

2021 National Household Survey

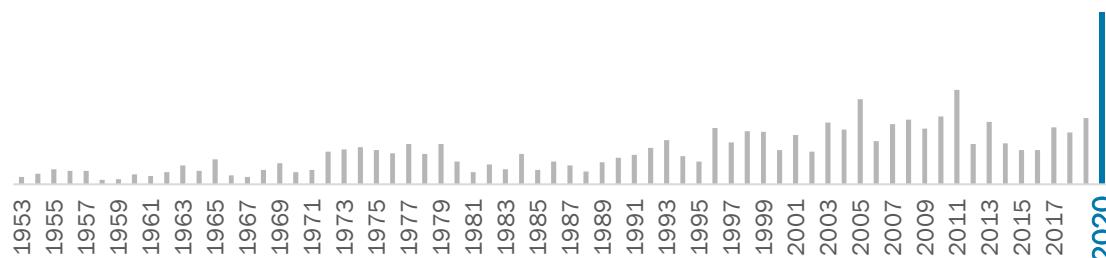
Key Findings | Individual and Community Preparedness Division



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Setting the Stage: Events Leading Up To 2021 Fielding

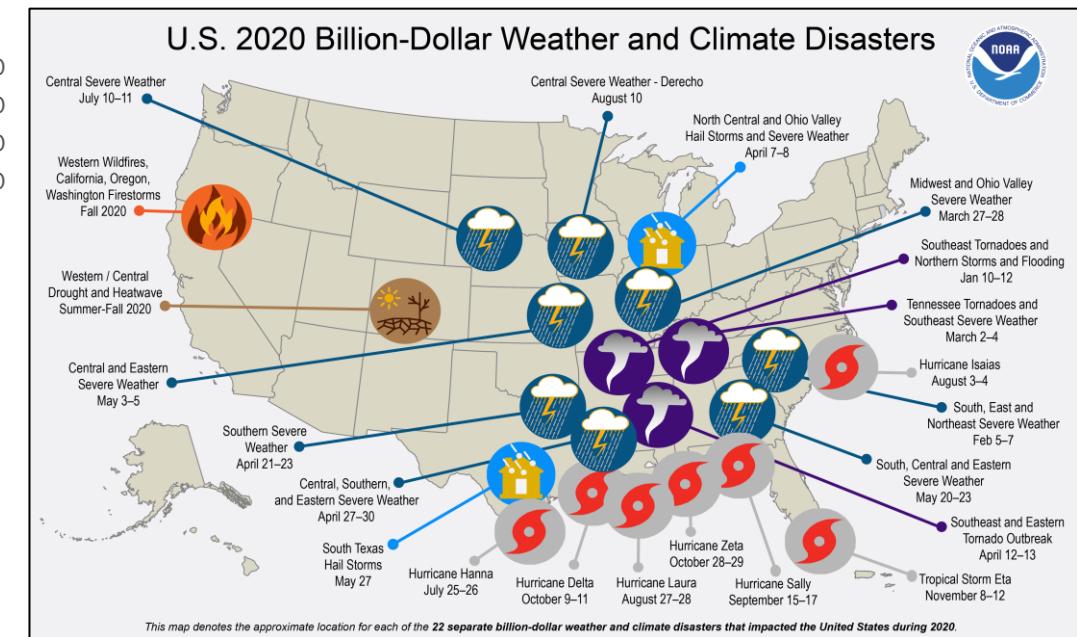
In 2020, there were a record **226** Major Disaster (DR) and Emergency Declarations (EM)



Including COVID-19 declarations in every State and Territory.

At the beginning of fielding (Feb 24) there were:

- 28.5 million cumulative COVID-19 cases¹
- 525,000 COVID-19 related deaths¹
- Stay-at-home orders or advisories for 10 states and territories
- COVID-19 related business closures in every state and territory



- NOAA: Record-breaking 22 separate “billion-dollar” climate/weather disasters²

¹ Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC, by State/Territory, CDC (2021). https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_dailystates

² NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2021). <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>, DOI: 10.25921/stkw-7w73



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FEMA National Household Survey (NHS)

- FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division (ICPD) conducts the 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 US public across the **whole community.**



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2021 NHS Sample Frame Details

Six NHS Hazard Samples		
	Drought	n=505
	Power Outage	n=513
	Thunderstorm	n=509
	Tsunami	n=509
	Volcanic Eruption	n=510
	Winter Storm	n=510

- The 2021 NHS survey was fielded for 11 weeks from **February 24 to May 14, 2021**.
- 7,197 responses were received for the 2021 NHS (“Total Sample”).
 - All respondents were asked general disaster and pandemic preparedness questions.
 - 3,056 respondents answered additional questions on preparedness related to a hazard common to where they live (see sample sizes at left).
- Responses were **weighted** by key demographic variables to enhance the national representativeness of the data.



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Strategic Plan

Helping People. Together.

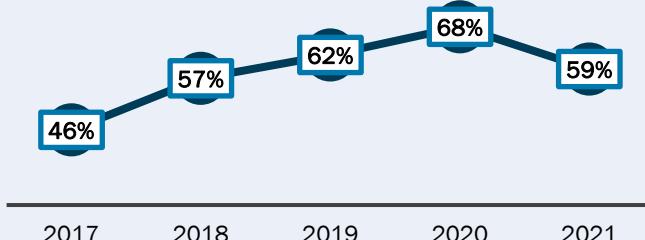


Objective 1.3 Help People Prepare for Disasters

FEMA Mission: **Helping people before, during, and after disasters.**

59%

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



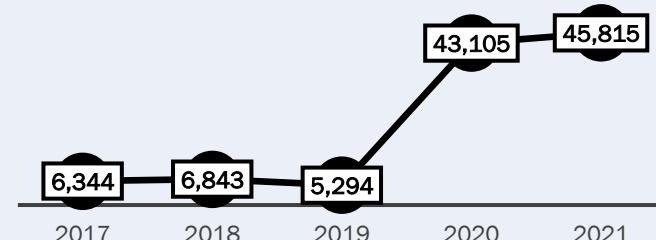
44%

of adults have
saved for a rainy day



45,815

organizations trained in
continuity in FY 2021 YTD



Note: Financial resilience question first asked in 2018

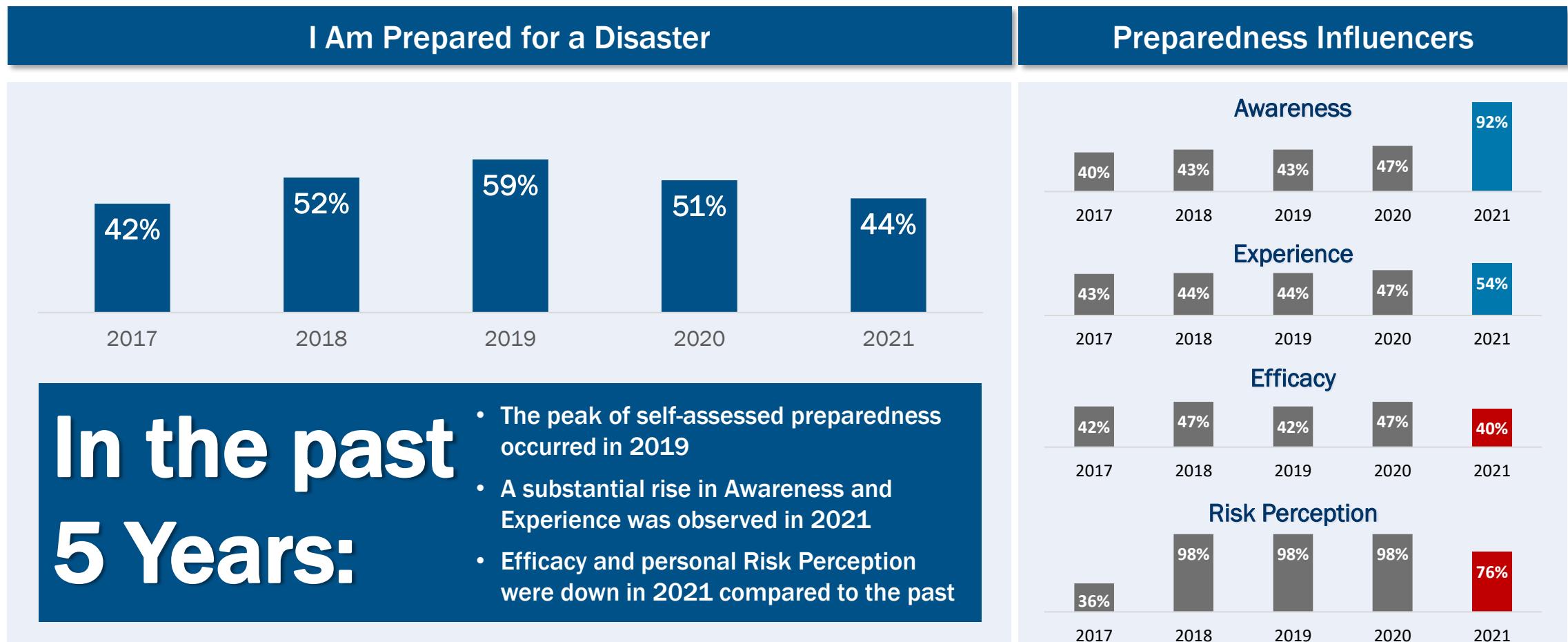
Note: Not collected via the National Household Survey



