

2022 National Household Survey on Disaster Preparedness (NHS)

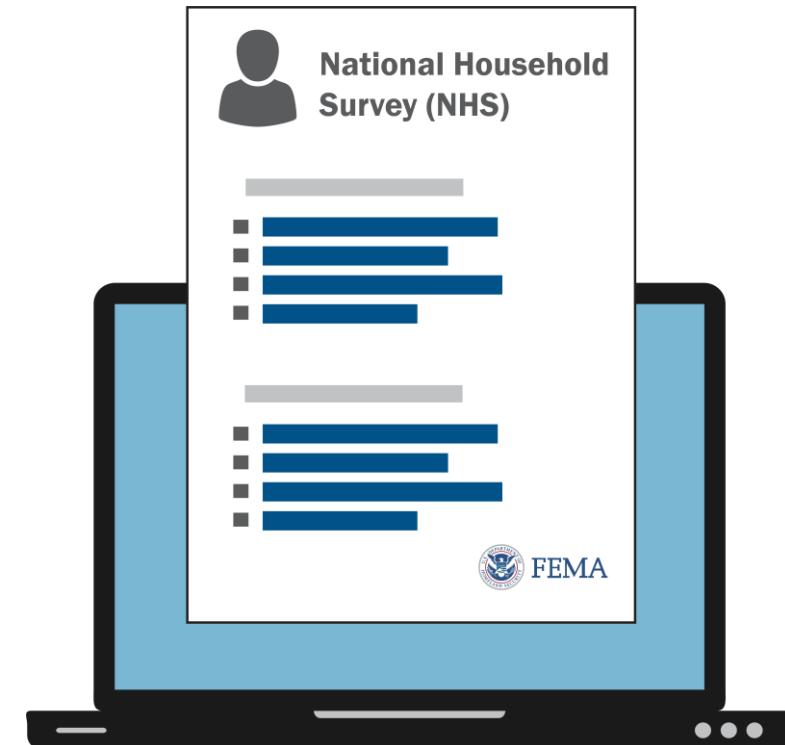
Key Findings | Individual and Community Preparedness Division



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FEMA's National Household Survey On Disaster Preparedness

- The FEMA National Preparedness Directorate, Individual and Community Preparedness Division (FEMA-NPD-ICPD) has conducted the National Household Survey on Disaster Preparedness (NHS) annually since 2013 to assess **preparedness actions, attitudes, and motivations in America.**
- Data was collected from respondents using a mix of telephone interviews and web surveys in English and Spanish.
- The NHS measures preparedness of the American public across the **whole community.**



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2022 NHS General Disaster and Hazard Sample Details

2022 Hazard Samples
 Pandemic
 Active Shooter
 Avalanche
 Chemical Emergency
 Cyberattack
 Extreme Heat
 Landslide

- The 2022 NHS was fielded from **February 10 to April 20, 2022**.
- 7,145 responses were received for the 2022 NHS (“Total Sample”).
 - All respondents were asked general disaster and pandemic preparedness questions
 - Respondents identified as at risk to one of the additional hazards were also asked preparedness questions related to that hazard
 - Risk for experiencing an avalanche, extreme heat, or landslide was based on the FEMA National Risk Index
 - Responses were weighted by key demographic variables to enhance the national representativeness of the data



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2022 NHS Demographic Samples

Demographic Communities		
Not Primarily English-Speaking Households	People with Disabilities	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+)
60+ Community	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	People with Faith-Based Beliefs and Religious Minorities
People Living in Rural Areas	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, and White

- In 2022, fielding was expanded to include responses from additional historically underserved communities.
- Groups chosen were identified in Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.



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2022–2026 FEMA Strategic Plan

Building the FEMA our Nation Needs and Deserves



Goal 3
Promote and Sustain a
Ready FEMA and
Prepared Nation

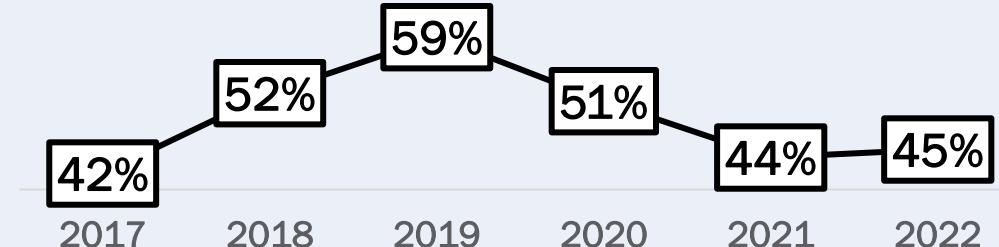
55%

of adults have pursued three or more
of the twelve preparedness actions



45%

of adults are prepared for a disaster
(self-assessed question)



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Key Opportunities to Promote and Sustain a Prepared Nation



- 1. Focus on converting intention to preparedness action**
- 2. Teach the benefits of preparedness and raise confidence**
- 3. Develop tailored products and outreach for unique community needs**
- 4. Intervene to encourage community-based preparedness actions**



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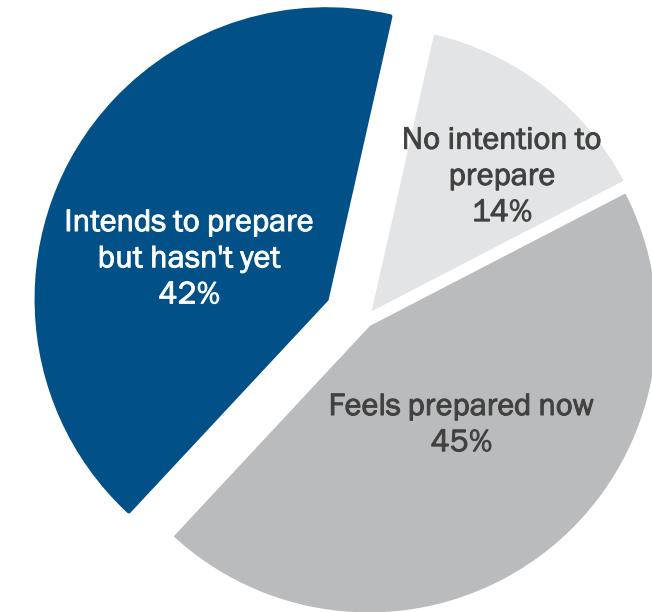
Focus on Converting Intention to Preparedness Action



Nearly half of the country *intends to prepare* sometime in the future but has not yet started.

In addition, people who take one action are more likely to take another.

Self-Assessed Preparedness Intention



Opportunity: Some may need encouragement to take the first step.
Promote simple, accessible, low or no-cost preparedness activities to transform intention to action.



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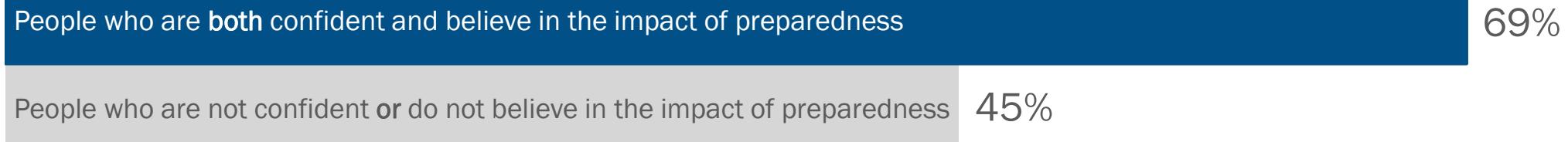
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Teach the Benefits of Preparedness and Raise Confidence



People are *more likely to take action* when they are confident in their ability to prepare and believe in the impact of preparedness.

% of people taking three or more preparedness actions



Percentages above do not add up to 100% because confidence and belief in preparedness were presented as separate yes/no questions, i.e., ‘select all that apply.’

Opportunity: *Provide outcome testimonials* through local and community trusted messengers to increase confidence and belief in preparedness.



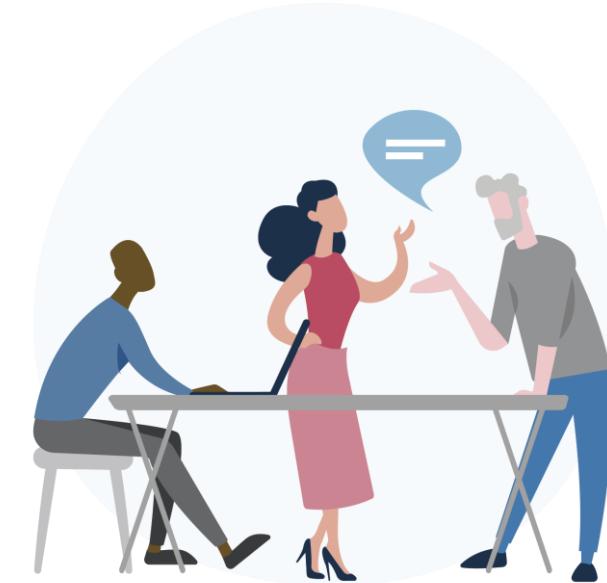
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Develop Tailored Products and Outreach for Unique Community Needs



Every demographic showed ***unique strengths and gaps*** in preparedness behaviors. There is no one-size-fits-all solution.



Opportunity: Equitable preparedness means leveraging the strengths and reducing the gaps for every member of our diverse community. ***Create plans and messaging specific to unique community needs*** evident in the preparedness data.



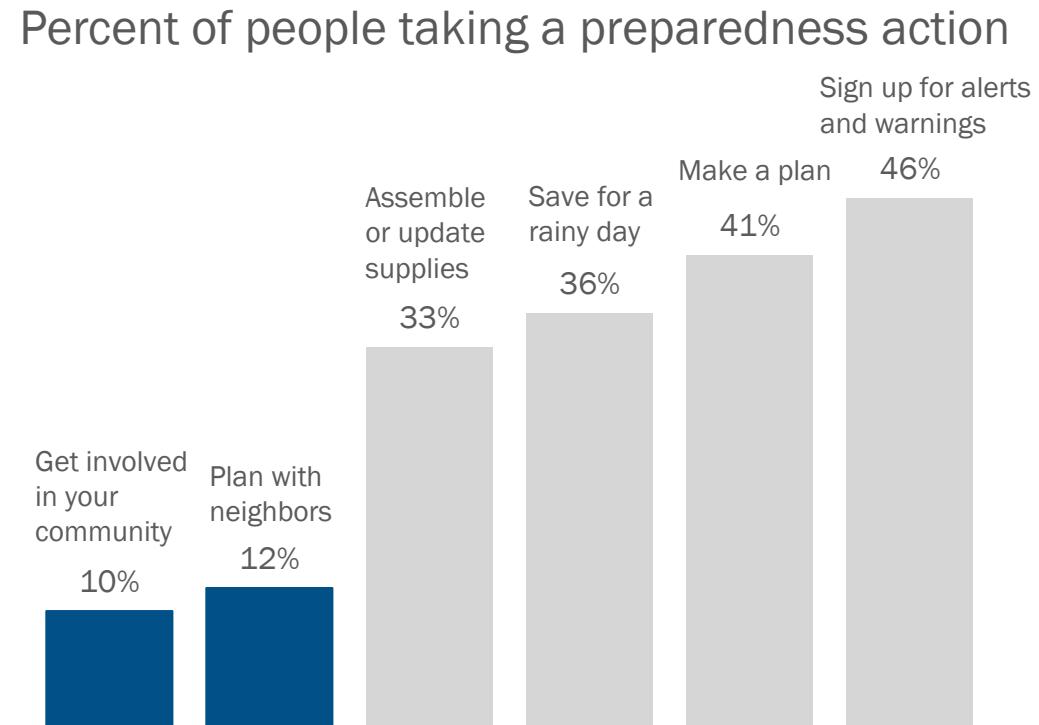
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Intervene to Encourage Community-Based Preparedness Actions



People are taking **fewer preparedness actions** since the COVID-19 pandemic started. The least taken actions are “get involved in your community” and “plan with neighbors.”



Opportunity: *Encourage and facilitate safe opportunities for communities to re-connect for preparedness.*



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Key Influencers to Preparedness Behavior

An individual who identifies with one or more of these influencers is more likely to prepare.

Influencer	Awareness of Information	Experience with Disasters	Preparedness Efficacy	Risk Perception
Survey Findings	89% have read, seen, or heard information in the past year about how to get better prepared for a disaster	49% of individuals or their family members have experienced the effects of a disaster	48% believe taking steps to prepare will help get through a disaster AND are confident in their abilities to prepare	73% believe that a disaster is likely or very likely to impact their lives
Significance ???	Awareness is strongly correlated with acting on preparedness behaviors. Those who were not aware were less than half as likely to act.	Experiencing a disaster appears to be a motivating factor for individuals to become more prepared and sustain preparedness actions over time.	Efficacy is correlated with preparedness behaviors. Increasing efficacy will support an individual's confidence in their ability to become better prepared.	Acknowledging the risk appears to lead to enhanced motivation. Those who perceive risk are more than twice as likely to intend to prepare.



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Preparedness Actions

What have you done to prepare for a disaster or emergency in the last year?

In 2022, **55%** took three or more of these 12 preparedness actions, and **86%** took at least one.

