

PREPARING THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACTORS

*Research Priorities in Emergency Preparedness and Response
for Public Health Systems*

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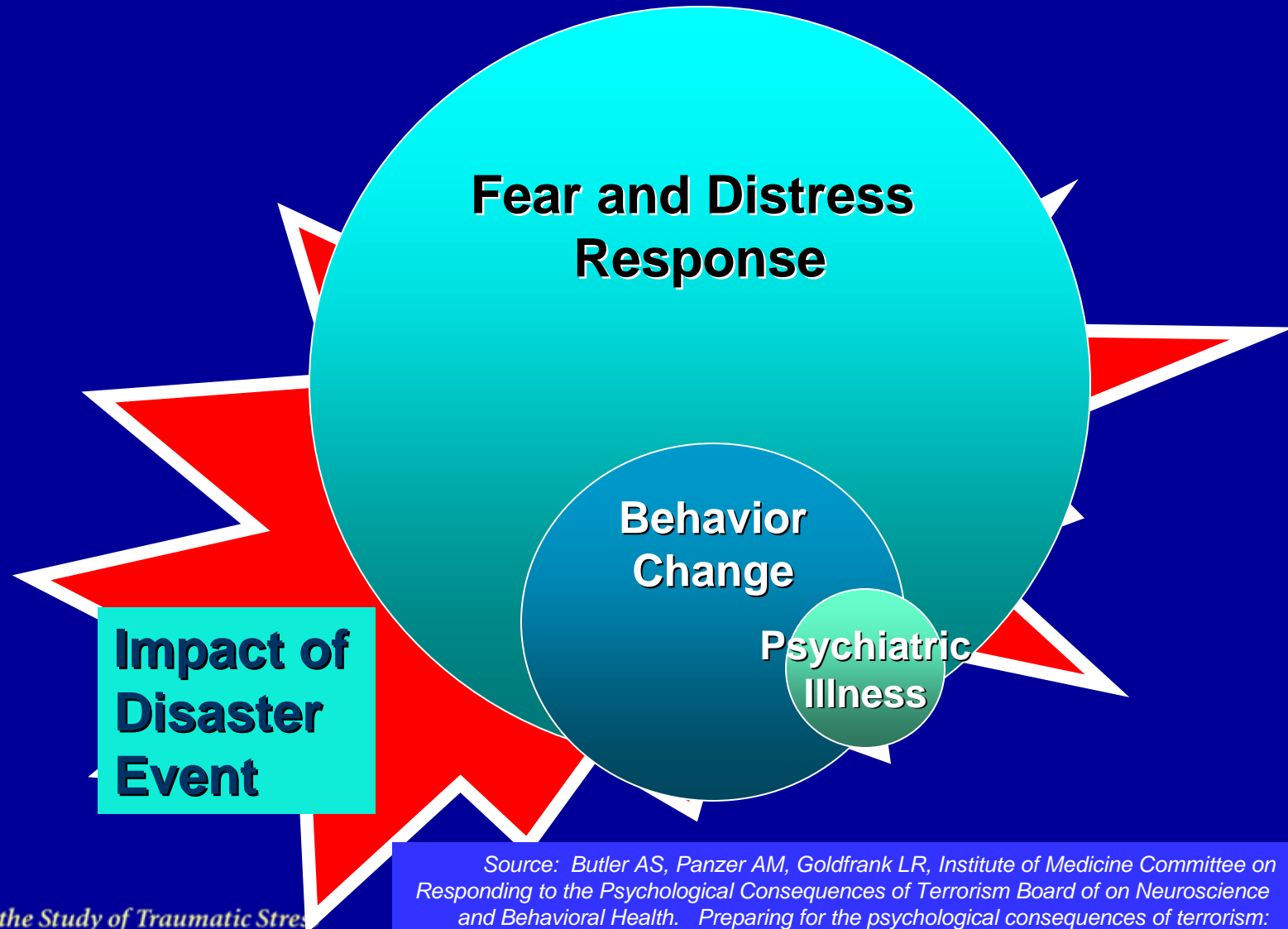


Psychosocial Consequences in Disasters

In a disaster,
the size of the
psychological
“footprint”
greatly
exceeds the
size of the
medical
“footprint.”



