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RURAL HEALTH
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Community Recovery After Flood Survey – Impact on Mental Health

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UCRH is a collaborating Centre between:



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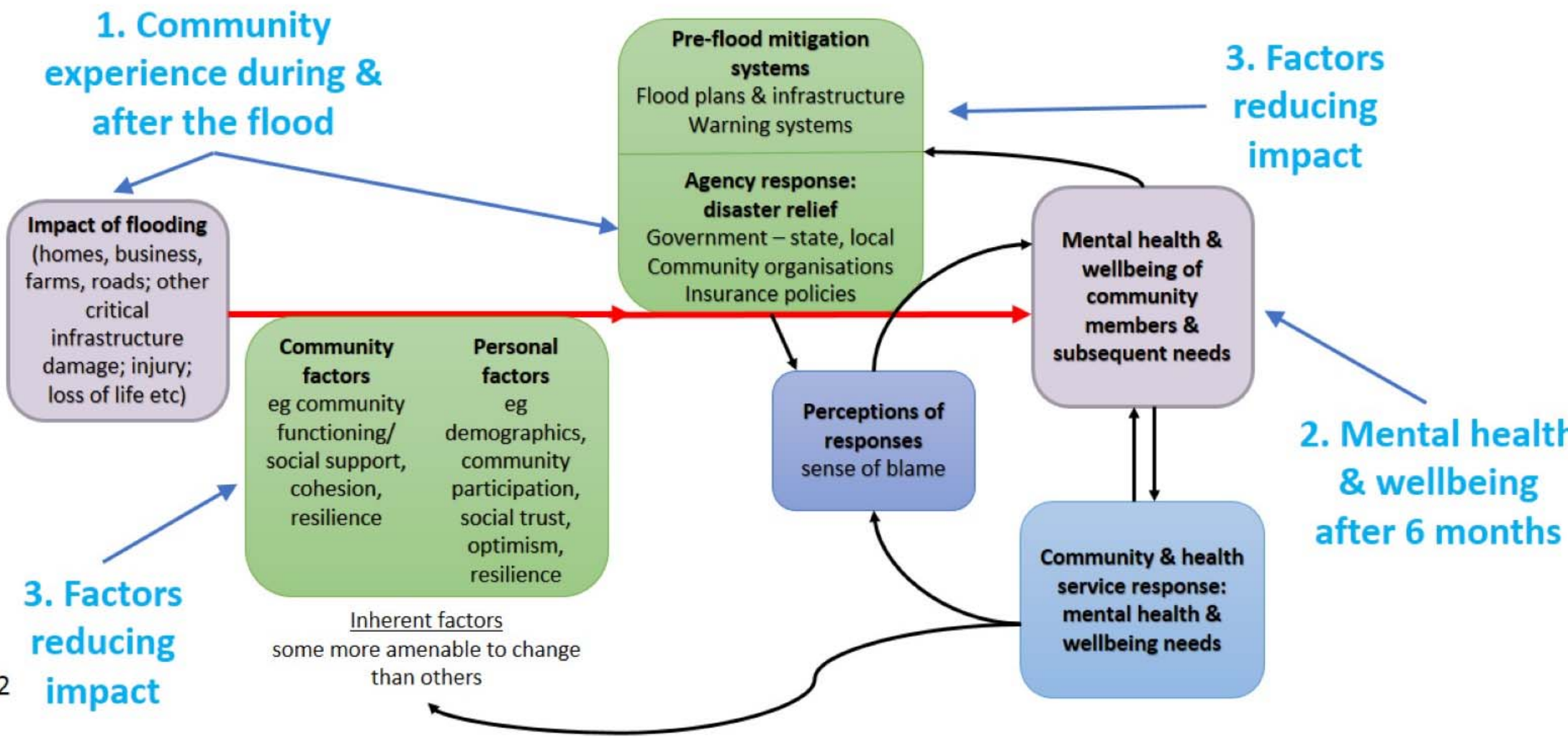


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AUSTRALIA

Community Recovery after Flood Survey – impact on mental health





A Community
Resilience Project

AFTER THE FLOOD

Community recovery in the northern rivers

How did the flood
affect you and your
community?

We're all part of
the picture

Your story
is important

Fill in this questionnaire* by
Monday 6th November
and support our ongoing
recovery and future
responses to disasters.

*you must be 16 or over

WIN!

Fill in Part 1 (blue
pages, approx. 15
mins) to enter the
prize draw to win a
\$100 gift voucher.

