, criteria.**

**1**

**Select elements contributing to the overall problem.**



# Context Dependence

Context  
Independent

- **Comparison of attributes**
- Stop at Step 4

Context  
Dependent

- **Comparison of cars (alternatives)**
- Stop at Step 5



# Step 5:

## Weights Applied to Context: Which Car is the Best?

Compare the different candidate cars for each



**Alternatives (Context)!**

**RATING**

**Gas Mileage:**

**Trabant 1**

**Lexus 8**

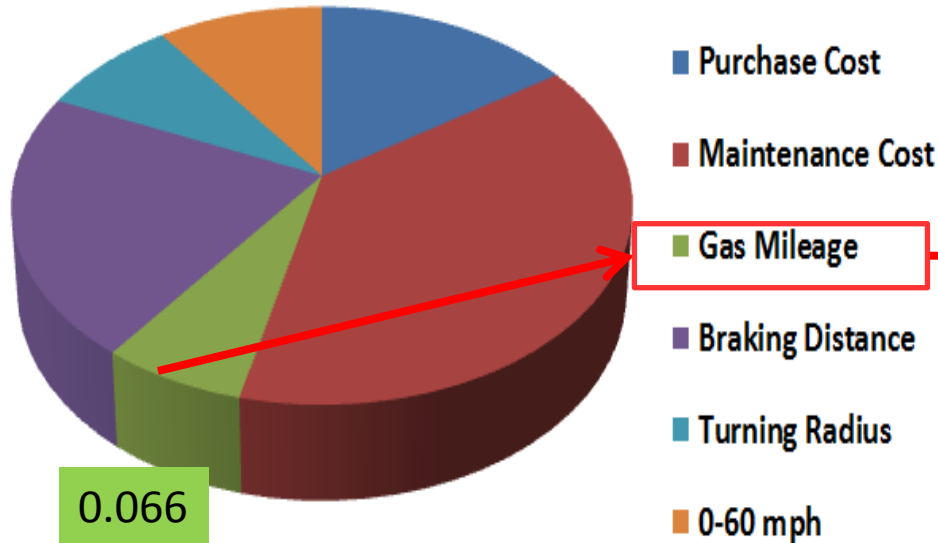
**Ford 5**

**$W_{\text{mileage}} = 0.11$**

		Worst										Most Favorable									
		[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]
Trabant	1	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lexus	8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ford	5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



# Favorability Rating: The Mileage Partial Score



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Gas Mileage Score (Brand)} &= 0.6 * 0.11 * (\text{Rating for Brand}) \\ &= (0.066) * (\text{Rating for Brand}) \end{aligned}$$

	RATING	MILEAGE PARTIAL SCORE
Trabant Score =	1.0 (engine)	-> 0.066
Ford =	5.0	-> 0.33
Lexus=	8.0	-> 0.53



# Favorability Rating: The Final Score

$$\sum_{i=1}^{Criteria} (Potency)_i (Score)_i = Total\ Score$$

Trabant Score = 2.25 (engine)

**Ford = 7.36**

Lexus = 4.37 (too expensive)

$$W_{Purchase\ Cost} = 0.844$$

$$W_{Purchase\ Cost} = 0.156$$

(Trabant: Weight Purchase cost (0.156) high, brand rating high (9) so for purchase cost partial rating is high (1.40) but the rest of attributes the total partial scores are low (0.84)!

	$Score_{Purchase\ Cost}$	$Score_{Purchase\ Cost}$
Trabant	1.40 (rate=9)	0.84
Lexus	0.56 (rate=1)	4.21



# The Ford Wins!



**SET MUST BE AS COMPLETE  
AS POSSIBLE!**





# Presentation Goals

## Analytical Hierarchy Process

- Introduce Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP)
- Demonstrate utility in everyday life
- Showcase AHP<sup>2</sup> (All-Hazards Preparedness)

$$\text{AHP} \times \text{AHP} = \text{AHP}^2$$



# What is the AHP<sup>2</sup> Tool?

- **Application of AHP to research public health preparedness;**
- **A multi-criteria survey method to analyze complex decision-making in public health preparedness;**
- **New online tool for public health officials to enhance all hazards preparedness.**



