

adrc 26

Australian Disaster
Resilience Conference

19 – 20 AUGUST 2026

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Melbourne Convention
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Q&A | Slido.com | #ADRC26



Are we preparing for disasters?

Dr. Kate Brady *HowWeSurvive* UNSW

Art from 'Sharing Connection' by Maddi Moser (Taungurung artist), 2024



Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency



Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience



We are not preparing for disasters



HOW we SURVIVE



HOW we SURVIVE

Know your risk



Make a plan

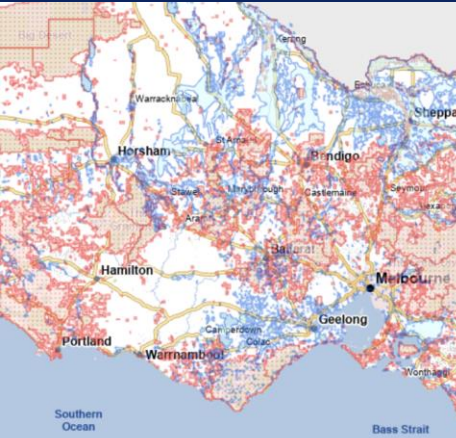


Pack a kit



Preparing for a natural disaster

Guidance on how to prepare your home, family or business for natural disasters, such as storms, floods, bushfires and heatwaves.



1. It's about you!

Getting ready for emergencies helps protect you, and what you value.
Examples of emergencies are when there are hazards such as:



Severe storms



Floods



Bushfires



Housefires



PREPARE & GET READY

Info

Both

Map



Fire



Flood



Storm



Thunderstorm Asthma



Outages and disruptions



Extreme Heat



Water Safety



Earthquake



Sydney, NSW, Australia

hings

Most rece



No warnings to display.
Please stay alert for future updates.





Credit: BBC

HOW *we* SURVIVE

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Step-by-step planning guide >

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Get checklists of what to pack >

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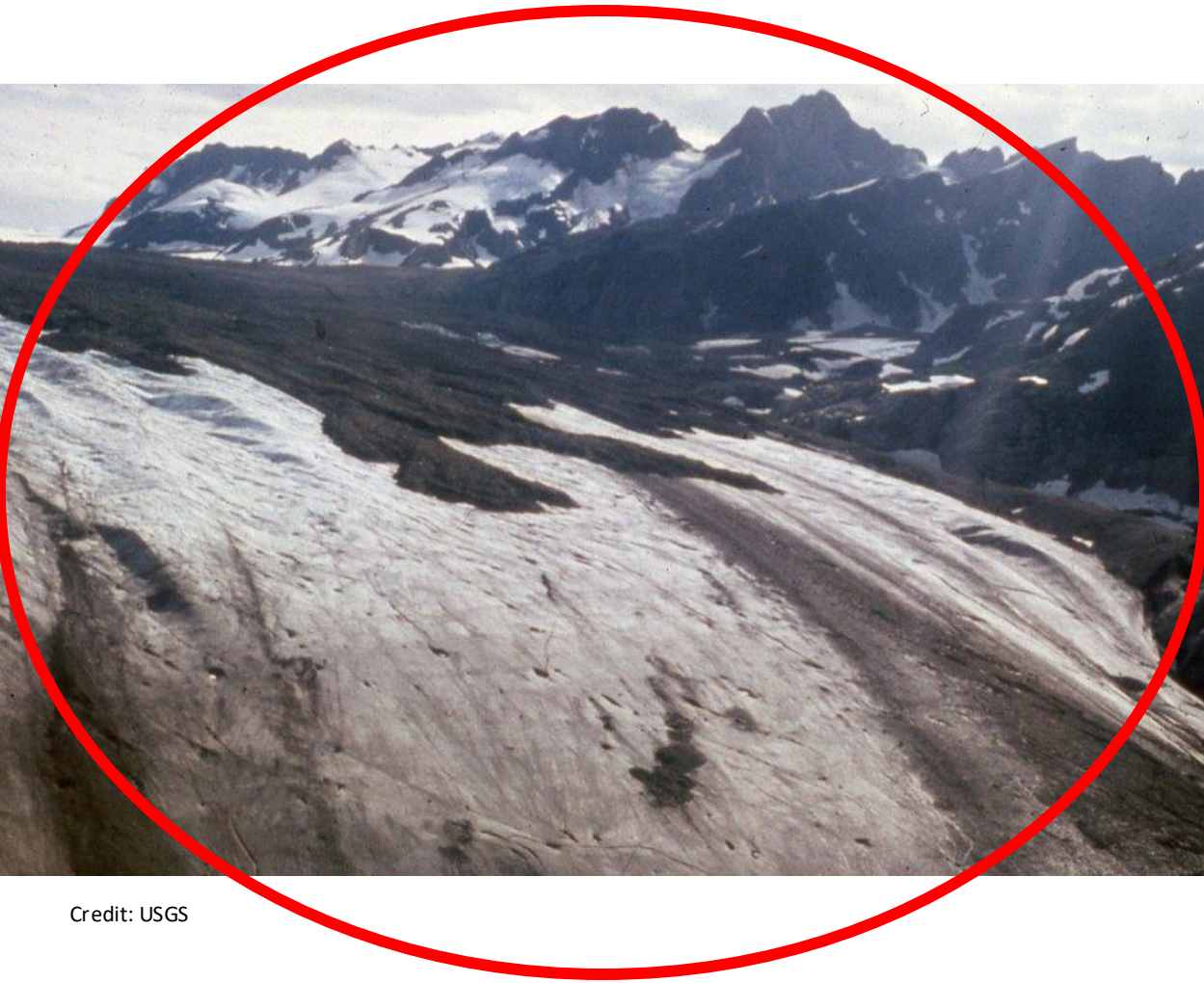
Bushfires



Housefires



HOW we SURVIVE



Credit: USGS



Credit: BBC



HOW we SURVIVE



Credit: USGS



Credit: BBC

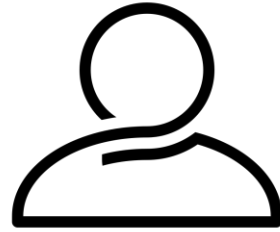


"We will not be measured by the kilometres of roads and pipes that we replace, but by how our people come through this."

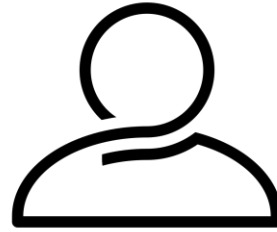
- Jim Palmer
Waimakiriri District Council NZ



