

**APPENDIX:
ADDITIONAL READINGS ON WOMEN, GENDER & DISASTER**

Voices of women and men in Canadian disasters	1
Selected on-line readings on gender and disaster [Canadian context]	9
Women and disaster: exploring the issues, Tracey Porteous, , BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Services, Vancouver 1998	13
Six principles of gender fair relief and reconstruction	20
Addressing violence against women in disaster contexts	22
Violence against women in disasters fact sheet [2006]	23

Additional resources, including training materials, can be found on these websites:

Gender and Disaster Network of Canada: <http://www.gdnc.ca/>

Gender and Disaster Network: <http://www.gdnonline.org/>

Gender and Disaster Sourcebook: <http://www.gdnonline.org/sourcebook.htm>

Voices Of Women And Men In Canadian Disasters

Women as responders and leaders in recovery

If we can send these women back strong and productive and hopeful to their families, then the families will become strong and hopeful and productive and so will the communities. I think that by identifying the women as the real major caregiver in the community we've done a really wonderful piece of work to ensure the survival of these communities over the next several years—hopefully, before the next flood hits! [Government observer on BSE-affected families]

For the first time, I really felt like a mother—the feeling of putting my kids before me, leaving my husband and my house. I have a lot more strength than I thought I did . . . I come from a family with strong women bonds. The women in my family have been through a lot—my Mom's divorce, my sister was in an abusive relationship. They came out of them. I know it's in me too, when I needed to. [Flood-affected mother, Southern Manitoba]

The masks were so large as they were designed for men... most of the equipment was designed for males, we (women) had real issues around equipment fitting and the lack of equipment. [Nurse responding to SARS outbreak]

As nurses we were conflicted about quarantine – what will happen if you have a baby or are pregnant...who will take care of my children at home, who will feed them, take care of them at night, help them with their homework. [Nurse responding to SARS outbreak]

Everything actually came to a standstill. The police services were overwhelmed and stretched. There were no phones, no electricity, no water. All the energy was spent fending off the most immediate problems and responding to essential needs. It required great flexibility on the part of the staff. [Flood-affected domestic violence shelter, Saguenay]

We had not received any weather warnings, and it was only after the sky changed colours that I phoned a neighbour to tell her that her TV antenna and garbage cans had been blown away by the wind. . . . I had two young children aged 1 and 3. I thought that by pushing a table against the fridge and huddling over my children, we would be safe. I thought of hiding in the basement, but was too afraid that we would not be found if, heaven forbid, trees fell on the house and a fire started. When the storm subsided, the house was surrounded by debris, and I immediately called for help. I have no idea how I managed to react like this in just a few seconds. I later created my safety plan and emergency kit, because I now knew that this did not just happen to others. This came in handy because I was hit by the 1998 ice storm in Montreal. I was there for work and was staying at a hotel for what was supposed to be two days. I arrived Tuesday, only to leave Saturday. One could say that I could see the signs of this threat on Wednesday based on what I had experienced 20 years earlier. I put together my emergency kit by late Wednesday afternoon. I got

a flashlight, radio, battery, juice and bottled water, as well as food I could keep and eat easily, and of course cash. When the blackout hit Montreal, I became the point of reference at the hotel, as I was autonomous and had information via the radio. This enabled the hotel to keep its clients informed because people were in a panic, and to take people in because they understood the scope of the problem. Today, I am ready. My kids and grandson know how to make their own kit, because they know the unexpected can happen to them. [Hurricane and ice storm affected mother, Quebec]

My husband does all the physical 'man' work but I'm the one that does the books. I'm the one that pays the bills, and I'm the one that can figure out how to keep all the finances going and our heads above water. When it came to all the flood stuff, my husband just walked away from it. It's been me that's been with EMO and Water Resources, with everybody. If you ask one question of my husband, it's 'well, don't ask me, go ask her. She knows everything.' All the contractors, me. Before we returned, I hired everybody. I had everybody all lined up and ready to go. . .and I've decided I've had enough for now. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba, three years later]

You were just so busy. I was in the house and I had to feed the volunteers we had. There would be about 40 people and the kids wouldn't eat the sandwiches made by the Salvation Army. I had to stand in the kitchen and make homemade soup and I was making them chicken sandwiches. I dug out all my borscht in the freezers because I figured, well we have to get out of here and I'm just going to have to throw it away. The volunteers were so thrilled they wanted to come back because we were the only ones that served desert. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba, three years later]

Everything was a mess. You've never seen such muck. Somehow you work, work, work, and you come back and you're dead. You get up in the morning and you come back and you start the same thing again. . . We worked all day. . . Then little by little, my legs gave in. . . Until now, my legs are no good but you keep on going because it has to be done. It has to be done, so you keep on. . . You got to do it. It has to be done. You got to do it. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba, three years later]

Women and men at odds in a disaster

She took care of the kids. I took care of myself. [Flood-affected man, Southern Manitoba]

Packing and moving things upstairs took a couple of days. Since I didn't want to come back to a messy house, I cleaned at the same time as packed. It was a couple of nights staying up until two-three a.m. I did the cleaning while the others sandbagged. I kind of thought to myself 'Who's gonna' help me while you help the neighbors?' The whole thing was nerve-wracking, always thinking about what you forgot. It's exhausting both physically and emotionally. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

I work, I hunt, she's a homemaker—that's it. . . You can't live on handouts. There wasn't much choice. She didn't want to leave, but I pay the bills. There was no choice. [Flood-affected man, Southern Manitoba]

After we moved back, my husband would go to the Arena and find out what was happening. He also went there to eat meals from time to time. I didn't. I stayed here to eat so I could keep working. There was so much cleaning to do. [Flood-affected couple, Southern Manitoba]

He thought I was crazy to take all these things. I wanted the bedding to smell like home and make things as homey as I could. We put pictures of Dad to put on the fridge . . . I packed up my wedding dress! [My husband] thought I was nuts . . . I packed up my diaries and calendars of my pregnancies . . . I packed up my rocking chair. It's my chair and my time with the kids when I rock them to sleep. My Mom doesn't have one. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

We had a difference in opinion about whether we should move basement furniture upstairs. [He] didn't think we needed to, but we brought the furniture upstairs and raised it. I was actually wanting to move the furniture out of the house, but he thought I was over-reacting at first. I insisted furniture come up from downstairs. [He] was quite confident in the dike system . . . We met halfway and moved the furniture upstairs. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

