

Disaster preparedness and response in older adults: a review and discussion.



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No conflicts to declare.

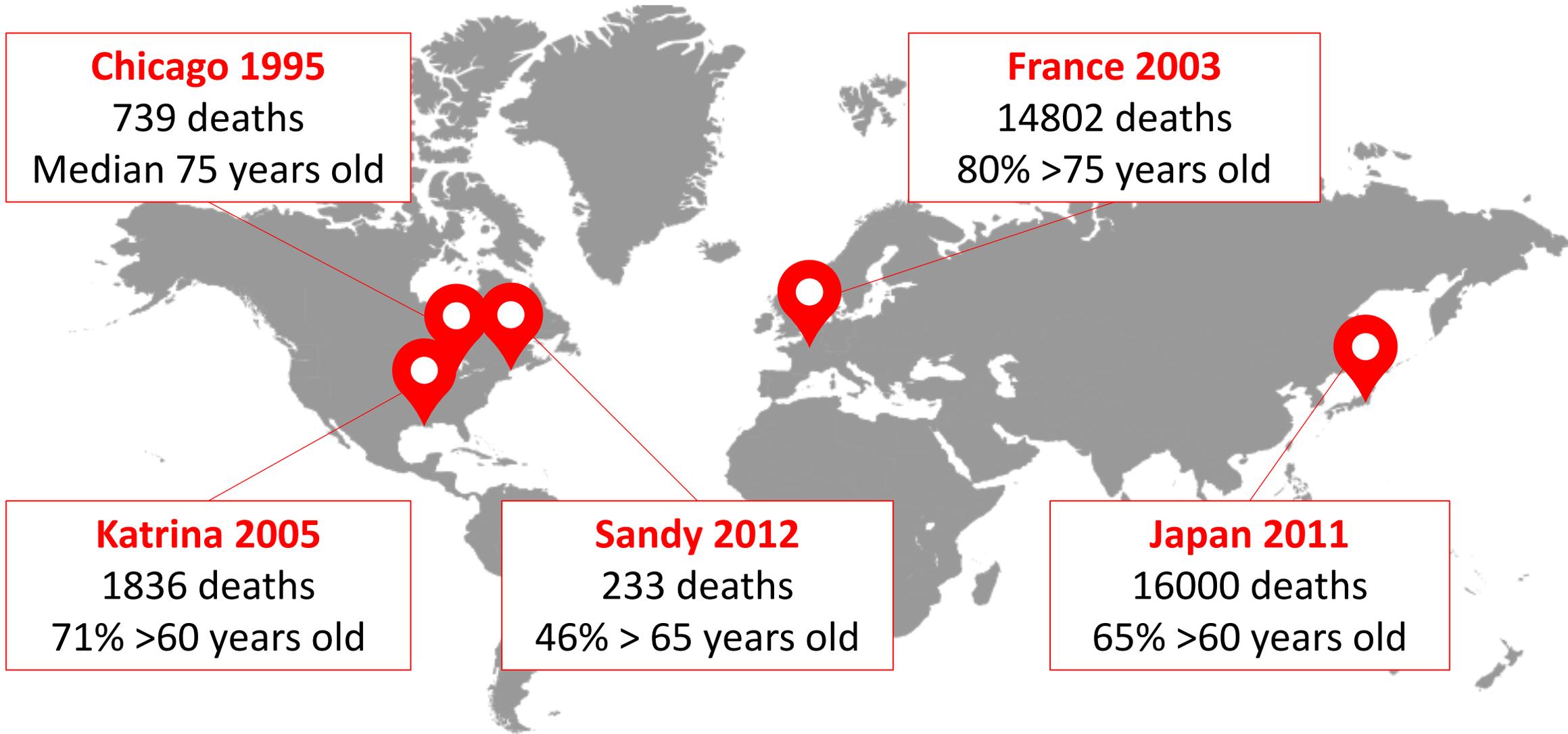


“ There's nothing like a jolly good disaster to get people to start doing something ”

- Charles, Prince of Wales



Is there a problem?



Chicago 1995
739 deaths
Median 75 years old

France 2003
14802 deaths
80% >75 years old

Katrina 2005
1836 deaths
71% >60 years old

Sandy 2012
233 deaths
46% > 65 years old

Japan 2011
16000 deaths
65% >60 years old

Why are older adults are at higher risk during disasters?



