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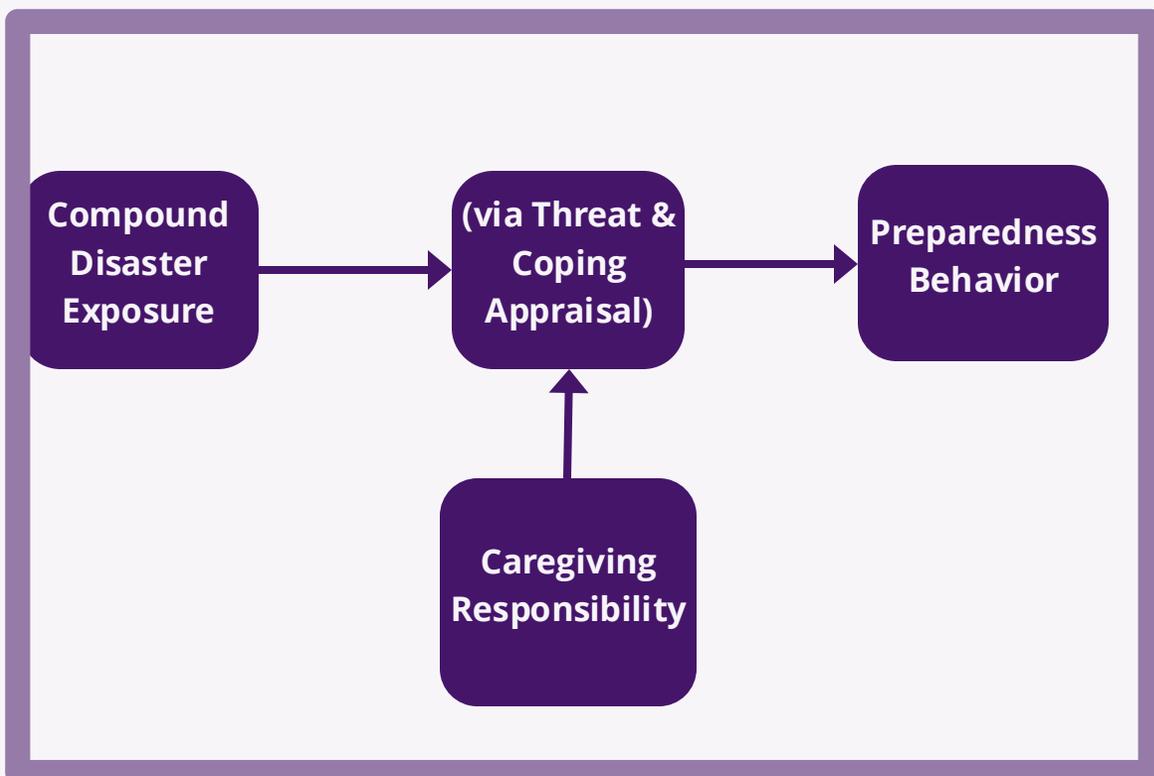
# **Aging, Climate, and the Social Determinants of Health: Disaster Preparedness and Inequities Among Older Adults**

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# Study 1: Compound Disasters & Caregiving Roles

## Protection Motivation Theory (PMT)



## Background gap:

- Most climate disaster research views older adults as care recipients, yet millions are caregivers for partners or parents.
- Older adults are increasingly facing compound disasters that strain their households.
- Caregiving roles intensify threat appraisal but can drain time and resources, lowering coping confidence.

**Method:** Using FEMA NHS 2022–2023, we examined how compound disaster exposure (e.g., heat + storm + outage) interacts with caregiving responsibility.

## Finding:

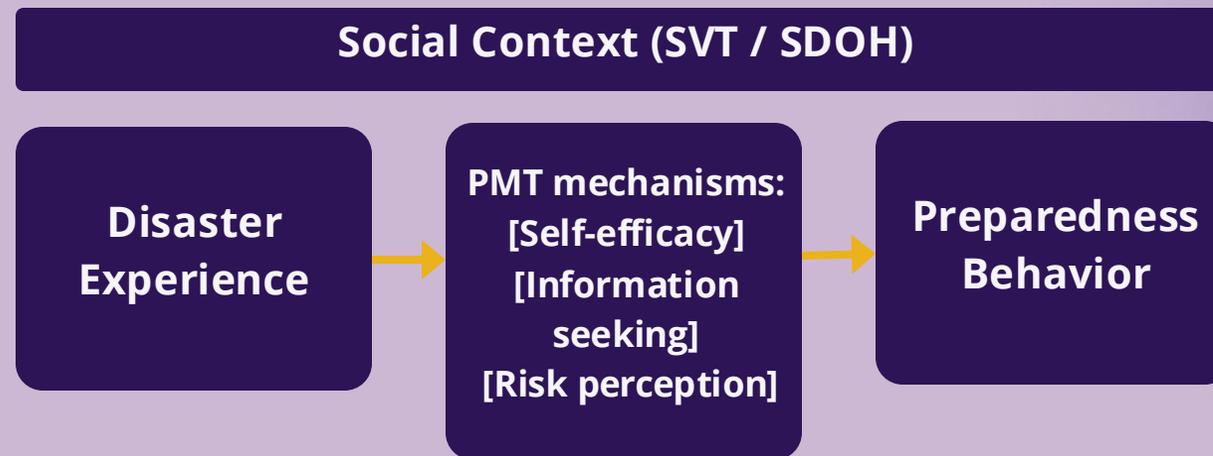
- Caregiving amplifies vulnerability — caregivers facing multiple hazards are the least prepared.



# Study 2: Racial Inequities & Psychosocial Mediators

## Background:

- Disaster experience shapes preparedness through psychosocial mechanisms — self-efficacy, information seeking, and risk perception.
- **Protection Motivation Theory (PMT)** explains these cognitive pathways.
- **Social Vulnerability Theory (SVT)** adds the structural layer.
- BIPOC older adults often face inequities in income, mobility, and institutional trust that limit access to information and resources.
- Preparedness disparities are thus not only individual but rooted in SDOH and racialized social contexts.



## Data:

- FEMA NHS 2023
- Test how disaster experience affects preparedness through self-efficacy, information-seeking, and risk perception.

## Finding:

- Self-efficacy and information access mediate preparedness for all groups, but racial differences persist.
- Black older adults report strong community ties yet lower institutional trust, reducing formal preparedness actions.



1

Preparedness gaps are not just about knowledge or behavior—they're rooted in SDOH: caregiving load, socioeconomic status, and racialized trust.

2

Climate adaptation policies should include family systems and psychosocial resilience alongside infrastructure.

# Integrating Both: A SDOH Lens on Climate Resilience



**DISASTER  
RELIEF**



# What I'd Like from CACHE

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From individual readiness → to structural resilience



## Aim:

- **Collaboration** opportunities exist for linking FEMA–HRS data with state-level climate-aging indicators.
- **Guidance** on translating findings into policy or practice strategies for climate resilience in older populations.
- **Integrated** environmental or climate variables with HRS.
- **Connect** with researchers experienced in spatial or geocoded linkages.



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# Thank You

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*So Much*

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