Identifying and Describing Impact of Disasters on Non-Communicable Diseases: A Systematic Review

Elham Ghazanchaei 1, *Davoud Khorasani-Zavareh 2,3, Javad Aghazadeh-Attari 1, *Iraj Mohebbi 1

1. Social Determinants of Health Research Center, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Urmia, Iran
2. Skull Base Research Center, Loghman Hakim Hospital, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
3. Workplace Health Promotion Research Center, Department of Health in Emergencies and Disasters, School of Public Health and Safety, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

*Corresponding Authors: Emails: davoud.khorasani@gmail.com; irajmohebbi@umsu.ac.ir
(Received 12 Jul 2020; accepted 21 Oct 2020)

Abstract
Background: Patients with non-communicable diseases are vulnerable to disasters. This is a systematic review describing the impact of disasters on non-communicable diseases.
Methods: A systematic review was conducted using PRISMA standards. Relevant articles published from 1997 to 2019 collected by searching the Scopus, PubMed, Science Direct, databases. We specifically examined reports describing NCDs and including the key words “non-communicable disease and Disasters”. NCDs included cardiovascular, respiratory, diabetes, cancer and mental health diseases.
Results: Of the 663 studies identified, only 48 articles met all the eligibility criteria. Most studies have shown the impact of all natural disasters on non-communicable diseases (39.8% n=19). The largest study was the effect of earthquakes on non-communicable diseases (29.2% n=14). For the NCDs targeted by this research, most of the included studies were a combination of four diseases: cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, diabetes and cancer (44% n=21). Followed by cardiovascular disease (14.6% n=7), chronic respiratory disease (12.5% n=6), diabetes and cancer (6.2% n=3) and mental health (12.5% n=6).
Conclusion: The incidence of disasters affects the management of treatment and care for patients with NCDs. Specific measures include a multi-part approach to ensuring that patients with non-communicable diseases have access to life-saving services during and after disasters. The approach of the health system should be expanded from traditional approaches to disasters and requires comprehensive planning of health care by policy makers and health professionals to develop effective strategies to enable patients to access medical, therapeutic and diagnostic services in natural disasters.

Keywords: Disasters; Non-communicable diseases; Systematic review

Introduction
We live in a world in 21st century that is continuously affected by emergency situations, often associated with highly serious consequences to local and regional health. An increase has been observed in the rate of non-communicable diseases...
among recent examples that can refer to devastating storms and floods in USA, Australia, and Pakistan; earthquakes in Haiti, Japan and New Zealand; and conflicts in Syria (1). Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, mental health and chronic lung disease are a major threat to global public health (2-4). As the main cause of death and disability in 65.5% of mortality and about 50% of disability-adjusted living worldwide (1, 5, 6). In other word, 26.6 million deaths worldwide from NCDs in 1990, and its increase to 34.5 million in 2010 (5, 7). The annual death toll from non-communicable diseases is rising from 38 million in 2012 to 55 million in 2030 (4, 8-11). Global economic burden of NCDs, as estimated in 2010, was 6.3 trillion US dollars with an increase to 13 trillion US dollars in 2030 (12). Disasters can damage the basic infrastructure of public health and the necessary social protection systems for vulnerable populations. Disasters also affected people with NCDs, including loss of medicines, interruption of regular medical treatment and damage to hospitals (13-15). Patients suffering from non-communicable diseases e.g. respiratory, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes are among vulnerable groups in critical conditions, who face different problems following natural and man-made disasters (15).

Lung problems is the major cause of diseases and casualties resulted from natural disasters and respiratory damages are known as the main cause of death in various kinds of natural disasters, where a large amount of harmful suspended particles are released in the air (16).

Statistics on different diseases show that at the time of disasters, there have been an increased number of admissions by hospitals of patients with at least one chronic disease. As an example, in Sichuan earthquake, 47% of patients with hypertension and 24% of patients with diabetes constituted the highest rate of city hospitals admissions (17). Hurricane Katrina was an experience where it was observed that as health crises, patients with non-communicable diseases are in need of promoted crisis preparedness and response programs (18). This leads to indirect mortality and high complications up to 70%-90%, primarily due to the exacerbation of life-threatening conditions and chronic diseases (19). Due to the large-scale disasters, non-communicable diseases are expected to cause significant health problems. Therefore, with development of anti-hazard measures such as earthquake-resistant construction, early warning can directly reduce the mortality of patients with non-communicable diseases and injuries caused by hazards. In unexpected disasters, preparedness to care for a vulnerable population is far more important than for healthy people (20-22). After disasters, inadequate care, resources, and lack of continuity of care for chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, asthma, diabetes, renal diseases led to increased symptom exacerbation that resulted in increased morbidity and mortality among these populations (23). However, non-communicable diseases have received little attention from human-rights organizations in the acute phases of crisis and emergencies and there is a need to refocus disaster systems for the 21st Century (1). Generally speaking, there are few studies on the impact of emergencies e.g. natural disasters on non-communicable diseases, and it inevitably a need to improve the level of awareness and understanding of such patients with regard to their access to healthcare services during disasters. (24, 25).