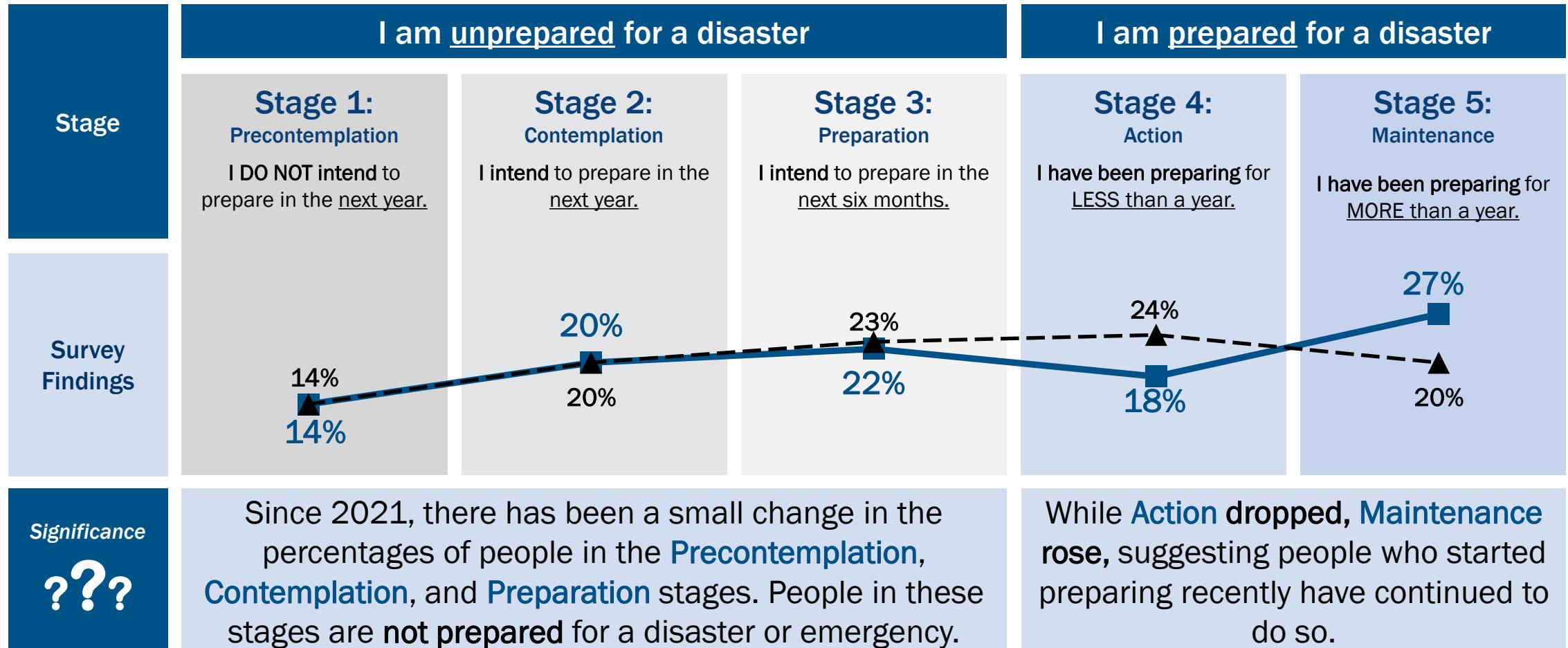


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Theoretical Stages of Change Model

Thinking about preparing yourself for a disaster, which of the following best represents your degree of preparedness?



Legend: ■ = 2022 ▲ = 2021



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Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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NHS 2022 Hazards: Key Findings

Hazards Assessed:

Pandemic

Active Shooter

Avalanche

Chemical Emergency

Cyberattack

Extreme Heat

Landslide



Preparedness actions involving coordination with other people are low.

Across all hazards, “plan with neighbors” and “get involved in your community” are among the least commonly taken actions. Individuals may benefit from guidance and new methods, such as virtual opportunities, from emergency managers and community leaders on how to safely connect with their community to engage in preparedness planning.



People's perception of risk is often higher than their awareness of what to do about it.

Apart from pandemic and avalanche hazards, more people believed that a hazard is likely or very likely to impact them than the number of those who have read, seen, or heard information in the past year about how to be better prepared. In other words: many people acknowledge the risk, but they have not been exposed to what to do about it.



Some people showed low or no intention of preparing for certain hazards.

More than 30% of people who lived in areas identified as at-risk to avalanches, landslides, and chemical emergencies stated that they had no intent to prepare for those specific hazards. While statistically they are more likely to experience one, they still consider the hazards to be rare and have decided not to prepare.



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Communities Summary: Key Findings

Demographic Communities		
Not Primarily English-Speaking Households	People with Disabilities	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+)
60+ Community	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged	People with Faith-Based Beliefs and Religious Minorities
People Living in Rural Areas	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races, and White



Communities have distinct strengths and improvement opportunities when it comes to taking preparedness actions.

- Each community, including people that are historically underserved, is unique in their preparedness actions and awareness.
- For example, people 60 years and older were more likely to have assembled or updated supplies but were less likely to have practiced emergency drills than younger people.
- On the other hand, people who are socioeconomically disadvantaged were more likely to practice emergency drills, but less likely to update supplies than people who are not socioeconomically disadvantaged.
- All slides containing race information are based on the five required race categories defined in the [2020 U.S. Census](#).



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Look for more information about
FEMA's research at
ready.gov/preparedness-research

For Questions

Please Contact:

FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov



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Appendix 1: Hazard Summaries

Percent of People Taking Preparedness Actions in Areas At-Risk for Hazards

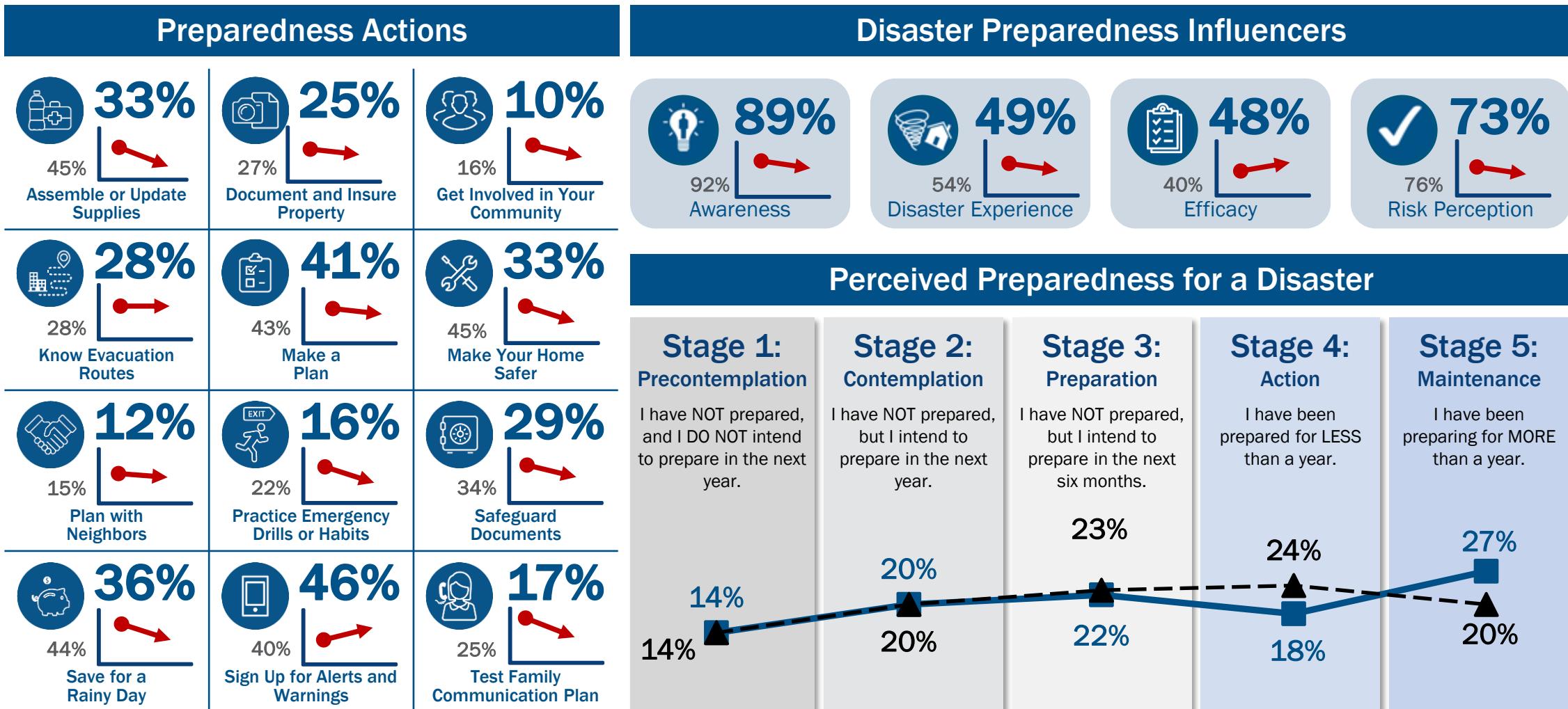
People who had taken at least one preparedness action were more likely to take additional preparedness actions. Encourage the public to take the first step, and it is likely that other actions will follow.

	Assemble or Update Supplies	Document & Insure Property	Get Involved in the Community	Know Evacuation Routes	Make a Plan	Make Your Home Safer	Plan with Neighbors	Practice Emergency Drills	Safeguard Documents	Save for a Rainy Day	Sign Up for Alerts & Warnings	Test a Family Comm. Plan
Any Disaster (total sample)	33%	25%	10%	28%	41%	33%	12%	16%	29%	36%	46%	17%
Pandemic (total sample)	27%	17%	10%	16%	28%	32%	11%	13%	21%	31%	29%	18%
Active Shooter	9%	11%	11%	14%	29%	25%	11%	21%	10%	13%	27%	17%
Avalanche	9%	6%	5%	10%	18%	10%	7%	7%	8%	7%	17%	9%
Chemical Emergency	10%	6%	8%	13%	18%	15%	9%	13%	11%	13%	28%	11%
Cyberattack	9%	12%	4%	6%	19%	8%	4%	11%	17%	10%	24%	13%
Extreme Heat	17%	9%	7%	11%	27%	23%	4%	17%	9%	20%	31%	11%
Landslide	10%	6%	7%	17%	19%	12%	7%	9%	7%	11%	22%	9%



National Preparedness Summary

Red arrows indicate change from last year (2021, in grey text); influencers are factors that increase likelihood of preparedness.



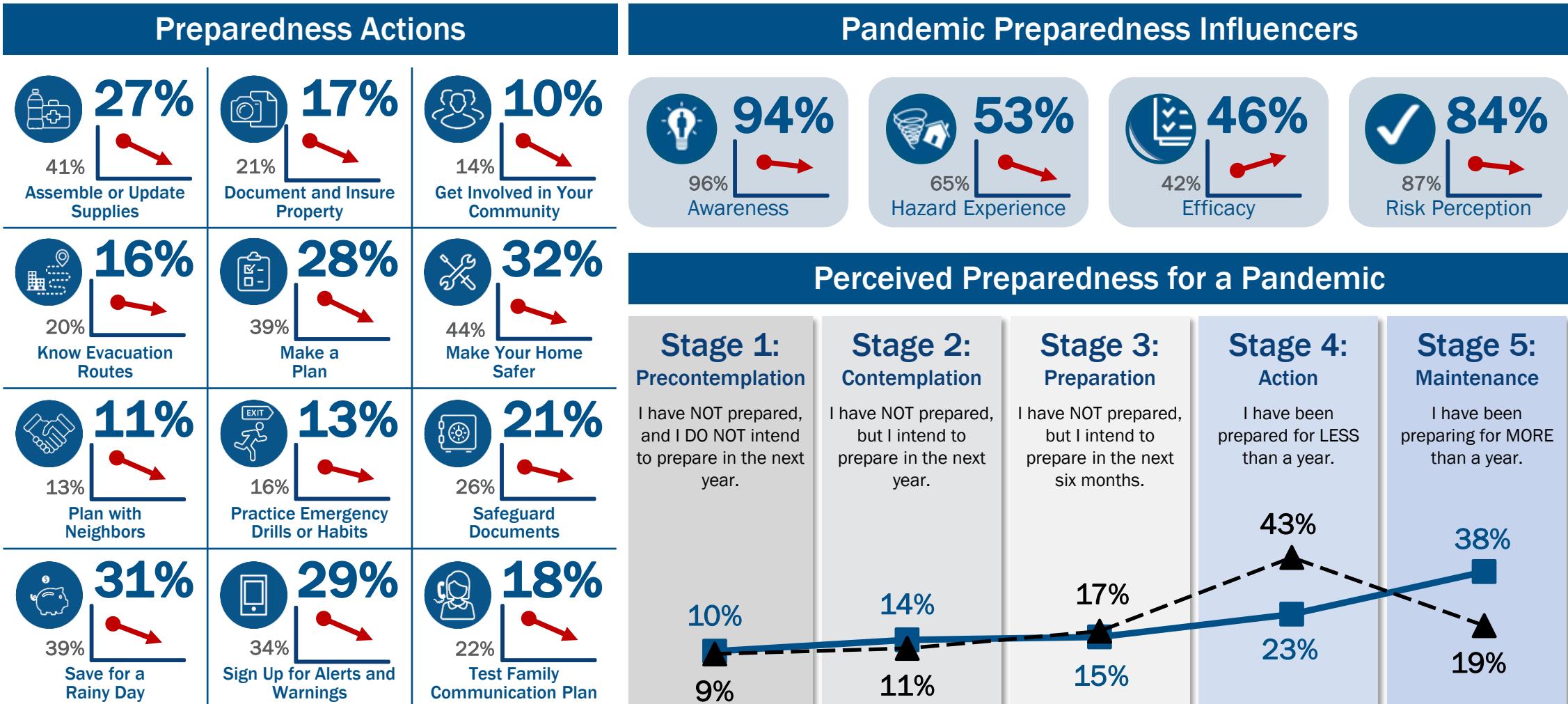
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Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Pandemic

People remained aware of pandemic guidance and perceived the risk, however a drop in actions taken may indicate fatigue.



