



2020 Domestic Preparedness Poll Key Findings

Survey Administration

- Total sample size was 1,266 adults (aged 18+).
- Fieldwork was conducted by YouGov on behalf of Healthcare Ready and was undertaken between May 11 - 12, 2020.
- The survey was carried out online.
- The figures have been weighted and are representative of all US adults (aged 18+).
- Chi-square tests were conducted using SPSS to assess the relationship between variables.

Key findings

Disasters of Greatest Concern

- In 2020, Americans are still most concerned that a natural disaster will impact their community, however respondents are increasingly concerned about an exotic disease and common disease outbreak. Figure 1 displays the distribution of the types of disasters respondents are most concerned will affect their community, including:
 - 25% are most concerned a natural disaster will affect their community, a decrease of 12 percentage points compared to 2019 (37%).
 - 19% are most concerned that an outbreak of an exotic disease will affect their community, an increase of 15 percentage points compared to 2019 (4%).
- The Northeast is most concerned that an outbreak of an exotic disease (20%) and a commonly occurring disease (17%) will affect their community. The South is most concerned that a natural disaster will affect their community (34%). Figure 2 displays the distribution of disasters of concern by region in 2020.
 - In 2020, the Northeast Region of the US was significantly impacted by the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) as well as the [2019-2020 influenza season](#).
 - The South is at high risk of experiencing hurricanes and tornadoes. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2020 was the [deadliest year of tornadoes since 2011](#).
 - The association between region and disaster of concern is statistically significant; that is, each region is not concerned about the same disaster ($\chi^2 = 67.02$, p-value < .0001).
- Whites (28%), Hispanics (19%), and other (23%) are most concerned about a natural disaster and blacks are most concerned about an outbreak of an exotic disease (24%). Figure 3 displays the distribution of disasters of concern by race in 2020.



- The association between race and disaster of concern is statistically significant; that is, each race is not concerned about the same disaster ($\chi^2= 60.555$, p-value <.0001).
- Americans between 34-55 years (25%) and over 55 years (31%) are most concerned of a natural disaster. 18-34 years are most concerned of an outbreak of an exotic disease (19%). Figure 4 displays the distribution of disasters of concern by age group in 2020.
- The association between age and disaster of concern is statistically significant; that is, each age group is not concerned about the same disaster ($\chi^2= 57.21$, p-value <.0001).

Figure 1. Which one, if any, of the following types of disaster are you most concerned will affect your community?

