



**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 WITH CHRONIC PAIN, DIFFICULTY SLEEPING, MEDICATION SIDE EFFECTS, OR OTHER**

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. Adults with chronic pain, difficulties sleeping, medication side effects, or other made up 8% of the sample (194 persons).

Main Findings- COVID-19 Information & Impact

Ranking of Sources of COVID-19 Information

- 30% of respondents said the Television was the most important source of information, followed by the Internet (27%) and Health Care Providers (15%).
- Television (28%), the Internet (26%), and Social Media (14%) were second-most important.
- Social Media (26%), the Internet (15%), and Health Care Providers (15%) were selected as the third-most important source of information about COVID-19.
- **Future messaging should consider the role of Television even in an internet age.**

Following COVID-19 Recommendations

- 96% of respondents were following COVID-19 public health recommendations.
- **Only 4% of respondents said they were not following COVID-19 recommendations, but that still means some respondents were potentially endangering others!**

COVID-19 Testing

- 8% of respondents had received a test for COVID-19.
- **92% had not received a test.**
- **Top reasons for not getting a test when needed: No Test Available (13%), Other (6%), & Health Care Provider would not approve (5%).**

Anxiety & Depression During the Pandemic

- 70% of respondents feeling anxious or depressed had emotional support or services.
- **30% 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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