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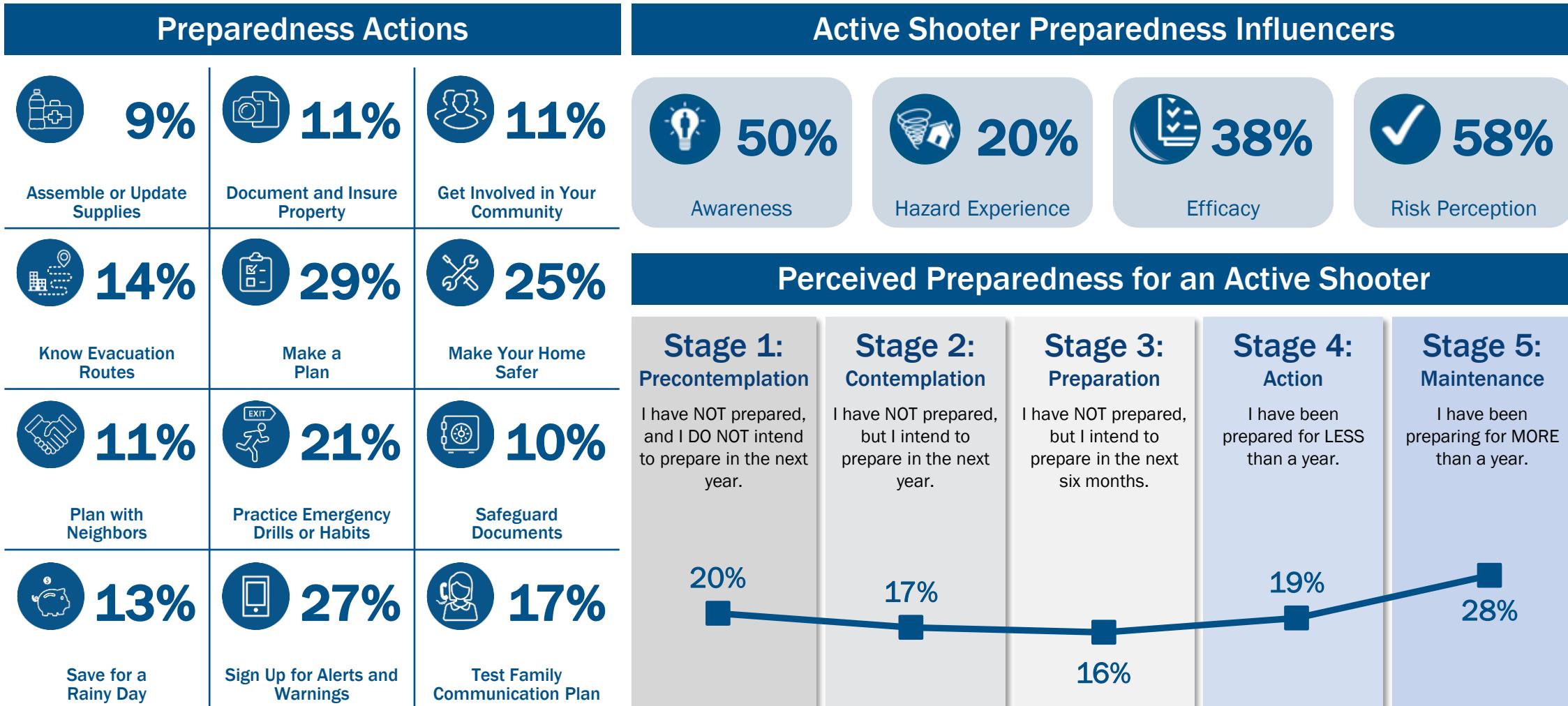
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Active Shooter

More than half of the American public identified it was likely or very likely an active shooter emergency would impact them.



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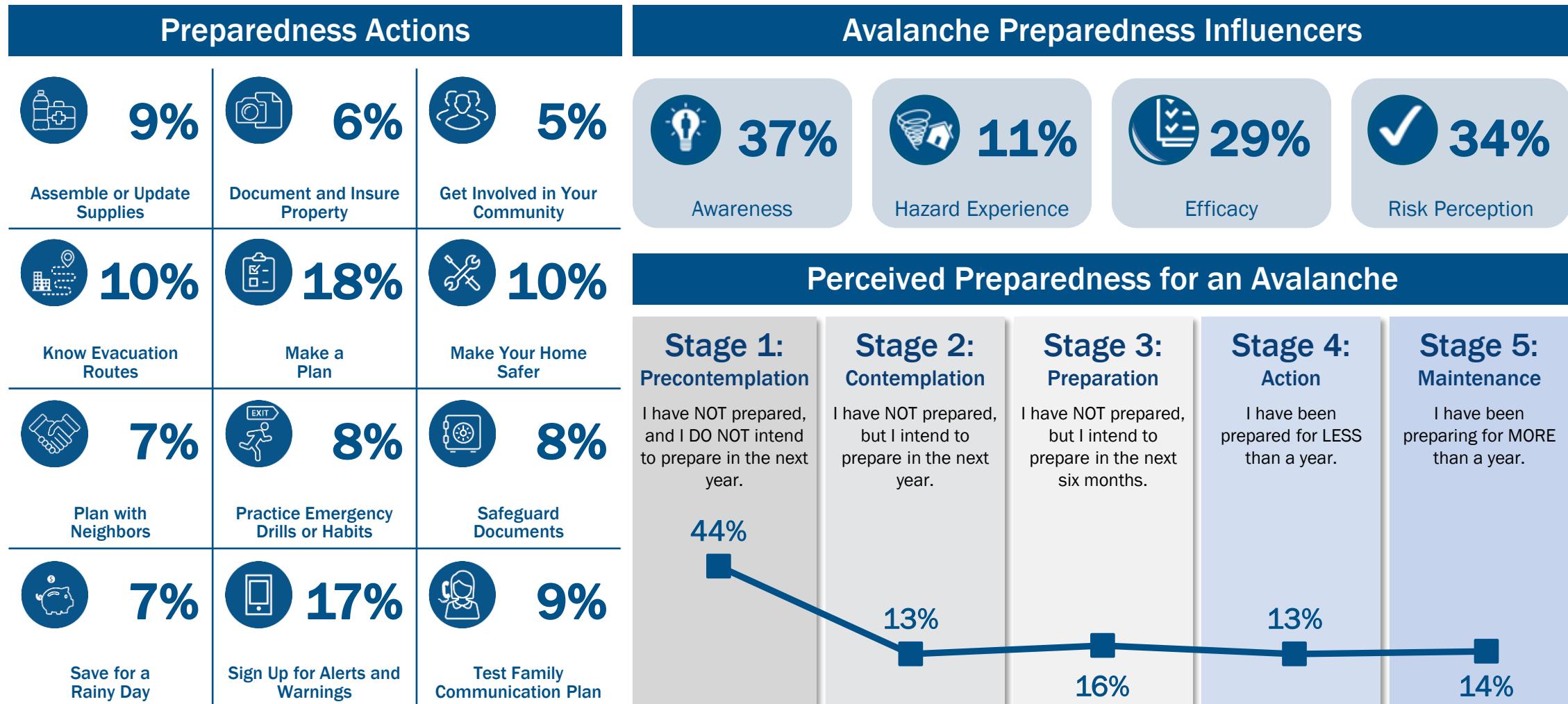
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Avalanche

Almost half of people living in avalanche-prone areas did not intend to prepare for one, and most had taken no action.



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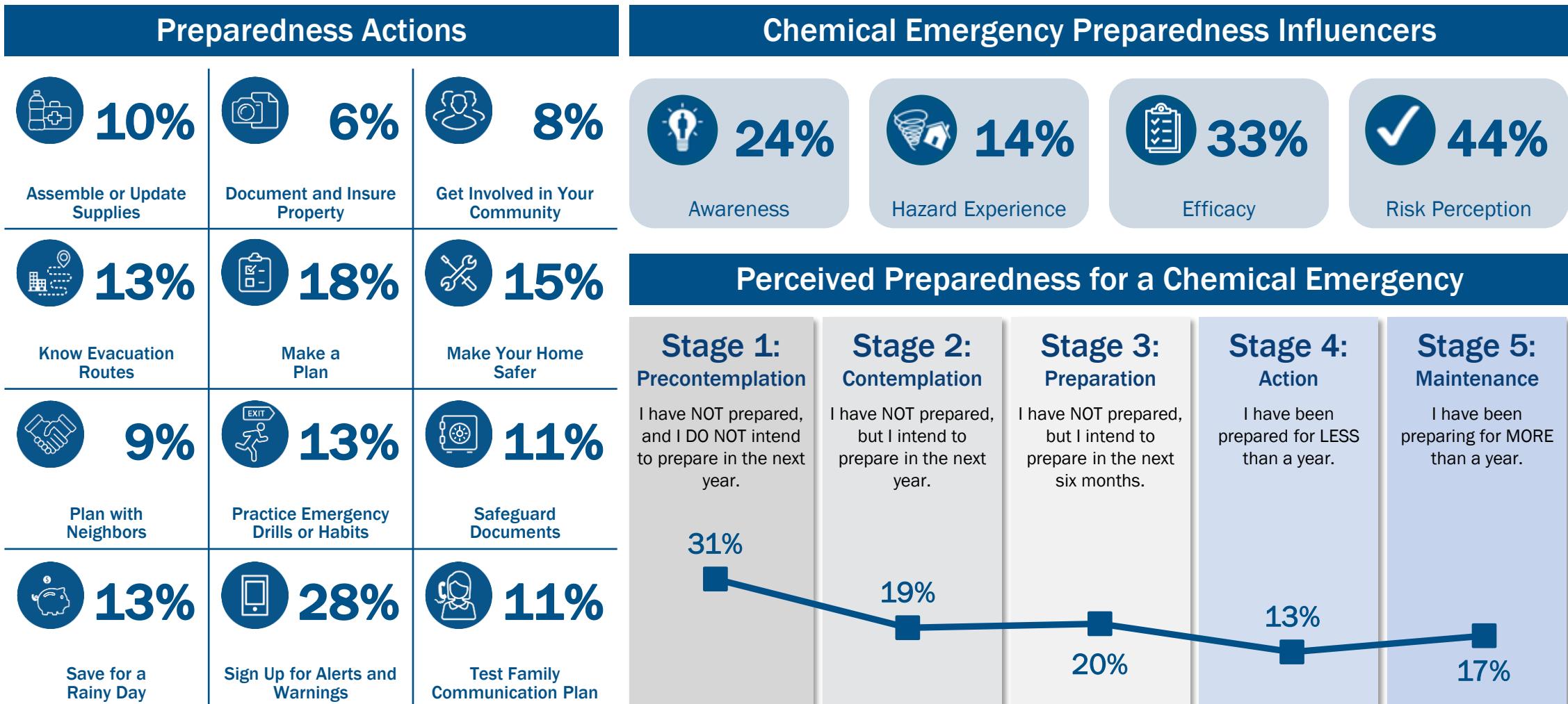
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Chemical Emergency

Less than a quarter of the public had read, seen, or heard information about how to prepare for a chemical emergency.



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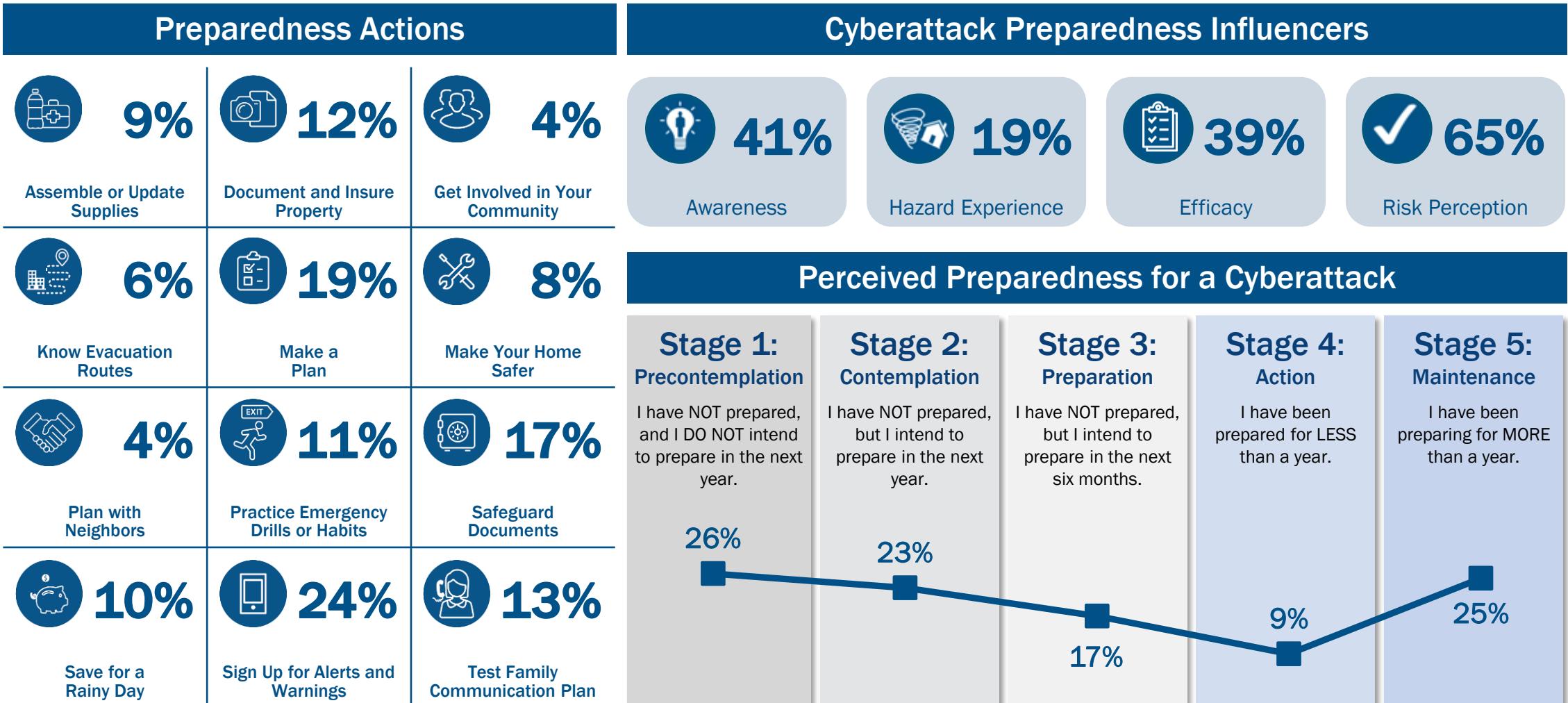
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Cyberattack

Risk perception for a cyberattack was high, however, two-thirds of people felt unprepared for one.



