

# Multigenerational Impacts of a Natural Disaster

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## **Abstract:**

This paper studies the impact of experiencing an extreme natural disaster during childhood affects on an individual's own mental health and human capital accumulation, as well as on that of their children and grandchildren. Our study leverages the February 1, 1953 flood in the Netherlands, in a border design approach. We find that experiencing this disaster in childhood caused substantial long-term socio-economic and health disadvantage up to 70 years later, with effects stretching over multiple generations.