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Preparedness Trends in the United States Since 2017



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Key Opportunities from the 2021 NHS on the Culture of Preparedness

Fostering a culture of preparedness requires a strategy that is inclusive of the whole public and accounts for increasing risks.



Help Build Preparedness Confidence While Awareness and Disaster Experience are High

Most respondents have awareness of how to prepare for a disaster or have experienced the impacts of a disaster, but fewer respondents are both confident that they can prepare for a disaster and believe that their preparation would be helpful. The findings encourage us to emphasize the effectiveness of preparedness methods, training opportunities, and delivery of low-cost, accessible step-by-step methods that people can take to help them feel that their preparedness efforts are impactful.



Use Recognition of Risk to Motivate Preparedness For Climate-Driven Disasters

Climate change can make some disasters more frequent or severe. Most respondents reported that they understand the personal and household risk for the climate-driven hazards of drought, thunderstorm, winter storm, and power outage. Use this fact to confidently promote severe weather and other climate-driven disaster preparedness actions in your communities.



Consider the Differing Needs of Historically Underserved Communities

Historically underserved communities have varying preparedness needs, and no community or demographic is fully prepared for everything. The NHS contains demographic-specific hazard information focused on historically underserved communities so that stakeholders can use the results to plan out their preparedness promotion strategies.



Promote Low-Cost Ways to Bridge the Preparedness Gap for the Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

Respondents who are socioeconomically disadvantaged are less likely to have taken cost-driven preparedness actions like saving for a rainy day. However, they are equally likely to have taken less costly actions, such as getting involved with the community. This indicates that while people are willing to prepare, they may not always have the means. Promotion of low or no-cost ways to prepare can empower individuals of all financial circumstances to take preparedness actions.



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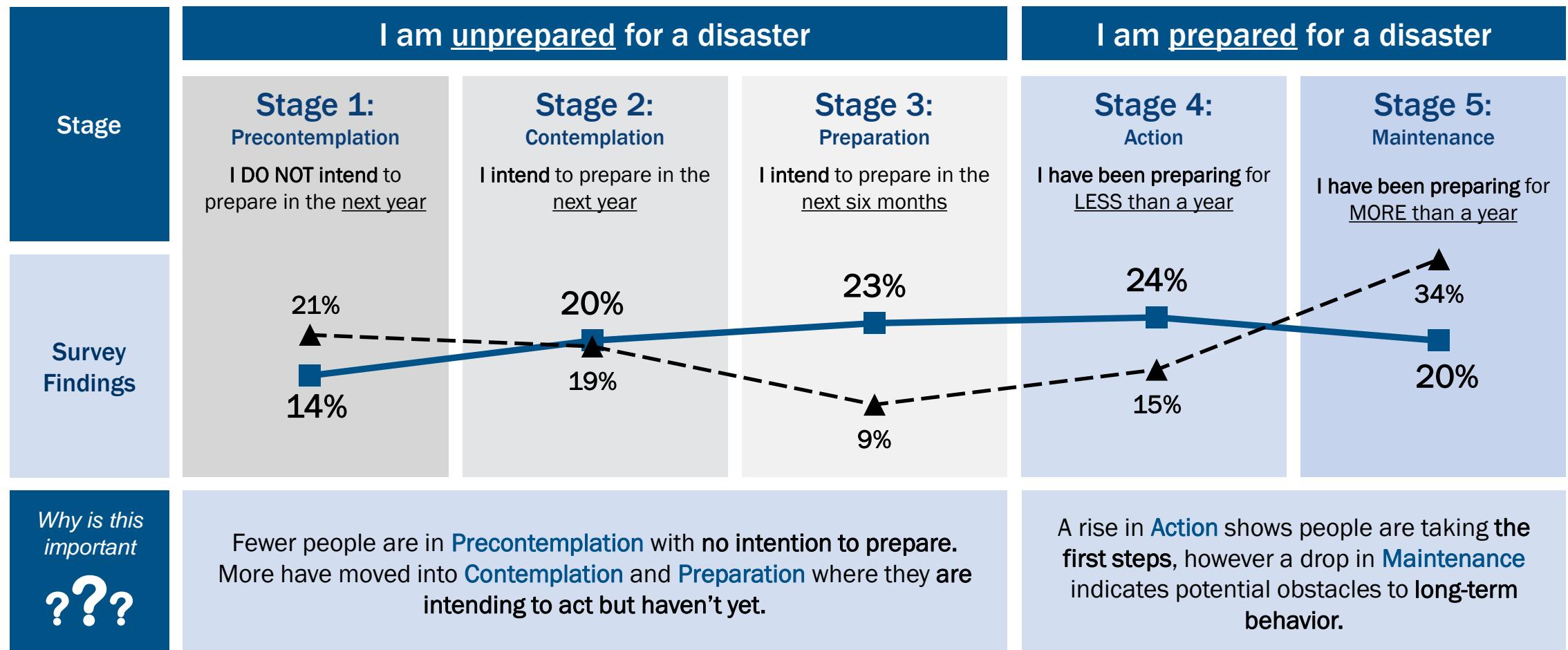
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The background image shows a panoramic view of a coastal town, likely Camden, Maine. In the foreground, there's a dense forest of green trees. Beyond the forest, a large body of water is filled with many sailboats and small boats. The town itself is built on a hillside, with numerous houses of various sizes and colors scattered among the trees. A prominent white church with a tall steeple stands on the right side of the town. The sky is clear and blue.