# How Can AHP<sup>2</sup> be Utilized?

- **Facilitate complex-decision making to systematically prioritize needs:**
  - **Prioritizing stakeholder needs in preparedness exercises;**
  - **After action evaluations (exercises & events);**
  - **Recognizing vulnerabilities of specific population groups;**
  - **Determining allocation of resources;**



# Example: AHP<sup>2</sup>'s Utility for Public Health

## Scenario: H5N1 outbreak in your local jurisdiction.

### ■ Questions:

- How would you best allocate resources during an H5N1 outbreak?
- Optimize preparedness for an H5N1 outbreak

### ■ Utility:

- AHP<sup>2</sup>'s pair-wise comparison provides clarity on **resource prioritization (resources become the attributes compared)**.
- Determine **unanticipated challenges** in responding to potential future events (identify priority resources).



# Welcome to the AHP for Decision Making

Created by Cal PREPARE, a CDC Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center (PERRC) based at the Center for Infectious Diseases & Emergency Readiness (CIDER), UC Berkeley School of Public Health, and the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS)

## Brief Overview

This survey makes use of an expert group decision-making process known as strategies. Through in-house testing with CNS researchers, we estimate that th

**Introducing  
AHP<sup>2</sup>**

dual gaps with respect to their own agencies' emergency preparedness

## Overview of the Analytical Hierarchy Process

The AHP survey will proceed in three steps:

- Select - In this step you will select criteria that you deem play a role under f
- Compare - In the second AHP step, you will be ranking the importance of y
- Scenario specific questioner - In the third step, you will be asked a rang

**Participant name is known  
but link between data and  
name is removed from the  
data**

u deem relevant to the concept of All-hazards Preparedness.

## Protecting Your Anonymity

We are committed to protecting your privacy in this survey. As soon as your su

## Online Support

Should you at any point in the process encounter technical difficulties, or requir support staff during this process.

**Provide support if  
participant has problems  
orienting the program**

no point will your private information or survey results be viewable by CNS

Thank you for your participation!

## Welcome to the AHP for Decision Making

Created by Cal PREPARE, a CDC Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center (PERRC) based at the Center for Infectious Diseases & Emergency Readiness (CNS)

### Brief Overview

This survey makes use of an expert group decision-making process known as the [Analytical Hierarchy Process \(AHP\)](#). It will elicit public health experts' perspectives on the strategies. Through in-house testing with CNS researchers, we estimate that the process should take between 15 and 30 minutes to complete.

**The information in these boxes can be tweaked by the survey manager**

**About you** ✕

The information below is voluntary

Where do you work? ▾

- Where do you work?
- Local Health Department
- Federal Government
- Non-Profit Organization
- State Health Department
- Academic Inst
- Contractor
- Other

## Welcome to the AHP for Decision Making

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### Overview of the Analytical Hierarchy Process

The AHP survey will proceed in three steps:

- **Select** - In this step you will select criteria that you deem play a role under five general All-hazards Preparedness criteria to one and
- **Compare** - In the second AHP step, you will be ranking the importance of your selected criteria to one and
- **Scenario specific questioner** - In the third step, you will be asked a range of criteria-specific questions

### Protecting Your Anonymity

We are committed to protecting your privacy in this survey. As soon as your survey is completed, your name will be removed from the survey data.

### Online Support

**About you** ✕

The information below is voluntary

Where do you work? ▾

What is your position/level? ▾

- What is your position/level?
- Executive Senior Manager
- Manager
- Individual Contributor
- First Responder
- Academic
- Other

# Steps Involved:

5

Context-specific survey & application of weights.

4

Calculate factor, subfactor, & **criteria** weights.

**GOAL**

How would you allocate **resources** during an H5N1 outbreak?

3

Pair-wise comparison survey of factors, subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).

2

Build hierarchy elements: factors, subfactors, criteria.

1

**Select elements contributing to the overall problem.**



# Step 1: Select Elements Contributing to Problem

Factors represent overall categories. In our H5N1 demonstration, factors consist of a health department's operational divisions during an infectious disease outbreak and **resources represent the criteria.**

## ■ The Factors (5):

- Research
- Preparation
- Detection
- General Response
- Medical Response

Factors necessary to decrease length of the survey. Definitions very important.