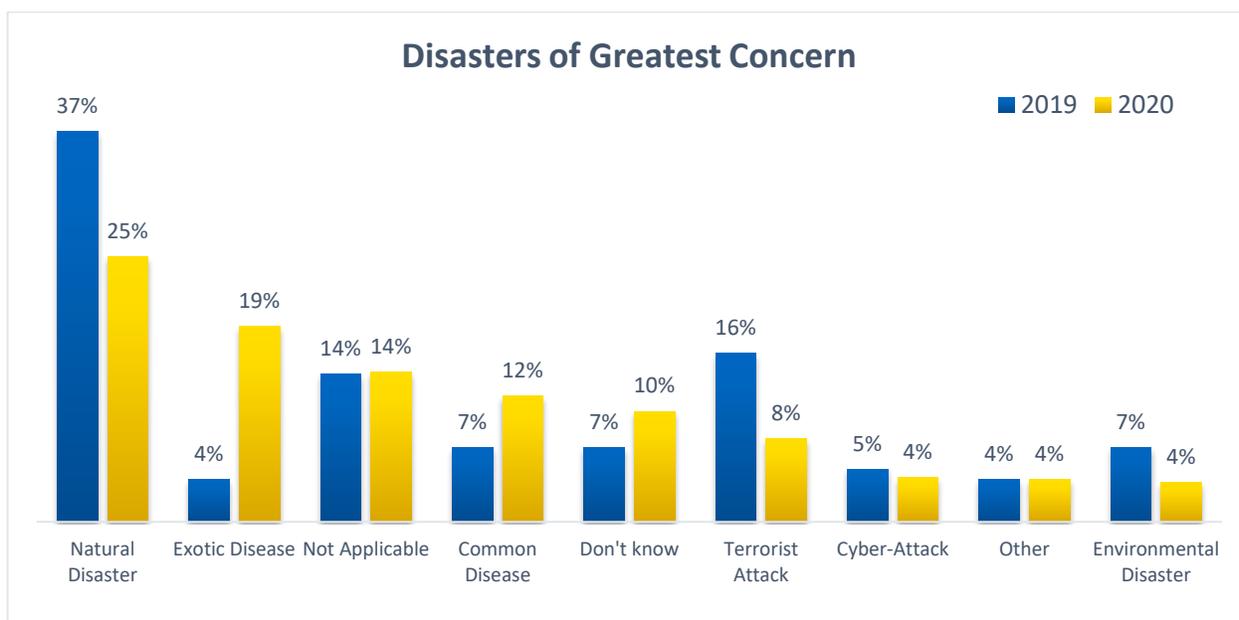




Figure 2. Disasters of greatest concern by region

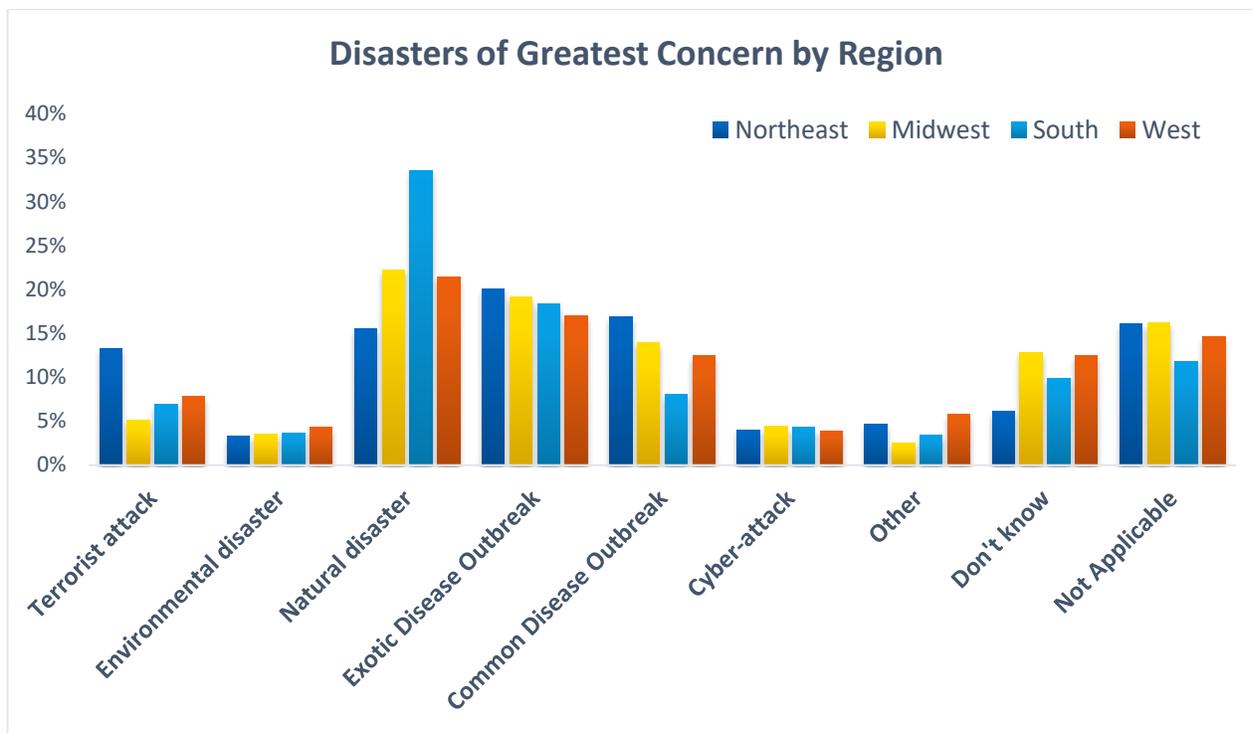


Figure 3. Disasters of greatest concern by race

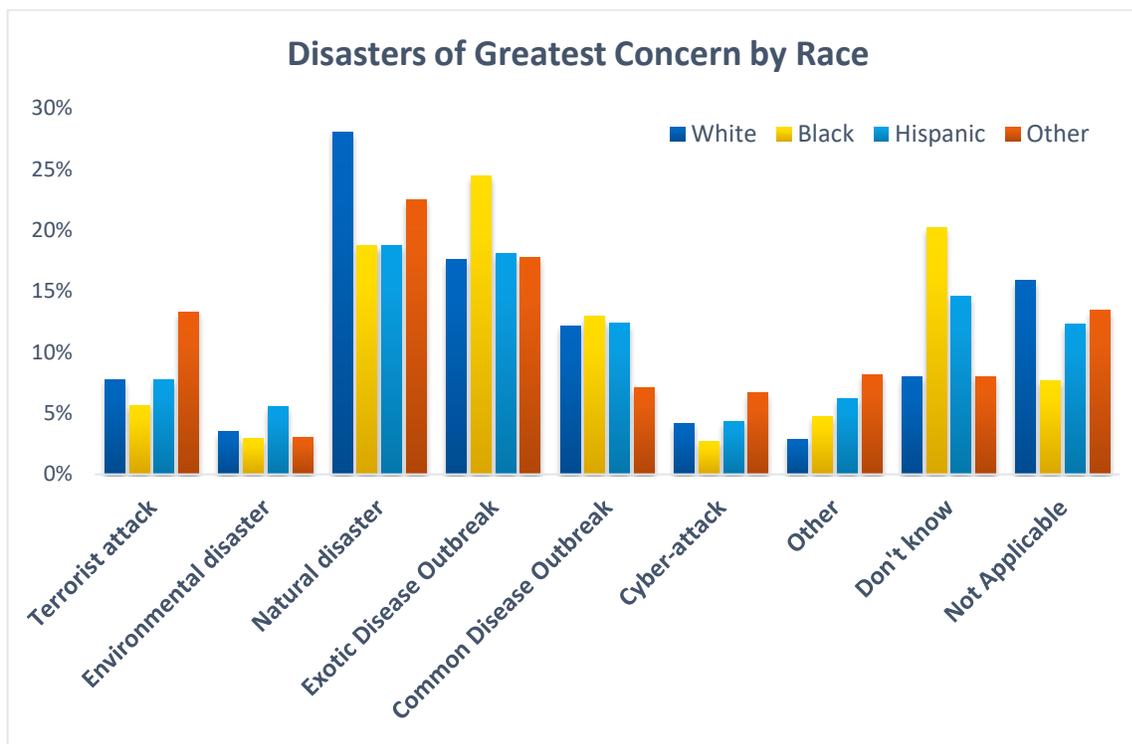
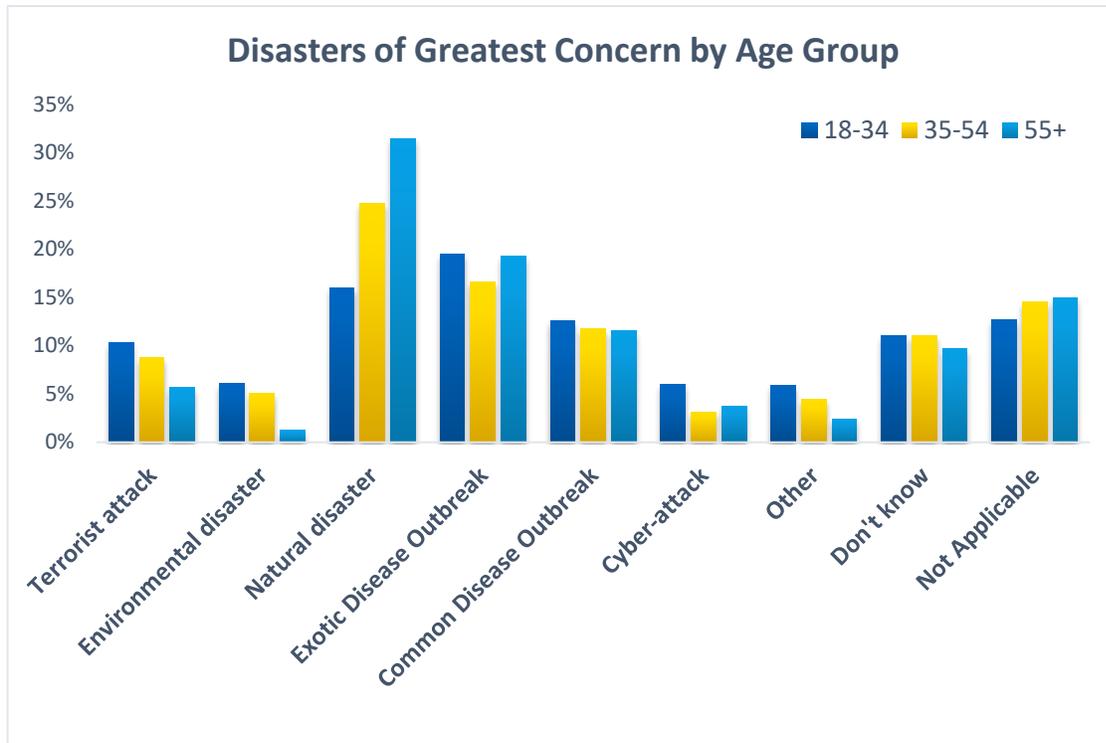




