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| **Title of Research Presentation** Flooding, mental health and equity: lessons for building resilience within a rural Australian community. |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Background/Objectives**There is compelling evidence and wide consensus that anthropogenic activities are causing climate change, leading to more frequent extreme weather events with adverse consequences for human health. Northern New South Wales in Australia is a known ‘hotspot’ for natural disasters with recent extensive flooding in April 2017. With limited knowledge about how climate change affects mental health and resilience, robust assessments are required to better understand long-term impact and adaptation strategies, particularly in disaster-prone communities taking into account differential impacts on the poor and marginalised. The aim of this study is to contribute new knowledge by quantifying relationships between flood impact, mental health risk and personal and community resilience and illustrate how these associations vary according to socio-economic circumstance.**Methods**Six months post-flood, a cross-sectional survey of adults living in the region during the flood was conducted to quantify relationships between flood impact, psychological morbidity (post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation) and individual and community resilience (social capital, social cohesion and community functioning). We adopted a community-partnered approach and purposive recruitment to ensure representation of hard-to-reach population groups. Community Advisory Groups comprising local community organisations, business groups and government authorities were established and were integral to the design and implementation of the study.**Results**Of 2,180 respondents, almost all (91%) were affected by some degree of flood-related exposure at an individual and community level (ranging from suburb damage to home or business inundated). Socio-economically marginalised groups were more likely to have their homes inundated and to be displaced. Mental health risk was significantly elevated for respondents whose home/business/farm was inundated; who reported multiple exposures; and who were still displaced after six months. Increased social connection to community is expected to mitigate the impact on mental health.**Discussion**The 2017 flood had profound impact, particularly for those still displaced, who experienced multiple exposures and for socio-economically marginalised groups. The community-partnership research approach builds community cohesion, informs development of response services and longer-term interventions aimed at improving community adaptability to climate change.**Keywords**floods, mental health, adaptation |