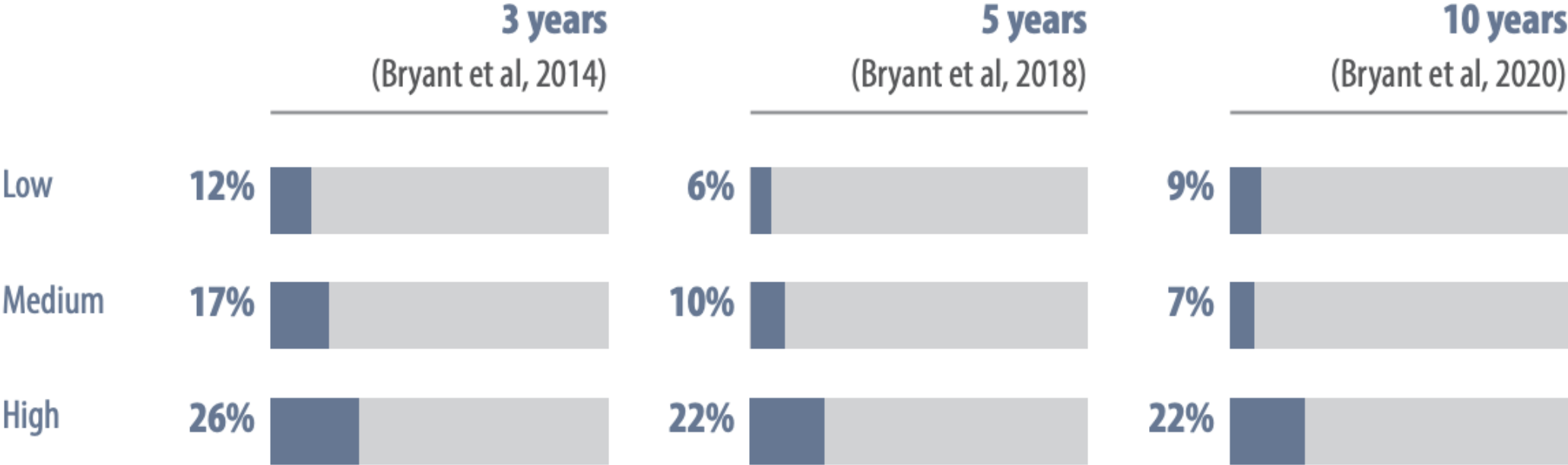
HOW we SURVIVE



HOW we SURVIVE



Rates of probable disorders across all communities - PTSD, depression, and/or severe distress



Source: Gibbs et al 2021

Table 2. Key disease patterns, associated with disasters, relevant to general practice healthcare provision¹²⁻¹⁵

Immediate/short term (hours-days)	Medium term (weeks-months)	Long term (months-years)
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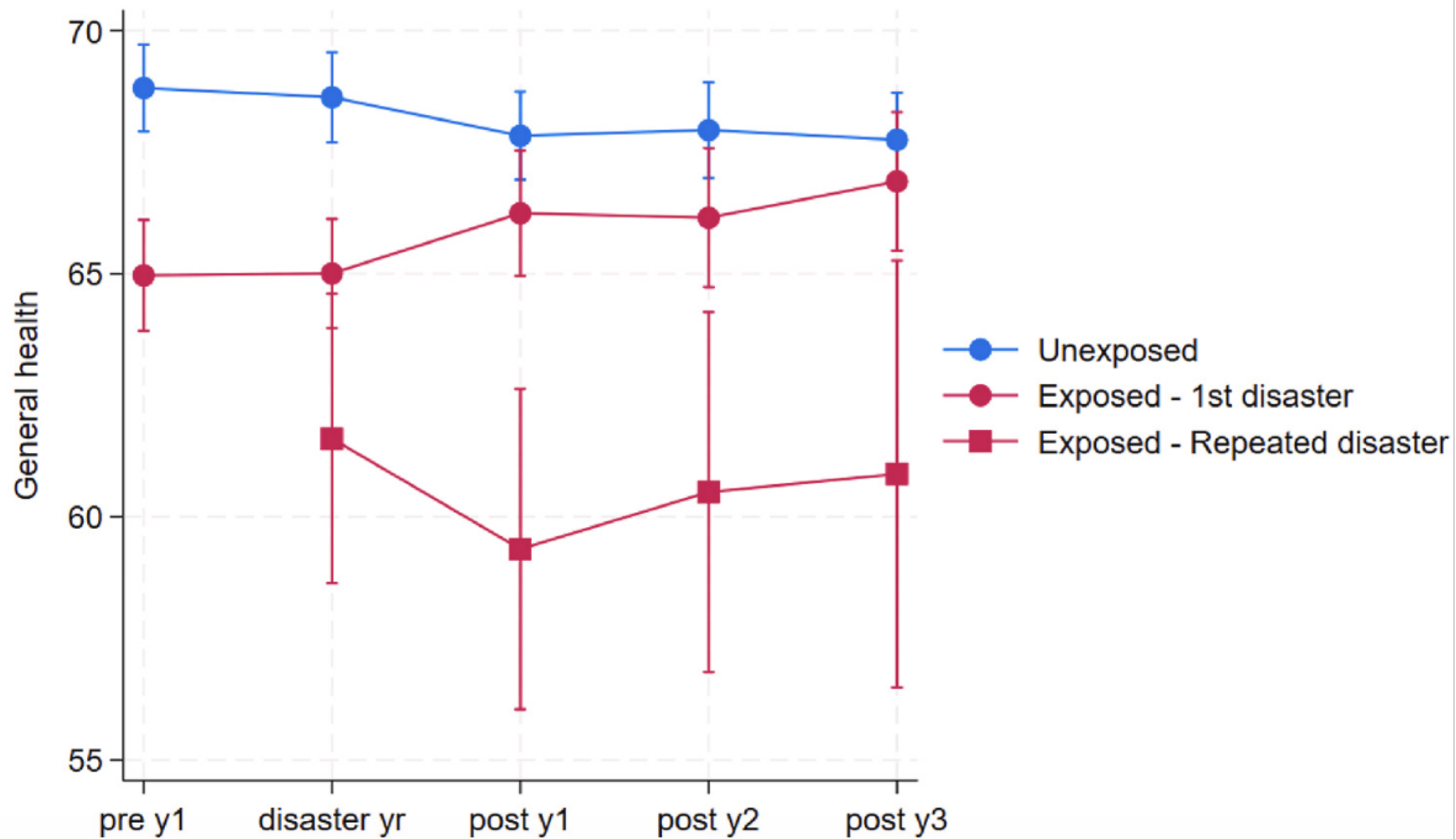
Source: Burns 2025

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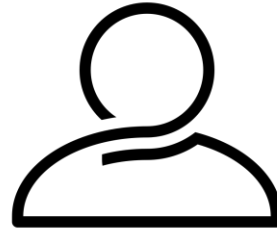
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Source: Burns 2025

(c) General health



HOW we SURVIVE





652,424 properties

(4.4% or 1 in 23) across the country are already at **high risk** in 2025 from one or more hazards.



1.55 million properties

(10.4% or 1 in 10) nationally are at **moderate risk**.



72,000 Australian homes and businesses, across 86 suburbs, are situated in "**critical climate risk zones**", where 80-100% of properties are classified as high risk.

"The research has found that more than 800,000 households – home to more than 2 million Australians – have not fully insured their homes.

Nearly half of those who aren't adequately insured find themselves in that predicament because of the soaring cost of insurance premiums."

“Renters in the private market often find it harder to find temporary housing because they do not qualify for most support programs, which are either for owner occupiers or for renters in public housing.”

"There remain divides between the policies, services and support provided by the homelessness, housing and emergency management sectors."