Figure 4. Disasters of greatest concern by age



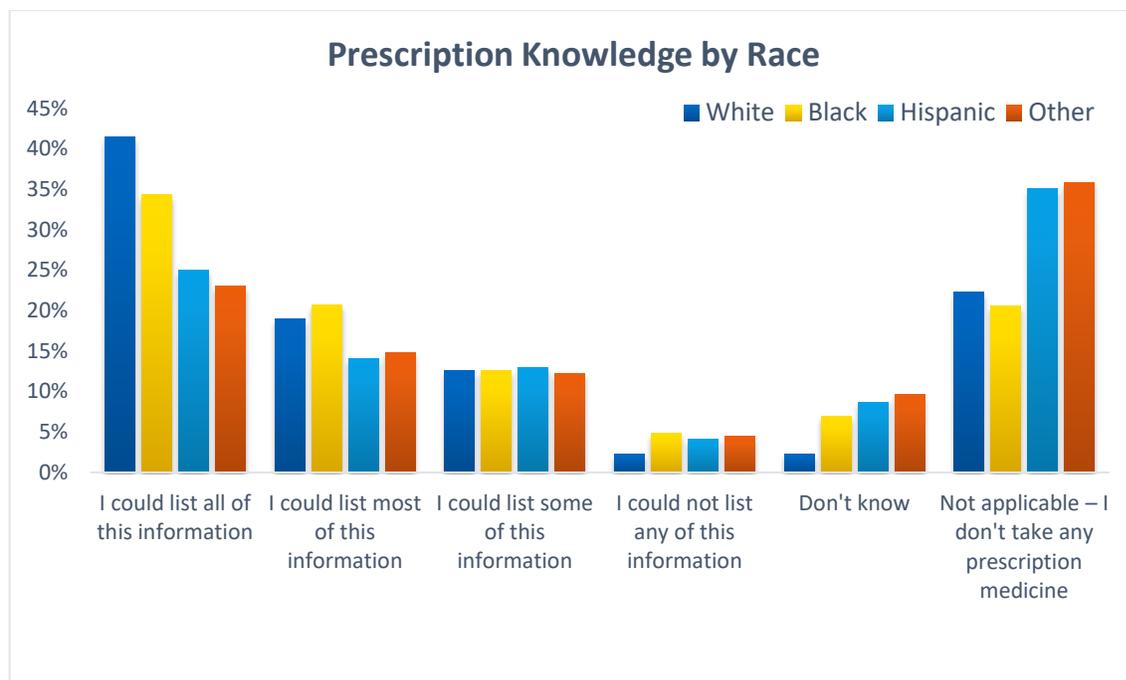
Prescription Knowledge

- Americans are less aware of their medical information in 2020 compared to 2019.
 - 37% said they could list all their medical information, including the type of prescription, the doctor who prescribed them, and the dose. This is a slight decrease from 40% in 2019.
 - 18% said they could list most of their medical information, a decrease from 20% in 2019.
 - More respondents reported only being able to list some of their medications (up from 10% in 2019 to 13% in 2020).
 - There was no statistically significant association between region and prescription knowledge; that is, each US region has the same level of prescription knowledge ($\chi^2= 9.069$, p-value =.874).
- 42% of Whites, 34% of blacks, 25% of Hispanics, and 23% of other report that they can list all information related to their medications or medical supplies. Figure 5 displays prescription knowledge by race in 2020.
 - The association between race and prescription knowledge is statistically significant; that is,



each race does not have the same level of prescription knowledge ($\chi^2= 62.778$, p-value $<.0001$).

