

Yeka Nmadu¹, MB; BS; Oluwafemi Aremu², MB; BS; Wisdom Osisima¹, BDS; Margaret Foster³, MS, MPH, AHIP; Angela Clendenin¹, PhD MA

¹Texas A&M School of Public Health, ²Defense Industries Cooperation of Nigeria, ³Texas A&M University Medical Sciences Library

Background & Objectives

- Disasters, both natural and man-made, are increasing in incidence and consequence around the world and they present a major challenge to healthcare workers as they happen quickly and without prior warning requiring dynamic approaches.
- The purpose of this research was to explore the barriers and facilitators to disaster preparedness for healthcare workers and identify the levels of the socioecological framework addressed when assessing for barriers and facilitators to disaster preparedness for healthcare workers.

Methods

- Databases searched included Medline, Embase, CINAHL, Academic Search, and PsychInfo.
- The following concepts were searched: (emergency responders or physicians or nurses) and (disaster planning or disaster preparedness).
- Studies were included if they focused on: 1) disaster preparedness for licensed or certified healthcare workers, 2) had at least one barrier, facilitator or both.
- The barriers and/or facilitators were stratified based on the socioecological framework.

Results

Barriers				
Personal (k)		Community (k)		
Fear Safety for family members (5) Safety for self (4)		Lack of transport access to work, Residential distance from hospital (1)		
Child care obligations (4)				
Employment classification (3)				
Pet care obligations, Having a family or dependents, Personal health problems (2)				
Facilitators				
Personal (k)	Interpersonal (k)	Institutional/Organizational (k)	Community (k)	Policy/Enabling factor (k)
Previous disaster experience (11)	Preparation of workplace colleagues (3)	Written emergency plan/workplace preparedness, Clear role delineation, Availability of PPE (2)	Disaster type (2)	Availability of compensation plans or insurance plans (1)
Adequate disaster training/knowledge/skill (8)		Employer disaster preparedness, Access to hospital disaster incident response plans, Workplace safety, Pre-pandemic vaccination (1)	Sense of belonging in the community, Duration of stay in the community (1)	
Age Older age (8)				
Self-efficacy (5)				
Gender Male (4) Female (1)				
Employment type (4)				
k= no. of articles		PPE= Personal Protective Equipment		

Results

Initial screening comprised of 913 articles with 104 duplicates removed yielding 809 articles subjected to abstract review. After review, 94 articles were retained for further review and 42 were selected for inclusion. Most studies investigated barriers and facilitators in nurses with the personal level of the socioecological framework being the most prominent factors identified.

Discussion

- Personal and family obligations predominate as prominent barriers to disaster preparedness particularly disaster response.
- Personal skill and experience are factors that will enhance response to disaster situations by healthcare workers. Healthcare workers are also more likely to participate in disaster response in work settings that prioritize preparedness.

Conclusion

The response of healthcare workers to a disaster situation can be significantly influenced by varying barriers and/or facilitators, making them important considerations to bear in mind in the planning and implementation of disaster response.