Psychosocial Consequences in Disasters

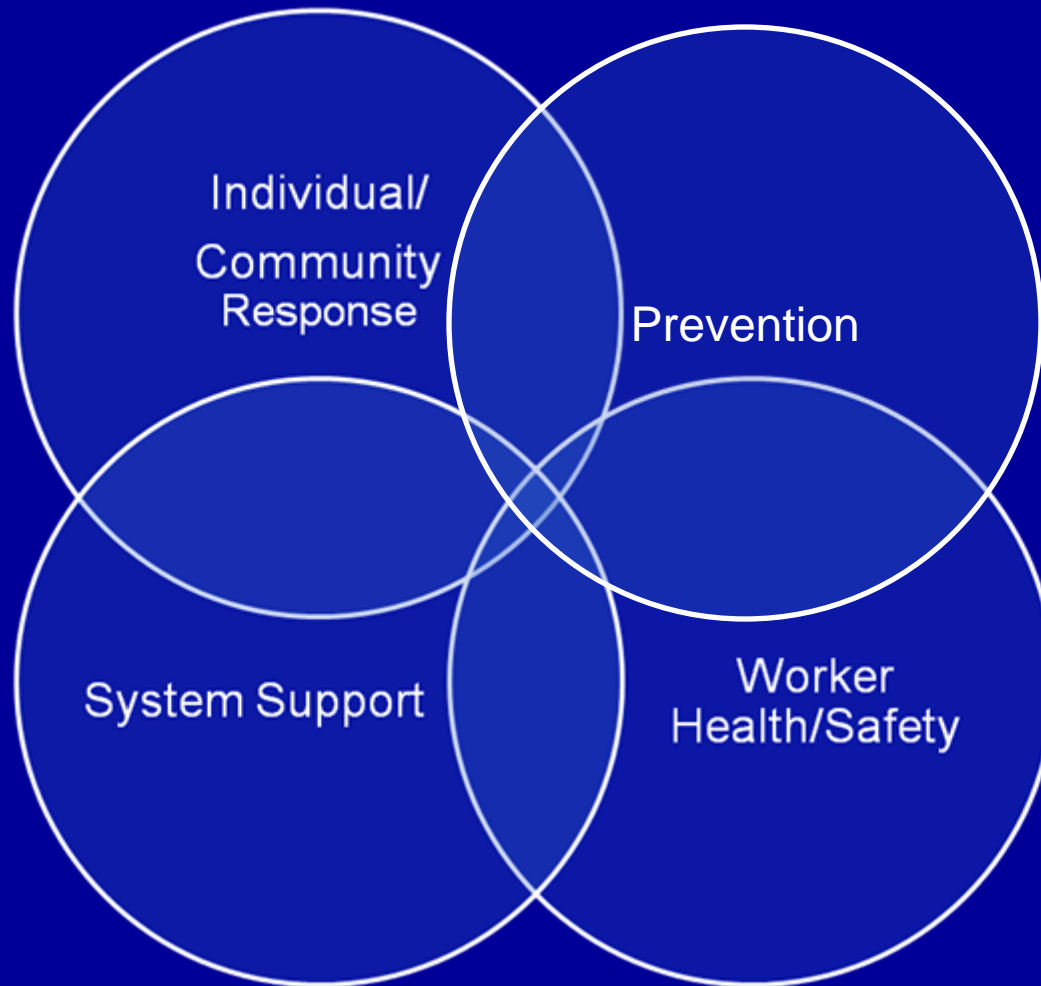


Defining the Scope of Behavioral Health Factors...

- Psychiatric disorders
- Substance abuse
- Fear driven behavior
- Fear driven decision making
- MUPS/MIPS
- Family/social function
- School behavior/performance
- Workplace behavior/performance
- Risk taking
- Hypervigilance
- Distractibility
- Vulnerability/resiliency

Preparing the Public Health Workforce To:

Deal Effectively with Behavioral Health Factors in:



Gaps Related To Behavioral Health/Public Health Evidence Base...

EG=5P

Evidence Gap =

- **Prevention**— How do we prevent psychosocial trauma by preventing/reducing physical trauma and illness?
- **Planning/Preparedness**— Are we planning for the real scope, nature, and impact of psychosocial factors?
- **Practice**— Are we incorporating BH expertise/evidence in PH practice?
- **Preservation**— Do we know what we need to know about preserving psychologically healthy individuals/communities/systems/workplaces during and after emergencies?
- **Policy**-- Is public and private policy sufficiently informed by adequate BH evidence based knowledge?

Strategies To Fill The Gaps...

- **Train** the PH workforce on the centrality of BH issues to all PH functions
- **Incorporate** BH factors in all PH monitoring, assessment, intervention, and evaluation efforts
- **Include** BH factors in all relevant PH research efforts
- **Bring** PH expertise/models to the BH field

Specific Research Priority Suggestions...

- **Prevention**-- Examine impact of prevention/reduction of trauma/illness on BH sequelae
- **Individual/Collective**-- Examine impact including BH elements in epi activities (e.g., Is it helpful to look at fear like a contagious disease?)
- **System support**— Examine impact of efforts to support integrated/functioning systems on a variety of BH factors
- **Workforce protection**— Examine impact of infusing BH factors in recruitment, training, organizational support, and organizational policy
- **PH training**— Examine impact of including BH faculty and/or expertise in academic and other PH training
- **Document the business case** –Impact of BH factors on the bottom line



Research Priorities Should Reflect...

- **Consensus** --
 - Seek common ground and consensus on topics and priorities between PH and BH leaders
 - Require cross-agency, cross-discipline input
- **Realism** --
 - Recognize review and funding realities
 - Pursue the topics with fastest, most applicable results