



Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center

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“Sheltering & Housing Recovery Following Disaster.”

Peacock, Dash, & Zhang. 2007.

Establishing housing again is a critical factor for understanding recovery processes at the household and community level. Communities, as complicated networks of social systems, usually require a perspective that looks at many different factors when thinking of recovery. Setbacks in reestablishing housing usually delays all other aspects of recovery. It is necessary to recover housing and all types and forms of housing recovery are important. There isn't much research focusing on housing and sheltering and only small amounts of integration of international and U.S.-based research.

Findings

This chapter pulls together the parts of research that has focused on shelter and housing following disaster, with special attention to permanent housing recovery and to research focusing on these issues in the United States. It's important to recognize that the serious restrictions that households face even in normal situations can result in a failure for them to go from temporary to permanent housing is a message relevant in almost all post-disaster situations globally. Regardless of the type of shelter or housing being addressed, social processes that already exist and are related to housing attainment or the social construction of vulnerability play important roles in shaping outcomes. Discussion from the research highlights the consequences that racial/ethnic differences play in the complex social process of returning to permanent housing after a disaster.

Implications

The housing recovery process is filled with challenges for those with few personal, social, and financial resources. The chapter states that the broader sheltering and housing literature is emerging in both the United States and international context and much can be learned, gained, and fruitfully shared. The length that market occurrences are readily spreading with increases in globalization, the lessons learned in the United States regarding housing market failures, insurance and their consequences for housing recovery are likely to find increasing relevance internationally.