The facilities [in the hotel to which they were evacuated] weren't good for washing clothes. I did the laundry between one and two a.m. During other times it was always full . . . A lot of the girls' stuff was wash and hang to dry so one table was used to dry clothes flat. I did the laundry. The girls tried to be out in the evenings as much as possible . . . [We] just carried over from our normal jobs . . . I kept track of things, [he] carried things. I did clothes. He left at six a.m. to go to work and came back at seven p.m. and then ate. Therefore it wasn't a major imposition on him . . . My youngest daughter and I spent many evenings in the lobby because my husband and the oldest girl like to go to bed early. When my husband watched TV the volume was too loud. [Flood-affected woman, evacuated from Southern Manitoba home]

It was really hard. Our youngest was forgetting his daddy. So did [the toddler]. He would cry every time his daddy would leave [after a weekend visit]...[He] had to get readjusted to seeing his father every day. It took him a good two months to get readjusted. He didn't really see him as his father. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

I asked my husband if we were going to flood. I counted on him and he said we weren't going to flood. He told me not to worry, so I ignored the whole thing and went about my life . . . He kept telling me not to worry and that if we flood, the city of Winnipeg will flood. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

My wife is always a bit more scared than I am. She gets worried. Right away, she wanted to move stuff from our basement, get the furniture out. I said 'let's take it easy, don't panic . . . The river doesn't mean get worried. They can sandbag it. I never thought the water would get here. . . . Don't think you know it all-move your stuff up. [Flood-affected man, Southern Manitoba]

It wasn't a big deal before the flood. If conflicts never got fixed they would just go away . . . I think the flood changed this. There were more decisions to be made . . . We're not agreeing on anything . . . He's not taking me seriously. You can't go your whole life with someone without having something to offer them . . . It's his way and that's it. It wasn't a big deal before the flood. Now it is. We should fix this or it could be marriage counseling . . . I think it will be better once the flood decision are made. To offer them . . . It's his way and that's it. It wasn't a big deal before the flood. Now it is. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

My daily life is lost now. I'm slowly starting to get back into a bit of a routine. I've lost my creative aspect. I have no time for naps—I'm a lot more short-tempered. My husband and I fight more often. Before, we didn't fight much, but now I find I'm picking at him more . . . He has an escape from this—his work. Everyday I'm reminded things still aren't normal. [Flood-affected man, Southern Manitoba]

And it used to really frustrate me that I wasn't more part of those conversations because why would you think that I wouldn't understand or if I couldn't understand or why wouldn't you [husband] take the time to explain. [BSE-affected farmer]

We could built a house and pay cash, we would not need a mortgage. I just cannot talk him into it. In fact, I don't even try to talk him into it anymore. For some reason, there has to be so much money in the bank, in case of BSE and a drought comes. It is just really frustrating to me because as a woman's point of view, a house is really important...people are going to judge us by the outside of the house and that causes me a lot of stress. [BSE-affected farmer quoted by Reinsch]

People were all working like dogs. No one would stop to eat, but I baked when the Army was in town and brought cupcakes to the Legion. It was hard because I didn't have anyone to leave my kids with. I felt tied down and I had to watch them. I couldn't get out. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

Women were more physical. Men hemmed and hawed—women did the work . . . [Women] are more 'get it done' rather than sit back. They're more panic stricken. There's no 'wait and see' attitude . . . Women do whatever has to be done to get the job done. Like mum's protecting kids, the house is the same. I didn't think a lot of times, I just did it. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

My son-in-law was angry (that I was working) but you just reassure them that you're taking a shower and you're taking all the precautions. And my boyfriend was the same way. You make sure that you wear that stuff and take all the safety precautions because he didn't want me getting sick. I think we were more at ease, but our family members were definitely upset. [Nurse responding to SARS outbreak]

Men under stress in disasters

Yeah, well I guess I have to use a lot of black humor to keep going. You know, when you're spending—ah, we've got to the point now we're spending savings so that doesn't do my mind any good. . . Either you have an off farm job or you're spending savings. ...I end up not going to sleep and then, you know, going to sleep too late and then...I feel poorly. And then, also, you know, used to come this time of year and you have a lot of enthusiasm for doing a lot of work and getting prepared for things, and I don't have the enthusiasm that I would normally feel to get out and get doing things. So that part is kind of. . .and that's affected myself and a lot of people too.

Then, you don't like to talk about it because it gets you down and some people it does get really down. In fact, hum, what just happened –a real good friend of ours...committed suicide." [Third generation family farmer affected by BSE]

I know my wife took it a lot better than I did. I was more stressed than anything else. She was my shoulder. I was the weak one in this one. [Flood-affected man, Southern Manitoba]

He started crying when I was leaving. I knew as soon as he started, I couldn't. He needed to see me being strong and all right. I said, 'We'll be back.' He's crying—I have to be strong. But as soon as I got into the car, I started bawlin'. I cried the whole way into Winnipeg. I was scared. I left not knowing what would happen. There was nobody around. It was silent, no people, no cars. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

One of the most stressful things I've ever had was the week I had to spend in the hotel room. At the [hotel], there were three floors of evacuees from [the neighboring town of] Morris and here. I'd get up and people were walking up and down the hallways at six a.m. crying. You didn't have to ask, you knew they'd lost their homes. Boy was that stressful. I booked off work . . .The really tough part is knowing people who are coming home and their home has been lost. How do you talk about that? . . .It was hard. A lot of the time I had tears coming down my face thinking about them . . .I preferred to be [lodged in the hotel] with the people from here, because we were going through the same thing. Just by being with them—they're doing OK, so I must be doing OK. [Flood affected man describing evacuation]

He ran about nervous. I tried to keep him busy...My husband just worried the whole time. I called the municipality and told them we were available to sandbag wherever they needed us. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

He lost weight, he wasn't shaving. I at least could take some down time and take the kids out in the wagon. He would gobble down some food at noon and then go back to [flood] work. . . . He started crying [when he saw the flooded house]. You wouldn't know unless you're from a small town. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

He said just by him working for those four months [in British Columbia], they put money in the bank. They paid up all their old bills, the ones that they couldn't pay because the farm wasn't giving them enough money. He gave up four—you know, first of all, he gave up four months of his children's life. He was home for awhile and then he was gone again. . . Money—money is all fine and dandy, but you know in the end of it—and I'm a guilty person for this—but at the end of it, he'll never get back that time with his children. Yeah, he'll never—he'll never get it back.” [Community observer on BSE-affected farmers]

Women under stress in disasters

Because people could not see my disability, they assumed I was OK. So, no one offered to help. I paid the consequences of this later as the pain was so bad for weeks after the storm. [1998 ice storm testimonial]

Some women in the shelter lost their homes, many had indirect problems not related to family violence to be solved. Some women were not able to see their children who were not with them. Increased stress and worries. [domestic violence shelter employee, Saguenay flood]