National Sample Results

Theoretical Stages of Change Model

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



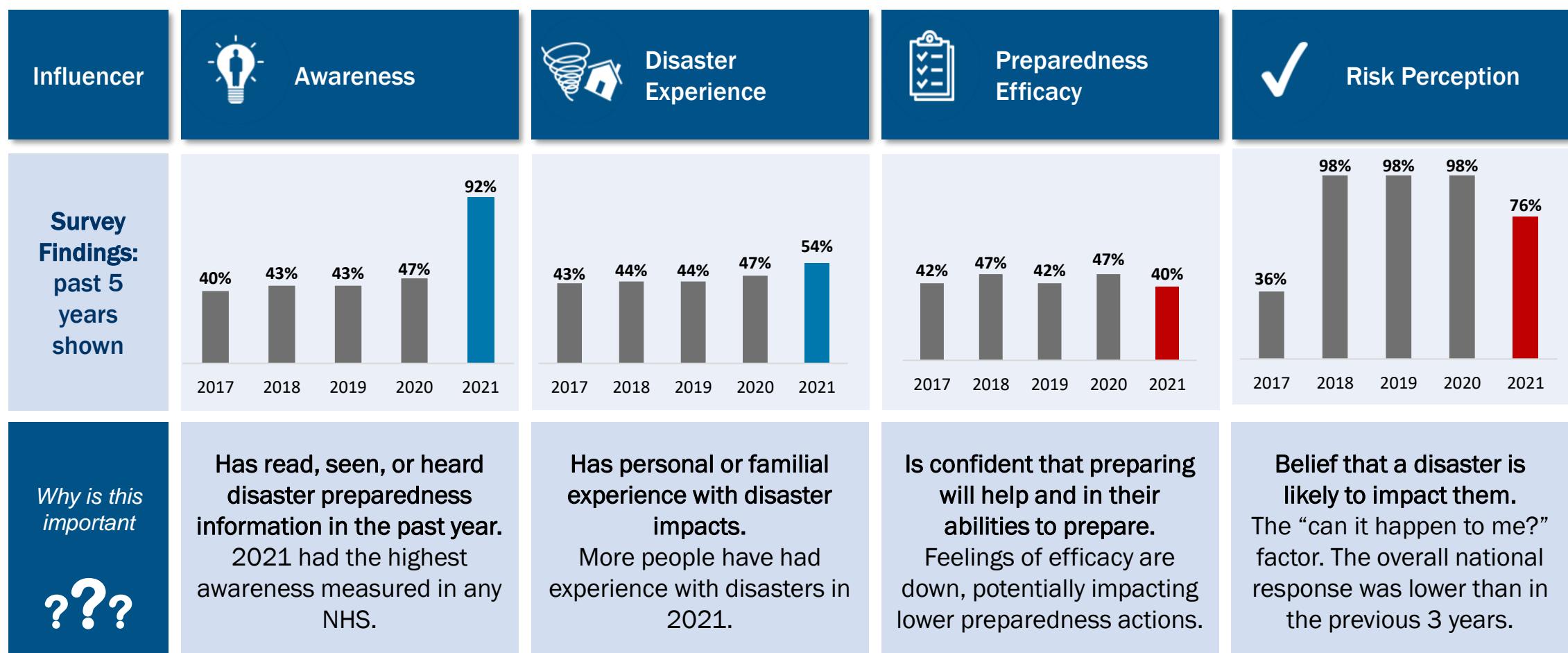
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Legend: ■ = 2021 Estimate ▲ = 2013 Estimate

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Key Influencers to Disaster Preparedness

These four key influencers are standard behavior change measures that are strongly related to a higher amount of preparedness actions taken. Those who have one of these influencers are more likely to take preparedness actions.



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10

Preparedness Actions

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

In 2021, **59%** took three or more of these twelve preparedness actions, and **89%** took at least one.



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Preparedness Actions Across all the Hazard Areas

Those who have 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.

Preparedness actions taken for 2021 NHS:												
	Assembled or Updated Supplies	Documented & Insured Property	Got Involved in the Community	Knew Evacuation Routes	Made a Plan	Made the Home Safer	Planned with Neighbors	Practiced Emergency Drills	Safeguarded Documents	Saved for a Rainy Day	Signed up for Alerts & Warnings	Tested a Family Comm. Plan
Any Disaster (total sample)	45%	27%	16%	28%	43%	45%	15%	22%	34%	44%	40%	25%
Drought	26%	11%	6%	6%	27%	21%	8%	12%	13%	28%	20%	8%
Power Outage	39%	14%	8%	17%	38%	22%	12%	14%	19%	23%	27%	18%
Thunderstorm	29%	19%	12%	15%	27%	30%	16%	19%	26%	23%	29%	16%
Tsunami	10%	8%	8%	18%	22%	13%	5%	9%	12%	14%	21%	10%
Volcanic Eruption	15%	10%	3%	19%	21%	14%	5%	10%	16%	13%	22%	13%
Winter Storm	38%	14%	10%	20%	32%	41%	14%	12%	19%	30%	31%	20%



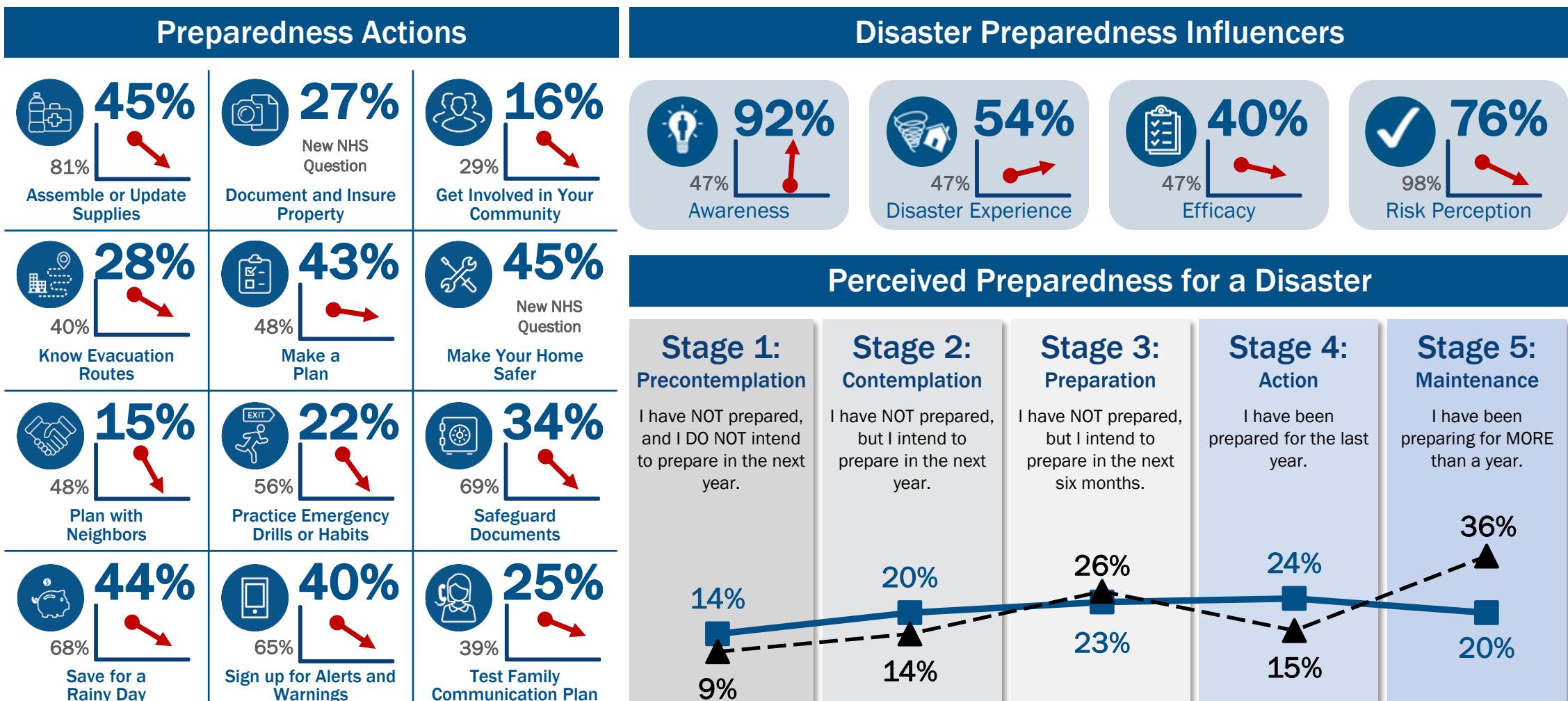
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12

National Preparedness Profile

Summary of general disaster preparedness across the United States and territories.

