

Abstract

Cite this article: Prasad AA, Brown D and Singh K (2024). Emergency Nurses Knowledge, Attitude and Practices Regarding Disaster Preparedness and Management in Emergency Departments in the Northern Division, The Republic of Fiji. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, **18**, e235, 1 <https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2024.223>

Emergency Nurses Knowledge, Attitude and Practices Regarding Disaster Preparedness and Management in Emergency Departments in the Northern Division, The Republic of Fiji

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Abstract

Introduction: Since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework, much work has been done to mitigate the effects of disasters as adequate preparation will enable Registered emergency nurses (ENs) to mitigate the negative consequences of disasters.

Objective: To assess the knowledge, attitude, and practices of ENs in the northern division of Fiji (ND) toward disaster preparedness and management.

Method: A quantitative, cross-sectional study design using a self-administered questionnaire queried 61 ENs working in Emergency Departments (ED) in divisional, sub-divisional hospitals and health centers in the ND.

Results: A low proportion (23%) of these ENs have attended disaster preparedness training from the time they started working with the employer demonstrating they are not prepared to mitigate the effects of disaster on the affected population in the ND. Though they have adequate knowledge and a positive attitude in engaging themselves towards disaster management, only 43% of these ENs were knowledgeable about appropriate policies and procedures. This study found that 72.1% have never read or seen their health disaster management policy.

Conclusion: Given the number of disasters experienced in Fiji every year, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive disaster management policy and training for ENs across the ND.