I really can't over-emphasize the need for child care workers. I worked 18 hour days seven days a week for several months on end and my children just got left to fend for themselves. My community had promised they would like after my kids while I worked by that promise soon went by the board. We had no trauma team in place. It took three and a half months from the blizzard to get a trauma team in place working in our community. They had workers in Winnipeg at reception centres, but when we moved home there was nobody there to help us re-enter into the community. [Flood volunteer, Southern Manitoba]

She's the one that gets the phone calls from the bank. She's the one that gets phone calls from the fertilizer place. She's the one that gets the mail. . . The wives probably are the ones that do the books....So the stress is on her. Then she has to go and try buy groceries, and she has no money to buy groceries and how are you going to feed your children, especially if you're a young family? [Community observer on BSE-affected farmers]

Women are there to back them up but now they're, we're finding more men are leaving the farm to work leaving the chores to the women and the women already were—like men are not as multitask as women—and so they already had 10 hats on and now they're doing the main job as well. [The men] are away for weeks at a time and the women are in the barns in the morning and they're getting the kids ready for school and that's where the kids really suffer. Then they're

coming in and phoning us and saying ‘I just can’t do this anymore.’ [Counselor on BSE-affected farmers]

‘What’s wrong with me? Why can’t I get over it?’ And particularly for the women, because they had to look after their husbands, their children, their normal house accounts, their EMO account, their Water Resources account. They had to go out and buy whatever they needed for their new house and make a thousand decisions every day if they were rebuilding. And they had to make the decisions that kept them going in their apartment or their mobile home. They were literally exhausted and worn out, and there was nobody they felt safe turning to. If they’d go to work and talk on coffee break, people would turn on them and accuse them of expecting the government to look after them. People started to feel very, very isolated quite early on.[Flood volunteer, Southern Manitoba]

The mothers were horrendously over-loaded. The men went off to war, they went off to hunt and did their thing. I’m sorry to generalize, but you know I’ve been watching this pattern emerge. And the women stayed home and tended the fire. They gathered the food, they made sure they had a roof over their head, whether it was a mobile home or an apartment. They had to rebuild their house. They had to deal with all the home bonding issues. [Flood volunteer, Southern Manitoba]

We needed to be together for this and we weren’t. [Flood-affected wife on evacuation of women and children, Southern Manitoba]

She identified that I looked safe to talk to and so she confided in me how much it all hurt. And how much the grief of the flood was compounding the death of her daughter many years ago, that she was now reliving the death of her daughter through the stress of the flood. And she felt so isolated, because she has so much financially that there was nobody that she could talk to or share her hurt with. They wouldn’t understand, because she had money and so she had “everything she needed.” There were very few people who could understand her emotional needs. [Flood volunteer, Southern Manitoba]

It’s our poor daughter who gets the worst of it . . . My temper with her now is worse. I didn’t expect for things to be lasting so long . . . Personally, I want to get back and do the things that are most important to me . . . I even yelled at the baby the other day—now that’s real stress. [Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba]

They will call me and ask me things like, ‘I don’t know how to help here, can you help? Can you help me figure out how I can help my husband who—he won’t talk to me. He hasn’t talked to me in weeks. You know, I know it’s not me. Can you help? [Counselor on BSE-affected wives]

My younger one went to live with my mom in a senior’s complex. So for seven months, he’s had no supervision whatsoever. My mom didn’t even know how to discipline him. He decided to quit

school, just to have a gay old time and because I wasn't hands on, I couldn't control him. We've been going through this rebellion bit with him and it's been hell. Now I've got 7 ½ months to undo and see if I can get him back on track again. . . We're exhausted, both of us, you know. It's always me that keeps everything going and I'm so tired. I've always been the strong one. I had to do it all. Keep the house going. I feel that I'm the one that's kind of holding things together. Flood-affected woman, Southern Manitoba, three years later]

Women in emergency management

I am often asked about working in a “man’s world.” I believe it is not a man’s world but the world you make it out to be. The emergency management “world” encompasses not only the traditional first responder roles – police, fire and emergency medical services – but also the military, volunteer agencies, government departments and industry. Traditionally, female emergency managers have been represented in the health care, social service and educational agencies, while male managers have represented the police, fire and emergency medical services agencies. However, I have noticed that when municipalities move from using traditional first responder agencies such as fire and police for their municipal emergency managers to hiring a civilian emergency manager, a woman is often the successful candidate. As well, there seem to be more men in health care emergency manager positions in the last few years. The message? Emergency managers should not be defined by gender, but by the education and experience they bring to the job. Joanne Sheardown, Coordinator, Emergency Planning and Preparedness Programme, Lakeland College, Vermilion, Alberta. IAEM Bulletin (2005)

See Selected References for original sources:

BSE-affected women: Reinsch (forthcoming in Enarson and Chakrabarti)
BSE affected families: Enarson and Martz [2007]; Ice storm domestic violence: Enarson [1999]
Ice storm disabilities: Barile et al. (2006); Hurricane and ice storm survivor story: Public Safety Canada [2008]; Red River flood: Enarson and Scanlon [1999]; Red River flood interviews three years later: Grant and Higgett [2001]; Red River flood volunteer, Goyer [1998]; Sheardown, IAEM Bulletin (2005) ; SARS accounts from focus group study, Amaratunga and O’Sullivan (forthcoming in Enarson and Chakrabarti) and as reported in the Proceedings of the Cape Breton gender and disaster conference:
<http://www.capebretonu.ca/ICEMS/Gender%20and%20Disaster%202006.pdf>

Selected On-Line Resources On Women, Gender And Disaster

Prepared with attention to Canadian resources

Start here!

Gender and Disaster Sourcebook, an international compilation of case studies, policy frameworks, practice guides, academic papers, community education materials and more: <http://www.gdnonline.org/sourcebook.htm>

Some history-conference proceedings and recommendations

Gender and Disaster in Canada: New Thinking, New Directions, fall 2006, Cape Breton University: <http://www.capebretonu.ca/ICEMS/Gender%20and%20Disaster%202006.pdf>

Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop, summer 2004, Honolulu, Hawai'i. Proceedings: <http://www.ssri.hawaii.edu/research/GDWwebsite/pages/proceeding.html>

Gender Equality, Environmental Management and Natural Disaster Mitigation. 2001. UN Division for the Advancement of Women, Expert Working Group meeting in Ankara, Turkey. Proceedings: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/env_manage/documents.html.

Reaching Women and Children in Disasters. Miami, FL, summer 2000. Available through the Gender and Disaster Network: http://online.northumbria.ac.uk/geography_research/gdn

Women in Disasters: Exploring the Issues, Vancouver, BC, spring 1998. Proceedings and recommendations: <http://www.ssri.hawaii.edu/research/GDWwebsite/pdf/VancouverConf.pdf>

Networks

Please visit the new website of the newly formed **Gender and Disaster Network of Canada**: <http://www.gdnc.ca/>. it is a work in progress and your ideas and materials are very welcome.