Source: Teahan et al 2025

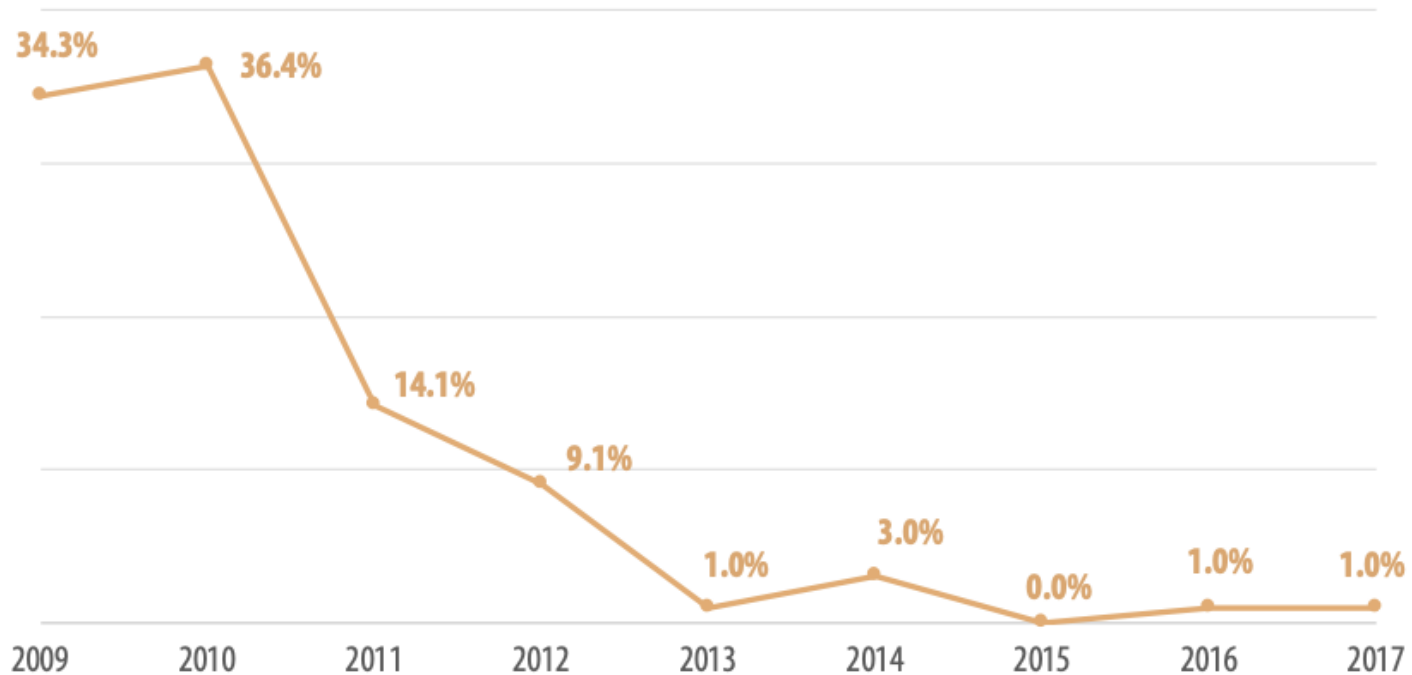


Housing, Homelessness and Disasters National Symposium

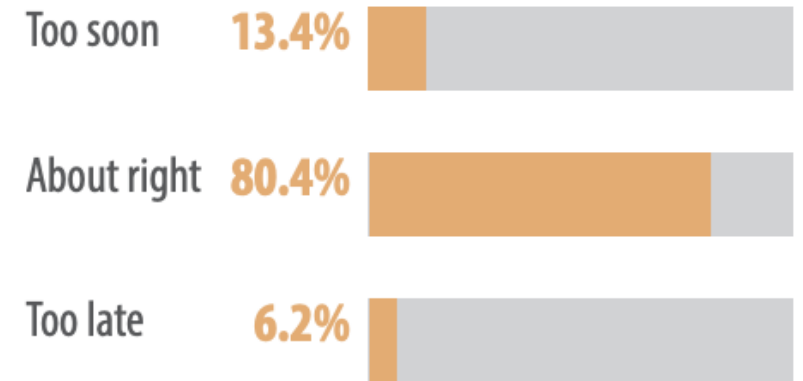
Final Report

June 2025

Most rebuilds commenced in the first two years after the fires.



Subjective appraisal of timing of rebuild.

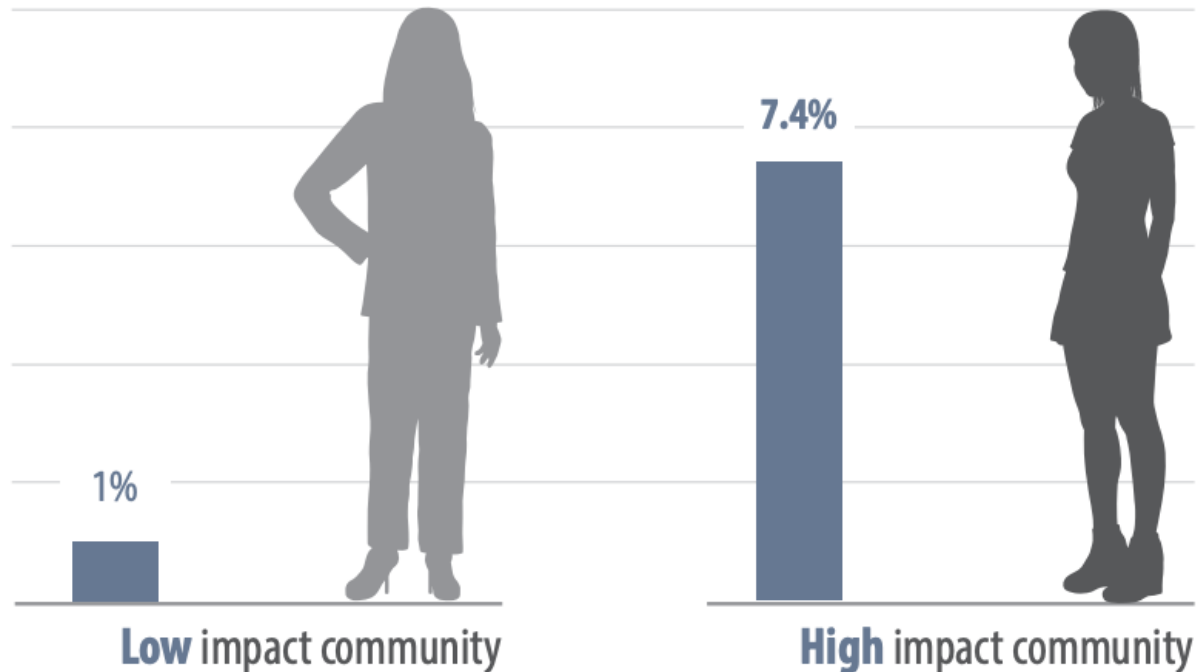


HOW we SURVIVE



HOW we SURVIVE

Women's experience of violence post-bushfire



Source: Gibbs et al 2021

UNDRR

 **PreventionWeb**  **Network** **Search**

Home > Update

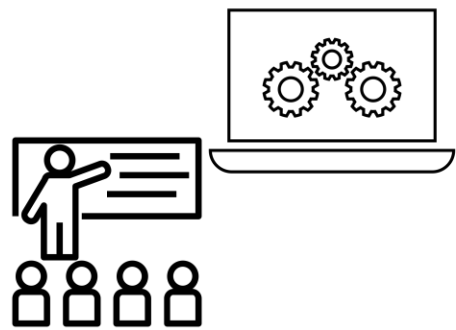
26 November 2024

Research reveals gender-based violence increases after disasters – how do we prepare and prevent it?

Source(s): [Gender & \(and\) Disaster Australia](#)

Source: UNDRR 2024

HOW we SURVIVE



HOW we SURVIVE



1 in 6

ECEC services closed due to climate hazards in 2025



11,000

Total service closure days



Around

800,000

Children's learning days lost

Source: UNICEF & ARACY report O'Connell et al 2026

Key insights

The current costs

\$6.3 billion

Average annual cost of disasters to CYP in Australia in 2025

Equivalent to 1 in 6 children and young people impacted by disasters



The economic burden of disasters on children and young people is substantial and driven primarily by education loss



\$5.3 billion

annual average loss of lifetime income due to reduced rates of Year 12 completion



