

Chapter 2.5 Identifying and engaging high-risk groups in disaster research

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Further reading

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US) Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (CDC). Public Health Workbook: To Define, Locate, and Reach Special, Vulnerable, and At-risk Populations in an Emergency. 2010. Available at https://emergency.cdc.gov/workbook/pdf/ph_workbookfinal.pdf (accessed 22 February 2022).

Summary of this document: The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Workbook provides in-depth information on defining at-risk populations, building trust through community collaboration, providing culturally and linguistically appropriate information in emergencies and the principles of community engagement.

This CDC workbook describes processes for locating, reaching and communicating with high-risk groups during disasters and emergencies. It outlines data-collection tools for defining high-risk groups in a community and shows how to locate these populations with mapping methods and community organization engagement. The workbook also provides suggestions for communicating with high-risk groups through focus groups and community partnerships and includes guides, checklists and toolkits for community engagement projects.

2. Handicap International. Mainstreaming Disability into Disaster Risk Reduction: A Training Manual. 2009. Available at https://www.preventionweb.net/files/24772_18591hitrainingmanualenglish1.pdf (accessed 22 February 2022).

Summary of this document: This training manual provides information on inclusive practices that support the specific needs of persons with disabilities. It also includes guidance on engaging people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities and decision-making.

In this training manual, Handicap International Nepal provides training materials for including disability issues in DRR. It is addressed to actors working in disaster management to enable them to systematically account for disability in planning and implementing their activities. The manual outlines the unique challenges faced by people with disabilities in disasters, as an example of an under-represented high-risk group. It introduces key definitions, existing frameworks, the current state of disabled representation in DRR and recommendations for mainstreaming disability into DRR, covering these themes in six session plans for use by training facilitators.

3. Kemmis S, McTaggart R, Nixon R. The action research planner: Doing critical participatory action research. Springer Science & Business Media. 2013.

Summary of this document: The Action Research Planner is a comprehensive guide to conducting critical participatory action research, including the development of protocols for collaborative working with higher-risk groups in disaster risk reduction.

In this book, the authors describe key concepts in critical participatory action research and provide five extended study examples from the educational sector. The book includes a range of resources for people planning a critical participatory research initiative, providing guidance on how to establish an action research group and identify a shared concern. It covers issues such as research ethics, principles of procedure for action researchers, protocols for collaborative work, keeping a journal, gathering evidence, reporting and choosing academic partners. The authors also show how these techniques can be extended to additional research areas, including health research.