



Social and economic isolation of senior citizens as a disaster issue

The main difficulties faced by elderly citizens in disasters tend to include social and economic isolation (including access to resources) and physical and mental health issues. One study explored two different disaster phases (preparedness and response) in two different countries. It noted that the issues the elderly participants identified were similar: “Both groups identified issues related to protecting the rights of the older person and preventing loss of independence in responding and preparing for a disaster, mistrust of government and access to resources and all expressed strong feelings of self-responsibility”. The authors interviewed nine people aged at least 60 years, who had all been affected by a range of disasters on the east coast of the USA. The authors acknowledged that “while NGO agency perspectives are obvious, those of the older population are not. It is still not clear whether they are getting what they need, want and expect”.

Note: See source document for full reference.

Applicable to:

Stakeholders: [Age-related roles](#), [Socio-economic status](#), [Social exclusion](#), [Access and use of infrastructure/services](#)

Disaster Phases: [Preparedness](#), [Response](#)

Types of Actors Concerned: [Non-active citizens](#), [NGOs](#), [Government](#)

Hazards: [Natural hazards](#), [Man-made non-intentional hazards or emergency situations](#), [Man-made intentional hazards](#)

Recommendations:

- [Consider vulnerable groups when designing and implementing disaster response measures](#)

Source

[Deliverable D7.3 "Report on cultural factors and citizen empowerment" \(page 67\)](#)

This file was generated automatically on: 12.02.2019.

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