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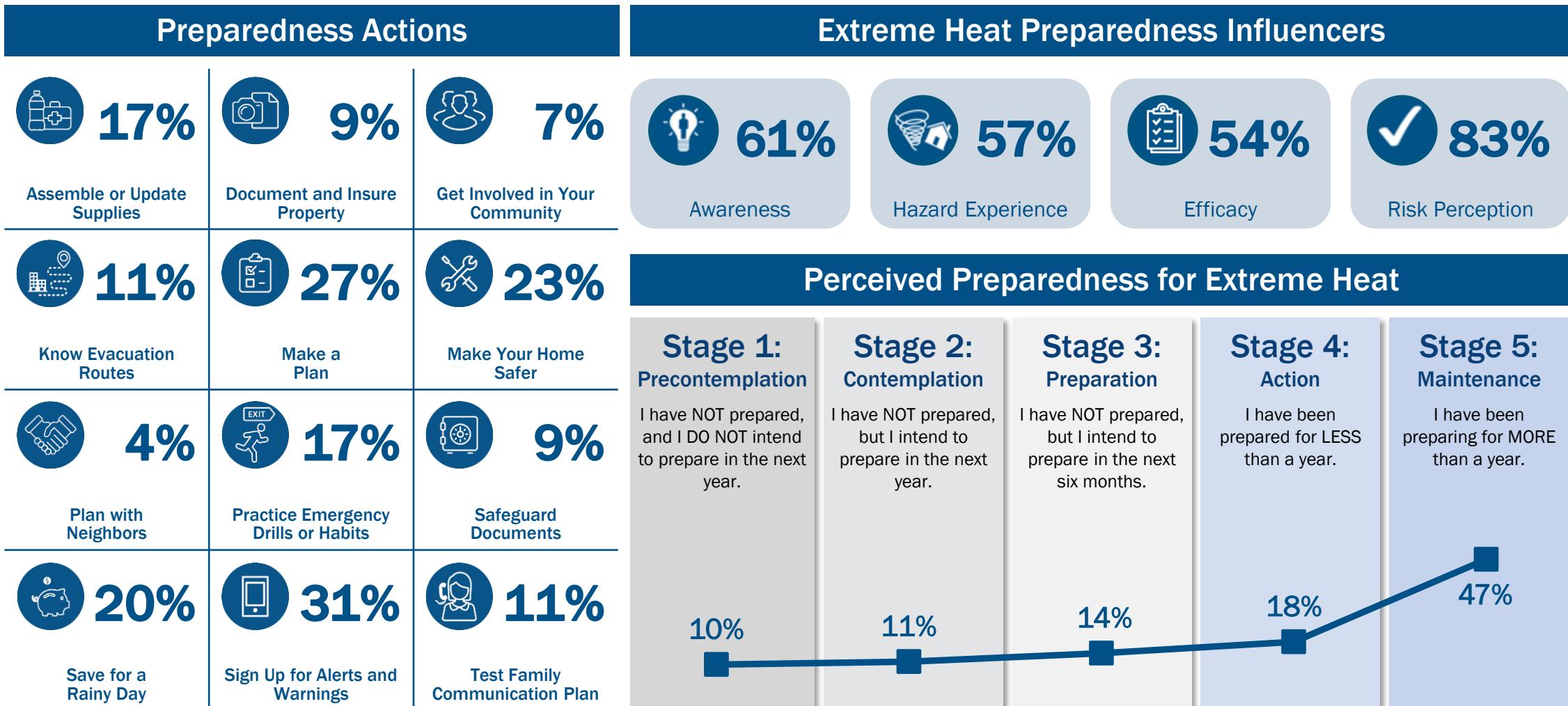
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Extreme Heat

For people living in areas prone to extreme heat, applicable preparedness actions among households remained low.



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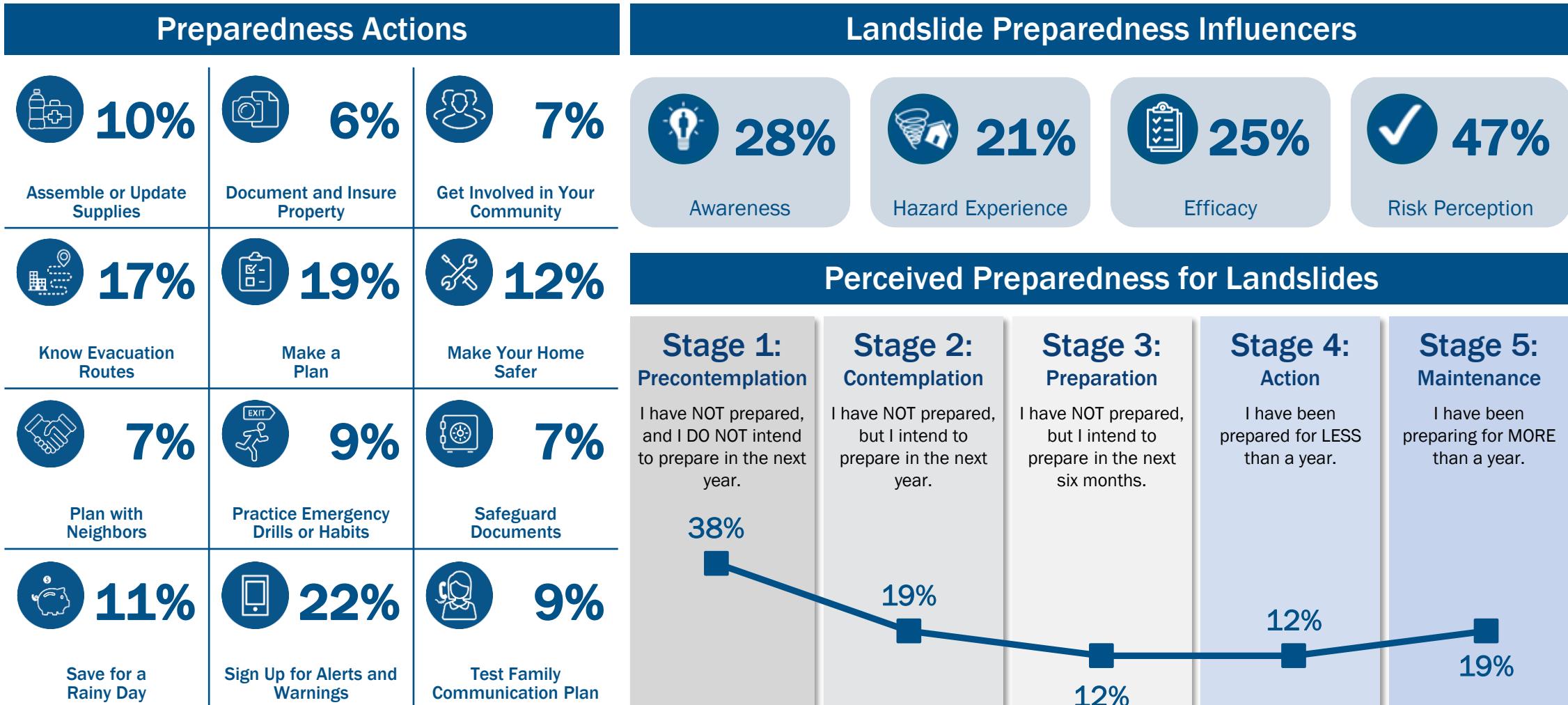
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Landslide

Nearly half of people living in landslide-prone areas perceived the risk, but fewer than one-third were aware of how to prepare.

