

Abstract
Results
Practices to Address Ecological Injustices
New York

Within an article about community preparedness and resilience regarding natural disasters and the Latino immigrant community, it was discussed how the Latino immigrant community both as residents and recovery workers are often not adequately included in preparedness planning (Cuervo et al., 2017). According to the article, "a community-university labor union partnership created a demonstration project after Hurricane Sandy to strengthen connections to disaster preparedness systems to increase community resilience among Latino immigrant communities in New York and New Jersey" and, "building ongoing ties that connect workers and community-based organizations with local disaster preparedness systems provided mutual benefits to disaster planners and local immigrant communities, and also had an impact on national disaster-related initiatives" (Cuervo et al., 2017).

El Paso, TX is a predominately Hispanic community. In 2006, there was a large flood that affected 1500 homes. A study done on this flood showed low socioeconomic status the greatest influencer of health issues from this flood. Non-English speaking was notated as high-risk factors for medical issues. Also non-citizens were heavily burdened and had significant less access to medical treatment than citizens. This study was the first of it's kind done that correlates the influence of disasters against physical health disparities in US Hispanics following a disaster.

How does the problem show up in different U.S. States?
Miami

The study examines whether Hispanic immigrants are disproportionately exposed to risk from flood hazards relative to other racial/ethnic groups. The residential flood risk at the household level in Miami, Fort Lauderdale for US-born Hispanics, non-Hispanic Black, and non-Hispanic Whites are, respectively 67%, 53%, and 75% less likely than Hispanic immigrants to reside within a 100-year flood zone (Maldonado et al, 2016). The vulnerability factors included food insurance coverage and lower SES. As a result, it is important for communities to provide disaster information readily available in Spanish. In addition, public assistance should focus on providing a safe space for individuals , regardless of status the accessibility and comfortability seeking help.

New Orleans

This Peer reviewed article reports the inhumane environmental conditions migrant workers were in during the labor spike after hurricane Katrina in 2005. Soriano, a Honduran immigrant reflected "it was hard work, without any kind of safety protections. So a lot of our friends got sick with the flu and developed allergies. After working with a contractor for 22 days, the contractor fired us and still owed us \$3,000. He never paid us a penny." Federal and state authorities deliberately relaxed labor standards setting the stage for exploitation among migrant workers, especially Latinos.

How does the population experience climate change?

Migration decisions are often multicausal and rarely due to environmental stress alone. Climate change may influence migration both directly and indirectly through various channels: economic, political, social, demographic, and environmental. Migration patterns can respond to extreme weather events (projected to increase in intensity in the future) and long-term variability or change (droughts, sea-level rise). Those changes might both enhance and reduce migration flows.

As social workers there are several things we can do to address the injustices undocumented workers and families experience after natural disasters.

- ❖ Create linkages between community based organizations (CBO) and state health and emergency programs.
- ❖ Design programs that provide OSHA training to undocumented workers for reconstruction.
- ❖ Training CBO staff to recognize post traumatic stress in individuals.
- ❖ Outreach to low-income areas that have been affected with resources to health agencies they can utilize.
- ❖ Advocate for equal labor laws for undocumented workers
- ❖ Assist undocumented workers with applying for work authorizations to ensure equal pay and legal responsibility to employers.
- ❖ Educate undocumented workers about their labor rights.
- ❖ Ensure all community agencies provide documentation of their services in languages spoken in the community (e.g. spanish, chinese, portuguese).
- ❖ Advocate for states to provide safety materials for undocumented workers to use during rebuild.
- ❖ Advocate for states to create a relief fund for undocumented individuals, amilies,businesses,and farmers.

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References

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