

# ROCHELLE M. BRITTINGHAM, PhD

Associate Scientist  
Center for Drug and Health Studies  
University of Delaware  
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## SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Subject matter expert on vulnerable populations including women, households, and those with disabilities and access and functional needs.
- Subject matter expert on disaster evacuation and sheltering.
- Facilitated multiple stakeholder meetings regarding disaster behavioral health.
- Facilitated stakeholder meeting post-Irene on Delaware nursing home disaster evacuation and sheltering.
- Knowledge and experience with research design, analysis, and reporting.
- Knowledge of current healthcare policies especially as it related to disabilities and access and functional needs.
- Experienced in disaster exercise planning and participation.
- Earned doctorate in urban affairs and public policy. Research focused on evacuation and sheltering decision-making, populations with disabilities, populations with access and functional needs, state and federal disability policy, emergency management policy, and household protective action decision-making.
- Deployed multiple times as field researcher to Japan after the Great East Japan Earthquake and along the east coast in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

## EDUCATION

**PhD** Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, December 2014.

Dissertation: "Framing matters: Situating the experiences and perceptions of disaster sheltering and evacuation for people with disabilities"

Advisor: Tricia Wachtendorf, PhD

**MPA** Department of Public Administration, University of North Texas, Denton, TX, May 2009.

Degree: Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in emergency management

**BA** Department of Psychology, Millersville University, Millersville, PA, December 2004.

Minor: Sociology

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## PUBLICATIONS AND PRELIMINARY PAPERS

### Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:

Ryding, Rachel, Meisje J. Scales, Rochelle Brittingham, and Dana Holz. (2021). *Are you listening? Parental protective factors and early onset drinking among students with disabilities in Delaware*. Disability and Health Journal. (Under review).

Brittingham, Rochelle and Tricia Wachtendorf. (2013). *The effect of situated access on people with disabilities*. Earthquake Spectra, 29(S1), S433-S455.

### Book Chapters:

Brittingham, Rochelle and Mary Goepfert. (2014). Access and functional needs. In J. E. Trainor & T. Subbio (Eds.), *Critical issues in disaster science and management: A dialog between researchers and practioners* (pp. 109-145). Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### Technical Reports:

O'Connell, Daniel, Rochelle Brittingham, David Borton, Laura Mutis. (October 2020). "Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Delaware."

Chang, Stephanie, Daniel Aldrich, Richard Eisner, Laurie Johnson, Terri Norton, Kathleen Tierney, Tricia Wachtendorf, Rochelle Brittingham, Kanako Iuchi, Sahar Safaie and Jay Wilson. (August 2011). "The March 11, 2011, Great East Japan (Tohoku) Earthquake and Tsunami: Societal Dimensions" EERI Special Earthquake Report.

Kendra, James (PI), Simon A. Andrew, Ethan Bernick, Brandi Lea, Jacqueline Harvey, Lisa Vaughn, Rochelle Brittingham, Jessica Woydziak. (April 2008). "Texas Department of State Health Services, Disaster Behavioral Response Plan: Phase II Progress Report."

## CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Brittingham, R., O'Connell, D., Borton, D., & Mutis, L. (9-10 February 2021). *Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Delaware*. Presented at the First Annual Regional Human Trafficking Summit for Advocates Against Human Trafficking.

Brittingham, R., Cooper, T. R., McDonald, B., & Johnson, M. (24 January 2018). *Disaster Preparedness: Before and After the Storm*. Presented at the LIFE Conference Dover, DE.

Brittingham, R., Cooper, T. R., McDonald, B., & Guinivan, P. (November 2017). *Including Everyone's Needs: The Functional Information and Support Center*. Poster presented at the International Association of Emergency Managers, Long Beach, CA.

Brittingham, R., Guinivan, P., & Sparling, E. (December 2016). *Text 2 B Ready: A Novel Way for People with Disabilities to Create an Emergency Preparedness Plan and Go-kit*. Poster presented at the Association of University Centers on Disability, Washington, DC.

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Brittingham, R. & Wachtendorf, T. (July 2012). *Hidden in the Numbers: Anticipated Disaster Shelter Use for People with Health and Access Concerns*. Presented at the International Research Committee on Disasters Workshop, Broomfield, CO.