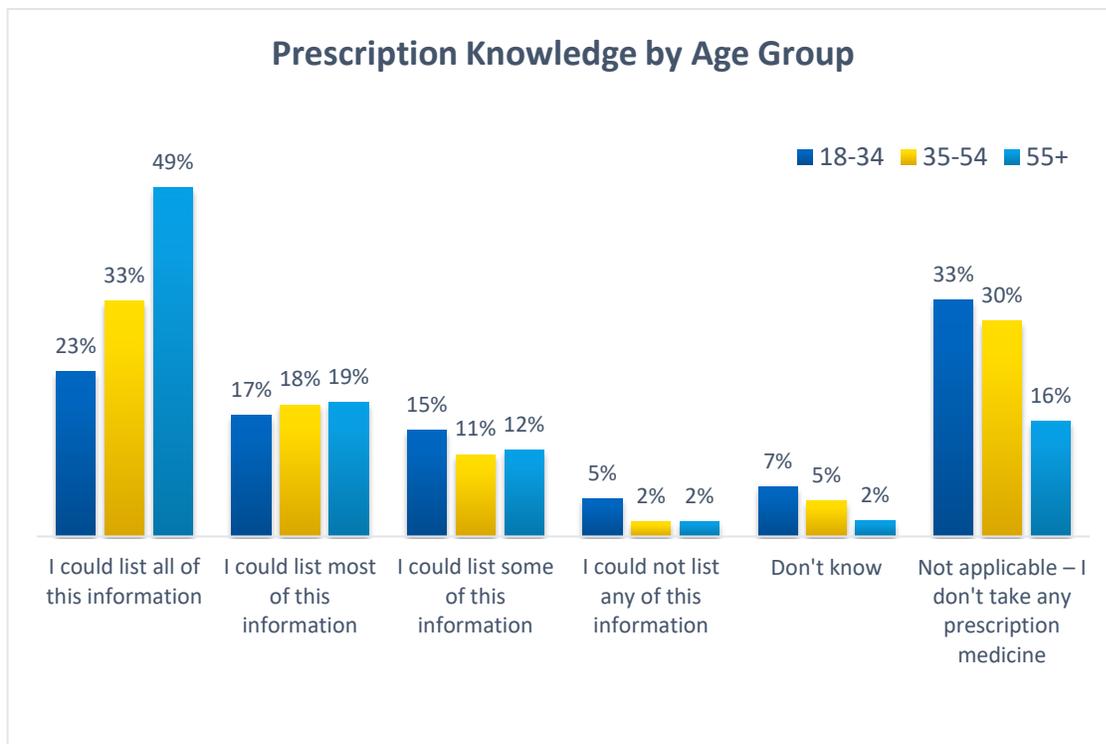
Figure 5. Prescription knowledge by race



- 49% of those 55+ years, 33% of those 34-55 years, and 23% of those 18-34 years can list all information related to their medications or medical devices. Figure 6 displays prescription knowledge by age group in 2020.
 - The association between age and prescription knowledge is statistically significant; that is, each age group does not have the same level of prescription knowledge ($\chi^2= 93.217$, p-value $<.0001$).



