

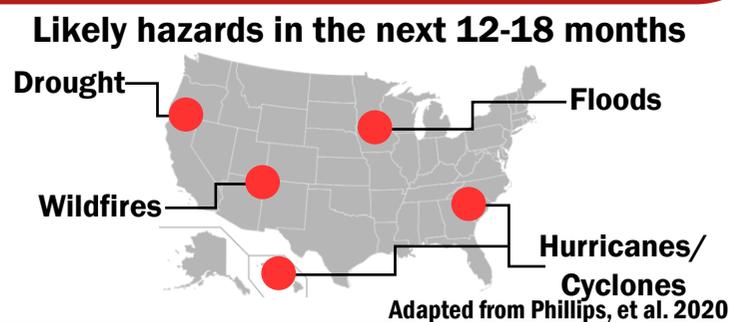
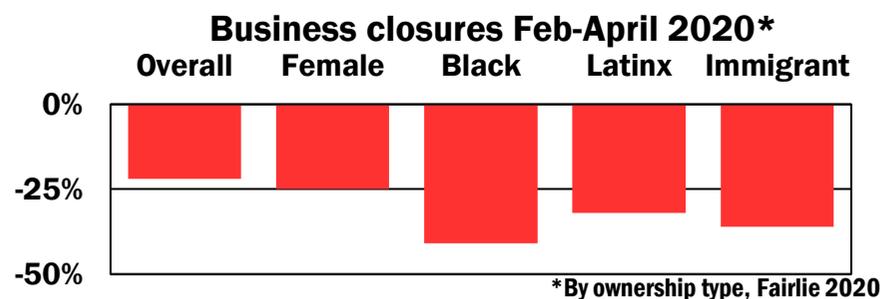
Small businesses, COVID-19, and Hazards: A Case for Better Qualitative Data Management

Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) contribute significantly to local economic development and may impact household recovery and community resilience (Helgeson, in review; Morrison et al., 2003; Schaer et al., 2018). However, they are also more vulnerable than larger businesses to disruptions due to lower cash reserves, geographic limitations, and limited capacity to access disaster-related aid (e.g. Dahlhamer & Tierney, 1998; Sydnor et al., 2017; etc.).

To study SME hurricane recovery, the research team conducted 60 in-person interviews in Charleston, South Carolina. This initial study identified three influential aspects of SME planning and preparedness that may also affect how they experience the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The need for multi-hazard and compound risk research has become increasingly obvious with the onset of COVID-19 (Hillier et al., 2020; Phillips et al., 2020; Raymond et al., 2020). Although COVID-19 and hurricanes originate from separate physical causes, their impacts could coincide spatially and temporally calling for further investigation of how and what to add to current theorizing around preparation, response, and recovery.

After a disaster,
of the small
businesses
that close for **5+ days** **90%** fail by 1 year
FEMA, n.d.

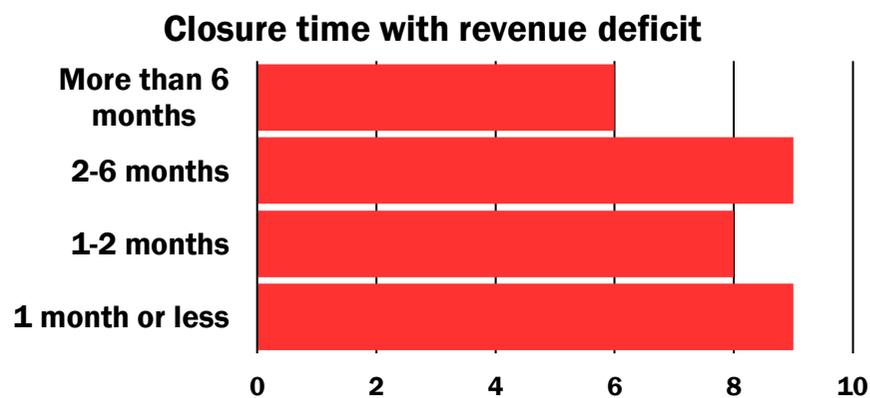


How is this research addressing these concerns?

Pilot study in Charleston
Summer 2019

New Research
Themes

But what about the
Data?



1

Recovery &
Adaptation Factors
for COVID-19 &
Hurricanes

2

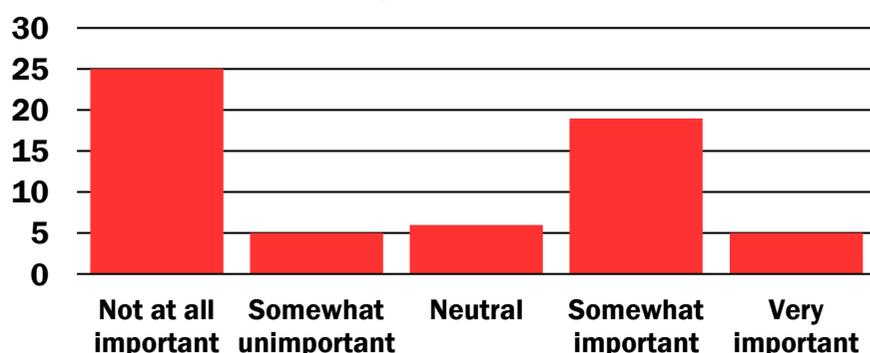
Planning and
Preparation for
Hurricanes during
COVID-19 & Multi-
hazard experience

3

Community
participation and
support during
COVID-19 and
Hurricanes

50% Had a hurricane plan
Of those **81%** thought the plan helped them recover

Importance of nearby business' hurricane decisions



ESIP puts data to work but a piece is missing.

Research groups are collecting data to understand the intersection of COVID-19, community impacts (including small business survival), and natural hazards. However, there are consistent limitations to survey and qualitative data standardization and access even though these data play a critical role in understanding communities' experiences.

How can ESIP use our collective data management experience to support the use, access, and sharing of qualitative data?