

# Disaster Psychiatry Review and Updates: Terrorist Mass Killing, Climate Change, & Ebola



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# Disclaimer

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# HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- Course runs 1-5pm
- Brief breaks along the way
- Additional slides
- Q&A at the end of each section
- Interactive polling...

# COURSE OVERVIEW

- Disaster Mental Health Principles
- Climate-Related Disasters
- Pandemics (Exposure and Contamination)
- Mass Violence

# Disaster Mental Health Principles

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# OBJECTIVES

- Review the type and frequency of disasters.
- Discuss the range of adverse psychological and behavioral reactions to disasters.
- Describe populations most vulnerable to adverse mental health effects of disasters.
- Understand important evidence-based early interventions to mitigate adverse mental health effects of disasters.

# WHAT IS DISASTER PSYCHIATRY?

# Definition of “Disaster” Varies by Context...

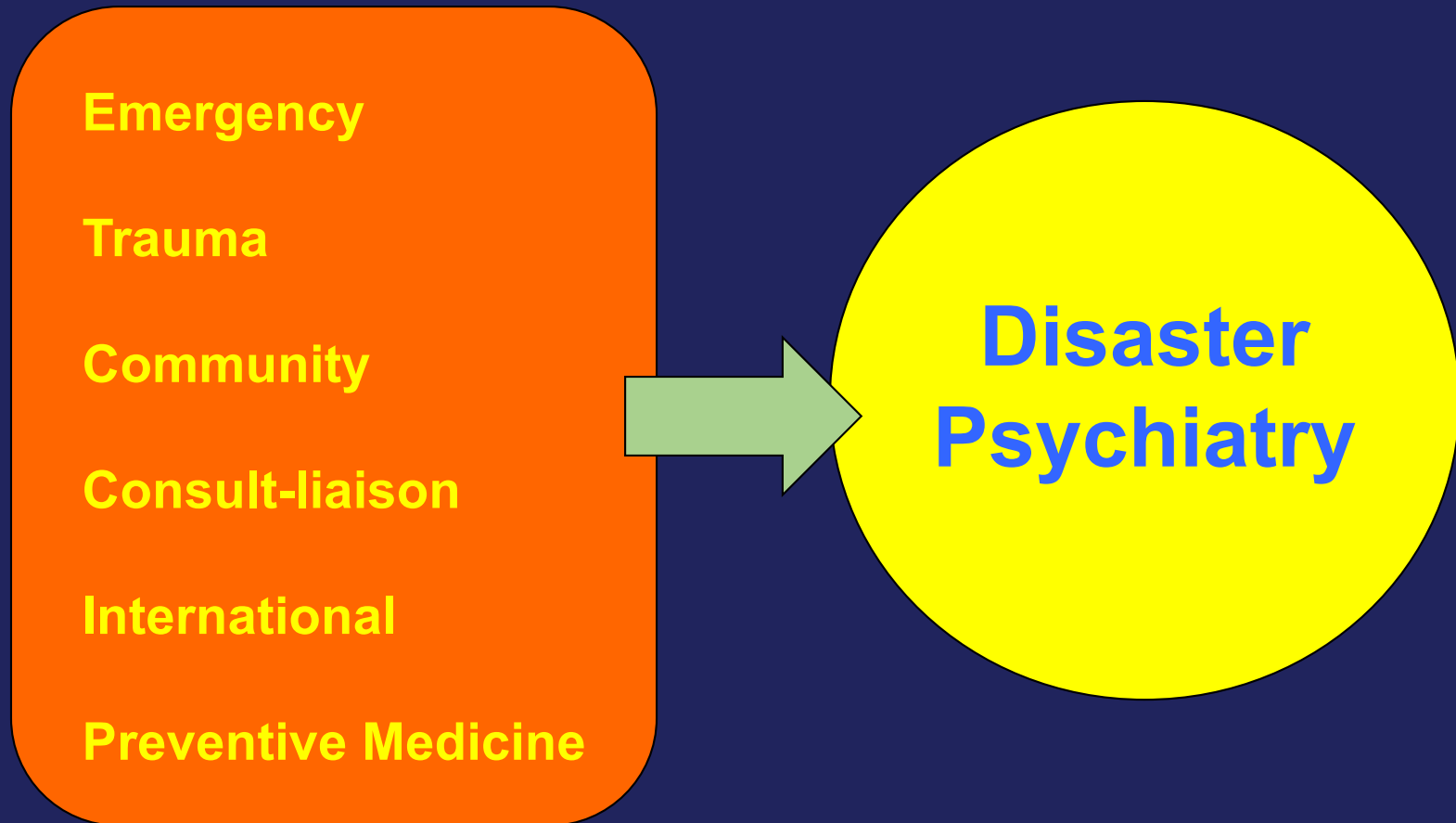
- Policy / Resourcing
  - Severe disruption, ecological and psychosocial, which greatly exceeds the coping capacity of the affected community\*
- Clinical / Research
  - Natural and human-generated events that produce a similar range of adverse psychological and behavioral responses



# Disaster Psychiatry

- “The professional application of mental health knowledge and expertise to the unique setting of disasters.”