Kendra, J., Nigg, J., Auger, D., Atsumi, T., Miyamoto, T., Brittingham, R., Greer, A., & Rademacher, Y. (July 2012). *RAPID: The Tohoku Catastrophe: Volunteers and Non-Profit Organizations in Post-Kobe Japan*. Poster presented at the Natural Hazards Workshop, Boulder, CO.

Brittingham, R., & Wachtendorf, T. (March 2012). *How disabilities are framed in the United States: Implications for providing public shelters during times of disaster*. Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

Brittingham, R., and Wachtendorf, T. (March 2012). *Where will they stay?: Implications for public shelter provision based on anticipated and known evacuation locations*. Presented at the Åre Risk Event, Åre, Sweden.

Kendra, J., Nigg, J., Auger, D., Atsumi, T., Miyamoto, T., Brittingham, R., Greer, A., & Rademacher, Y. (February 2012). *RAPID: The Tohoku Catastrophe: Volunteers and Non-Profit Organizations in Post-Kobe Japan*. Poster presented at the National Science Foundation Funded Research: RAPID Grants for Quick-Response Research, Washington, DC.

Brittingham, R. (February 2012). *Challenges Facing People with Disabilities Following the Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami*. Presented at the Advisory Council Meeting on the Collaboration for Inclusive Emergency Preparedness and Response, Dover, DE.

Brittingham, R. & Wachtendorf, T. (February 2012). *The United States and Japan: How Framing Functional and Developmental Impairments Impacts Public Shelter Operations*. Presented at the National Evacuation Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Brittingham, R. & Wachtendorf, T. (October 2011). *Disaster and Disability: Preliminary Findings Following the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Implications for the U.S.* Presented at the 1st International Network on Risk, Crisis and Disaster Video Conference, Newark, DE.

Brittingham, R. & Wachtendorf, T. (September 2011). *Special Needs or Civil Rights: Evacuation and Sheltering Concerns for the Functionally and Developmentally Impaired*. Presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the European Sociological Association, Geneva, Switzerland.

Brittingham, R. & Wachtendorf, T. (July 2011). *Disaster and Disability: Preliminary Findings Following the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Implications for the United States*. Presented at the International Research Committee on Disasters Workshop, Broomfield, CO.

Brittingham, R. & Wachtendorf, T. (November 2010). *North Carolina's Stakeholder Perceptions of Strategy Feasibility*. Presented at the International Network on Risk, Crisis and Disaster Conference, Umeå, Sweden.

Brittingham, R. & Wachtendorf, T. (July 2010). *Hurricane Preparedness and Strategy Feasibility*. Presented at the 35th Annual Natural Hazards Workshop, Broomfield, CO.

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Brittingham, R. M., Andrew, S. A., & Kendra, J. M. (January 2009). "What can Institutional Collective Action Framework Tell us about Self-Organizing Disaster Behavioral Responses?" Southern Political Science Association Conference: New Orleans.

## Invited Presentations

Guinivan, P., Brittingham, R. (28 February 2017). *Considering People with Access and Functional Needs in Disaster Response and Preparedness*. Disaster Recovery for Delaware: Exploring Potential Partnerships Among Emergency Planers, First Responders, Librarians and Others. Dover, DE.

Brittingham, R. (7 October 2016). *Superstorm Sandy: Issues surrounding volunteers, donations, media, debris, and evacuation constraints*. Presented at Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden.

Guinivan, P., Brittingham, R., & Young, D. (22 October 2014). *Emergency Preparedness Workshop*. Presented at Delaware Biotechnology Institute, Newark, DE.

Guinivan, P., Brittingham, R., & Young, D. (25 September 2014). *Emergency Preparedness*. Presented at the Center for Disabilities Studies Lunchtime Learning, Newark, DE.

IAEM Journal Club. 11 November 2013.

Wachtendorf, T. & Brittingham, R. (November 2011). *Learning from Catastrophe: The 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami and the Challenges Facing People with Disabilities*. Presented at the Center for Disabilities Studies Lunchtime Learning, Newark, DE.