Despite its significance and the critical role of the impact of disasters on patients with non-communicable diseases and the exacerbation of their symptoms, there are not enough studies on this issue (26). Manuals and instructions during disasters and crises often on communicable diseases such as Aleppo boil, measles, cholera and diarrhea; and considering authors research and literature reviews, there are limited number of studies on the management of non-communicable diseases in emergencies (27).

Management of patients with chronic diseases during emergencies such as natural disasters and crises require the formulation of an appropriate rescue manual (28). In consideration of the above-discussed, a systematic review on management of NCDs during disasters, and identifying and defining disaster impacts on it, for the purposes of reducing damages to patients and providing their
needs during and after disasters seem effective. Following the global increase in disasters and everyday increase in the number of people suffering from chronic diseases, there is a basic need to improve preparedness and emergency response to patients with chronic diseases during disasters. Therefore, this study aimed to provide a systematic review in terms of identifying and defining the impacts of disasters on NCDs.

**Methods**

**Research plan and Registration**

This systematic review has been submitted to the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/) (Registration Number: CRD 42020164032). The review methods were guided by the PRISMA statement on systematic reviews, and the steps involved are shown in a PRISMA flow diagram (Fig. 1).

![PRISMA Flow Diagram](image)

**Fig. 1:** Screening chart of the extracted studies in the systematic search in data banks for impacts of disasters on NCDs

**Eligibility Criteria**

**Inclusion criteria**

An article was included in this review if all of the following were applicable:

1. Relevant articles published in accredited scientific and research journals

2. The abstract and text was written in English

3. Studies described impact of disasters in patients with NCDs

**Exclusion criteria**
An article was excluded from this review if any of the following was applicable:
1. Studies with inaccessible abstracts
2. Articles lacking required quality to be included in the study
3. Studies that described only infectious disease or injuries

**Quality assessment**
The researchers evaluated the quality of the selected articles based on valid checklists by type of study. Quality assessment of the observational studies such as cohort and cross-sectional articles was carried out by strengthening the reporting of observational studies in epidemiology check list (STROBE). Based on this checklist, studies obtain a score ranking from 0 to 34. Quality assessment of the experimental studies was carried out by transparent reporting of evaluations with nonrandomized designs (TREND). Based on this checklist, studies obtain a score ranking from 0 to 59. Quality assessment of the Qualitative studies was carried out by critical appraisal skills programme (CASP). Based on this checklist, studies obtain a score ranking from 0 to 10. Quality assessment of the systematic review and meta-analyses studies was carried out by preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analyses checklist (PRISMA). There are 27 items in this checklist. Each paper is reviewed in terms of these 27 items and marked either as implemented or not-implemented. If an item is not observed in a paper, it will be rated ZERO, and if the subject item is mentioned in the paper, it will be rated ONE. When items are not as distinct, the unclear parts will be repeated several times until a precise interpretation is ultimately reached and a valid evaluation of the study is made.

**Information Sources**

**Databases used to search for sources**

The title and abstract of the remaining papers were independently investigated by two members of the research working group based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. We reviewed articles electronically and through the following data banks: Scopus; Web of Science; PubMed; Clinical Key; Ovid Medline; Ovid EMBASE; CINAHL; EBSCO; Cochrane library; PsyCINFO including articles from 1997 to 2019. In addition to these databases, we used websites of organizations such as: CDC, WHO, and FEMA. We also used disaster and chronic disease related published books.

**Literature search strategy**
The search was limited to the English language and was made for articles related to the topic using the following search terms: “non-communicable diseases” AND “disasters”, “non-communicable diseases OR chronic illness”, “disaster OR crisis” on all databases. The key words used in the search strategy were types of disasters, impact of disasters, disaster preparedness for individuals with chronic diseases, health practitioners and chronic diseases in a disaster, disasters and chronic diseases, health outcomes for chronic disease individuals after a disaster. The search strategy for NCDs terms is presented in (Table 1).

The search was made on the international databases including PubMed, Scopus, EMBASE, CINAHL, EBSCO and Clinical Key in the title/abstract field and on the Web of Science in the topic field, from 1997 to 2019. We selected relevant articles according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria in order of the title, abstract, and text. The gray literature was not actively searched, because they usually do not portray the whole picture of the results and when fully published the results may change substantially. Also, we chose key terms and developed a search strategy based on the National Library of Medicine “Medical Subjects Headings (MeSH)”. 