## ■ The Criteria (18)

- Public Information Education
- Laboratory Diagnostics
- Equipment Preparation
- Stockpiling Vaccines/medicine
- Alternate Care Sites
- Area plan coordination/training
- Communication
- Field Detection
- Medical Personnel Education
- Epidemiology
- Patient Research
- Agricultural Environmental research
- Vaccine-related research
- Incident Evaluation
- EMS/Hospital Equipment
- Veterinary Response
- Volunteer Organizations

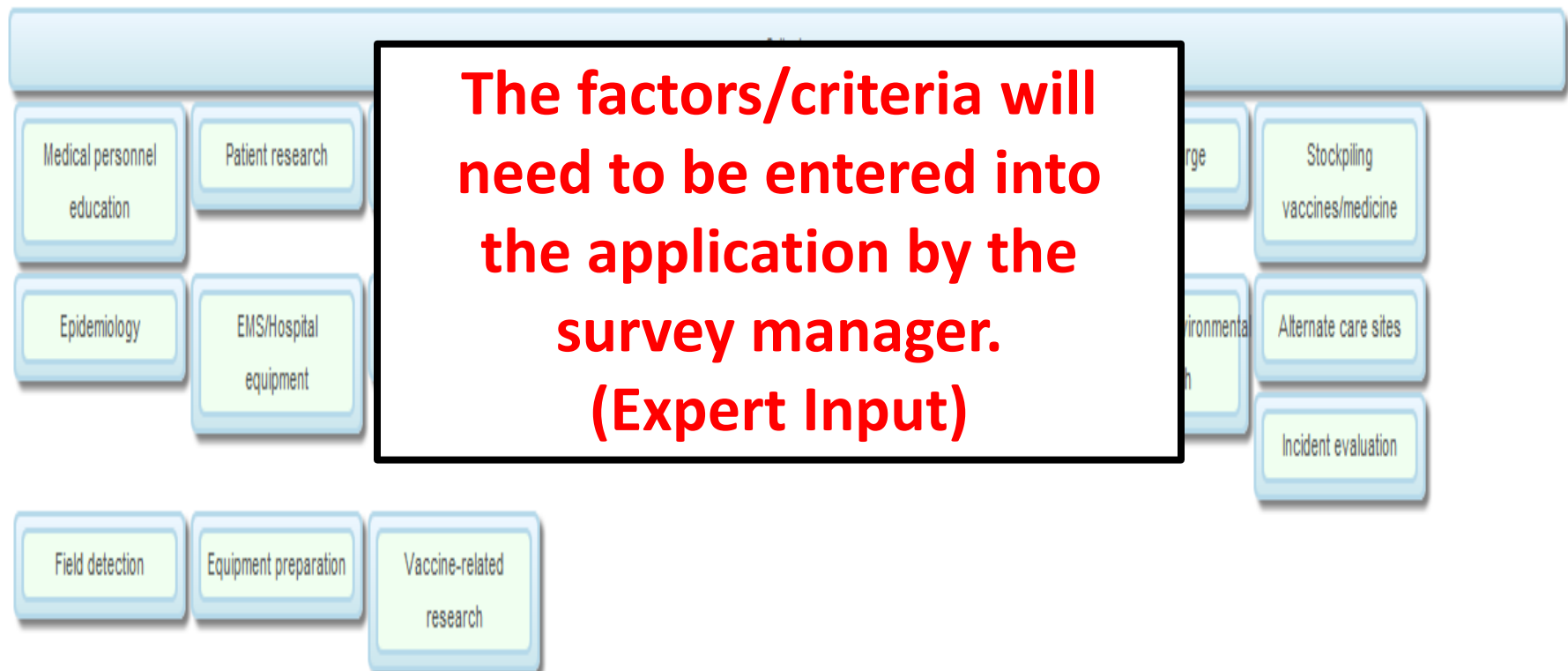




## Criteria Selection

[Start over](#) [Next](#)

