



**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 SERIOUS DIFFICULTY READING, WRITING, OR COMMUNICATING**

**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 difficulties reading, writing, or communicating made up 1% of the sample (34 persons).

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

**Ranking of Sources of COVID-19 Information**

- 33% of respondents said Television was the most important source of information, followed by the Internet (30%), and Health Care Providers (15%).
- Television (37%), the Internet (26%), and Health Care providers, Print Media, Friends, and Other (all at 7%) were chosen as second-most important sources.
- Television, the Internet, and Social Media (all at 15%) were selected as the third-most important sources of information about COVID-19.
- **Future messaging should use Television and Health Care Providers in providing information.**

**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**

- 7% of respondents had received a test for COVID-19.
- **93% had not received a test!**
- **Top reasons for not getting a test when needed: No Test Available (4%), Health Care Provider Wouldn't Approve (4%), Inaccessible Information (4%), and Other (4%).**

**Anxiety & Depression During the Pandemic**

- 79% of respondents feeling anxious or depressed had emotional support or services.
- **21% 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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