Available at:  http://ijph.tums.ac.ir  

1146
Table 1: Classification of NDCs based on their subsets

| Type of Disease                | Classification                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cardiovascular                | ‘Coronary artery disease’, ‘Myocardial Infarction’, ‘peripheral arterial disease’, ‘Ischemic heart disease’, ‘congenital heart disease’, ‘deep vein thrombosis’ or ‘pulmonary embolism’, ‘Hypertension’, ‘Blood Pressure’. |
| Chronic Respiratory Disease   | ‘asthma’, ‘chronic obstructive pulmonary disease’, ‘COPD’, ‘Chronic lung diseases’, ‘lung disease’ or ‘pulmonary hypertension’. |
| Diabetes                      | ‘Diabetes Mellitus’, ‘Hyperglycemia’. |
| Cancer                        | ‘Malignant tumors’ or ‘neoplasms’. |
| Mental Health                 | ‘Behavior Problems’, ‘Depression’, ‘Mental Disorder’, ‘Mental Health Disorder’, ‘Psychological Disorder’, ‘Anxiety’, ‘Psychiatric Illness’. |

Study Selection
The WHO states that NCDs, also known as chronic diseases, are not transmitted from person to person. In addition to the 4 main types of NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes). In addition to the importance of mental illnesses that are considered non-communicable diseases, we added in addition to the four main diseases in this study. We also included all natural and manmade disasters in the study. This phase of the study was conducted in three sections. First, duplicate studies were deleted. Second, the title and abstract of the remaining papers were independently investigated by two members of the research working group based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. When disagreement occurred, the opinion of a third reviewer was sought. Finally, the screened studies were selected based on the full text and independently by the researchers. Moreover, the reference lists of included studies were searched again for additional relevant articles.

Data Collection
In our primary search, 663 studies were gathered. Of these, 10 were identified in two or more databases. Removal of the additional entries of the same articles left 653 unique studies. Examination of the abstracts identified 535 studies that did not fit the inclusion criteria described in the next paragraph. The remaining 118 studies were read in full, and a further 70 studies excluded, with reasons for each exclusion recorded. This gave 48 studies included in qualitative synthesis. (Fig. 1).

Results
Initially 663 potentially relevant articles were identified. After re-assessment the titles, 10 articles were excluded due to repetition and 653 articles included the screening. After a title and abstract review, 535 articles were excluded based on exclusion criteria and 118 articles selected for full text review. After the full text review, 70 articles were excluded based on exclusion criteria. Finally, 48 papers were included in our systematic review. The process of selecting studies in the PRISMA flowchart is described in Fig.1. Of the 48 articles, most of the included studies were conducted in USA (39.6% n=19) and Japan (25% n=12). The basic features of included studies are presented in Table 2.
### Table 2: Articles used in impacts of disasters on NCDs

