



Summary

Statistics

UK

Morpeth,
Northumberland

September 2008 Flood



Key Findings

Respondent Profile

Male: 38%; Female: 62%

Mean age: 66 years (SD 18.6) – 61% in age group 65+; 28% 40-64

Marital status: 36% married; 17% single; 33% widowed

Religion: 85% Christian; 14% no religion

98% British; 99% white

Occupation: 60% retired; 17% professional; 6.8% unemployed (national average 7.8%)

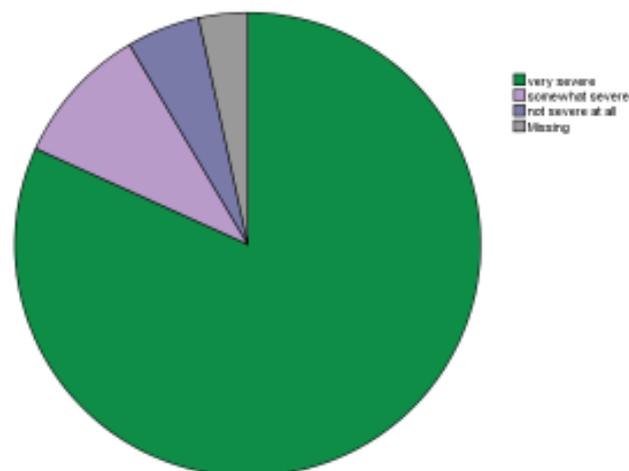
Mean annual household income: £19,778 (national average 2009: £14,317).

General Findings

On average, 2.7 rooms (SD 1.9) in respondents' homes had been flooded to a mean depth of 87 centimetres (SD 53; minimum 2cm; maximum 224cm). 23% of the sample had no flooding to rooms inside their property.

For 93% of respondents the 2008 flood was their first and only experience of a disaster and 85% rated it as 'very severe'.

Would you describe the disaster as very severe, somewhat severe or not severe at all?



In rating the seriousness of physical losses/damages incurred on a scale of 1-10, respondents rated damage to household goods and furniture most highly (mean 7.92, SD 3.18), followed by the losses of/damage to the house value (mean 7.02, SD 3.39) and personal items (mean 6.72, SD 3.72), and damages to the building structure (mean 5.96, SD 3.54).



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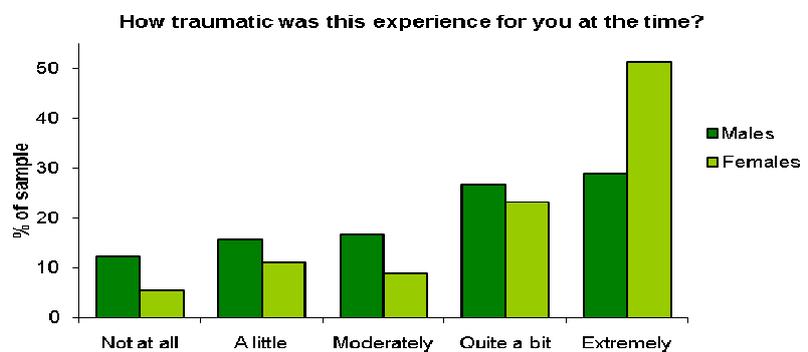
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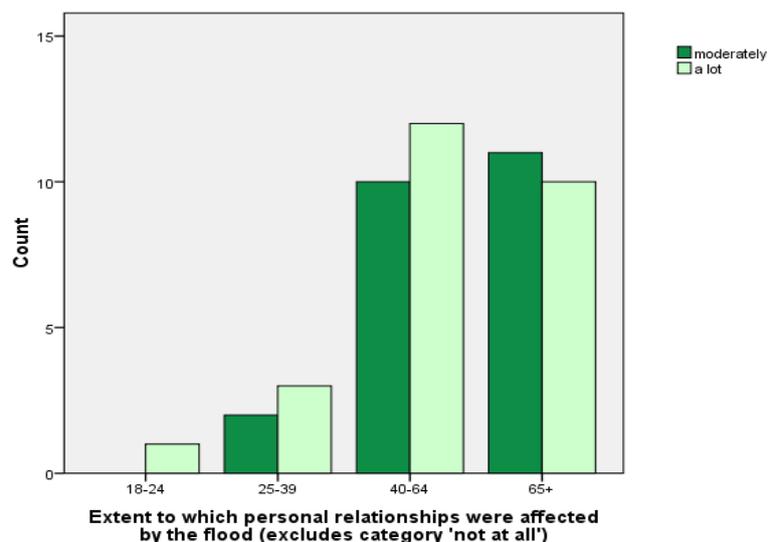


Key Findings: Social Impacts

Women experienced the flood as significantly more traumatic than men ($p=0.008$; $df=4$).