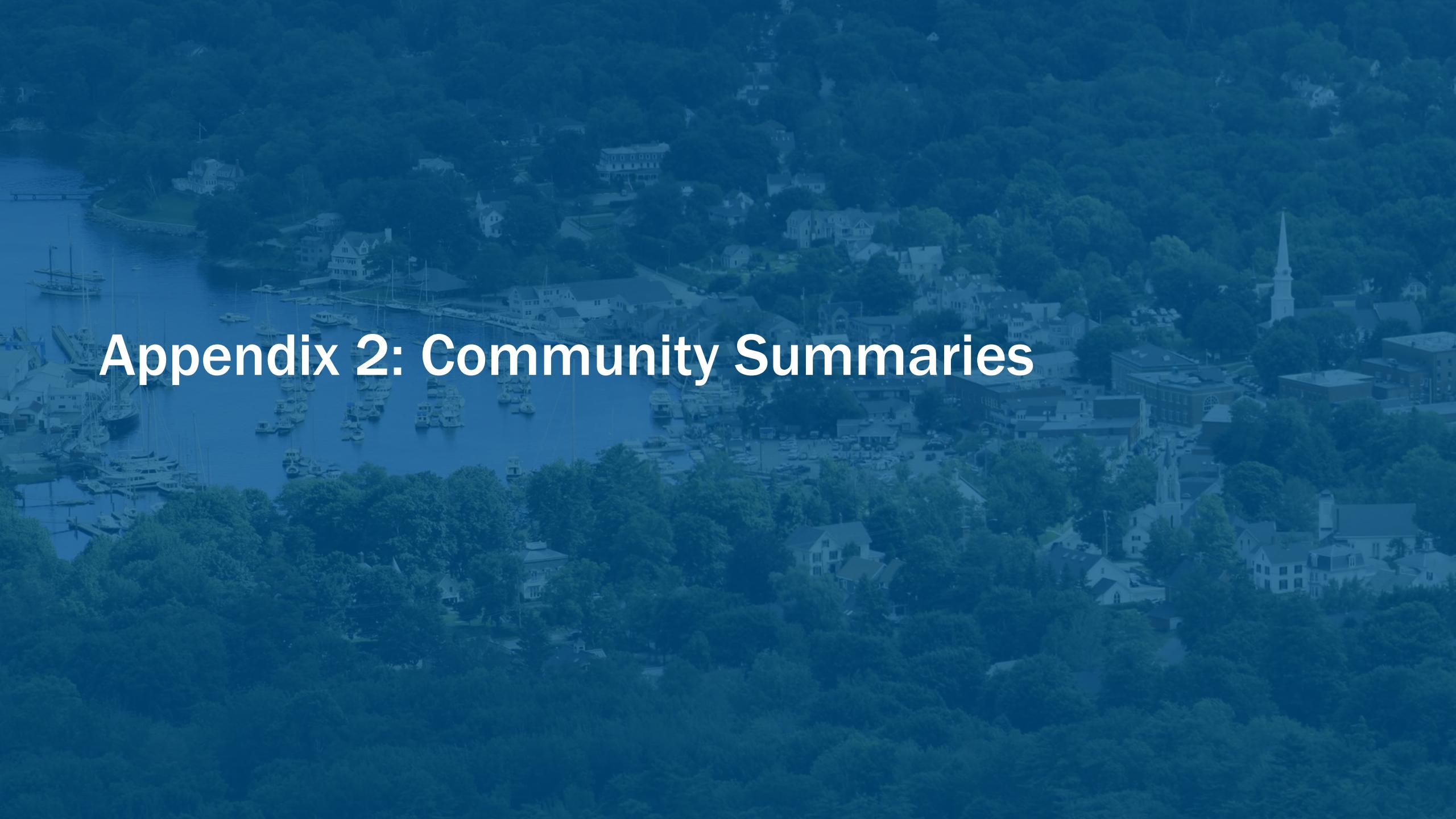


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Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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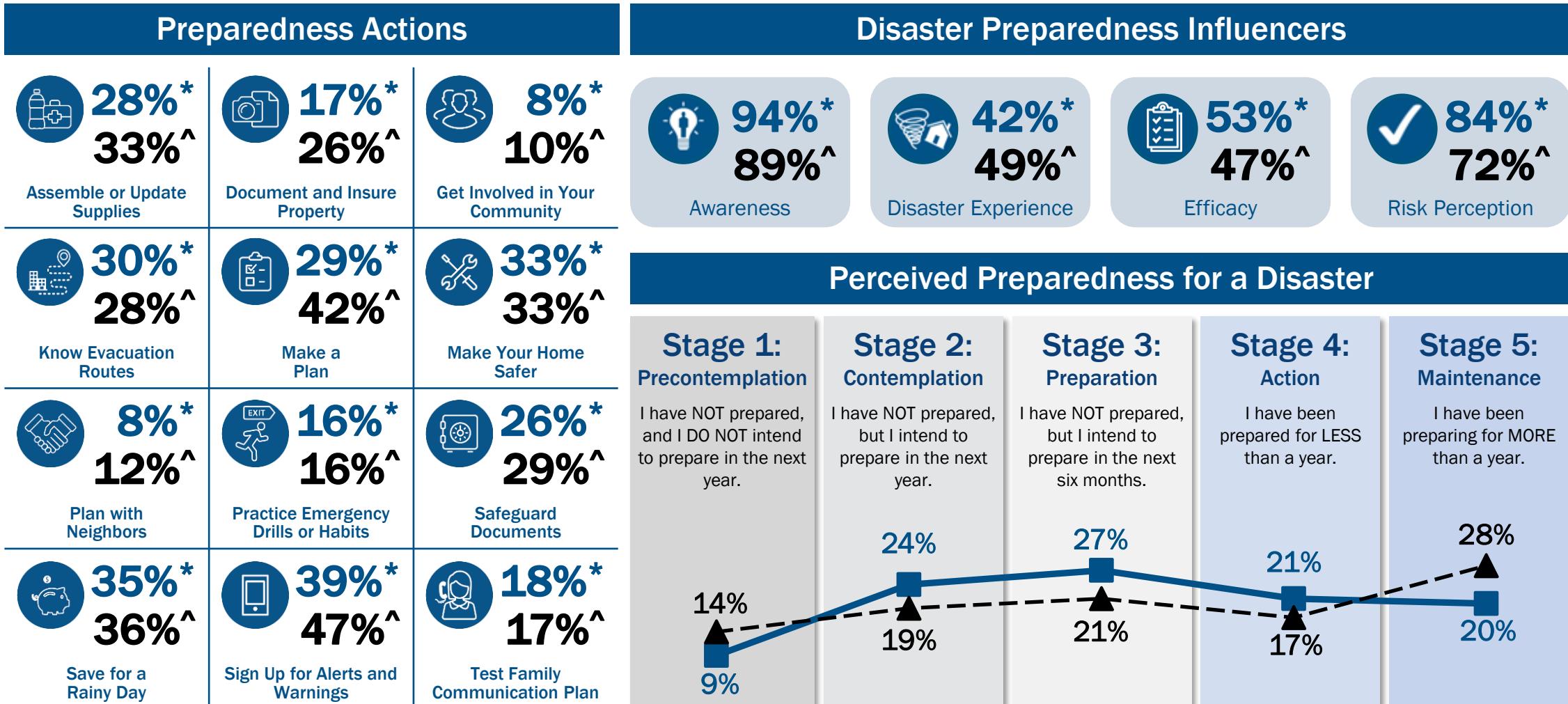
The background image shows a panoramic view of a coastal town, likely Camden, Maine. In the foreground, a harbor is filled with many sailboats and small boats. The town is built on a hillside, with numerous houses and buildings visible through the dense green trees. A prominent white church with a tall steeple stands on the right side of the town. The water is a deep blue, and the overall scene is very scenic and peaceful.

Appendix 2: Community Summaries

Preparedness Summary: Not Primarily English-Speaking Households

People who primarily speak a language other than English in the household were slightly less likely to be prepared for a disaster. However, they were also more likely to have some intention to prepare.

Blue* = Not Primarily English-Speaking Household
Black^ = Primarily English-Speaking Household



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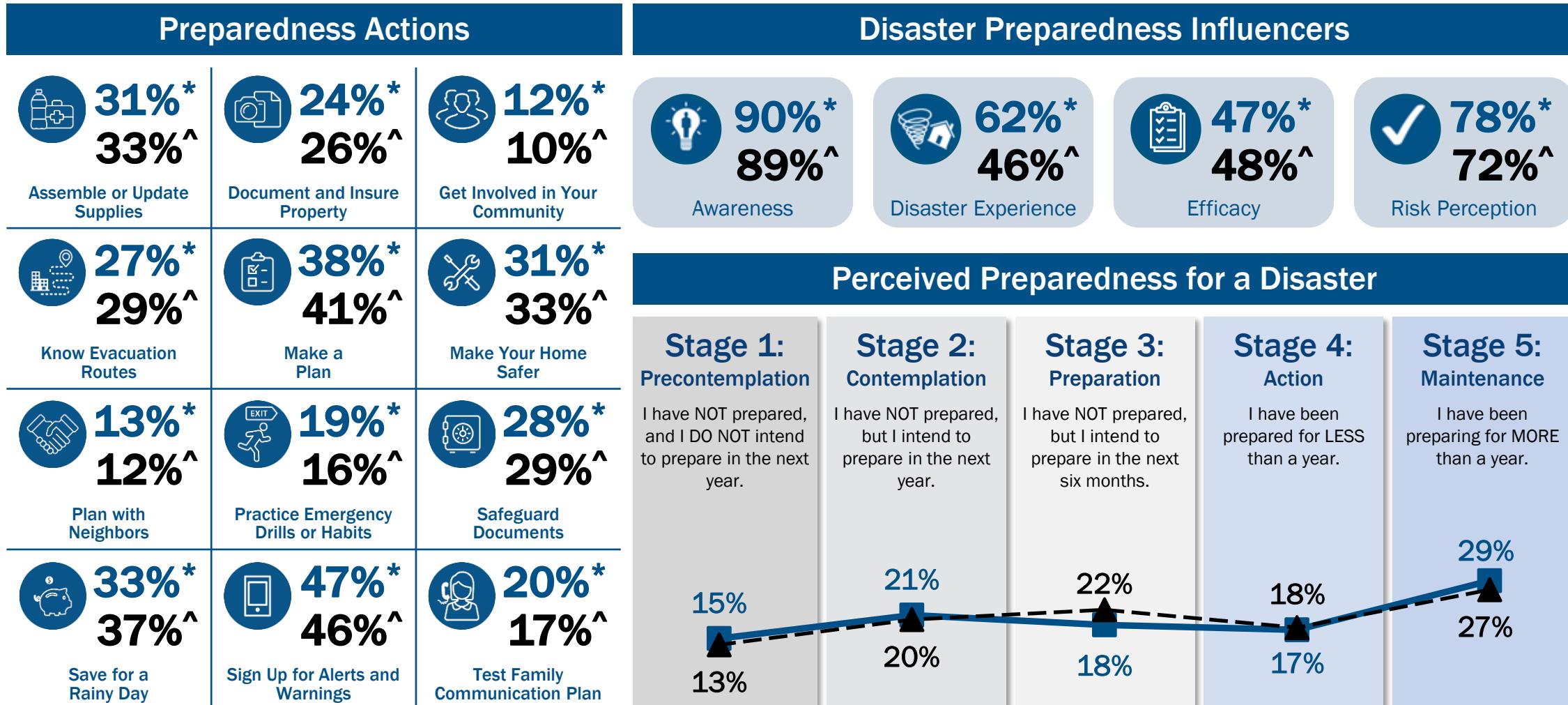
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Preparedness Summary: People with Disabilities

People with disabilities were much more likely to report having experienced a disaster and perceived a higher risk. However, they reported lower rates of taking some actions, like making a plan.

Blue* = People with disabilities

Black^ = People without disabilities



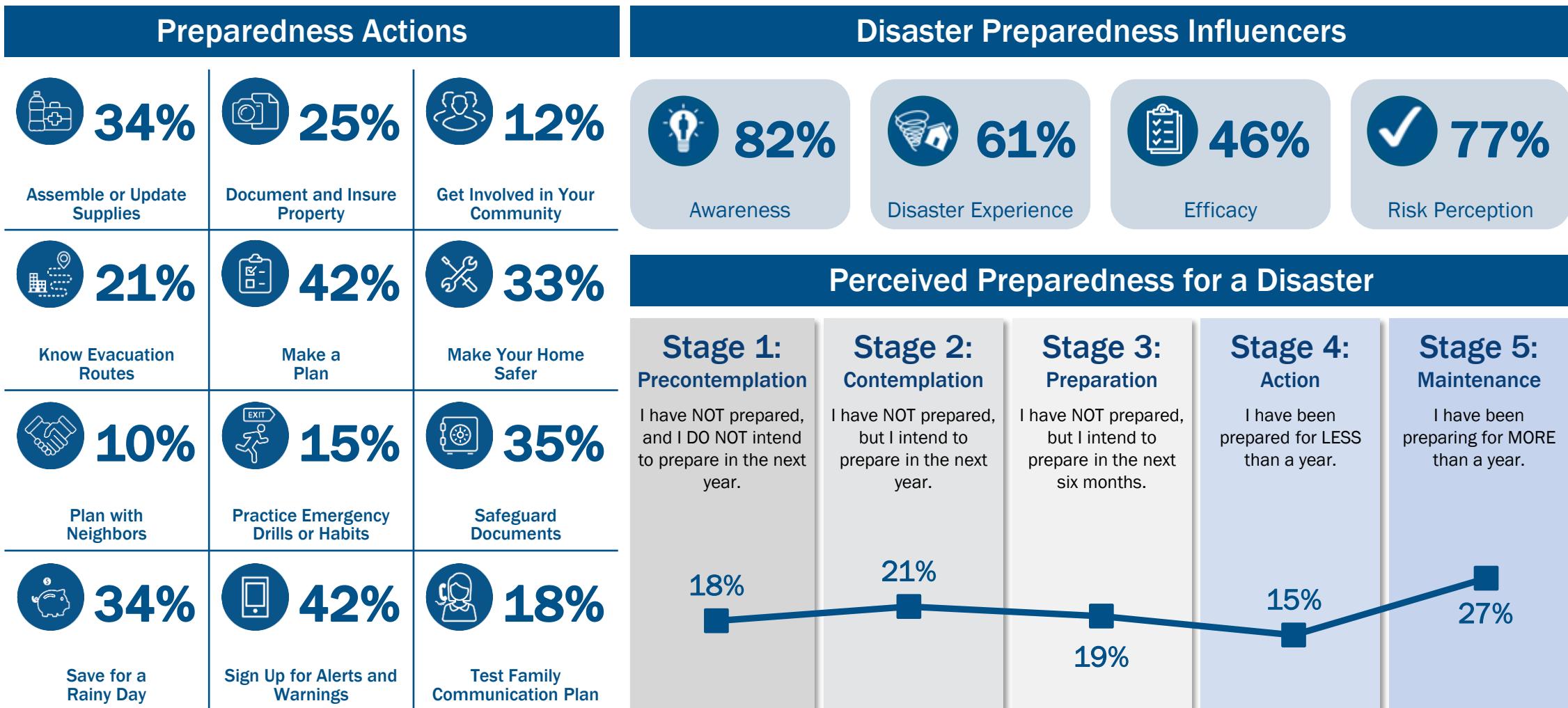
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Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: LGBTQ+

Compared to the national average, people who identify as LGBTQ+ were more likely to perceive the risks of a disaster and reported higher disaster experience, but they were less often exposed to information (awareness).



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Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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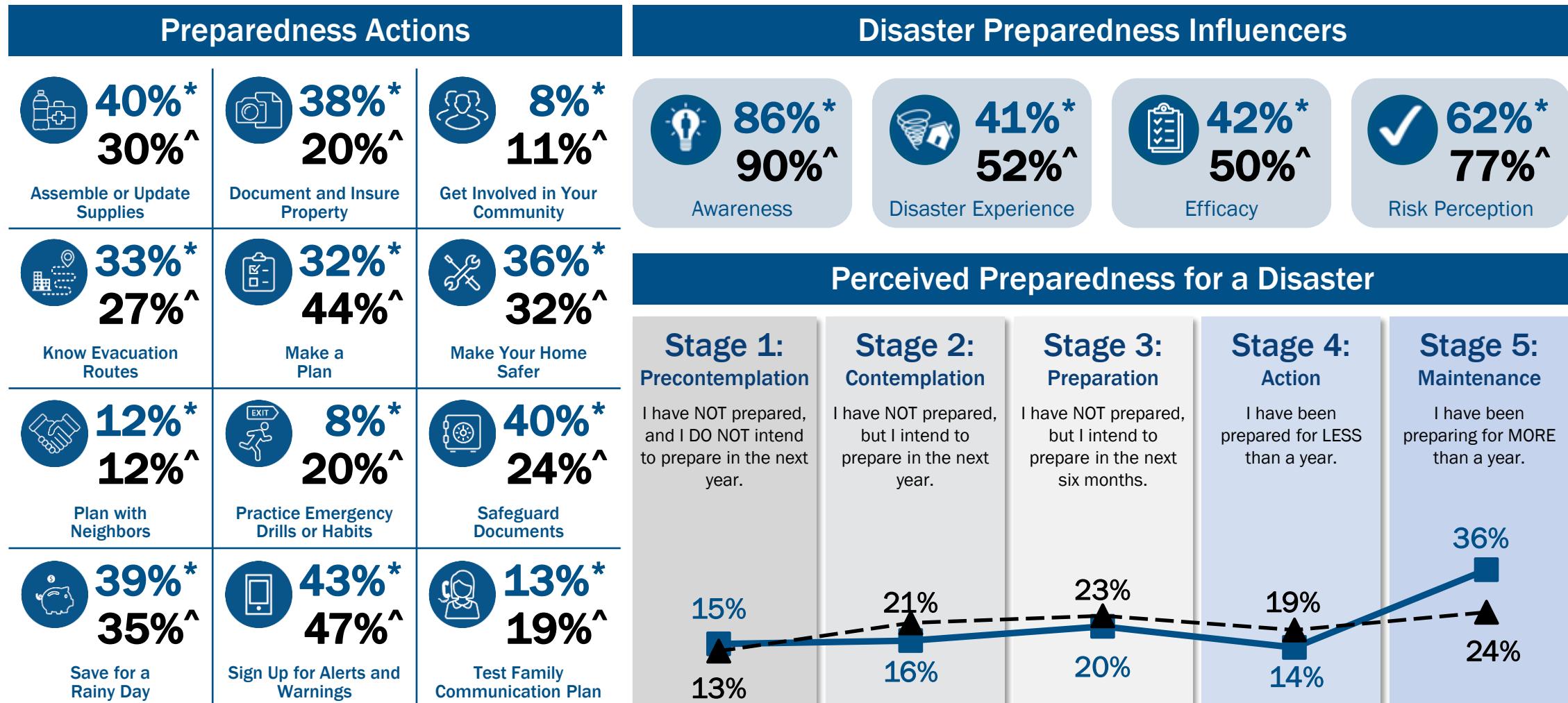
30

Preparedness Summary: 60+ Community

The population of people ages 60 and older reported very high levels of long-term preparedness yet may be vulnerable due to very low participation in emergency drills or habits.