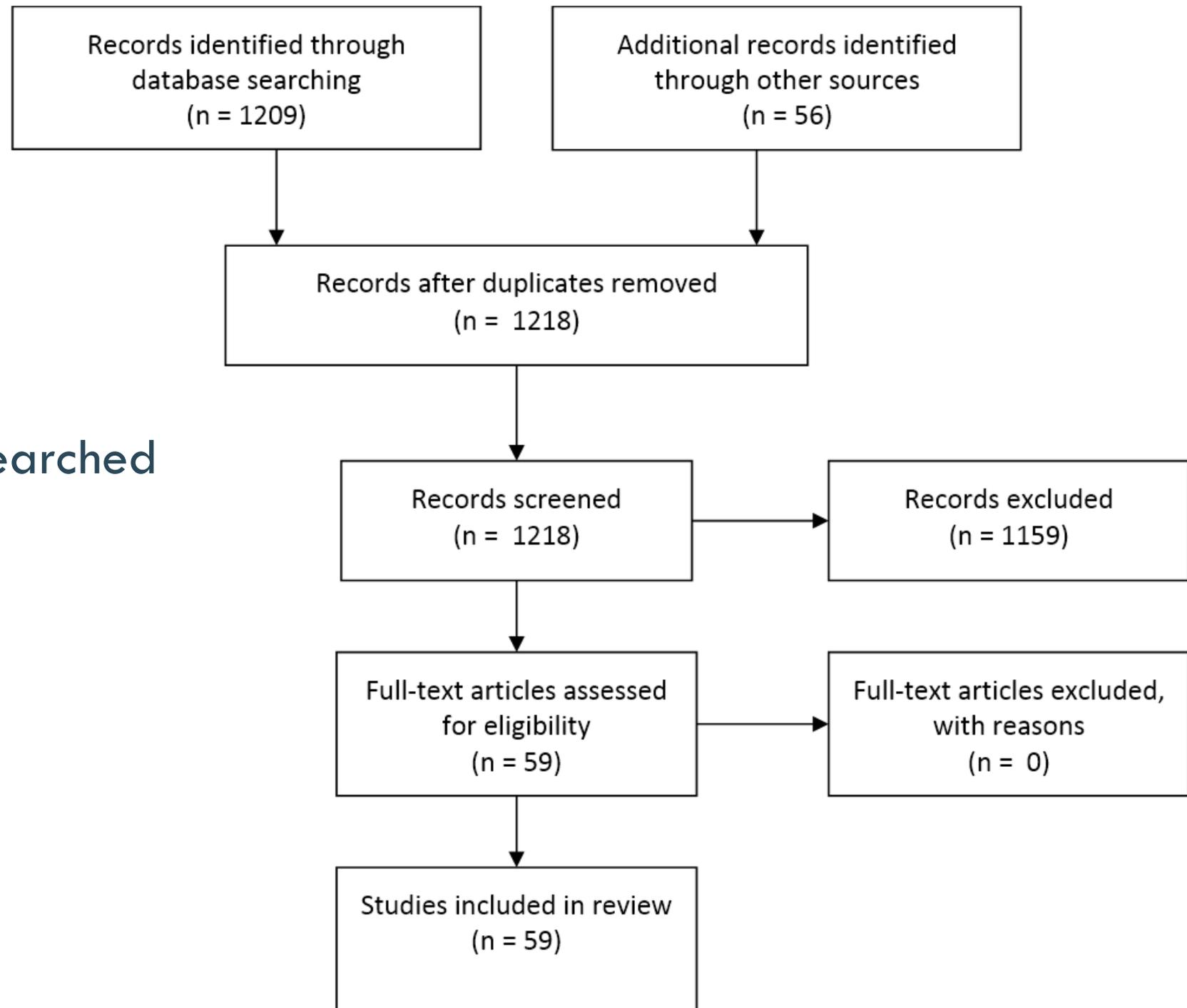
are separated from
their families

Methods

Literature review

2001 onwards

Multiple databases searched



Preparedness knowledge

Disaster supplies

Mental health concerns

Disasters and older adults

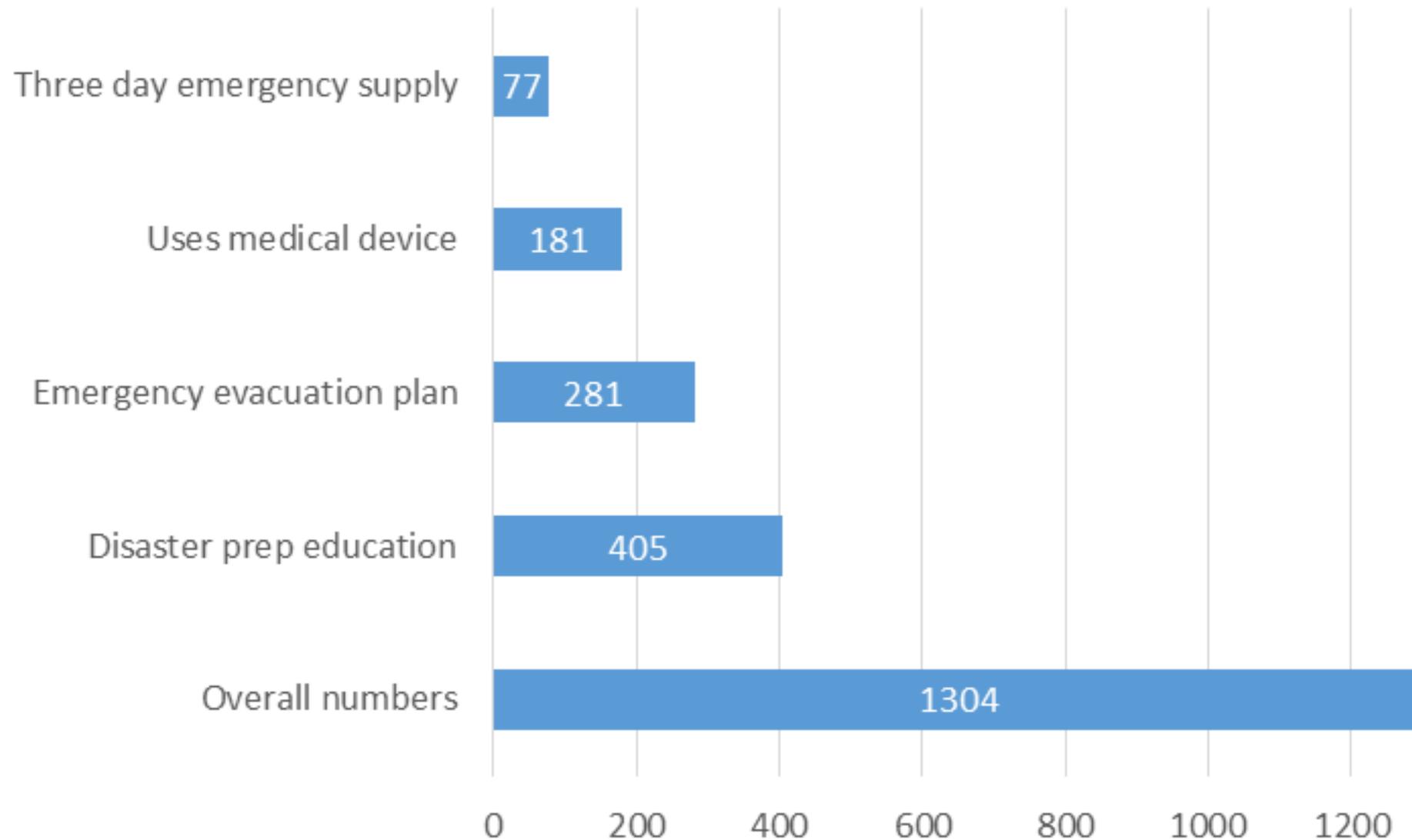
Loss of facilities