| Authors              | Year of Publication | Study Design | Type of Disease            | Type of Disaster     | Location          |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Robert et al. (24)   | 1997                | Quantitative | Cardiovascular | Earthquake          | USA              |
| Kikuko Mori et al.  (29) | 2007             | Qualitative  | Diabetes and Respiratory Disease | Earthquake          | Japan            |
| Aldrich et al. (30)  | 2008                | Qualitative  | Combination of Four Diseases | All Natural Disasters | USA              |
| Uscher et al. (31)   | 2009                | Quantitative | Combination of Four Diseases | All Natural Disasters | USA              |
| Ardalan et al. (32)  | 2010                | Qualitative  | Combination of Four Diseases | Earthquake          | Iran             |
| Korteweg et al. (33) | 2010                | Systematic Review | Combination of Four Diseases | All Natural Disasters | USA              |
| Ng et al. (34)       | 2011                | Longitudinal Study | Diabetes | Flood | UK               |
| Bethel et al. (25)   | 2011                | Experimental | Combination of Four Diseases | All Natural Disasters | USA              |
| Robinson et al. (35) | 2011                | Experimental | Respiratory Disease | All Natural Disasters | Australia        |
| Kim et al. (36)      | 2011                | Systematic Review | Mental Health Disease | Earthquake          | Japan            |
| Bandypadhyay et al. (16) | 2012            | Experimental | Respiratory Disease | All Natural Disasters | Japan            |
| jiao et al. (37)     | 2012                | Cohort       | Cardiovascular | Hurricane | USA             |
| de maio et al. (27)  | 2013                | Systematic Review | Combination of Four Diseases | All Natural Disasters | Denmark          |
| Ito et al. (38)      | 2013                | Quantitative | Cardiovascular | Earthquake          | Japan            |
| Kobayashi et al. (39) | 2013              | Cohort       | Respiratory Disease | Earthquake          | Japan            |
| Matsumoto et al. (40) | 2013              | Systematic Review | Mental Health | Earthquake          | Japan            |
| Poopola et al. (41)  | 2013                | Systematic Review | Mental Health | All Natural Disasters | USA              |
| Funayama et al. (42) | 2013                | Quantitative | Mental Health | Earthquake          | Japan            |
| Kang, (43)           | 2014                | Cross-Sectional | Combination of Four Diseases | All Natural Disasters | Korea            |
| Ko et al. (44)       | 2014                | Quantitative | Combination of Four Diseases | All Natural Disasters | USA              |
| Nakayama et al. (45) | 2014                | Experimental | Respiratory Disease | Earthquake          | Japan            |
| Owens et al. (26)    | 2014                | Qualitative  | Combination of Four Diseases | All Natural Disasters | USA              |
| Lami et al. (46)     | 2014                | Cross-Sectional | Combination of Four Diseases | Mass gathering | Iraq             |
| Hunt et al. (47)     | 2015                | Qualitative  | Combination of Four Diseases | Earthquake          | Japan            |
| Authors                  | Year | Study Type       | Focus of Diseases                  | Affected Areas                                    | Location   |
|-------------------------|------|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Khader et al.           | 2015 | Systematic Review| Combination of Four Diseases       | Storm, Flood, Cyclone                             | Jordan     |
| Pourhosseini et al.     | 2015 | Qualitative      | Combination of Four Diseases       | All Natural Disasters                             | Iran       |
| Rayn et al.             | 2015 | Systematic Review| Combination of Four Diseases       | Hurricane, Flood, Cyclone                         | Australia  |
| Harada et al.           | 2015 | Systematic Review| Mental Health                      | Hurricane, Earthquake, Nuclear Accidents          | Japan      |
| Yoo et al.              | 2016 | Qualitative      | Combination of Four Diseases       | All Natural Disasters                             | Korea      |
| Murakami et al.         | 2017 | Systematic Review| Combination of Four Diseases       | Earthquake                                       | Japan      |
| Koenig et al.           | 2017 | Systematic Review| Combination of Four Diseases       | All Natural Disasters and Mass gathering          | USA        |
| Slama et al.            | 2017 | Systematic Review| Combination of Four Diseases       | All Natural Disasters                             | Canada     |
| Man et al.              | 2018 | Systematic Review| Cancer                             | All Natural Disasters and Mannmade Disasters      | Australia  |
| Becquart et al.         | 2018 | Quantitative     | Cardiovascular                     | Hurricane                                         | USA        |
| Verna et al.            | 2019 | Qualitative      | Cancer                             | All Natural Disasters                             | Italian    |
| Nakhle et al.           | 2019 | Cohort           | Cardiovascular                     | Hurricane                                         | USA        |
| Ryan et al.             | 2019 | Quantitative     | Combination of Four Diseases       | All Natural Disasters                             | USA        |
| Ryan et al.             | 2019 | Quantitative     | Combination of Four Diseases       | All Natural Disasters                             | Australia  |
| Nguyen.                 | 2019 | Quantitative     | Respiratory Disease                | Hurricane                                         | USA        |
| Lawrence et al.         | 2019 | Cohort           | Respiratory Disease and Cardiovascular | Hurricane                                     | USA        |
| Allweiss.               | 2019 | Systematic Review| Diabetes                           | All Natural Disasters                             | USA        |
| Satoh et al.            | 2019 | Quantitative     | Diabetes                           | Earthquake                                        | Japan      |
| Gohardehi et al.        | 2019 | Systematic Review| Diabetes and Cardiovascular        | All Natural Disasters and Manmade Disasters       | Iran       |
| Aloisio et al.          | 2019 | Quantitative     | Respiratory Disease                | Earthquake                                        | Italian    |
| Prohaska et al.         | 2019 | Systematic Review| Cancer                             | All Natural Disasters                             | USA        |
| Gichomo et al.          | 2019 | Qualitative      | Combination of Four Diseases       | Earthquake                                        | USA        |
| Kloner et al.           | 2019 | Systematic Review| Mental Health                      | All Natural Disasters and Manmade Disasters       | India      |
| Makwana et al.          | 2019 | Systematic Review|                                    |                                                  |            |

For the NCDs targeted by this research, most of the included studies were a combination of four diseases: cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, diabetes and cancer (44% n=21). Followed

Available at:  [http://ijph.tums.ac.ir](http://ijph.tums.ac.ir)
by cardiovascular disease (14.6% n=7), chronic respiratory disease (12.5% n=6), diabetes and cancer (6.2% n=3) and mental health (12.5% n=6).

Of the 48 articles, (39.6% n=19) focused specifically on all natural disasters, (29.2% n=14) on earthquake, (10.5% n=5) on hurricanes, (8.5% n=4) on natural with manmade disasters, (4.2% n=2) on hurricanes with flood, (2% n=1) on flood, (2% n=1) natural disasters with mass gatherings, (2% n=1) on only mass gatherings and (2% n=1) earthquake with nuclear accidents.

The design of most studies was systematic review article (35.4% n=17), (23% n=11) quantitative article, (18.8% n=9) qualitative article, (8.4% n=4) cohort and experimental articles, (4% n=2) cross sectional and (2% n=1) longitudinal study.

In a literature review, people with NCDs, compared to those with good physical health, show significant ill health consequences.

