HURRICANE SANDY: AN EDUCATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF KEY RESEARCH STUDIES

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ABSTRACT

There, undoubtedly, will be a flurry of research activity in the ‘Superstorm’ Sandy impact area on a myriad of disaster-related topics, across academic disciplines. The purpose of this study was to review the disaster research related specifically to hurricanes in the educational and social sciences that would best serve as a compendium bibliography for researchers, academic faculty, and policymakers in the Hurricane Sandy impact area. To that end, this study, based on a content analysis procedure, identified key articles on hurricanes based on the extant literature indexed in the database PsycINFO. Of the 1,408 references identified, 1000 were scholarly qualitative and quantitative research articles. The author developed a bibliography of 100 key citations to articles, categorized across select topical areas, based on issues central to investigatory efforts following natural disasters. Future research should recommend research designs that address specific concerns of both researchers and policymakers in high-impact, heavily populated areas of the U.S. susceptible to major tropical storm or hurricane damage.

Introduction

The field of disaster studies has grown at an exponential pace over the past 30 years and, accordingly, the knowledge base of the field is presently quite voluminous (Rodriguez et al., 2007)). While investigations on the impacts of natural disasters in the areas of climate science and the general sciences have a long history, research on the human impact of hurricanes is a more recent phenomenon in the social sciences. The enormous devastation of Hurricane Andrew in 1990 and its impact on human populations, social institutions, and commerce was a key turning point on the emphasis and value that social scientists place on research findings regarding all aspects of natural disasters. Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, spurred on exponential growth in investigatory efforts across all the social sciences. Perhaps to put this rapid rise in research output into perspective, a keyword search for the term Hurricane in the database PsycINFO in 1985 yielded just 10 hits; today, this search would identify over 1,400 reference citations.

Hurricane Sandy (October 30, 2012), a category 1 ‘super’ storm, produced untold destruction on the U.S. east coast, particularly New Jersey and greater New York City coastal areas. Property damage has been estimated at about $75 billion and the death toll is reported as 72 adults and children.

The Current Study

The purpose of this article is to provide a bibliography of key peer-reviewed research studies on the human, social, health, organizational, and policy aspects of hurricanes. Such research references provide a concise listing of highly-relevant articles for researchers, professional practitioners, and policymakers in the Hurricane Sandy impact areas. To that end, the database PsycINFO was searched as this file is considered the premier bibliographic source for literature in the behavioral and social sciences. Moreover, PsycINFO indexes periodicals in the social, health-related, and policy fields.
The author conducted a keyword (i.e., All Fields) search, inputting the term “Hurricane”, on March 10, 2013. This operation yielded 1,410 citations, of which 1000 were journal articles that appear in peer-reviewed periodicals. These 1000 references were then reviewed for their saliency as a robust, major reference (the intent was to select articles that were both well-researched and informative). Thus, the articles that appeared to be most helpful and useful to researchers, practitioners, and policymakers were selected for inclusion. A typology of 10 focus areas served as a template for categorization. Table 1 shows the reference citations to the 100 articles across these typologies.

### Table 1

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<th>Preparedness</th>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Crisis Communication</th>
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**Evacuation**


Psycho-Social


Community Recovery


**Recovery-Human Populations**


**Recovery-Children**


**Methodology**


**Business & Commerce**


**School Settings**


**Health Issues**


**Government**


Conclusions

Bibliometric research, based on a content analysis of the extant literature, can serve a pedagogic function in that key references on a specific issue can be presented in a typologic framework. The current analysis provides both scholars and policymakers a research compendium of articles that address major concerns in dealing with the individual and social aspects of hurricane impact on a populated region. In addition, the bibliography includes literature on the governmental response to recent hurricanes (see Piotrowski 2006; Piotrowski & Armstrong, 1998). At the same time, this study complements recent interest in how informetrics informs disaster science (Liu et al., 2012; Magnone, 2012). Future studies using content analysis methods applied to books on natural disasters could identify research areas of neglect in the field.

References