Both personal relationships and contacts with other people after the flood were significantly affected by the age group of the respondent and their marital status, while gender and whether or not a household had children made no significant difference to personal relationships and contacts with other people.



Whether people lived with an adult life partner (married or cohabiting) or lived alone or with household members other than a partner had a significant impact on the extent to which they talked to other people about the flood ($p=0.027$); the extent to which their personal relationships were affected by the flood ($p=0.003$); and their ability to deal with the situation ($p=0.003$).



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Key Findings: Health Impacts

Physical health impacts of the flood were moderate; the main health problems reported were psychological.

Reported incidences and types of illnesses (n=133)		
	Frequency	Percent
Fever	1	0.8
Diarrhoea	3	2.3
Acute respiratory tract infection	2	1.5
Skin infection	2	1.5
Cancer	3	2.3
Heart problems/angina	3	2.3
High blood pressure	4	3
Infectious disease	1	0.8
Insomnia	9	6.8
Feeling depressed	29	21.8
Feeling anxious	28	21.1
Stressed to an unusual extent	19	14.3
Other	19	14.3

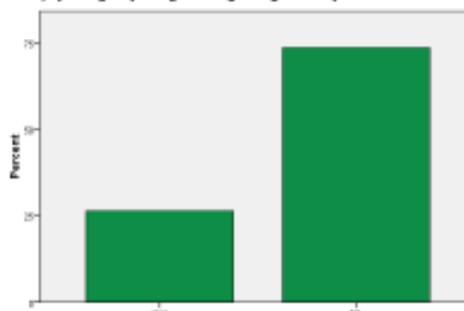
14.5%

64%

Just over a quarter of respondents reported someone in their household becoming sick due to the flood, mainly the respondent (77% of cases) or their partner (16%). Most of these illnesses were stress-related (about 75% of cases when excluding 'other' category), and overall respondents reported 133 separate incidents of illness.

Five people (2%) of the sample were physically injured; injuries included lacerations/contusions, cuts, multiple injuries and an injured back, which were caused by being hit by debris/objects, getting out of a window and barbed wire.

Did you or any of your family members or friends become physically or psychologically ill or go missing during or shortly after the flood?



Five people reported that somebody in their household had died because of the flood; in three cases the partner of the respondent, in two the son/daughter of the respondent. All deaths occurred more than one month after the flood event in a hospital or health care centre. Causes of death were given as pneumonia (2 cases), heart attack (1 case), long illness (1 case), and blood poisoning (1 case).



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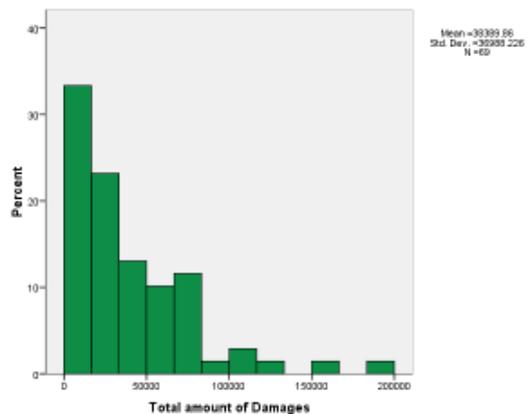
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Key Findings: Economic Impacts

The mean total amount of buildings damage was £29,198 (SD 28,014); the mean amount of contents damage £10,187 (SD 10,002); the mean total damage £38,390 (SD 36,988); damages ranged from £100 to £198,000.

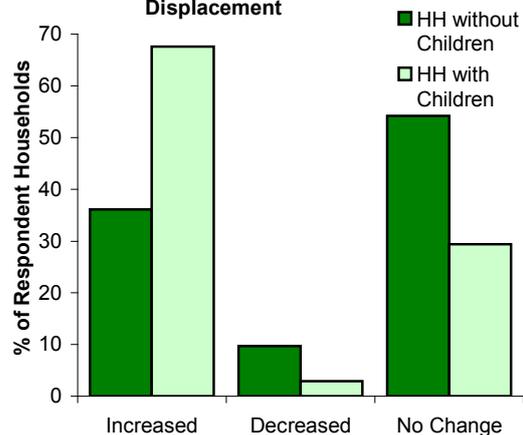


Willingness to pay towards a flood defence scheme differed significantly ($p=0.021$) by the amount of buildings damages respondents experienced, while the amount of contents damage did not significantly affect respondents' willingness to pay towards a flood defence scheme.

t-test for Equality of Means (N=26)							
						95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Buildings damage	2.376	50	.021	17673.077	7438.381	2732.649	32613.504

Displaced households experienced significant differences in their expenditure changes according to whether there were children in the household or not ($p=0.003$).