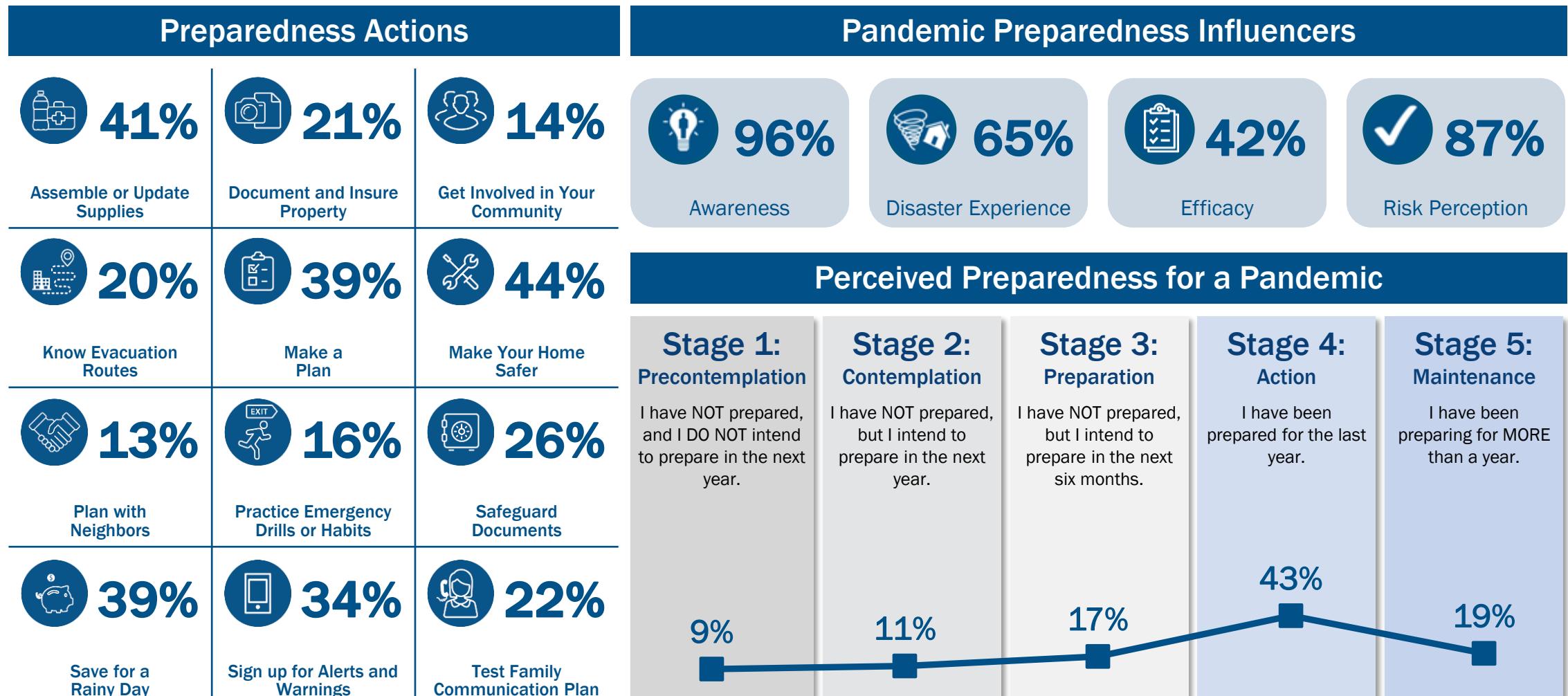


Hazard Profiles



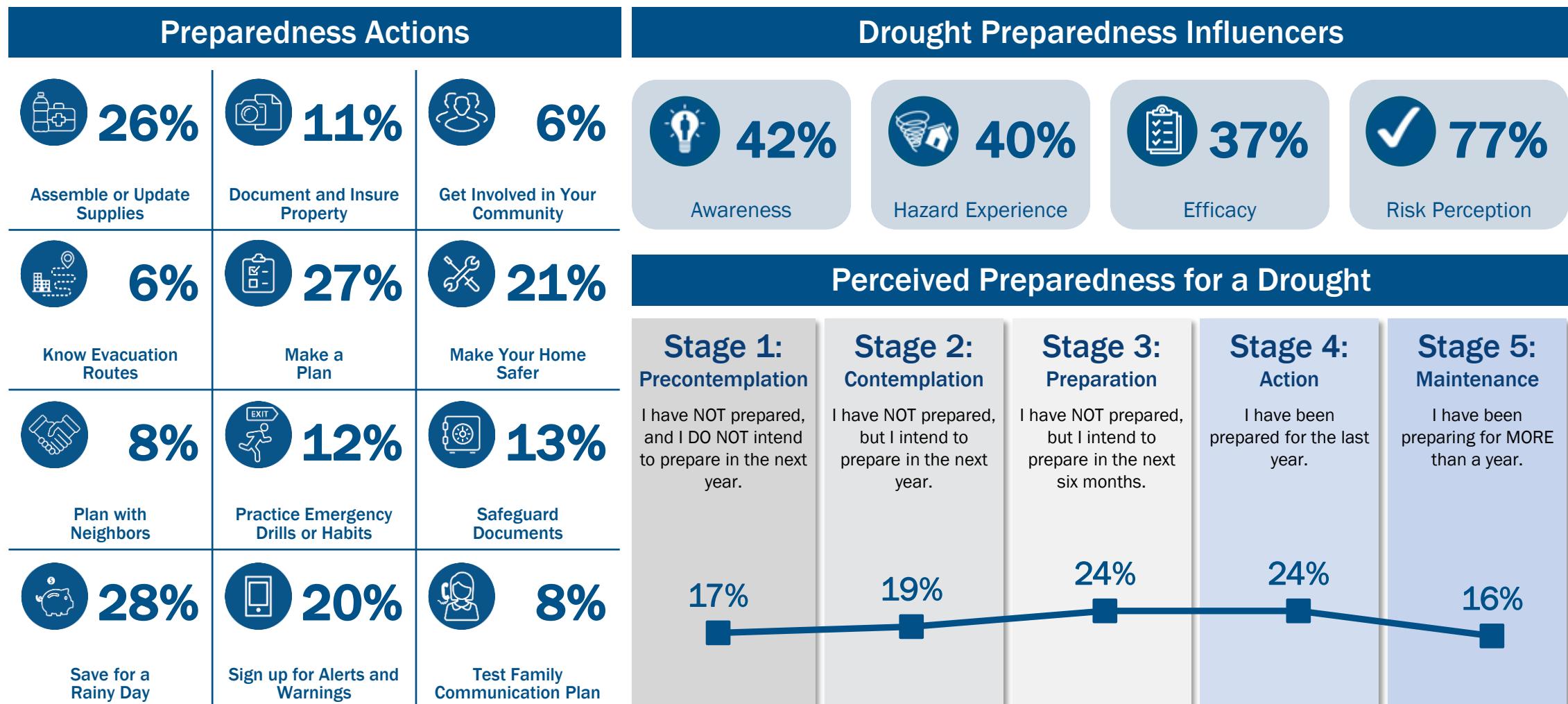
Pandemic Preparedness Profile

Summary of pandemic preparedness across the United States and its territories. These questions are **new** to the 2021 NHS.