Blue* = 60+ Years Old

Black^ = 18-59 Years Old



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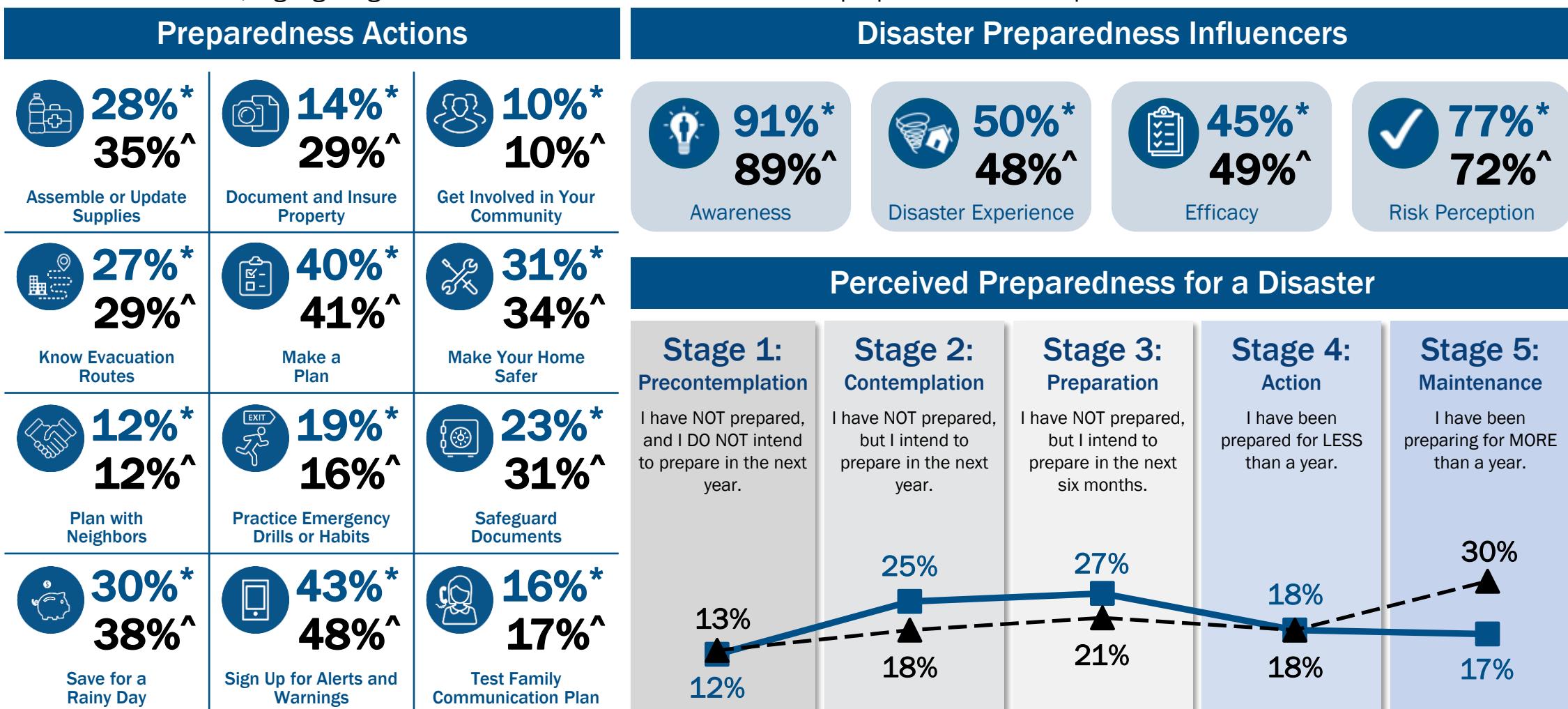
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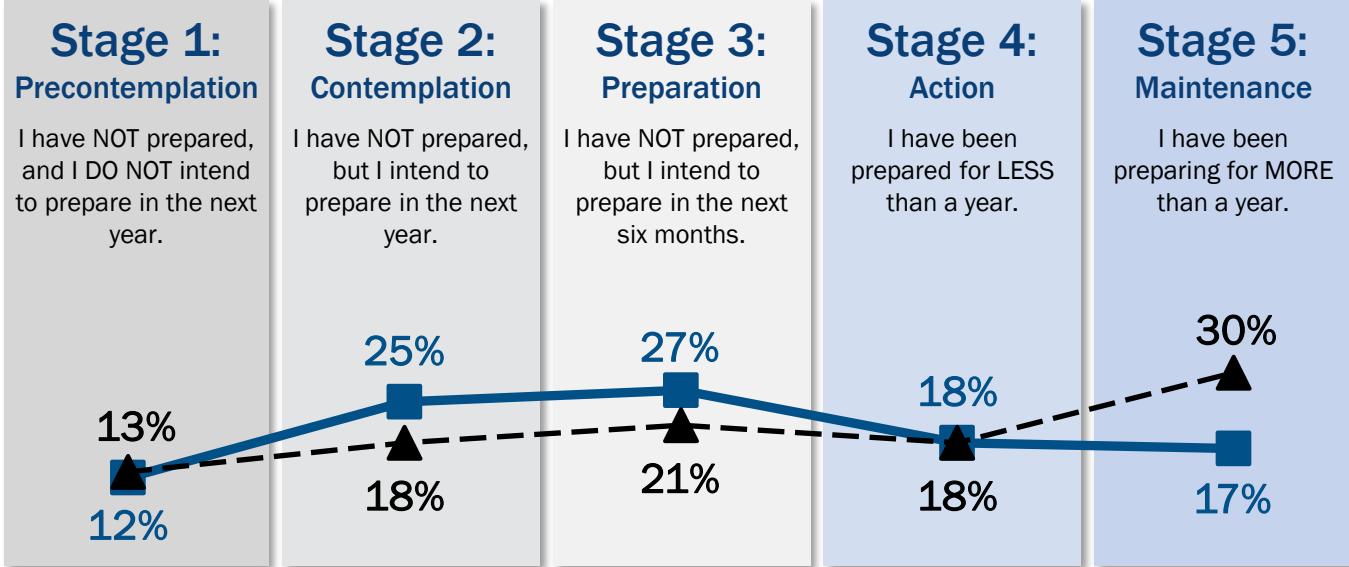
Preparedness Summary: Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

Blue* = Disadvantaged
Black^ = Not Disadvantaged

People who are socioeconomically disadvantaged took less preparedness actions that may have some cost associated with them, highlighting the need to demonstrate low and no cost preparedness techniques.



Perceived Preparedness for a Disaster



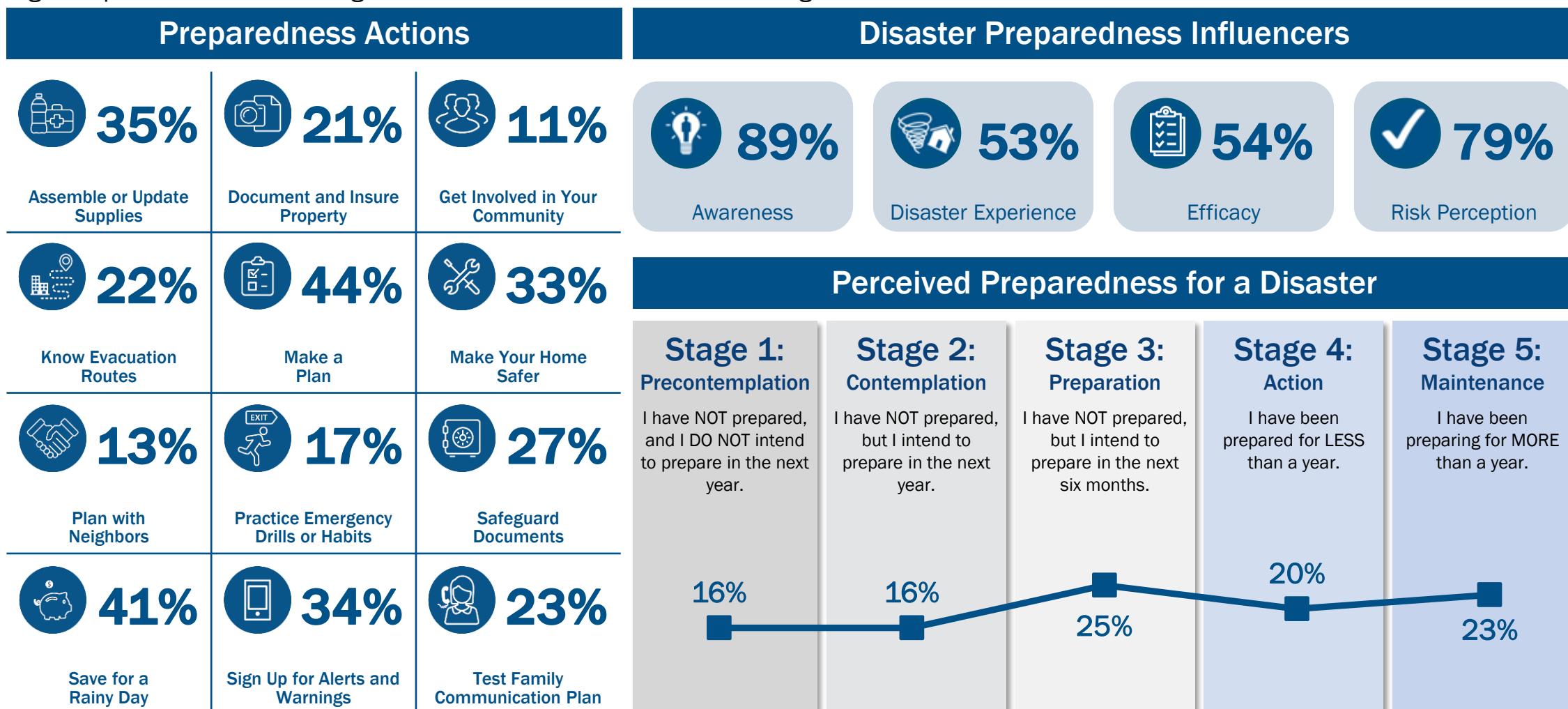
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Preparedness Summary: People with Faith-Based Beliefs and Religious Minorities

People with faith-based beliefs had higher levels of confidence in the impact of preparedness and their ability to prepare (efficacy), yet they signed up for alerts and warnings at a lower rate than the national average.



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Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

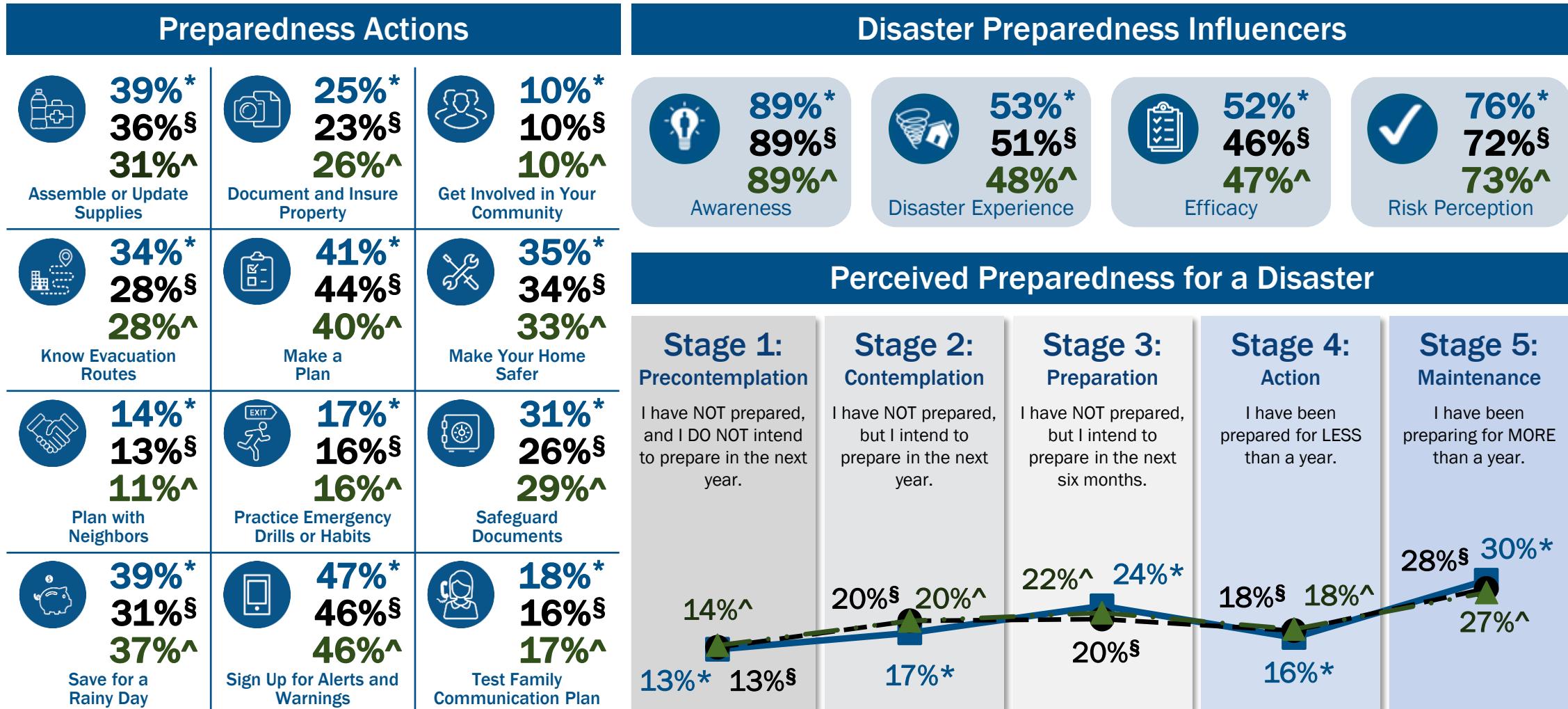
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Preparedness Summary: Rural Areas

Rural communities, defined based on population density from Census data, were more likely to take 9 of the 12 preparedness actions than urban or urban cluster areas, however, perceived preparedness did not greatly differ.

