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Social and Economic Programs Increase Individual Resiliency Following a Disaster

Despite the advances in academic research and study, there are still gaps in providing the best community level resources, which could be useful in promoting individual resilience. This study explores the question, “What social and economic programs can communities employ to increase individual resiliency following a traumatic event or disaster?”. Furthermore, the following sub-questions will be explored: (1) What indicators have been demonstrated to enhance resilience? (2) What societal conditions create differential access to these indicators? (3) What types of organizations can provide social and traditional forms of capital to help address deficiencies in traditional resilience indicators? To determine the result, this research explores the indicators for measuring community and individual resilience. This study further explores existing programs employed through the Air National Guard and other private corporations which promote resiliency. Leveraging existing studies, this report seeks to analyze social programs that have been employed within individuals following natural disasters, which have also had positive impacts on community resilience. These studies include research from Hurricane Katrina stricken areas, the highly resilient Vietnamese communities in New Orleans, and ethnic enclave communities following the North Ridge, CA earthquake. Lastly, this study is grounded in a biographic and ethnographic theoretical framework that grants studies into personal evaluations which seeks to solve what social and economic programs communities can employ to increase individual resiliency following a traumatic event or disaster.