# Synthesis of Many Fields



# Broad Focus

## PSYCHIATRY

Individual

Disease/Disorder

Treatment

Medical Consultation

Interpersonal Comm

Fixed/known facilities

## DISASTER PSYCHIATRY

Populations

Wellness

Prevention

Leadership Consultation

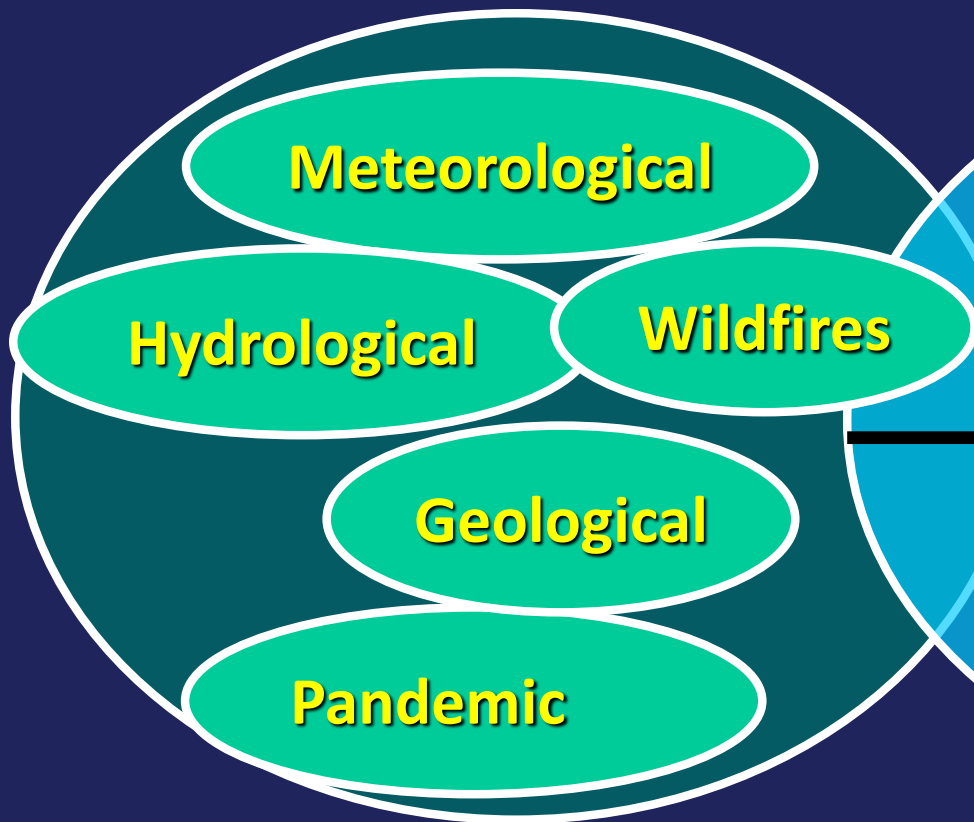
Health Risk/Crisis Comm

Whenever & wherever

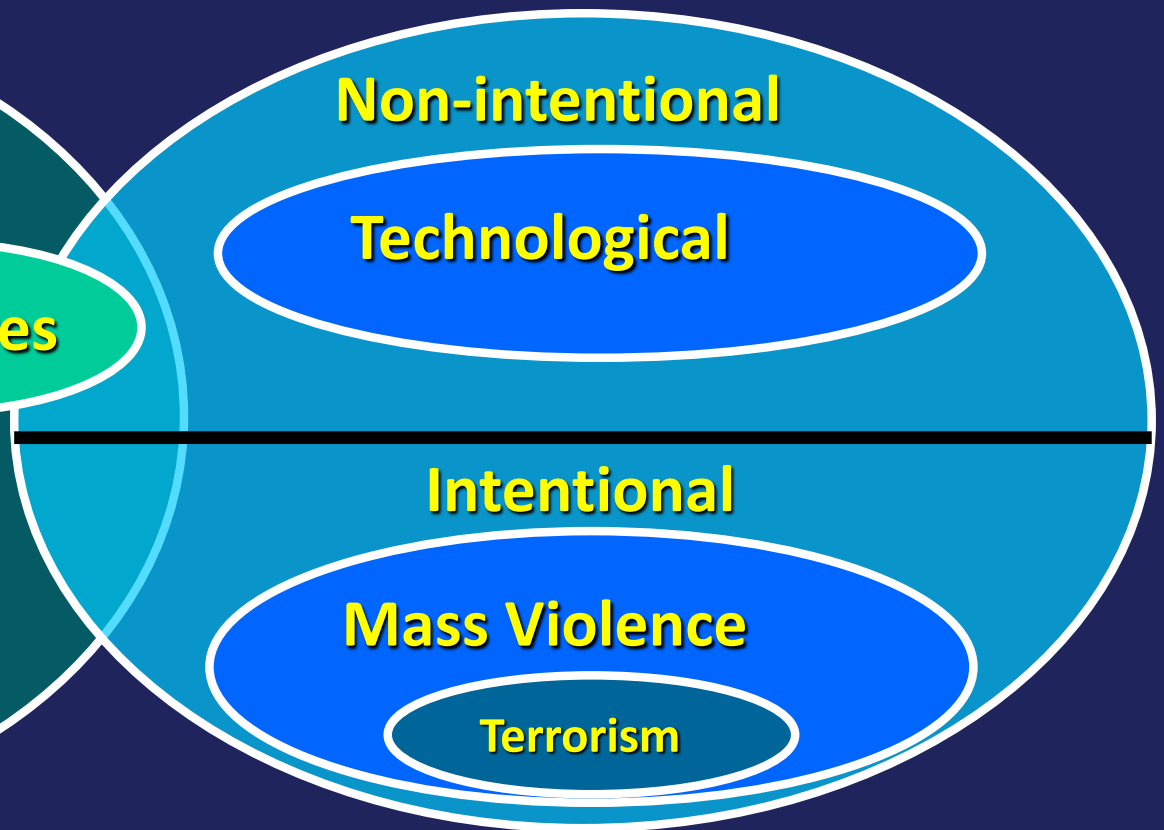
# TYPES AND FREQUENCY OF DISASTERS

# Categories of Disasters

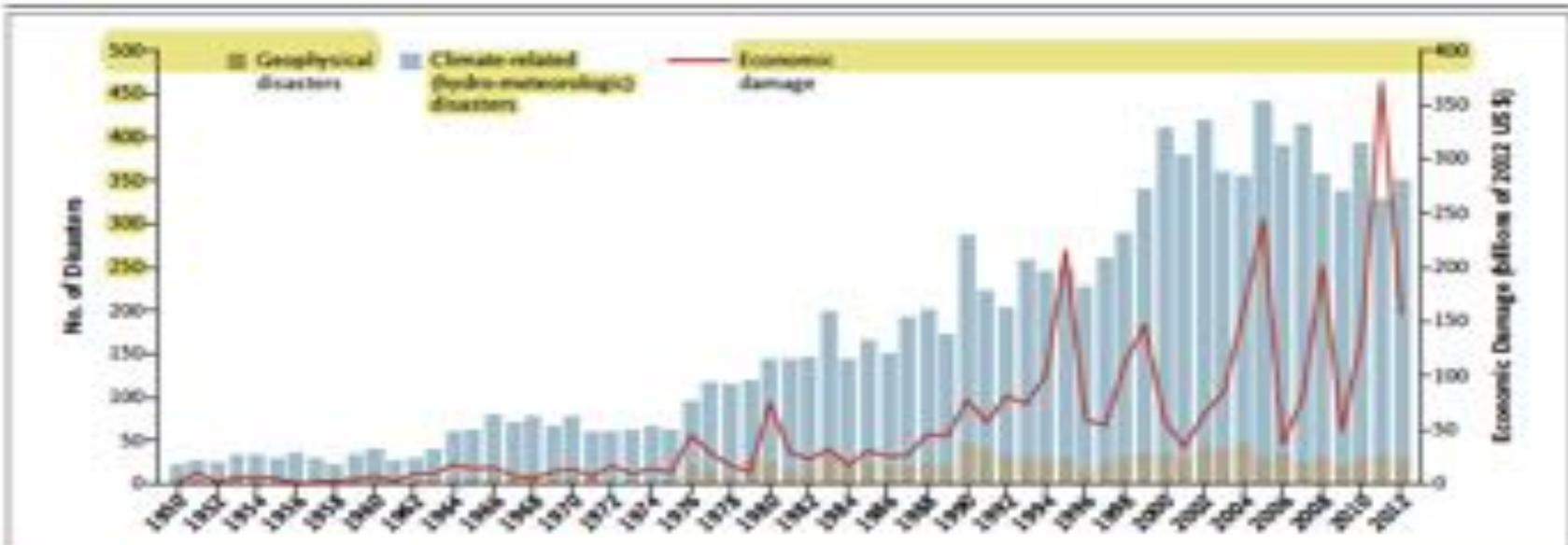
## *Natural Disasters*



## *Human-Generated Disasters*



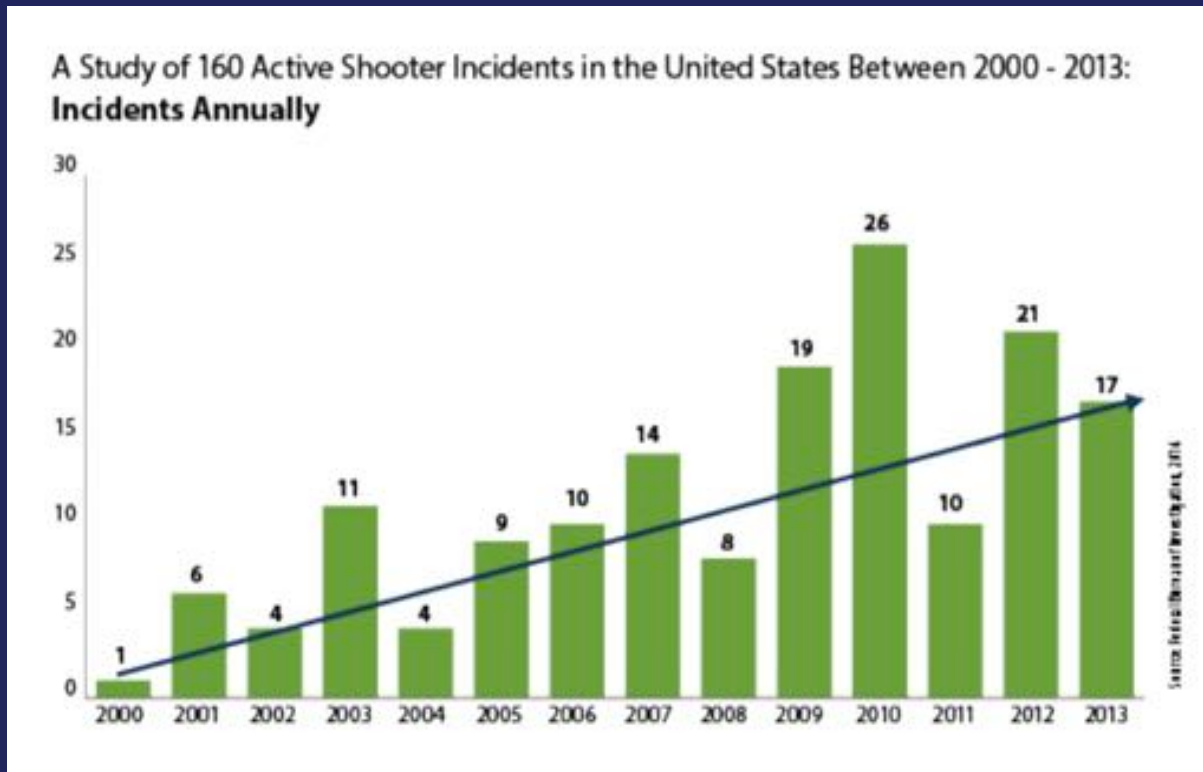
# Global Climate-Related Disaster Incidence & Cost (1950-2012)



**Figure 1. Numbers and Types of Natural Disasters, 1950–2012.**

The effect of a disaster on the local economy usually consists of direct consequences (e.g., damage to infrastructure, crops, and housing) and indirect consequences (e.g., loss of revenues, unemployment, and market destabilization). The estimated economic damage is for the year in which the disasters occurred and is given in billions of 2012 U.S. dollars. Data are from the EM-DAT International Disaster Database, Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, University of Louvain ([www.emdat.be/](http://www.emdat.be/)). Although this database tracks biologic events, such events are not shown here because they require very specific analytic approaches and are often not directly connected to geophysical and climate-related disasters.

# Active Shooter Incidence



“an individual(s) actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area.”

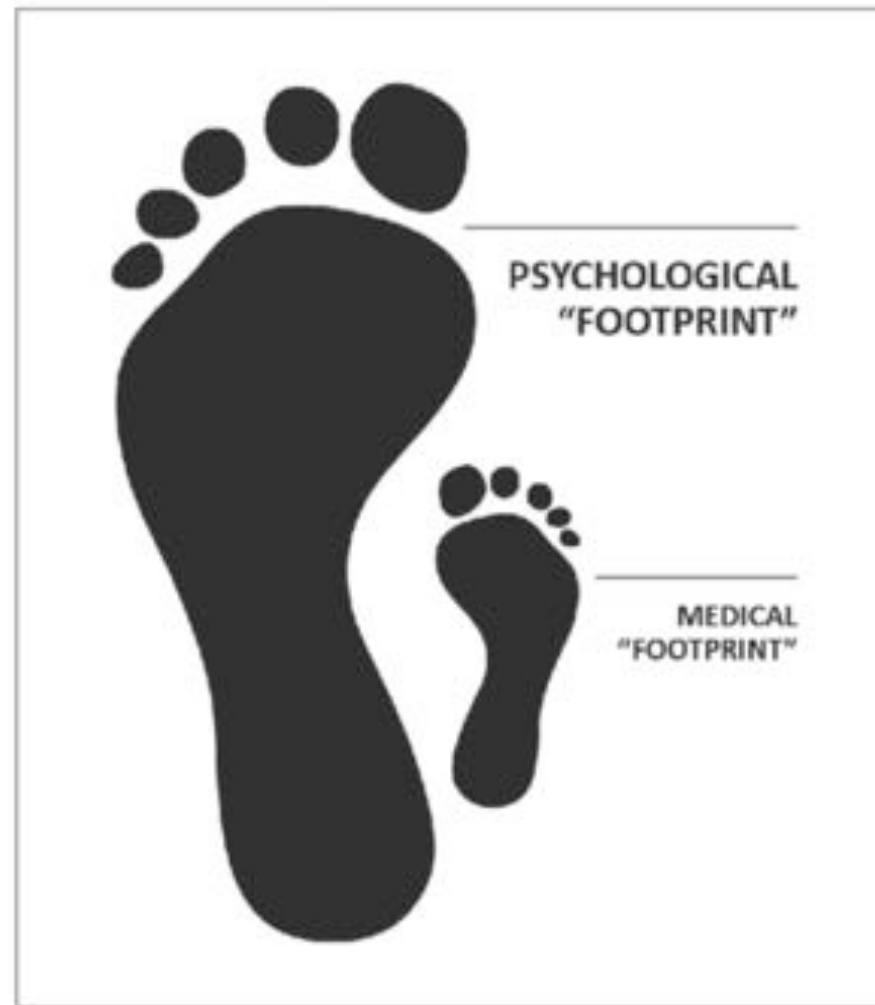
# Disaster Cycle / All Hazards Planning





# ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE TO DISASTERS

In a disaster,  
the size of the  
psychological  
“footprint”  
greatly  
exceeds the  
size of the  
medical  
“footprint.”



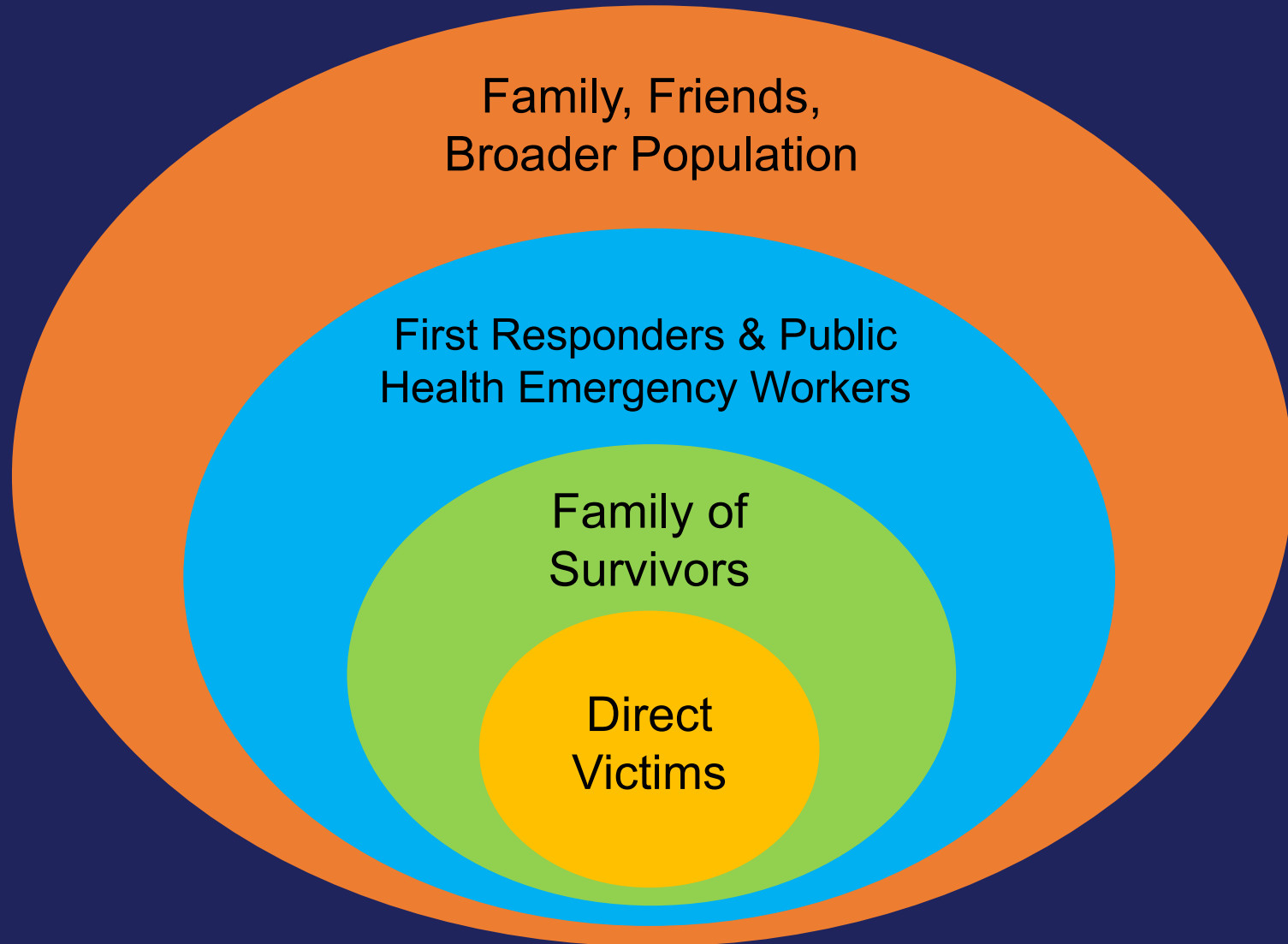
# Psychological & Behavioral Responses to Disasters



