

MENTAL HEALTH AND DISASTERS

Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, disaster preparedness and response has developed into a discrete subspecialty in medicine and has become a national health priority. The mental health consequences of disasters are an important area of study. Disasters are associated with substantial short and long-lasting psychological burden, at both an individual and a community level. The range of psychopathologies associated with disaster is broad and includes different types of psychiatric disorders and behavioral problems, including posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, and prolonged grief. This book is the definitive reference on mental health and disasters, focused on the assessment and treatment of the full spectrum of psychopathologies associated with different types of disasters. Considerations about the use of preexisting community-based mental health services, as well as the development and the testing of new treatment programs, are covered in depth. Detailed case studies, incorporating lessons from major disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, are included.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

To Mariana, Michal, Oren, and Maya, forever with love (YN);

For Margaret, Oliver Luke, and Isabel Tess, as always (SG);

To my husband, Michael, for his unending support, and
my brother, Fred, for a lifetime of love (FHN).

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Mental Health and Disasters

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Every effort has been made in preparing this book to provide accurate and up-to-date information that is in accord with accepted standards and practice at the time of publication. Although case histories are drawn from actual cases, every effort has been made to disguise the identities of the individuals involved. Nevertheless, the authors, editors, and publishers can make no warranties that the information contained herein is totally free from error, not least because clinical standards are constantly changing through research and regulation. The authors, editors, and publishers therefore disclaim all liability for direct or consequential damages resulting from the use of material contained in this book. Readers are strongly advised to pay careful attention to information provided by the manufacturer of any drugs or equipment that they plan to use.

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