

Citizen Corps Survey Database Description, Methodology, and Inventory Update

Fall 2014



FEMA

Citizen Preparedness Survey Database Description

Since 2005, the Citizen Preparedness Survey Database serves as a repository for disaster preparedness-related research studies. The database is updated annually to include new key search terms and surveys made available online in the past year. Studies included in the database meet the following criteria:

- Be a survey of the general public at the national, regional, or city level (and may also sample special populations, e.g., Katrina evacuees, businesses, or schools);
- Examine individual or organizational concerns about, or preparedness for, a disaster or terrorist attack;
- Be a survey of U.S. residents; and
- Be conducted after September 11, 2001.

Fall 2014 Citizen Preparedness Survey Database Methodology

Research Sources Reviewed

For the Fall 2014 update, a variety of research sources were used to capture publicly available surveys meeting inclusion criteria, including Google, Google Scholar, national preparedness organization websites, and a series of EBSCO academic databases (e.g., Academic Search Premier, Business Source Complete, Communication & Mass Media Complete, Education Research, MEDLINE, PsycInfo, and SocIndex).

Key Search Terms

The Fall 2014 update used combinations of key search terms including:

- Public search terms: survey, study, emergency preparedness, home, household survey, disaster preparedness, household disaster preparedness, terrorism preparedness, and terrorism emergency preparedness;
- Business search terms: business, business continuity, disaster preparedness, emergency preparedness, disaster recovery, disaster planning, crisis preparedness, and terrorism preparedness;
- School search terms: survey, study, school, university*, college*, campus*, disaster preparedness, emergency preparedness, emergency planning, terrorism preparedness, and safety preparedness/planning;
- Preparedness search terms: mitigation, mitigate, pandemic preparedness and hazard preparedness;
- H1N1 pandemic search terms: H1N1, swine flu, and influenza;

* Denotes key search terms added during the Fall 2014 update.

- Disaster-specific search terms: radiological, nuclear, wildfire, earthquake, hurricane, flood, severe weather, heat, extreme heat, heat wave, storm, ice storm, snow, winter weather, winter hazard, tsunami, chemical release, tornado, bioterrorism and cybersecurity; and
- Digital technology search terms: social media, social networks, mobile*, applications,* apps.*

Database Inventory Summary

All studies that met the search criteria were entered into a Microsoft Excel database, designed so that information can be extracted and summarized from the surveys. Information in the database includes the following:

- Web address (URL) for key survey documents, including (when available) executive summaries, full reports, press releases, and the actual survey instruments;
- Title and year published/made available to the public;
- Sponsor organization providing the funds and/or resources to conduct the survey;
- Research organization conducting the survey (if different from the sponsor organization);
- Population surveyed;
- Methodological description—sample size, mode (telephone, online, paper), and fielding period;
- Description of the study and key topics of interest;
- Referenced hazards (e.g., natural hazard); and
- Public, business, or school survey type.

Fall 2014 Database Inventory Update

There are now 406 studies listed in the database. Thirty-four additional studies were added to the database in Fall 2014; 27 of these studies were first published or made publicly available in 2013 or 2014. The other seven studies were identified when a search was conducted using the key search terms or methods added in the 2014 update. The studies were distributed as follows:

Category	New Studies Added
Public Preparedness Studies	22
Business Continuity Studies	9
School Disaster Preparedness Studies	3

* Denotes key search terms added during the Fall 2014 update.

Public Preparedness Studies—254 total; 22 studies were added during the Fall 2014 update. The newly added studies ranged widely in the topics covered and population surveyed. Overall, it appears that although emergency preparedness programs may be on the rise, enhanced efforts to improve individual’s preparedness are still needed because substantial numbers of the general public report being unprepared or less than fully prepared for disasters.

- While several surveyed the general public, the majority surveyed individuals from specific groups (e.g., Wisconsin residents, tenants in a housing system, adults with children, online shoppers).
- Five of the studies surveyed individuals who had recently experienced a disaster (e.g., households affected by tornadoes in Dekalb County, Alabama) to report on lessons learned. In general, audiences who had lived through a disaster reported taking additional steps to prepare for the future.
- Several studies looked at vulnerable or at-risk populations (e.g., older adults, individuals with physical disabilities, mobile home residents). In general, vulnerable populations were less likely to be prepared for a disaster than the general population.
- Two studies examined individuals’ preparedness knowledge and found that many respondents were misinformed or uninformed.

Business Continuity Surveys—92 total; 9 studies were added to the database during the Fall 2014 update. Overall, the findings show that businesses are taking additional steps to become more resilient; although more effort is needed to ensure individuals at all levels are given opportunities to increase their preparedness capabilities. The findings also suggest that businesses are undertaking research to identify best practices in business continuity.

- Six of the studies surveyed healthcare workers or employees of healthcare systems such as ambulance drivers, nurses, doctors, and hospital and health agency executives. The findings indicated that health systems and their employees have completed different levels of preparedness planning.
- A survey of healthcare workers before and after a tornado found that pre-event preparedness was a significant predictor of post-event preparedness and resilience, since many healthcare workers reported to work following the disaster.
- Another study looked at a state’s healthcare centers and found that vulnerable populations’ (e.g., individuals who live in institutionalized settings, migrant farm workers, homeless persons, persons with transportation disadvantages, persons with pharmacological dependencies) needs were not addressed in their emergency plans.
- A survey of small office managers and workers found that managers were far better informed on workplace safety and preparedness than office workers, who were uncertain on what they should do in case of an emergency.

School Disaster Preparedness Surveys—60 total; 3 studies added during the Fall 2014 update. These studies focused on general emergency preparedness and were administered to teachers, staff, parents, bus drivers, and administrators. Overall, the studies concluded that more research is needed regarding all aspects of schools and campus’ disaster preparedness planning and resilience.

- Two studies focused on emergency preparedness on higher education campuses—one reviewed campus emergency and critical incident plans of 55 higher education campuses in the state of Washington, while the other study surveyed personnel from higher education institution’s public safety/emergency management departments. While both studies found that campus safety was a high priority, more education, drills, and staff were needed to improve campus preparedness.
- The third study surveyed individuals associated with Atlanta Public Schools to identify lessons learned around the January 2014 weather/traffic event in order to make improvements to emergency preparedness and response plans.