

is a need to integrate more systematic monitoring, evaluation and research to appraise the applicability and effectiveness of MHPSS measures in future pandemics and other crises.

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### Determining the Impact of Hurricane Dorian & the Covid-19 Pandemic on Moral Distress in Emergency Medical Providers at the Rand Memorial Hospital

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**Introduction:** Cumulative disasters have been shown to influence mental and physical health in both responders and victims, with studies showing associations in rates of depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Systemic problems that impact patient care such as limited resources, overcrowding of emergency rooms, and staffing shortages can be morally challenging for healthcare workers. Andrew Jameton, in 1984 defined Moral Distress (MD) as the inability of a moral agent to act according to his or her core values and perceived obligations due to internal and external constraints. Unresolved MD can create significant long-term debilitating physical and mental damage. Emergency medical providers on the island of Grand Bahama had the unique experience of responding to both the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian and the Covid-19 Pandemic. The aim of this study is to determine the prevalence of Moral Distress (MD) in Accident & Emergency (A&E) Physicians, Nurses, and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) staff at the Rand Memorial Hospital (RMH) in the Bahamas.

**Method:** This is a descriptive, qualitative, prospective cross-sectional study, utilizing a three-part survey sent to participants. Sociodemographic information, Hurricane Dorian & Covid-19 experiences, and responses to a validated modified Moral Distress Scale will be collected and uploaded to a secure, encrypted data management program. The data will be analyzed using the most current IBM SPSS statistical analysis package. Descriptive and Inferential statistics will be used to determine the impact of Hurricane Dorian & Covid-19 on MD and its associated sociodemographic factors.

**Results:** Data collection and analysis are planned for completion by March 1, 2023.

**Conclusion:** Addressing the causes of Moral Distress early can help improve healthcare systems' resiliency by ensuring a

healthy and supported workforce equipped with the resources to respond to future disasters.

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### Evidence-informed Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Guidelines: Are They Any Good and Where Do They Lead Us When Disaster Strikes?

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**Introduction:** Disasters and humanitarian crises can have a tremendous impact on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of affected populations. Reliable and practical evidence-informed mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) guidelines are indispensable for policy and practice to address the mental health impact. Our objective was to review the quality of available guidelines and to explore similarities and differences in content.

**Method:** The review was conducted in two steps. Firstly, MHPSS guidelines, frameworks, manuals and toolkits were selected via a systematic literature review as well as a search in the grey literature. A total of 13 MHPSS guidelines were assessed independently by 3–5 raters using the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation–Health Systems (AGREE-HS) instrument. Secondly, we analyzed the content of the highest-ranking guidelines.

**Results:** Guideline quality scores varied substantially, ranging between 21.3 and 67.6 (range 0–100, M= 45.4), with four guidelines scoring above midpoint (50). Overall, guidelines scored highest (on a 1–7 scale) on topic (M = 5.3) and recommendations (M = 4.2), while implementability (M = 2.7) is arguably the area where most of the progress is to be made. The four guidelines proved largely similar, overlapping or at least complementary in their MHPSS definitions, stated purpose of the guidelines, user and target groups, terminology, and models used. Many recommended MHPSS measures and interventions were found in all of the guidelines and could be categorized. The guidelines stress the importance of monitoring needs and problems, evaluating the effect of service delivery, deliberate implementation and preparation, and investments in proper conditions and effective coordination across professions, agencies, and sectors.

**Conclusion:** The MHPSS knowledge base embedded in guidelines is rich and contains invaluable content for disaster risk reduction. Although application contexts differ