Drought Preparedness Profile

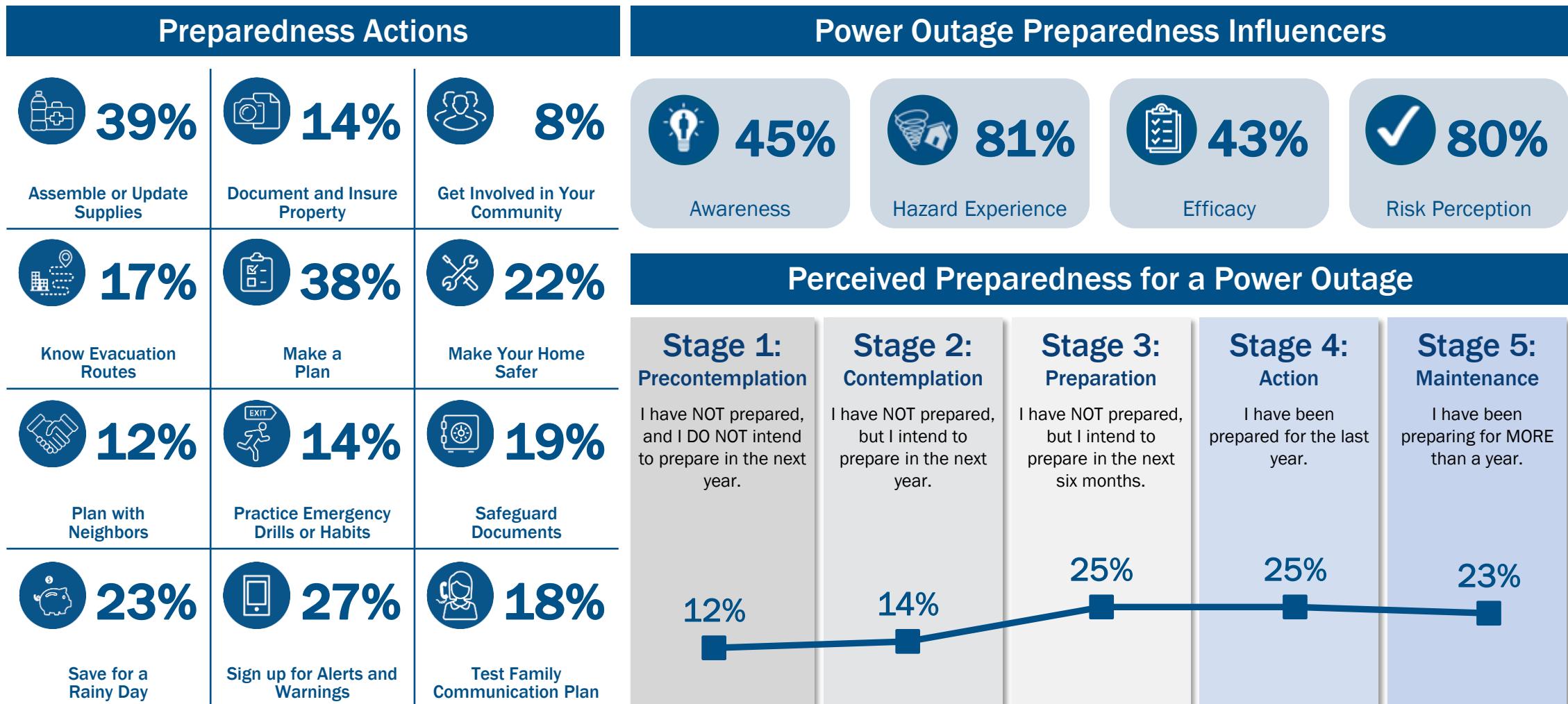
Summary of drought preparedness among the 50 counties most prone to droughts. These questions are [new](#) to the 2021 NHS.



Legend: ■ = 2021

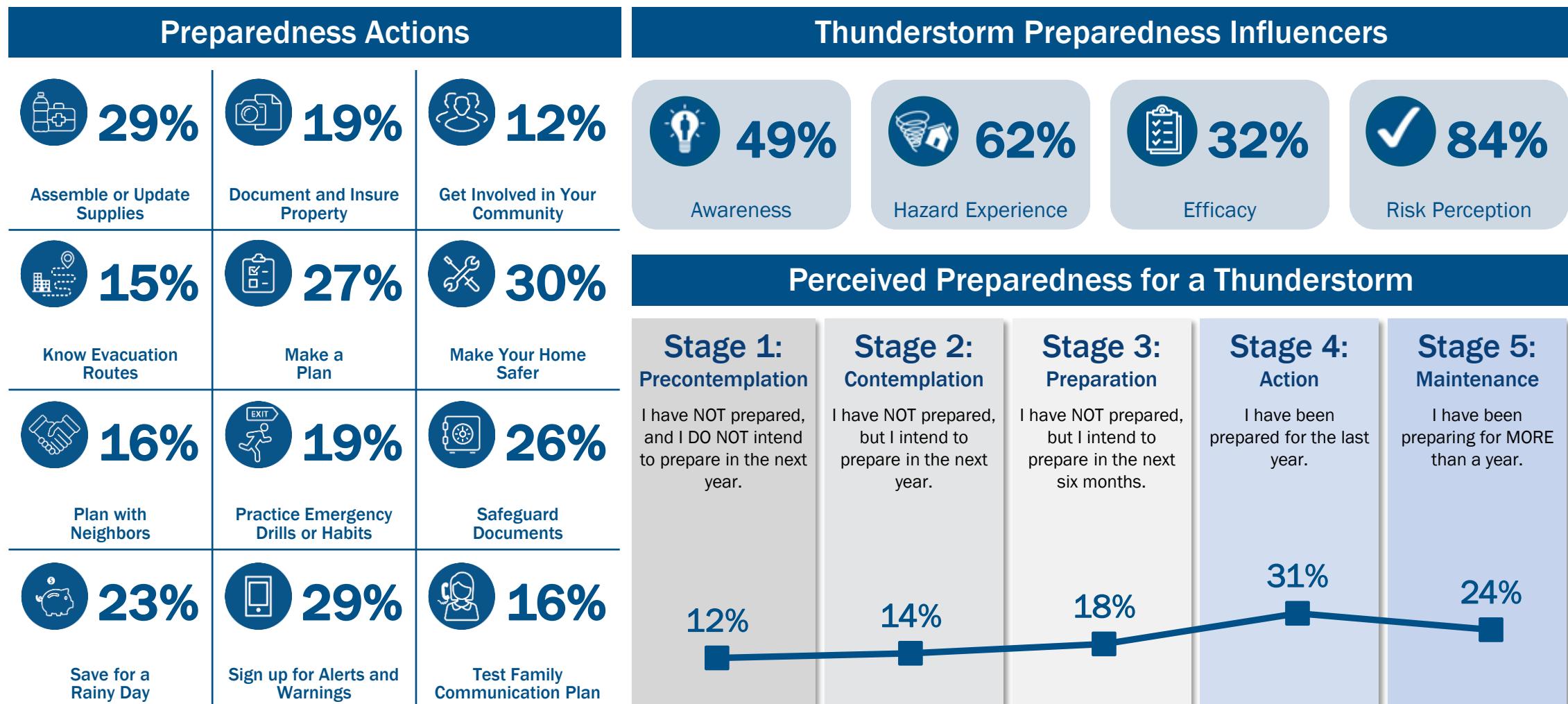
Power Outage Preparedness Profile

Summary of power outage preparedness among the 52 counties and jurisdictions most prone to power outages as well as all municipalities in Puerto Rico. These questions are [new](#) to the 2021 NHS.