Gender and Disaster Network, an international network of academics, practitioners and policy makers in support of gender equality in disaster risk reduction. On-line publications and reports, member information, and listserv: <http://www.gdnonline.org/>

Disaster Watch, an initiative of the Huariou Commission and Groots, a global network of grassroots women's organizations, supports the growth & development of women - centered community based, post disaster response. Coordinated by Swayam Shikshan Prayog, India. For updates: <http://www.disasterwatch.net/>, and visit *Groots Canada*: <http://www.groots.org/members/canada.htm>

UN position statements and publications

Women, Disaster Reduction and Sustainable Development: <http://www.unisdr.org/eng/risk-reduction/gender/Women,%20disaster%20reduction%20and%20SD.pdf>

Making Risky Environments Safer: Women Building Sustainable and Disaster-Resilient Communities. Women 2000 and Beyond publication (April 2004, E. Enarson), UN DAW (available in French and Spanish): <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/w2000.html>

Practice guides and tools

It Can Happen To Your Agency! Tools for Change: Emergency Management for Women's Services (emergency planning manual for shelters). 2001, BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counseling: http://www.pep.bc.ca/management/Women_in_Disasters_Workbook.pdf

Gender Equality and Humanitarian Assistance: A Guide to the Issues. CIDA, 2003: [http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Africa/\\$file/Guide-Gender.pdf](http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/INET/IMAGES.NSF/vLUIImages/Africa/$file/Guide-Gender.pdf)

Women, Girls, Boys and Men: Different Needs, Equal Opportunities. Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action, UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee, December, 2006: [http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/documents/subsidi/tf_gender/IASC%20Gender%20Handbook%20\(Feb%202007\).pdf](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/documents/subsidi/tf_gender/IASC%20Gender%20Handbook%20(Feb%202007).pdf)

Weaving Gender in Disaster and Refugee Assistance, and accompanying Field Checklists. Report prepared by Interaction: American Council for Voluntary International Action. Washington, D.C. Includes conference papers and field practice checklists. Available on-line through InterAction: www.interaction.org. Also see Best Practices for Gender Integration in Organizations and Programs From the InterAction Community (1998) and the many additional gender mainstreaming resources offered to organizational members.

Working With Women at Risk: Practical Guidelines for Assessing Local Disaster Risk, E. Enarson et al. 2003, available in Spanish: <http://gdnonline.org/resources/WorkingwithWomenEnglish.pdf>

Advocacy and observation

Vulnerability of Women in Disaster Situations, Kate Wood, President of the Canadian Red Cross and Special Representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, in New York, March 7, 2005: <http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=012396&tid=001>

Gender and Disaster Network Oral Statement to the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, 2007:
[http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/Wednesday Statements/Org and Other Statements/GDN Statement.pdf](http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/first-session/docs/Wednesday%20Statements/Org%20and%20Other%20Statements/GDN%20Statement.pdf)

Gender Equality in Disasters: Six Principles for Gender-Fair Relief and Reconstruction, Gender And Disaster Network, January 2005:
<http://www.gdnonline.org/resources/genderbroadsheet.doc>

Women and girls last? Averting the second post-Katrina disaster. E. Enarson, 2006:
<http://understandingkatrina.ssrc.org/Enarson/>

Women and Disaster Fact Sheet prepared for Sociologists for Women in Society, E. Enarson, 2006:
<http://www.socwomen.org/socactivism/factdisaster.pdfvvy>

Battered Women in Disaster: Case Study of Gendered Vulnerability, E. Enarson, 1998. Transcript and related materials from on-line emergency management discussion, including planning guidelines for shelters, programs, and emergency management agencies: <http://www.emforum.org/vlibrary/980603.htm>

Regional Perspectives on Gender and Disaster Risk Reduction. Commentaries from participants in the Honolulu Workshop on Gender Equality and Disaster Risk Reduction, 2004:
<http://www.ssri.hawaii.edu/research/GDWwebsite/pdf/WorkingGroups/COMMENTARIES.pdf>

Case studies and reports

See the *Gender and Disaster Sourcebook*, section 7, for citations to numerous empirical studies around the world on the gender dimensions of hazards, disasters and disaster risk reduction:
<http://www.gdnonline.org/sourcebook.htm>

The Needs of Women in Disasters and Emergencies. R. Wiest, University of Manitoba, Jane Mocelli and Thandiwe Motsisi, 1994. Report for the UN Development Programme and the Office of the US Disaster Relief Coordinator: http://online.northumbria.ac.uk/geography_research/gdn

Gender Mainstreaming In Emergency Management: Opportunities for Building Community Resilience in Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada:
http://www.gdnonline.org/resources/Enarson_GenderMainstreamingCanada.pdf

Integrating Emergency Management And High-Risk Populations: Survey Report And Action Recommendations, Public Safety Canada and Canadian Red Cross:
http://www.redcross.ca/cmslib/general/dm_high_risk_populations.pdf

International fact sheets

Unsung heroines: Women and natural disasters, January 2000, Information bulletin # 8, January 2000, US AID: http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNAACL189.pdf

Gender and natural disasters, PAHO Women, health and development:
<http://www.paho.org/English/DPM/GPP/GH/genderdisasters.pdf>

Gender and climate change, World Conservation Union:
http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/gender_factsheet_climatechange.pdf

Gender and health in disasters, WHO:
http://www.who.int/gender/other_health/en/genderdisasters.pdf

On Canadian women and climate change

Canadian Women's Health Network Magazine Fall/Winter 2008/09, Volume 11, Number 1:
<http://www.cwhn.ca/network-reseau/11-1/11-1pg2.html>.

Climate Change: Preparing for the Health Impacts, Health Policy Research Bulletin 11
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/sr-sr/pubs/hpr-rpms/bull/2005-climat/2005-climat-6-eng.php>

WOMEN IN DISASTERS: EXPLORING THE ISSUES

Tracy Porteous, Director

BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Services

Source: Presentation to Women and Disaster conference, Vancouver BC, 1998:
<http://www.ssri.hawaii.edu/research/GDWwebsite/pdf/VancouverConf.pdf>

Between the years of 1987 and 1994, I worked as the Executive Director of the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre. Before that time I worked there in many other positions--from volunteer on the 24-hour crisis line, as someone who would accompany women who had just been sexually assaulted to the hospital and to the Police (if they so chose to report), to volunteer trainer and coordinator, to counsellor in the Emergency and Justice Related Support Program. I say all this by way of describing the experience of many feminists working at front line social service agencies providing a response to violence against women.

