CONVERGE COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research

Research Agenda-Setting Paper

This paper was written to help advance convergence-oriented research in the hazards and disaster field. It highlights areas where additional research could contribute new knowledge to the response to and recovery from the pandemic and other disasters yet to come. Questions about the research topics and ethical and methodological issues highlighted here should be directed to the authors who contributed to this paper.

Working Group Name:

Community and Healthcare Systems Recovery from COVID-19

Working Group Description:

This Working Group seeks to explore the many systemic recovery issues that communities and healthcare settings will face as the immediate COVID-19 response ebbs—particularly in hard-hit low-income communities. As the long-term nature of the pandemic becomes clearer, mental health concerns are a salient element of the recovery. The Working Group aims to ground analysis in the areas of public health, psychology, and law.

Priority Research Topics and Specific Research Questions:

Given the unique, long-term nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, this Working Group is primarily focused on the mental health aspects of recovery for both healthcare workers and the wider population. While these priority topics and potential research questions most interest this Working Group, we would need expanded capacity to address all of them.

Priority Research Topics	Potential Research Questions
1. Mental health surveillance	• <u>Research Question 1</u>: What are gaps/opportunities for enhancing mental health recovery surveillance, in the context of a pandemic like COVID-19?
2. Prevalence of mental health concerns	• <u>Research Question 1</u>: What is the prevalence of mental health concerns following the COVID-19 pandemic? • <u>Research Question 2</u>: How does the prevalence of data following COVID-19 compare to prior data on more traditional, kinetic disasters?
3. Long-term mental health of front line medical/essential workers	• <u>Research Question 1</u>: What are the long-term psychological impacts of an event like COVID-19 on front line medical/other essential services workers?
4. Stigma toward those who have had COVID-19	• <u>Research Question 1</u>: What is the extent and nature of stigma toward those who have had COVID-19?

		• <u>Research Question 2</u>: What are the mental health implications or manifestations of such stigma?
5.	Workplace safety and psychosocial concerns	• <u>Research Question 1</u>: What workplace safety/protection and related legal aspects, are relevant to optimizing psychosocial dimensions of post-pandemic recovery?

Ethical / Methodological Considerations:

The Working Group intends to conduct an integrated literature review to lay the groundwork for the proposed studies. It is anticipated that this literature review will guide the team in terms of theoretical framework and methodological decisions for future work. Collecting data regarding mental health of either healthcare workers, or a sample of the wider population, carries the typical human subjects research concerns and sensitivities. Multiple institutional review boards may need to be consulted, depending upon the research sites.

Contributors:

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