

Australia's Psychology Workforce Capacity

ANU New Research Showcase: Climate, Energy and
Disasters, 8 March, 2023



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
BUSHFIRE HEALTH AND
WELLBEING SURVEY



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Website: bit.ly/ANUBushfireStudy

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Aims



Identify

- 1) Personal and professional impact of recent disasters on psychologists

Generate recommendations to support psychologists

- 1) To continue to providing essential services to the Australian community
- 2) To be better prepared to respond to future disasters

Method



Interviews

n = 12 psychology stakeholders:
practitioners, leaders, interest group and peak body representatives

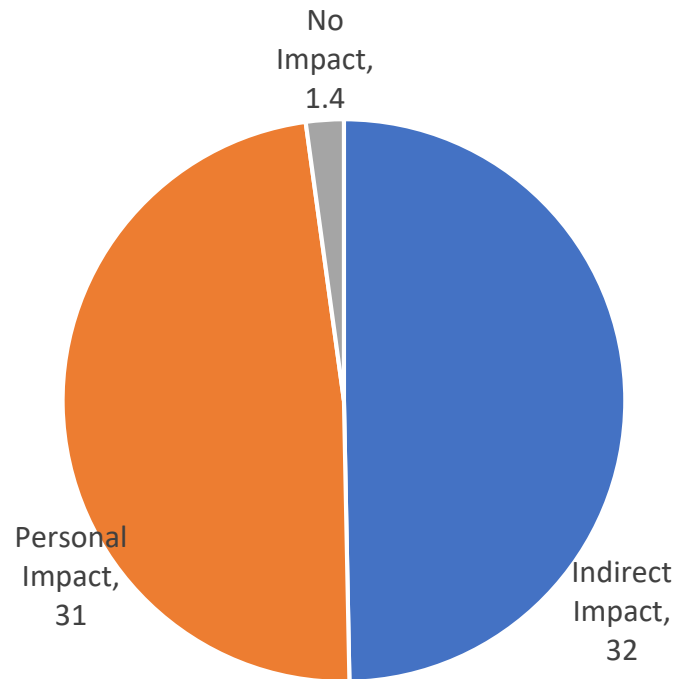
Survey

n = 469 AHPRA registered psychologists

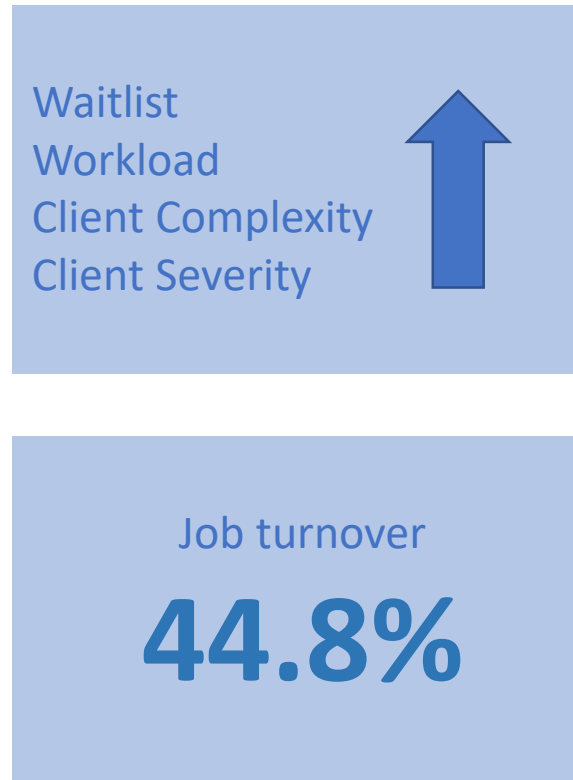
- Demographic characteristics
- Practice details
- Characteristics of clients
- Personal and professional impact of bushfires, COVID-19, and other disasters
- Responses to demands of disasters
- Gaps and needs for responding to future disasters