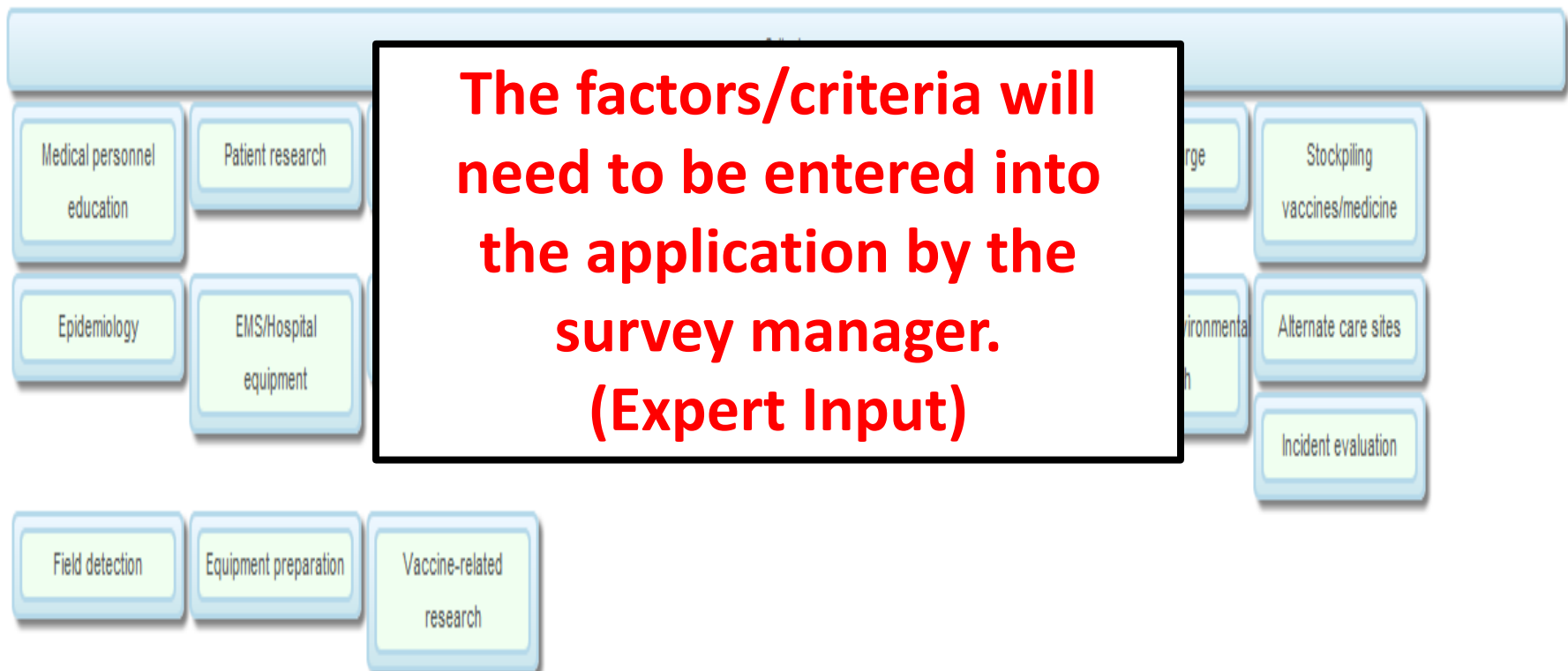
*Decide which criteria tiles belong in each factor branch of the tree (bottom). Please familiarize yourself with the definitions of the criteria and the factors by moving your cursor over them. Click and drag the criteria tiles to a box under the factor tree where you think they best fit. Replace a criterion by dragging a new criteria tile over the old one. Delete a criterion by dragging the tile out of the box.*



The interface shows a central text box with the instruction: **The factors/criteria will need to be entered into the application by the survey manager. (Expert Input)**. Surrounding this box are several criteria tiles, each in a light blue rounded rectangle with a drop shadow. The tiles are arranged in a grid-like fashion. On the left side, there are four tiles: 'Medical personnel education', 'Patient research', 'Epidemiology', and 'EMS/Hospital equipment'. At the bottom left, there are three tiles: 'Field detection', 'Equipment preparation', and 'Vaccine-related research'. On the right side, there are three tiles: 'Stockpiling vaccines/medicine', 'Alternate care sites', and 'Incident evaluation'. The tiles are partially obscured by the central text box.

Decide which criteria titles belong in each factor branch of the tree (bottom). Please familiarize yourself with the definitions of the criteria and the factors by moving your cursor over them. Click and drag the criteria titles to a box under the factor tree where you think they best fit. Replace a criterion by dragging a new criteria over the old one. Delete a criterion by dragging the title out of the box.

over Next



# GOAL

## Steps Involved:

4

Calculate factor, subfactor, & criteria weights.

3

Pair-wise comparison survey of factors, subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).

2

**Build hierarchy elements: factors, subfactors, criteria.**

1

Select elements contributing to the overall problem.



