

Natural disasters and intimate partner violence: What the international research tells us

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**Does IPV increase after a
disaster?**



Victim interviews & surveys

- 5 studies measured rates of women's self report of intimate partner violence
- Increases range from 5.1% to 98%
- Decreases range from 33% to 57.2%

There are significant measurement challenges



Data from organisations

- 9 *published* articles of police/organisation statistics and workers' perceptions
- Represents multiple studies and communities
- All document increases
- Police protection orders increase 15% to 65%
- DV organisation increase in clients 43% -300%
- Allied agencies increases of double and triple

Service demand will increase and remain high



What are we measuring?

Increasing *service demands or experiences*

- First time experiences of violence?
- First time help-seekers for previous or ongoing violence?
- Existing clients seeking help all at the same time

Experiences of violence are diverse & complex



What is the 'cause'?

Does increased stress and trauma lead to violence?

OR

Is it an escalation of controlling behaviours?

***Stress and trauma does not cause
or excuse violence***



Victims: Increased vulnerability & impacts

- Housing
- Social support
- Child care
- Finances and employment
- Custody arrangements
- Mental and physical health

Women will have increased needs & vulnerability



**How are organisations
impacted and responding?**



Domestic violence organisation impacts & responses

- Damage to infrastructure and communication
- Decrease in staffing and staff capacity
- Clients can't find services and services can't find clients
- Loss of funding
- Allied services also weakened
- Increased service demand
- Additional and re-oriented work

Agencies will do more with less



Emergency preparedness & planning

Domestic and family violence agencies

- Not adequately prepared
- May be excluded in general emergency planning processes
- Are aware and want to take action
- Need funding, training and expert consultation
- Have resources and skills to offer

Interagency partnerships are essential to organisational survival and recovery



What we don't know

- Impacts and recovery in the long-term
- Coping, resiliency and recovery of victims
- Experiences of CALD, Indigenous, LGTBQ, older or disabled women
- Perspectives and experiences of the emergency sector

Communities only prepare & respond if they understand and anticipate unmet need



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<http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/>

Resource: <http://www.gdnonline.org/>