

Table 2 Health-care providers' (n = 207) perceptions of their preparedness for disaster management

Items	Mean (SD) score
I know the limits of my knowledge, skills and authority as a health care provider to act in disaster situations, and I would know when I exceed them	3.92 (1.43)
I can identify possible indicators of mass exposure evidenced by a clustering of patients with similar symptoms	3.97 (1.38)
I can manage the common symptoms and reactions of disaster survivors that are of affective, behavioural, cognitive and physical nature	3.66 (1.40)
I am familiar with psychological interventions, behavioural therapy, cognitive strategies, support groups and incident debriefing for patients who experience emotional or physical trauma	3.64 (1.43)
I am able to describe my role in the response phase of a disaster in the context of my workplace, the general public, media, and personal contacts	3.62 (1.44)
I am familiar with the main groups (A, B, C) of biological weapons (anthrax, plague, botulism, smallpox, etc.), their signs and symptoms, and effective treatments	3.23 (1.53)
I feel confident recognizing differences in health assessments indicating potential exposure to biological or chemical agents	3.13 (1.49)
As a health care provider, I would feel confident in my abilities as a direct care provider and first responder in disaster situations	3.49 (1.37)
As a health care provider, I would feel confident as a manager or coordinator of a shelter	3.12 (1.44)
As a health care provider, I would feel reasonably confident in my abilities to be a member of a decontamination team	3.86 (1.40)
In case of a bioterrorism/biological or chemical attacks, I know how to perform focused health history and assessment, specific to the biological or chemical agents that are used	3.01 (1.40)
As a health care provider, I feel reasonably confident that I can care for patients independently in a disaster situation	3.77 (1.42)
I am familiar with the organizational logistics and roles among local and national agencies in disaster response situations	2.75 (1.38)
I would feel confident implementing emergency plans, evacuation procedures, and similar functions	3.66 (1.46)
I would feel confident providing patient education on stress and abnormal functioning related to trauma	4.15 (1.39)
I would feel confident providing education on coping skills and training for patients who experience traumatic situations so they are able to manage themselves	3.90 (1.37)
I am able to differentiate the signs and symptoms of acute stress disorder and PTSD	3.88 (1.36)
I am familiar with what the scope of my role as a health-care provider in a post-disaster situation would be	3.70 (1.40)
I participate in peer evaluation of skills on disaster preparedness and response	3.43 (1.51)
I am familiar with how to perform focused health assessment for PTSD	3.52 (1.43)
I feel confident managing (caring, evaluating) emotional outcomes for acute stress disorder or PTSD following disaster or trauma in a multi-disciplinary way such as referrals, and follow-ups and I know what to expect in ensuing months	3.49 (1.39)

PTSD = post-traumatic stress disorder; SD = standard deviation.