\$662 million

annual average mental health costs



\$192 million

annual average costs due to increased child abuse

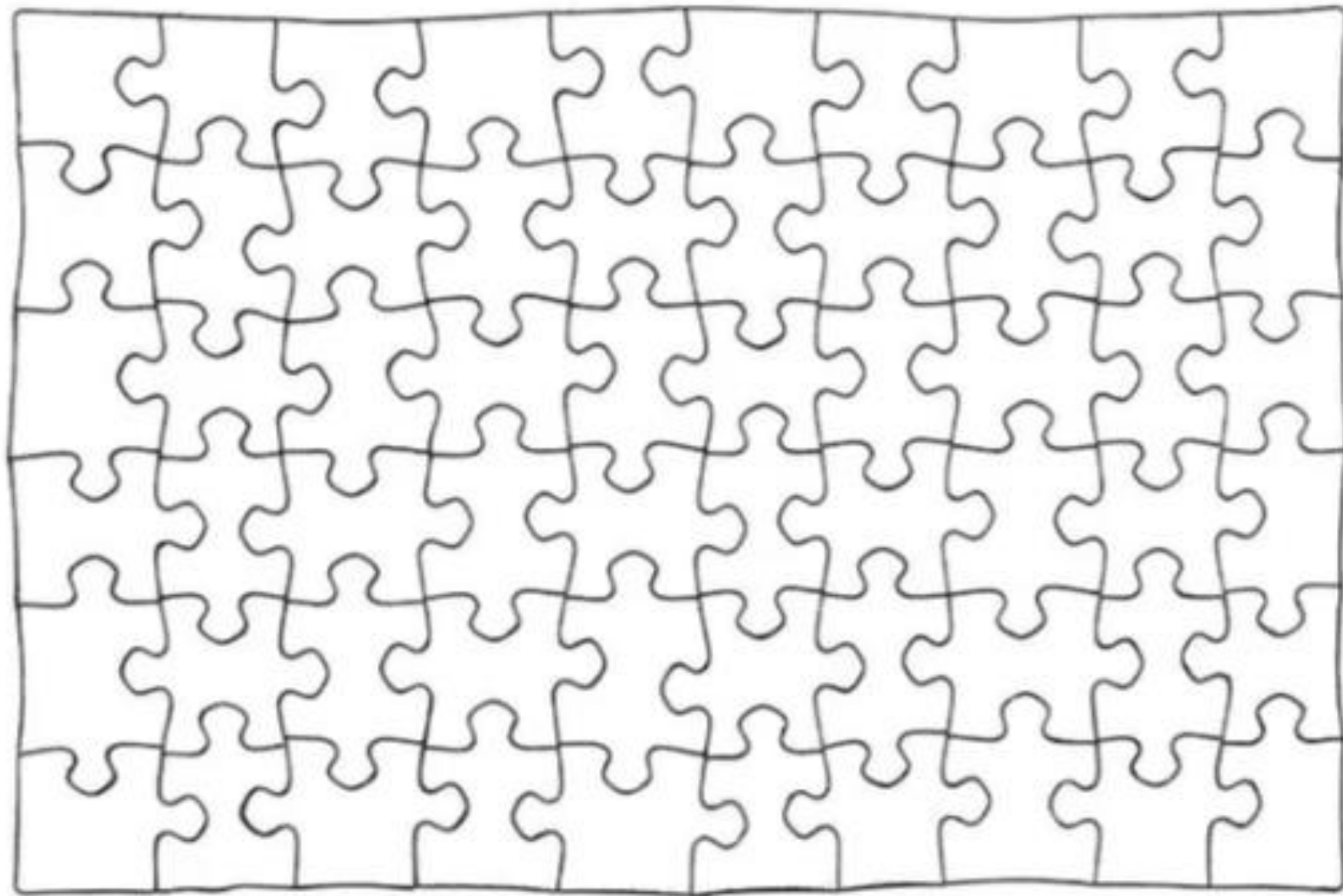
Source: UNICEF & Deloitte 2025

HOW we SURVIVE

Bushfire academic impacts



HOW we SURVIVE



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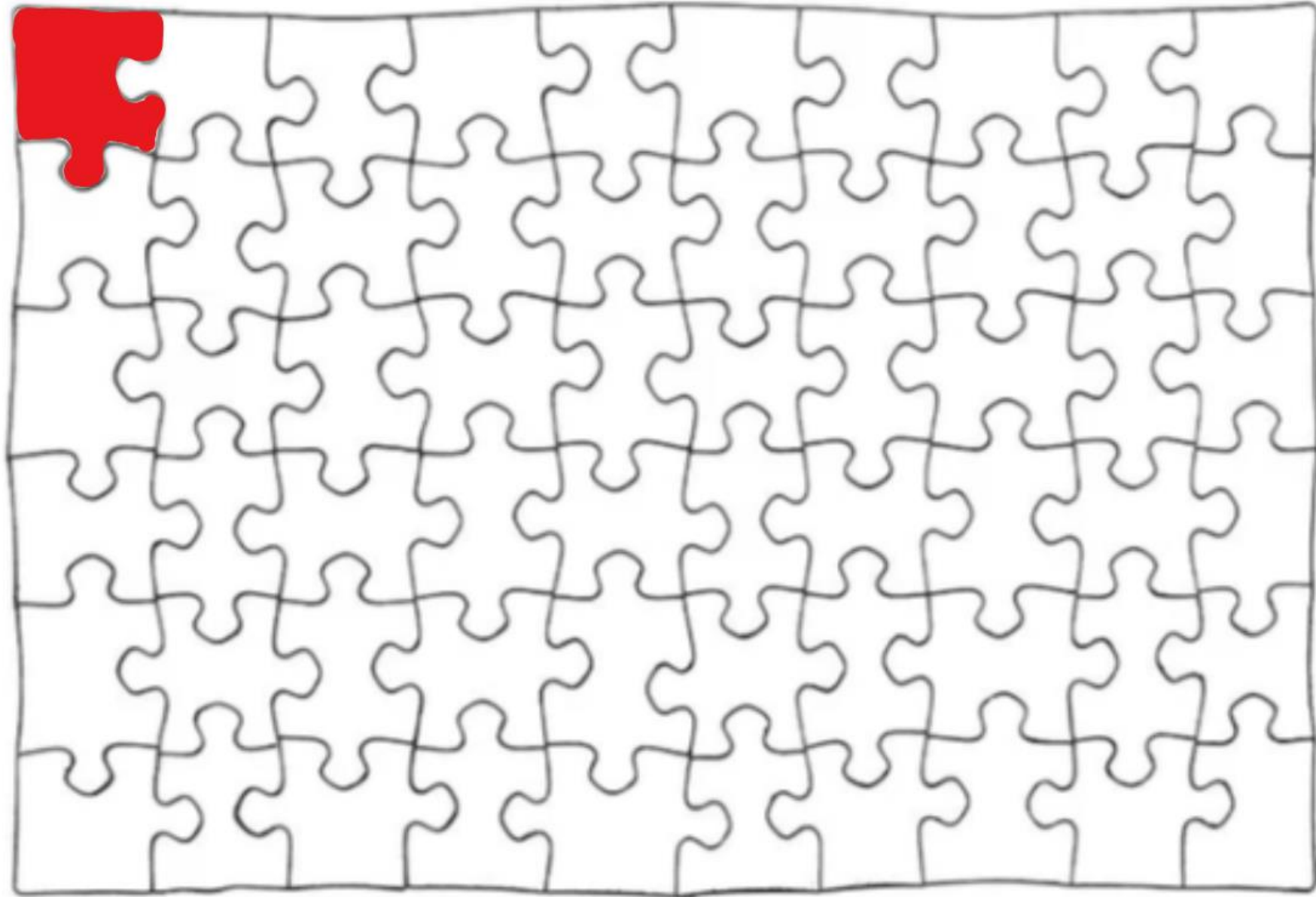
Warnings

Most recent



No warnings to display.
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HOW we SURVIVE



We can prepare for disasters



Specificity allows for intervention



We are preparing for a flood



We are preparing for ~~a flood~~



disrupted school attendance

We are preparing for ~~a flood~~



disrupted school attendance

We are preparing for ~~a flood~~

*so that children and young people continue
their education and developmental
trajectory*



loss of housing

We are preparing for ~~a flood~~



loss of housing

We are preparing for ~~a flood~~

because adequate housing is a human right



to prevent family violence
We are preparing for ~~a flood~~



to prevent family violence

We are preparing for ~~a flood~~

because everyone has a right to be safe



increased cardiovascular issues

We are preparing for ~~a flood~~



increased cardiovascular issues

We are preparing for ~~a flood~~
*to prevent degraded health and avoidable
death*



We can prepare for disasters.