# Severity of Psychosocial Consequences by Type of Disaster



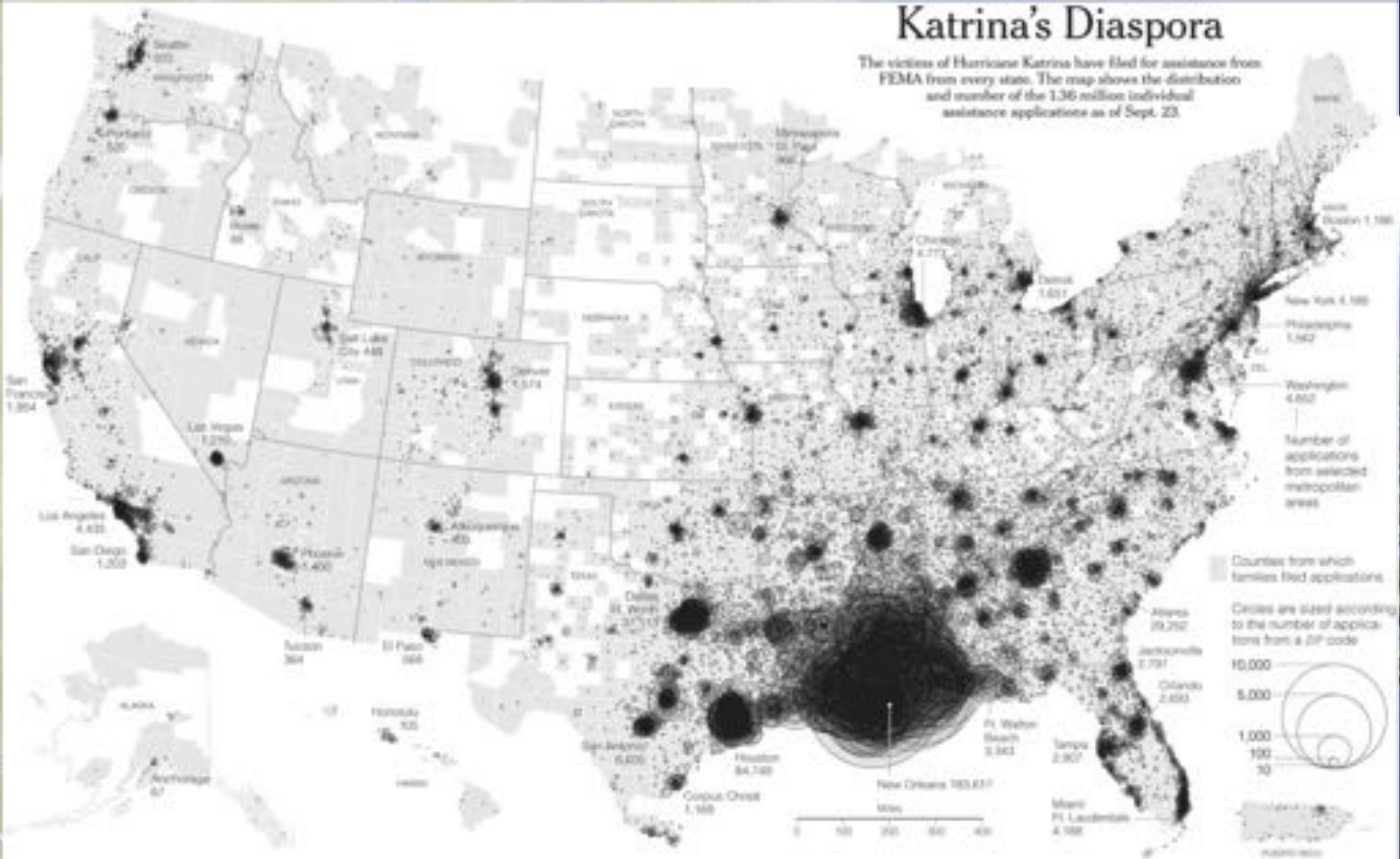
# Population Exposure to Event





# Katrina's Diaspora

The victims of Hurricane Katrina have filed for assistance from FEMA from every state. The map shows the distribution and number of the 1.36 million individual assistance applications as of Sept. 23.



They are scattered through all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico—423 in Utah, 1,214 in Kansas, 101 way out in Alaska. They are clustered by the thousands in large Southern cities like Dallas, Atlanta and Memphis, and holed up in handfulls in unlikely hamlets like Shell Knob, Mo. (pop. 1,282) and Fountain Run, Ky. (pop. 226).

Evacuees fled Hurricane Katrina and the floods that followed in caravans of cars and fleets of buses, on helicopters and chartered planes, by boat and, a few, on foot. A month after the storm, a map

emerges of where they landed, based on ZIP codes from which applications for aid were submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency as of Sept. 23.

Of 1,356,704 applications, 86 percent came from Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Alabama. But 21,528 families were more than 1,000 miles from the Gulf—among the farthest: one in Nome, Alaska, 2,921 miles from the French Quarter and another in Lihue, Hawaii, 4,279 miles away.

Residents of New Orleans, a city that was two-thirds black, seem to have flocked to the nation's African-American population

centers. On average, the applicants came from counties where blacks were 28 percent of the population, more than twice the national average.

Baton Rouge, La., appears to be temporary home to 39 percent of evacuees, Houston 6.25 percent. But after the top 18 hubs, applicants are spread like the wind that whipped through their old neighborhoods: none of the other 900-plus metropolitan areas has even 1 percent of the total.

Some 4,069 ZIP codes—among them Pocatamos, Minn.; Promise City, Iowa; and Hope, Mich.—had just one applicant.

### Applications by state

Louisiana	623,149	36.6%
Mississippi	383,840	28.3%
Texas	156,696	11.6%
Alabama	109,469	8.1%
Georgia	35,342	2.6%
Florida	31,006	2.3%
Tennessee	15,529	1.1%
Arkansas	11,027	0.8%
California	10,963	0.8%
Illinois	6,430	0.5%
Others	73,065	5.4%

### Applications by distance from New Orleans

MILES	APPLICANTS	PCT
0-100	628,230	46.3%
100-200	328,080	24.2%
200-400	184,169	13.6%
400-800	143,497	10.6%
800-1,600	45,371	3.3%
1,600-3,200	13,423	1.0%
3,200+	232	0.0%

Source: FEMA; Census Bureau; Census; Census Bureau; Department of Housing and Urban Development; and the New York Times.

# Community Phases



# Phases

- Variation in warnings
- Failure to heed
- Power & control beliefs





# Phases

- Pace and scope
- Range of reactions
- Survival & well-being



# Phases

- Survival, rescue, altruism
- Disorientation
- Evacuation & relocation



# Phases

- Bonding; shared event
- Optimism for wholeness
- Disaster BH most welcome



# Phases

- Reality; discouragement
- Chronic varied stressors
- Business as usual



# Phases

- Predictable
- Should be acknowledged
- Cohesion / healing



# Phases

- Self sustainment
- Loss/pain -> meaning/growth
- "New normal"



# Vulnerability to Disasters due to...

- Pre-event demographics / variables
  - SES, Age, Gender, Culture, limited social support
- Event impact
  - Injury, loss of home, displacement, bereavement
- Recovery impact
  - Relocation, job loss, degradation of support network



# Vulnerable Populations

- Pre-Existing Mental Health
- Children and Adolescents; Elderly
- Women, Pregnancy, Post-Partum
- First Responders & Emergency Workers
- Economically Disadvantaged & Homelessness
- Migrants & Refugees
- Loss of Home / Income / Social Support
- Physical Injury



# INTERVENTIONS FOLLOWING DISASTERS



# Psychological First Aid (PFA)

## The Five Elements:

Sense of safety

Calming

Sense of Self- and Community Efficacy

Connectedness

Hope

## Landmark article:

***Five Essential Elements of Immediate and Mid-Term Mass Trauma Intervention: Empirical Evidence***  
***Psychiatry, 70(4), 2007***

**Authors: Steven Hobfoll plus 19 other disaster mental health experts**



# What is PFA?

- What it IS...
  - Analogous to other forms of “First Aid”
  - Population-based response “framework”
  - “Do no harm” approach; resilience vs disease
- What it is NOT...
  - Cure or treatment for illness
- What it MAY be...
  - Mitigation strategy; reduce distress, dec illness

# Basis for PFA

- Safety – decrease threat exposure
- Calming – reduce arousal/anxiety
- Efficacy – belief in one's ability to manage
- Connectedness – increase social support
- Hope / Optimism – better things are possible

# Safety

- It's the "C" in CAB for basic life support
- Relocate to place that is clearly safe
- Educate about making environment safer
- Accurate, updated info re ongoing threat
- Engage media re messages of safety and resilience-promoting behaviors



# Safety



- DC Sniper shootings 02-24 October 2002; survey May 2013
- 1204 random residents of Washington, DC and Maryland
- Phone survey; Response rate 56.4%
- Decreased safety >>> Increased PTSD, Depression, Alcohol use

Table 2. Perceived safety in community settings (n = 1205, except for workplace category where n = 876)

Degree of safety	In neighborhood % (95% CI)	At workplace and surrounding area % (95% CI)	At other public places % (95% CI)	At gas stations % (95% CI)
A lot less safe	21.5 (18.7–24.2)	22.7 (19.2–26.1)	30.6 (27.5–33.7)	38.6 (35.4–41.9)
A little less safe	35.7 (32.4–38.9)	31.5 (27.9–35.4)	35.3 (32.1–38.5)	31.1 (27.9–34.2)
As safe as usual	42.4 (39.0–45.8)	45.6 (41.6–49.5)	32.0 (28.8–35.2)	26.8 (23.7–30.0)
“Don’t know” and refusals	0.5	0.2	2.1	3.5

CI, confidence interval.

Fullerton, C. S., Herberman Mash, H. B., Benevides, K. N., Morganstein, J. C., & Ursano, R. J. (2015). Distress of Routine Activities and Perceived Safety Associated with Post-Traumatic Stress, Depression, and Alcohol Use: 2002 Washington, DC, Sniper Attacks. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, 9(5), 509–515.

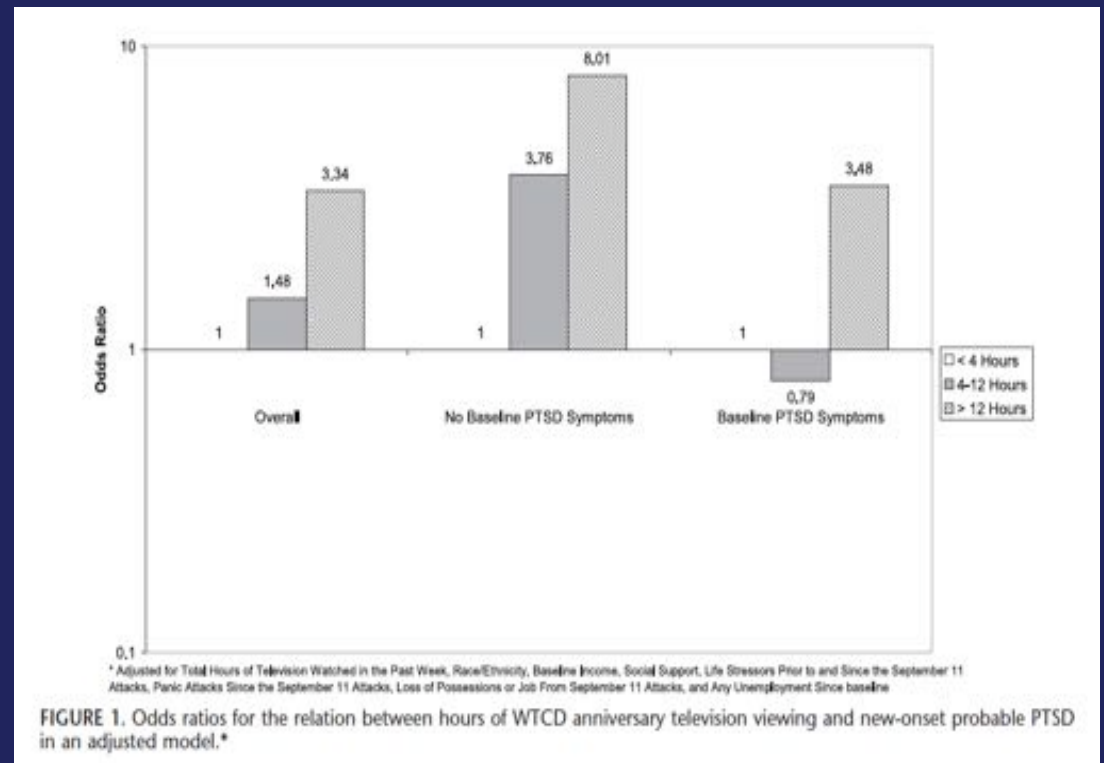
# Calming

- Help w/ sleep problems
- Teach simple relaxation techniques
- Listen to people who want to talk, stay calm
- Be compassionate even if people are angry
- Provide help to solve problems; manageable issues
- Info on family/friend safety & further danger
- Psychoeducation: normal reactions; signs of more severe illness/dysfunction; minimize use of alcohol and tobacco; where to get help
- Encourage limiting exposure to news media



# Calming

- 1787 NY adults
- Multiple assessments post 9/11
- Study outcome = probable PTSD
- Exposure was hrs watching the 9/11 “1-yr anniversary” media coverage



# Self & Community Efficacy

- Provide outside resources, timely updates
- Education material (“how to talk/fill out/etc...”)
- Community involvement in policy, efforts
- Promote community conceived & implemented ideas (religious, meetings, collaborations, rituals)



# Self & Community Efficacy

- Help individuals set achievable goals to:
  - Reverse feelings of failure / inability to cope
  - Create repeated success experiences
  - Re-establish a sense of environmental control
- Set achievable goals by:
  - Focusing on 1 need at a time
  - Focus first on needs w/ immediate solutions
  - If can't solve rapidly, take action steps to address

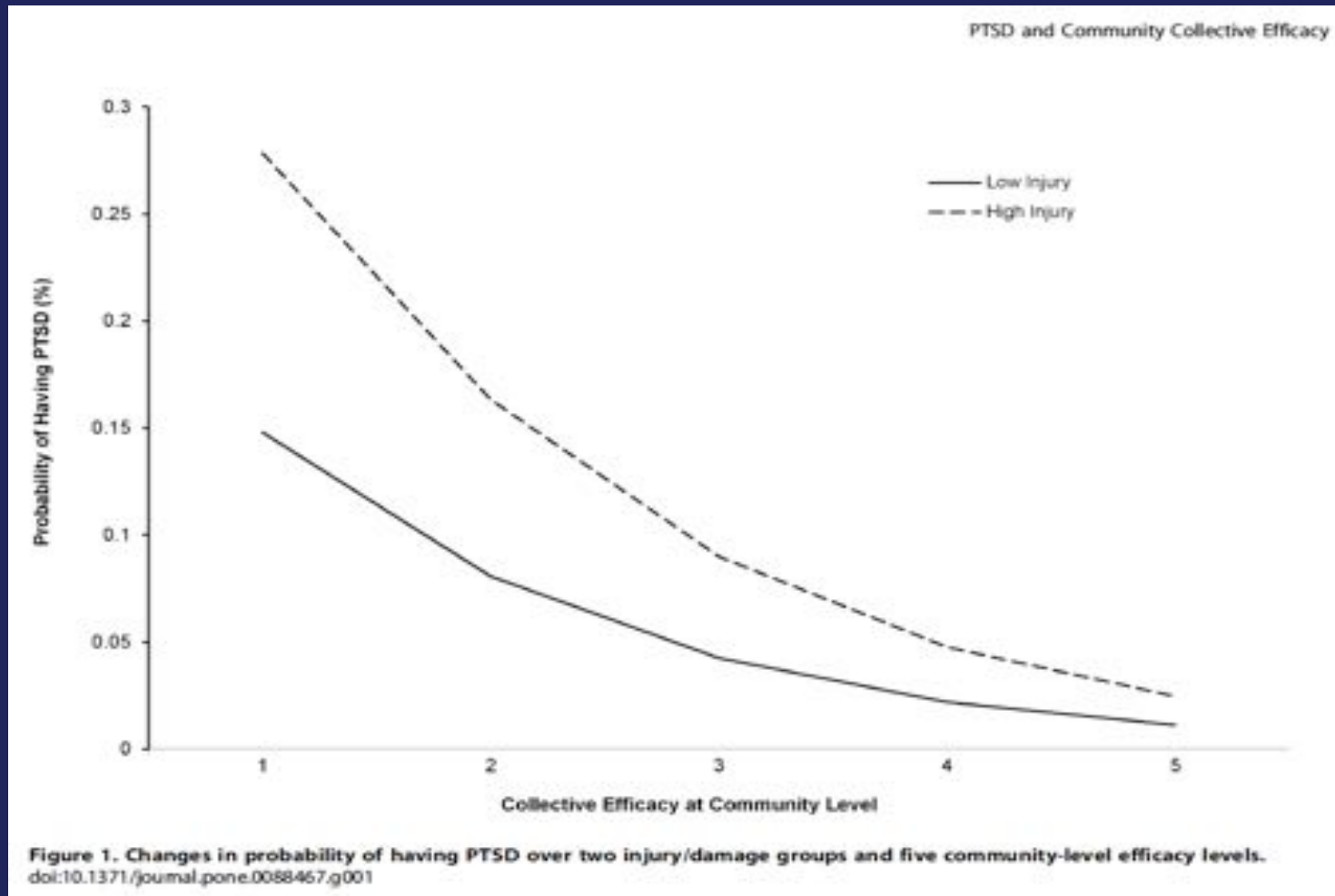
# Self & Community Efficacy

- Community Collective Efficacy (CE) – “Willingness of community members to intervene for the common good.”
  - 2,249 Florida DOH workers s/p 2004 Florida Hurricanes
  - Age, gender, marital status, storm damage/injury
  - CE, depression, PTSD
  - Higher CE >>> Decreased depression and PTSD

Fullerton, C. S., Ursano, R. J., Liu, X., McKibben, J., & Wang, L. (2015). Depressive symptom severity and community collective efficacy following the 2004 Florida hurricanes. *PLoS ONE*. <http://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0130863.t002>

Ursano, R. J., McKibben, J., Reissman, D. B., & Liu, X. (2014). Posttraumatic stress disorder and community collective efficacy following the 2004 Florida hurricanes. *PLoS ONE*. <http://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0088467.t006>

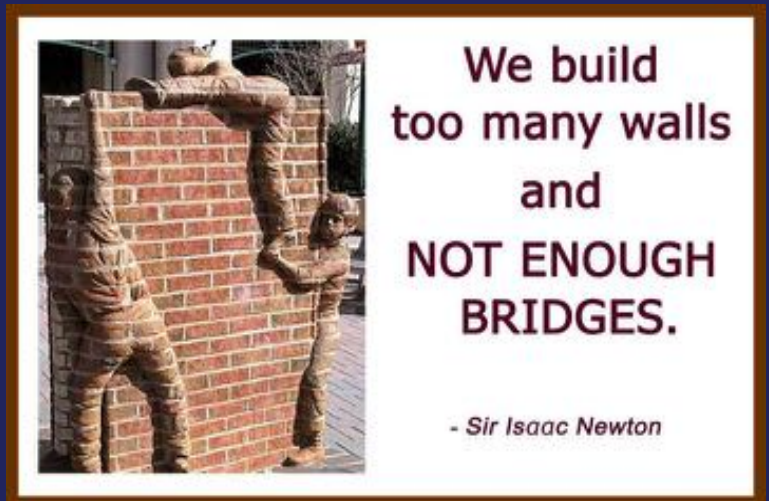
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# Social Connectedness

- Help individuals find, communicate, stay w/ loved ones (cell phone, web, etc)
- Identify/assist vulnerable populations:
  - Lacking good support (or access to usual support)
  - Isolated due to socioeconomic illness, mental health



# Social Connectedness

- Enhance access to primary support persons
- Encourage use of immediately-available support
- Discuss support-seeking
  - Identify possible support persons
  - Discuss what to do/talk about
  - Explore reluctance to seek support
- Address extreme isolation or withdrawal

# Social Connectedness

- Hurricane Katrina
- 1,077 displaced or greatly affected houses
- In-person 6-12 mon, telephone 20-23 mon
- Stronger reported social support a/w sig better mental health status



Abramson, D., Stehling-Ariza, T., Garfield, R., & Redlener, I. (2008). Prevalence and predictors of mental health distress post-Katrina: findings from the Gulf Coast Child and Family Health Study. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, 2(2), 77–86.

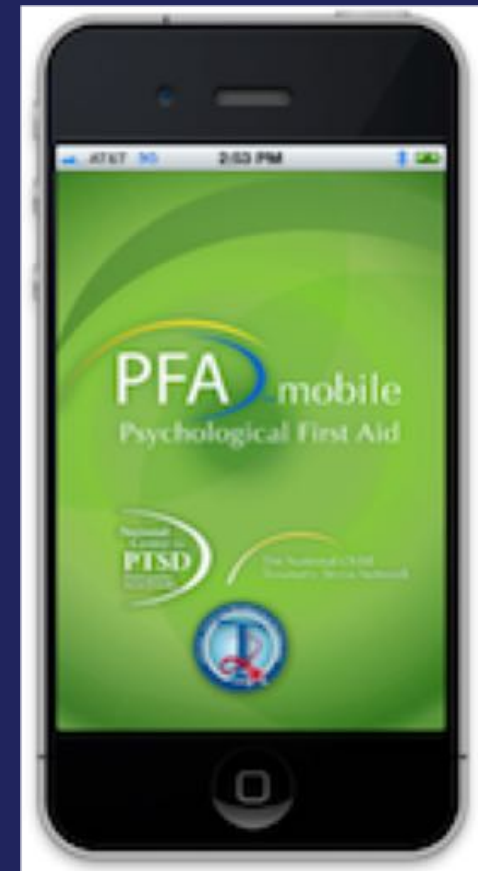


# Hope & Optimism

- Encourage programs that restore normalcy
- Develop/publicize problem-solving programs
- Support rebuilding of local economies
- Role for community leaders:
  - Encourage link-up w/ resources, cooperation
  - Coping behaviors & hope thru role modeling
  - Memorializing and creating meaning
  - Accepting necessary life & environmental changes

# Mobile Resource

- PFA Mobile app (Free)
  - Summaries of the 8 core PFA actions
  - Match PFA interventions to specific stress reactions of survivors
  - Get mentor tips for applying PFA in the field
  - Self-assess to determine your own readiness to conduct PFA
  - Assess and track victims' needs to simplify data collection and referrals



# Non-Pharmacologic Interventions

- Psychoeducation / Normalization
  - Expected reactions and when to seek help
  - “Normal reaction to an abnormal stressor”
- Social Support
  - Use and build support networks
- Optimize Sleep & Enhance Calming
  - Sleep Hygiene, Diaphragmatic Breathing, Progressive Muscle Relaxation, Visual Imagery

# Medications – acute care

- Sleep is essential to aid calming
- Short-term meds options:
  - Prazosin 3-15mg qhs (nightmares)
  - Trazodone 25-100mg qhs (helpful for co-morbid depression or in those at increased risk of dependence; priapism risk)
  - Lunesta 2-3mg qhs prn (sleep initiation & maintenance)
  - Ambien 5-10mg qhs prn (sleep initiation & maintenance)
  - Sonata 5-10mg qhs prn (sleep initiation)
  - Caution w/ SGAs (generally unhelpful, may cause harm)



# Collaborative Care

- Distress Reactions, Health Risk Behaviors, Psychiatric Disorders generally present first in Primary Care and ED settings
- Collaborate care with PCMs to provide education & consultation on interventions
- Medicare now covers Psychiatric Consultations in Collaborative Care (\*)

# Leadership Consultation



- Grief Management
  - Anticipate, identify, support
- Stress Management
  - "Put on your oxygen mask first"
- Communication
  - What, when, how

“Better than any medication we know,  
information treats anxiety in a crisis.”

*Source: Saathoff, 2002*

Communication is a  
behavioral health intervention



# Communication - Rationale

The behavioral choices people make to stay in place, evacuate, seek or not seek medical care, search for loved ones, etc. *are very real life and death decisions.*



# Communication - Focus

**What People Want To Know  
In Addition To  
What We Want Them To Know**

**“Therapeutic  
rapport” on a  
population level**

# Communication - Forms

- Written and spoken word
- Behavior
- Imagery
- Rituals & Symbols



# Health Risk & Crisis Communication

- Clear, timely, accurate, repeated
- Start with most relevant info
- If you don't know, say so
- Never make things up
- Use language people understand
- Victory favors the prepared
  - Message mapping...

It's not WHAT  
you say, it's  
HOW you say it!

# PREPAREDNESS: PROVIDERS & PATIENTS

# Organization / Clinical Practice

- Clarify your role(s)
  - Treatment, Leadership Consultation
- Organizational management
  - APA District Branch, NGO, other
  - Internal Expertise, Clear Messaging
- Establish partnerships
  - Healthcare, Aid / Relief Organizations
  - Community Services
- Ready your practice
  - Record systems, communication, high risk

# Disaster Behavioral Health Curriculum

Published 01/14



Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress

## Curriculum Recommendations for Disaster Health Professionals Disaster Behavioral Health

### Authors

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Joshua C. Manganstein, MD, CDR, USPHS, Scientist, Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

**Target Audience:** Educators and trainers working with health professionals

**Purpose:** To plan education and training activities on behavioral health factors in disasters

### Introduction

The world has long been aware that a wide variety of extreme events produce psychological, social, and biological sequelae that today we label with terms such as stress, trauma, grief, and bereavement. These consequences are visited upon individuals, families, workplaces, schools, communities, and nations. They can result from a wide variety of causal factors that are both natural, human-generated or a combination of both.

For the purposes of this document, focus will be on the general topic of exposure to disasters. Disasters are defined as extreme events in which needs of the impacted population and/or area exceeds the local response and recovery resources and external resources must be utilized. Disasters can include such naturally occurring events such as floods, hurricane, fires, tsunamis, epidemics, and pandemics. They can also be human generated in terrorism, war, community unrest, mass shootings, and industrial accidents. Some disasters involve both natural and human-generated elements. Examples include a plane crash caused by wind shear, a flood caused by a dam collapse, or a wildfire sparked by an arsonist.

The field of disaster behavioral health continues to evolve following the classic paradigm of synergistic interactions among research, training, and services (Figure 1). Fundamentally the questions driving the field are:

- What do we know about the individual and collective impact of disasters?
- What approaches and interventions, to accomplish what, provided by whom, and in what contexts are most efficacious?
- How can we ensure that those involved in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery have the knowledge and skills necessary to produce optimal results?

