

## IDENTIFYING THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF DISASTER RESEARCH

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Disasters impact public health by damaging the social, environmental, economic, political, and physical systems that influence the health and wellbeing of people and entire communities. Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research examining the influence of hazards and disasters on these systems has a number of important implications for public health practice and policy. This check sheet encourages hazards and disaster researchers to consider how their research results can be used to better understand and improve population health.

The following 10 questions are intended to serve as a guiding point for reflection on the public health outcomes and consequences of one's work. It may be especially helpful to review and reflect upon these questions at the study design phase—to ensure that the research is developed with population health in mind—as well as at the report writing phase—to ensure that the findings are widely shared in ways that can help to influence public health systems.

1. How can the study guide strategies for mitigation, preparedness, response, and/or recovery that can promote population health in future disasters?
2. How can the study contribute to the surveillance of disaster-related morbidity and/or mortality?
3. How can the study enhance the delivery of mass care and sheltering?
4. How can the study contribute to the evaluation or revision of existing disaster-related health policies and practices?
5. How can the study provide timely and accurate health information for decision-makers?
6. How can the study improve our understanding of the social determinants of health that impact population-level health before, during, and after a disaster?
7. How can the study illuminate how social, environmental, economic, political, or physical systems intersect and make certain populations more vulnerable to poor disaster health outcomes?
8. How can the study help to reduce disaster health disparities?
9. How can the study help to promote healthy behaviors among populations at risk to or impacted by disasters?
10. How can the study inform strategies to strengthen the public health workforce?

The above questions are not exhaustive. However, by critically reflecting on the public health implications of research, investigators can enhance the impact of their work. For those interested in learning more about this topic, please visit the [CONVERGE Public Health Implications of Hazards and Disaster Research Training Module](#).

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