We should be the best in the world at this.



We have **reason** to
prepare for disaster impacts and consequences.



Australian Actuaries Climate Index: Composite Index

Australia

5 year rolling average Positive index values Negative index values



Natural disasters currently
cost the Australian economy

\$38

billion per year

This cost will
rise to at least

\$73

billion per year
by 2060

The three drivers of growth in
costs of natural disasters are:



POPULATION GROWTH

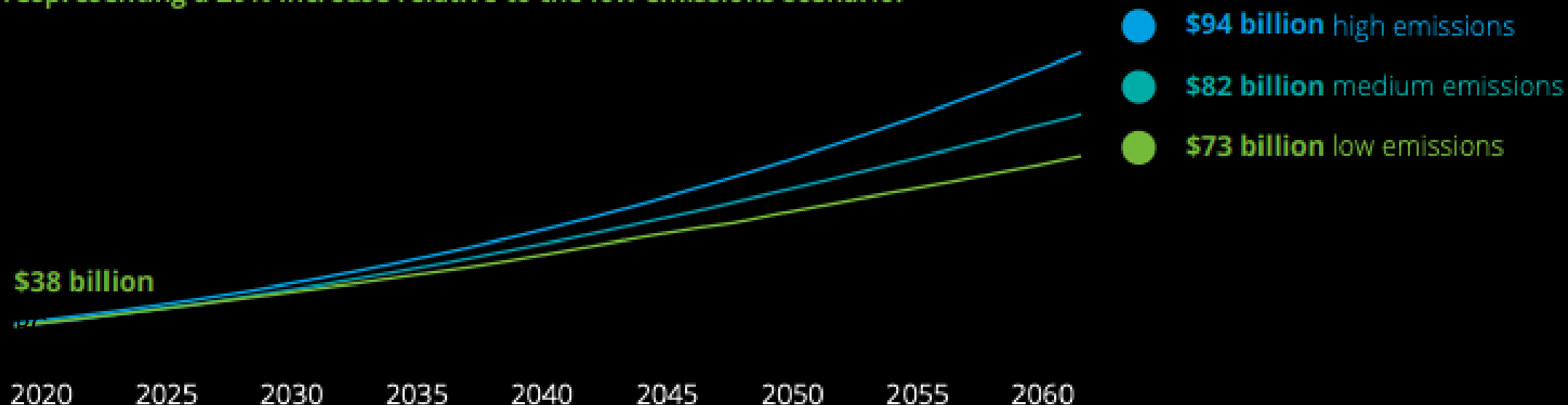


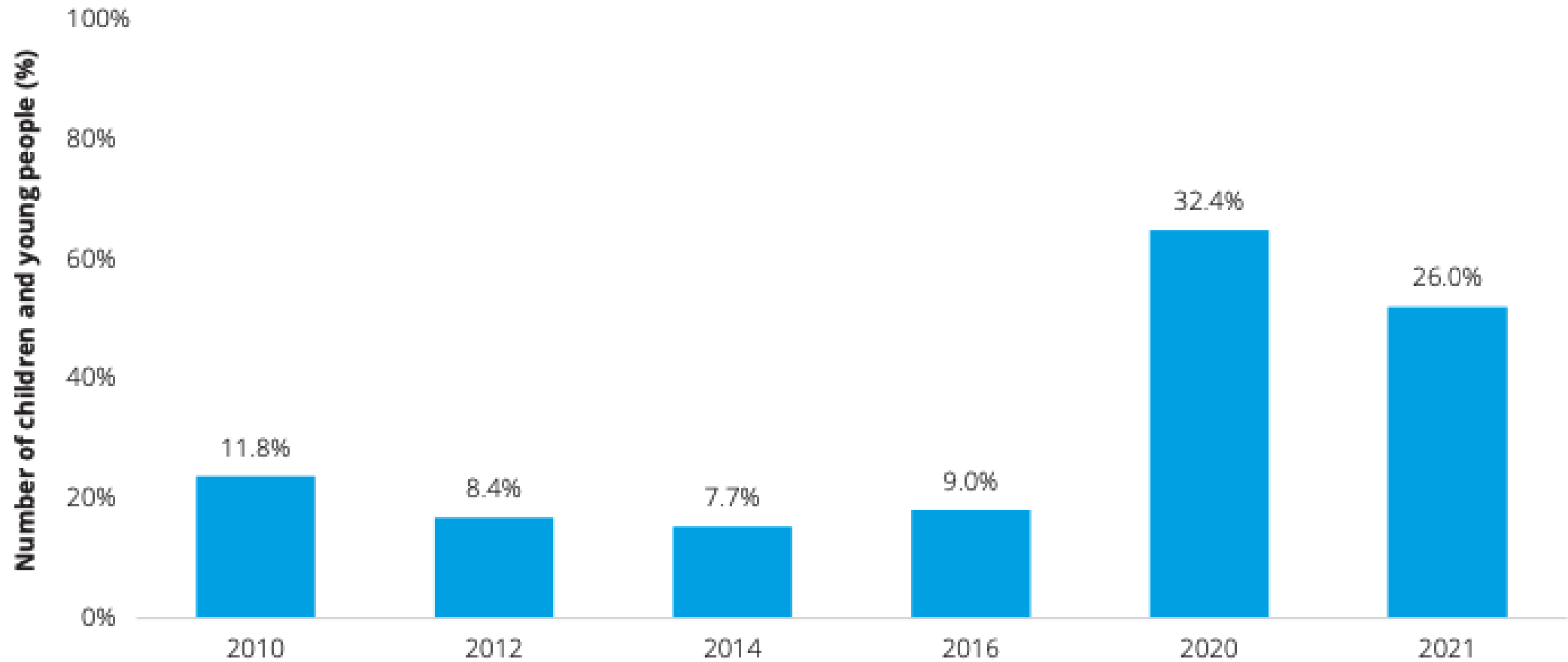
CLIMATE CHANGE



PROPERTY VALUE GROWTH

By 2060, costs in the high emissions scenario reach \$94 billion,
representing a 29% increase relative to the low emissions scenario.





Source: LSAC data.

Based on this, an estimated 1.4 million children and young people experience a disaster or extreme weather event in an average year. This is comprised of 1.05 million children and 393,000 young people.

