Methodology
A comprehensive literature review of published works concerning was conducted. Products included case studies of mitigation measures, articles on valuing the human impact of disasters, data from the Insurance Information Institute, analysis by the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), and reports from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administrations (NOAA).

Costs

Benefits

Results
• From 1980–2023
  • 371 confirmed weather/climate disaster events in the United States with losses exceeding $1 billion.
  • Events resulted in the deaths of 16,111 people and had significant economic effects on the areas impacted.
  • The 1980–2022 annual average is 8.1 events.
  • The annual average for the most recent 5 years (2018–2022) is 18.0 events.

Much of the literature does not adequately address U.S. preparedness efforts. Preparedness and response are often used in the same sentence, but discussion tends to focus on preparedness to respond versus preparedness to avoid or mitigate. In a review of global efforts, the current funding model is weighted towards emergency response versus a more proactive and risk-centered approach. In the top 20 humanitarian recipient countries between 2005-2017, just 62 cents out of every $100 was spent on disaster prevention and preparedness (OCHA 2017).

Conclusion
• Resilience is perhaps best conceptualized as a process, rather than an outcome. Preparedness saves lives and saves money.
• On average, U.S. natural hazard mitigation saves $4–$11 for each $1 invested and Federal grants provide a $6 benefit for each $1 invested. (NIBS 2019)
• Compared to 50 years ago, more people are in harms way and there is an increased likelihood that a routine natural hazard will become a major catastrophe.
• Low-income individuals in the U.S., and in developing countries, are at greater risk of being affected by disaster and have fewer resources to recover.

Acknowledgements

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We Don’t Need More Responders, We Need More Prepared Communities

Introduction
The diverse nature of emergencies and disasters is only eclipsed by the multitude of differences in the communities impacted by emergencies and disasters. While the emergency management community has gone to great lengths over the past 20+ years to create and nurture a professional workforce of responders qualified to answer the call, there are only a finite number of experts capable of responding. To complicate matters, those finite number of expert responders are limited in the size and scope of the support they can provide. Additionally, these responders may not be fully familiar with the cultural, racial, social, or economic dynamics of the community for which they are asked to respond and therefore, less effective at providing what is really needed. This isn’t to suggest that the emergency management community should stop building and strengthening its pool of professionals, nor limit efforts to extend the reach of their service and support the needs of all communities. What it does suggest is that the priority and focus on training and capacity development must shift to preparedness and resilience initiatives.

Objectives
The purpose of this study was to:
1. Examine the costs and benefits associated with preparedness and mitigation actions.
2. Identify if recovery from disasters requires resources to be diverted from other important public and private programs.
3. Validate the argument for an increased focus on actively allocating resources and attention to the development and expansion of individual and community preparedness and resilience.

Significance
With an increasing focus on disaster preparedness, mitigation, and resilience we can reduce the risk of loss of life, injury, economic costs, and destruction of natural and cultural resources that result from natural disasters.