

Compounding Disasters in Gulf Coast Communities, 2020–2021: Impacts, Findings, and Lessons Learned

Communities in the Gulf region face a heightened reality of disaster due to longstanding socioeconomic and health disparities that increase their vulnerability to climate and weather-related hazards. Between 2020 and 2021, the region endured seven major hurricanes, a severe winter storm, and the unfolding of the global COVID-19 pandemic, collectively yielding a complex crisis and prolonged recovery.

While such disasters are often measured in economic terms, the designation of "billion-dollar" events fails to capture the deeper human and social toll. This report examines how multiple, overlapping disasters compound vulnerabilities, strain recovery systems, and impair community resilience.



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