**Cardiovascular Disease**

Patients with chronic diseases are vulnerable in disasters. Disregarding medical care for patients with cardiovascular diseases during and after disasters may cause the worsening of symptoms and signs including hypertension, cardiac arrest and even death.

Natural disasters including earthquakes are of the main stress factors in patients with cardiovascular diseases that can cause an increase in mortality rate (70). The impact that natural disasters have on patients with cardiovascular diseases may persist for weeks and even months after the outbreak, such as Hurricane Katrina (38).

The disruption of access to medical care, drug shortage, not maintaining a healthy diet, loss of patients’ medical records, destruction of transport routes, and disaster-related environmental stressors cause the worsening of symptoms and signs in patients. In the occurrence of natural disasters like earthquakes, the worsening of symptoms and signs in patients with cardiac arrhythmias and heart failure persists for six months since the beginning of incident (71).

Moreover, some studies have discussed the increasing rate of cardiovascular diseases including congestive heart failure, acute heart attack and atrial fibrillation after disasters (37).

**Chronic Respiratory Disease**

Patients with chronic respiratory diseases suffer from the worsening of symptoms and signs of disease including the shortness of breath (29, 35). After the incident, there is an increase in hospital admissions and hospitalization rates for patients with chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD (16). Natural disasters including floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc. affect adversely the clinical consequences in patients with chronic respiratory diseases. Therefore, following natural disasters, admission and hospitalization of these patients and their hospital care is essential (39).

Among the most important causes of worsening respiratory signs in patients with chronic respiratory diseases are: disruption of access to medical care, lack of access to medicines, crowd, lack of respirator masks, oxygen and nebulizers, increased allergens and dust, destruction of transport routes, stress, poor diet and exposure to cold weather (16, 29, 35, 39, 60).

Among the major problems of these patients in need of CPAPs like ventilators, is that they face problems following the incident and power cut; hence, a communication support system like generators is required to be available and planned for these patients (45).

Elevated levels of allergens after disasters are another cause of worsening respiratory illness (72). Studies related to chronic respiratory diseases in disasters confirm the fact that such patients are among high risk groups after disasters.

**Diabetes**

Following incidents and disasters, patients with diabetes are also among high risk and vulnerable groups affected by disruptions in medical care during and after disasters, impacts that persist for months after the incident.

Inadequate nutrition, lack of access to medication, lack of insulin, limited physical activity, loss of medical records, loss of insulin kits, lack of access to laboratory measures, lack of awareness of pa-
Patients and health care workers are the most important causes of disease exacerbation in patients with diabetes (34, 62, 63).

**Cancer**

After disasters, patients with cancer face transport disruption, destruction of chemotherapy and radiotherapy clinics, hospitals and doctors and medicines. Reducing access to care and treatment in these patients can continue for up to 1 year, based on the experience of Hurricane Katrina (73). Damage to infrastructure, support systems, communication and information systems, patient’s refrain from treatment adherence, destruction of hospitals, destruction of radiotherapy, laboratory and paraclinical departments cause disruption in medical care of patients with cancer (55).

**Mental Health**

Most patients with mental disorders had higher rate of hospitalization following the worsening of their symptoms, change of residence, loss of their family members, and loss of their job after disasters (40). Shortage of some drugs, especially antidepressants and anticonvulsants, causes many problems for these patients (36). Depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, PTSD, alcohol dependence, emotional instability, hopelessness, Suicidal thoughts and fear were the most common disorders (69). Being in the denial phase after disasters leads to increased stress, anxiety, fear and other maladaptive reactions. In Man-made disasters, fear, suspicion, paranoia, obsessive thoughts and suicidal ideation are the most common problems for these patients (69).

**Discussion**

Natural and man-made incidents and disasters affect the management and medical care of patients with chronic diseases. Such impacts lead to the worsening of symptoms and signs of the disease and even death. The most important causes of exacerbation in these patients following disasters include loss of medical care, lack of access to medicine, poor nutrition, lack of awareness of patients and medical staff, transportation disruption, lack of laboratory facilities, destruction of medical centers, and loss of medical records. Exacerbates stress and anxiety and sleep disorders (53, 54). Lack of proper care and treatment, even for a short time, puts at risk patients with NCDs. Patients with cancer, it can exacerbate the disease and increase the risk of death. In patients with cardiovascular diseases, it leads to heart attacks, hypertension, pulmonary embolism and acute MI and death.

In patients with chronic respiratory disorder, it exacerbates symptoms and increases hospital admissions and increases the need for ventilators and oxygen therapy.

In patients with diabetes, symptoms for example diabetic ketoacidosis, hypoglycemia, increased mortality, and especially in insulin-dependent patients occurred following disasters.

Symptoms such as anxiety, fear, depression, PTSD, suicide, emotional instability, and frustration are seen in patients with mental disorders. The effects of disasters in patients with non-communicable diseases require continuous evaluation, even for months after the crisis. Follow-up helps reduce the effects of disasters on patients.