To triple your
chance of winning,
do Part 2 as well
(green pages,
approx. 10 mins)

Please
read on
→

This research is being conducted by the University Centre for Rural Health in
partnership with community organisations and state and local government.



- Northern Rivers (6 LGAs) ~200,000 pop
everyone ≥16 years
- key groups: people living with disadvantage, farmers, business owners, older people (+75), younger people (<25), Indigenous community, LGBTIQ community
- online & paper-based + door-to-door in worst affected areas of Lismore and Murwillumbah



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Community recovery in the northern rivers

... who took part in the survey?

More than
2,500
people responded
to the survey

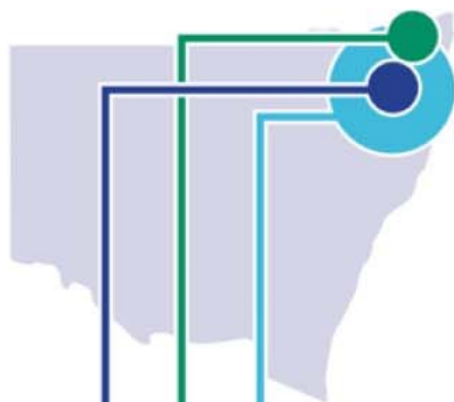
60% were
women



8% were
farmers



31% were
business
owners



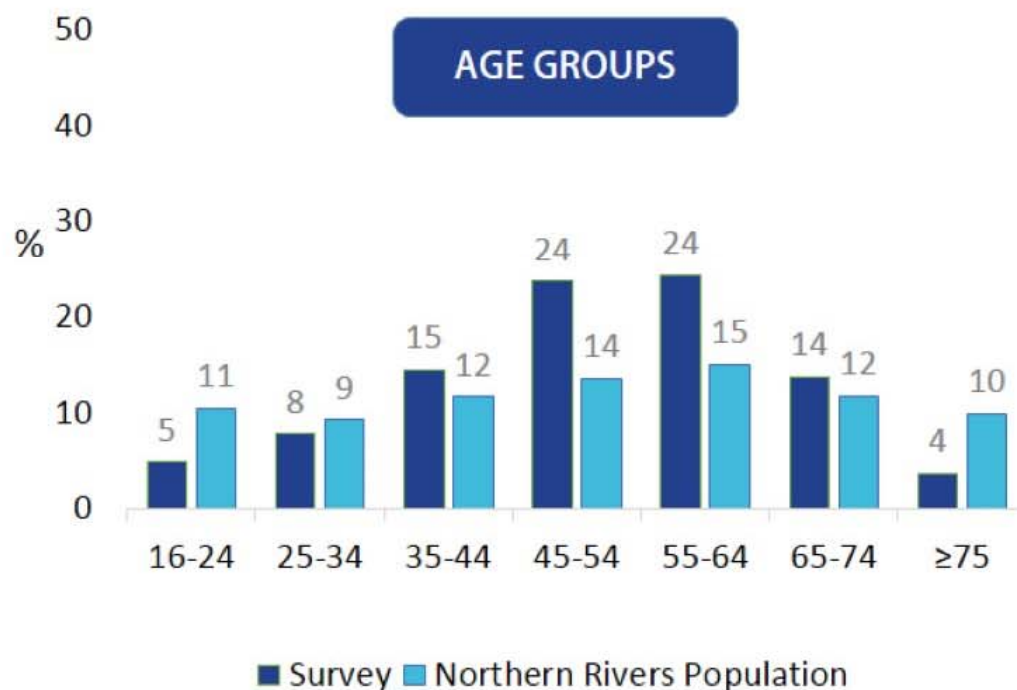
48% were from Lismore

24% were from Tweed

20% were from other LGAs
(Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Richmond Valley)