Figure 1



1


# Disaster Behavioral Health Education Fact Sheets

**Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress**

The Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS) is part of the Uniformed Services University's Department of Psychiatry

## Safety, Recovery and Hope After Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Katia and Maria: Helping Communities and Families

Complex disasters such as hurricanes, present a cascade of impacts to those affected, including individuals, families and communities. These disasters often promote feelings of fear, confusion, grief, helplessness, anxiety, anger, guilt and even diminished confidence in self or others. In order to counter these effects, disaster experts endorse an approach called Psychological First Aid (PFA), which can help reduce negative feelings and foster one's sense of safety, recovery and hope.



**PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID**  
Psychological First Aid (PFA) similarly promotes a sense of neighborhood stability during periods of challenge. PFA seeks to restore: (1) safety, (2) calming, (3) connectedness to others, (4) empowerment, and (5) hopefulness.

**DO:**

- Help people meet basic needs for food & shelter, and emergency medical attention. Provide simple and accurate information on how to obtain these (safety).
- Listen to people who wish to share their stories and emotions; remember there is no wrong or right way to feel (calming).
- Be friendly and compassionate even if people are being difficult (calming).
- Continue to provide accurate information about the disaster or trauma and the relief efforts to help people understand the situation (calming).
- Help people contact friends or loved ones (connectedness).
- Keep families together -- children with parents or other close relatives whenever possible (connectedness).
- Give practical suggestions that encourage people to meet their own needs (empowerment).
- Direct people to locations of available services (government and non-government) (hopefulness).
- Remind people (if you know) that more help and services are on the way (hopefulness).

**DON'T:**

- Force people to share their stories with you (this may decrease calmness in people who are not ready to share their experiences).
- Give single reassurances like "everything will be ok" or "at least you survived" (statements like these tend to diminish calmness).
- Tell people what they should be feeling, thinking or doing or how they should have acted earlier (this may decrease calmness).

**Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress**

The Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS) is part of the Department of Psychiatry, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

## RESTORING A SENSE OF WELL-BEING IN CHILDREN AFTER A DISASTER

Children are often exposed both directly and indirectly to the effects of disasters. While some will live in close proximity to an area or community directly impacted by disaster, many others will learn about it through the media or from their parents or friends. It is important for parents, caregivers, and professionals to answer children's questions and reassure them about their safety.

**It is important for parents, caregivers, and professionals to answer children's questions and reassure them about their safety.**

It is important for parents, caregivers, and professionals to answer children's questions and reassure them about their safety. Children who are anxious or fearful may have difficulty concentrating in school, sleeping, or eating. They may also experience physical symptoms such as headaches, stomachaches, or difficulty breathing. It is important to provide a safe and supportive environment for children to express their feelings and concerns. Encourage them to talk to a trusted adult about their experiences and feelings. Provide reassurance and support, and let them know that you are there for them. Encourage them to continue with their school and activities, and provide extra support and encouragement as needed. Encourage them to talk to a trusted adult about their feelings and concerns. Provide reassurance and support, and let them know that you are there for them. Encourage them to continue with their school and activities, and provide extra support and encouragement as needed.

**Children who are anxious or fearful, let them know that you understand and will help them with their feelings.**

- Children's distress may be based on a different event. Inquire what their distress is about.
- Distress in such situations is usually transient. If children's distress persists, seek help from a trusted provider such as their pediatrician.
- Some children may react by acting out or becoming very quiet. Talk to your child about what is troubling them. Avoid reprimanding or punishing them for their reactions. Let them know that talking will help.

**A common question is "Why do these things happen?" Here are some possible responses.**

- We usually cannot be sure what led a specific individual to act in such a way.
- Such events can result from many causes including mental illness, rage, extreme political or religious beliefs, and hatred.

**You can increase your child's sense of safety by:**

- Knowing where they are and return time.
- Clear communication method in normal (e.g. cell phone) and emergency situations (e.g. designated meeting place if phone doesn't work).
- Keeping them away from places or situations that are likely to put them in danger.
- Bring aware of community changes about risks that might surface.

**How do you plan for an emergency?**

- Discuss possible emergency situations with your children and plans for responding.
- Talk calmly with them about what they can do if they feel they are in danger.
- Instruct them to trust and seek help from police and other authorities.
- Tell your children to say something to an adult when they see something suspicious.

**Online Resources**

If you have any questions about your child's health or response to a traumatic event talk to your primary care or behavioral care provider or review additional resources at the following sites:

- Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress [www.cstsonline.org](http://www.cstsonline.org)
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network [www.nctsn.org](http://www.nctsn.org)
- American Red Cross -- [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

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## ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL IN DISASTER

In the acute stages of a disaster, those with serious mental illness are relatively well. Like the rest of the population, they are in a state of shock, and persons with chronic mental illness are being especially threatened by the chaos and damage to infrastructure that may occur. Assisting persons with mental illness can mitigate or prevent adverse outcomes.

**Persons with serious mental illness are vulnerable to disasters.**

- Less prepared. Persons with serious mental illness are less likely to be prepared for a disaster. Evidence suggests that those with serious mental illness are less likely to have supplies on hand or an emergency plan in place in the event of a disaster. They may be more dependent on others to assist them to evacuate or take other necessary precautions prior to a disaster.
- Onset of new and recurrent symptoms. Persons with a history of mental illness are more likely to develop stress-related symptoms or a relapse of prior symptoms following a disaster. Those with a chronic mental illness may have difficulty interpreting psychological distress or a disruption in their social situation. Those with prior diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder may be particularly vulnerable to an exacerbation of symptoms due to an association of the current disaster and response (stress, for example) to their prior trauma.
- Disasters disrupt mental health care and services.
  - Loss of caretakers. Persons with chronic and severe mental health problems are often cared for by family members. In the wake of a disaster, caretakers may have been killed or injured. Family members may divert their time and energy to basic tasks of recovery such as securing food, water and safe housing, leaving less time and resources to care for their mentally ill family members.
  - Mental health services are disrupted. Persons with serious mental illness are often in the care of the mental healthcare system. During a disaster, mental health services are often disrupted. This can include

*Continued*



# Mobile Resource

- SAMHSA Behavioral Health Disaster Response app (Free)
  - Pre-event preparation, on-the-ground assistance, post-event resources, more
  - Share resources (like tips for helping survivors cope) with others
  - Find local behavioral health services
  - Self-care support for responders

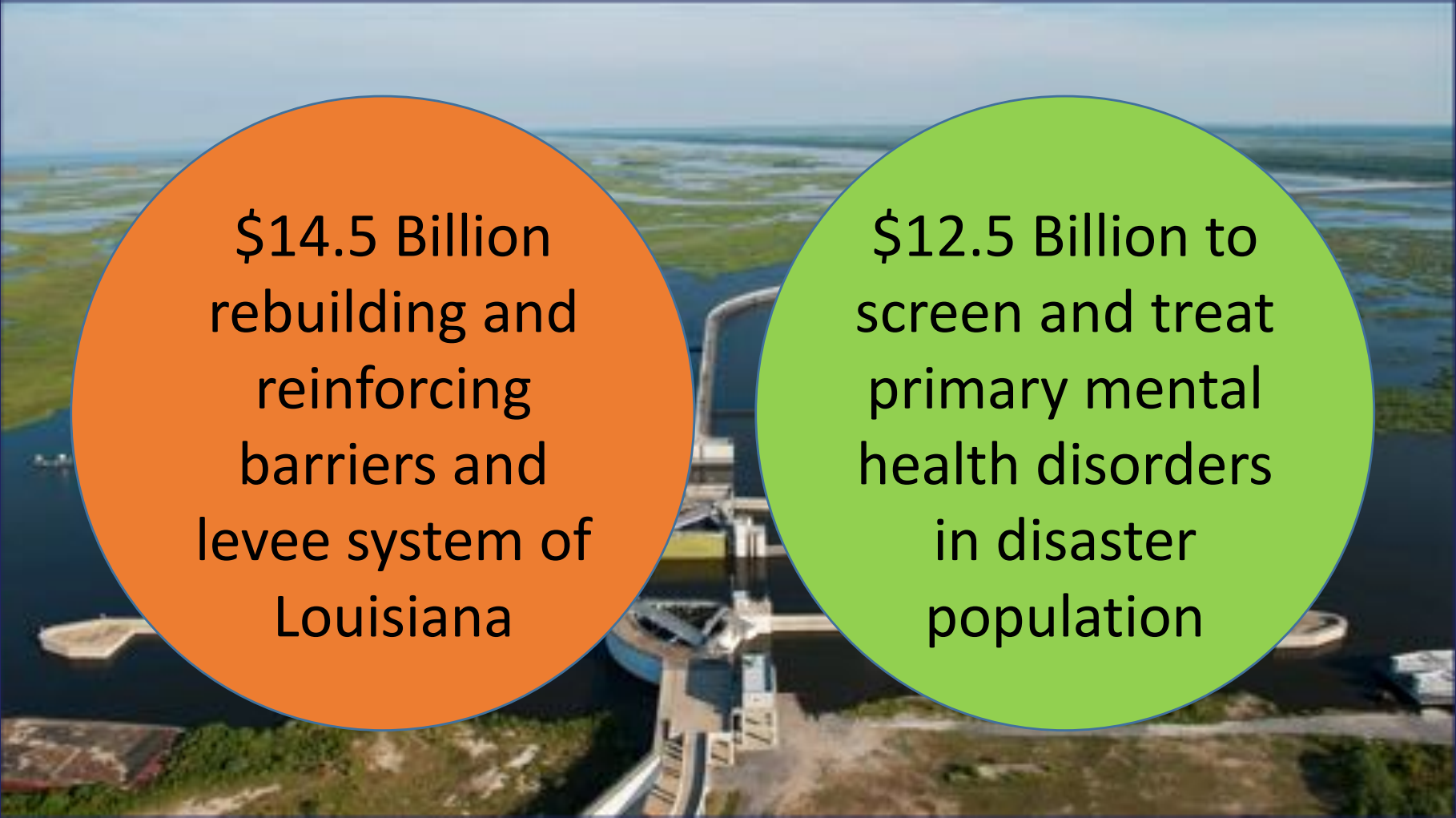


# Patients / Providers

- Develop / practice Family Emergency Plan
- Know Work / School Emergency Plans
- Have / use trusted sources of information
- “Emergency Go Kit”
  - <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/be-red-cross-ready/get-a-kit>



**Not an  
endorsement,  
just an option!!!**



\$14.5 Billion  
rebuilding and  
reinforcing  
barriers and  
levee system of  
Louisiana

\$12.5 Billion to  
screen and treat  
primary mental  
health disorders  
in disaster  
population

# Additional References

## **Disaster Psychiatry (F Stoddard):**

[https://www.appi.org/Disaster\\_Psychiatry](https://www.appi.org/Disaster_Psychiatry)

## **Resiliency in the Face of Disaster and Terrorism (J Napoli):**

<https://www.amazon.com/Resiliency-Face-Disaster-Terrorism-Survive/dp/1932181180>

## **Disaster Psychiatry: What Psychiatrists Need to Know (T Ng)**

<http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/disaster-psychiatry/disaster-psychiatry-what-psychiatrists-need-know>

## **Textbook of Disaster Psychiatry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition:**

<http://www.cambridge.org/gb/academic/subjects/medicine/mental-health-psychiatry-and-clinical-psychology/textbook-disaster-psychiatry-2nd-edition>

## **Integrating Emergency Management and Disaster Behavioral Health:**

<https://www.elsevier.com/books/integrating-emergency-management-and-disaster-behavioral-health/flynn/978-0-12-803638-9>

## **Disaster Psychiatry Handbook**

<http://www.eird.org/isdr-biblio/PDF/Disaster%20psychiatry%20handbook.pdf>

# Summary

- Increasing frequency of human-generated and natural disasters increase the need for disaster mental health care
- Distress reactions and health risk behaviors predominate after disaster
- Early interventions reduce adverse impacts for individuals and communities
- Education & preparation decrease distress and enhance effectiveness of community response and recovery

# Climate-Related Disasters

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Assistant Director, Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress