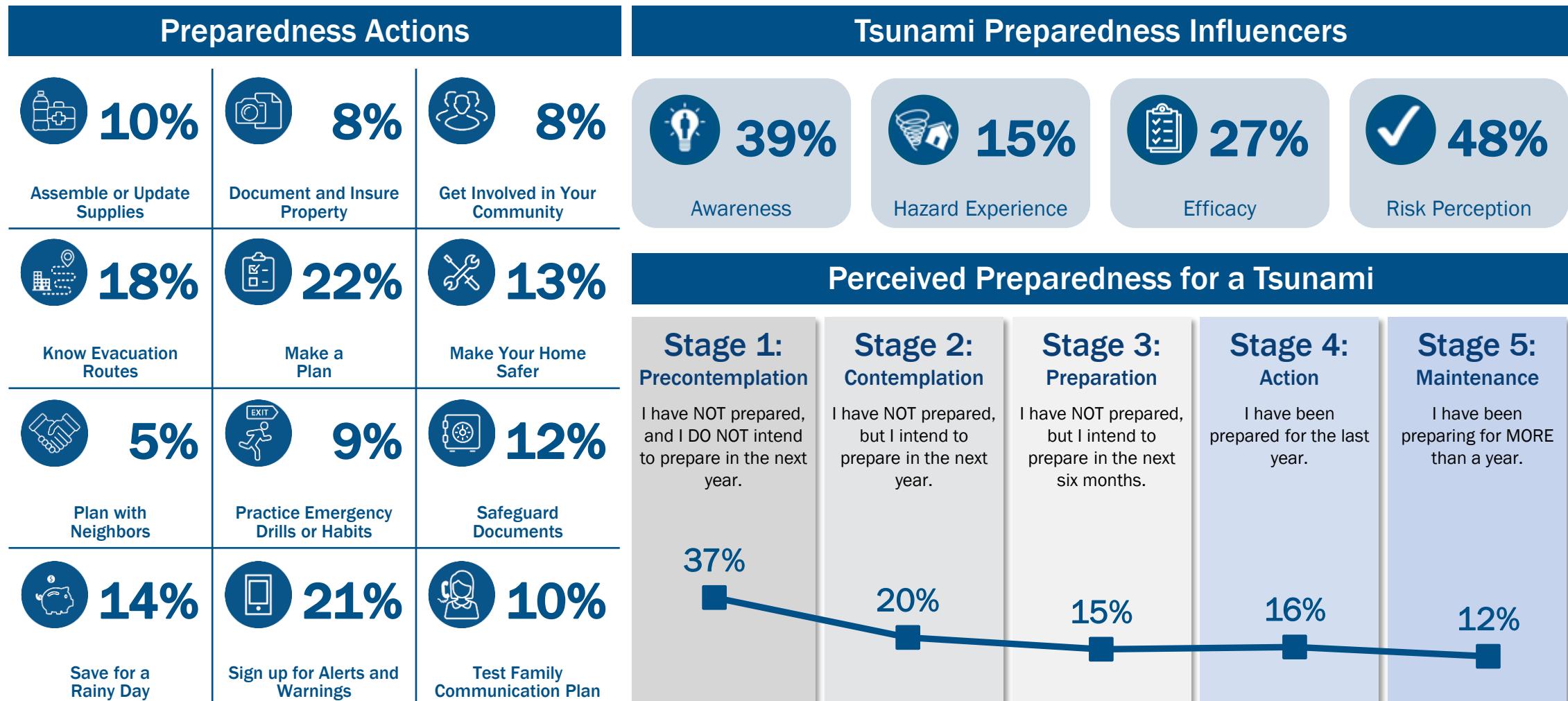
Thunderstorm Preparedness Profile

Summary of thunderstorm preparedness among the 50 counties most prone to thunderstorms. These questions are [new](#) to the 2021 NHS.



Tsunami Preparedness Profile

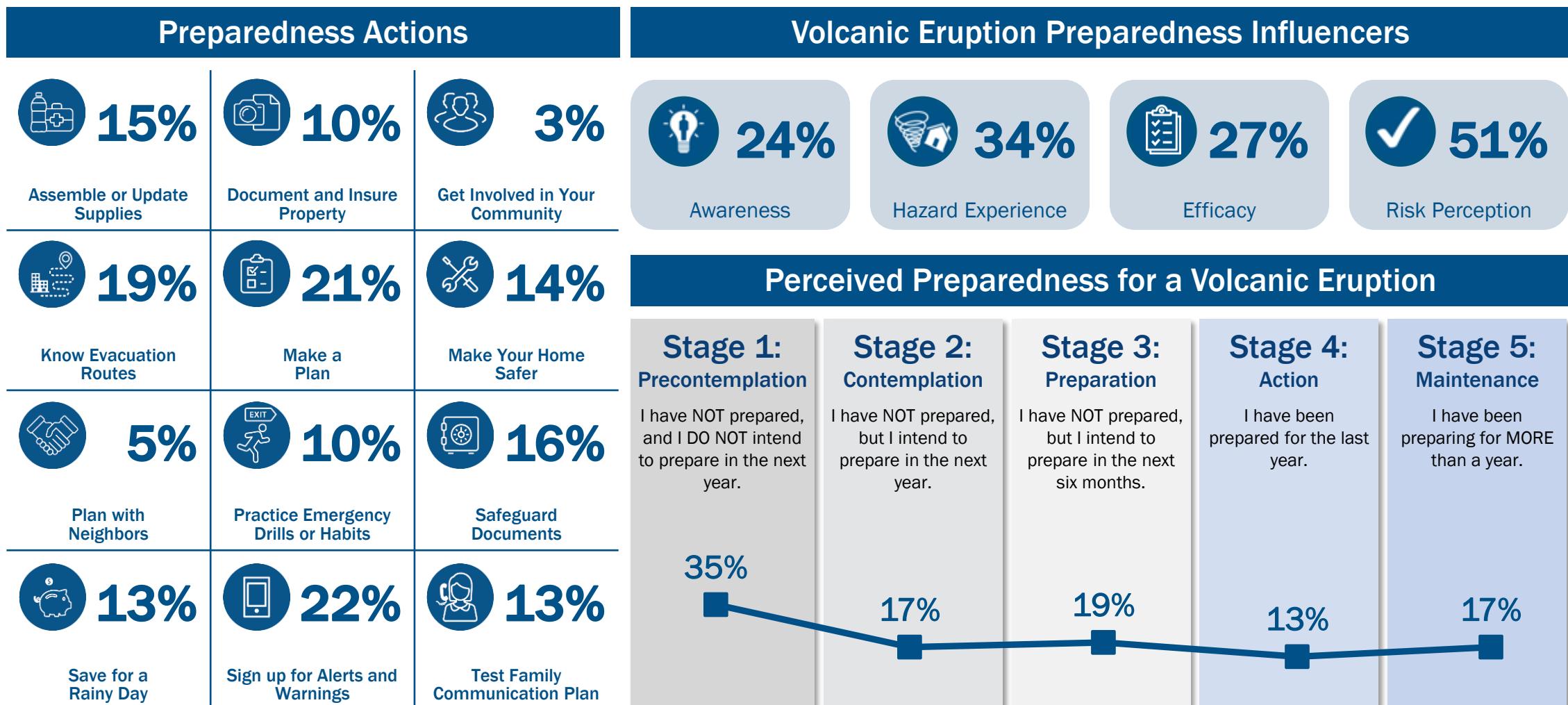
Summary of tsunami preparedness among the 50 counties most prone to tsunamis. These questions are new to the 2021 NHS.



Legend: ■ = 2021

Volcanic Eruption Preparedness Profile

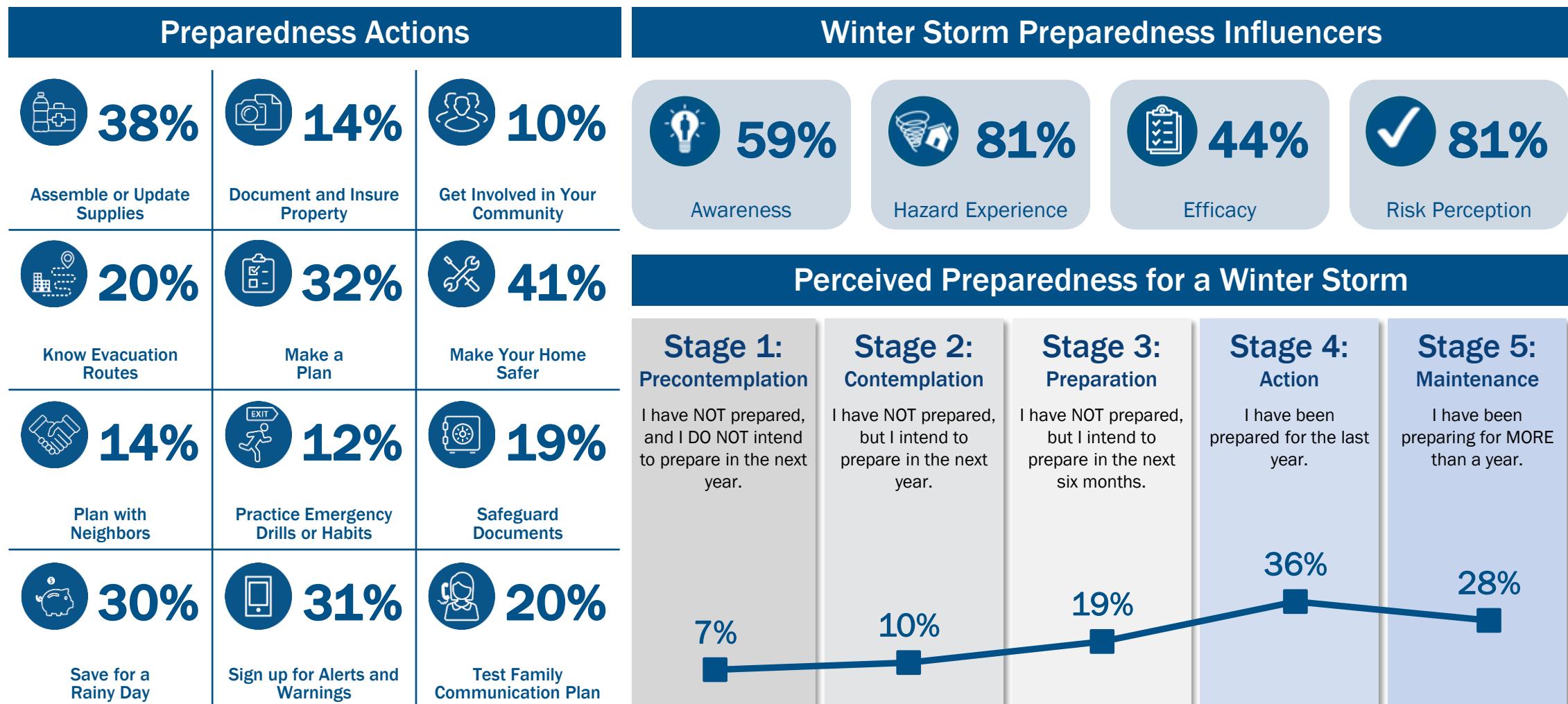
Summary of volcanic eruption preparedness among the 50 counties most prone to volcanic eruptions. These questions are [new](#) to the 2021 NHS.



