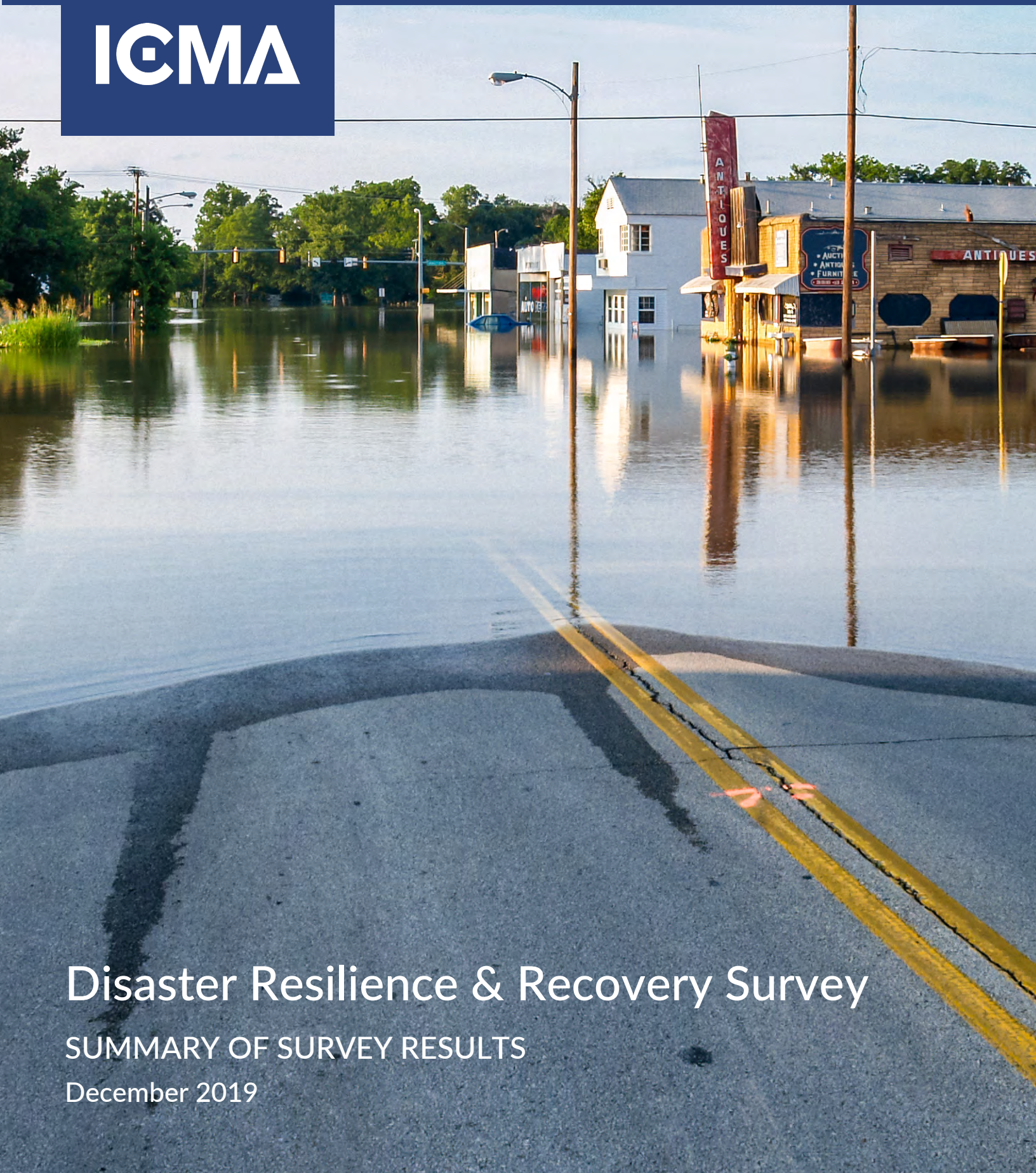




ICMA



Disaster Resilience & Recovery Survey

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

December 2019

Introduction

The increasing number and severity of natural disasters underscore the importance of effective local government policies and programs focused on disaster preparedness, as well as disaster recovery and resiliency. ICMA conducted this survey in order to better understand the current disaster preparedness capacity of local governments, including alignment with practices recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as well as gaps to address. The survey was distributed via email to U.S. municipal and county chief administrative officials (including ICMA members and nonmembers) in September and October 2019 and received 901 responses.

