



## Prevention Practitioner's Role in Disaster Response

Prevention practitioners have important knowledge and skills that can support disaster response efforts. This checklist proposes possible contributions that prevention practitioners may make both before and after disasters.

- Strategic Planning.** Prevention practitioners can leverage their extensive experience with the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to participate actively in disaster planning that is data-driven and locally focused.
- Readiness.** Prevention practitioners understand readiness as a metric. They can collect data on community readiness and use that information to help build disaster readiness.
- Risk and Protective Factors.** Prevention practitioners can provide education about shared risk and protective factors that may lead to or be protective against behavioral health problems following a disaster.
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE).** Childhood trauma may create additional difficulties for individuals who experience a disaster. Prevention practitioners understand this connection and can teach disaster professionals about providing competent help to adults with high ACE scores and preventing the intergenerational transmission of ACEs.
- Data-Driven Decision Making.** Prevention practitioners can connect disaster professionals to data through the epi workgroups and highlight data of interest, such as emergency room visits related to substance misuse and local patterns of health disparities.
- Facilitation.** Prevention practitioners are skilled at facilitating group learning and decision-making.
- Media Messaging.** Prevention practitioners know how to talk to the media and design appropriate messaging. They are skilled at advocating for policy change and mobilizing groups for action.
- Socio-Ecological Model/Public Health Approach.** Prevention practitioners understand the various levels of a community and understand the necessity of planning interventions for the broadest population-level benefit.
- Best Practices/Fidelity.** Prevention practitioners understand the need for evidence-based interventions and can help to implement interventions with fidelity.
- Continuum of Care.** Prevention practitioners understand the range of needs across the continuum of care and can help identify community resources based on those needs.
- Harm Reduction.** Prevention practitioners understand the brain science behind substance use disorders and can help incorporate harm reduction strategies into disaster planning.
- Health Promotion.** Prevention practitioners can promote wellness among community stakeholders as a component of disaster readiness.
- Psychological First Aid.** Prevention practitioners can become trained in this approach and can deploy the skills learned to support children, adolescents, adults, and families in the immediate aftermath of disaster.
- Health Equity.** Prevention practitioners understand the vital importance of health equity and have experience applying the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care to community work.