School of Medicine

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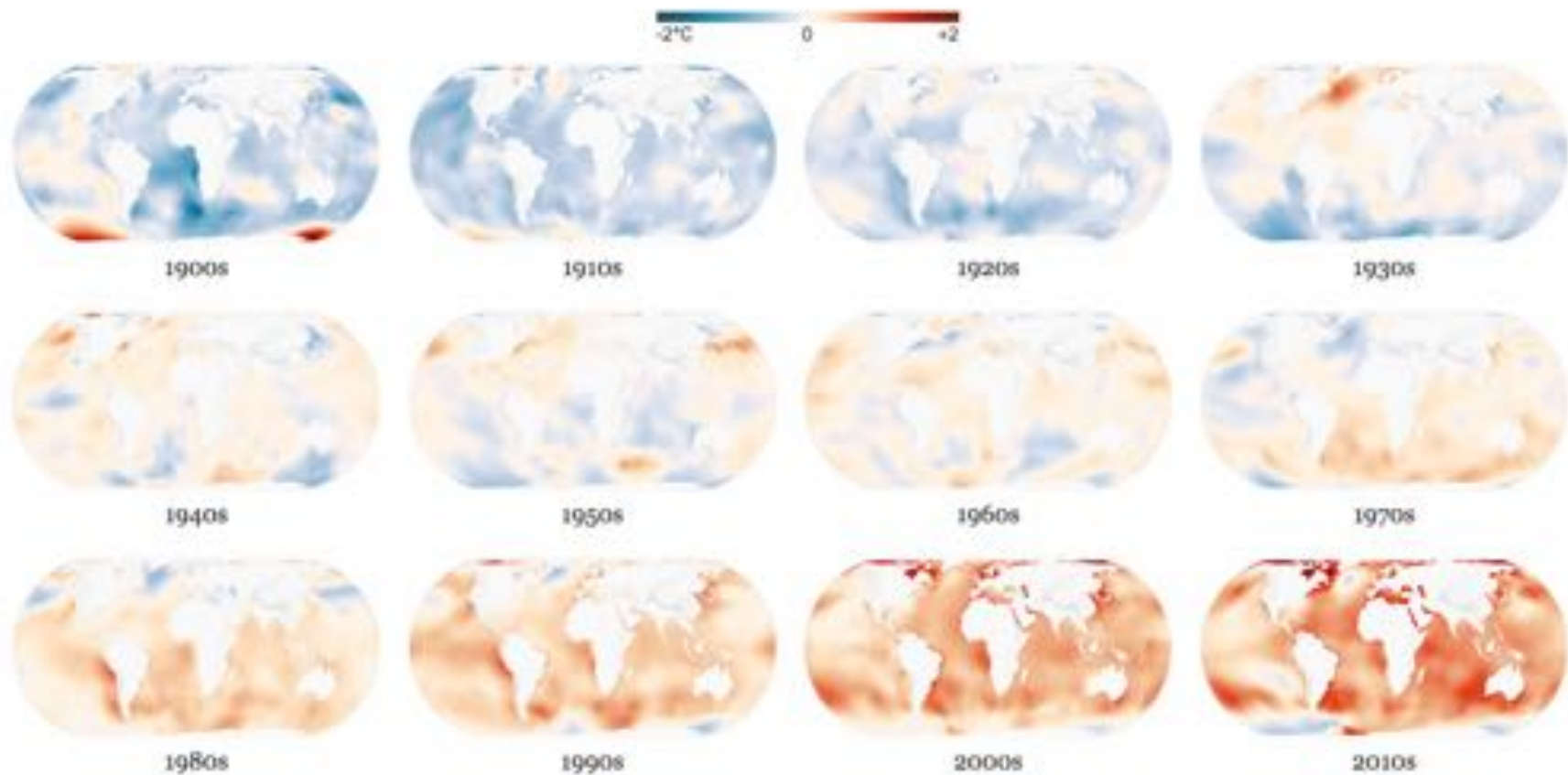
# OBJECTIVES

- Describe the type and frequency of climate-related natural disasters
- Review provider resources which enhance disaster preparedness and response
- Participate in case-based application of:
  - Measures to enhance provider and patient preparedness before a climate-related disaster
  - Evidence-based early interventions following a climate-related disaster

# A CHANGING GLOBAL CLIMATE & RELATED DISASTERS



## Where the Oceans Have Been Colder and Hotter Than Average



Average temperatures from each decade compared with the 20th-century average.

# Grinnell Glacier from Mt. Gould

1938 - 2006



**1938**

*Hilleman photo  
GNP Archives*



**1981**

*Key photo  
USGS*



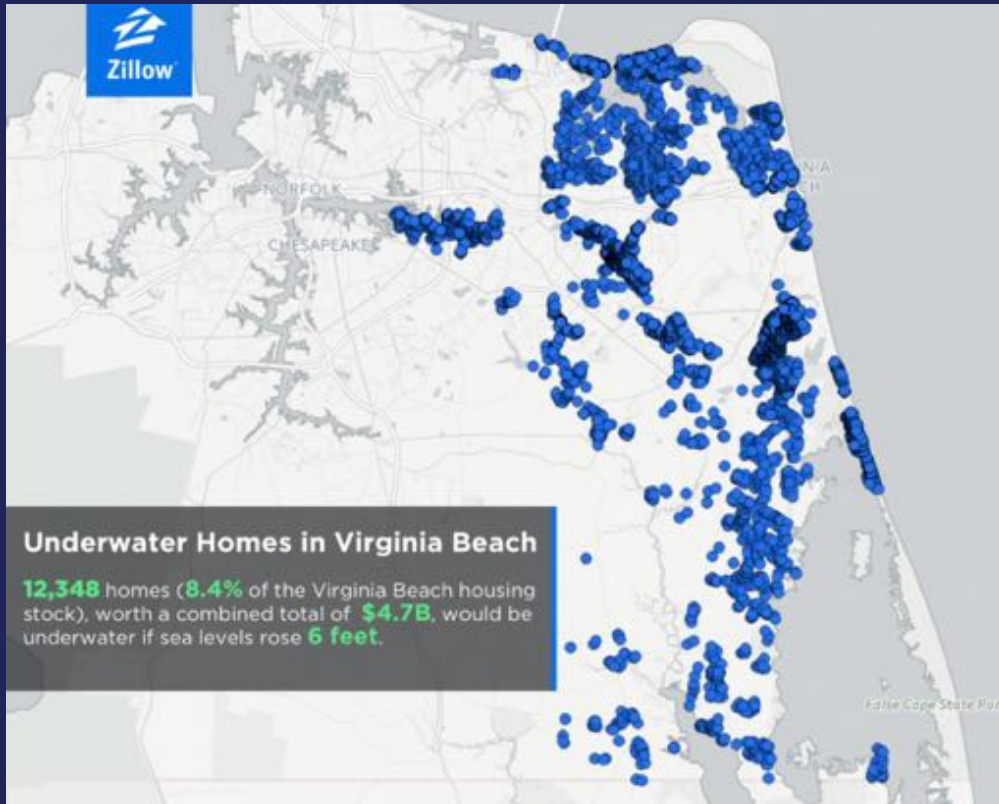
**1998**

*Fagre photo  
USGS*



**2006**

*Holzer photo  
USGS*



### Underwater Homes in Virginia Beach

**12,348** homes (8.4% of the Virginia Beach housing stock), worth a combined total of **\$4.7B**, would be underwater if sea levels rose **6 feet**.



### Underwater Homes in Boston

**21,629** homes (17.8% of the Boston housing stock), worth a combined total of **\$24.5B**, would be underwater if sea levels rose **6 feet**.

CSTS



Uniformed  
Services  
University

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/08/24/as-sea-levels-rise-23-states-could-see-nearly-1-9-million-homes-underwater/?utm\\_term=.3cd208242057](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/08/24/as-sea-levels-rise-23-states-could-see-nearly-1-9-million-homes-underwater/?utm_term=.3cd208242057)



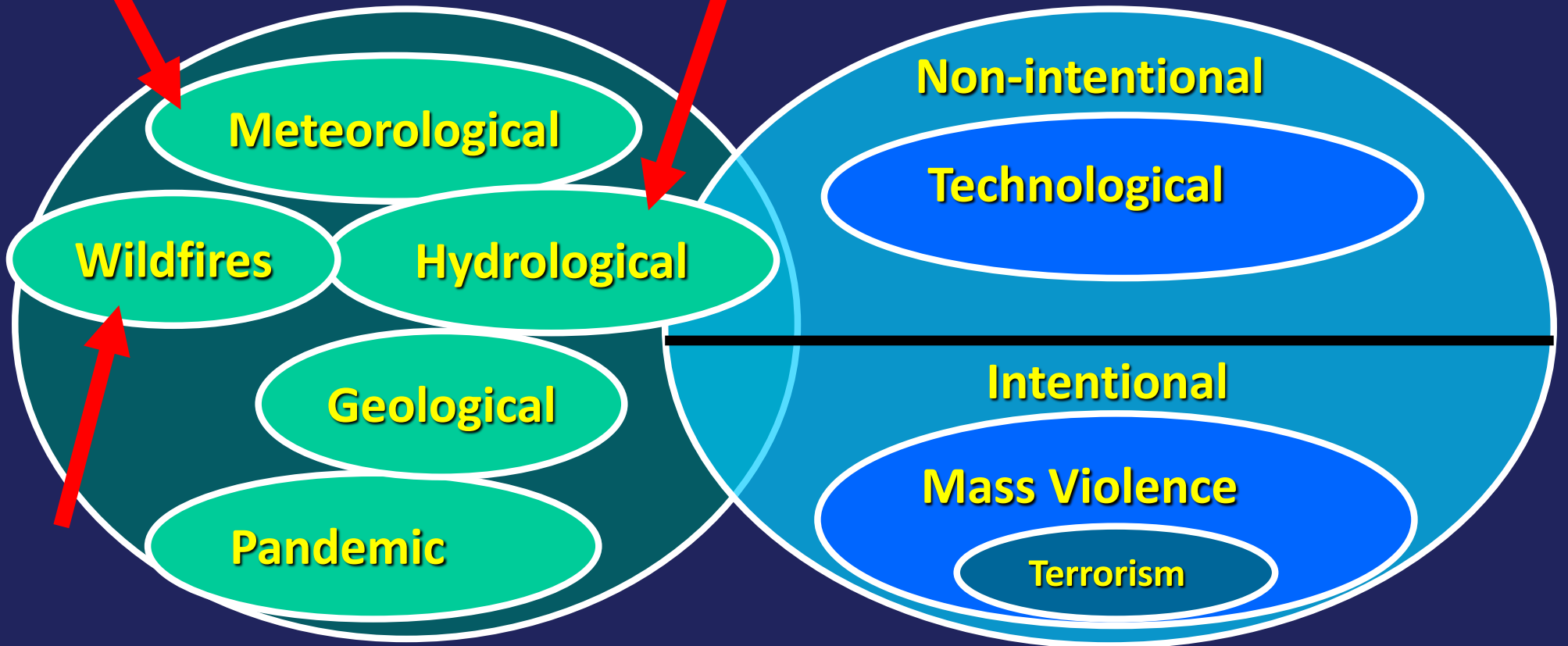
The entire Atlantic seaboard would vanish, along with Florida and the Gulf Coast. In California, San Francisco's hills would become a cluster of islands and the Central Valley a giant bay. The Gulf of California would stretch north past the latitude of San Diego, which may be completely underwater.

Blizzards, Droughts,  
Cyclonic storms (cyclone,  
hurricane, typhoon),  
Thunder & Hail storms,  
Heat waves, Tornadoes