HOW we SURVIVE

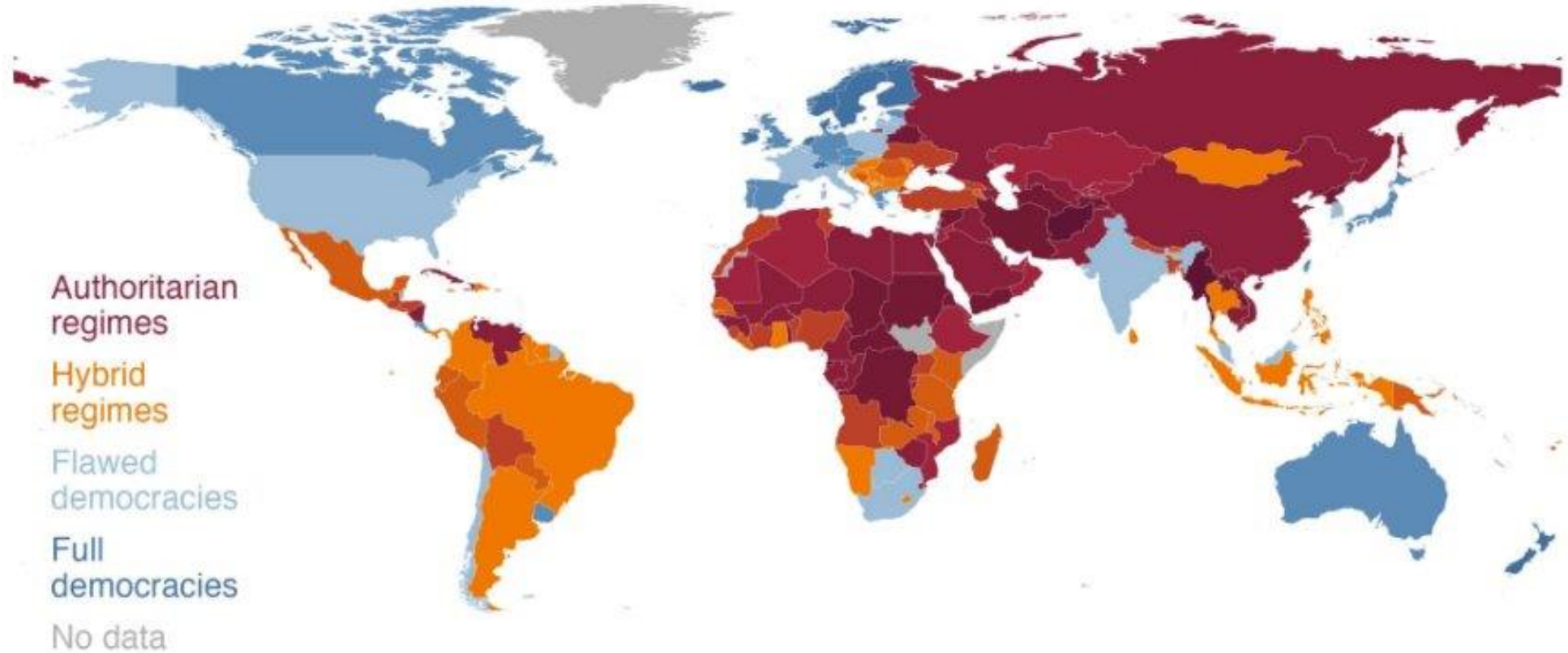
Globally, it is estimated that 19% of disaster records in the EM-DAT disaster database are multi-hazard events that represent simultaneous, cascading or cumulative disasters [11]. Some countries may have a higher prevalence; a recent survey in Australia finds that over half of the population has experienced multiple climate disasters between 2019 and 2022 [12].

We have the means to
prepare for disaster impacts and consequences.



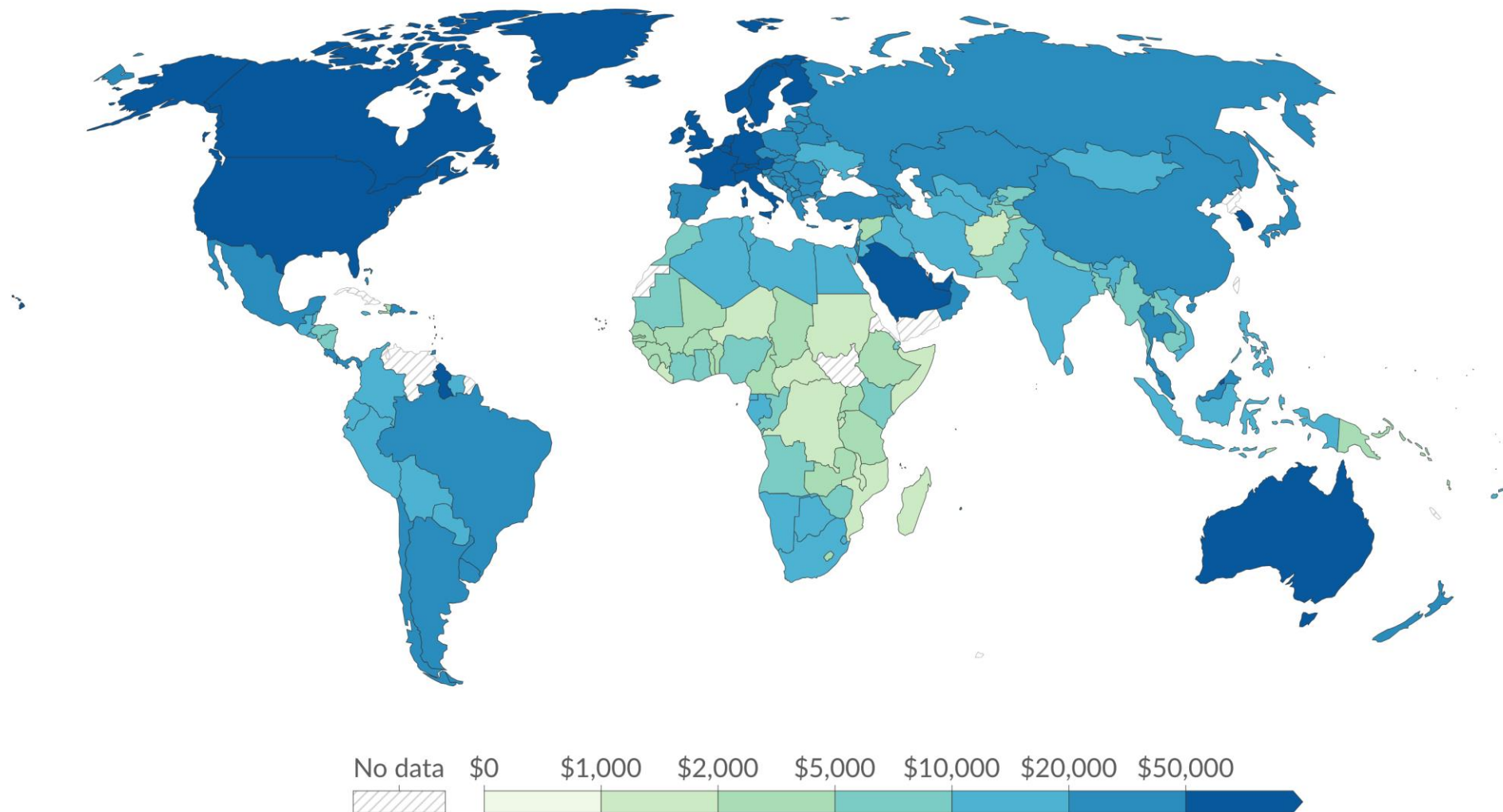
Australia is a leading democracy

Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index



GDP per capita 2025

GDP per capita is a country's gross domestic product¹ divided by its population. This data is adjusted for inflation and differences in living costs between countries.



Data source: Eurostat, OECD, IMF, and World Bank (2026)

OurWorldinData.org/economic-growth | CC BY

Note: This data is expressed in international-\$² at 2021 prices.

How does Australia's health compare with other countries?