Key Findings

Disaster Experience

- Winter storms and flooding were the most commonly experienced disasters in the past five years, reported by a majority of local governments.
- A majority of responding local governments experienced a federally declared disaster in the past five years.

Recovery Capacity & Resilience Actions

- The vast majority of responding local governments are familiar with state and federal disaster relief application protocols. Most have experience in applying for federal and state aid within the past five years.
- The top three financial resources available to support disaster relief and recovery are general/unrestricted funds, insurance, and departmental funds. Just over half of local governments would turn to contingency or emergency funds.
- About half of responding local governments have designated a single person and/or interdepartmental body to oversee and coordinate post-disaster recovery and remediation.
- About two in five local governments have conducted disaster training exercises that cover post-disaster economic and community recovery and restoration scenarios.
- Ninety percent of responding local governments have developed (or are developing) hazard mitigation plans, and a majority have developed or are developing continuity of operations plans or standalone disaster recovery plans. Less than half indicate they have developed a sustainability or resiliency plan.
- A majority of responding local governments have assessed the vulnerability of their capital assets, community facilities, and/or critical features to disaster. However, most have not evaluated the broader financial impacts of a disaster, such as the costs of debris removal or emergency protective measures.
- Nearly all local governments (98 percent) have mutual aid agreements in place to support public safety needs (police, fire, EMS) in times of crisis. Public works mutual aid is the next most common type of agreement, reported by over 60 percent of local governments. In contrast, agreements to support other routine services such as payroll or information technology are uncommon.
- While it is common for local governments to have pre-disaster contracts in place for emergency management and (to a lesser extent) debris removal, less than half have established these for temporary housing, building inspection, or building demolition.
- Nearly all local governments have backed up data storage for key records, but one in three lack access to offsite or hardened information systems.

Survey Response

	Governments Surveyed (A)		Governments Responding	
	Number	Number	% of (A)	
Total	4,932	901	18.3	
Population group (2018 est.)				
Over 500,000	70	11	15.7	
250,000-499,999	78	18	23.1	
100,000-249,999	260	64	24.6	
50,000-99,999	420	78	18.6	
25,000-49,999	668	119	17.8	
10,000-24,999	1,216	193	15.9	
5,000-9,999	909	180	19.8	
2,500-4,999	733	118	16.1	
Under 2,500	578	120	20.8	
Geographic division				
New England	421	71	16.9	
Mid-Atlantic	524	65	12.4	
East North-Central	873	139	15.9	
West North-Central	682	115	16.9	
South Atlantic	995	235	23.6	
East South-Central	151	29	19.2	
West South-Central	346	64	18.5	
Mountain	345	63	18.3	
Pacific Coast	595	120	20.2	
Type of government				
Municipality	4239	765	18.0	
County	693	136	19.6	
Form of government				
Mayor-council	942	149	15.8	
Council-manager	2,980	563	18.9	
Commission	28	3	10.7	
Town Meeting	261	47	18.0	
Representative Town Meeting	28	3	10.7	
County Commission	14	2	14.3	
County Council-Manager/Administrator	657	131	19.9	
County Council-Elected Executive	22	3	13.6	

Survey Results

Q1. Has your jurisdiction experienced any of the following types of disasters in the last five years? Check all that apply. (n=831)

Response	%
Winter storm	60.4
Flood	54.2
Hurricane	27.3
Tornado	19.3
Drought	17.6
Wildfire	14.0
Other	11.2
Industrial or chemical	4.5
Mudslide	4.3

Q2. Has your jurisdiction experienced a disaster in the last five years that resulted in a federally-declared disaster? (n=801)

Response	%
Yes	54.8
No	45.2

Q3. In the event of a major disaster, indicate if any of the resources below are available to support relief and recovery efforts in your jurisdiction (n=881):

Response	%
General fund reserves or unrestricted funds	80.8
Insurance	75.7
Departmental funds	62.8
Contingency or emergency funds	53.2
Debt/borrowing	40.2
Solid waste fund	16.3
Other	5.8
No resources identified	4.0
Don't know	1.1

Q4. In the event of a major disaster, is your local government familiar with protocols for securing state and federal disaster relief resources? (n=881)

Response	%
Yes, we have applied for these resources in the past five years	58.3
Yes, although we have not applied for these resources in the past five years	36.1
No	3.7
Don't know	1.8

Q5. Does your local government have any of the following resiliency or recovery plans that will be used to guide post-disaster community and economic recovery and restoration?

