



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON HEALTH AND DISABILITY (AAHD) RESEARCH BRIEF
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**AAHD COVID-19 & DISABILITY SURVEY: KEY FINDINGS ON PANDEMIC INFORMATION & IMPACT FOR
PERSONS WHO ARE BLIND OR HAVE SERIOUS DIFFICULTY SEEING (VISION DISABILITY)**

Introduction

People with disabilities experience unique risks during disasters, epidemics, and pandemics that can impact health and health care. *Yet, we do not know the full impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities.*

Research Approach

AAHD conducted the COVID-19 and Disability online survey between April 17 and May 1, 2020 and 2,469 adults with disabilities responded, including 193 adults (8%) with a Vision Disability.

Main Findings- COVID-19 Information & Impact for Persons with Vision Disabilities

Ranking of Sources of COVID-19 Information

- 33% of respondents said the Television was the most important source of information, followed by the Television (28%) and Radio (15%).
- The Internet (26%), Television (20%), and Radio and Social Media (both 11%) were selected as the second-most important sources of information.
- The Internet (16%), Health Care Providers (13%), and Television (12%), and were selected as the third-most important source of information about COVID-19.
- **Health Care Providers ranked low as sources of information about COVID-19 (7%-Most Important; 6%-Second Most Important; and 13%-Third Most Important).**

Following COVID-19 Recommendations

- 97% of respondents were following COVID-19 public health recommendations.
- **3% of respondents said they were not following COVID-19 recommendations, but that still means some respondents were potentially endangering others!**

COVID-19 Testing

- 2% of respondents had received a test for COVID-19.
- **98% had not received a test.**
- **Top reasons for not getting a test when needed: No Test Available (11%), No transportation (10%), & Testing information not available in accessible formats (5%).**

Anxiety & Depression During the Pandemic

- 85% of respondents feeling anxious or depressed had emotional support or services.
- **15% of respondents were without emotional support or services.**

Conclusion

- **Population-based research is critically needed to fully document these issues.**

Full results are available at: <https://www.aahd.us/initiatives/dissemination/covid-19-disability-survey/>.

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