Methods
Study Design: Interview-Based & Ethnographic Study
Participant Selection:
• Residents over 65 years of age with informed consent.
• Facility administrators and staff, physicians, governmental officials, community members, anthropologists and other experts who study a relevant topic or who lived in Houston, TX before, during, or after Hurricane Harvey.

Methods:
• Open-ended interviews & ethnography at two long-term care facilities near the Texas Medical Center during an activation.
• Stocking medicines and supplies, as facilities can become "islands".
• Managing chronic conditions (e.g. requiring dialysis).
• High risks caused by evacuation [4].
• Staff members’ balancing family needs, their position’s responsibilities, and more.

Data Analysis:
• Look for common themes, concerns, questions and recommendations in interviews and fieldwork.

Results
• Interviews (16):
  • Anthropology Professor: 1
  • Anthropology PhD student working with FEMA: 1
  • Facility Residents: 3
  • Facility Staff/Administrators: 4
  • Houston Emergency Management Response Team and SETRAC: 2
  • Public Health Officials and Physicians: 5

Fieldwork
• Ethnography: Volunteered 30+ hours at two long-term care facilities near the Texas Medical Center:
  • Observed SETRAC team at the Houston Emergency Operations Center during an activation.

Events for Additional Context
• 2018 Extreme Weather Ready Expo, held by the City of Houston Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and other regional emergency response agencies, at the George R. Brown Convention Center.
• Baylor College of Medicine’s short course on “The Fundamentals of Health and Place – Conference”.
• Houston Ballet’s “Creating with the Community” panel discussion.

Themes & Insights from the Field
Preparedness
• Coalition-building
• Preparedness is dynamic.
• Staff members and their families must also be considered.

Extra Considerations for the Elderly
• Stocking medicines and supplies, as facilities can become “islands”.
• Managing chronic conditions (e.g. requiring dialysis).
• High risks caused by evacuation [4].
• Staff members’ balancing family needs, their position’s responsibilities, and more.
• Importance of a facility’s mission and values.

Themes & Notes for Experience During the Storm
• Daily check-ins with government resources.
• Maintaining “normality.”
• Worries for family and friends.

Themes & Notes for Impact
• Physical reconstruction.
• Emotional checking-in; a caring community.
• Loved ones’ experiences matter.

Themes & Notes for Disasters in Literature
• Social and anthropological events: their social impact and interactions make them disasters, rather than just events.

Research from previous disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, shows that senior community members may be especially vulnerable [1-3], but also resilient [2-3].

New questions include:
• How, if at all, do factors like socioeconomic status, race, religion, and personality affect the interactions between and within the facility staff members group and facility residents group, and the resident experience?
• How, if at all, did social factors affect facilities’ impacts from and experiences during Hurricane Harvey?
• How do long-term care facilities exist within a social community network?
• How does experience vary across Houston? What affects collected data?

Insights & Discussion
• Hurricane Harvey was a once-in-a-hundred years storm that led to severe flooding and damage in Houston, TX, and many other locations.
• Storms and other disasters are complicated physical, anthropological, and social events. Research on preparedness and impacts can inform future plans.
• Elderly residents of long-term care facilities are a vulnerable population with complicated needs during disasters [1-3].
• There is a gap in research on seniors in long-term care facilities.

Introduction
• Elderly residents of long-term care facilities are a vulnerable population with complicated needs during disasters [1-3].
• Storms and other disasters are complicated physical, anthropological, and social events. Research on preparedness and impacts can inform future plans.
• Guidance from previous disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, shows that senior community members may be especially vulnerable [1-3], but also resilient [2-3].

Research Objectives
• Understand the care available to senior residents before, during, and after the hurricane and the impacts of the hurricane’s extreme conditions.
• Understand disasters like hurricanes and flooding as anthropological events.
• Elucidate recommendations on how to prepare for and improve senior care during and after a hurricane.

Future Plans
• Literature review on preparedness, emergency management, and the impact of Hurricane Harvey on senior residents of long-term care centers in Houston, TX.

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References

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