It is vital to create plan and useful strategies in emergencies situation before a disasters occurs. Adequate access to medicines and medical care, improving the level of cooperation between national and international agencies in the field of public health, appropriate response of the emergency team in emergencies, preservation and management of patient information and records, integration of non-communicable diseases in policy Instructions and guidelines in critical situations, self-care training for patients in disasters, training of health care workers, the existence of an emergency evacuation plan for patients with chronic diseases, and the provision of psychiatric interventions help reduce the effects of disasters on patients.
Conclusion

Disasters and incidents affect the management and medical care of patients with chronic diseases; therefore, health and medical systems require a change in traditional approaches to disasters. Improving emergency preparedness for preplanning and providing self-care training to patients is essential. Safe and correct patient identification during disasters and provision of timely services and relief can reduce the impact of disasters on diseases.

Ethical considerations

Ethical issues (Including plagiarism, informed consent, misconduct, data fabrication and/or falsification, double publication and/or submission, redundancy, etc.) have been completely observed by the authors.

Acknowledgements

This article is extracted from a PhD thesis on health in emergency and disaster with COI: IR.UMSU.REC.1398.228, Urmia University of Medical Sciences by the research center for social factors effective on health. We extend our special thanks to supervisors and advisors collaborated in this research.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.

References

1. Murray CJ, Vos T, Lozano R, et al (2012). Disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) for 291 diseases and injuries in 21 regions, 1990–2010: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010. Lancet, 380:2197-2233.
2. Alliance. (2016). WHO Discussion Paper: Draft Updated Appendix 3 of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020.
3. Organization WH (2011). The Brazzaville declaration on noncommunicable diseases prevention and control in the WHO African region. Brazzaville: WHO Africa Regional Office.
4. Organization WH (2013). Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013-2020.
5. Lozano R, Naghavi M, Foreman K, et al (2012). Global and regional mortality from 235 causes of death for 20 age groups in 1990 and 2010; a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010. Lancet, 380(9859):2095-128.
6. Nugent R, Feigl A (2010). Where have all the donors gone? Scarce donor funding for non-communicable diseases. Center for global development working paper.
7. Bloom DE, Cafer E, Jané-Llopis E, et al (2012). The global economic burden of noncommunicable diseases. Program on the Global Demography of Aging.
8. Organization WH (2014). Global status report on noncommunicable diseases 2014. ed. World Health Organization.
9. Marrero S, Adashi EY (2015). Noncommunicable diseases. Seminars in reproductive medicine, Thieme Medical Publishers, pp. 035-040.
10. Dye C (2014). After 2015: infectious diseases in a new era of health and development. Philos Trans R Soc Lond B Biol Sci, 369(1645):20130426.
11. Habib SH, Saha S (2010). Burden of non-communicable disease: global overview. Diabetes and Metabolic Syndrome Clinical Research and Reviews, 4(1):41-47.
12. Organization WH (2012). The great east Japan earthquake: a story of a devastating natural disaster, a tale of human compassion. https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/207516
13. Mensah GA, Mokdad AH, Posner SF, et al (2005). When chronic conditions become acute: prevention and control of chronic diseases and adverse health outcomes during natural disasters. Prev Chronic Dis, 2 Spec No(Spec No):A04.
14. Jhung MA, Shehab N, Rohr-Allegreni C, et al (2007). Chronic disease and disasters: medication demands of Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Am J Prev Med, 33(3):207-10.
15. Gorji HA, Jafari H, Heidari M, et al (2018). Cancer patients during and after natural and man-made disasters: a systematic review. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, 19(10):2695-2700.

16. Bandyopadhyay R, Paul R (2012). Lung problems in environmental disasters. *Medicine*, 22.

17. Chan EY, Man A, Lam H (2019). Scientific evidence on natural disasters and health emergency and disaster risk management in Asian rural-based area. *Br Med Bull*, 129: 91–105.

18. Bell SA, Abir M, Choi H, et al (2018). All-cause hospital admissions among older adults after a natural disaster. *Ann Emerg Med*, 71(6):746-754.

19. Ryan B, Green J, Franklin R, et al (2019). Application of National and Sub-National Indicators to Rank Needs of People with Life-threatening Conditions and Chronic Diseases Before, During, and After a Disaster. *Prehosp Disast Med*, 34: s47-s47.

20. Bierman AS, Clancy CM (2001). Health disparities among older women: identifying opportunities to improve quality of care and functional health outcomes. *J Am Med Womens Assoc* (1972), 56(4):155-9.

21. Menotti A, Mulder I, Nissinen A, et al (2001). Prevalence of morbidity and multimorbidity in elderly male populations and their impact on 10-year all-cause mortality: The FINE study (Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Elderly). *J Clin Epidemiol*, 54(7):680-6.

22. Fernandez LS, Byard D, Lin C-C, et al (2002). Frail elderly as disaster victims: emergency management strategies. *Prehosp Disast Med*, 17(2):67-74.

