



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON HEALTH AND DISABILITY (AAHD) RESEARCH BRIEF
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AAHD COVID-19 & DISABILITY SURVEY: KEY FINDINGS ON PANDEMIC INFORMATION & IMPACT FOR
PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING**

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 online survey between April 17 and May 1, 2020 and 2,469 adults with disabilities responded, including 182 adults (7%) that were Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Main Findings- COVID-19 Information & Impact

Ranking of Sources of COVID-19 Information

- 34% of respondents said the Internet was the most important source of information, followed by Television (26%) and Health Care Providers and Relatives (21%).
- The Internet (28%), Television (25%), and Social Media (19%) were selected as the second-most important sources of information.
- Social Media (20%), Television (19%), and the Internet (16%) were selected as the third-most important source of information about COVID-19.
- **Health Care Providers ranked fairly low as sources of information about COVID-19 (21%-Most Important; 11%-Second Most Important; and 10%-Third Most Important).**

Following COVID-19 Recommendations

- 96% of respondents were following COVID-19 public health recommendations.
- **4% of respondents said they were not following COVID-19 recommendations, but that still means some 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 reasons for not getting a test (when needed): No Test Available (16%) & No Sign Language Interpreters (9%).**

Anxiety & Depression During the Pandemic

- 64% of respondents feeling anxious or depressed had emotional support or services.
- **36% of respondents were without emotional support or services.**

Conclusion

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

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

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