Household Expenditure Changes during Displacement





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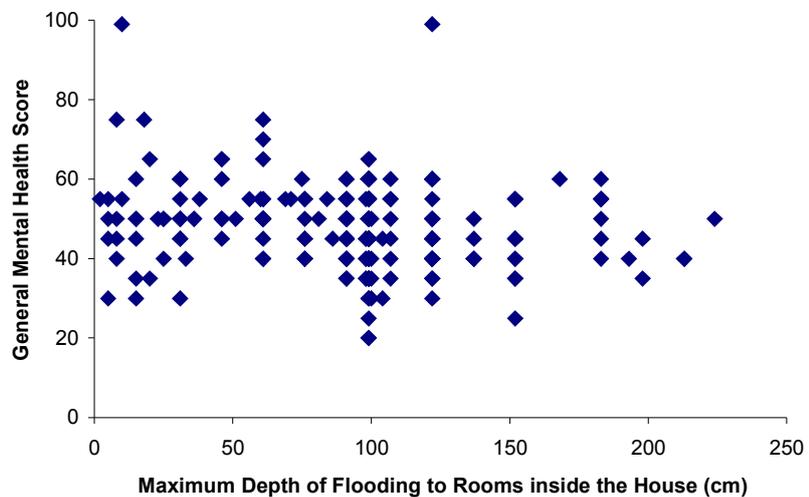
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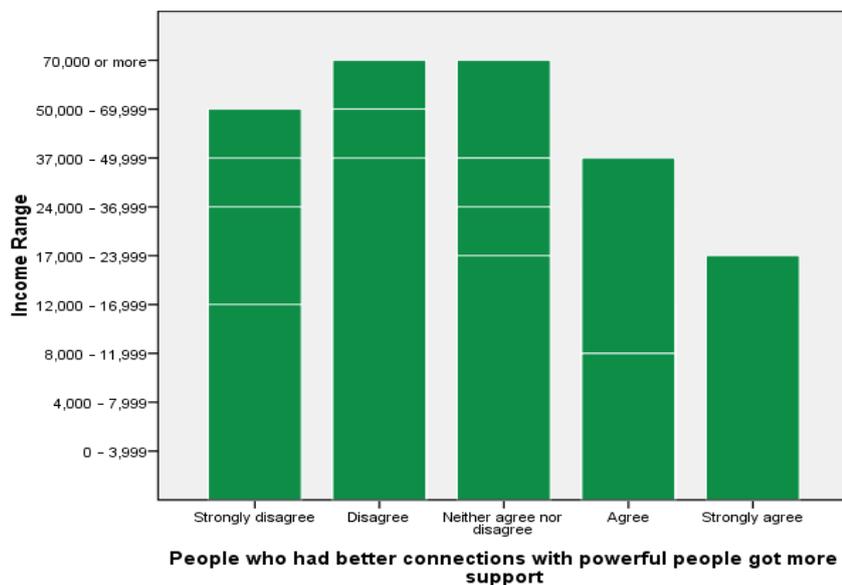


Integrated Impacts

The general mental health score of respondents at the time of the interview is significantly negatively correlated with the maximum depth of floodwater to rooms inside their property ($p=0.001$).



Respondents on higher incomes disagreed significantly more often with the statement "People who had better connections with powerful people got more support." than people in lower income ranges ($p=0.001$).





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Photographs courtesy of Alex Bennett

Additional Findings

Although overall scoring was low on structural social capital (voluntary association membership), sense of community and social cohesion in Morpeth are well developed and achieve relatively high scores, while cognitive social capital (norms, values, attitudes and beliefs) and collective efficacy (a group's judgment of their combined capabilities to accomplish a given task) score lower but still above average (average=3; minimum=1; maximum=5).

Mean scores for indicators of social community functioning (scale of 1-5)			
	n	Mean	SD
Sense of Community	223	3.7298	0.37523
Structural Social Capital	231	0.3956	0.44292
Cognitive Social Capital	207	3.0845	0.47346
Collective Efficacy	225	3.0540	0.42239
Social Cohesion	227	3.7563	0.44631

This indicates a well-developed community spirit in Morpeth with a high degree of social cohesion, which is confirmed by respondents' assessment of their neighbourhood as a good place to live and most of them agreeing that they are really part of the community, with little variation between men and women.