23. Chan EY, Kim J (2011). Chronic health needs immediately after natural disasters in middle-income countries: the case of the 2008 Sichuan, China earthquake. *Eur J Emerg Med*, 18(2):111-4.

24. Klener RA, Leor J, Poole WK, et al (1997). Population-based analysis of the effect of the Northridge Earthquake on cardiac death in Los Angeles County, California. *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 30(5):1174-80.

25. Bethel JW, Foreman AN, Burke SC (2011). Disaster preparedness among medically vulnerable populations. *Am J Prev Med*, 40(2):139-43.

26. Owens JK, Martsolf DS (2014). Chronic Illness and Disasters: Development of a Theoretical Framework. *The Qualitative Report*, 19:1-23.

27. Demaio A, Jamieson J, Horn R, et al (2013). Non-communicable diseases in emergencies: a call to action. *PLoS Curr*, 5.

28. Slama S, Kim H-J, Roglic G, et al (2017). Care of non-communicable diseases in emergencies. *Lancet*, 389(10066):326-330.

29. Mori K, Ugai K, Nonami Y, et al (2007). Health needs of patients with chronic diseases who lived through the great Hanshin earthquake. *Disaster Manag Response*, 5(1):8-13.

30. Aldrich N, Benson WF (2008). Disaster preparedness and the chronic disease needs of vulnerable older adults. *Prev Chronic Dis*, 5(1):A27.

31. Uscher-Pines L, Hausman AJ, Powell S, DeMara P, Heake G, Hagen MG (2009). Disaster preparedness of households with special needs in southeastern Pennsylvania. *Am J Prev Med*, 37:227-230.

32. Ardalan A, Mazaheri M, Naieni KH, et al (2010). Older people’s needs following major disasters: a qualitative study of Iranian elders’ experiences of the Bam earthquake. *Ageing and Society*, 30(1):11-23.

33. Korteweg HA, van Bokhoven I, Yzermans C, et al (2010). Rapid health and needs assessments after disasters: a systematic review. *BMC Public Health*, 10:295.

34. Ng J, Atkin S, Rigby A, et al (2011). The effect of extensive flooding in Hull on the glycaemic control of patients with diabetes. *Diabet Med*, 28(5):519-24.

35. Robinson B, Alatas MF, Robertson A, et al (2011). Natural disasters and the lung. *Respirology*, 16(3):386-95.

36. Kim Y (2011). Great East Japan Earthquake and early mental-health-care response. *Psychiatry Clin Neurosci*, 65(6):539-48.

37. Jiao Z, Kakoulides SV, Moscona J, et al (2012). Effect of Hurricane Katrina on incidence of acute myocardial infarction in New Orleans three years after the storm. *Am J Cardiol*, 109(4):502-5.

38. Ito K, Date T, Ogawa K, et al (2013). Transient increase in blood pressure after the Great East Japan Earthquake in patients with hypertension living around Tokyo. *Int J Cardiol*, 162(3):258-60.
39. Kobayashi S, Hanagama M, Yamanda S, et al (2013). The impact of a large-scale natural disaster on patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: the aftermath of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. *Respiratory Investigation*, 51(1):17-23.

40. Matsumoto K, Shirasawa H, Iwadate T, et al (2013). [Challenges faced by psychiatric services in Miyagi Prefecture after the Great East Japan Earthquake]. *Seishin Shinkeigaku Zassi*, 115(5):492-8.

41. Popoola A, Krasnoshtan D, Toth A-P, et al (2013). Information verification during natural disasters. Proceedings of the 22nd international conference on World Wide Web, pp. 1029-1032.

42. Funayama M, Mizushima J (2013). Severity of pre-existing psychiatric illness and response to the Great East Japan Earthquake. *J Psychiatr Res*, 47(10):1479-82.

43. Kang K (2014). Disaster preparedness among vulnerable older adults with chronic diseases: Results from a cross-sectional study in Inchon, Korea. *Nurs Health Sci*, 16(1):46-51.

44. Ko JY, Strine TW, Allweiss P (2014). Conditions and Household Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2006–2010. *Prehosp Disaster Med*, 29(1): 13–20.

45. Nakayama T, Tanaka S, Uematsu M, et al (2014). Effect of a blackout in pediatric patients with home medical devices during the 2011 eastern Japan earthquake. *Brain Dev*, 36(2):143-7.

46. Lami F, Jevad AW, Hassan A, et al (2019). Noncommunicable Disease Emergencies During Arbaeenia Mass Gathering at Public Hospitals in Karbala, Najaf, and Babel Governorates, Iraq. 2014: Cross-Sectional Study. *JMIR Public Health Surveill*, 5(3):e10890.

47. Hunt MR, Chung R, Durocher E, et al (2015). Haitian and international responders’ and decision-makers’ perspectives regarding disability and the response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake. *Glob Health Action*, 8: 27969.