3.3%
Aboriginal

5.5%
LGBTIQ



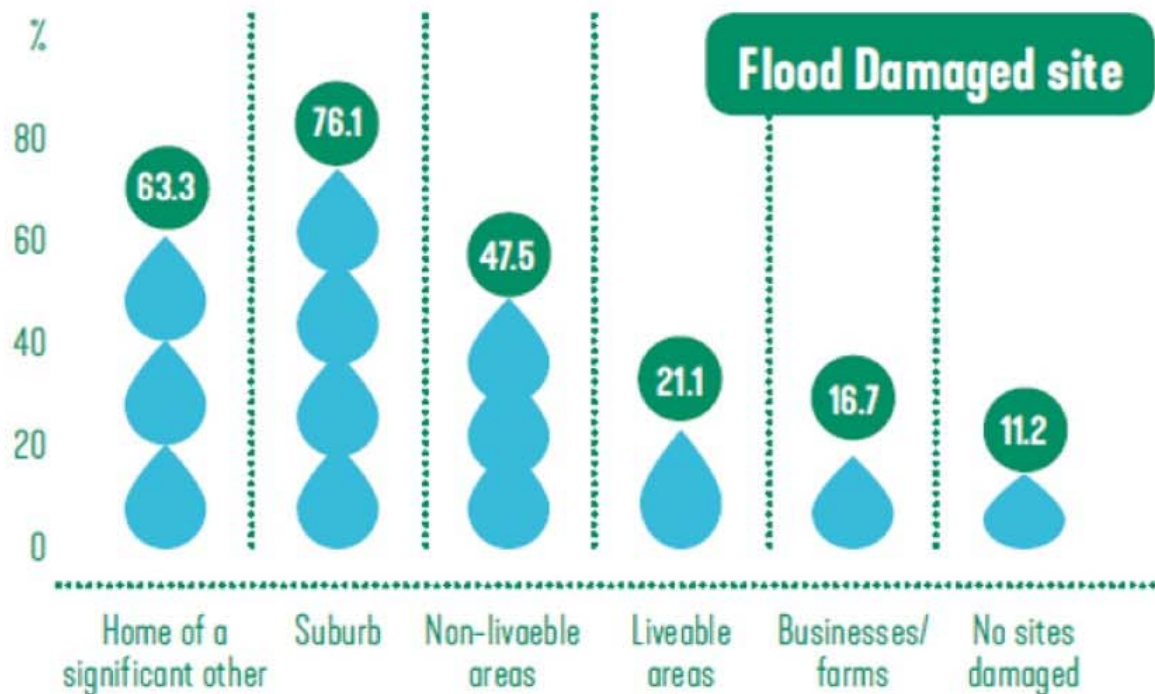


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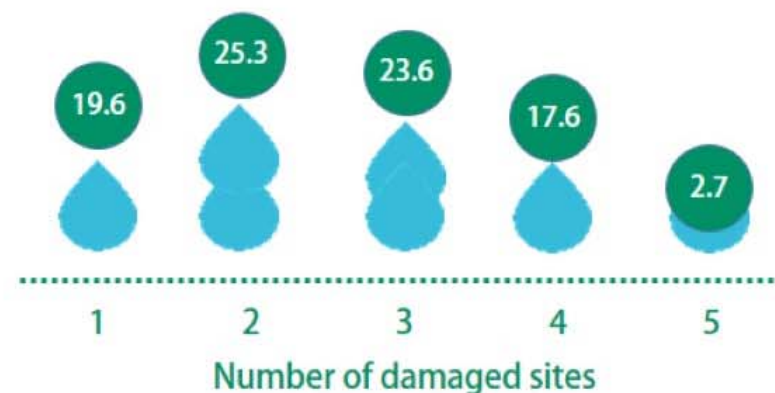
Community recovery in the northern rivers

... what was flooded?

