

frameworks from global governance organizations (eg. UNISDR Sendai Framework) was undertaken. The dataset was analyzed using discourse analysis (Rose, 2012).

Results: The results of this study explore capability and vulnerability among high risk populations and will contribute to policy development, with the aim that it manifests in inclusive practice.

Conclusion: Potential contributions of this study include increased awareness and public discussion, about how capability and vulnerability are communicated through discourse in planning documents. This in turn could impact policy development and training across different jurisdictions and sectors involved in disaster management, thereby supporting inclusive practice and an all-of-society approach to disaster management strategies.

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Evaluating the Experiences with an Information and Referral Center (IRC) following a Large Air Crash Disaster

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Study/Objective: To evaluate the use of, and experiences with a ‘one-stop-shop’ website for information and referral for bereaved people following an air crash disaster.

Background: On July 17, 2014 the disaster of Flight MH17 (Malaysia Airlines) took place above Eastern Ukraine. None of the 298 passengers and crew survived the flight, of which 196 were of Dutch nationality. Within 26 hours, an Information and Referral Center (IRC) was set up.

Methods: A total of 128 bereaved persons filled out a questionnaire, and 22 bereaved persons joined in to 5 focus groups to discuss their experiences. In addition, data was gathered via a pop-up questionnaire on the IRC itself, as well as statistics of website use. Finally, in a series of 16 interviews, representatives from all the agencies involved with the IRC, were asked about their expectations and experiences in the development of the IRC.

Results: Three main goals of the IRC were tested. (1) Dependable information: The IRC is seen as a dependable source of information. Specifically appreciated was the availability of news before it appeared in the media, and its function as a news-archive. (2) Peer-to-peer contact: Results on this goal were more ambiguous. Some of the bereaved used the IRC for personal contact, most however, had difficulties sharing via an open forum, and preferred real-life contact. (3) Collection of meaningful data on specific needs: It proved difficult to generate data on specific needs for additional care.

Conclusion: Systematic evaluations, including experiences from bereaved persons, as well as the organizations facilitating online communities as the IRC are scarce, and underlying assumptions are rarely made explicit or tested. Based on a more elaborate presentation of the results in the presentation, assumptions on what an IRC should constitute will be further discussed.

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The Aging Population During Emergencies: A Vulnerable Population or a Community Resource?

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Study/Objective: To present trends in community resilience scores throughout the lifespan.

Background: There is an increase in civilian population exposure to emergencies. The local population has an importance role in providing lifesaving care. Therefore, there is a need to prepare and enhance the communities to handle those situations. In this context, the elderly are traditionally treated as a susceptible population with special needs. Community resilience is a core element in coping with emergencies.

Methods: Fifteen small and mid-size towns in Israel were surveyed using the Conjoint Community Resilience Assessment Measure (CCRAM) tool. The study was conducted using two methods: 1) randomly selected address surveys, and 2) distributing web-based surveys to electronic mailing lists of small communities. Correlation analysis examined the relationship between the CCRAM scores and age. Linear regression modeled the dependent variable: CCRAM score with background variables.

Results: The study included 1,052 adults (mean age 44.65, SD = 15, range 18–86 years), from midsize towns (n = 490, 46.6%) and small communities (n = 562, 53.4%). Correlation between age and CCRAM score was positive (1044) = 0.128, $p < 0.001$. A multiple linear regression ($F = 19.5$, $p < 0.001$) explored the age of 61–75 with significant positive association ($B = .181$, $p = .006$, 95%CI = .053–.310) to CCRAM score, in comparison to the reference group of 31–45 years.

Conclusion: The study reveals an increase in community resilience scores among aging populations living in the community. Thus, the elders may be a resource to their community. Based on this, the unique input of this group to the general community is considered an advantage.

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Community Adherence to Emergency Public Health Measures During Bio-Events

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Study/Objective: To assess the predictive role of health behavior theory on adherence to emergency public health measures needed during “bio events” (ie, outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics).