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Resilience Report

Brief insights and the latest innovations in emergency management and health security.

Summarizing the 2023 National Preparedness Report



FEMA published the [2023 National Preparedness Report \(NPR\)](#) in early December, and it marks the agency's 12th report summarizing the state of the nation's emergency preparedness. The [2022 National Household Survey on Disaster Preparedness](#), the National Stakeholder Preparedness Review (National SPR), and SLTT Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) and Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR) submissions inform the Report. It also considers open-source data. Ultimately, the NPR spotlights key findings, progress, and recommendations for improvement. The Report also pinpoints four focus areas/[core capabilities](#) to further explore: Fire Management and Suppression, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction, and Public Health, Healthcare, and EMS.

What you should know: The 59-page NPR synthesizes national preparedness and emergency management trends that stand alone yet also intersect. This includes depicting communities' perceived most challenging threats and hazards, with the five most common

selections in THIRAs/SPRs being cyber attack, pandemic, flooding, active shooter, and earthquake. The Report also reinforces what emergency managers at all levels know - disasters continue to increase in "frequency, severity, and cost." We encourage you to read the full Report! Here are a few trends:

- **Building code adoption is spotlighted as a significant factor to compounding risk and increased costs from natural hazards:** The decentralized approach for building code adoptions means that the federal government lacks authority for enforcement. It instead rests on SLTT governments, and there is inconsistency that leaves millions vulnerable in the face of a disaster. FEMA recommends that hazard-resilient building codes are adopted and smart land use promoted to reduce risk as the country faces rising sea levels and flooding, storms, wildfires, earthquakes, and more. In the Report, FEMA provides management opportunities across all levels of government as well as non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and individuals/households.
- **Communities in the Western U.S. report being further away from their capability goals than communities in the Northeast and South,** particularly in areas such as long-term housing, community sheltering, and relocation assistance. This is a major risk considering the Western U.S. states' elevated levels of social vulnerability due to high population density along coastlines and high expected annual losses from hazards such as floods and earthquakes.
- **Mass Care Services is considered a high priority capability across communities but has received significantly less investment than other core capabilities.** Communities also reported lacking capacity in the Housing and Natural and Cultural Resources core capabilities. Building community capacity for both short-term sheltering and long-term disaster recovery should be an increased area of focus for grant investments and planning.
- **Communities can leverage quantitative data on risk to inform emergency management planning and capability building.** Free tools like the [National Risk Index](#), the [Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool](#), and the [Climate Risk and Resilience Portal](#) allow communities to visualize current and future hazard risk alongside key social vulnerability indicators.
- **Individual and household preparedness capabilities have declined since the COVID-19 pandemic.** In [FEMA's National Household Survey results from 2017-2020](#), a greater percentage of respondents indicated that they had taken three or more preparedness actions than this year's results. In 2020, 68% of adults had pursued three or more preparedness actions. In 2022, the percentage fell to 55%. The pandemic may have altered individuals' perceived readiness for emergencies or led to a decline in household resources available to prepare. Survey results indicate potentially reduced capacity for preparedness at the individual and household level, which impacts community preparedness.
- **Many regions of the U.S. are experiencing hotter and more intense wildfires, driven by the effects of prolonged drought and climate changes.** More than 46 million individuals are vulnerable to significant wildfire exposure. Certain populations, such as individuals with AFN and individuals with limited English proficiency, are at increased risk during wildfires. Communities should develop evacuation plans that include the needs of vulnerable populations and accessible public alerting policies. Furthermore, communities should advocate for stricter building codes and zoning across residential developments and commercial power infrastructure, to include mandatory use of fire-adapted materials.
- **Increasing capacity of public health, healthcare, and emergency medical services should continue to be a high priority for communities.** Climate change can increase the likelihood of future pandemics and reduce overall air quality, leading to increased demand for respiratory care and health services. The persistent shortage of healthcare staff compounds these challenges. Communities should leverage federal grants to increase hospital capacity and address staffing

needs at public health departments. Additionally, communities should strengthen partnerships with public health officials and emergency management counterparts to ensure effective coordination during health-related emergencies.

In the News



GAO Reports Across the Industry

Several GAO Reports from the emergency management, health security, and counterterrorism fields have been released over recent weeks. This includes a report about [federal agencies' cybersecurity posture](#), a report about the [SBA's disaster loan program and how it affects underserved communities](#), and a report on the [National Biosurveillance Integration Center's ability to assess results](#). Read more GAO Reports in the link below.

[Read More](#)



#WinterReady Campaign

Last month, FEMA launched its first [#WinterReady campaign](#) to urge the nation to prepare for extreme cold and winter weather. The campaign reflects that harsh winters are increasingly impacting a large portion of the U.S., including communities that do not traditionally experience winter weather. The campaign seeks to provide preparation steps for people to take that are easy and low-cost. It also reinforces safety tips for the holidays - including cooking and decorations.

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COVID-19 Implications Continue

Implications from COVID-19 continue to be explored across topics. Here's a rundown of some of the latest: [HHS established the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Long COVID](#), Brown University researchers released a [systematic review of COVID-19 misinformation interventions](#), and [life expectancy in the U.S. rose in 2022](#), but researchers say these gains are not enough to compensate for years of life lost to the virus. Read on for more COVID-19 news and studies.

[Read More](#)

The Fun Stuff



Happy Holidays to You and Yours!

CONSTANT wishes a Happy Holidays to our readers and their families. As we get deeper into the holiday season, here are some [quick recipes everyone will love](#), some [holiday gift ideas for last-minute shoppers](#), and [holiday activities to do at home or out in the community](#).

Playoffs for CFB and the NFL

The CFB Playoff committee's decision to [exclude Florida State](#) continues to be controversial as we also get closer to the playoffs for the NFL. Highlights of NFL Week 14 include the Cowboys vs. the Eagles. Here's how [performances are being ranked](#) by CBS Sports' experts.



We're Here to Support You

If you need help with disaster preparedness, COVID-19 AARs, or anything in between, send us an email at staff@constantassociates.com. We are here to help.

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