

Climate change and children's mental health – A developmental perspective

Francis Vergunst, DPhil and Helen L Berry, PhD

University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (Vergunst)

Australian Institute of Health Innovation, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia (Berry)

Correspondence to Francis Vergunst (francis.vergunst@umontreal.ca) Ste-Justine Hospital Research Center, 3175, Côte Sainte-Catherine, Étage A, Local A-568, Montréal (Québec) Canada, H3T 1C5. Tel: 1-514 345-2182, Fax: 514 345-2176

TABLE S1: Exposure to severe weather events and its impact on psychological health and wellbeing

Item	Scoring	Derivation
<p>“Were you affected in any way by a weather-related disaster (e.g., flood, wildfire, storm, cyclone) in the past 12 months?”</p>	<p>Response on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is not at all and 10 is very severely</p>	<p>Berry, Adapted from the HILDA survey and O’Donnell (2008)</p>
<p>“In the last 12 months, did a weather-related disaster (e.g., flood, wildfire, storm, cyclone) severely damage or destroy:</p> <p>(a) your home? (b) your suburb or local area? (c) the home of a family member or friend?</p>	<p>For each item endorsed, ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is not at all and 10 is very severely, how badly were you affected by [your suburb etc] being flooded? 	<p>Berry, Adapted from O’Donnell (2008)</p>
<p>“Did any of the following happen as a result of this weather-related disaster?”</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>(a) You are worried about how you will manage (b) You thought you might be badly injured or even die (c) You personally knew people who were killed or badly injured (d) You felt terrified, helpless or hopeless (e) You had to move out of your home (even briefly) (f) You are still <u>currently</u> distressed about it (g) You received professional help or support for your distress</p>	<p>If item (a) endorsed, ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How often are you worried about how you will manage? 5-point scale ranging from 1= ‘none of the time’ to 5= ‘all of the time’ <p>If item (f) endorsed, ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How often do you currently have distressing thoughts about the event? 5-point scale ranging from 1= ‘none of the time’ to 5= ‘all of the time’ 	<p>Berry, Adapted from O’Donnell (2008)</p> <p>“You felt terrified, helpless or hopeless” (Consistent with diagnostic criteria (A2) for PTSD (DSMIV) and ICD entry criteria).</p> <p>“You are still currently distressed about it” (Allows calculation of point prevalence of post-disaster distress and differentiation from other possible causes of anxiety; can be validated against related constructs measured in the cohort. This item provides insight into whether the validated anxiety item is directly related to the traumatic event).</p>
<p>“Were you or a close family member admitted to hospital due to injuries caused by the severe weather event?”</p>	<p>Yes – you=2, family=1, no=0</p>	<p>Berry, Adapted from O’Donnell (2008)</p>