Shelter and accommodation

ED attendance

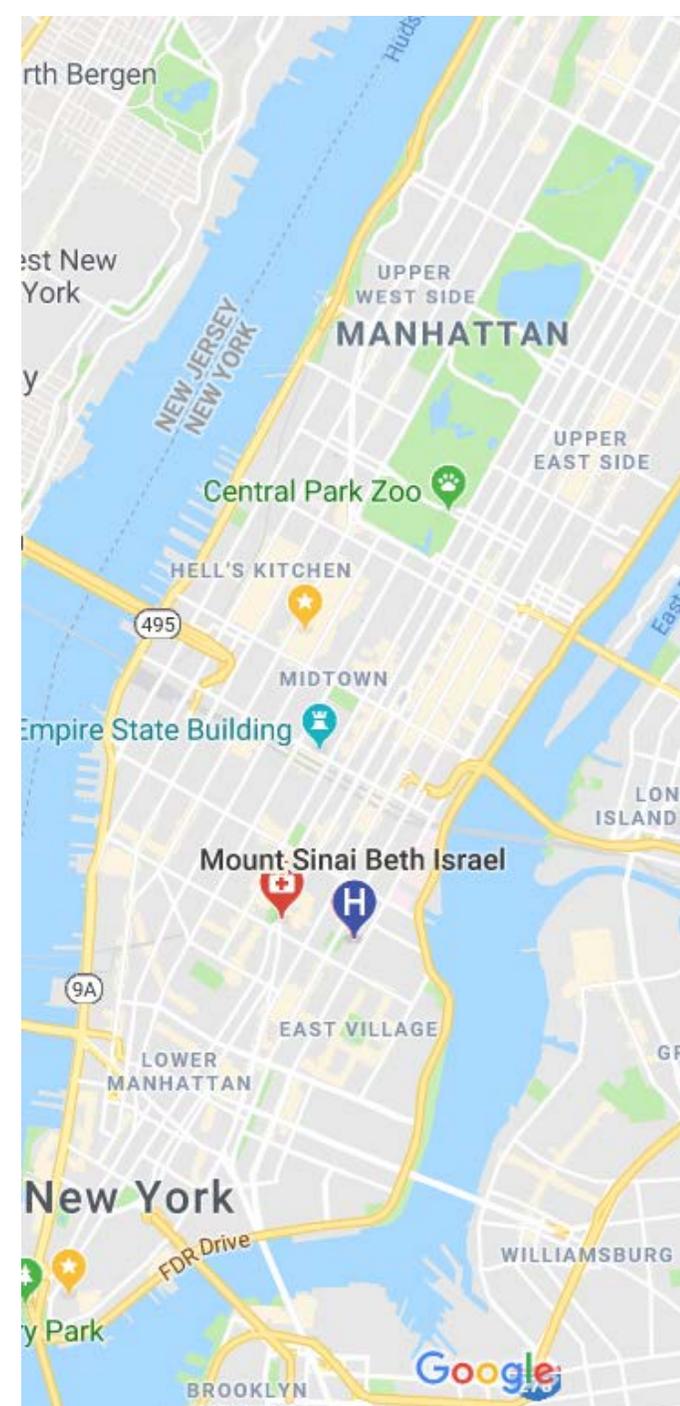
Evacuation concerns

Preparedness for a disaster – older US adults



Hurricane Sandy, 2012

- 1 hospital left open in Downtown Manhattan
 - Beth Israel Medical Centre
- 48% increase in 65-79 age group ED attendance
- 114% increase in 80+ age group ED attendance



Day 2 post-event
Home dialysis

Day 1 post-event
CPAP devices
Home respiratory aids

Day 3 post-event
Medication issues



Double



or



Trouble

Shelter



Shelter



Nutritional needs

- Specific diets
- Issues with MREs etc.
- Will there be enough?