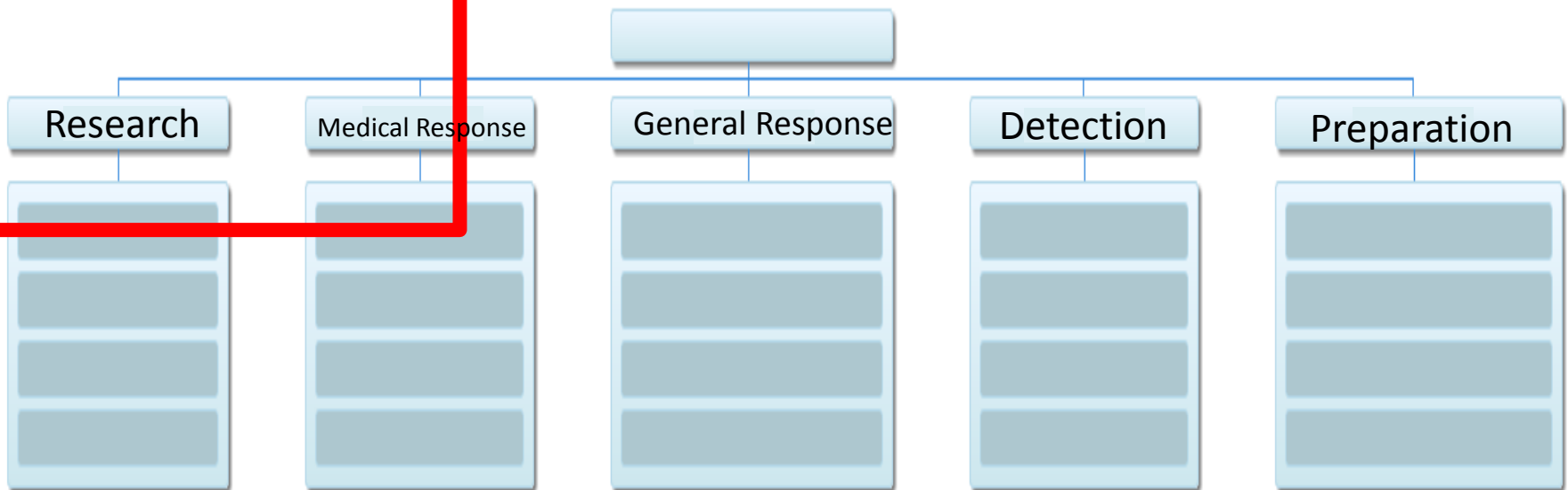
# Criteria Selection

[Start over](#) [Next](#)

Decide which criteria tiles belong in each factor branch of the tree (bottom). Please familiarize yourself with the definitions of the criteria and the factors by moving your cursor over them. Click and drag the criteria tiles to a box under the factor tree where you think they best fit. Replace a criterion by dragging a new criteria tile over the old one. Delete a criterion by dragging the tile out of the box.



