

Appendix 1: The nine stages of community readiness based on the community readiness model with corresponding scores (13)

Stage (Readiness Score)	Description
1. No awareness (1-1.99)	The issue is normative, accepted, and not generally recognized by the community or leaders as a problem.
2. Denial/Resistance (2-2.99)	Only a few community members recognize that the issue is a concern; the community and leadership do not support dealing with the matter.
3. Vague awareness (3-3.99)	Community members and leaders believe that the issue may be a concern, but there is no immediate motivation to address it.
4. Preplanning (4-4.99)	Community members and leaders acknowledge that the issue is a concern; the efforts are not focused or detailed.
5. Preparation (5-5.99)	Most community members have basic knowledge of the issue and are concerned about it; leaders are planning, some resources have been identified, and community members and leaders are actively working to secure resources.
6. Initiation (6-6.99)	Leaders play a crucial role in planning efforts to address the problem; enough information is available, and resources have been allocated to support efforts.
7. Stabilization (7-7.99)	Most community members have more than basic knowledge of local efforts and issues; leaders are actively involved in ensuring or improving the long-term viability of efforts.
8. Confirmation/ Expansion (8-8.99)	Efforts are in place; community members strongly support efforts; leaders play a crucial role in expanding and improving efforts.
9. High level of community ownership (9-9.99)	Most community members have sophisticated and detailed knowledge of local efforts and issues; leaders continually review evaluation results and modify financial support; resources are secured.

Appendix 2: Search syntax for the databases

Databases	Final syntax
PubMed	(capacity[ti] OR preparedness[ti] OR prepared[ti] OR readiness[ti] OR ready[ti]) AND (community[ti] OR communities[ti] OR social[ti] OR society[ti] OR societies[ti] OR organization[ti] OR organizations[ti] OR organizational[ti] OR context[ti] OR contextual[ti] OR public[ti] OR population[ti] OR school[ti] OR “community readiness”[tiab] OR “community preparedness”[tiab] OR “community capacity”[tiab]) AND 2000/01/01:2023/09/21[dp]
Scopus	(TITLE(capacity) OR TITLE(preparedness) OR TITLE(prepared) OR TITLE(readiness) OR TITLE(ready)) AND (TITLE(community) OR TITLE(communities) OR TITLE(social) OR TITLE(society) OR TITLE(societies) OR TITLE(organization) OR TITLE(organizations) OR TITLE (organizational) OR TITLE(context) OR TITLE(contextual) OR TITLE(public) OR TITLE(population) OR TITLE(school) OR TITLE-ABS(“community readiness”) OR TITLE-ABS(“community preparedness”) OR TITLE-ABS(“community capacity”)) AND (PUBYEAR > 1999 AND PUBYEAR < 2024)
WOS	(TI=preparedness OR TI=prepared OR TI=readiness OR TI=ready) AND (TI=community OR TI=communities OR TI=social OR TI=society OR TI=societies OR TI=organization OR TI=organizations OR TI=organizational OR TI=context OR TI=contextual OR TI=public OR TI=population OR TI=school OR TS= "community readiness" OR TS= "community preparedness" OR TS= "community capacity") AND PY=(2000-2023)
Pubpsych	(TI=capacity OR TI=preparedness OR TI=prepared OR TI=readiness OR TI=ready) AND (TI=community OR TI=communities OR TI=social OR TI=society OR TI=societies OR TI=organization OR TI=organizations OR TI=organizational OR TI=context OR TI=contextual OR TI=public OR TI=population OR TI=school OR AB= "community readiness" OR AB= "community preparedness" OR AB= "community capacity") AND PY>=2000 and PY<2024
PsycINFO	(TI Capacity OR TI Preparedness OR TI Prepared OR TI Readiness OR TI Ready) AND (TI Community OR TI Communities OR TI Social OR TI Society OR TI Societies OR TI Organization OR TI Organizations OR TI Organizational OR TI Context OR TI Contextual OR TI Public OR TI Population OR TI School OR AB “Community readiness” OR AB “Community preparedness” OR AB “community capacity”)
CINAHL	(TI Capacity OR TI Preparedness OR TI Prepared OR TI Readiness OR TI Ready) AND (TI Community OR TI Communities OR TI Social OR TI Society OR TI Societies OR TI Organization OR TI Organizations OR TI Organizational OR TI Context OR TI Contextual OR TI Public OR TI Population OR TI School OR AB “Community readiness” OR AB “Community preparedness” OR AB “community capacity”)
PROQUEST	(TI(capacity) OR TI(preparedness) OR TI(prepared) OR TI(readiness) OR TI(ready)) AND (TI(community) OR TI(communities) OR TI(social) OR TI(society) OR TI(societies) OR TI(organization) OR TI(organizations) OR TI(organizational) OR TI(context) OR TI(contextual) OR TI(public) OR TI(population) OR TI(school) OR AB,TI(“community readiness”) OR AB,TI(“community preparedness”) OR AB,TI(“community capacity”))
ERIC	(title:capacity OR title:preparedness OR title:prepared OR title:readiness OR title:ready) AND (title:community OR title:communities OR title:social OR title:society OR title:societies OR title:organization OR title:organizations OR title:organizational OR title:context OR title:contextual OR title:public OR title:population OR title:school OR abstract: "community readiness" OR abstract: "community preparedness" OR abstract: "community capacity")

