

# Citizen Corps Survey Database Description, Methodology, and Inventory Update

## Citizen Preparedness Surveys Database Description and Methodology

The Citizen Preparedness Survey Database serves as a repository for disaster preparedness related research studies. Studies included in the database meet the following criteria:

- Include household-level surveys that sample populations at the national, regional, or city level (and may also sample special populations, i.e. Katrina evacuees), business surveys, and school surveys that examine individual or organizational concerns about, or preparedness for, a disaster or terrorist attack
- Survey U.S. residents
- Have been conducted after September 11, 2001

Four summaries of the database have been published—Citizen Preparedness Review (CPR) Issue 1 (Summer, 2005) and Issue 5 (Fall, 2007). Each CPR details the methodology used to develop the database of research surveys and a general review of the survey findings, including a typology of the research that has been conducted. The reports discuss some of the relevant findings and trends in data and examine why results from similar surveys are often divergent.

In the interval between the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 updates, the world continued to experience the novel H1N1 influenza. It also experienced a host of natural disasters including floods, earthquakes and tornadoes. Many of the new items found not only addressed flu preparedness and response, but also disaster preparedness, particularly within the Business Continuity and Household preparedness categories.

## Updates since Fall, 2009

For the Spring 2010 update, a variety of research sources were utilized: Google.com, Google Scholar ([www.scholar.google.com](http://www.scholar.google.com)), the database service at EBSCOHost.com, Carrot<sup>2</sup> (<http://search.carrot2.org/stable/search>) and the search engine at [www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com) in order to capture all published surveys meeting inclusion criteria. Seventeen additional surveys were found and entered into a Microsoft Access database, designed so that information can be extracted and summarized from the surveys. Information in the database includes the following:

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- Web address (URL) for key survey documents, including (when available) executive summaries, full reports, press releases, and the actual survey instruments;
- Title and year published;
- Sponsor organization providing the funds and/or resources to conduct the survey;
- Research organization conducting the survey (if different from the Sponsor organization);
- Population surveyed;
- Methodological description – sample size, mode (telephone, online, paper), and fielding period;
- Description of the document and key topics of interest;
- Referenced hazards, e.g. natural hazard, and
- Household, business, or school survey type

### Key Search Terms

Newly identified surveys are obtained through systematic Internet searches (utilizing the search engines at [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), [www.scholar.google.com](http://www.scholar.google.com), [www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com) and <http://search.carrot2.org/stable/search> and the databases at [search.EBSCOhost.com](http://search.EBSCOhost.com)) using combinations of key search terms including:

- Household: survey, study, emergency preparedness, household survey, disaster preparedness, household disaster preparedness, terrorism preparedness, and terrorism emergency preparedness.
- Business: business, business continuity, disaster preparedness, emergency preparedness, disaster recovery, disaster planning, crisis preparedness, and terrorism preparedness.
- School: survey, study, school, disaster preparedness, emergency preparedness, emergency planning, terrorism preparedness, and safety preparedness/planning.
- Other search terms: pandemic preparedness, hazard preparedness.
- H1N1 pandemic search terms: H1N1, swine flu, influenza.
- Disaster-specific search terms: radiological, nuclear, wildfire, earthquake, hurricane, flood, bioterrorism.
- With the growing shift from traditional media to new media, we also included search terms like: social media or social networks

To help gain further insight on the types of organizations sponsoring the surveys, a drop-down category is included to denote if the organization was a government organization, business, academic institution/school, nonprofit organization, association/society, or news organization.

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ICF Macro continues to provide ongoing maintenance and management of the database. The database will become more comprehensive over time as more published studies addressing household, business, and school preparedness are available. The next full summary is expected to be produced in the Fall of 2010.

### Database Inventory Update

There are currently 197 surveys listed in the database; 39 of these surveys were first published in 2009 or 2010. Seven new surveys were found in the business continuity and school disaster preparedness categories, and ten additional surveys were found in the household preparedness category. This most recent search also identified a 2009 survey on emergency legal preparedness in U.S. local governments. The distribution of surveys consists of the following:

**Business Continuity Surveys:** —42 total; 5 new surveys were added to the database during the Spring 2010 update. The new surveys ranged in the topics covered. Several surveys examined business response to and preparedness actions around the H1N1 influenza pandemic, response to bioterrorism and natural disasters. These findings from these surveys indicated that businesses consider all of the topics to be a threat to continuity planning and desire additional information, materials and training to enhance safety for their employees and the public.

**School disaster preparedness surveys** —2 new surveys were found, bringing the total number in the database to 21. The new surveys focused more broadly on emergency preparation in general and were administered to various systems of education ranging from elementary, middle, high school and college. Participants included parents, students and administrators.

**Household preparedness surveys**— 10 new surveys were included in the database, resulting in a total of 134 items. Many of the new items asked respondents about their preparedness plans and responses to natural disasters. These surveys found that individuals and households are aware of the seriousness of a natural disaster, and say that are willing to prepare for one, but relatively few households have acted to mitigate losses and reduce injury.