	% Yes	% In process	% No
Hazard mitigation plan (n=843)	83.0	7.2	9.7
Continuity of operations plan (COOP plan) (n=799)	50.1	16.0	33.9
Standalone disaster recovery plan (n=764)	46.9	10.6	42.5
Sustainability or resiliency plan (n=747)	31.3	15.9	52.7

Q6. Has your local government undertaken any of the following types of assessments?

	% Yes	% In process	% No
Financial accounting/valuation of all your capital assets that could be vulnerable to a major disaster (n=846)	61.2	7.8	31.0
Risk analysis to determine which facilities (e.g., health center, fire stations) or critical assets/features of the community (e.g., major employers/industries, housing stock) are most vulnerable to a major disaster (n=839)	54.4	8.5	37.2
Review of your community's recovery capacity, i.e. the financial, human, organizational resources available to support recovery and restoration after a disaster (n=843)	42.6	12.1	45.3
Estimated financial impacts of a major disaster (e.g., potential costs of debris removal, emergency protective measures, etc.) (n=841)	35.6	6.2	58.3

Q7. Has your local government taken any of the following actions around coordination of economic and community recovery and restoration?

	% Yes	% In process	% No
Identified a "recovery leader/manager" position that will oversee your community's post-disaster recovery and restoration (n=828)	48.1	3.0	48.9
Designated an interdepartmental task force/committee that will mobilize to coordinate post-disaster recovery and restoration (n=830)	43.1	5.2	51.7
Created a public engagement strategy that is inclusive of the whole community for implementation during a post-disaster environment (n=827)	30.2	9.9	59.9
Adopted a "recovery ordinance" and/or a section of a jurisdiction's code that establishes the programs, organizational structures, regulatory authorities, etc., for your community's post-disaster recovery and restoration (n=824)	12.4	2.9	84.7

Q8. Has your local government implemented any disaster training exercises that included post-disaster economic and community recovery and restoration scenarios? (n=795)

Response	%
Yes	38.6
No	61.4

Q9. Have your jurisdiction's financial staff been involved in the trainings(s)? (n=306)

Response	%
Yes	76.1
No	21.2
Don't know	2.6

Q10. Does your jurisdiction have any of the following pre-disaster contracts in place to support post-disaster recovery and restoration?

	% Yes	% No
Emergency management (n=815)	70.7	29.3
Debris management (n=791)	50.6	49.4
Temporary housing (e.g., hotels, dormitory space) (n=782)	24.6	75.4
Surge capacity for building inspectors/inspections (n=753)	24.3	75.7
Demolition of damaged buildings (n=772)	17.9	82.1

Q11. Mutual aid is an agreement to share services and lend support between jurisdictions, typically in times of crisis. Which types of mutual aid agreements does your community have in place with neighboring jurisdictions?

	% Yes	% No
Public safety (police, fire, EMS) (n=818)	98.0	2.0
Public works (n=798)	61.4	38.6
Animal control (n=772)	46.2	53.8
GIS (n=760)	32.9	67.1
Information technology (n=762)	32.5	67.5
Public transportation (n=765)	30.7	69.3
Social and human services (n=761)	30.0	70.0
Planning (n=763)	21.9	78.1
Payroll/financial services (n=762)	8.1	91.9
We don't have any mutual aid agreements (n=366)	4.1	95.9

Q12. Has your local government established formal partnerships with local nonprofit, community, and/or ecumenical/religious organizations that would be activated to support post-disaster recovery and restoration? (n=778)

Response	%
Yes	50.3
No	49.7

Q13. Does your local government have any of the following services and technologies for use during post-disaster recovery?

	% Yes	% No
Backup data storage for key local government records (n=805)	94.4	5.6
Emergency operations center (n=822)	88.2	11.8
Detailed GIS map of community assets (n=774)	73.6	26.4
Offsite or hardened information systems (n=772)	68.5	31.5

Q14. What was your local government's total budget in FY 2018? (n=820)

Response	%
Less than \$1,000,000	1.2
\$1,000,000 to \$9,999,999	28.5
\$10,000,000 to \$99,999,999	53.5
\$100,000,000 to \$999,999,999	14.6
\$1,000,000,000 or more	2.1

Q15. What was your local government's total expenditure per capita in FY 2018? (n=768)

Response	%
Less than \$1,000	17.3
\$1,000 to \$4,999	63.3
\$5,000 to \$9,999	11.5
\$10,000 to \$19,999	3.5
\$20,000 or more	4.4