## Factor Tree



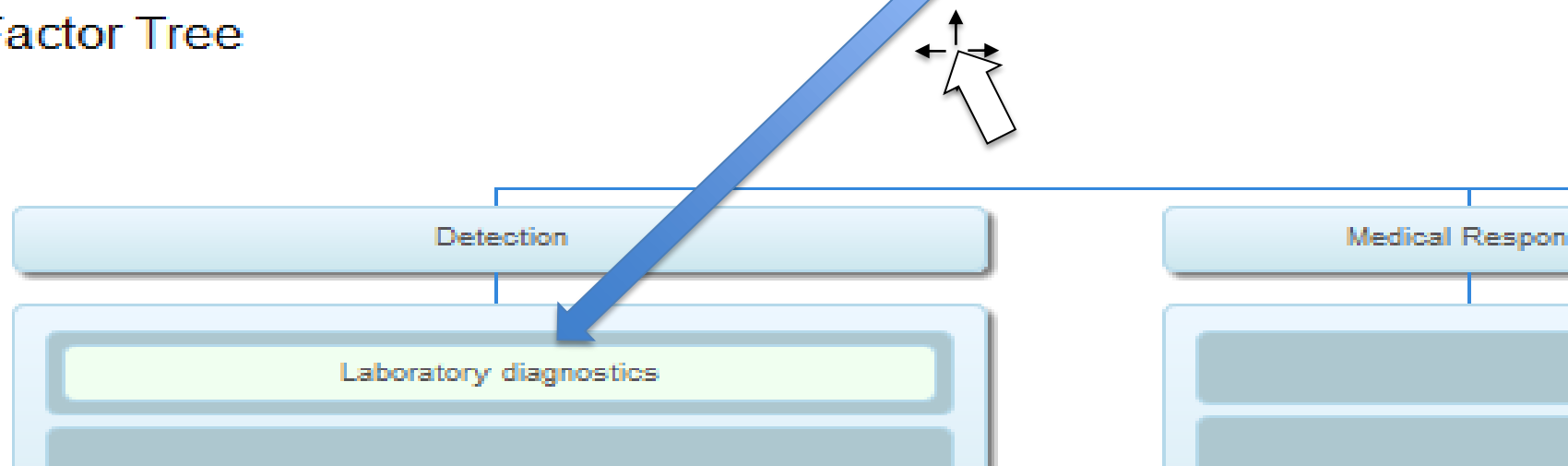
## Criteria Selection

Decide which criteria tiles belong in each factor branch of the tree (bottom). Please familiarize yourself with the criteria tiles and think they best fit. Replace a criterion by dragging a new criteria tile over the old one. Delete a criterion by clicking the trash icon.

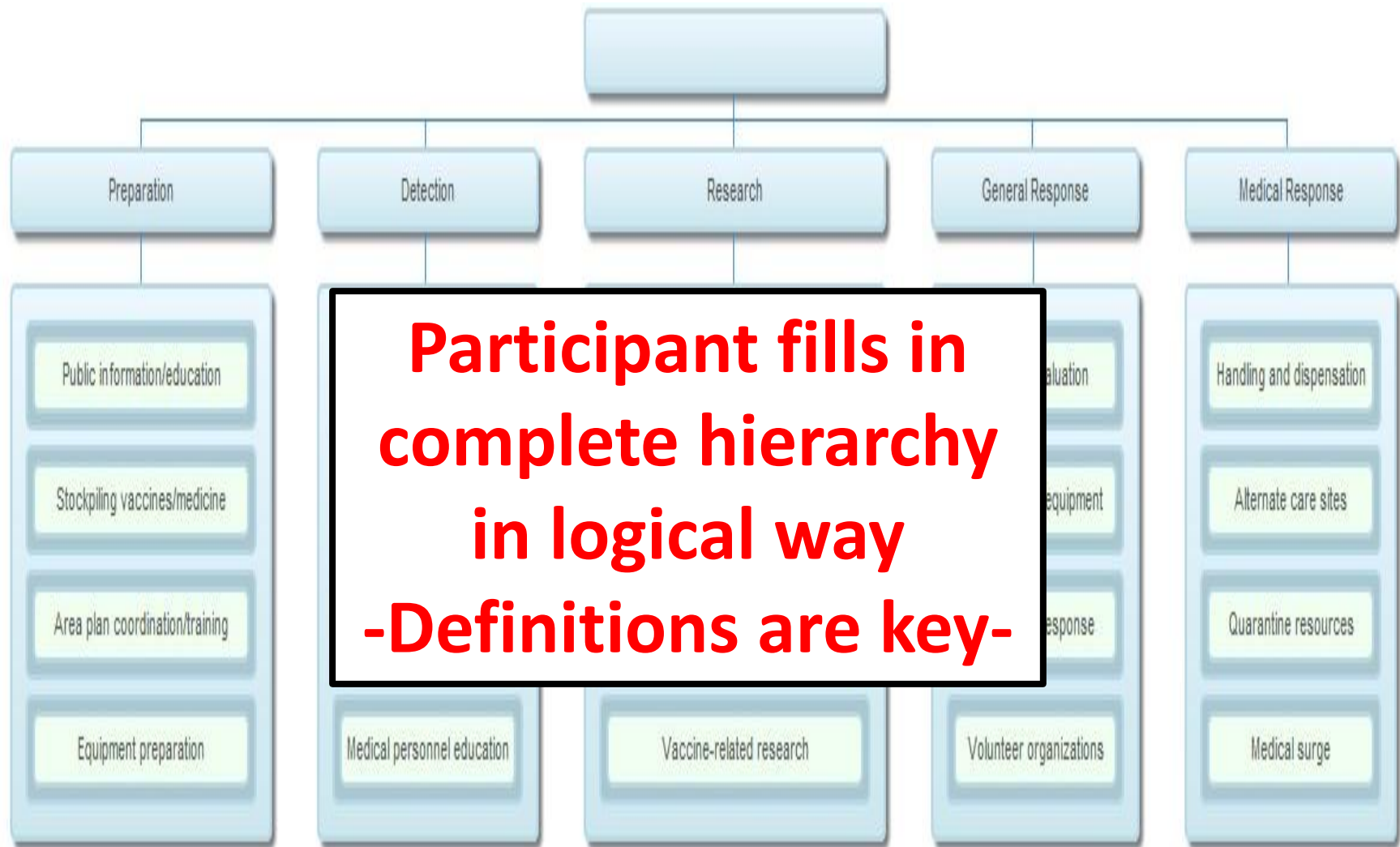
Criteria tiles available for selection:

