

help locating housing, food assistance, and advocacy to receive benefits, including financial resources. This presentation reviews these findings and bring them up-to-date.

**Keywords:** behavior; child evacuees; emotional problems; Hurricane Katrina; school-based health centers

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## Poster Presentations—Theme 14: Psychosocial Aspects

### (238) S.O.S. Psychological Aid

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A training program titled S.O.S. Psychosocial Support was launched with the aim to promote appropriate response strategies for emergencies and disasters. This program has been active in Argentina for the past four years, and has reached about 800 beneficiaries.

The training framework was composed of four main courses. It focused on community level actors, such as hospital and sanitary personnel, volunteers, professionals, and practitioners. Community leaders and university actors also were included.

The program primarily was designed to address the lack of knowledge of handling human emotions in situations of social conflict. In this sense, the role played by social actors was essential. A second aim was to provide actors with training on building evacuation techniques, with which few had experience.

Communities are not unfamiliar with the negative aspects of disasters. For this reason, community members should be given tools to help cope with disasters and emergencies. Areas of possible training are: (1) treatment of the behavior of adolescents; (2) implementation of strategies aimed at reducing risks; and (3) promotion of a behavioral change towards better results. A joint participation approach can provide a deeper knowledge of these areas of interest.

**Keywords:** behavior; community response; disaster; disaster response; training

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### (239) Sources of Occupational Stress and Coping Strategies among Emergency Department Nurses

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**Introduction:** Numerous studies have indicated that job stress is significant in nursing. This will seriously impair the provision of quality care and the efficacy of health services

delivery. Therefore, there is a need to generate information about sources of job stress, and the adopted coping strategies used by nurses in emergency department

**Methods:** A descriptive survey was conducted and 90 emergency ward nurses from three large teaching hospitals in Shiraz City, Iran, were involved in the study. The data were collected through a self-administered questionnaire to identify the sources of job stress and nurses profile and Lazarus standard questionnaires to determine the types of coping strategies.

**Results:** The greatest proportion of respondents were women (86.7%), range 23–50 years, we identified the following stressors: problem related to physical environment, dealing with patients or their relatives, not enough staff, work load, lack of support by nursing administrators, being exposed to health and safety hazards.

The most common strategy used by nurses was Self Controlling (mean = 12.92 ± 0.43) and Positive Reappraisal (mean = 12.92 ± 0.39) and the strategy least used was a Accepting Responsibility (Mean = 5.88 ± 0.29). In our study large proportional of nurses used an emotion-focussed strategy such as attempts to suppress upsetting emotions and remove oneself from the stressful situation but problem-focused approaches were generally less used.

**Conclusion:** Principals used a number of coping mechanisms during the performance of their duties. The coping scales, Positive Reappraisal and Self-Controlling, are extremely important in emergency department nurses.

**Keywords:** coping strategies; emergency department; nursing; psychosocial; stress

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### (240) Legal Issues in Psychiatric Emergencies

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Psychiatric emergencies are disturbances in thought and feeling or mood and behaviors disorders that required urgent and intensive attention and intervention. Common instances of psychiatric emergencies are aggression, suicide and suicidal thought, sadism, masochism, destructive behaviors directed to self or others. Patient, clients, caregivers safety is an essential component of caring in emergency departments. Research results showed that nursing staffs confronted patient's aggression, trauma and injuries 2.5 times higher than other health care staffs. In psychiatric emergencies, we must assess and identify patient induced risks for nurses and other nurse's safety and security got in center of national organization attention in recent years. Psychiatric organization need full exploration of job-induced risks and ways, strategies for solving and dealing with these risks.

**Keywords:** aggression; psychiatric emergencies; staff safety and security

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