

Level of Individual Preparedness for an Earthquake among Voluntary Medical Rescuers in Turkey

Yesim Unal¹, Esra Isik², Soykan Sabin³, Sidika Tekeli Yesil⁴

1. Department Of Health Services In Emergencies And Disasters, Istanbul Provincial Health Directorate, Istanbul/Turkey
2. Institute Of Health Sciences, Kocaeli University, Kocaeli/Turkey
3. Turkish Fleet Commandership, Turkish Naval Forces, Kocaeli/Turkey
4. Health Management In Disasters, Hacettepe University Institute of Public Health, Ankara/Turkey

Study/Objective: Our aim was to assess how prepared the UMKE (Ulusal Medikal Kurtarama Ekibi – National Medical Rescue Team) members and their families were for the next disaster.

Background: Turkey is a land of earthquakes and a major earthquake in the Marmara region is expected in the near future. Despite this fact, people, including volunteer disaster workers, have low levels of awareness regarding risks and have limited interest in preparedness.

Methods: This is a descriptive cross-sectional study, and the study participants were the UMKE (Ulusal Medikal Kurtarama Ekibi – National Medical Rescue Team) members working in the Marmara region. UMKEs are volunteer medical rescue teams. Data collection tools were a questionnaire involving socio-demographic information, and a Disaster Preparedness Checklist (Tezgider et al, 2013).

Results: A total of 105 volunteers participated in the study. Of them 53 (50,5%) were women and 52 were (49,5%) men. The mean age was 32.29 ± 7.19 ; 55 (52,4%) of the participants had personally experienced a disaster, and 62 (59%) worked actively in a disaster. The most common preparedness activities that the participants have taken were; learning the phone numbers of emergency services (N = 96, 91,4%), knowing local institutions providing information about disaster preparedness (N = 95, 90,5%), having information about residential usage license of current residence (N = 95, 90,5%). The least common preparedness activities were; obtaining information on disaster preparedness activities of neighborhood units (N = 82, 78,1), obtaining information on disaster preparedness activities of district governorship (N = 82, 78,1), obtaining information regarding disaster preparedness activities of the municipality (N = 78, 74,3%).

Conclusion: These findings indicate that, although volunteers are highly motivated to engage in rescue activities as a 'saver', neither them, or their families are interested in disaster risk reduction in pre-disaster period.

Prehosp Disaster Med 2017;32(Suppl. 1):s178
doi:10.1017/S1049023X17004745

An Exploration of the Effects that Frequent Exposure to Life-threatening Events may have on a Critical Care Paramedic's Psychological Wellbeing

Emma Vyvyan

Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Surrey, Guildford/United Kingdom

Study/Objective: To explore if Critical Care Paramedics (CCPs) feel their role impacts on their psychological wellbeing.

Background: UK Critical Care Paramedics (CCPs) are a specialty of experienced paramedics who have received higher education to deliver extended clinical care. Due to their specialist skills, they are dispatched to the most critically ill and injured patients to deliver advanced care. Internationally, CCPs are recognized within the USA and Canada as Advanced Care Paramedics and as Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance Paramedic (MICA) in Australia.

Methods: The CCPs who studied within this UK Ambulance Trust have all received post-graduate training, achieving a certificate, diploma, or MSc in Advanced Paramedic Practice or Critical Care. Eight qualified CCPs with at least one years' experience as a CCP were recruited from one UK Ambulance Service. Face to face, semi structured interviews were conducted. Descriptive phenomenology and Colizzi's framework for data analysis was used to discover the personal perspectives and experiences of CCPs.

Results: CCPs see a range of highly emotive incidents daily specifically cardiac arrests and traumatically injured patients. They identified with symptoms suggestive of a heightened emotional response. The negativity of trauma identified within the studies literature review was not comparable with the responses from the majority of CCPs. The CCPs demonstrate resilience and adopt a diverse range of conscious coping strategies. The following factors were appraised by the CCPs to enhance their coping strategies: their ability to perform advanced clinical interventions and perceived positive patient outcomes; organized debriefings and improved clinical reflection; enhanced inter-professional relationships; and a regular crewmate for support.

Conclusion: CCPs felt that their role caused slight disruption to their health and wellbeing. They implied improvements to the ambulance services' counseling. Further research focussing on larger populations adopting CCP and advanced paramedic groups would be recommended.

Prehosp Disaster Med 2017;32(Suppl. 1):s178
doi:10.1017/S1049023X17004757

Psychological Correlates of Preparedness Behavior of Civilian Populations to Armed Conflicts

Moran Bodas¹, Maya Siman-Tov², Shulamith Kreitler³, Kobi Peleg¹

1. Disaster Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv/Israel
2. Israel National Center for Trauma & Emergency Medicine Research, The Gertner Institute for Epidemiology and Health Policy Research, Ramat Gan/Israel
3. School Of Psychological Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv/Israel

Study/Objective: The purpose of this study was to expand our understanding of the behavioral psychological indicators related to preparedness behavior. We hypothesized that correlations would be found between psychological constructs examined in this study and reported preparedness.

Background: Preparedness to emergency and disaster situation is imperative to public resilience. Prepared populations are better adapt to cope with emergencies, endure less of their adverse consequences, and recuperate more quickly. Previous studies revealed only a medium level of preparedness