

Status of Household Preparedness in the US: Possession of Preparedness Plans and Emergency Supply Kits



Key Findings from Spring 2021 Survey

Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/disaster/household-preparedness-spring2021>

OVERVIEW

When preparing for natural disasters and other emergencies, having a plan and an emergency supply kit are key. In spring 2021, a survey of adults in the United States assessed preparedness levels and emergency supply kit possession. This is a follow-up from the survey conducted in [Fall 2020](#). Results show that many people still may not have these important items to make them ready for a disaster.

METHODS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) analyzed data collected through Porter Novelli's (PN) SpringStyles survey. The survey was conducted in spring 2021, with 6,455 adults from across the country.

The survey included 10 questions related to preparedness and emergency supply kits, such as whether people had an emergency supply kit, what items were included in the kit, and whether they had ever experienced a natural disaster. Respondents were also asked about FEMA-recommended plans.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-recommended Plans



Stored copies of important documents



Designated meeting place outside of the home



Multiple evacuation routes away from home



Emergency communication plan



Meeting place outside the neighborhood



RESULTS

Overall, few people responded that they have preparedness plans.

- **52%** of respondents had none of the FEMA-recommended plans.
- Less than **3%** of respondents had all the FEMA-recommended plans.
- The most common plan was stored copies of important documents (**32%**) (Figure 1).

Few respondents had an emergency supply kit.

- Only **1 in 3 respondents** had an emergency supply kit.
- The most common items in their kit were a **flashlight, medical supplies, and water** (Figure 2).
- Those living in the **Midwest** were **44% less likely** to have an emergency supply kit than those in **Southern** states.
- Respondents were **less** likely to have an emergency supply kit if they were **female, 75 years or older**, lived in the **Midwest** or **Northeast**, or have **less than a high school** education.



Figure 1.
Percentage of Respondents with FEMA Preparedness Plans

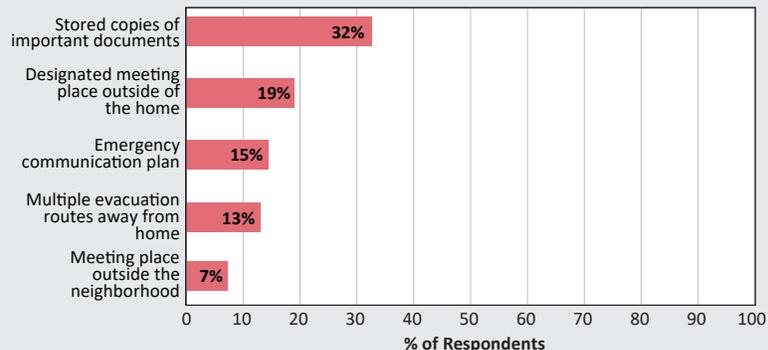
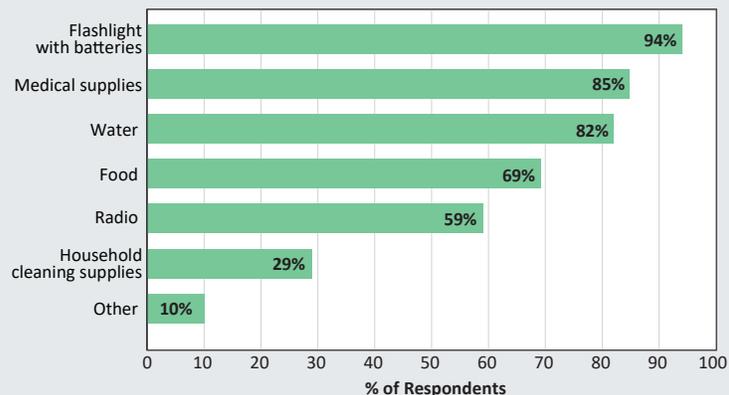


Figure 2.
Items Respondents Reported Having in their Emergency Supply Kits



Respondents more likely to be prepared*

- Have at least some college
- Live in a detached single-family home
- Own a home
- Are married
- Have children living in the home
- Earn a household income of \$50,000 or more
- Live in the South or West

Beliefs matter

- Those who believe that an emergency supply kit will improve their chance of surviving a disaster are more than three times as likely to have a kit.
- Those who feel confident they know how to prepare for a disaster are more than four times as likely to have a kit and three times as likely to be prepared.

RELATED RESOURCES

[Natural Disasters & Severe Weather](#)

[Prepare Your Health: Plan Ahead](#)

[Ready Wrigley](#)

[Going to a Shelter During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency](#)

[Disaster Risk Reduction for Health](#)

* Prepared is defined as having at least one of the FEMA-recommended preparedness plans.