



## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON HEALTH AND DISABILITY (AAHD) RESEARCH BRIEF VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2 2020

### AAHD COVID-19 & DISABILITY SURVEY: KEY FINDINGS ON PANDEMIC INFORMATION & IMPACT

#### Introduction

People with disabilities experience unique risks during disasters, epidemics, and pandemics that can impact health and health care. *Yet, we do not know the full impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities.*

#### Research Approach

AAHD conducted the COVID-19 and Disability Survey between April 17 and May 1, 2020, and 2,469 adults with disabilities responded, including adults with cognition disabilities (58%), mobility disabilities (27%), vision disabilities (8%), and hearing disabilities (7%).

#### Main Findings- COVID-19 Information & Impact

##### Ranking of Sources of COVID-19 Information

- 31% of respondents said Television was the most important source of information, followed by the Internet (24%), and Health Care Providers and Relatives, both at 15%.
- Television (25%), the Internet (25%), and Social Media (13%) were selected as the second-most important sources of information.
- Social Media (16%), Television (14%) and the Internet (13%) were selected as the third-most important source of information about COVID-19.
- **Health Care Providers ranked low as sources of information about COVID-19 (15%-Most Important; 9%-Second Most Important; and 12%-Third Most Important).**

##### Following COVID-19 Recommendations

- 95% of respondents were following COVID-19 public health recommendations.
- **Only 5% of respondents said they were not following COVID-19 recommendations, but that still means over 100 respondents were potentially endangering others!**

##### COVID-19 Testing

- 4% of respondents had received a test for COVID-19.
- **96% had not received a test.**
- **Top reason for not getting a test (when needed): No Test Available (13%).**

##### Anxiety & Depression During the Pandemic

- 76% of respondents feeling anxious or depressed had emotional support or services.
- **24% of respondents were without emotional support or services.**

##### Conclusion

- **Population-based research is critically needed to document these issues nationally.**

Full results are available at: <https://www.aahd.us/initiatives/dissemination/covid-19-disability-survey/>.

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