In fact there are numerous such agencies across BC, including 23 Sexual Assault/Women Assault Centres; 45 Specialized Victim Assistance Programs; 80 Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs; 80 Transition Houses and Safe Homes; and 50 Children Who Witness Abuse Programs. From a more general crime perspective, there are also approximately 60 Police based Victim Assistance Programs across the Province. These services have varying mandates, and for my focus this morning, I will be focusing more directly on the services specifically for women.

This network of women's services is set up primarily to respond to women who have experienced sexual assault, sexual abuse in their childhood's, or abuse in the context of a relationship. *These services are in large part the primary responder for all of the violence-related needs of the women in their communities across British Columbia.* Many started out on the '70s and '80s as small grassroots women's organizations attempting to break the silence that has shrouded these issues historically.

Now, in the 1990s, these services have become large social service agencies responsible for large budgets and many staff. They are considered by Police, Crown, and the authorities for justice, social services, and health to be integral in the immediate crisis response and provision of ongoing services. These services coordinate their efforts in communities, and work along side the systems to ensure that women receive the services and responses they need. These services:

- acknowledge a woman's experience of violence
- understand that because of social attitudes, the stigmatization, and fears that they will be judged, and blamed and shamed, that women don't come forward to report these crimes
- recognize the varying ways that power and control within a patriarchal society result in oppression

- recognize the additional barriers and levels of oppression women face who have disabilities, who are women of colour, aboriginal women, lesbians, are old, are poor.

But before I talk about the services in more detail, I wish to outline all the components we have been working very hard on in developing *a continuum of services*. The services work to ensure that we have a Crisis Intervention Continuum. That is:

- Woman centered 24-hour crisis lines
- Immediate crisis intervention response at the hospital
- Protocols with hospitals, the police, prosecutors, other social services
- Policies and legislation that support women to report and provide for fair treatment and timely services
- Shelter
- Counselling (individual; groups)
- Support for family, friends and children
- Offender treatment programs
- Education and training for: front line staff, volunteers, policy makers, police, prosecutors and the judiciary, within universities, other professional groups, and the public
- Bridging and employment programs for women
- Support and debriefing for front line respondents--counsellors, police, hospital staff
- Self Defense Programs that include assertiveness training
- Prevention Programs

I also want to visit the incidence of violence against in women that happens every day in every city and every town in this country every day—women are maligned, humiliated, shunned, screamed at, kicked, punched, beaten, raped, physically disfigured, tortured, threatened with weapons and murdered.

We know that many people have a sense that violence against women exists and that many women live with violence on a daily basis. However, we also know that many people do not have a real perception of the physical, psychological and spiritual repercussions of violence and how the experience and fear of violence affect the daily existence of all women.

Almost daily, newspapers, and radio and television broadcasts carry chilling reports of women harassed, women terrorized, women raped, women shot, women killed. And the accounts that reach the media are only a fraction of the events that never get reported and that remain invisible. We know by conservative estimates that:

- Women are singled out and sexually assaulted every 6 minutes in Canada. That works out to one in every five women!
- And that means in BC alone, we have over 200,000 women who either have been or will be sexually assaulted at some time in their lives. And of those women, 1 in 5 attempt suicide!

- One in 6 Canadian women are beaten by their male spouses.
- Two women are murdered every week in Canada by their male partners.

And those women who are more marginalized--such as First Nations women, women of colour, immigrant women, disabled women, poor women--are even more vulnerable to violence in their lives.

Having said all that, *I want to share with you my story of coming to realize that Emergency Preparedness was something women service providers had to get involved with.*

In the early part of 1990, a report came across my desk at the Sexual Assault Centre which was entitled, "Violence Against Women in the Aftermath of the October 17, 1989 Earthquake." The quake happened in Santa Cruz, just outside of San Francisco. The report was done by the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and surveyed agencies which provide services to women who have been battered or raped to assess impact on clients. *This report indicated that violence against women was a major concern after the disaster, in that::*

- Santa Cruz Victim Witness Program reported that rape calls soared after the first 10 days after quake;
- Santa Cruz County Sex Assault Response Team reported that sex assaults went up 300% after the quake;
- Santa Cruz Police Department also reported an increase of sex assault and domestic violence;
- Santa Cruz District Attorney reported that after the first week, the workload became very heavy. There were many sexual assaults and domestic violence cases reported. The office also dealt with its first reported gang rape case and reported that homicides related to domestic violence were also up;
- Santa Cruz Sheriff Department said, not only did crimes increase in the first month after the quake but the crimes were stranger than usual;
- A number of agencies were temporarily closed immediately following the quake. Some of their facilities were completely demolished;
- Once phone service was restored, services were getting crisis calls and requests for services from people stressed by the quake (loss of jobs, housing). Many people had "old wounds opened" and wanted service for issues unrelated to quake;
- For some women, the trauma of the quake reawakened the pain of previous assaults and abuse. One agency reported that more adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse were calling, more were experiencing traumatic memories and requests for support groups and individual counselling increased, increasing the wait lists;
- Sexual Assault Survivors reaching out increased too with one agency receiving a 25% increase in crisis calls, including quake-related sex assaults, and others being re-traumatized as the quake raised feelings of the same powerlessness and loss of control that the original sexual assault;
- Most agencies recommended the importance of free/accessible counselling to help people come to terms with their feelings about the quake;
- The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Education Project reported that

once they reopened they found their clients were so overwhelmed by basic survival, i.e., shelter, food, etc. that all the agency's efforts had to focus here;

- Crisis calls and requests for Temporary Restraining Orders for women who were dealing with domestic violence dramatically increased;
- Child Abuse went up as well. It was said that parents who have a hard time coping with their children had an even harder time after the quake when their kids became regressive and clingy due to the traumatization;
- Loss of jobs, possessions, housing were narrowing women's choices. As we know, increased uncertainty about one's financial independence made it even harder for women to contemplate leaving abuse situations;
- Many women were reporting that their male partners discounted their fears and men, because of their socialization, weren't expressing their fear—it was coming out as anger;
- Community outreach and education was found to be essential. The problem was that while the general population was in need of education and information, such as the relationship between stress and violence against women and where people could go for help, all services were stressed to the limit in responding to the immediate crisis;
- The Men's Alternative to Violence Program expressed it in a phrase "The quake is not excuse: call before you hit!" They urged that information on coping with post-traumatic stress syndrome be made public along with instructions on how to purify water and turn off the gas, and that an information campaign on violence prevention should be part of the City's Emergency Management Plan;
- Disaster relief funds look primarily at material damage infrastructure, housing, revenues. But who is looking at the need to fund response to deeper psychological issues that arise such as stress, anger, fear, system abuse. Disaster relief should include preventing a violent aftermath.