Blue* = Rural
Black§ = Urban Cluster
Green^ = Urban



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Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

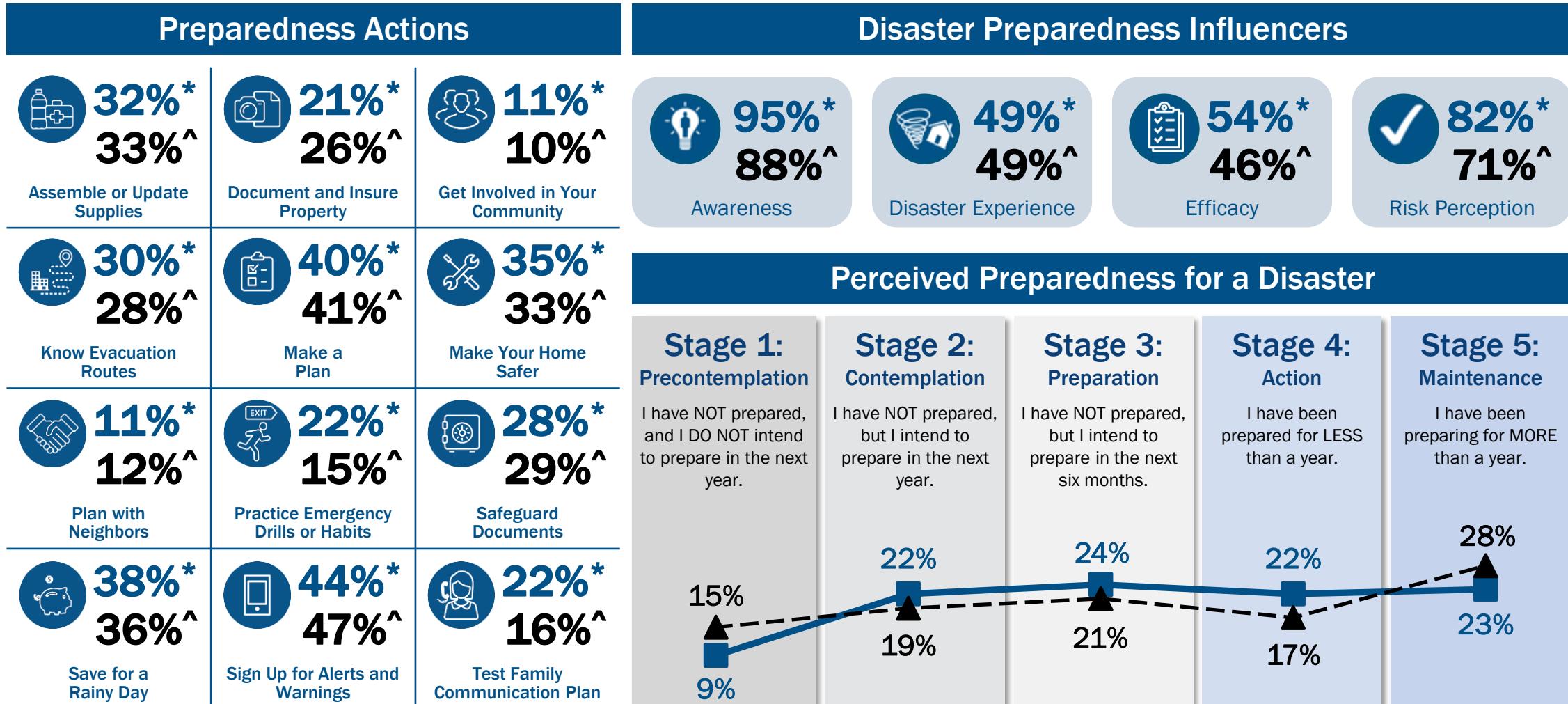
Legend: ■ — = Rural ● ----- = Urban Cluster ▲ - - - = Urban

Preparedness Summary: Hispanic or Latino

The Hispanic and Latino communities reported very high rates of awareness, risk perception, and preparedness efficacy, indicating some success in reaching them with preparedness information.

Blue* = Hispanic or Latino

Black^ = Not Hispanic or Latino



Legend: ■ = Hispanic or Latino ▲ = Not Hispanic or Latino



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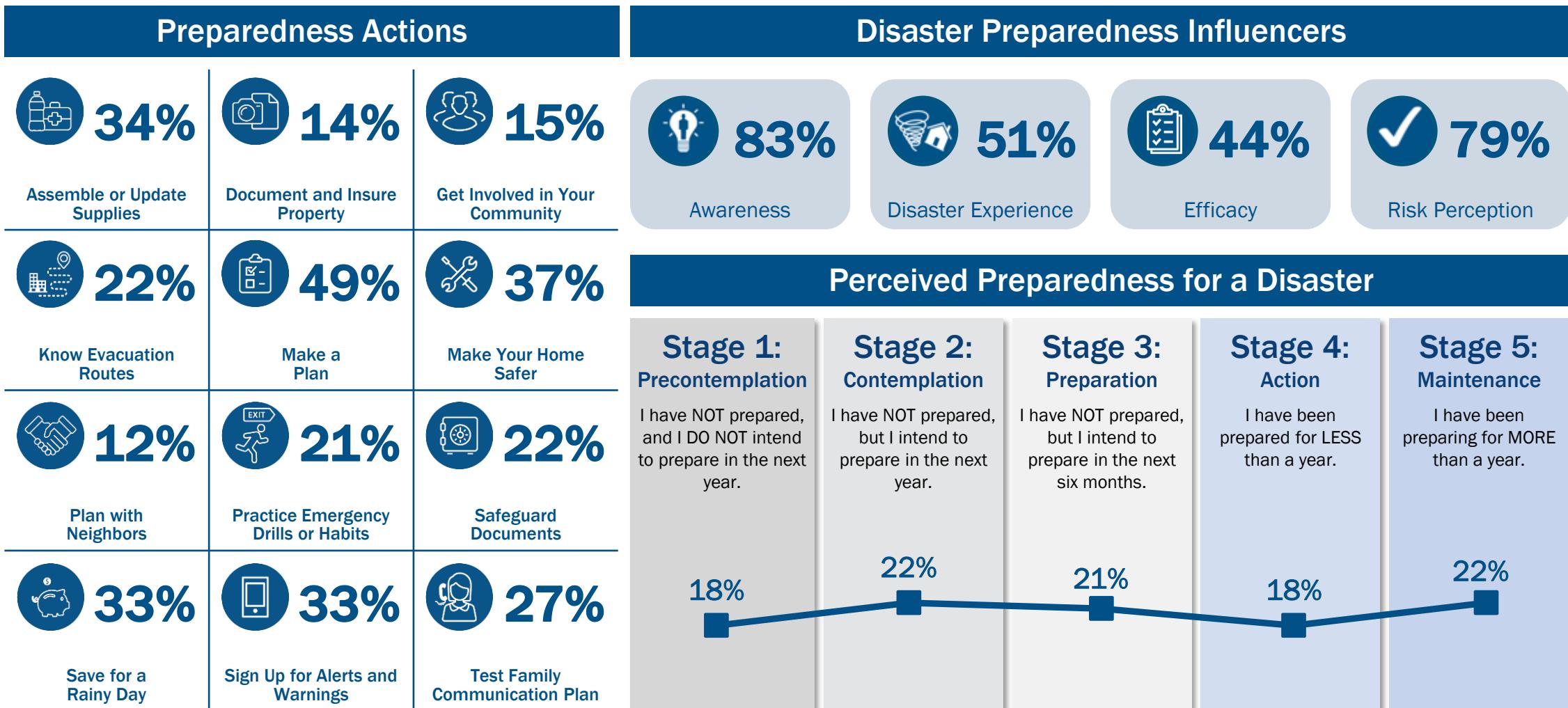
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: American Indian or Alaska Native

Compared to the national average, members of the American Indian and Alaska Native communities were more likely to make a plan and to get involved in their community, but were most likely of all races and ethnicities that responded to have no intent to prepare (stage 1).



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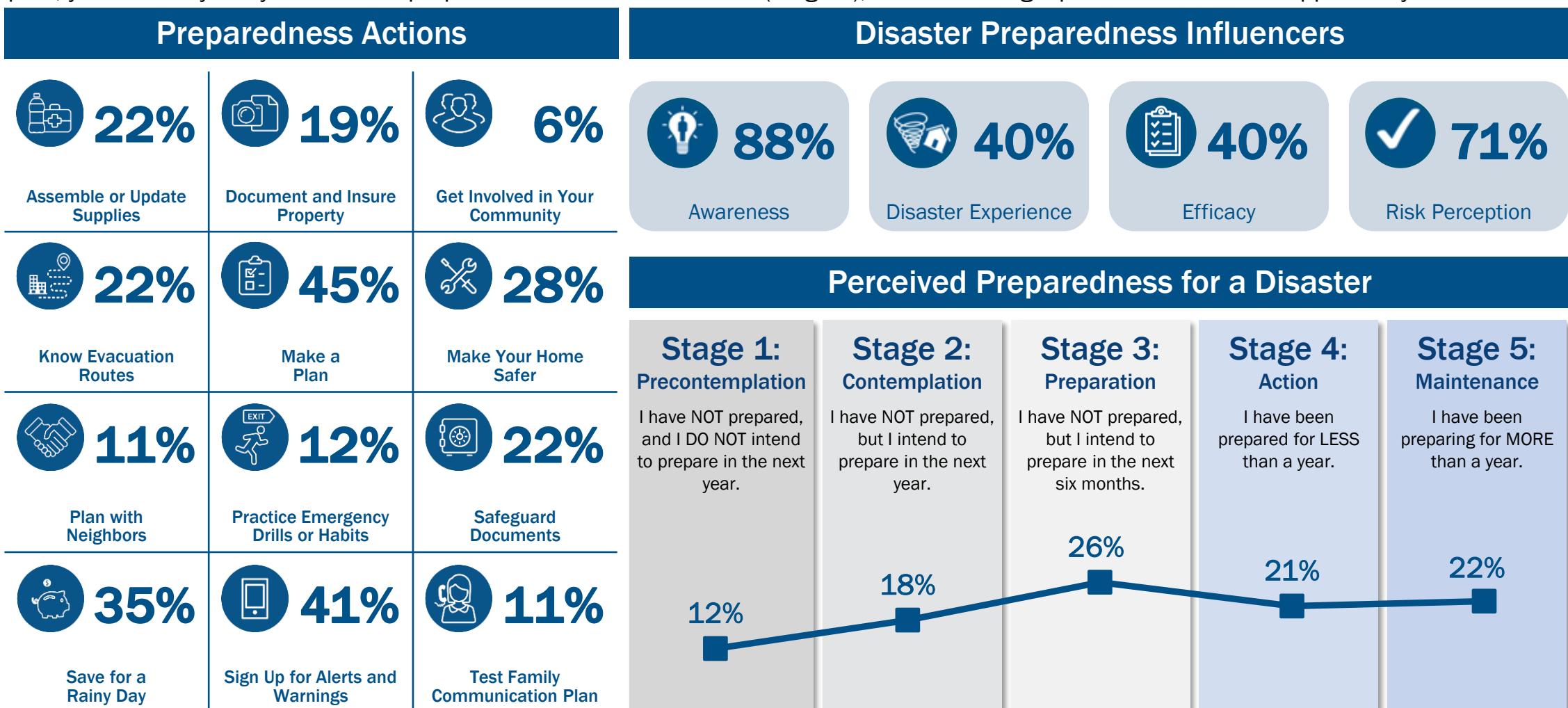
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Asian

Compared to the national average, members of the Asian community were less likely to take most preparedness actions, except for making a plan, yet were very likely to intend to prepare in the immediate future (stage 3), demonstrating a potential shortfall or opportunity for outreach.



