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| **Disaster memorials for health education on injury and disaster prevention** |
| **Background/Objectives**Human societies need to invest more in preventing future disasters such as storms and flooding from climate change.To inform policies on public education about injury and disaster prevention, we examined the informational aspects of physical disaster memorials and the related official online sources.**Methods**From a published list of New Zealand disasters, we selected all those in the 1900 to 2015 period with 20+ fatalities. For the most significant memorial for each disaster, we conducted Google Street View searches and direct site visits. Two official online sources for each disaster were also examined.**Results**Three of the 20 identified disasters had no physical memorial (15%). Only 25% of memorials had local signage directing pedestrians or motorists to the memorial site. The cause of the disaster was detailed on only 69% of the 17 memorials, and this was typically quite brief (eg, “heavy seas”). Subsequent preventive actions were only detailed for two of the physical memorials. No physical memorial had links to additional online information. However, more detailed information of the disaster cause was available on the two official websites (85% of disasters for both websites). Subsequent preventive actions were detailed on only 30% and 40% of the two official websites.**Discussion**For this national study, the data indicates major scope for making disaster memorials, and the associated official websites, more educational. Implications for public health: Improving the informational content of these memorials and associated websites has potential for improving public understanding of the causes of disasters and the subsequent preventive response.**Keywords**Climate changeInjury preventionDisaster preventionPrevention information |