Figure 6. Prescription knowledge by age

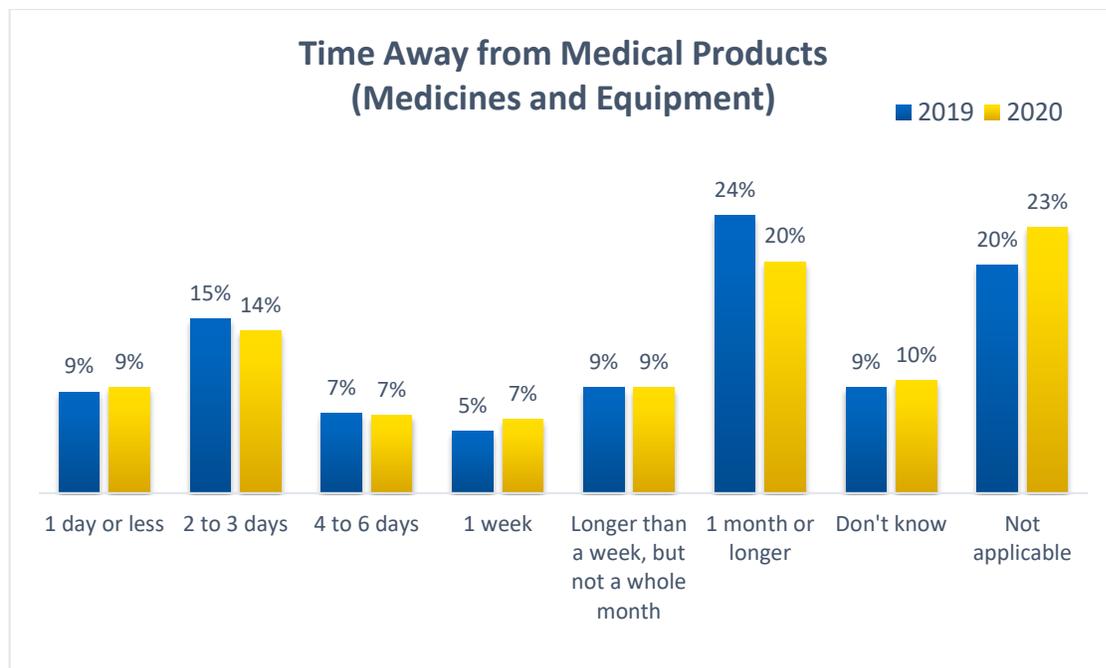


Time Away from Medicines

- 37% of Americans can only go 1 week or less without their medications or medical devices before facing a personal medical crisis. Figure 7 displays the distribution of the length of time respondents can go without their medications or medical in 2019 and 2020.
- 46% of Americans say they could not go longer than 1 month without their medicines.



Figure 7. Time Away from Medicines 2019 vs. 2020



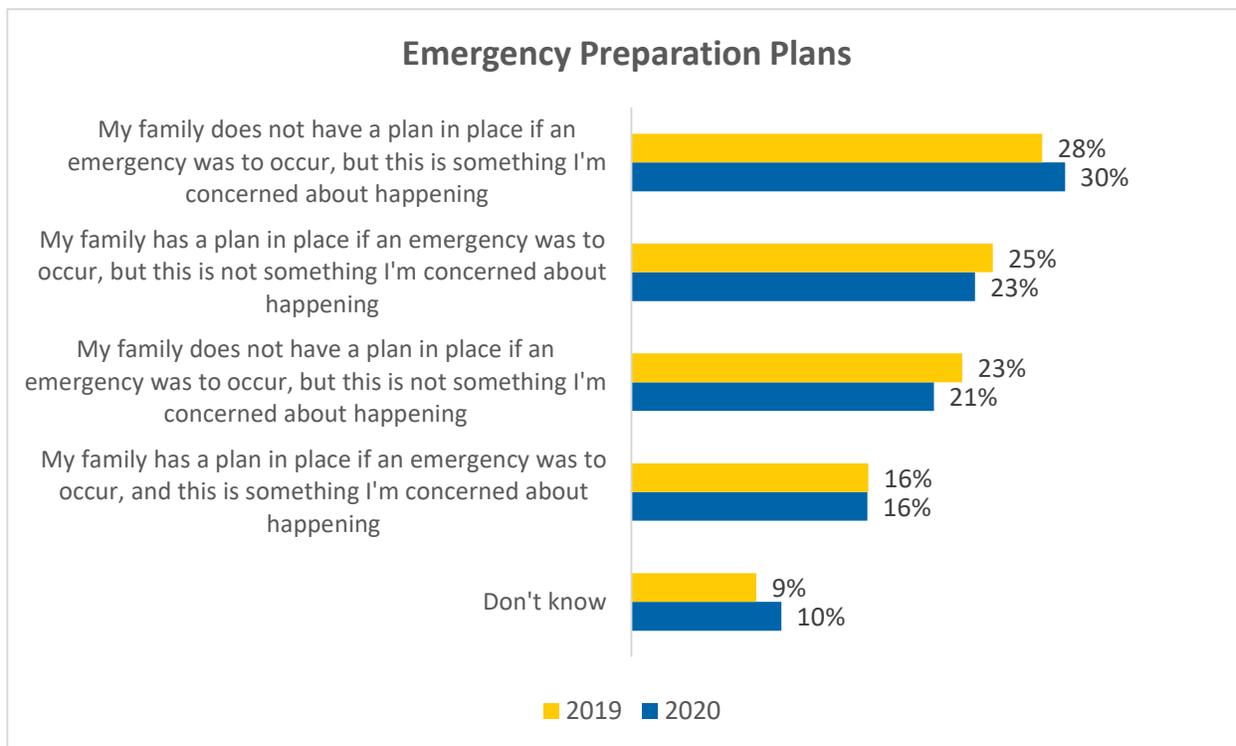
- Older respondents could go the least amount of time without their prescription medicines. 42% of those aged 55+, 37% of those aged 34-55, and 30% of those aged 18-34 could not go longer than a week without their medicines.
 - The association between age and time away from medicines is statistically significant; that is, each age group does not have the same maximum level of time they can go without their medicines ($\chi^2= 43.68$, p-value <.0001).

Emergency Plan Preparedness

- More Americans feel a disaster will impact them or their family than did last year, but most do not have an emergency plan in place, nor are they concerned about having one. Figure 8 displays the distribution of emergency preparation plans in 2019 and 2020, including:
 - Compared to 2019, there was no significant change in respondents' preparation plans or concern for an emergency in 2020.
 - Less than half of Americans have an emergency plan in place (40%) and less than half are concerned about an emergency (46%).