Legend: ■ = 2021

Winter Storm Preparedness Profile

Summary of winter storm preparedness among the 50 counties most prone to winter storms. These questions are **new** to the 2021 NHS.



The background image shows a panoramic view of a coastal town, likely Camden, Maine. In the foreground, a harbor is filled with numerous sailboats and small boats. The town is built on a hillside, with houses and buildings of various styles scattered among the green trees. A prominent white church with a tall steeple stands on the right side of the town. The sky is clear and blue.

Community Profiles

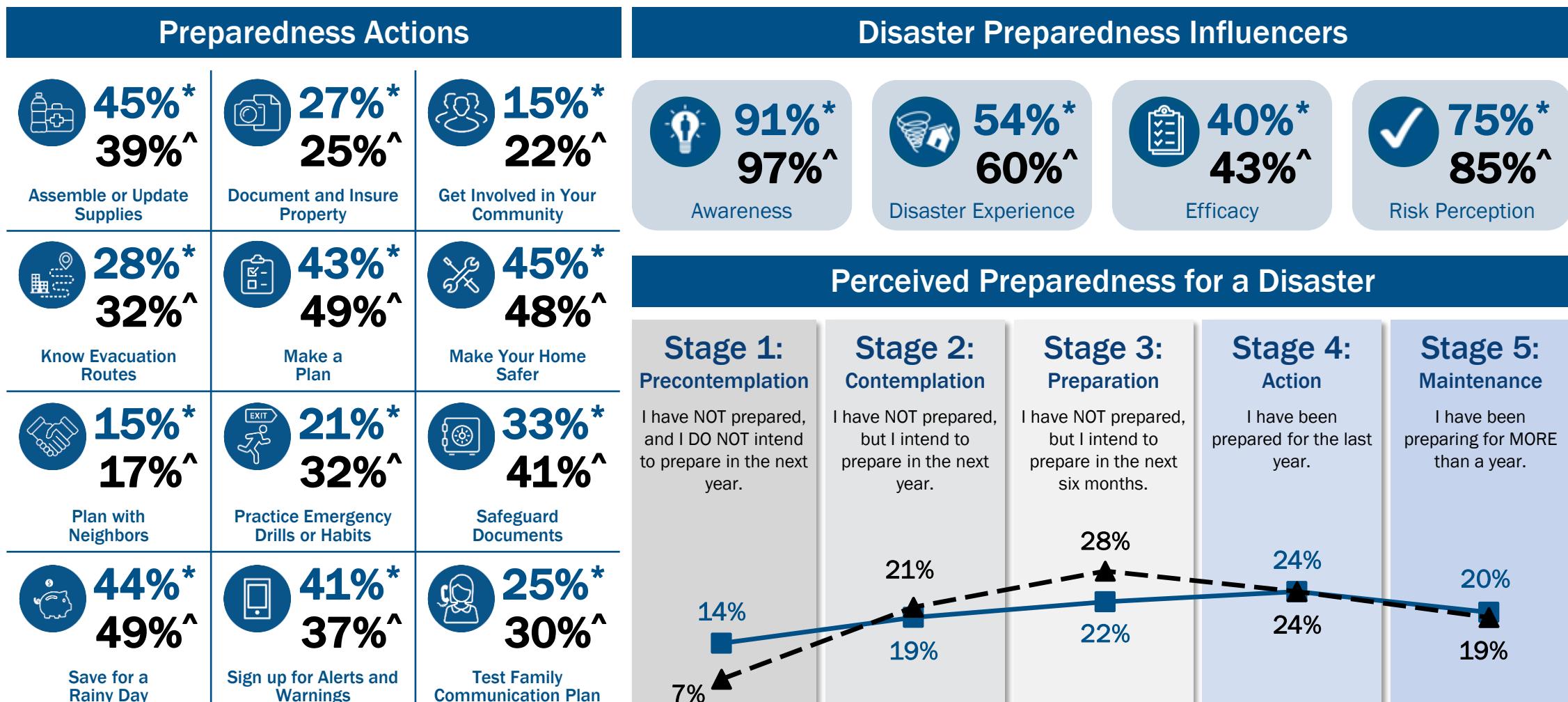
Non-Primarily English-Speaking Households

Community Preparedness Summary

Summary of general disaster preparedness among those who live in primarily English-speaking households and those who do not live in primarily English-speaking households.

Blue* = Primarily English-Speaking Household

Black^ = Not Primarily English-Speaking Household



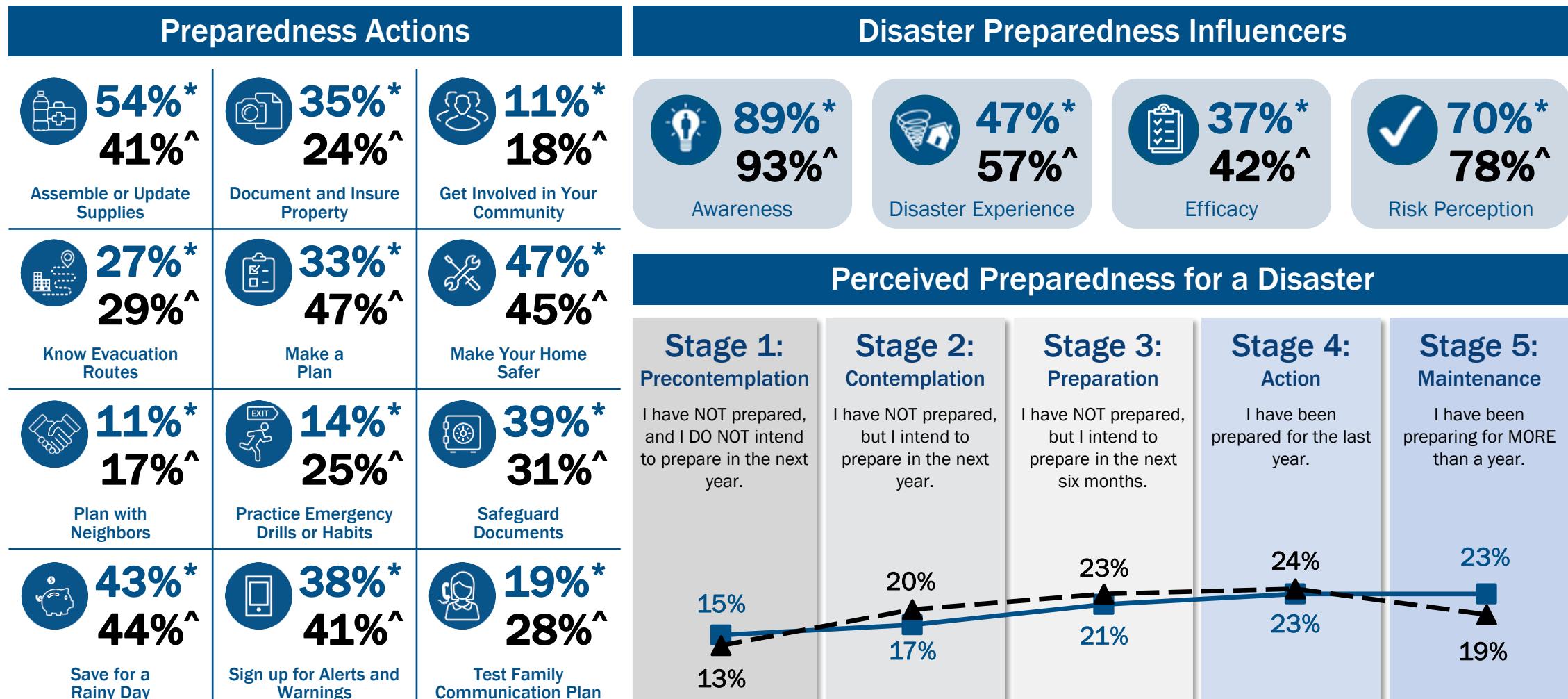
Legend: ■ = Primarily English-Speaking Household

