



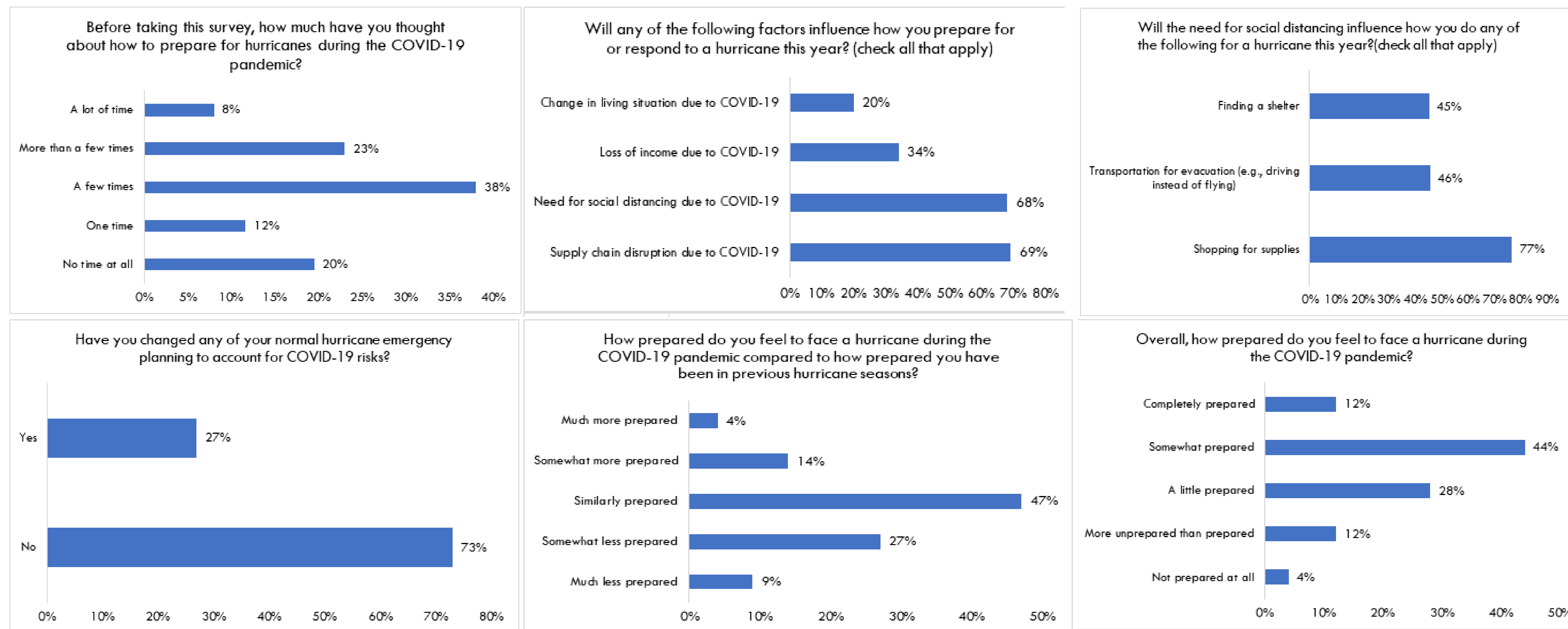
Concurrent Disaster: Planning for a Hurricane Amid a Pandemic

Joy E. Losee, Nikolette P. Lipsey, & Gregory D. Webster

Abstract

The 2020 hurricane season and COVID-19 pandemic pose a challenging scenario where the appropriate response to one emergency may lead to greater risk from the other. For example, sheltering at home for COVID-19 conflicts with the need to evacuate for a hurricane. Responses from 779 Florida residents showed how this conflict can affect hurricane decision-making. Over 2/3 of residents expected that supply chain disruption (69%) and social distancing needs (68%) would influence their hurricane preparation. Over 1/3 of residents (36%) reported being less prepared for hurricanes than in the past. Despite acknowledging that COVID-19 poses new concerns, most (73%) reported no change to hurricane plans.

Results



Research Question

- Do people recognize the conflict between COVID-19 safety precautions and hurricane preparation?
- Do people intend to adjust their plans accordingly?

Method & Results

Participants: 779 Florida residents recruited through Prolific.co on July 20 & 21, 2020

- Age_M=35 [range 18-79]
- 415 Cisgender women, 356 Cisgender men, 4 Transgender women, 4 Transgender men, 12 non-binary/genderqueer, 1 other gender identity

Design and Procedure

- This work is part of a larger project examining responses to COVID-19 and hurricane risks.
- Participants first answered questions separately about COVID-19 and hurricanes and then answered questions about their compound risk.

Despite acknowledging that COVID-19 might alter hurricane plans, 73% reported no intention to change their hurricane preparation plans.

Conclusions

- After this data was collected, the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season turned out to have the second highest number of hurricanes in recorded history with 30 named storms and 13 named hurricanes (NOAA.gov, 2020).
- Modeling has indicated that evacuation has had the potential to increase COVID-19 cases (Pei, Dahl, Yamana, Licker, & Shaman, 2020)
- These results indicate that although people are generally aware and concerned about COVID-19 during a hurricane, they are unprepared to make adjustments in their hurricane planning
- Future research should examine how effective leadership and government guidance could increase awareness of the issue and solutions to it.

[Click here for the Zoom Meeting link](#)

<https://udayton.zoom.us/j/87171145409?pwd=d3hFanIMR0FrUVpIbS9OUk5FQno1QT09>