

# Emergency Preparedness among Oregonians with disabilities: Data from Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

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## Learning objectives

1. Describe emergency preparedness among Oregonians
2. Compare emergency preparedness among people with and without disabilities

## Background

Being prepared for emergency situations especially for people with disabilities can help mitigate adverse outcomes and facilitate recovery. The objective of this study was to measure emergency preparedness among adults with disabilities in Oregon.

## Methods

We analyzed a sample of 2058 respondents including 487 respondents with a disability who completed the Emergency Preparedness (EP) module in the 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (Oregon). We created two summary scores drawn from existing literature. Linear regression analyses examined association between disability status and emergency preparedness using each of the two summary scores.

## Results

Fewer people with disabilities had a battery-operated radio or flashlight available. Radio was the most commonly preferred method of receiving information during an emergency regardless of disability status. However, relative to people without disabilities, people with disabilities were somewhat less likely to prefer radio and internet and more likely to prefer television and neighbors as information sources. Mean scores on both preparedness measures were lower for people with disabilities than for people without disabilities.

## Conclusion

Few aspects of preparedness were significantly associated with disability status. Low preparedness across the entire population indicate an ongoing need to increase preparedness among Oregonians with and without disabilities.

### OBJECTIVE(S):

- ☑ Describe emergency preparedness among Oregonians
- ☑ Compare emergency preparedness among people with and without disabilities

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