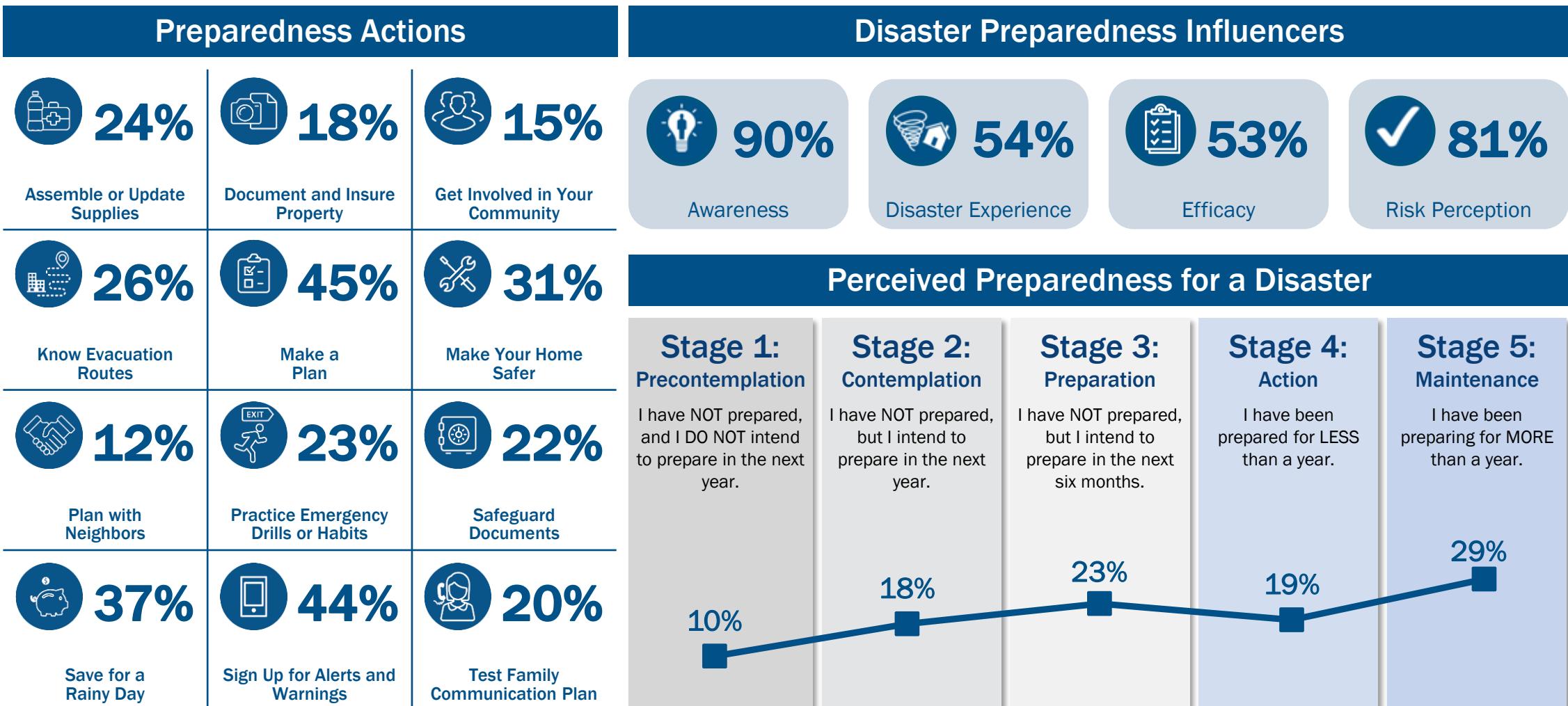
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Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Black or African American

Members of the Black or African American community reported much higher levels of getting involved with the community, making a plan, and practicing it than the national average, but were less likely to report ability to maintain emergency supplies and document or insure property.



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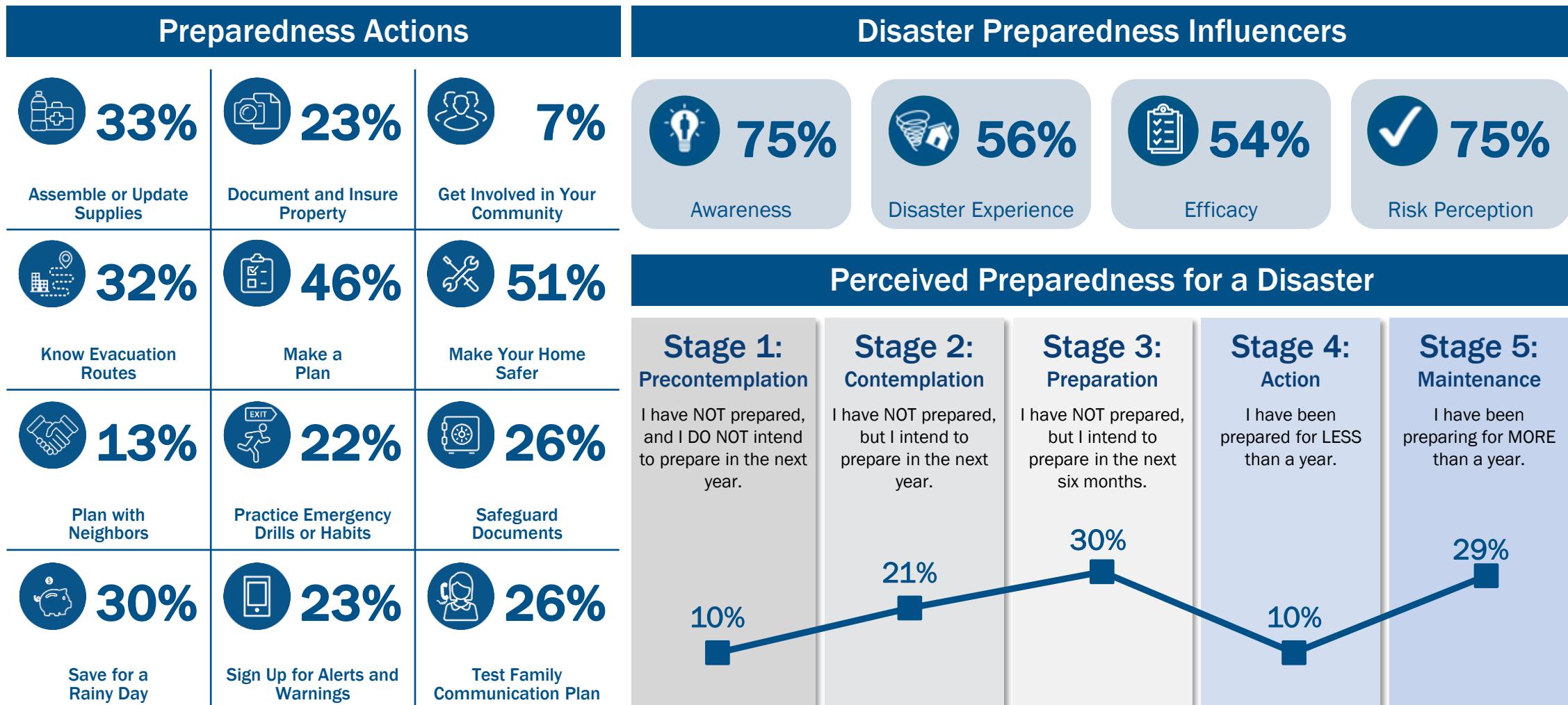
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

While members of the Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander community reported very high in stages 2-3, where they consider themselves unprepared, they reported very low in stage 1, meaning they are among the most likely to intend to prepare in the future, if given the chance.



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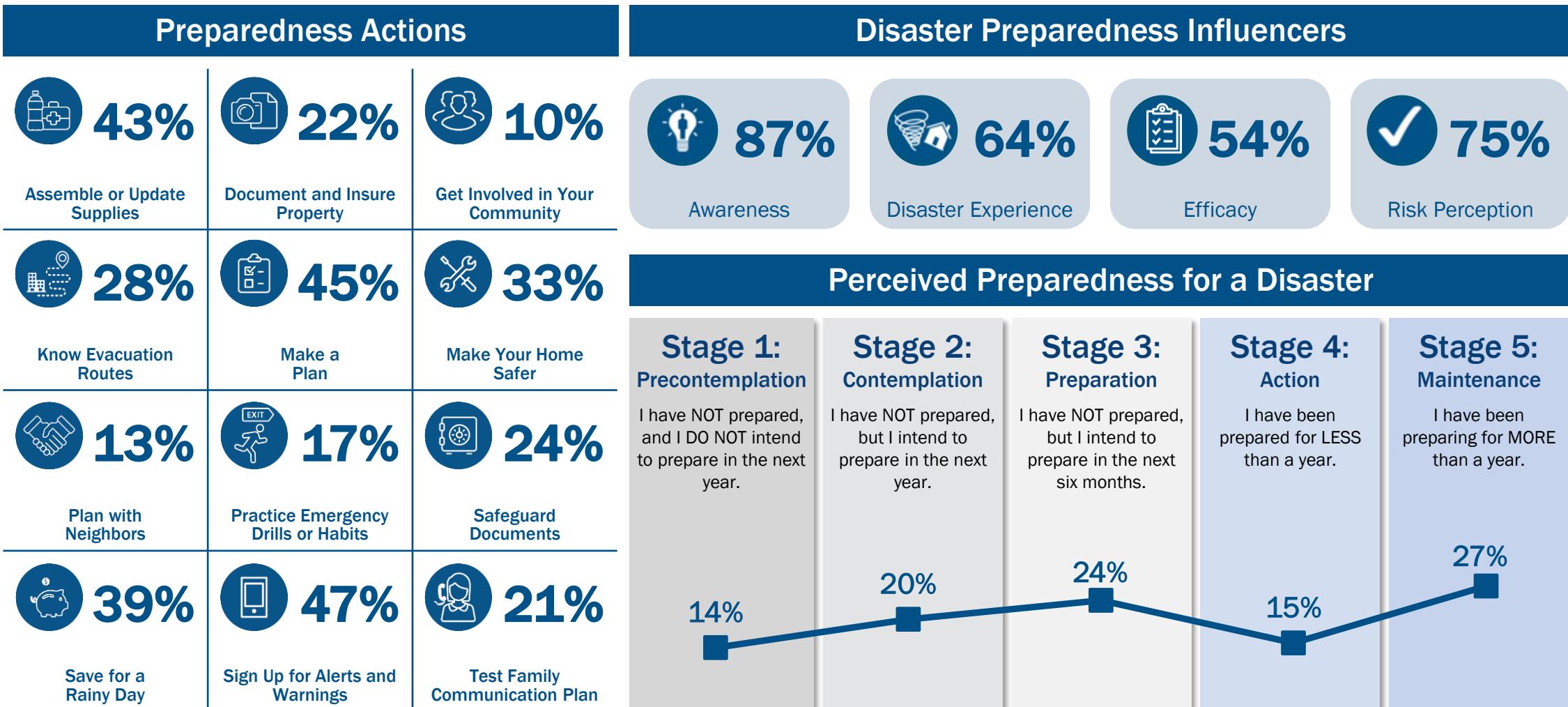
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: Two or More Races

Members of the two or more races community were the most likely to have disaster experience and reported the same or higher level of likelihood to do 10 of the 12 preparedness actions as compared to the national average.



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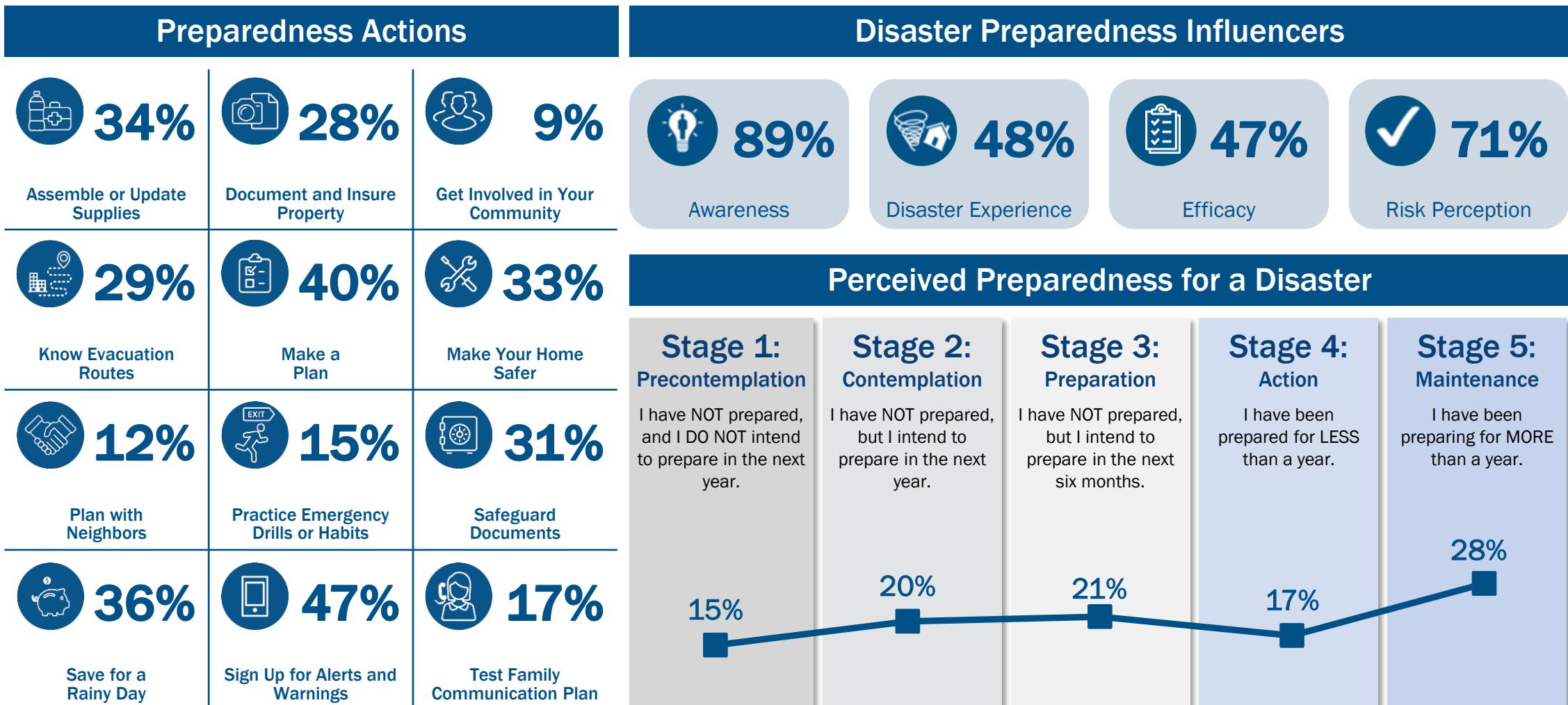
Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Preparedness Summary: White

The White community were among the least likely to have experienced a disaster, and more likely to have no intention to prepare (stage 1) than most other races. This community compared very similarly to the national average for preparedness actions and stages of change.



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Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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