- Vaccine-related research
- Laboratory diagnostics
- Veterinary response
- Quarantine resources
- Other partially visible tiles: 'Vol... organ...', '...paration', 'Patient...', '...ital nt'

## Factor Tree



# AHP<sup>2</sup> H5N1 Factor Tree:



# GOAL

## Steps Involved:

4

Calculate factor, subfactor, & criteria weights.

3

Pair-wise comparison survey of factors, subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).

2

Build hierarchy elements: factors, subfactors, criteria.

1

Select elements contributing to the overall problem.



# CNS AHP for Decision Making

Home

Logout (05b2c6f30295efa2f5d3bd896)

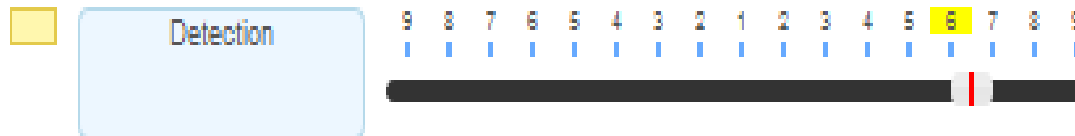
## Progress Indicator

### Factor Comparison

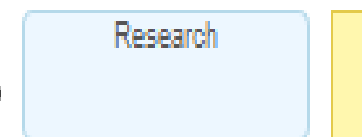
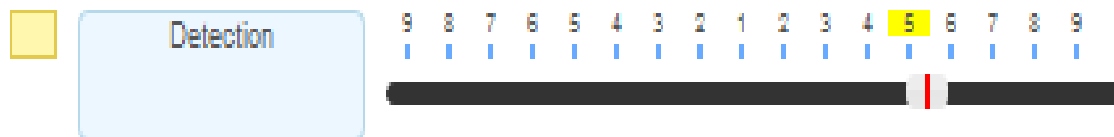
Please rate the relative importance of each factor. Move the slider closer to the factor you think is more important, or leave the sliders at 1 (equal importance). Sliders must be touched before moving to the next page

Very Significant   Significant   Same   Significant   Very Significant

**Participant moves slider to individual choice**



**Do for all Criteria and all Factor comparisons  
Design hierarchy to minimize length of survey but  
achieve "granularity" (detail) needed. Cant put  
all criteria in same group.**





# GOAL

## Steps Involved:

4

Calculate factor, subfactor, & criteria weights.

3

Pair-wise comparison survey of factors, subfactors, and criteria (context-independent).

2

Build hierarchy elements: factors, subfactors, criteria.

1

Select elements contributing to the overall problem.



# P-AHP: Determination of Potency

Once the user has completed the pair-wise comparisons - first of the factors, then of the criteria - the survey **uses the AHP algorithm** to calculate the weights.

The results are **not shown to the user**, instead are recorded by survey manager. The manager must decide the degree to which this information is shared.



