

Nnenia Campbell

Nnenia Campbell is a doctoral candidate in the CU Boulder Department of Sociology, research assistant at the Natural Hazards Center, and managing editor of the Natural Hazards Review. Nnenia's dissertation research involves a qualitative examination of the 2013 floods in Boulder County, specifically focusing on social capital and disaster recovery among adults aged 60 and older.

Social Capital and Disaster Recovery Among Older Adults: A Case Study of the 2013 Colorado Floods

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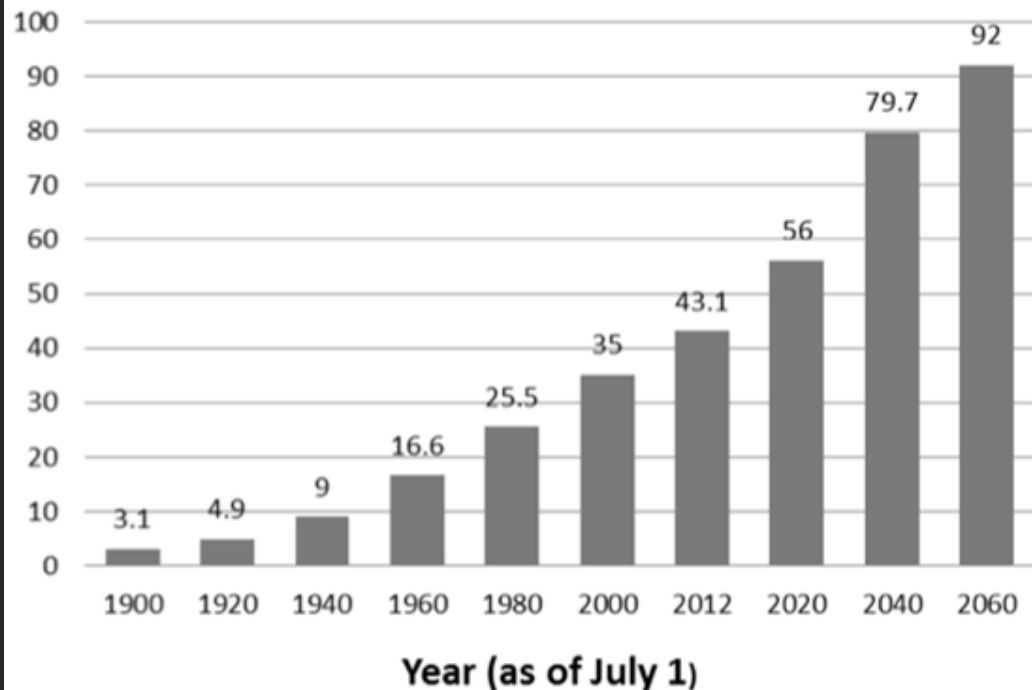
Understanding Risk Boulder
Boulder, CO
October 23, 2015

**NATURAL
HAZARDS
CENTER**



Demographic Shift: Implications for Disaster Vulnerability


**Figure 1: Number of Persons 65+,
1900 to 2060 (numbers in millions)**



Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Growth within senior population
- Implications for financial stability, living arrangements
- Intersection with disaster

Health Status and Disaster Vulnerability

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- A black and white photograph of a wheelchair positioned on a balcony. The wheelchair is facing right and is partially obscured by a dark metal railing. The background shows a view of trees and a building under a dark sky. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.
- Chronic health conditions
 - Physical disability
 - Cognitive impairment
 - Mental health

Social Capital



- Social networks in advanced age
- Implications for disaster situations
 - Response
 - Recovery

Agency and Resilience

- **Dominance of vulnerability perspective**
- **Diversity within aging population**
- **Capacity as a post-disaster resource**



Purpose

- (a) To analyze how various forms of social capital influence older adults' recovery trajectories.**
- (b) To examine how the social context shapes the way seniors interpret and respond to disaster-related experiences.**

September 2013 Floods

- Severed access to neighborhoods and communities
- Estimated \$4 billion in damage across state
- 16,000 structures damaged
- 10 fatalities, 5 aged 60 and older



Methods and Analysis

Data Collection		
Interviews with seniors	Interviews with key stakeholders	Secondary data
~40	~20	TBD

Data Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Review of transcripts, notes, secondary data•Memo recording•Modified open coding

Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

- Challenges arranging relief and recovery assistance
- Social network disruption
- Senior caregivers
- Resilience and agency

Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

“It’s one thing for someone in their 40s to have to walk an extra eighth of a mile to get to their car; it’s another thing for someone who is in their 60s or 70s.”

Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

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- **Social network disruption**
- Senior caregivers
- Resilience and agency

Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

“This neighborhood doesn’t neighbor”

Preliminary Findings: Individual Level

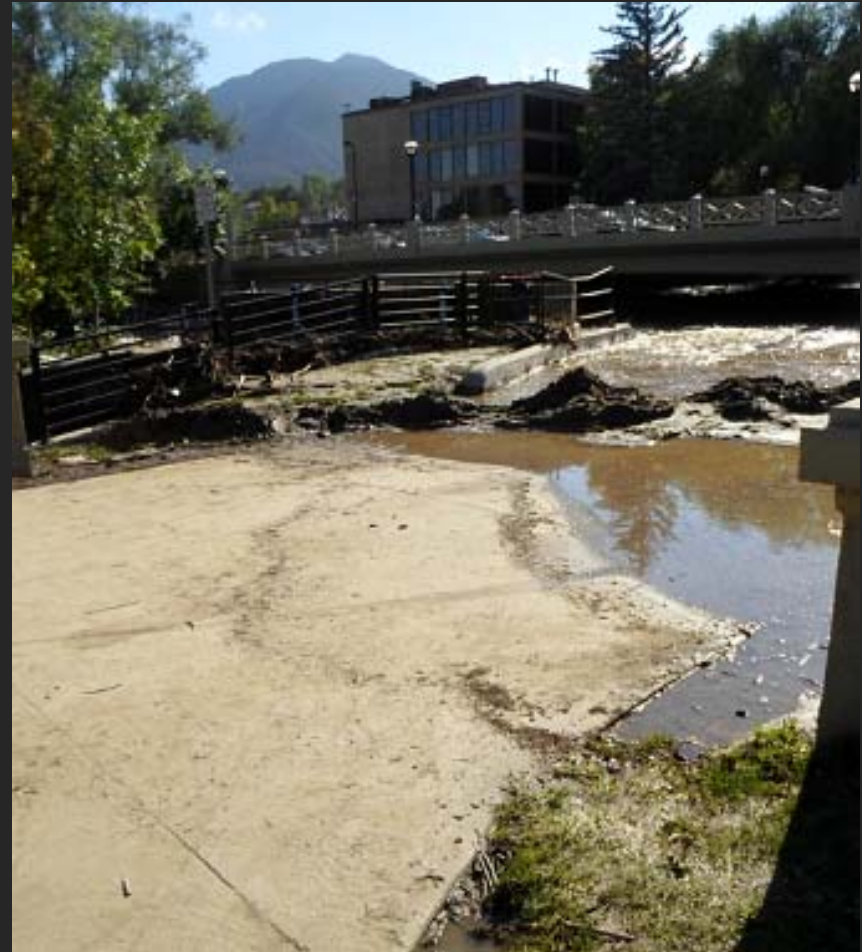
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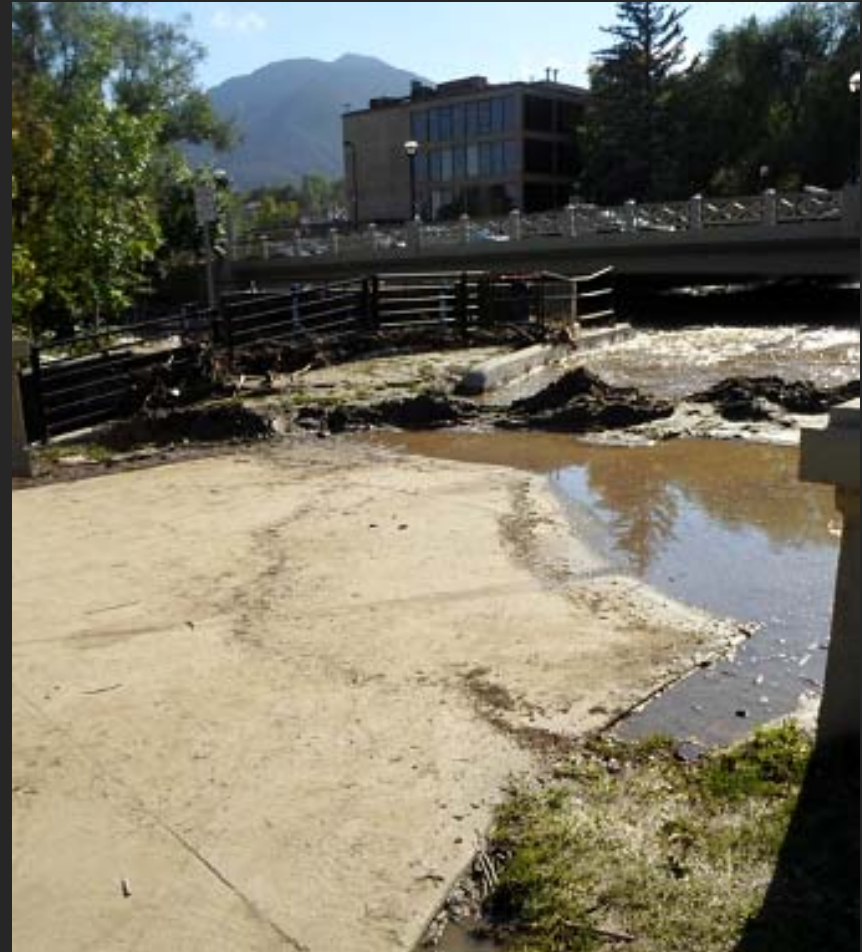
Preliminary Findings: Organizational Level

- Established client relationships facilitated communication and cooperation
- Challenges due to influx of resources



Preliminary Findings: Organizational Level

- Established client relationships and relationships between service providers facilitated communication and cooperation
- **Challenges due to influx of resources**



Conclusions

- Findings highlight importance of pre-existing relationships within and between organizations that support seniors.
- Greater attention to challenges during longer term following disaster in addition to support needed in the initial stages.
- Need to recognize factors that mediate outcomes for seniors.

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Acknowledgements

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