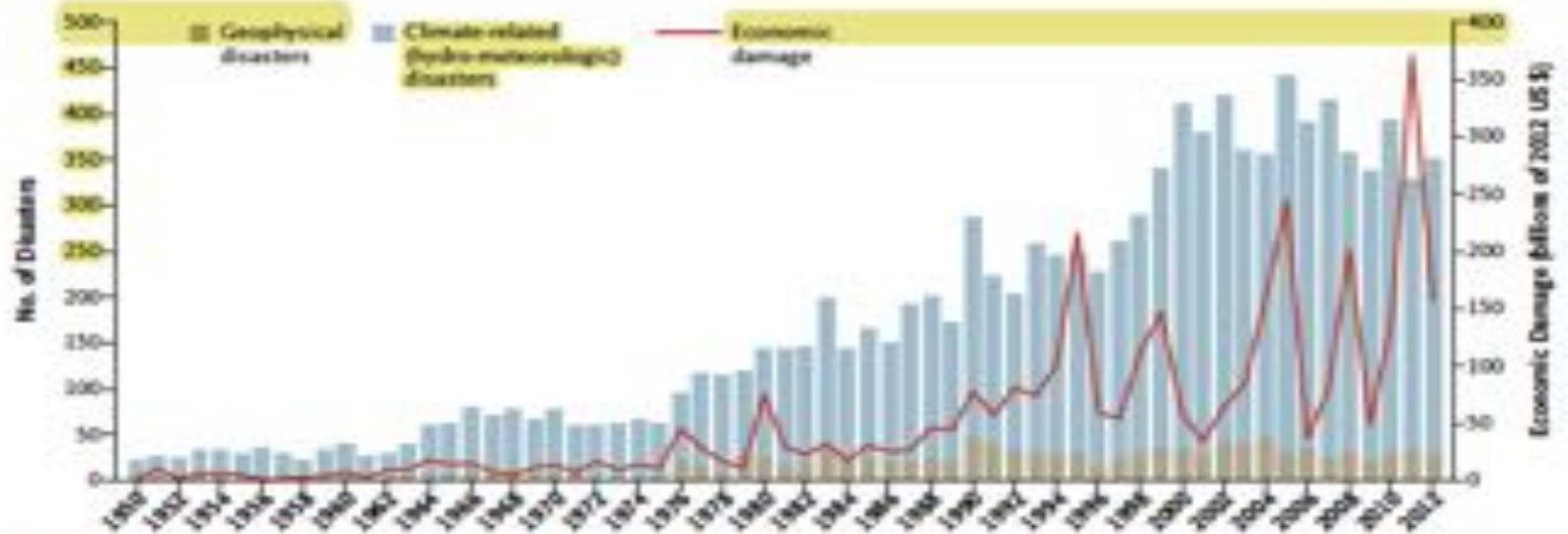
Floods  
Tsunamis

### *Natural Disasters*

### *Human-Generated Disasters*



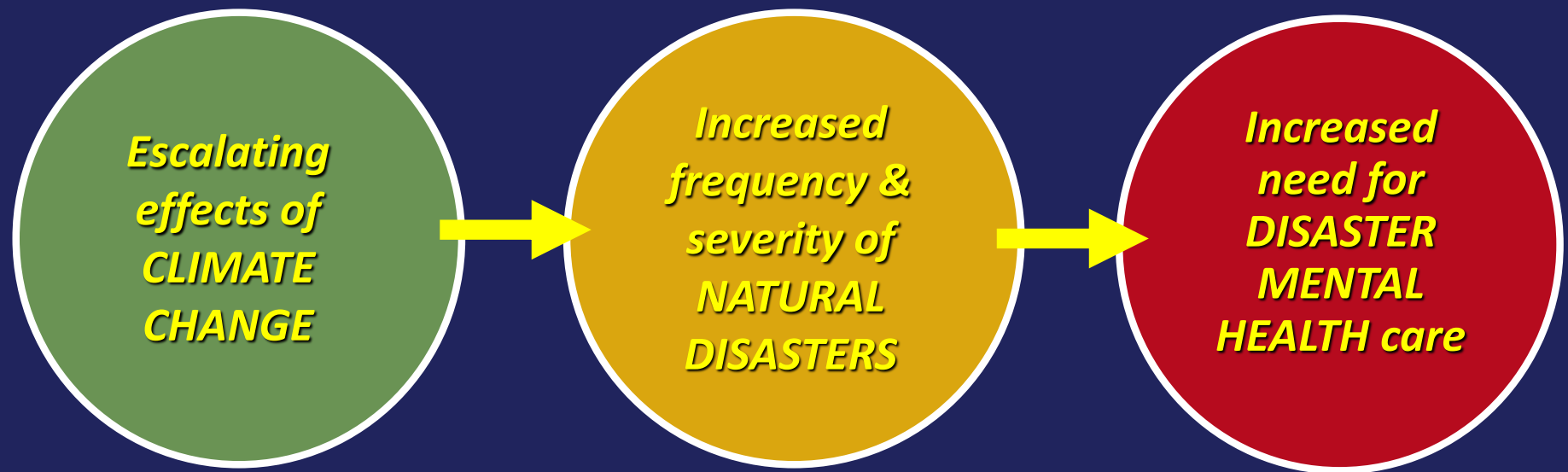
# Global Climate-Related Disaster Incidence & Cost (1950-2012)



**Figure 1. Numbers and Types of Natural Disasters, 1950–2012.**

The effect of a disaster on the local economy usually consists of direct consequences (e.g., damage to infrastructure, crops, and housing) and indirect consequences (e.g., loss of revenues, unemployment, and market destabilization). The estimated economic damage is for the year in which the disasters occurred and is given in billions of 2012 U.S. dollars. Data are from the EM-DAT International Disaster Database, Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, University of Louvain ([www.emdat.be/](http://www.emdat.be/)). Although this database tracks biologic events, such events are not shown here because they require very specific analytic approaches and are often not directly connected to geophysical and climate-related disasters.

# Making the Connection...

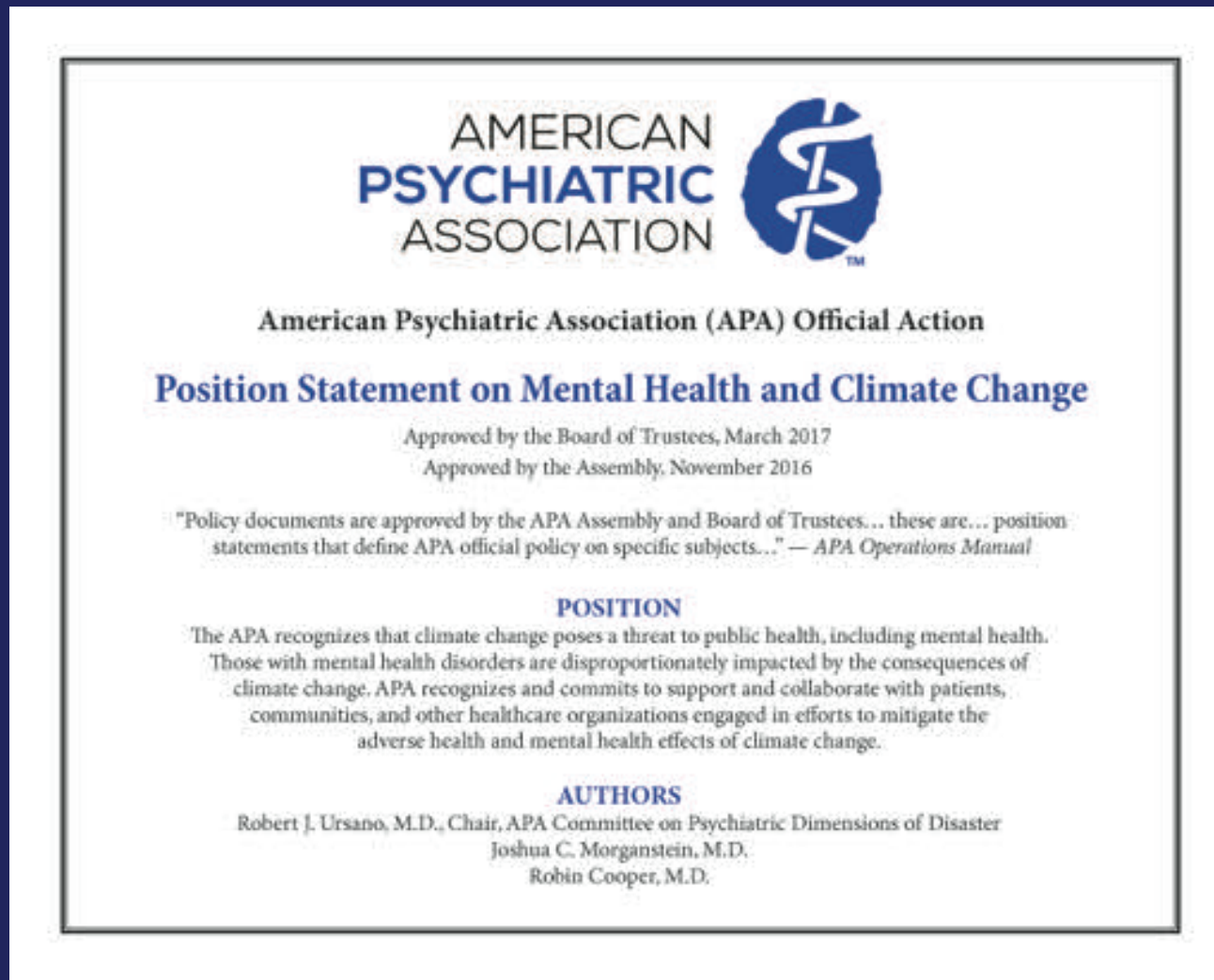


# PROVIDER RESOURCES





# APA Position Statement



**POSITION STATEMENT:**  
<https://www.psychiatry.org/File%20Library/About-APA/Organization-Documents-Policies/Policies/Position-2017-Mental-Health-Climate-Change.pdf>

**RESOURCE DOCUMENT:**  
<https://www.psychiatry.org/psychiatrists/search-directories-databases/library-and-archive/resource-documents>

# Regional Issues

## Climate Change & Human Health Risks in Your State



## District of Columbia Health Impacts

Close

Heat waves, heavy downpours, and sea level rise pose growing challenges to many aspects of life in the District of Columbia. Examples of risks and actions for District of Columbia residents include:

- **Higher temperatures will increase heat-related illnesses, hospital visits, and deaths.** In D.C., the urban heat island effect will make heat events worse. [Learn how you can take action to protect against heat waves](#), such as:
  - **Respond:** Drink plenty of water.
  - **Respond:** Watch for signs of dehydration and overheating, especially in children.
- **More intense rain can overwhelm combined sewer systems** (where storm water and sewage share the same pipes). This can contaminate recreational water and drinking water sources, and lead to disease outbreaks. [Learn how you can take action to ensure drinking water safety](#), such as:
  - **Prepare:** Have an emergency water supply ready for your family (1 gallon per person/pet per day).
  - **Respond:** Check the news for tap water safety notices, such as boiling water before use.
- **Increasing levels of harmful algae and bacteria in the Chesapeake Bay may make eating oysters less safe.** These contaminants cause infections or stomach illnesses. [Learn how you can take action to ensure food safety](#), such as:
  - **Prepare:** Check for health department notices before fishing or harvesting shellfish.
  - **Respond:** Keep seafood chilled to less than 38°F. Discard any perishable food if your refrigerator has lost power for longer than four hours.

[Access a PDF of this information and other resources relevant to D.C.](#)  
[Learn more in the USGCRP Climate and Health Assessment.](#)

# District of Columbia

# Medications: Climate considerations

- Medication risks associated with treatment of pre-existing or new-onset conditions
  - Climate-related disaster environments:
    - Extremes of temperature
    - Disruption in electricity / food / water
  - Caution warranted for meds which:
    - Disrupt thermal regulation (antipsychotics)
    - Create electrolyte imbalance (lithium)
    - Predispose to dehydration (anticholinergics)
    - Narrow therapeutic window (lithium)

## INTERVENTIONS

- Clinical monitoring (lack of efficacy, side effects)
- Serum levels (lower threshold for checking)
- Dosing Adjustments
- Patient education (dosing, side effects, hydration, nutrition)

## SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT (15-20 min)

A severe hurricane is approaching the coastal city where you live and work.

1. What concerns do you have for your patients in the days leading up to the storm?
2. What concerns do you have for your patients after the storm?
3. What action steps could you take as a psychiatrist to help your patients as well as local community?

# Pandemics

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CAPT, U.S. Public Health Service

Associate Professor / Assistant Chair, Department of Psychiatry

Assistant Director, Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress

School of Medicine

Uniformed Services University

# OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the unique psychological and behavioral reactions to exposure and contamination.
- Describe the impact of pandemic behaviors on population and healthcare provider well-being.
- Understand the public health significance of risk and crisis communication during pandemics.



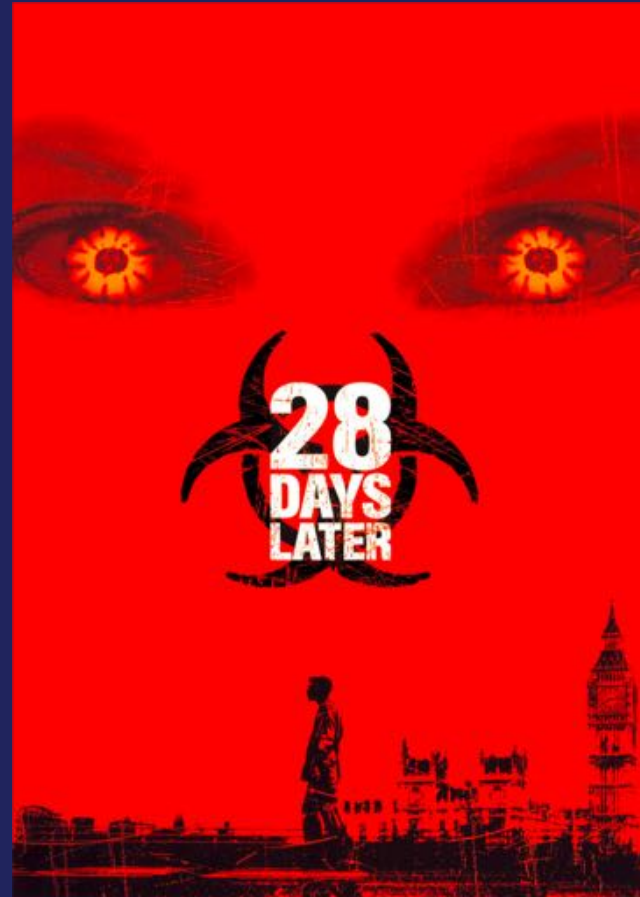
# PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE TO PANDEMICS

# Psychological & Behavioral Responses to Disasters



# Psychological & Behavioral Response

- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear... Exposure & Contamination
- Novelty, unfamiliar, mysterious
- Invisible agent; powerful, evil, imperceptible
- Fear, anger, scapegoating
- Potential for “Panic”



# Psychological & Behavioral Response

- Uncertainty re “site” of event
- Delays in detection, non-specific symptoms
- Effects of isolation and quarantine
- Shortages & scarcity (prophylaxis, antidote, treatment)
- Medically unexplained physical symptoms (MUPS)
  - 50-100:1 (seek care vs actual exposure)



Engel, C. C., Jr, Adkins, J. A., & Cowan, D. N. (2002). Caring for medically unexplained physical symptoms after toxic environmental exposures: effects of contested causation. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 110 (Suppl 4), 641–647.