So, after reading this report, and knowing that my community and entire region is considered to be a high earthquake risk zone, I got to thinking:

What plans were in place with the mainstream services? What about our services, the need for preparing for increased need while things would be in a state of disarray? Our building was located in a brick building, built in 1910, not seismically sound I doubted.

What about funding? At that time we had an approximately \$600,000 budget, 30% of which came from charitable dollars—and in the event of a major disaster, all those donation would probably go to disaster relief funds. So we needed to set up some advance agreement, I thought, with Government for increased funding in the event...and also with other women's services in Victoria and up island for possible help with staffing.

What about the staff? It would be likely that our building would be demolished--where would we work from? What about their safety? How would we be able to

continue to pay salaries if our bookkeeper was injured or unable to get to our computers?

What about evacuation of clients and staff if it happened during office hours? What about women whose first language is not English--are the planners doing anything about reaching out to all communities?

What about insurance and any preventive measures we could take, and education of the staff and readiness training? What about outreach education and what is our role on city committees dealing with these issues? Do the Police and Crown know that this is something we all need to be ready for?

What about women's transition houses? Would they still be standing, or would those women be expected to be housed at the same relief centres that their abusive husbands went to? For that matter, what about all women in general, and considering the high percentage that have experienced violence, would they feel safe being housed at mainstream relief centres?

What about our crisis line, a critical link between women and services. What can be done if anything to get that link up and running as soon as possible?

I went to the Ministry of Attorney General to discuss my concerns and to ask that we start some dialogue at the provincial level to look at funding agreements and planning needs. There was "no money" nor much interest in something that may never happen. I also went to Victoria City Hall Social Planning Committee, which I was a member of at the time thinking—hey, all these people needed to realize that we were in need of some coordination and collaboration. So we struck a subcommittee to start to look at the issue. We invited all those who were responsible for emergency planning to a number of different meetings, where we proceeded to really get nowhere. It seemed to me that the attitude of most of the people responsible for emergency planning was at the same place the police attitude was before the issue of violence against women really came out of the closet.

Now I don't want to offend anyone here, and I am sure there are many now who are more open to looking at how we can all work together, but back then I found I ran into barrier after barrier. These barriers seemed to be fixed:

- on attitude, i.e. women have no place at these tables, e.g. "we can't be concerned about special interest groups;"
- on denial, i.e. there was a real disbelief in the Santa Cruz report, and people were unwilling to believe we would have the same problem here. Racist attitudes, e.g. "our population may be different than that in the US;"
- on turf, i.e. there already were mainstream social services such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army with contracts with the provincial government to provide shelter, food, clothing, etc., and they didn't seem to be welcoming of our willingness and desire to get involved;
- on personal denial, i.e. a number of people I spoke with (people in Government, not especially those responsible for emergency planning) would become

overwhelmed on a personal level when discussing earthquake risk in this area in general, and start talking about what they should do at home.

Our committee put forward the idea of getting emotional preparedness information in the PEP household brochure on what to do about gas and water, etc. While people thought that was a good idea, we were unable to see any concrete movement.

The subcommittee at city hall worked on this issue for 2 years, and I believe the fact that here we were, a women's service ready, willing and able to assist with planning for our specific constituency, and the fact that we got nowhere, suggests that the systemic barriers and problematic attitudes need to be addressed by the Province. *I believe it puts us only in a win/win situation to be ready and able to respond.* Not having women at all these emergency planning tables will only be a set up for not responding well to women and their specific needs.

So, what else do I know after that frustrating journey?

- Women's service providers need to be at the planning tables. We have tremendous knowledge about issues of violence that will assist the development of an effective community response. At these planning tables--ahead of time--press releases can be drafted letting people know that violence against women is a reality and information can be given to let people know where they can get help.
- Arrangements can be set up with Police so that they will be prepared to deal with an influx of reports.
- Better yet, information can be added to the Provincial Emergency Program brochure about emergency preparedness, letting people know what to expect psychologically. This way we can hope to possibly prevent some men from "acting out their fear" by committing aggression.
- We can talk to Mental Health who in some communities have emergency response volunteer counsellors or plans for outreach teams. Perhaps women's services staff can work with these teams so when violence issues come up they can be handled sensitively.
- We can plan ahead so that the women in transition houses won't be evacuated to general relief shelters, as that could be where the person who abuses or threatens them is sent.
- We can make arrangements with PEP and BC Tel to have our crisis lines be designated a priority. This way there will be women's services accessible.
- We need to ensure that information is available in different languages and geared to different communities and for women who are deaf and hard of hearing. These women, if not the representatives of the women's services, need to be at the planning tables too.

- We can set up "mutual agreements" with neighbouring women's services, as the community hardest hit by disaster may be inundated with service demand and may need help, or they may have lost staff/volunteers in the disaster. Better to have a plan ahead of time.
- Also, it will be important that all the Staff/Volunteers/Board have knowledge of and a copy of the disaster response plan as we won't know who will be able to travel to a designated service area.
- We can work with the emergency planners and have our venue assessed as to whether it would likely survive an earthquake or major flood. If not, where will you run your service from?
- We need to prepare the women involved in our agencies, staff and volunteers, as the more prepared they and their families are, the sooner they will be able to turn their attention for others.
- We can designate staff and volunteers to report to their own neighbourhood relief centres to assist and be able to respond to violence-related issues.
- We can know ahead of time what we will do regarding pay day for staff and employment standards and program standards.
- We need agreements now with the Provincial Government that in the event of a disaster we will be guaranteed more funding. After the Vernon massacre, the women's services there and the Police Victim Assistance Program had a full fledged disaster on their hands. They were inundated with calls, people needing support and information, and more women wanting to report domestic violence. Our Association was on the phone asking them what they needed most. They said more staff so we assisted in lobbying for a crisis grant so they could bring in some help. But this took weeks and meanwhile they were alone, short of staff to deal with the situation. I have been raising with the Ministry of Attorney General since then the need to have something in place so assistance is automatic. *In that time of crisis, women's services shouldn't be having to fight and lobby and justify funding.*

I could go on but mostly I want to say—this is exciting! I am glad we are here finally, after all these years, moving one step closer to being prepared and to developing the critical relationship with the Emergency Planning Community.

Contact information: Tracy Porteous, BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance & Counselling Services, PO Box 8398, Victoria, BC, V8W 3S1. Tel: (250) 995-2166. Email: porteous@islandnet.com.