48. Khader YS, Abdelrahman M, Abdlo N, et al (2015). Climate change and health in the Eastern Mediterranean countries: a systematic review. *Rev Environ Health*, 30(3):163-181.

49. Pourhosseini SS, Ardalan A, Mehrholhassani MH (2015). Key aspects of providing healthcare services in disaster response stage. *Iran J Public Health*, 44(1): 111–118.

50. Ryan B, Franklin RC, Burkle Jr FM, et al (2015). Identifying and describing the impact of cyclone, storm and flood related disasters on treatment management, care and exacerbations of non-communicable diseases and the implications for public health. *PLoS Curr*, 7:ecurrents.

51. Harada N, Shigemura J, Tanichi M, et al (2015). Mental health and psychological impacts from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster: a systematic literature review. *Disaster Mil Med*, 1:17.

52. Yoo M, Lee M, Tullmann D (2016). Perceptions of disaster preparedness among older people in South Korea. *Int J Older People Nurs*, 11(1):18-23.

53. Muralakami A, Sasaki H, Pascapurmana DN, et al (2018). Noncommunicable diseases after the Great East Japan Earthquake: systematic review, 2011–2016. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep*, 12(3):396-407.

54. Koenig KL, Schulz CH (2010). *Koenig and Schulz’s disaster medicine: comprehensive principles and practices*. 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press.

55. Man RX-G, Lack DA, Wyatt CE, et al (2018). The effect of natural disasters on cancer care: a systematic review. *Lancet Oncol*, 19(9):e482-e499.

56. Becquart NA, Naumova EN, Singh G, et al (2019). Cardiovascular disease hospitalizations in Louisiana parishes’ elderly before, during and after hurricane Katrina. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 16(1):74.

57. Verna L, Cortellini A, Giusti R, et al (2019). Cancer care after natural disaster: different countries, similar problems. *J Glob Oncol*, 5: JGO.

58. Nahkle A, Ayoub A, Subedi R, et al (2020). Incidence of acute myocardial infarction and hurricane katrina: thirteen years after the storm. *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 75:138.

59. Ryan BJ, Franklin RC, Burkle FM, et al (2019). Determining key influences on patient ability to successfully manage noncommunicable disease after natural disaster. *Prehosp Disaster Med*, 34(3):241-250.

60. Nguyen MT (2019). Asthma-Related Health Outcomes in New Jersey After a Natural Disaster Event. *College of Health Sciences,*

Available at:  [http://ijph.tums.ac.ir](http://ijph.tums.ac.ir)
61. Lawrence WR, Lin Z, Lipton EA, et al (2019). After the storm: Short-term and long-term health effects following superstorm sandy among the elderly. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep*, 13(1):28-32.
62. Allweiss P (2019). Diabetes and Disasters: Recent Studies and Resources for Preparedness. *Curr Diab Rep*, 19(11):131.
63. Satoh J, Yokono K, Ando R, et al (2019). Diabetes care providers’ manual for disaster diabetes care. *J Diabetes Invest*, 10(4):1118-1142.
64. Gohardehi F, Seyedin H, Moslehi S (2020). Prevalence Rate of Diabetes and Hypertension in Disaster-Exposed Populations: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Ethiop J Health Sci*, 30(3):439-448.
65. D’Aloisio F, Vittorini P, Giuliani AR, et al (2019). Hospitalization Rates for Respiratory Diseases After L’Aquila Earthquake. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 16(12):2109.
66. Prohaska TR, Peters KE (2019). Impact of natural disasters on health outcomes and cancer among older adults. *Gerontologist*, 59(1):S50-S56.
67. Gichomo GN (2019). Improving Disaster Preparedness and Planning for Chronic Disease Populations. Walden University. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2019. 27547229.
68. Kloner RA (2019). Lessons learned about stress and the heart after major earthquakes. *Am Heart J*, 215:20-26.
69. Makwana N (2019). Disaster and its impact on mental health: A narrative review. *J Family Med Prim Care*, 8(10): 3090-3095.
70. Leor J, Poole WK, Kloner RA (1996). Sudden cardiac death triggered by an earthquake. *N Engl J Med*, 334(7):413-9.
71. Nakano M, Kondo M, Wakayama Y, et al (2012). Increased incidence of tachyarrhythmias and heart failure hospitalization in patients with implanted cardiac devices after the great East Japan earthquake disaster. *Circ J*, 76(5):1283-5.
72. Mitchell H, Cohn RD, Wildfire J, et al (2012). Implementation of evidence-based asthma interventions in post-Katrina New Orleans: the Head-off Environmental Asthma in Louisiana (HEAL) study. *Environ Health Perspect*, 120(11):1607-1612.
73. Brown DW, Young SL, Engelgau MM, et al (2008). Evidence-based approach for disaster preparedness authorities to inform the contents of repositories for prescription medications for chronic disease management and control. *Prehosp Disaster Med*, 23(5):447-57.