# Perception as natural & human-generated...



# Disruption in Community Phases



# IMPACT ON POPULATIONS & HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS: LESSONS LEARNED

# History

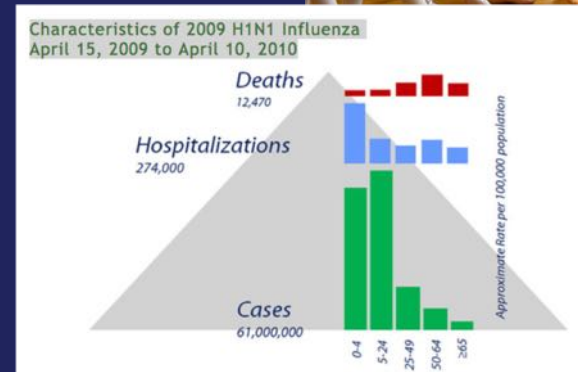
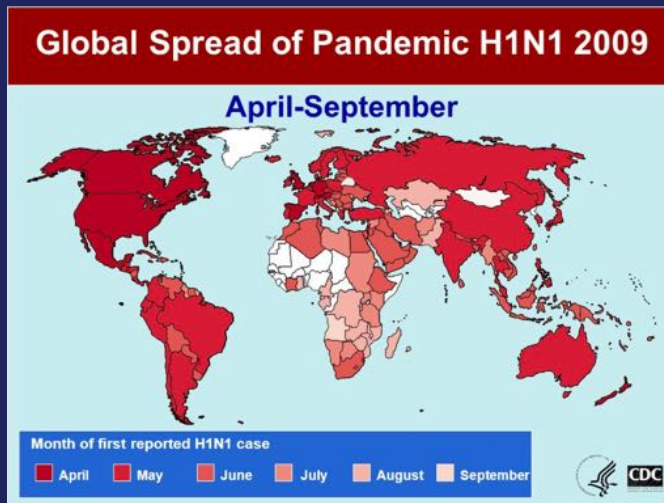
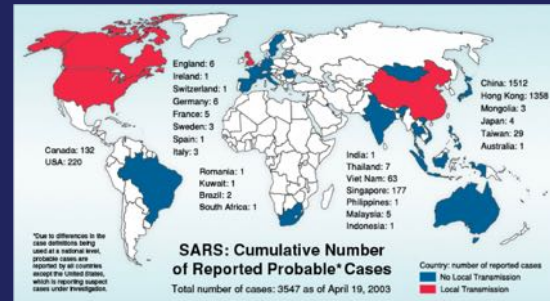
- 1918 - Spanish Flu
- 1981 – HIV/AIDS
- 2002-2004 – SARS
- 2009 – H1N1
- 2014 – Ebola
- 2015 – Zika





# Important Themes

- Perception of risk influences...
  - Population stress
  - Preventive measures
  - Provider well-being



# HEALTH RISK & CRISIS COMMUNICATION: INFLUENCING POPULATION HEALTH BEHAVIORS

“Better than any medication we know,  
information treats anxiety in a crisis.”

*Source: Saathoff, 2002*

Communication is a  
behavioral health intervention

# Health Risk & Crisis Communication

- Clear, accurate, timely, repeated
- Start with most relevant info
- If you don't know, say so
- Never make things up
- Use language people understand
- Victory favors the prepared
  - Message mapping...

It's not **WHAT**  
you say, it's  
**HOW** you say it!

# Templates

- 1N = 3P →
- Primacy / Recency
- 27 / 9 / 3
- CCO

In a crisis, people hear negative messages more easily than positive.

Will take 3 positive messages to equal the impact of one negative message.

# Templates

- 1N = 3P
- Primacy / Recency →
- 27 / 9 / 3
- CCO

Tend to remember messages in this order:

First > Last > Middle

Prioritize your messages with that order in mind!

# Templates


- 1N = 3P
- Primacy / Recency
- 27 / 9 / 3
- CCO

Human attention  
limited in a crisis:

27 words, 9 seconds, 3  
messages

Example: “I share the sense of  
tragedy with you. This hospital  
will continue responding with  
everything we have. We will  
emerge stronger and even  
better prepared.”

# Templates

- 1N = 3P
- Primacy / Recency
- 27 / 9 / 3
- CCO 

Compassion,  
Conviction, Optimism

Example: “I share the sense of tragedy with you. This hospital will continue responding with everything we have. We will emerge stronger and even better prepared.”



# Summary

- Pandemics, and other CBRN events involving “exposure and contamination”, create unique psychological and behavioral reactions
- Perception of risk strongly influences population behaviors, including adoption of preventive measures and well-being of healthcare personnel
- Health risk and crisis communication are particularly important behavioral health interventions during pandemics

# SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT #1

(8-10 min)

- A physician traveling back from West Africa on a humanitarian medical mission and was quarantined at LaGuardia for suspected Ebola infection and will be transported to a nearby hospital for further evaluation.
  1. Discuss the populations in which adverse psychological and behavioral effects may occur.
  2. What early interventions would you recommend and for whom?

## SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT #2

(8-10 min)

- The physician is diagnosed with Ebola. The CDC is coming to NY to begin surveillance and threat containment. The Mayor of NYC is concerned and wants to know what to say when she goes out to interact with the news media in 30 minutes.
  1. What concerns should the mayor anticipate when addressing the public?
  2. Craft a preliminary message for the mayor to deliver.

# Mass Violence

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CAPT, U.S. Navy

Associate Professor / Vice Chair, Department of Psychiatry  
Scientist, Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress  
School of Medicine  
Uniformed Services University

# OBJECTIVES

- Compare adverse psychological and behavioral reactions to acts of mass violence to those of other disasters.
- Discuss the impact of modern media and communications on individual and community reactions to acts of mass violence.
- Consider the role of psychiatrists as advisors to community leaders following acts of mass violence.

# ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL REACTIONS TO MASS VIOLENCE

# Mass Violence

- Shootings
- Bombings
- CBRN attacks
- Other terror attacks
- War



# Severity of Psychosocial Consequences by Type of Disaster





# Mass violence

- Disruption of sense of safety/violation of safe havens
- Exposure to dead and wounded
  - Direct
  - Media broadcasts
- Threat of CBRN exposure



# Psychological & Behavioral Responses to Disasters



# Psychological and Behavioral Responses to Mass Shootings

- Prevalence of PTSD following mass shootings 4-91%<sup>1</sup>
- Prevalence of MDD following mass shootings 5-71%<sup>1</sup>
- Acquisition of handguns increases following mass shooting events.<sup>2</sup>



# Media Exposure and Mass Violence



# Media Exposure and Mass Violence



# Media Exposure and Mass Violence

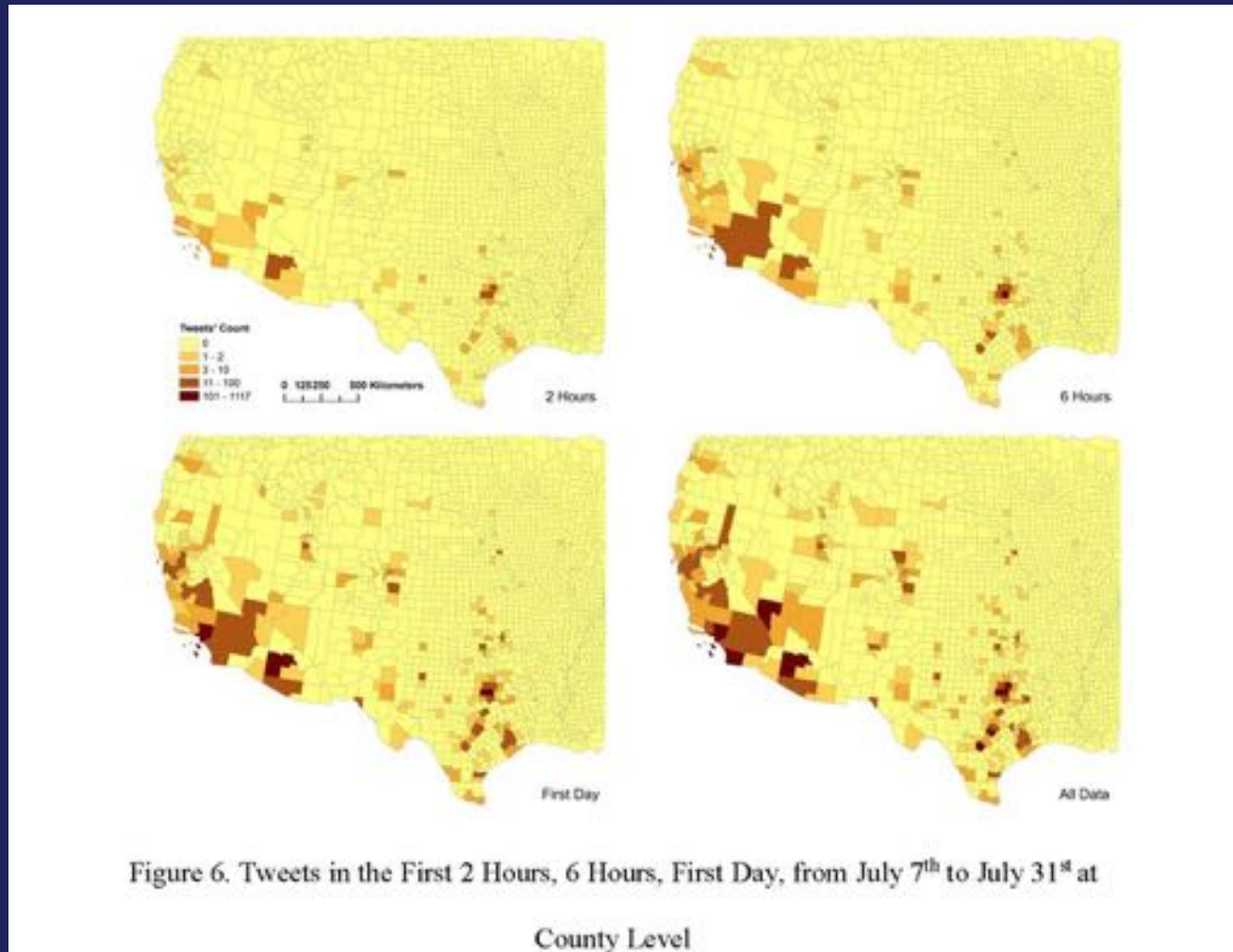


Figure 6. Tweets in the First 2 Hours, 6 Hours, First Day, from July 7<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> at  
County Level

# Media Exposure and Mass Violence

- Exposure to television coverage predicts fear of terrorism<sup>1</sup>
- Greater exposure to graphic images associated with higher PTS symptoms<sup>2</sup>
- Higher social media exposure associated with higher psychological distress<sup>3</sup>
- Higher television exposure in children associated with higher rates of PTSD<sup>4</sup>

1. Nellis AM, Savage j. (2012). Does watching the news affect fear of terrorism? The importance of media exposure on terrorism fear. *Crime and Delinquency*, 58.
2. Ahern J, et al. (2004). Television images and probable posttraumatic stress disorder after September 11. *J Nerv Mental Dis*, 65.
3. Goodwin R, et al. (2015). Association between media use, acute stress disorder, and psychological distress. *Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics*, 84.
4. Pfefferbaum, et al. (2008). Media coverage and children's reactions to disaster with implications for primary care and public health. *J Ok State Med Assoc*, 101.

# INTERVENTIONS FOLLOWING MASS VIOLENCE



# Psychological First Aid

- Safety –individual and community sense of safety
- Calming – reduce arousal/anxiety
- Efficacy – identify community as resilient
- Connectedness
  - Individuals or groups singled out
  - Competing views
- Hope / Optimism – better things are possible



# Special Populations

- Law Enforcement
- First Responders
- Healthcare



# Summary

- Mass violence events have greater potential to generate severe or persisting responses
- Exposure to mass violence through conventional and social media can expand the affected population and aggravate responses
- Communication from community leaders should promote a sense of safety and calming and recognize potential challenges to efficacy and connectedness

# SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT #1

(8-10 min)

A lone gunman shoots 15 people in a local elementary school before turning the gun on himself as law enforcement arrives

1. What potential impacts should you anticipate on your patients' lives and health?
2. What do you recommend to your patients?

## SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT #2

(5-6 min)

A group of attackers drive a truck into a farmer's market in your community killing 6 people and injuring 28 more.

1. Your town council requests recommendations on messages to send to the community.

# Additional References

**Disaster Psychiatry (F Stoddard):**

[https://www.appi.org/Disaster\\_Psychiatry](https://www.appi.org/Disaster_Psychiatry)

**Resiliency in the Face of Disaster and Terrorism (J Napoli):**

<https://www.amazon.com/Resiliency-Face-Disaster-Terrorism-Survive/dp/1932181180>

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