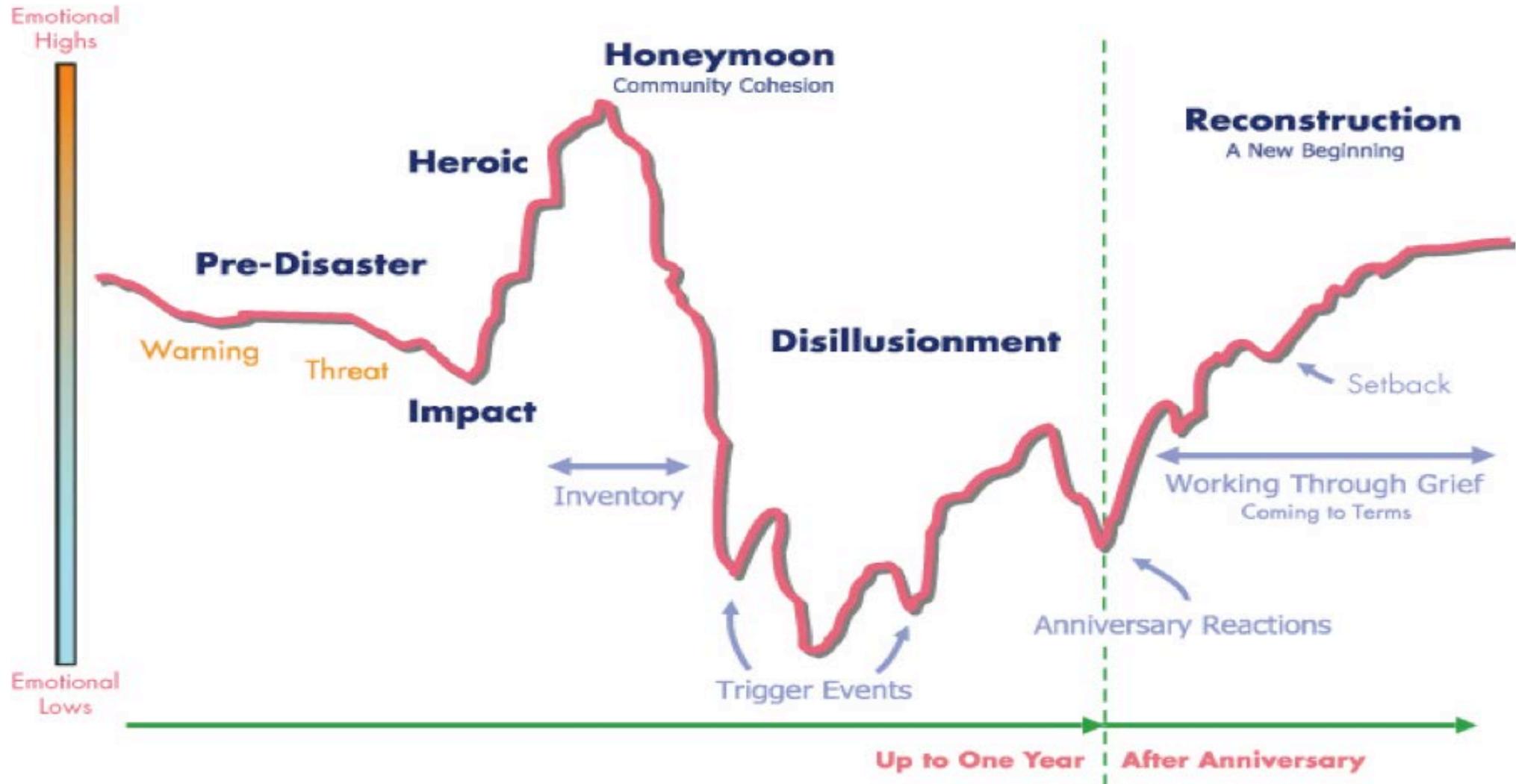


Impact on Dementia

- Increased prevalence
- Accommodation



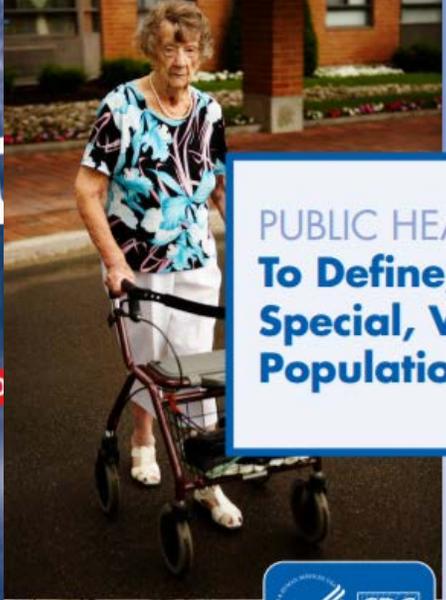
Impact on Mental Health



“We are a group of older adults who experienced a two-week power outage when a massive ice storm hit the Greater Rochester, New York, area. **We were unprepared** for such a disaster. If we had only taken a few simple steps to prepare ourselves for such an event, we could have eliminated many of the **hardships** we had to endure.”

So what can we do?

- Identify at-risk and vulnerable older adults in community
 - How? Discuss!
- Plan to account for the unique needs of older adults
 - How? Discuss!
- Improve preparation among older adults and their families
 - How? Discuss!



PUBLIC HEALTH WORKBOOK
**To Define, Locate, and Reach
Special, Vulnerable, and At-risk
Populations in an Emergency**



Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
For Seniors By Seniors

A photograph of an elderly woman with white hair, resting her chin on her hand and looking out a window at a blurred outdoor scene.

Be Red Cross Ready *for Disaster*

The American Red Cross logo, consisting of a red cross symbol and the text "American Red Cross".

In summary...

- Older adults are disproportionately affected by disasters when they occur
- Older adults have unique needs
- These needs are often overlooked in the planning and response to disasters
- Current disaster preparedness advice appears to do older adults a disservice, and places them at risk
- We can do better...and we must do better!

Thank you!

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<https://bit.ly/2vEAWYr>