Almost all respondents reported some damage



Almost one half (44%) reported some damage in 3 or more sites

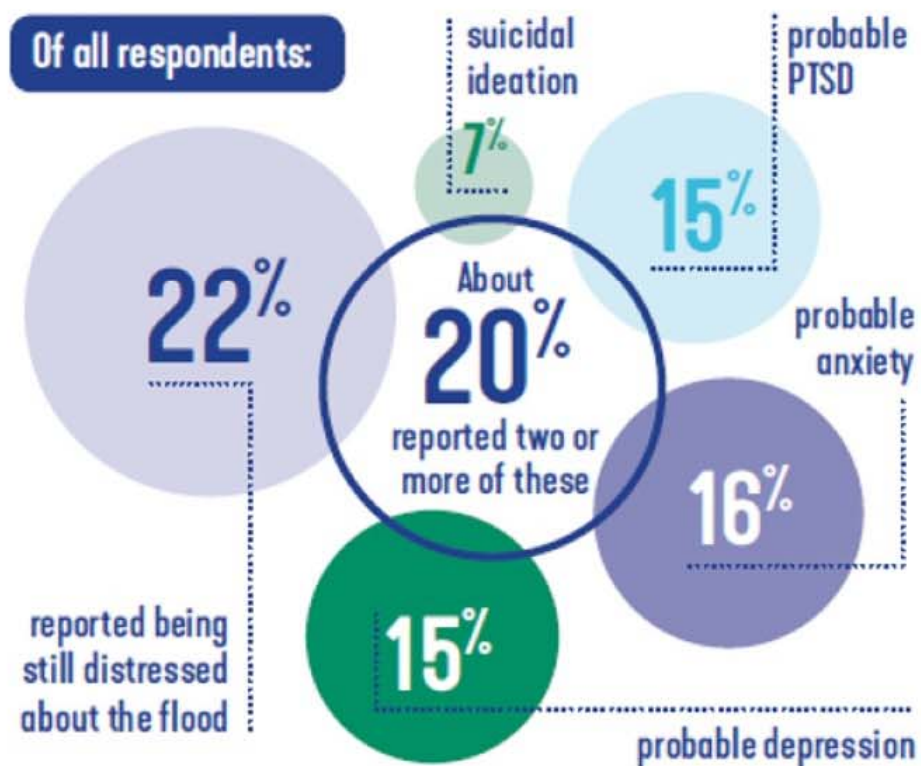




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... how respondents were affected



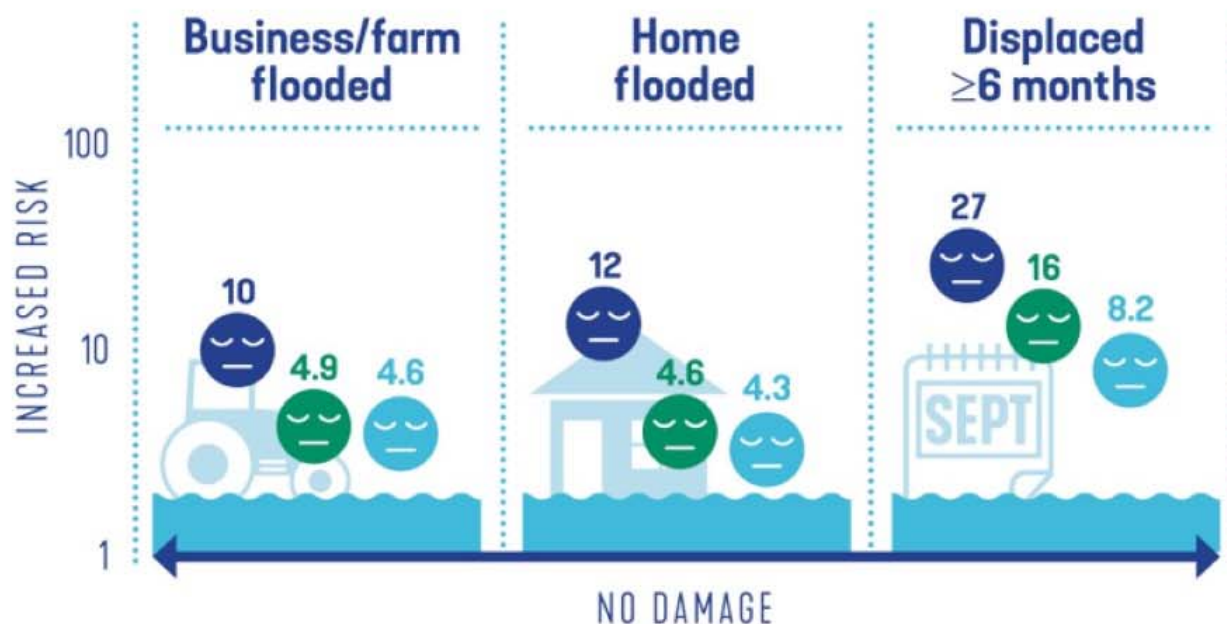


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... flood & mental health risk

Probable PTSD Probable anxiety Probable depression



Compared to no damage, higher risk for respondents:

- whose properties were flooded
- who endured lengthy displacement

(after adjusting for age, sex, Indigeneity & indicators of disadvantage)

