



**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 INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY, AUTISM, EPILEPSY, OR BRAIN INJURY**

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 serious difficulties concentrating, remembering, or making decisions due to Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy, or Brain Injury made up 38% of the sample (930 persons).

Main Findings- COVID-19 Information & Impact

Ranking of Sources of COVID-19 Information

- 32% of respondents said Relatives were the most important source of information, followed by the Television (29%) and the Internet (15%).
- Television (27%), the Internet (20%), and Relatives (14%) were second-most important sources.
- Television (15%), and Social Media, Friends, and Relatives (all 13%) were selected as the third-most important sources of information about COVID-19.
- **Future messaging should consider Television and Relatives in providing information.**

Following COVID-19 Recommendations

- 93% of respondents were following COVID-19 public health recommendations.
- **Only 7% of respondents said they were not following COVID-19 recommendations, but that still means some respondents were potentially endangering others!**

COVID-19 Testing

- 2% of respondents had received a test for COVID-19.
- **98% had not received a test!**
- **Top reasons for not getting a test when needed: No Test Available (13%), Health Care Provider would not approve (4%), and Other (4%).**

Anxiety & Depression During the Pandemic

- 80% of respondents feeling anxious or depressed had emotional support or services.
- **20% 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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