

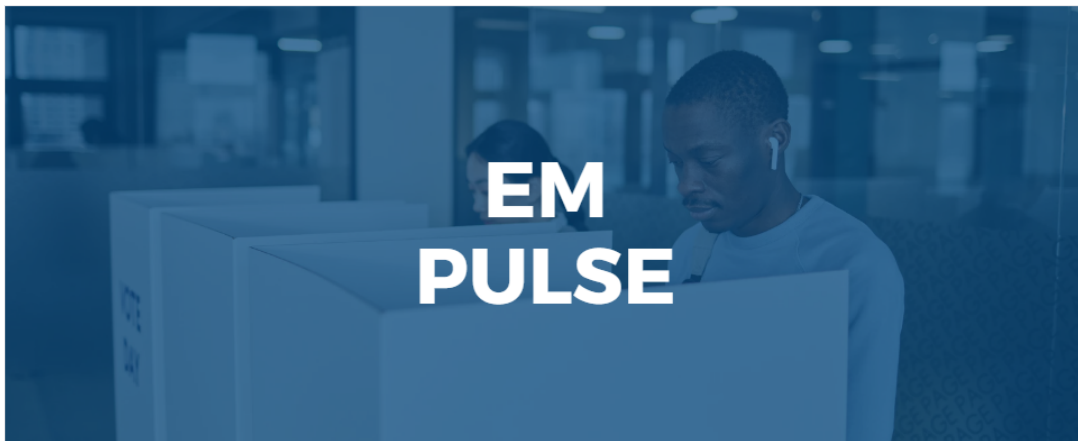


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Resilience Report

Brief insights and the latest innovations in emergency management and health security.

With the impacts of Hurricane Ian continuing to unfold, this week's Resilience Report explores the behavioral health impacts of disasters on a specific population, children. We also take a look at the latest in COVID-19 news, cybersecurity concerns, and the growing expenses of climate change. Finally, we look ahead to spooky season with some fun Halloween activities, costumes, and candy.



COVID-19 Omicron Subvariants Raising Concern of Winter Surge

- Several [‘scrabble’ subvariants](#) of the COVID-19 virus, including [two BA.5 subvariants](#) in the U.S., are increasing case counts worldwide, driving concern of a winter surge. A [preprint study](#) in bioRxiv suggests that current herd immunity and omicron booster rates are not high enough to prevent a winter surge.
- [The CDC expanded access](#) to the new bivalent booster vaccines for children ages 5 through 11 on Wednesday, which should offer better protection to the new subvariants than previous vaccines or acquired immunity.

Cybersecurity Amid the 2022 Midterm Elections

- Russian hackers claimed responsibility for attacks on [state government](#) and [airport](#) websites this month, prompting speculation on whether the escalation in attacks is [retribution for ongoing U.S. support to Ukraine](#). Meanwhile, the FBI is warning state parties that [Chinese hackers](#) are probing for weaknesses ahead of midterms next month.
- With midterm election early voting starting next week for many, the FBI and CISA are reminding voters that [foreign actors](#) may use misinformation to influence results. [Cellular modems](#) that transmit unofficial election-night results are also prime hacking targets.

Nigeria Flooding and Climate Change Expenses

- Several factors have resulted in Nigeria experiencing the worst [flooding](#) it has faced in 12 years, with over 600 dead and over a million people displaced as of Thursday. Water researchers suggest that taking a [multi-pronged approach](#) will be most effective at addressing many of the issues that have worsened flood consequences in recent years.
- This comes amid news that Hurricane Ian is the [15th billion dollar disaster in the U.S. this year](#). The Biden administration's [national security strategy](#) advances climate change for policy decisions in many areas with the hopes of curbing some of the worst effects of climate-related disasters.