Appendix 3: The readiness stage of included studies based on the CRM (n=27)

Study	Total community readiness stage (score)	^a Dimension-specific community readiness stages						^b Quality assessment score
		Community efforts	community knowledge of the efforts	Leadership	Community climate	Community knowledge of the issue	Resources	
Articles								
Findholt, 2007, (24)	1. No awareness (1.6)	*ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	9
Alcócer Alfaro, 2013 (23)	2. Denial/ Resistance (ND)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	10
Millar, 2013 (39)	2. Denial/ Resistance (2.66)	Preplanning/4 €(4.77)	Denial/2 (2.95)	Denial/2 (2.99)	Vague awareness/3 (3.26)	Denial/2 (2.17)	Vague awareness/3 (3.56)	11
Harris, 2019 (25)	2. Denial/ Resistance (2.9±0.50)	Preplanning/4 ‡(4.6±1.9)	Vague awareness/3 (3.0±0.20)	Denial/2 (2.7±0.70)	Denial/2 (2.8±0.40)	Denial/2 (2.4±0.40)	Denial/2 (2.9±0.9)	11
Pradeilles, 2016 (45)	2. Denial/ Resistance (2.57±0.76)	Denial/2 (2.3±0.92)	No awareness/1 (1.7±0.51)	Denial/2 (2.41±0.78)	Denial/2 (2.0±0.64)	Vague awareness/3 (3.2±0.51)	Vague awareness/3 (3.77±0.28)	12
Frerichs, 2012 (33)	3. Vague awareness (3.29)	Preparation/5 (5.96)	Vague awareness/3 (3.07)	Denial/2 (2.71)	Denial/2 (2.51)	Denial/2 (2.28)	Vague awareness/3 (3.22)	10
Johnson, 2017 (32)	3. Vague awareness (3.7±0.5)	ND	Vague awareness/3 (3.7±1.15)	Vague awareness/3 (3.42±0.55)	Denial/2 (2.97±0.67)	Denial/2 (2.45±0.58)	Denial/2 (2.75±0.88)	10
Boukarim, 2018 (26)	3. Vague awareness (3.16±0.57)	ND	Denial/2 (2.73±0.69)	Preplanning/4 (4.0±0.70)	Denial/2 (2.74±1.08)	Denial/2 (2.91±1.02)	Vague awareness/3 (3.51±0.58)	11
John, 2017 (31)	3. Vague awareness (3.68±0.35)	Preplanning/4 (4.1±0.8)	Vague awareness/3 (3.52±0.75)	Vague awareness/3 (3.6±0.8)	Vague awareness/3 (3.74±0.64)	Vague awareness/3 (3.14±0.48)	Preplanning/4 (4.02±0.67)	11
		Overall CR in 22 rural communities in six western USA states (HEAL MAPPS Study) extracted from oregonstate.edu: Oregon: Bonanza (stage 3), Chiloquin (stage 3), Clatskanie (stage 4), Estacada (between stage 3 & 4), Molalla (stage 3), Rainier (stage 4) Colorado: Fleming (between stages 2 & 3), Ignacio (between stages 3 & 4), Leadville (between stages 3 & 4), Wray (stage 4) Idaho: Fruitland (stage 3), Grangeville (stage 3), Preston (between stages 3 & 4) Nevada: Caliente (between stages 3 & 4), Carson (stage 4), Laughlin (stage 3), Wells (stage 3) New Mexico: Tucumcari (between stages 3 & 4) Washington: Connell (stage3), Kalama (stage3), Port Townsend (stage4)						
Ehlers, 2013 (34)	3. Vague awareness (3.26±0.97)	Preplanning/4 (4.19±1.78)	Denial/2 (2.9±1.02)	Vague awareness/3	Denial/2 (2.97±1.37)	Denial/2 (2.87±1.02)	Vague awareness/3	12