Key Findings: Disaster Impacts

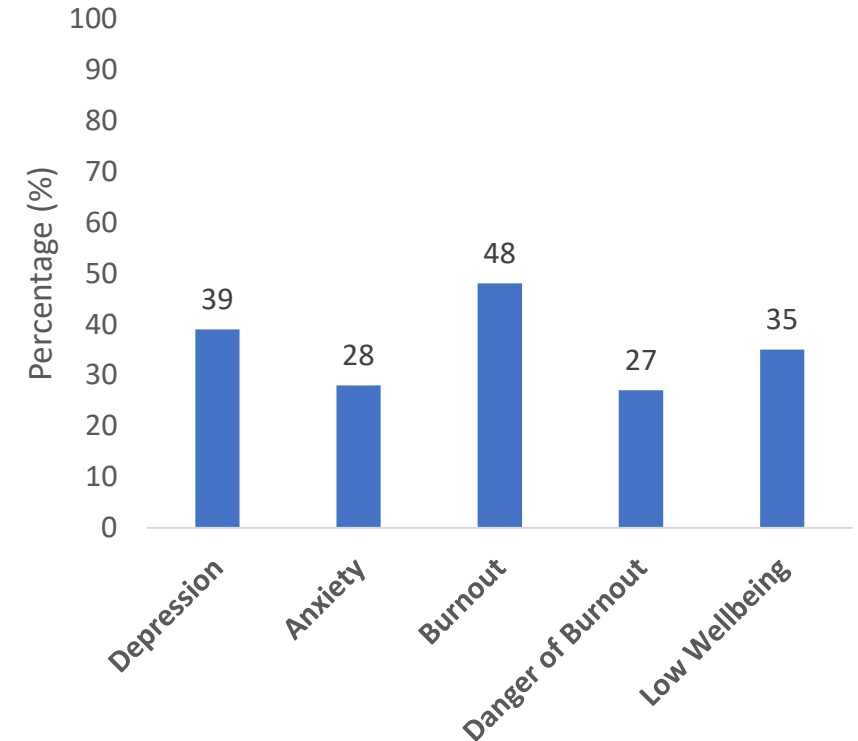
Weather Disaster Experiences



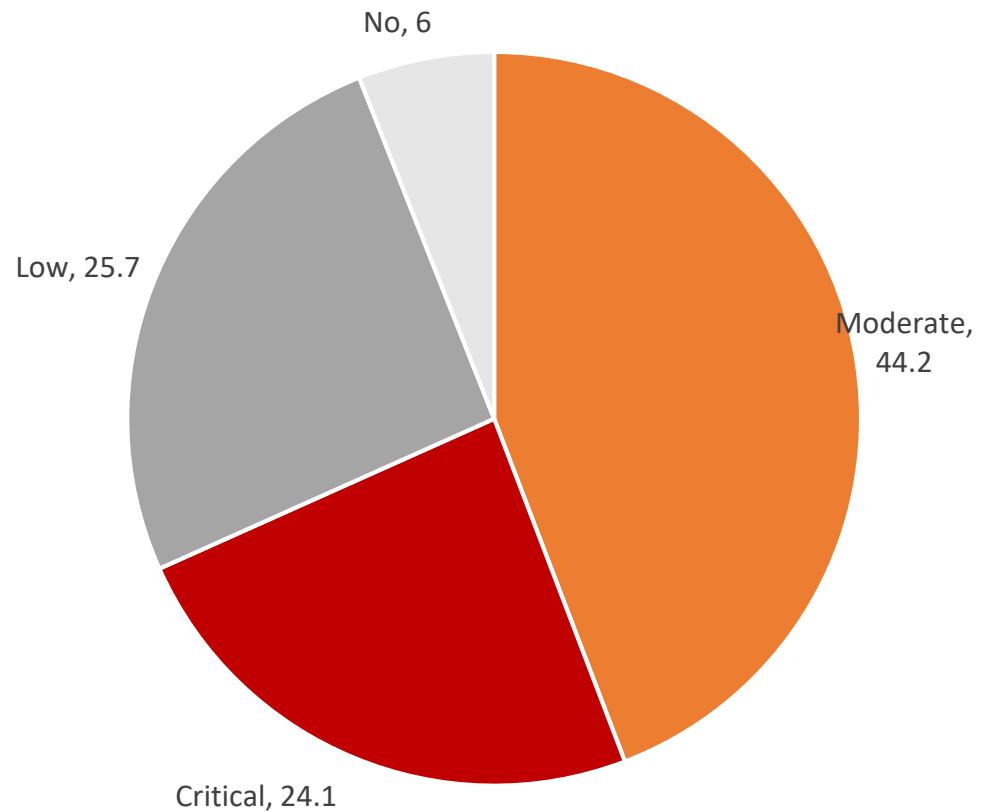
Professional Impact



Personal Mental Health Impact



Expected Impacts of Climate



Expected Impact of Climate on Psychology Work

Less than 1 in 3

prepared to manage mental health needs in future disasters

Development Priority Areas

- Cumulative Trauma
- Trauma, Loss, Grief
- Resilience Building

Future Directions

- Survey report and recommendations to be released soon
- Analysis of interview data
- Collaboration with Australian Psychological Society (APS) for research dissemination
- Future funding