**Appendix C**

**Modification of the Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Scales**

**Guide to scoring**

**High quality:** minor weaknesses in one area

**Medium quality:** moderate weakness in one area or multiple minor weaknesses

**Low quality:** multiple moderate weaknesses in multiple areas or greater

**Quality assessment tool for pre-post studies**

**Selection**

Is the study sample truly/somewhat/not representative of the wider population of interest?

**Exposure**

The cohort has all been exposed to the disaster.

The cohort includes a variety of exposures and is not selective regarding exposure

**Outcome**

Is attrition/loss of cohort considered/taken into account?

Is there selective reporting of results?

**Quality assessment tool for studies with a control group**

**Selection**

Is the exposed sample truly/somewhat/not representative of the wider population of interest?

Is the selection process random, minimizing the risk of bias?

**Comparability**

Is the selection process for the control population random, minimizing the risk of bias?

Have adequate efforts been made to ensure the exposed and control populations are similar

**Exposure**

The exposed sample has all been exposed to the disaster and the control group have not been exposed to the disaster.

The exposed sample includes a variety of exposures and is not selective regarding exposure.

**Outcome**

Is there selective reporting of results?