

## Survey Site: Morpeth, Northumberland, UK

### Background of the Study

The MICRODIS Morpeth survey was the second main survey carried out in the UK. The survey measured the social, health and economic impacts of the September 2008 flood in Morpeth and focused particularly on the role of social capital in disaster preparedness, response and recovery and the mental health impacts of the flood.

A census of around 950 affected households was carried out and a total of 236 interviews completed.

In addition to the quantitative survey, the UK MICRODIS team (in collaboration with Université catholique de Louvain, HealthNet TPO and Northumbria University postgraduate students) has implemented qualitative work within the community, community engagement activities and several annex studies.

### Summary Statistics

#### Social Impacts

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

The stress of having to leave home and the disruption to daily home and work life were rated as more serious than the stress of the flood event itself. 51% of women and 29% of men rated the flood as 'extremely traumatic'.

Most respondents stated that their contacts with other people and personal relationships had not been affected by the flood, but for 11% of respondents the flood had a high impact on their personal relationships in terms of increased family support and/or increased family arguments.

#### Health Impacts

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

**Table 1**

**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
Infectious disease	1	0.8
Feeling depressed	29	21.8
Feeling anxious	28	21.1
Stressed to an unusual extent	19	14.3
Insomnia	9	6.8
High blood pressure	4	3

### Economic and Physical Impacts

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).

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. Damages were lower for households who had received a flood warning, compared to those who had not.

The second main survey in the UK was implemented in Morpeth, Northumberland, UK in October/November 2009 with reference to the flood of September 2008.

**Fig 1. Map of Morpeth, UK**



Source:  
[www.activityvillage.co.uk/outline\\_maps.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/outline_maps.htm)

### 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: 50% Protestant; 15%  
Catholic; 20% Christian; 14%  
no religion  
98% of the sample are British;  
99% white  
Occupation: 60% retired; 6.8%  
unemployed (national average  
7.8%); 17% professional  
Mean annual household  
income: £19,778 (SD 19,777)

**Morpeth: flooded main street, Sept. 2008**



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