

Nursing Interventions in the Management of Climate-related Disasters: Documentary Analysis of Emergency Plans

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Abstract

Introduction

Extreme weather events reflect climate variability and are influenced by climate change, resulting in high rates of morbidity, mortality, and mental health problems. In this context, health systems require integrated responses throughout the disaster management cycle, and nursing assumes a strategic role, supported by its proximity to communities and skills such as continuous assessment, care coordination, health communication, and psychosocial support. However, evidence on their explicit integration into contingency plans remains limited, especially in island contexts.

Objective

This study aimed to analyse the integration of nursing interventions in emergency plans in the context of climate change.

Methods

This qualitative study applied documentary analysis of three publicly available emergency plans in the Azores that include natural risk scenarios and the organisation of multisectoral responses. Content analysis, which was both inductive and deductive in nature, was conducted using WebQDA®, based on the disaster management cycle and the domains of competence of the International Council of Nurses. Methodological rigor was ensured through in-depth reading of the documents, systematic coding of the data, validation of emerging categories, and maintenance of a transparent record of the analytical process.

Results

The analysis identified nine themes, 22 subthemes, and 133 nursing interventions related to the disaster cycle. There was a predominance in the response and preparation phases, with less representation in mitigation and recovery.

Conclusion

Nursing is present in all phases of disaster management, albeit in a less explicit manner. Strengthening their integration into plans is essential for strengthening the response of health systems to climate change. This study contributes to the consolidation of nursing as a central element in the adaptation of health systems to the emerging climate challenges.

Keywords

Natural Disaster; Disasters; Disaster Planning; Nursing.

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