Figure 8. Emergency preparation plans 2019 vs. 2020

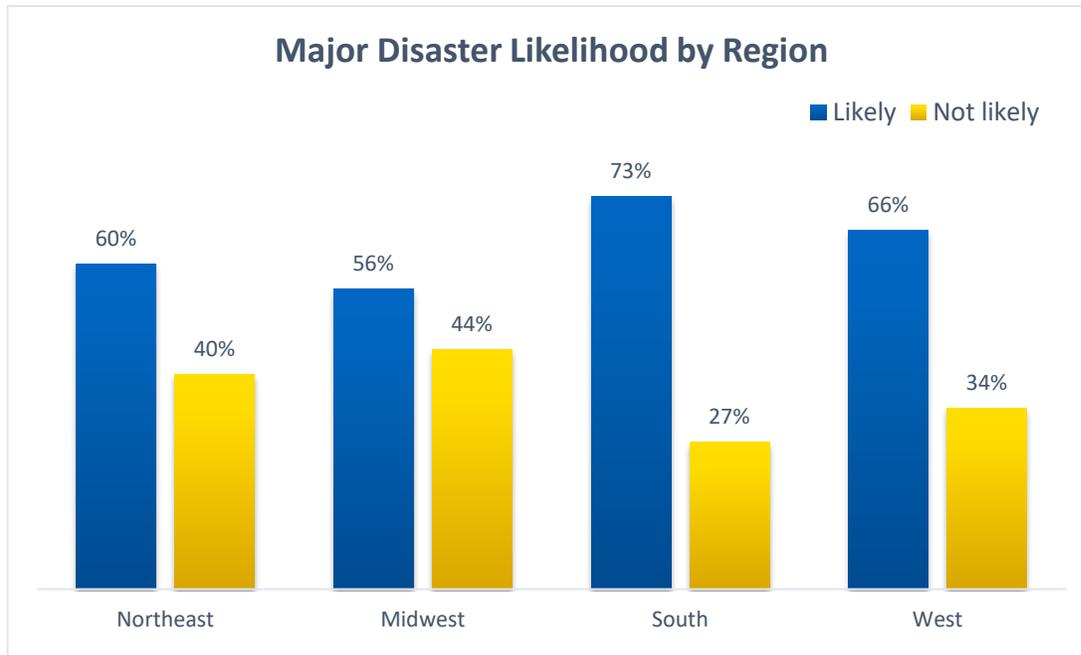


Major Disaster Likelihood

- In 2020, 65% of Americans thought it is likely that a major disaster will impact them or their family in the next 5 years, an increase from 54% in 2019.
- The South had the highest proportion of respondents who believe it is likely that a major disaster will impact their community (73%). The Midwest had the lowest proportion (56%). Figure 9 displays the distribution of the likelihood of a major disaster by region.
 - The association between region and likelihood of a major disaster is statistically significant; that is, each region does not have the same beliefs towards whether they will be affected by a major disaster in the next 5 years ($\chi^2 = 25.186$, p-value < .0001).



Figure 9. Likelihood of major disaster by region



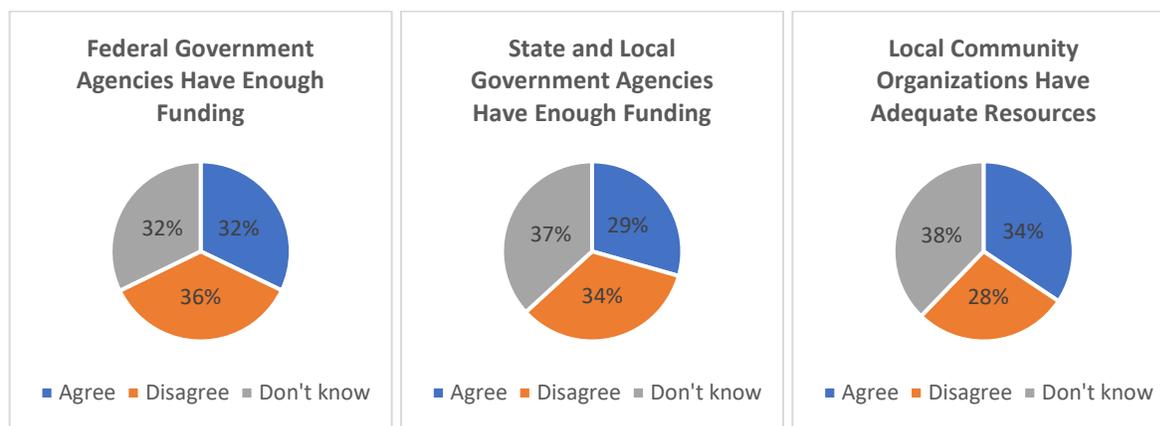
Government and Community Organization Preparedness and Response

- More respondents disagree that federal agencies, state governments, and local governments have enough funding for disaster preparation and recovery than those that agree. Figure 10 displays the how Americans view government and community preparedness and response abilities.
 - 32% agree that federal agencies, like FEMA or HHS, have enough funding for disaster preparation and recovery.
 - Those aged 18-34 years (36%), Blacks (39%), those with *at most* a high school education (35%), and Americans in the Northeast (39%) were most likely to agree that federal agencies have enough funding to prepare communities for disasters.
 - 29% agree that their state and local agencies have enough funding for disaster preparation and recovery.
 - Those aged 18-34 years (34%), race categorized as other (34%), and Americans in the Northeast (32%) and West (32%) were most likely to agree that their state and local agencies have enough funding for disaster preparation and recovery.
 - More respondents (34%) agree that local community organizations are prepared and resourced to assist their community during an emergency than agree that state and local public entities have enough funding for response and recovery (29%).



- The South (36%) and the Northeast (36%) are most likely to agree that local community organizations have the resources they need to assist their community members during an emergency.
- While there is no significant difference by income level in views towards community organizations preparedness and ability to assist, all income levels have a higher proportion of those who agree that local community organizations are prepared and have the resources they need than those that disagree.

Figure 10. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding entities' ability to prepare and/or assist communities in a disaster response?