				(3.09±1.32)			(3.58±1.05)	
Islam, 2019 (42)	3. Vague awareness (3.0±1.02)	Preparation/5 (5±1.79)	Preplanning/4 (4±0.56)	Vague awareness/3 (3±1.96)	Denial/2 (2±1.33)	Vague awareness/3 (3±0.97)	Vague awareness/3 (3±1.23)	11
Whelan, 2019 (40)	3. Vague awareness (3.49±0.47)	ND	Vague awareness/3 (3.13±1.49)	Preplanning/4 (4.25±1.01)	Vague awareness/3 (3.39±0.92)	Vague awareness/3 (3.61±1.46)	Vague awareness/3 (3.07±0.86)	11
Marks, 2019 (38)	3. Vague awareness (ND)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	11
Jensen, 2019 (29)	3. Vague awareness(3.6)	Preplanning/4 (4)	Vague awareness/3 (3.5)	Vague awareness/3 (3.5)	Preplanning/4 (4)	Vague awareness/3 (3.5)	Vague awareness/3 (3)	12
Lindsay, 2019 (30)	3. Vague awareness (3.7±0.2)	Preplanning/4 (4.3±0.4)	Vague awareness/3 (3.6±0.6)	Vague awareness/3 (3.6±0.5)	Vague awareness/3 (3.4±0.4)	Vague awareness/3 (3.0±0.0)	Preplanning/4 (4.0 ±0.1)	11
He, 2023 (43)	3. Vague awareness (3.63±1.14)	Preplanning/4 (4.75±1.99)	Vague awareness/3 (3.83±1.21)	Denial/2 (2.08±1.16)	Vague awareness/3 (3.50±1.10)	Vague awareness/3 (3.92±1.39)	Vague awareness/3 (3.67±1.47)	11
Schröder, 2023 (44)	3. Vague awareness (3.84±1.14)	ND	Vague awareness/3 (3.31)	Preplanning/4 (4.84)	Vague awareness/3 (3.90)	Vague awareness/3 (3.58)	Vague awareness/3 (3.84)	12
Sliwa, 2011 (35)	4. Preplanning (4.28±0.68)	Preparation/5 (5.64±0.96)	Vague awareness/3 (3.8±0.55)	Preplanning/4 (4.79±1.13)	Vague awareness/3 (3.11±0.64)	Vague awareness/3 (3.61±0.80)	Preplanning/4 (4.76±0.68)	9
Sheldon, 2016 (28)	4. Preplanning(4.3±0.5)	Initiation/6 (6.1±0.6)	Vague awareness/3 (3.5±0.5)	Preplanning/4 (4.6±1.0)	Vague awareness/3 (3.1±0.5)	Vague awareness/3 (3.5±0.5)	Preparation/5 (5.1±0.9)	10
Cyril, 2017 (36)	4. Preplanning (4.3±1.3)	Initiation/6 (6.7±1.0)	Preplanning/4 (4.1±1.1)	Preplanning/4 (4.7±2.2)	Denial/2 (2.9±1.2)	Vague awareness/3 (3.4±0.9)	Preplanning/4 (4.0±1.8)	11
Niknam, 2020 (46)	4. Preplanning (4.41±0.29)	Preplanning/4 (4.71±0.48)	Preplanning/4 (4.69±0.54)	Preplanning/4 (4.18±0.41)	Preplanning/4 (4.14±0.31)	Preplanning/4 (4.65±0.51)	Preplanning/4 (4.14±0.37)	12
Niknam, 2023 (47)	4. Preplanning (4.55±0.31)	Preplanning/4 (4.86±0.48)	Preplanning/4 (4.86±0.40)	Preplanning/4 (4.40±0.30)	Preplanning/4 (4.33±0.27)	Preplanning/4 (4.60±0.50)	Preplanning/4 (4.40±0.30)	12
Heath, 2020 (27)	4. Preplanning (4.77±0.28)	Initiation/6 (6.4±0.19)	Vague awareness/3 (3.77±0.77)	Preparation/5 (5.1±0.33)	Vague awareness/3 (3.63±0.45)	Preplanning/4 (4.27±0.22)	Preparation/5 (5.47±0.51)	11
Kesten, 2013 (41)	5. Preparation (5.91±1.36)	Stabilization/7 (7.14±1.20)	Preparation/5 (5.77±1.58)	Initiation/6 (6.77±1.66)	Preparation/5 (5.52±1.91)	Preparation/5 (5.11±1.17)	Preparation/5 (5.15±0.69)	12
Kostadinov, 2016 (37)	ND	ND	ND	Vague awareness/3 (3.51±0.82)	ND	ND	ND	10

Research poster								
John, 2016 (21)	3. Vague awareness (3.29±0.43)	ND	ND	ND	ND	Vague awareness/3 (3.33)	Preplanning/4 (4.38)	9
Included abstract without published article								
Fialkowski 2013 (22)	Alaska: Vague awareness American Samoa: Initiation Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Vague awareness Guam: Preparation Hawaii: Preplanning	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	10

*ND: Not determined; €Mean; ¢Mean±SD.

The scores are calculated based on the average scores for each community dimension across interviews, and the scores are finally rounded down to correspond to one of the nine stages of readiness

The scores are calculated from a 12-item checklist.