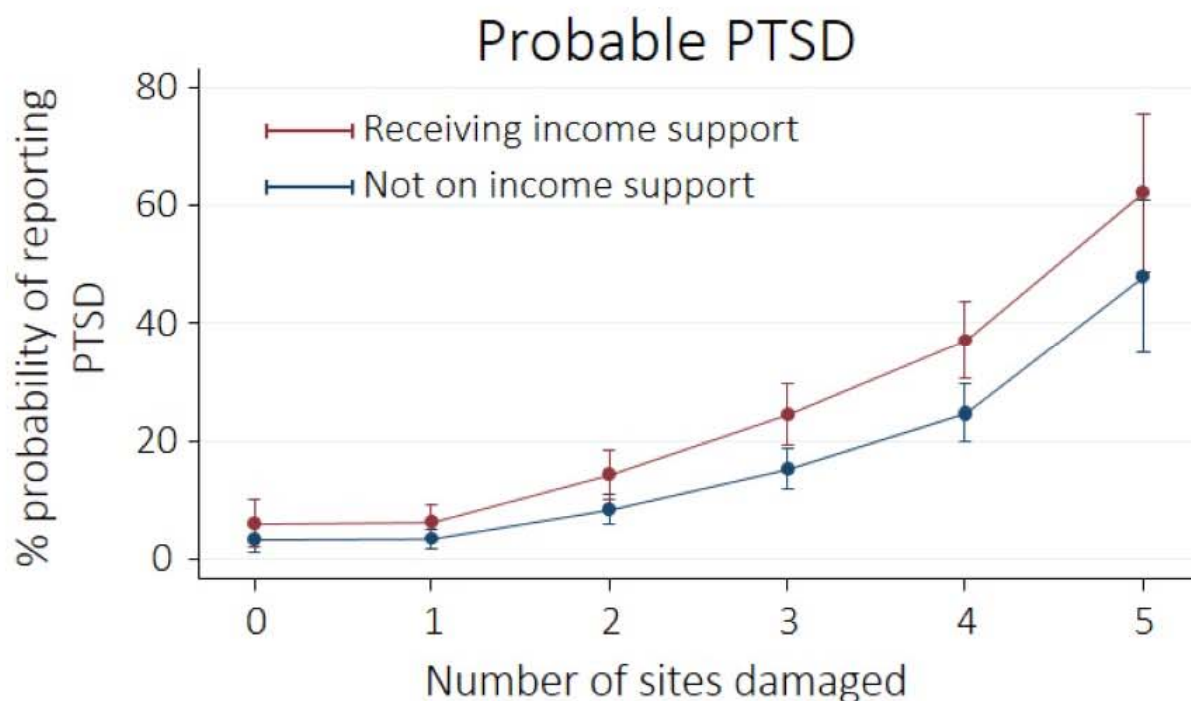
Logistic regression – adjusted odds ratio; all associations significant at $p < 0.001$



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... flood & mental health risk



- PTSD risk increases with number of sites damaged
- Risk higher for respondents on income support payments

(44% respondents reported damage in ≥ 3 sites)



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... socio-economic groups

Based on flood map & ABS data – 2017 flood footprint

(Thanks to NSW Office of Environment & Heritage for provision of flood maps)

	Lismore (N=4,982)*		Tweed (N=8,212)*		Northern Rivers** (N=239,604)	Greater Sydney Region (N=~5 mil)
	n	%	n	%	%	%
1 st (lowest)	4,076	81.8	3,826	47.0	26.5	15.7
2 nd	390	7.8	1,438	17.5	28.5	16.0
3 rd	367	7.4	2,615	31.8	25.8	18.2
4 th	89	1.8	297	3.6	15.5	22.3
5 th (highest)	60	1.2	0	0	3.8	27.8

Majority of people directly affected in flooded areas come from lowest two socio-economic groups - both in Lismore (90%) & Tweed region (64.5%).

*Usual resident population, ABS 2016

**Richmond-Tweed SA4

Outcomes Flood damage (unadjusted odds ratios)	Low income level n=835 (<\$50K vs ≥\$50K)	Aboriginal community n=83 (vs non-Indigenous)	LGBTIQ community n=139 (vs non-LGBTIQ)
Home flooded	2.31**	2.35**	2.15**
Evacuated from home	2.64**	2.89**	2.10**
Displaced ≥6mths	3.50**	3.32**	2.10
Mental health outcomes (adjusted odds ratios - taking into account degree of flood impact)			
PTSD	2.14**	2.28*	2.22**
Anxiety	1.80**	2.70**	2.27**
Depression	2.24**	2.76**	1.54
Suicidal ideation	2.24**	0.89	2.69**

*p≤0.01 ** p≤0.001



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... where to from here



- Continued community consultation:
 - communicating and making sense of results
 - current service gaps
 - preparing for future events
 - priorities for future analysis/research/interventions
- Feedback to State politicians
- Further analysis of data –second half of the questionnaire (resilience), written comments
- Applying for funding, including for a longitudinal study



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Acknowledgements

Thank you

- Community members
- Community Advisory Groups
- Funding agencies
- UCRH flood research team
- Survey piloters & doorknockers