As Hurricane Ian recovery continues, officials recognize the [looming mental health impacts](#) from the storm in Florida, a state that already faced an overwhelmed mental health care system according to the [2022 State of Mental Health in America report](#). While Ian's impacts stretch far and wide, this week's Resilience Report focuses on the behavioral health impacts of disasters on children, a growing field of study that encompasses psychology, sociology, emergency management, and more. Here is a rundown of the latest research and developments:

- Researchers are already beginning to analyze the impact of Ian on [children in Florida](#), and as they return to school in Lee County, there is a focus on [mental health](#). While the long-term impacts of the hurricane remains to be seen, one area of focus by reporters at present is the impact of Ian on [education](#), especially following COVID-19's disruptions to school operations.
- One of the most studied disasters in terms of its behavioral health impacts on children is Hurricane Katrina. The recently released [Katrina Babies](#) documentary explores the trauma experienced by children from the storm. Lori Peek and Alice Fothergill also authored a book, [Children of Katrina](#), that provides a multi-year study of seven (7) children following the disaster, outlining its impacts on health and wellbeing, education, relationships, and more.
- Did you know? Children exposed to a disaster may exhibit regressive, physiological, and behavioral reactions, although reactions to disaster often [differ by age group](#). A [study](#) using data from Hurricane Sandy also shows that children who are exposed to natural disasters in the womb have higher rates of developmental psychopathology, providing additional context to the belief that maternal stress during pregnancy can impact child development.

- So what can government officials do? To start, in June, the '[Homeland Security for Children Act](#)' became law, requiring FEMA to "identify and integrate the needs of children into activities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against the risk of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other disasters, including by appointing a technical expert to coordinate such integration." With an [increased focus](#) on children in disaster planning on the federal level, this priority should begin to trickle down to the state and local level.

Integrating the Behavioral Health Needs of Children Prior To, During, and After Disasters into Emergency Management Planning

Emergency managers are tasked with planning for the wider community, which means that significant attention to the needs of children prior to, during, and following disaster is not always prioritized. What steps can local government take to strengthen its ability to support its youth and mitigate the behavioral health impacts of disaster on them?

- **Create a Gap Analysis to assess how your jurisdiction currently plans for children in disasters.** For many jurisdictions, children are not always thoroughly distinguished within emergency management plans. Tips for how to assess whether your jurisdictions' plans account for the needs of children can be found [here](#). Using the Gap Analysis to inform future plan development can be a critical step in strengthening your preparedness posture for youth and ensuring that you can coordinate resources (including behavioral health services) to support their needs.
 - **Involve Children in Emergency Management Planning and Education.** [The National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education](#) (2019) highlights the benefits of youth preparedness, including that prepared children are more confident to handle a disaster situation compared to those not prepared should they experience an actual disaster. Emergency managers can work with their local schools, clubs, societies, faith-based organizations, etc. to develop opportunities for disseminating preparedness information. For a further step, creating councils or groups on the local level such as that of [FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council](#) can provide an opportunity for youth to play a role in their community's emergency management planning by providing their perspectives and feedback.
 - **Equip personnel across your jurisdiction with training to support children's behavioral health needs immediately post-disaster.** As stated in [Unicef's Psychological First Aid \(PFA\) Guide](#), "the way people respond to our trauma immediately after it happens is important in helping us cope better for the future." There are online PFA courses offered through the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) and [Johns Hopkins University](#), and course materials available through [Save the Children](#). For more general training, FEMA also offers a [Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters](#) course.
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Spooky Season Cometh

- With Halloween just over a week away, get in the spirit with [102 costume ideas](#) and get into a fight over this chocolate-heavy list of the [best Halloween candies](#). If tricks are your thing, we have the [13 spookiest houses](#) and the [best horror movies](#) from this year.

Oh, They've Encased Him in Carbonite

- A Bay Area bakery presented a 6-foot bread sculpture of the iconic image of a carbonite-frozen Han Solo from *The Empire Strikes Back* during the Benicia Main Street Scarecrow Contest. "[Pan Solo](#)" is the result of weeks of molding, baking, and assembling the loaf and weighs a whopping 350 pounds.

Sports Equinox

- Yesterday was the 27th ever [Sports Equinox](#), where the NFL, NBA, NHL, and [MLB](#) have games on the same day, and activities escalate now with [MLS round 2 playoffs](#) and [college football](#) drama continuing.



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