

Investigating Vermonters' Disaster Preparedness Practices: Findings from Combined Statewide Survey

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Natural and man-made disasters reach beyond geographic, demographic and socio-economic boundaries when they occur. The factors that influence a household's preparedness to respond to disasters can vary (Fothergill & Peek, 2004; Morrow, 1999; Phillips, Metz, & Nieves, 2005; Uscher-Pines et al., 2009). Understanding these factors in household emergency preparedness practices can inform outreach efforts for a better informed citizenry as well as local and centralized emergency responders and planners—leading to more disaster resilient communities through household preparedness.

This research analyzes data combined from two survey instruments. The first survey is of mobile home parks in Vermont, the second survey of the entire state. Both surveys were conducted after Tropical Storm Irene. Both surveys were completed as part of a multi-year research project led by Principal Investigator Dr. Daniel Baker entitled "Building Resilience through Community-Based Action Research: Identifying Vulnerabilities and Facilitating Change in Rural Mobile Home Parks". Specifically, this research investigates, through the use of regression analysis, the factors that may influence the multiple steps a household can take to prepare for a future disaster. The factors of particular interest, as identified by the literature, include the type of housing, household income, family size and whether or not the home is rented or owned.