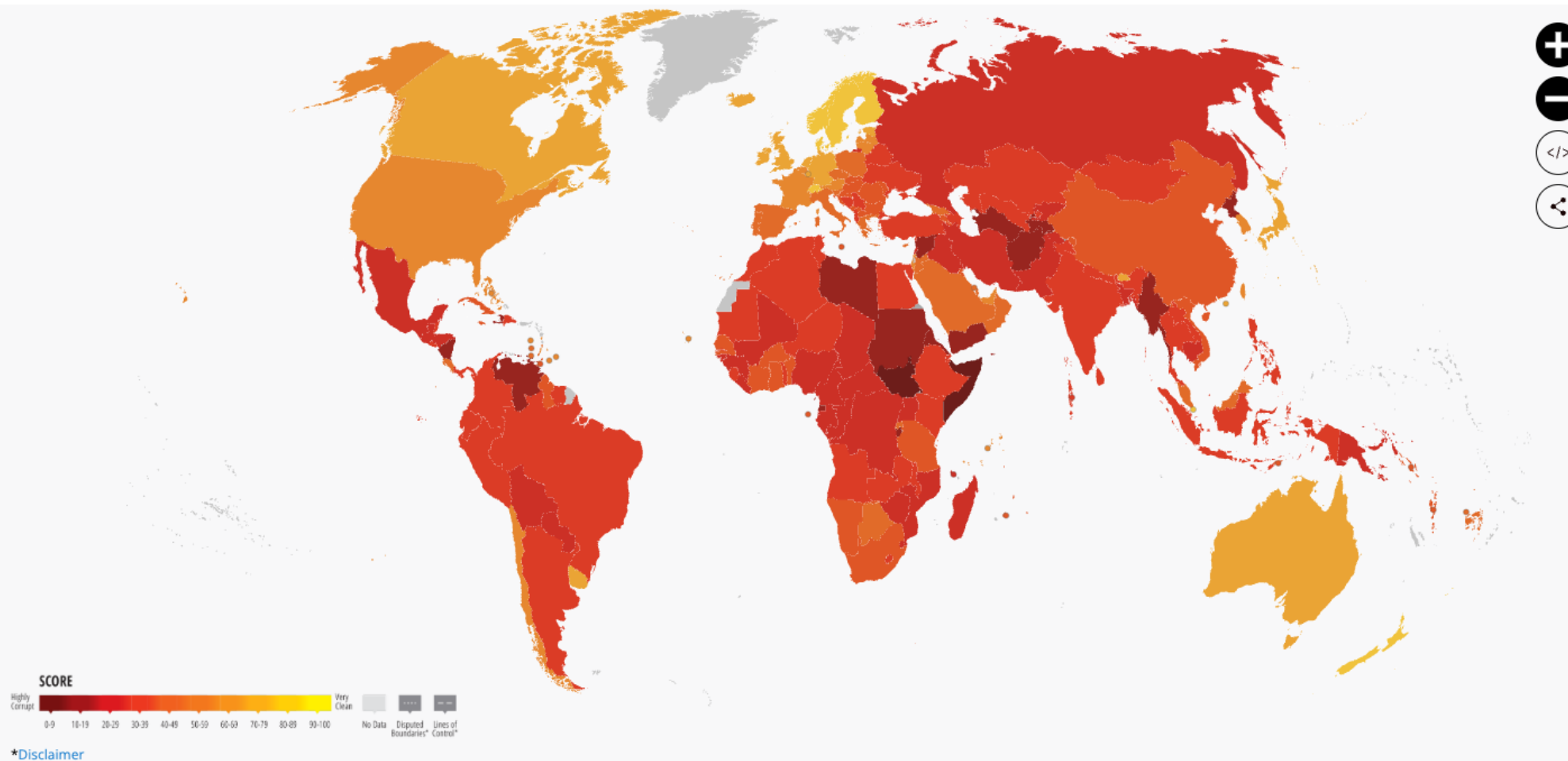
Australia performs well internationally across many health measures, based on the latest internationally comparable data

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX

2025



Score		Country	Rank
89	↓	Denmark	1
88	=	Finland	2
84	=	Singapore	3
81	↓	New Zealand	4
81	=	Norway	4
80	=	Sweden	6
80	↓	Switzerland	6
78	↓	Luxembourg	8
78	=	Netherlands	8
77	↑	Germany	10
77	=	Iceland	10
76	↓	Australia	12
76	=	Estonia	12
76	↑	Hong Kong	12



We have the mandate to
prepare for disaster impacts and consequences.





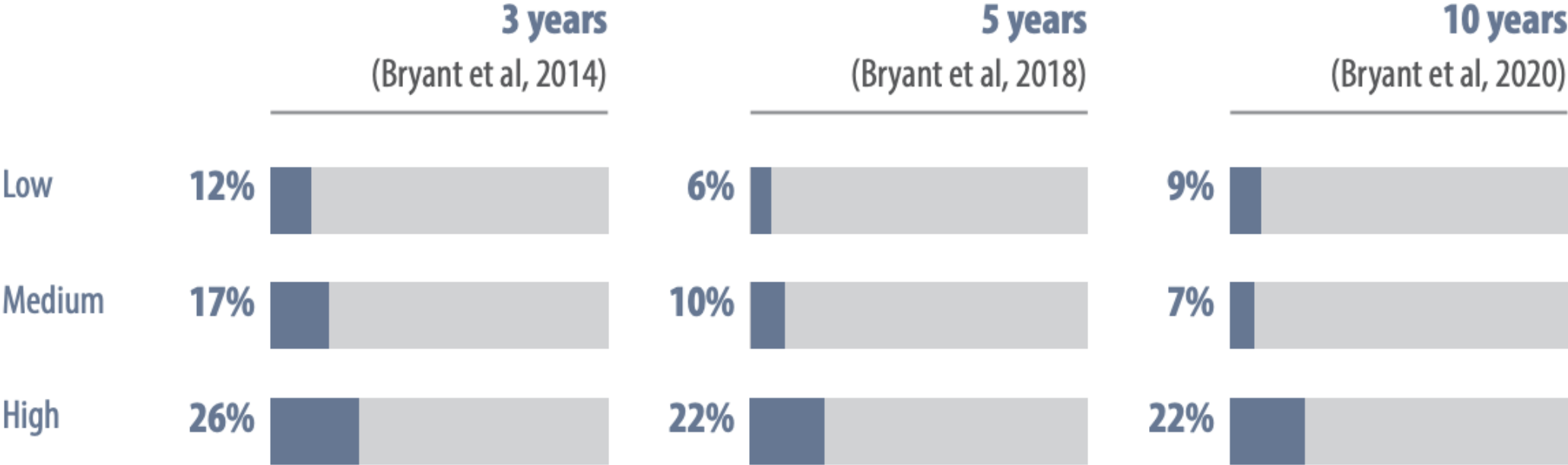
Australian Disaster Recovery Framework

VERSION 3.0 OCTOBER 2022

We have the know-how to
prepare for disaster impacts and consequences.



Rates of probable disorders across all communities - PTSD, depression, and/or severe distress



Source: Gibbs et al 2021

10 Years Beyond Bushfires Research Team

The study has brought together a multidisciplinary team of leading international researchers with expertise in mental health, trauma, recovery, social networks, community and family health, child research, policy, and emergency services.



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PTSD, depression, and/or severe distress



Rates of probab

Low 12%

Medium 17%

High 26%

Source: Gibbs et al 2021

Table 2. Key disease patterns, associated with disasters, relevant to general practice healthcare provision¹²⁻¹⁵

