

FACT SHEET

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND ALASKANS WITH DISABILITIES



BACKGROUND

- 46.0% of Americans, regardless of disability, have an emergency plan
- People with disabilities are more likely to live in an area at risk for an emergency or disaster
- Registry systems to assist with evacuation of people with disabilities may be utilized inappropriately or ineffectively
- People with disabilities are less likely to have an emergency kit or supplies
- People with disabilities are poorly represented in emergency planning
- Natural disasters and emergencies can highlight gaps in support services for people with disabilities who might otherwise function adequately day-to-day

23.8% OF ALASKA'S
POPULATION OVER THE
AGE OF 18 EXPERIENCE
A DISABILITY (BRFSS, 2012)

ALASKANS WITH DISABILITIES

- 53.9% have supplies to shelter in place during an emergency
- 31.6% have a "go kit" for evacuation
- 18.8% have a written emergency plan
- 76.9% feel like an emergency plan will make them safer
- 92.0% feel vulnerable to disaster
- 81.0% report multiple disabilities; most common disabilities impact decision-making and ability to independently complete tasks outside the home
- 57.0% live independently
- Those with a written plan are more likely to live outside Anchorage
- Most rely on, and want, assistance from family, friends and caregivers
- Biggest benefit to having a written plan is related to continuity of care

Major Planning Barriers

- *Lack of time*
- *Apathy*
- *Financial resources*
- *Lack of knowledge*