## EMPLOYMENT

### Center for Drug and Health Studies, University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Associate Scientist, August 2019

Projects:       Assessment of Human Trafficking Victims Data (Co-PI)  
                  Youth Risk Behavior Survey and School Health Profiles (PI)  
                  Youth Tobacco Survey (PI)  
                  Delaware School Survey (Co-PI)  
                  DeLAWARE (Project Manager)

Responsibilities:

- Serve as PI/Co-PI/Project Director on grants and contracts relating to social science research and evaluation.
- Design, perform, and oversee research to ensure data integrity, quality control, and protocol compliance.
- Oversee the organization and maintenance of data collection efforts by up to 20 other team members.
- Oversee the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data related to externally funded projects for scientific presentations and publications.
- Author information and technical material (e.g., statistical and narrative reports) for both scientific and non-scientific audiences.

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- Track deliverables for contracts and ensures appropriate documentation is provided for invoicing.
- Collaborate and connect with other University departments as well as external committees and coalitions to support intersecting initiatives addressing public health promotions and community engagement.

### **Department of Emergency Services, Chester County, West Chester, PA**

*Health and Human Services Planning Coordinator, February 2018*

#### Responsibilities:

- Serve as co-chair on the Regional Functional Needs Subcommittee of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force Health and Human Services Workgroup.
- Oversee subcommittee project statuses, deliverables, and budgetary requirements to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Represent Chester County on multiple steering committees and planning bodies at the local, state, and regional levels.
- Serve as the liaison to the Chester County Department of Human Services and Chester County Health Department.
- Develop and expand relationships with health and human service providers and community-based organizations that serve people with access and functional needs and deliver tailored preparedness messages, materials, and trainings for the various vulnerable populations in Chester County.
- Lead and coordinate efforts to ensure that emergency services and resources are accessible to individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs to meet preparedness goals.
- Review and evaluate elements of county emergency plans for compliance and consistency in order to meet essential health and human service's needs.
- Develop and keep current the Chester County Mass Care Annex and associated documentation.
- Assist with evaluation of program materials and messages, information dissemination, and overall community preparedness and outreach activities.
- Maintains, promotes, and evaluates the use of Rave Prepare and Smart911 and their associated policies and procedures.

### **Center for Disabilities Studies, University of Delaware, Newark, DE**

*Emergency Preparedness Program Associate, 2015*

#### Projects:

- Division of Public Health Subject Matter Expert (SME)
  - Conducted surveys of community service organizations to determine the amount and types of services they provide on a regular basis and their status during public health emergencies and disasters.
  - Assisted the Office of Preparedness in establishing a collaborative network of community partners to plan and advocate for the jurisdiction's at-risk population related to Zika virus.
  - Provided SME on hazard mitigation projects.
  - Provided SME at planning meetings.
  - Trained individuals on disaster events and individuals with access and functional needs as well as disabilities.

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- Wrote and edited emergency operation planning documents.
- Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities
  - Created a pilot project for emergency preparedness readiness activities. Decided on messages, selecting information, and writing synopses to determine what information goes out to the pilot group.
- Citizen Corps Council
  - Principle investigator on Citizen Corps grant funded through the Delaware Emergency Management Agency
    - Text 2 B Ready
    - Responsible for reporting on deliverables and tracking expenses
  - Assisted in recruiting participants for a Division of Public Health training exercise. Coordinated and disseminated exercise information to public participants.

### **Center for Disabilities Studies, University of Delaware, Newark, DE**

*Graduate Research Assistant, 2014*

Project:

- Citizen Corps Council
  - Created, vetted, and selected information for allreadyde.org website. Worked with web designers to decide on accessible design and layout.

### **Disaster Research Center, University of Delaware, Newark, DE**

*Graduate Research Assistant, 2009 to 2013*

Projects:

- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Mental and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health Systems Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center (PERRC)
  - Used literature to assist in report writing on community resilience.
- Collaboration for Inclusive Emergency Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities
  - Reviewed emergency management policy and plans pertaining to individuals with disabilities and access or functional needs, and attended state shelter meetings and other advisory meetings as necessary for emergency preparedness information dissemination.
- DRU: Integrated Optimization of Evacuation and Mass Care Sheltering for Hurricanes, National Science Foundation
  - Assisted in conducting focus groups with key stakeholders in North Carolina, conducted one-on-one telephone interviews with key informants, created a telephone survey and supervised undergraduates in the administration of the survey using computer assisted telephone interviewing software. Additional responsibilities included supervising undergraduates who were working on literature reviews, data cleaning, and calculating survey response rates. Quantitative and qualitative data were gathered on evacuation routes, health and access concerns, voluntary and mandatory evacuation departure decisions, the number of household members and vehicles

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evacuating, and the locations people are planning on evacuating to if the household decides to evacuate.

