

“Puck it up and do your role”

Men and the Kaikōura earthquake

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Preliminary findings:

Masculinity influenced men’s negative experience of the Kaikōura earthquake

- Participants interviewed faced **challenges** following the 2016 earthquake including lack of sleep, nightmares, memory loss, financial struggles, loss of work, additional voluntary and paid work and lack of time spent with family.
- There was an **avoidance to seek support** with the challenges they were/are experiencing.
- The research findings align with key characteristics of **masculinity** (Connell 2014), including demonstrating **risky behaviours, increase in alcohol consumption and neglecting self care.**

This study suggests that these behaviours can affect men’s overall resilience, and thus the resilience of the wider community.

Research question

How can men’s experiences of the Kaikōura earthquake contribute to gender policy and practice in relation to disasters?

Background

- The purpose of this research is to investigate men’s experiences of the 2016 7.8 magnitude Kaikōura earthquake and Tsunami. While research into the impacts of the earthquake has been conducted, few studies have examined how gender shaped people’s experiences of this natural hazard event.

Objectives

- Document men’s experiences of the Kaikōura earthquake
- Identify the strengths men draw on to develop and implement coping and recovery strategies
- Document the challenges that men experience to personal, social and financial recovery in disaster
- To consider how men’s experiences from this case study may be implemented into broader gender and disaster policy and practice in New Zealand and elsewhere

Methods

- Qualitative inquiry
- 19 face-to-face semi-structured interviews were conducted in Northern Canterbury and Marlborough
- Dialogical interviewing was utilised as it reflects story telling and echoes, through dialogue the reality and experience of a particular event/moment
- Interview material is being analysed using thematic and narrative analysis



Image: Community Mural, Waiau. Ashleigh Rushton 2019