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Multidisciplinary Team Response to Support Survivors of Mass Casualty Disasters

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ABSTRACT
Disaster response begins at the local level, but when needs as immense, promoting effective care and recovery for survivors may require activation of multiple systems from other parts of the country or even the world. One technique humanitarian response organizations may use to integrate services is formation and deployment of multidisciplinary response teams. Literature suggests the need for integrated assessment of disaster survivors and collaborative response efforts (1). Although multidisciplinary teams in health care are prevalent, their use in disaster has been less frequently studied. Our systematic review seeks to synthesize evidence about effectiveness of multidisciplinary team response to mass casualty disasters.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

Inclusion Criteria

Search Strategy
The systematic review involves a multi-step search strategy:
- Initial limited search of MEDLINE, CINAHL, PsycINFO, EMBASE, and SocIndex, followed by analysis of text words in the title and abstract and index terms describing the article
- Second search using identified key words and index terms in the same databases, with the addition of MEDNAR for unpublished studies
- Search of the reference list of all identified reports and articles for additional studies

RESULTS

PRELIMINARY SEARCH RESULTS
- 16,223 references identified through database searching
- 15,899 culled due to irrelevance or failure to meet inclusion criteria
- 327 retained for full review of full abstract and index terms
- 5 retained for possible consideration of full article retrieval

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS
The systematic review remains ongoing, thus the following recommendations are based on preliminary findings.
- Preliminary search results suggest a data gap exists in evidence related to effectiveness of multidisciplinary team response
- To confirm presence of a data gap or locate any additional evidence, additional search strategies should include
  - addition of the database Sociological Abstracts
  - another detailed search process with inclusion dates of 2013-2015
- Further study into effectiveness of multidisciplinary team response should be undertaken.