

Peer Review

Review of: "The Limitations and Challenges of Researching Mass Casualty Incidents and Disasters in Europe"

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The article "The Limitations and Challenges of Researching Mass Casualty Incidents and Disasters in Europe" offers an outstanding overview of the main methodological, technological, and organizational barriers affecting research and management of mass casualty incidents in Europe, providing a thorough and constructive approach to the subject. The paper excels at presenting a detailed and well-referenced review of regulatory obstacles, the lack of a consensual definition of mass casualty incidents, and the fragmentation in data collection systems and methodologies. This contextualized analysis, supported by multiple European projects and studies, enhances the understanding of the urgent need for coordinated and evidence-based solutions. A key strength of the article is its emphasis on interoperability between emergency services and the urgent need for the development of minimum data sets. The authors highlight cross-border initiatives and specific examples, such as IDIRA and VALKYRIES, that have begun to overcome technical and language barriers, showing viable pathways toward harmonizing protocols and information formats in Europe. The discussion on adopting new technologies—drones, GIS, artificial intelligence, and mobile platforms—is both critical and pragmatic, recognizing their real impact on improving situational awareness and operational coordination. Furthermore, the article rigorously addresses ethical and legal implications, particularly the handling of sensitive data and compliance with privacy regulations such as GDPR. The text concludes with concrete and achievable policy recommendations, highlighting the importance of investment in training, multi-agency drills, and dedicated funds for technological modernization. The emphasis on public-private collaboration and the integration of data management within multi-hazard response planning reinforces the pragmatic and action-oriented nature of the article. In summary, this article is a relevant and up-to-date resource for

researchers, emergency managers, and policymakers, clearly articulating the challenges and solutions required to transform mass casualty incident data management practices in Europe.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.