



## **SPECIAL ISSUE OF *PREVENTION SCIENCE***

**Due date extended to July 1, 2021**

**Special Issue Title:** International Responses to Prevention Intervention Research during Human Ecosystem Disruptions

The journal *Prevention Science* invites manuscripts for a special issue on “International Responses to Prevention Intervention Research during Human Ecosystem Disruptions”. In the last four decades, human ecosystem disruptions (HED; e.g., pandemics, natural disasters and socio/economic crises) have shaped national and international responses affecting everyday life. For example, global disease outbreaks, human migration caused by natural disasters, socio/political unrest, and climate change come with challenges and opportunities for prevention science to pose new behavioral and mental health research questions, intervention strategies, methodologies, analyses, and ways to collaborate worldwide. Some specific examples of diseases that have reformulated our understanding of prevention interventions and their outcomes are HIV/AIDS, Ebola, H1N1 flu. Moreover, natural events such as draught, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes and volcanic eruptions and associated crises have highlighted large gaps in the ability of prevention interventions and systems to address emerging mental and behavioral health needs. This may be especially the case During HEDs the health sciences and associated fields are called upon to offer insights and solutions. Attention of the research fields is drawn to new questions requiring collaboration among scientific fields, adaptations to interventions, and rapid development of new measurements and methodologies to facilitate implementation and data collection. Although, successful initiatives have been developed during previous disease outbreaks, socio/economic crises or natural disasters, there has been scant documentation of the agility and responsiveness of researcher teams in addressing these pressing demands. That is, there is limited scientific literature on measurement, methodological, and analytic issues, as they apply to behavioral and mental health outcomes during HEDs. The primary goal of this special issue is to document examples of how prevention science research teams have addressed the significant research challenges presented by HED through national, including comparative studies across regions, states, provinces, etc., and cross-national research. We are particularly interested in how research teams: mobilize even as commerce and segments of government are contracting or closing down; reconfigure to address conjoint problems (e.g., prevention science and engineering); rapidly adapt and implement interventions and mobilize new methodological procedures and measurement strategies to determine behavioral and mental health effects during HEDs.

### **Background & Rationale for Special Issue**

Since the isolation of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) on January 7, 2020, by Chinese scientists, the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has spread to virtually every region of the world with devastating consequences for human health and well-being and has unleashed an unparalleled response in human resilience. Behavioral health practices

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have been the foci of public health campaigns and mental health and well-being are at the forefront of outcomes especially among those most vulnerable to the social and economic effects of this current pandemic. As part of the scientific response prevention research teams, implementers and stakeholders have sought to address the impact of this HED within their own research field and to aid in understanding the spread of disease and the associated impacts on the health and well-being of the populations they study. Ongoing studies may find it advantageous to incorporate questions related to pandemics, natural disasters and socio/economic crises, and in some cases to develop cross-national research collaborations to facilitate the conduct of research in addressing emerging issues and questions arising from the associate human ecosystem disruption. Emerging questions of interest may relate not only to physical health, but to the global regional, community and familial effects of HED on the educational, economic, social, and emotional well-being of research participants, especially in low and middle-income regions at the national and cross-national levels.

Specific areas of particular interest are studies that implement preventive interventions with new population targets, identify and address unforeseen health disparities, rapidly disseminate research findings to inform future waves of implementation, and contribute to the development of emerging perspectives on changes to prevention intervention design. This issue looks to advance knowledge on how HEDs are associated with medical, mental health, housing, education, food insecurity, migration, and refugee status. Of particular interest is the impact of HEDs on vulnerable and underserved populations. The showcased research studies should inform prevention policies and practices influencing the behavioral and mental health outcomes of interest. Other areas that will be considered are: how cross-national teams establish collaborations within the limits of pandemic physical distancing and travel restrictions; the types of prevention-related research questions that are adopted (e.g., contrasting disease spread and associated effects in countries or regions with severe, moderate and no restriction on social contact); the impact of policies resulting in the skewed redistribution of resources during and subsequent to the pandemic; and more focused prevention studies examining educational, psychological, social and behavioral problems that are triggered or exacerbated by HED such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In this special issue of *Prevention Science*, we welcome manuscripts that advance prevention science as it links contextual and epidemiological data to improve responses to HED. Also, this call of papers seeks to provide insights into best practices for approaching future pandemics, natural disasters, and socio/economic crises affecting populations' health. The ultimate goal of this special issue is the improvement of health and well-being globally through swift and scientifically based responses during HED events. International collaborations have the potential to advance our understanding of the conduct and outcomes of prevention intervention research during pandemics, natural disasters and socio/economic crises. To that end, we encourage submissions that include any of the following types of papers:

- 1) Original empirical and descriptive research that examines the comparative effectiveness of preventive approaches to HED at the within country and cross-national levels that have potential application to responses during the current and subsequent pandemics, natural disasters and socio/economic crises.



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- 2) Reviews and perspectives that integrate key conceptual issues at the regional, national or global levels as they advance theoretical and practice knowledge related to the mobilization and implementation of prevention intervention research
- 3) Analysis of policies enacted and their effects on prevention intervention and implementation research within and across nations.

Authors interested in contributing a manuscript for this special issue are asked to submit a letter of intent by **July 1, 2021**, that includes the following: (1) tentative title; (2) brief description of 500 words or less; (3) brief justification of how the proposed submission contributes to the aim of the special issue; (4) author affiliations and contact information for the corresponding author. The guest editors will review the letters of intent for fit with the special issue and work to provide an inclusive set of papers that best advances theoretical and empirical knowledge in prevention and intervention during pandemics globally. Letters of intent should be sent electronically as PDF files to Pablo Montero-Zamora, [pxm527@miami.edu](mailto:pxm527@miami.edu), Flavio Margsilia, [marsiglia@asu.edu](mailto:marsiglia@asu.edu), and Elizabeth B. Robertson, [e.b.robertsonphd@gmail.com](mailto:e.b.robertsonphd@gmail.com) with the subject line noted as "Special Issue of Prevention Science: International Responses during Human Ecosystem Disruptions". Invited contributors will be asked to submit a manuscript by **September 1, 2021**. Manuscripts will be sent out for full peer review in accordance with the standard *Prevention Science* review guidelines. Questions concerning letters of intent can be directed to the guest editors (see below). Manuscript formats can include original empirical submissions, descriptive studies, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, brief reports etc. For additional information on the journal and author guidelines, see <http://link.springer.com/journal/11121>.

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