

mechanisms. However, routes to these enablers vary due to differences in policies, health system design, and legislation adoption procedures. Future research will include more countries and a detailed list of research questions to identify patterns in legislation and policy enablers for achievement of the Global EMT goals.

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Health Impacts of Climate-Change Related Natural Disasters on Persons with Disabilities in Developing Countries

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Background/Introduction: Persons with disabilities (PWD) in developing countries are particularly affected by climate change-related disasters.

Objectives: To explore the health impacts of climate change-related natural disasters on persons with pre-existing physical and mental disabilities in developing countries.

Method/Description: The Joanna Briggs Institute evidence synthesis guideline was applied and results were reported following PRISMA guidelines. PubMed, PsycINFO, Scopus, and Embase databases were searched using terms related to ‘persons with disabilities,’ ‘climate change,’ and ‘developing countries.’ The database search retrieved 406 articles, forty-two articles were eligible for full-text review and 14 met the inclusion criterion which were reviewed and thematic analysis was performed.

Results/Outcomes: The 14 articles included 5 studies generalized across multiple countries and nine profiled specific developing countries. Five key themes were identified: impact on PWD physical health and mental health, resilience, and coping strategies of PWD in disasters, PWD involvement in inclusive disaster planning, and climate-change related natural disasters on PWDs in developing countries as a human rights issue.

Conclusion: Additional research is needed to better understand the negative health impacts of climate change-related natural disasters on persons with pre-existing physical and mental disabilities in developing countries. Contributing social and economic factors as well as facilitative coping and resilience strategies of the affected population in this context also require further study. Addressing these research gaps can inform development of effective, disability-inclusive disaster management practices which contribute to more equitable climate-change related health and rights-based outcomes for PWDs in developing countries. Resulting trauma can concomitantly result in increased acute demand for physical rehabilitation therapy services.

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The Global Alarming Impact of Extreme Heat Waves: A Retrospective Analysis

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Background/Introduction: Extreme heat waves are a growing global health concern, with their frequency and intensity escalating due to climate change. Understanding past trends in heat wave impacts is crucial for informing effective mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Objectives: This study aims to analyze the historical impact of extreme heat waves on global mortality and morbidity, identifying geographical and temporal trends to inform public health interventions.

Method/Description: We conducted a retrospective analysis using data from the Emergency Events Database. This comprehensive database provided records of heat wave events and associated mortality and morbidity data spanning recent decades. Statistical analysis was performed to identify trends and patterns in heat wave occurrences and their health impacts.

Results/Outcomes: Our analysis reveals a concerning increase in both the frequency and severity of extreme heat waves globally. This trend corresponds with a significant rise in heat-related mortality and morbidity, particularly in regions with limited adaptive capacity and among vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions.

Conclusion: The findings underscore the urgent need for proactive measures to mitigate the health risks posed by extreme heat. These include strengthening healthcare infrastructure to manage heat-related illnesses, developing effective early warning systems, and implementing community-based interventions to reduce heat exposure. This research provides a critical historical perspective on the growing threat of extreme heat, emphasizing the importance of global cooperation and immediate action to protect populations from this escalating public health challenge.

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How the Understated Role of Rehabilitation Within Emergency Responses Can Be Addressed: A Call to Action from the IFRC Technical Working Group

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Background/Introduction: The role of rehabilitation in EMTs remains unclear. Due to this and reasons related to inadequate initial planning, the role of rehabilitation professions in emergencies is understated. Further, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to rehabilitation in emergencies.

Objectives: The IFRC Rehabilitation Technical Working Group proposes solutions to address these challenges.