

Factors affecting a disaster prevention behavior for residents at a town in Miyagi Prefecture, JAPAN

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Background

Because we never know when a disaster will strike, and because government support is not expected in the acute phase of a disaster, it is important for residents to be prepared for a disaster. There is various disaster prevention behavior for residents, and it is important to behave to prevent a disaster for various aspects.

Aim of the study

This study elucidated the disaster prevention behavior of residents affected by experiences of disaster, communication behavior, and information-gathering behavior.

Methods

We administrated a cross-sectional survey for residents who experienced several disasters in Miyagi prefecture using a self-administrated questionnaire. And we analyzed the relationship between disaster prevent behaviors and experiences of disasters, communication behavior, and information gathering behavior.

Results

We found a significant relation between disaster prevent behaviors and experience of nearer disaster, the number of companions of communication, and the number of the having methods for information gathering behavior.

Conclusions and implications

Results of our study suggest the trend for residents, who experienced a disaster in the past, to lose the disaster prevention behavior, with time. So, it is important to keep the memory of the disaster. We also found that the more companions of communication for residents and the more kind of information gathering behavior, the more proceeding a disaster prevent the behavior. These results suggested the importance of a loose-connected community and the diversity of communication media.