### **Department of Public Administration, University of North Texas, Denton, TX**

*Graduate Research Assistant, 2007 to 2009*

Projects:

- Texas Disaster Behavioral Health Response Plan, Texas Department of Health and Human Services
  - Used qualitative data to assist in writing the State of Texas' Disaster Mental Health Annex based on stakeholders' perceptions of how their organizations interact with others before and during disasters.
- One-on-one research assistant for literature reviews with two professors

### **TEACHING**

#### **Millerville University, Graduate Course**

Social Dimensions of Disaster (graduate, current)

#### **Wilmington University, Undergraduate Courses**

Sociology of Disaster

Disasters and the Media

### **GRANT DELIVERABLE**

Emergency Preparedness website for People with Disabilities. [www.AllReadyDE.org](http://www.AllReadyDE.org)

### **FIELD WORK**

#### **Hurricane Sandy**

Reconnaissance Team Member to New York and New Jersey with funding provided by the Disaster Research Center (November 2012).

#### **Tohoku Earthquake**

Reconnaissance Team Member to Japan with funding provided by the National Science Foundation (January 2012).

Social Science Team Member to Japan with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute reconnaissance team to Japan with funding provided by the National Science Foundation (June 2011).

### **INTERVIEWS**

UDaily. (19 September 2014). *An ounce of prevention: Emergency preparedness on tap at CDS*. University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

National Science Foundation. (18 July 2011). *Decoding disasters: Are we prepared for another 9-11?*

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## **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

RAVE Mobile Safety Symposium. (8-10 April 2019). Orlando, Florida.

“Getting It Right 2018 National Inclusive Disaster Strategies Conference.” (23-25 May 2018). Washington, D.C.

RAVE Mobile Safety Symposium. (16-18 April 2018). Boulder, Colorado.

“Delaware Resilient and Sustainable Communities Summit.” (27 November 2017). Delaware Tech Del-One Conference Center, Dover, DE.

“Emergency Management and Preparedness – Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.” (12 October 2017). Pacific ADA webinar.

Delaware Division of Public Health Symposium. (2 November 2016). Dover, DE.

“Responding to Power Outage Emergencies.” (26 February 2015). Department of Homeland Security Webinar. (.15 CEU)

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). (17-18 October 2014). University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

“Taking Stock and Taking Action: Disaster Research and the Challenges Ahead.” Disaster Research Center 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. (30 April – 3 May 2014) University of Delaware, Newark, DE.

Autism Recognition, Response and Safety Workshop for First Responders. (22 April 2014) University of Delaware. (4 EMS Cont. Ed. Hours)

Blackboard Training. (September 2013) Wilmington University.

“Increasing Preparedness to Build Community Resilience.” (7-9 August 2012) FEMA National Preparedness Symposium, Crystal City, Virginia.

Screening of Persons by Observational Techniques. (9 August 2012) National Center for Biomedical Research and Training. (8.0 CEU)

Law Enforcement Prevention and Deterrence of Terrorist Acts, Customized Awareness Level. (9 August 2012) National Center for Biomedical Research and Training. (4.0 CEU)

Capturing Meaning in Narrative: A Qualitative Interviewing Workshop. (9 April 2010) Department of Sociology, University of Delaware.

## **SERVICE**

### **Community Service:**

Longwood Rotary Member

Co-chair of the Housing Committee and Gala Committee

Cookie Parent (2018-current)



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## **Professional Service:**

Manuscript Reviewer: Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
Risk Analysis  
Assistant Editor: Unscheduled Events (2007-2008)

## **Planning group Member:**

The Plan to Achieve Health Equity for Delawareans with Disabilities (2015)

## **Trainer**

Community Emergency Response Trainer                      Terrorism, Disaster Preparedness

## **Invited Blog Posts**

Brownfield Science and Technology                      Hurricane Preparedness Week (2 posts)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)  
International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)  
Southern Political Sciences Association (SPSA)  
Southern Sociological Society (SSS)

## **AWARDS**

Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society in Public Administration                      2009  
Sumner's Scholar, Sumner's Foundation                      2007 - 2008