Six Principles for Gender-Sensitive Relief and Reconstruction

1. **THINK BIG.** Gender equality and risk reduction principles must guide all aspects of disaster mitigation, response and reconstruction. The “window of opportunity” for change and political organization closes very quickly. Plan now to:

- respond in ways that empower women and local communities
- rebuild in ways that address the root causes of vulnerability, including gender and social inequalities
- create meaningful opportunities for women’s participation and leadership
- fully engage local women in hazard mitigation and vulnerability assessment projects
- ensure that women benefit from economic recovery and income support programs, e.g. access, fair wages, nontraditional skills training, child care/social support
- give priority to social services, children’s support systems, women’s centers, women’s “corners” in camps and other safe spaces
- take practical steps to empower women, among others:
 - consult fully with women in design and operation of emergency shelter
 - deed newly constructed houses in both names
 - include women in housing design as well as construction
 - promote land rights for women
 - provide income-generation projects that build nontraditional skills
 - fund women’s groups to monitor disaster recovery projects

2. **GET THE FACTS.** Gender analysis is not optional or divisive but imperative to direct aid and plan for full and equitable recovery. Nothing in disaster work is “gender neutral.” Plan now to:

- collect and solicit gender-specific data
- train and employ women in community-based assessment and follow-up research
- tap women’s knowledge of environmental resources and community complexity
- identify and assess sex-specific needs, e.g. for home-based women workers, men’s mental health, displaced and migrating women vs. men
- track the (explicit/implicit) gender budgeting of relief and response funds
- track the distribution of goods, services, opportunities to women and men
- assess the short- and long-term impacts on women/men of all disaster initiatives
- monitor change over time and in different contexts

3. **WORK WITH GRASSROOTS WOMEN.** Women’s community organizations have insight, information, experience, networks, and resources vital to increasing disaster resilience. Work with and develop the capacities of existing women’s groups such as:

- women’s groups experienced in disasters
- women and development NGOs; women’s environmental action groups
- advocacy groups with a focus on girls and women, e.g. peace activists
- women’s neighborhood groups
- faith-based and service organizations
- professional women, e.g. educators, scientists, emergency managers

4. RESIST STEREOTYPES. Base all Initiatives on knowledge of difference and specific cultural, economic, political, and sexual contexts, not on false generalities:

- women survivors are vital first responders and rebuilders, not passive victims
- mothers, grandmothers and other women are vital to children's survival and recovery but women's needs may differ from children's
- not all women are mothers or live with men
- women-led households are not necessarily the poorest or most vulnerable
- women are not economic dependents but producers, community workers, earners
- gender norms put boys and men at risk too, e.g. mental health, risk-taking, accident
- targeting women for services is not always effective or desirable but can produce backlash or violence
- marginalized women (e.g. undocumented, HIV/AIDS, low caste, indigenous, sex workers) have unique perspectives and capacities
- no "one-size" fits all: culturally specific needs and desires must be respected, e.g. women's traditional religious practices, clothing, personal hygiene, privacy norms

5. TAKE A HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH. Democratic and participatory initiatives serve women and girls them best. Women and men alike must be assured of the conditions of life needed to enjoy their fundamental human rights, as well as simply survive. Girls and women in crisis are at increased risk of:

- sexual harassment and rape
- abuse by intimate partners, e.g. in the months and year following a major disaster
- exploitation by traffickers, e.g. into domestic, agricultural and sex work
- erosion or loss of existing land rights
- early/forced marriage
- forced migration
- reduced or lost access to reproductive health care services
- male control over economic recovery resources

6. RESPECT AND DEVELOP THE CAPACITIES OF WOMEN. Avoid overburdening women with already heavy work loads and family responsibilities likely to increase.

- identify and support women's contributions to informal early warning systems, school and home preparedness, community solidarity, socioemotional recovery, extended family care
- materially compensate the time, energy and skill of grassroots women who are able and willing to partner with disaster organizations
- provide child care, transportation and other support as needed to enable women's full and equal participation in planning a more disaster resilient future

E. Enarson for the Gender And Disaster Network January 2005: <http://www.gdnonline.org>

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE IN DISASTER CONTEXTS

Women living with past trauma, the threat of violence, domestic and/or sexual assault have unique needs during disasters, including:

- * physical security during emergency if in shelter or on-site
- * safe and secure evacuation space for women in shelter or needing privacy
- * access to appropriate medical care
- * affordable, safe housing in the post-disaster housing market
- * continuity in counseling relationship
- * assistance securing disaster relief funds and goods

Because disasters can force women back into dangerous relationships, increase financial and housing stress, and re-traumatize recovering women, disaster victims who are also subject to violence often have greater needs for:

- * counseling or support groups
- * children's services
- * mental and/or physical health care
- * transportation assistance
- * legal assistance
- * employment assistance
- * financial assistance

Paradoxically, while the need for assistance and protection may well increase for some victim/survivors of violence after disasters, the resources of antiviolence services are likely to be reduced due to:

- * direct effects on the facility, e.g. damage and closure, lack of business/service continuity
- * indirect effects, e.g. loss of power, partner agencies closed
- * staffing issues (absenteeism, personal disaster recovery, post-disaster job stress)
- * lack of awareness or information at the community level about existing resources
- * inadequate funding resources for reconstruction/relocation
- * diversion of traditional funding sources/ diminished local fund-raising capacity
- * new pressures, e.g. responding to affected sister agencies, or the media

Violence Against Women In Disasters

Domestic violence is a social fact contributing to the vulnerability of women to disaster. Women in violent relationships are a vulnerable population less visibly at risk than poor women, refugees, single mothers, widows, senior or disabled women. Indeed, violence against women in intimate relations crosses these and other social lines, impacting an estimated one in four women in the US and Canada and as many as 60 percent in parts of Africa, Latin America and Asia .¹

Violence against women is unlikely not to be present after as well as before disaster, but does it increase? Barriers to reporting increase in the event of widespread damage, but some indicators suggest that it does, *though the data are very limited*:

- Sexual and domestic violence are often identified as issues for women refugees in temporary camps. ²
- Some field reports of social impacts include abuse, as in this account of an Australian flood: “Human relations were laid bare and the strengths and weaknesses in relationships came more sharply into focus. Thus, socially isolated women became more isolated, domestic violence increased, and the core of relationships with family, friends and spouses were exposed.” ³ Increased violence was also noted in field reports from the Philippines after the Mt. Pinatubo eruption .⁴
- The national Canadian press reported domestic violence increasing during the massive 1998 ice storm in Quebec and Ontario. A Montreal Urban Community Police Chief reported that one in four calls he had received the past week came from women about abuse. Crisis calls were not up at the local shelter but the hot line had been closed by the storm for two days. ⁵
- The director of a Santa Cruz battered women’s shelter reported requests for temporary restraining orders rose 50% after the Loma Prieta quake. Observing that housing shortages were restricting women’s ability to leave violent relationships, she urged that “when the community considers replacement housing issues, battered women should not be overlooked.” ⁶ Five months after the earthquake, a United Way survey of over 300 service providers ranked “protective services for women, children, and elderly” sixth among 41 community services most unavailable to residents.⁷ Reported sexual assault also rose by 300%. ⁸

¹ United Nations Social Statistics and Indicators. *The World’s Women: 1995 Trends*. New York: United Nations.