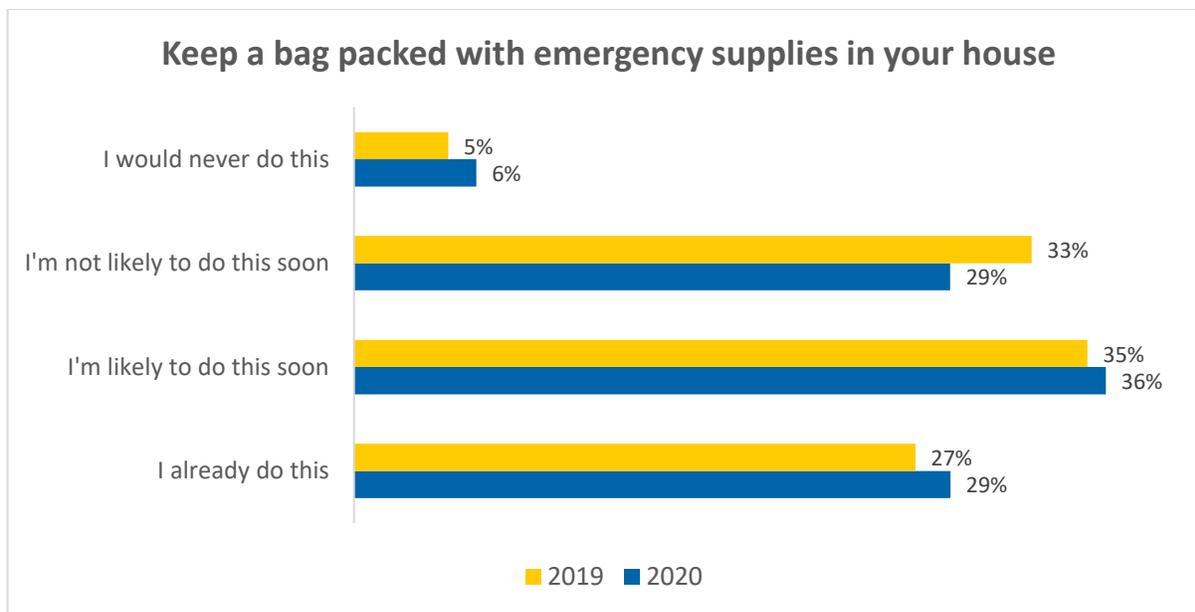


Likelihood of Preparedness Actions

- When it comes to preparedness behaviors, Americans are more likely to keep cash on hand (47%) than a copy of their medical records (37%) or a bag packed with emergency supplies (29%).
- In 2020, Americans were slightly more likely to keep a bag packed with emergency supplies in their house compared to 2019, increasing from 27% to 29%. Figure 11 displays the distribution of the likelihood of keeping a bag packed with emergency supplies.
 - Blacks were least likely to keep a bag packed with emergency supplies in 2020 (22%), a decrease by 4% since 2019.
 - In 2020, Americans in the West were most likely to keep a bag packed with emergency supplies (35%), an increase by 3% since 2019. The Midwest was least likely to keep a bag packed with emergency supplies (24%), an increase by 2% since 2019.



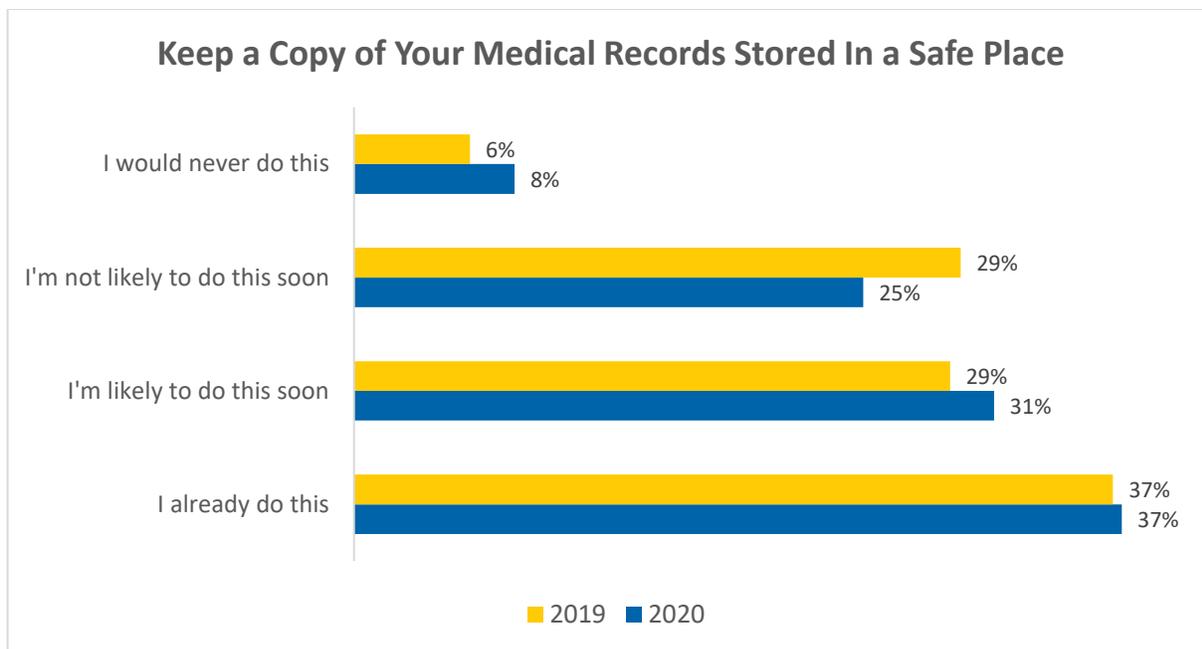
Figure 11. How likely, if at all, are you to take the following preparedness actions in the future?