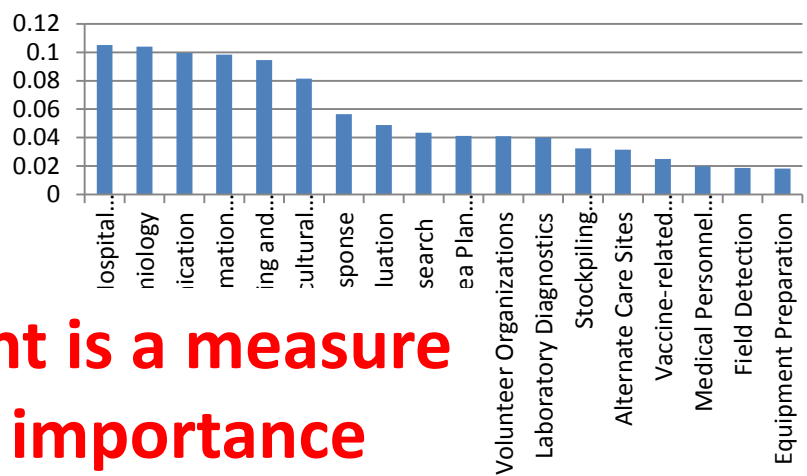
# AHP<sup>2</sup> Determination of Potency

<b>Epidemiology</b>	<b>0.248374</b>
<b>Incident Evaluation</b>	<b>0.189237</b>
<b>Patient Research</b>	<b>0.088705</b>
<b>Laboratory Diagnostics</b>	<b>0.076878</b>
<b>Communication</b>	<b>0.053223</b>
<b>Agricultural Environmental research</b>	<b>0.053223</b>
<b>Equipment Preparation</b>	<b>0.041396</b>
<b>Epidemiology</b>	<b>0.041396</b>
<b>Handling and Dispensation</b>	<b>0.041396</b>
<b>Medical Personnel Education</b>	<b>0.029568</b>
<b>Public Information Education</b>	<b>0.023655</b>
<b>Area plan coordination/training</b>	<b>0.023655</b>
<b>Alternate Care Sites</b>	<b>0.023655</b>
<b>Stockpiling Vaccines/medicine</b>	<b>0.017741</b>
<b>EMS/Hospital Equipment</b>	<b>0.017741</b>
<b>Vaccine-related research</b>	<b>0.011827</b>
<b>Veterinary Response</b>	<b>0.011827</b>
<b>Volunteer Organizations</b>	<b>0.006505</b>

**PRIORITIZATION  
OF RESOURCES  
ONE PARTICIPANT**



# P-AHP: Potency (average over many participants)



**Weight is a measure of importance**

**CAN BE USED AS A GUIDE FOR THE PRIORITIZATION OF RESOURCES**

EMS/Hospital Equipment	0.105062
Epidemiology	0.103992
Communication	0.0995
Public Information Education	0.098232
Handling and Dispensation	0.094454
Agricultural Environmental research	0.081554
Veterinary Response	0.056403
Incident Evaluation	0.048943
Patient Research	0.043458
Area Plan Coordination and Training	0.041218
Volunteer Organizations	0.041114
Laboratory Diagnostics	0.040144
Stockpiling Vaccines/medicine	0.032412
Alternate Care Sites	0.031593
Vaccine-related research	0.024952
Medical Personnel Education	0.019828
Field Detection	0.018772
Equipment Preparation	0.018369

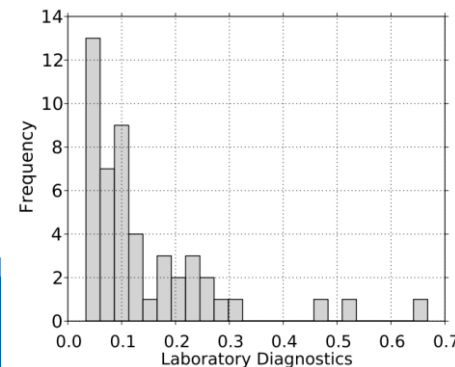
# Why use AHP<sup>2</sup>?

- **User friendly;**
- **Provides greater clarity (democratic);**
- **Multiple applications for survey use;**
- **Facilitates complex decision-making;**
- **Maintains user anonymity;**
- **Provides easy modification of questions and categories;**
- **It will be open source!**



# How is AHP<sup>2</sup> Different?

- We allow the participant to **select criteria** (weight profiles will be different)
- We allow the participant to **place the same criterion at the same level for several factors** (allow overlapping influence)
- AHP applications **tend to average pairwise comparison matrices** (before weight is calculated - inappropriate). We generate statistical distributions and mean.



# IN SUMMARY...

- **AHP is a multi-attribute decision technique – can be used for many applications;**
- **Requires expert input – only as good as the experts;**
- **New online tool for public health research: AHP<sup>2</sup>**
- **Easily customizable and will be available to public health officials for emergency preparedness**