² League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. 1991. *Working With Women in Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Programmes*. Field Studies Paper #2. Geneva Switzerland

³ Dobson, Narelle. 1994. “From Under the Mud-Pack: Women and the Charleville Floods.” *Australian Journal of Emergency Management* 9 (2): 11-13.

⁴ Delica, Zenaida. 1998. “Women and Children During Disaster: Vulnerabilities and Capacities,” *The Gendered Terrain of Disaster*, edited by Elaine Enarson and Betty Hearn Morrow. Westport, CT: Greenwood.

⁵ *Globe and Mail* January 14, 1998: A6.

⁶ United Way of Santa Cruz County 1990. *A Post-Earthquake Community Needs Assessment for Santa Cruz County*. Aptos, California: United Way of Santa Cruz County: 201. See also Wilson, Jennifer, Brenda Phillips and David Neal. 1998. “Domestic Violence After Disaster,” in Enarson and Morrow, op.cit.

⁷ *Ibid*, 25.

⁸ Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women. 1989. *Violence Against Women in the Aftermath of the October 17, 1989 Earthquake: A Report to the Mayor and City Council of the City of Santa Cruz*. Santa Cruz CA.

- A quarter (25%) of all community leaders responding to an open-ended question about the effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill on family problems cited “increase in domestic violence” first, in contrast to increased child neglect (4%) and elder abuse (4 %). Asked if spouse abuse increased after the spill, 64% agreed; they also reported increased child physical abuse (39 %), child sexual abuse (31%), elder abuse (11%), and rape (21%).⁹
- Following the Missouri floods of 1993, the average state turn-away rate at shelters rose 111% over the preceding year. An existing federal grant was modified to increase funding to 35 flood-affected programs in an innovative disaster recovery grant targeting both substance abuse and domestic violence. The final report notes that these programs eventually sheltered 400% more flood-impacted women and children than anticipated.¹⁰
- After Hurricane Andrew in Miami, spousal abuse calls to the local community helpline increased by 50%¹¹ and over one-third of 1400 surveyed residents reported that someone in their home had lost verbal or physical control in the two months since the hurricane.¹²
- A survey of US and Canadian domestic violence programs reported increased service demand as long as six months to a year later in the 13 most severely impacted programs. In Grand Forks, ND, requests for temporary protection orders rose by 18% over the preceding year and counseling with on-going clients rose 59% (July 1996-July 1997).¹³
- Police reports of domestic violence in the 7 months after Mt. St. Helens erupted increased by 46% over the same period the year earlier.¹⁴
- After Hurricane Mitch, 27% of female survivors (and 21% of male survivors) in Nicaragua told researchers that woman battering had “increased in the wake of the hurricane in the families of the community.” Among community leaders (68% of whom were men), 30% interviewed reported increased battery as did 42% of the mayors (46 men and 2 women) who were interviewed.¹⁵
- Conflicting data are reported by journalists contacting selected shelters about the possible impacts of September 11, 2001. In some communities very far from Ground Zero physically, shelters reported receiving increased calls for help, while in other cases shelters reported

⁹ Araj, Sharon. 1992. “The Exxon-Valdez Oil Spill: Social, Economic, and Psychological Impacts on Homer.” Unpublished final report to the community of Homer. Anchorage, Alaska: University of Alaska, Department of Sociology.

¹⁰ Godina, Victoria and Colleen Coble. 1995. *The Missouri Model: The Efficacy of Funding Domestic Violence Programs as Long-Term Disaster Recovery*. Final Evaluation Report, December 1995. Jefferson City, Missouri: The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

¹¹ Laudisio, Gigi. 1993. “Disaster Aftermath: Redefining Response—Hurricane Andrew’s Impact on I & R.” *Alliance of Information and Referral Systems* 15: 13-32.

¹² Centers for Disease Control. 1992. *Post-Hurricane Andrew Assessment of Health Care Needs and Access to Health Care in Dade County, Florida*. EPI-AID 93-09. Miami: Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services.

¹³ Enarson, Elaine. 1997. *Responding to Domestic Violence and Disaster: Guidelines for Women’s Services and Disaster Practitioners*. Available from BC Institute Against Family Violence. 409 Granville, Ste. 551, Vancouver BC. Canada V6C 1T2.

¹⁴ Adams, Paul and Gerald Adams. 1984. “Mount Saint Helen’s Ashfall: Evidence for a Disaster Streee Reaction.” *American Psychologist* 39: 252-60.

¹⁵ CIETinternational (www.ccer-nic.org/doc/htm). 1999. “Social Audit for Emergency and Reconstruction, Phase 1—April. Study conducted by the Coordinadora Civil para la Emergencia y la Reconstrucción (CCER), Managua, Nicaragua.

reduced case loads as families reunited. National Public Radio reported that increased calls for help were made to the Loveland, Colorado crisis center in the weeks immediately following.¹⁶

- Both domestic violence and sexual assault were widely reported to increase in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Examples from Sri Lanka cited by researchers include women battered because they resist their husbands' sale of their jewelry or disputed their use of tsunami relief funds and mothers blamed by fathers for the deaths of their children. One NGO reported a three-fold increase in cases brought to them following the tsunami.¹⁷
- Four New Orleans shelters and 2 nonresidential programs were closed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and advocates reporting "women are being battered by their partners in the emergency shelters." In the first four months after the US Gulf Coast hurricanes, 38 rape cases were reported to women's services that initiated documentation projects to capture sexual assaults of disaster-displaced women.¹⁸

Compiled by E. Enarson for the Gender and Disaster Network. Rev. April 2006

¹⁶ See "Shelters have empty beds: abused women stay home," *New York Times*, 10/21/01.

¹⁷ Chapter 4, Sarah Fischer, 2005, "Gender Based Violence in Sri Lanka in the Aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami Crisis," on-line through the GDN: <http://www.gdnonline.org/resources/fisher-post-tsunami-gbv-srilanka.doc>

¹⁸ Reported by Lin Chew and Kavita Ramdas in the Global Fund For Women report "Caught in the Storm: The Impact of Natural Disasters on Women," December 2005: <http://www.globalfundforwomen.org/work/programs/natural-disasters.html>