

## Joint APA/AACAP Position Statement on Mental Health, Children and Disasters

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2011  
Approved by the Assembly, November 2011

"Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees...These are...position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects..." – *APA Operations Manual*.

*Prepared by Stephen Cozza MD and Allan Chrisman MD, Co-Chairs, AACAP Disaster and Trauma Committee, Frederick J Stoddard Jr MD, Area I Trustee, APA Board of Trustees, Steven Cuffe MD, Chair, APA Council on Children, Adolescents and Their Families, and Amy Ursano MD, Member, Council on Children, Adolescents and Their Families.*

**T**he American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) strongly support the recommendations of the National Commission on Children and Disasters in 2010. APA and AACAP are committed to the promotion of child and family disaster mental health preparedness activities through joint research and training opportunities, as well as collaborative consultation with Federal, state and local organizations in their response efforts.