community (creation of a space for citizens), and to foster resident involvement.
Conclusion: As supported by a large body of literature, the population burden of psychopathology in the aftermath of the Lac-Mégantic disaster is substantial and persistent. Public health organizations facing such disasters should: (a) establish a long-term monitoring system of psychological consequences; (b) advocate for social measures and psychosocial support; (c) collaborate closely with the community; and (d) build on the knowledge gained responding to previous disasters.

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Impact of the 2011 Triple Disaster in Fukushima, Japan - An Earthquake, Tsunamis, and a Nuclear Power Plant Accident - Physical Performance of the Children: A Retrospective Cohort Study in Soma City, Fukushima

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Study/Objective: The study objectives were twofold: (1) to assess the post-disaster versus pre-disaster physical performance among school children in Fukushima; and (2) to evaluate which types of performance were the most affected.
Background: The 2011 triple disaster in Fukushima posed a lot of public health challenges in the affected areas. As people tended to stay indoors from fear of radiation, there was an increasing concern about decline in physical performance among the residents, especially children, who were more likely to stay indoors because several schools restricted the time of outdoor exercise to reduce external radiation exposure.
Methods: In Japan, the School Health Examination Survey is performed annually. Data of these examinations among the elementary school children at the 10 elementary schools in Soma City, Fukushima were collected. The data obtained included height, body weight, and scores of grip strength, time of the 50m run, the 20m shuttle-run test, a softball throwing test, a side-step test, and sit-up test. The results of each test were scored from 1-10 according to the national standards. For each physical performance test, absolute values, as well as scores, were compared between 2010 (pre-disaster), 2012, and 2015 (post-disaster). The data were also compared with national average scores.
Results: Data were obtained from 3,663 school children. After controlling for height and weight, scores of 20m shuttle run and side-step test significantly decreased in the post-disaster period compared with the pre-disaster period. Comparison with national averages also showed the trend might be specific in Fukushima. Grip strength and handball throwing did not show a statistically significant difference.
Conclusion: This research suggests that school restrictions on outdoor activities after the Fukushima disaster had an effect. As physical performance among children may affect their life-long health status, as well as academic achievement, a future disaster mitigation plan needs to include plans to maintain physical activities among children.

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Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of Tuberculosis (TB) Management Among Health Workers at the Emergency Department (ED) of Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital (KATH), in a Low Emergency Resource Setting in West Africa

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Study/Objective: To assess the knowledge, attitude and practices of health care workers at the ED of KATH towards TB management.
Background: Tuberculosis (TB) has long been known as an occupational hazard among Health Care Workers (HCWs). Previous research in Africa found that HCWs often lack knowledge about TB and its infection control. Key factors facilitating nosocomial TB transmission include: delayed diagnosis, ineffective treatment of patients, and lack or inadequate TB Infection Control (TBIC) measures.

In Ghana, many TB infected patients present late to the hospitals with various complications. Initial diagnosis of TB is usually delayed due to insufficient resources, lack of diagnostic tests and inadequate isolation units. This usually leads to long boarding hours of these patients, which facilitates health worker associated TB. Poor infection control practices by health workers also contribute to their increased risk of TB infection.

There is little literature in Ghana on the assessment of the knowledge, attitude and practices of HCWs in the ED regarding TB management. This research seeks to assess these amongst HCWs who are the frontline in TB management in the ED.
Methods: A cross-sectional descriptive study will be conducted among the HCWs, and all 200 health workers in the ED will be included. A structured based, self-administered questionnaire will be used to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of TB management among HCWs, which will include whether they are willing to screen for TB.
Results: The study will identify previously unknown gaps in TB treatment among health workers. Poor attitude of HCW towards TB management may be highlighted. Inadequate TBIC measures may also be identified.
Conclusion: These findings will help provide the needed support, resources and training in order to reduce health worker associated TB. It will also necessitate further studies to determine the TB burden among health workers in the ED.

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