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↑ NCCP



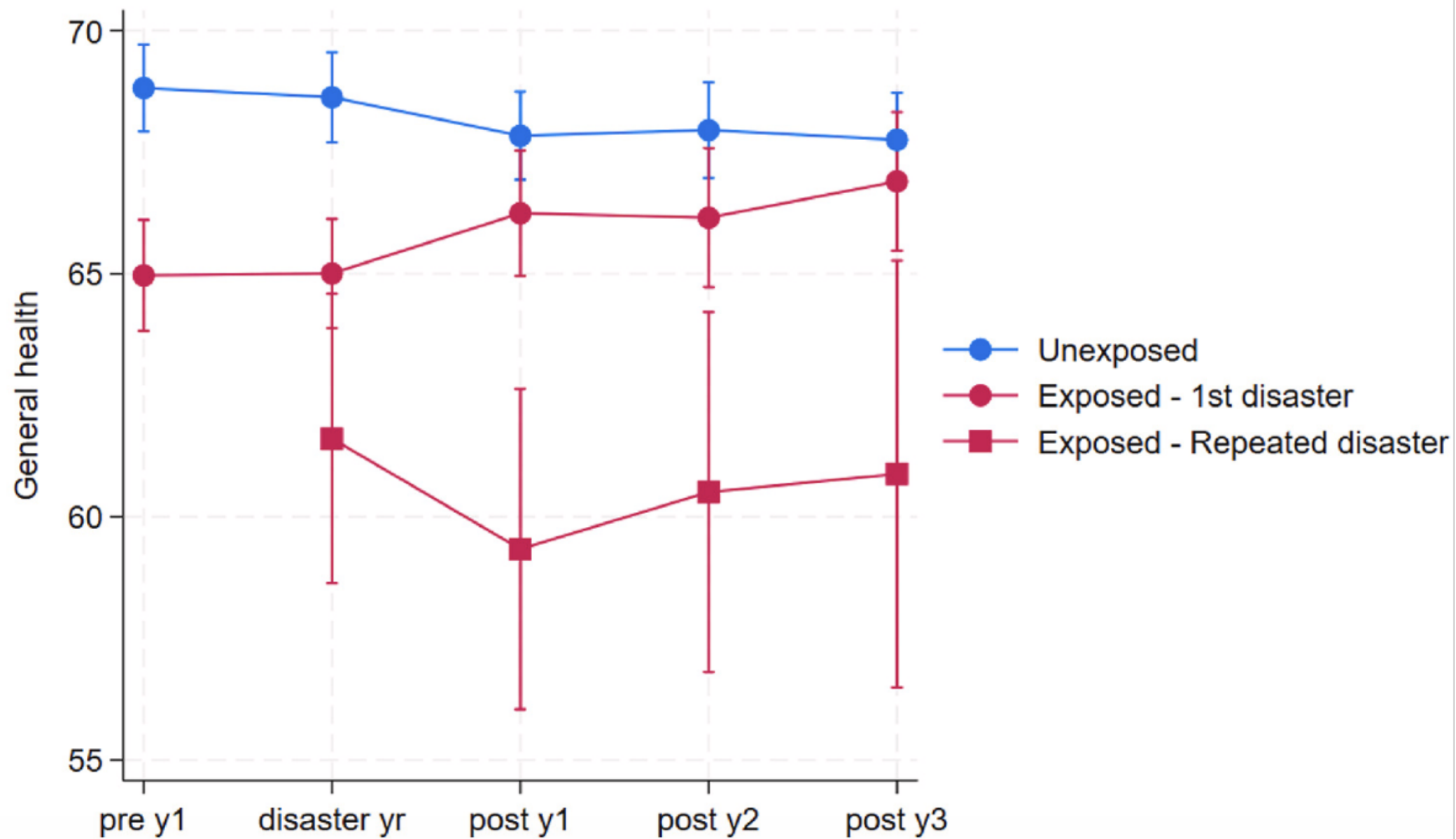
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Australian
National
University

(c) General health



(c) General health



HOW we SURVIVE

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HOW we SURVIVE

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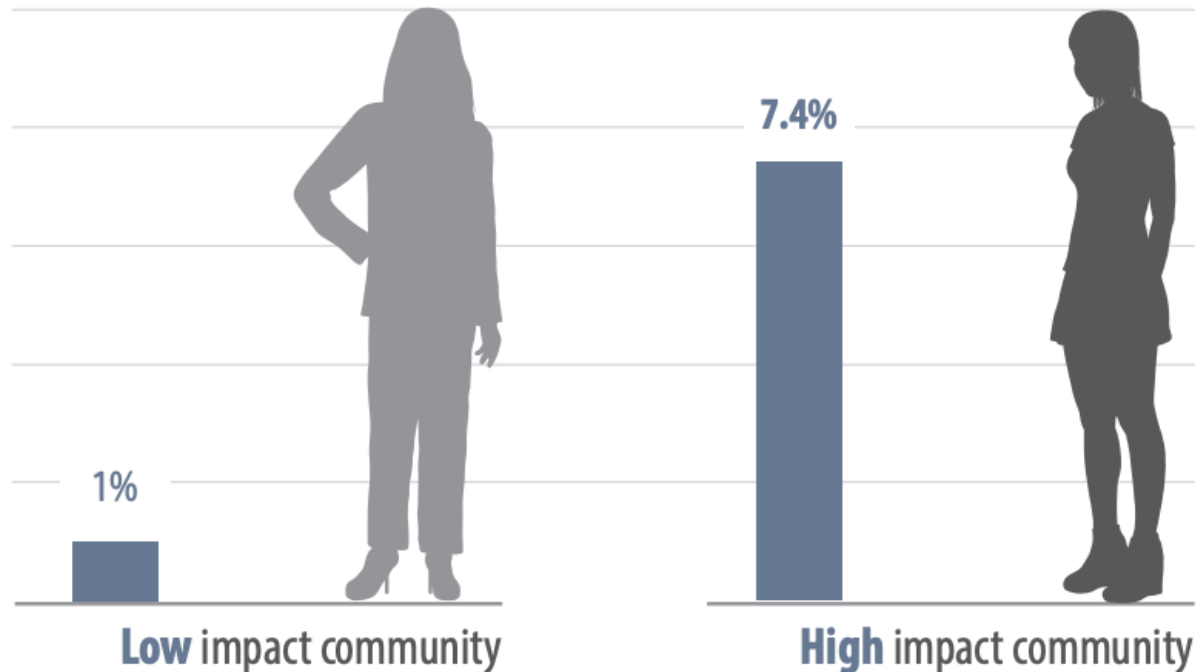
THE UNIVERSITY OF

MELBOURNE

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19 and

HOW we SURVIVE

Women's experience of violence post-bushfire



Source: Gibbs et al 2021

UNDRR

 **PreventionWeb**  [Network](#) [Search](#)

[Home](#) > [Update](#)

26 November 2024

Research reveals gender-based violence increases after disasters – how do we prepare and prevent it?

Source(s): [Gender & \(and\) Disaster Australia](#)

Source: UNDRR 2024

HOW *we* SURVIVE

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Source: Gibbs et al 2021



High impact community

UNDRR

PreventionWeb

Gender and Disaster Australia

we prepare and prevent it?

Source(s): Gender & (and) Disaster Australia

Source: UNDRR 2024

Beyond Survival



**Does emergency management policy
adequately address reasonable community
expectations of plans for disaster impacts?**



HOW we SURVIVE

Health

Housing

Education

Safety

Community governance



HOW we SURVIVE

It is reasonable to predict that:

Therefore, it is reasonable for
community members to expect that:

HOW we SURVIVE

Based on extensive experience and evidence, it is reasonable to predict that:

There will be destruction, damage and disruption to housing as a result of disaster events.

Therefore, it is reasonable for community members to expect that:

Government has a plan for post-disaster housing support.

HOW we SURVIVE

Based on extensive experience and evidence, it is reasonable to predict that:

There will be destruction, damage and disruption to housing as a result of disaster events.

There are a range of health impacts that may occur at different time points after disasters.

Therefore, it is reasonable for community members to expect that:

Government has a plan for post-disaster housing support.

Government plans address the likely health impacts at short, medium and long-term times after disasters.

HOW we SURVIVE



Jonathan Abrahams



Elly Bird



Andrew Coghlan



Sabrina Davis



Douglas D'Antoine



Catherine Gearing



Lisa Gibbs



Jessie Huard



Anne Leadbeater



Margaret Moreton



Sam Redlich



Kate Retski



John Richardson



David Sanderson



HOW we SURVIVE



Lorian Bethune



Penny Burns



Tim Heffernan



Carol Hopkins



Alex Howard



Martina Holland



Svenja Keele



Claire Leppold



Jo Longman



Loren Lockwood



Rebecca McNaught



Zerina Millard



Brett Moore



Erin Pelly



Joanna Quilty



Michelle Roberts



Monica Taylor



Bridget Tehan



Bhiamie Williamson

HOW we SURVIVE



"We will not be measured by the kilometres of roads and pipes that we replace, but by how our people come through this."

- Jim Palmer
Waimakiriri District Council NZ



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www.howwesurvive.com

