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Seniors' disaster resilience: A scoping review of the literature

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Abstract:

In 2000, for the first time in human history, the global number of older adults surpassed the number of children. Globally, the older adult population will continue to grow at unprecedented rates. The number of older adults is projected to increase to 1.5 billion by 2050. These changes have significant social and economic implications, and for future disaster risk reduction practice and policy. The purpose of this paper is to use coping review methodology to identify the evidence-based knowledge on the main drivers of seniors' resilience throughout the disaster management cycle: i) mitigation, ii) preparedness, iii) response, and iv) recovery. The review highlights six points of discussion that may help to guide future disaster management research, policy, and practice. Overall a stronger research agenda on seniors' disaster resilience is necessary, without such evidence seniors may continue to experience disproportionate disaster outcomes.

1. Introduction

In 2000, for the first time in human history, the global number of older adults (60+) surpassed the number of children (14 years of age and under) (United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA] & HelpAge International [HAI], 2012). Population ageing is a result of decreased fertility rates and increased life expectancies (Shetty, 2012). Worldwide, the older adult population will continue to grow at unprecedented rates, whereby the number of older adults is projected to triple to 1.5 billion between 2010 and 2050 (World Health Organization [WHO], 2011). By 2050, one in five persons in the world will be 60 years of age or older (UNFPA & HAI, 2012). These changes have significant social and economic implications and for future

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