



Geriatric Mental Health Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

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"This is a must-read book for clinicians, service providers, policy makers, program planners, and teachers in the fields of mental health, aging, and emergency preparedness."

—Robert N. Butler, MD (From the Foreword)

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the essential information that everyone working, or hoping to work in the field of aging, should know about disasters, emergencies, and their effects on the mental health and well-being of older persons. It provides the reader with evidence-based approaches for identifying and classifying mental health problems, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and substance abuse in older adults, which may occur during and after disasters/emergencies.

Specific attention is given to the special needs and approaches to the care of at-risk groups of older persons such as veterans and holocaust survivors; older adults who are isolated, dependent, have mobility problems, communication deficits, are cognitively impaired, or have other co-morbidities; elders who use meals-on-wheels, vital medications, or home care; or older persons who are in senior centers, nursing homes, or assisted living settings.

Key Features:

- Increases understanding of the mental health issues in older adults
- Provides tools that can foster resiliency and recovery at the community, group, and individual levels
- Influences the development of positive responses to disasters; that is, responses that have the potential to minimize adverse mental and physical outcomes in older persons and maximize individual and group recovery

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