- Figure 12 displays the distribution of the likelihood of keeping a copy of medical records stored in a safe place. In 2020, Americans were about as likely to keep a copy of their medical records stored in a safe place (or likely to do this soon) compared to 2019. However, there was also a 2% increase in the number of Americans who said they would never keep a copy of their medical records stored in a safe place from 2019 to 2020.
 - In 2020, those older than 55 years were the most likely to keep a copy of their medical record (45%), an increase by 2% in 2019. The youngest age group, 18-34 years, were least likely to keep a copy of their medical record (30%), a decrease by 3% since 2019.



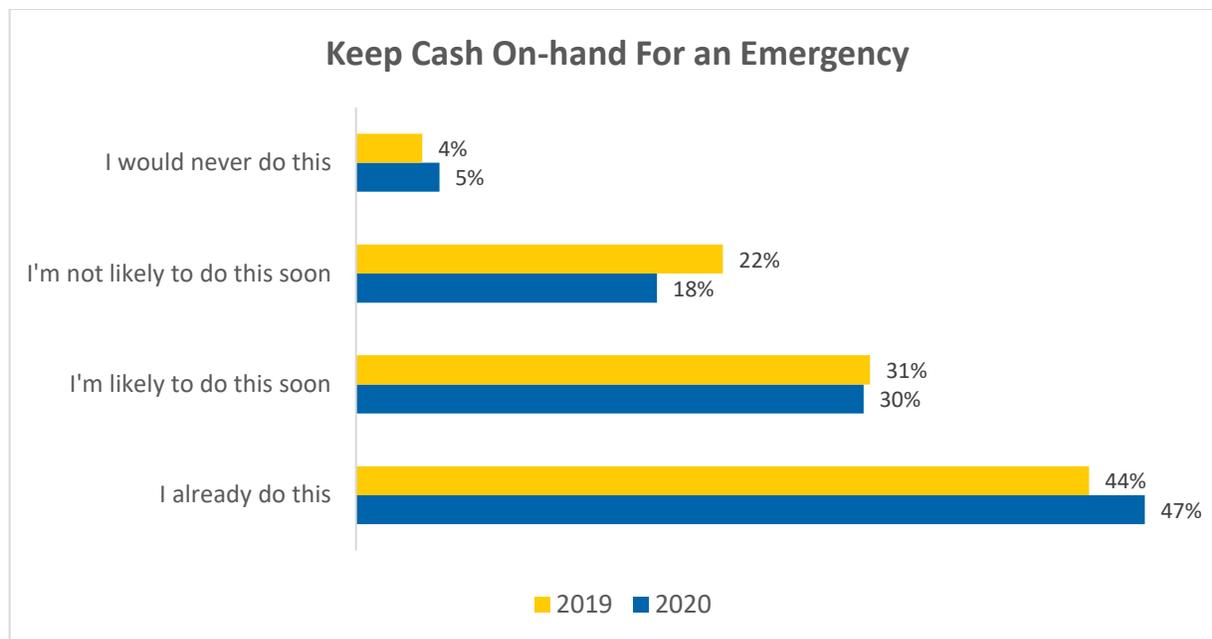
Figure 12. How likely, if at all, are you to take the following preparedness actions in the future?



- 47% of Americans are likely to keep cash on-hand for an emergency, an increase by 3% since 2019. Figure 13 displays the distribution of the likelihood of keeping cash on-hand in 2019 and 2020.
 - In 2020, those older than 55 years were the most likely to keep cash on hand (53%), an increase by 3% since 2019. All age groups saw an increase in the proportion of respondents who keep cash on-hand for an emergency from 2019 to 2020.
 - Whites are most likely to keep cash on-hand (50%), an increase by 4% since 2019. Hispanics are least likely to keep cash on hand (39%). Blacks saw an increase of 7% in the proportion of respondents who report keeping cash on-hand in 2020 compared to 2019.
 - Those in the highest income bracket (\$80k+) are most likely to keep cash on-hand (55%), a decrease by 1% since 2019. Those in the lowest income bracket are least likely to keep cash on-hand (42%), an increase by 9% since 2019.



Figure 13. How likely, if at all, are you to take the following preparedness actions in the future?



Discussion

In 2020, Americans are most concerned that a natural disaster will affect their community compared to other types of disasters. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many Americans to become increasingly concerned about infectious disease outbreaks. Emergency management organizations are encouraged to take an all-hazards approach to preparedness and response to strengthen their ability to efficiently respond to different events.

The 2020 preparedness poll found statistically significant differences in preparedness behaviors, prescription knowledge, and maximum time away from medicines by multiple demographic factors including geographic region, race, age, and income. Respondents who fell in the lowest income bracket and were less likely to report practicing preparedness behaviors, including keeping emergency supplies in their house and keeping cash on-hand. There is opportunity to address these disparities in pre-disaster planning to help mitigate adverse health impacts during and after an event.

In low-income communities, emergency management organizations must invest in disaster planning initiatives to ensure communities are prepared for any emergency. Investing in preparedness will help strengthen and build community resilience. Preparedness and response policies and procedures should also be implemented through an equity lens, so disparities are not exacerbated during a disaster, especially in 2020 when the health system is already strained due to the COVID-19 pandemic.