▲ = Not Primarily English-Speaking Household

Aging Community Preparedness Summary

Blue* = 60+ Years Old
Black^ = 18-59 Years Old

Summary of general disaster preparedness among those who are 18-59 years old and those 60+ years old.



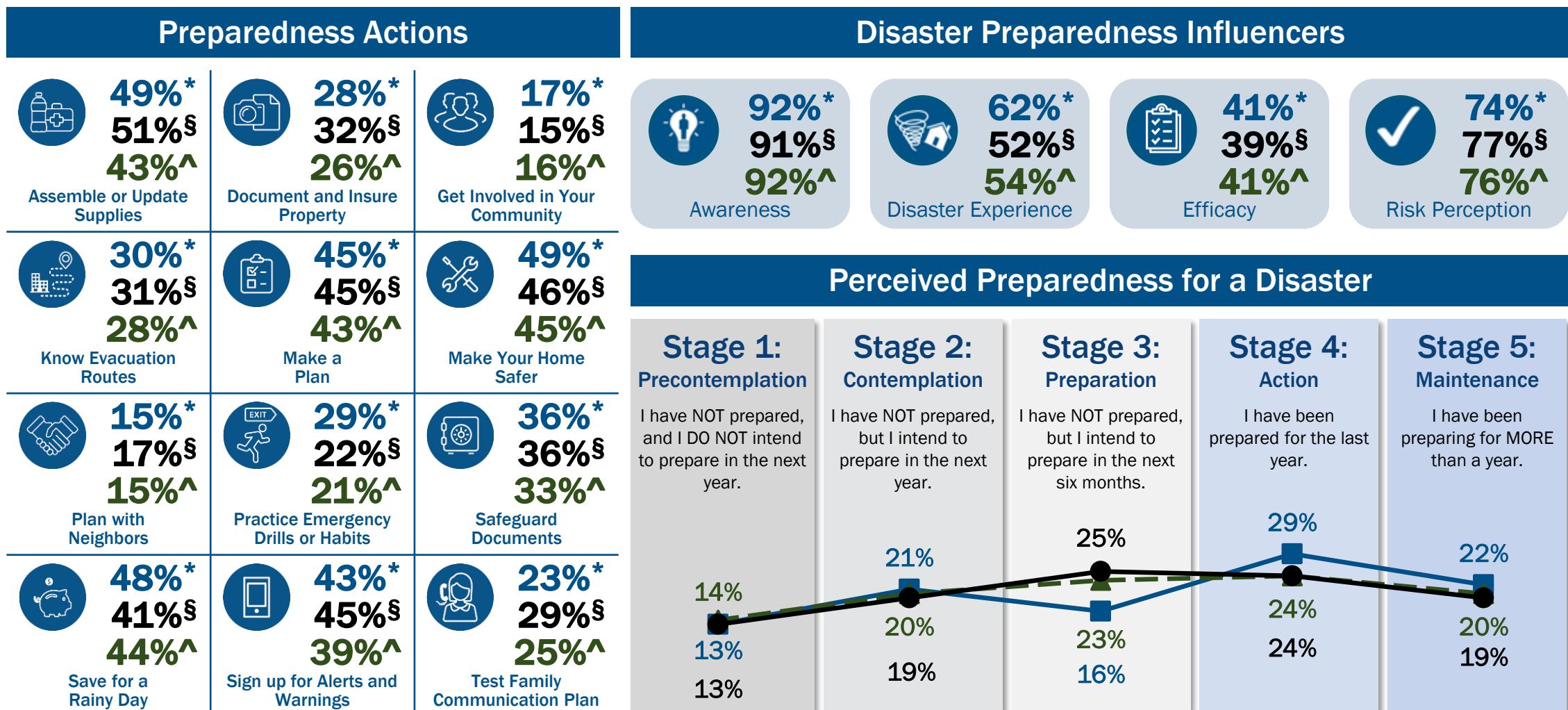
Legend: ■ = 60+ Years Old

▲ = 18-59 Years old

Rurality Preparedness Summary

Summary of general disaster preparedness among those who live in rural, urban, and urban cluster communities. These questions are new to the 2021 NHS.

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

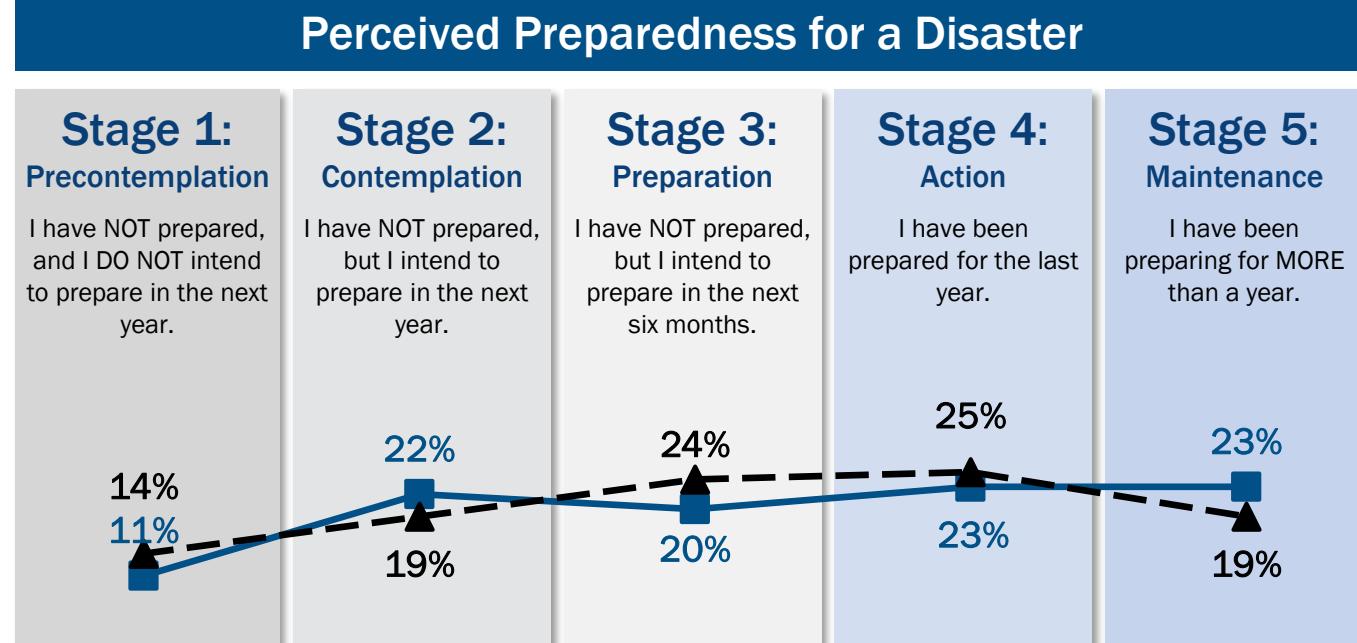
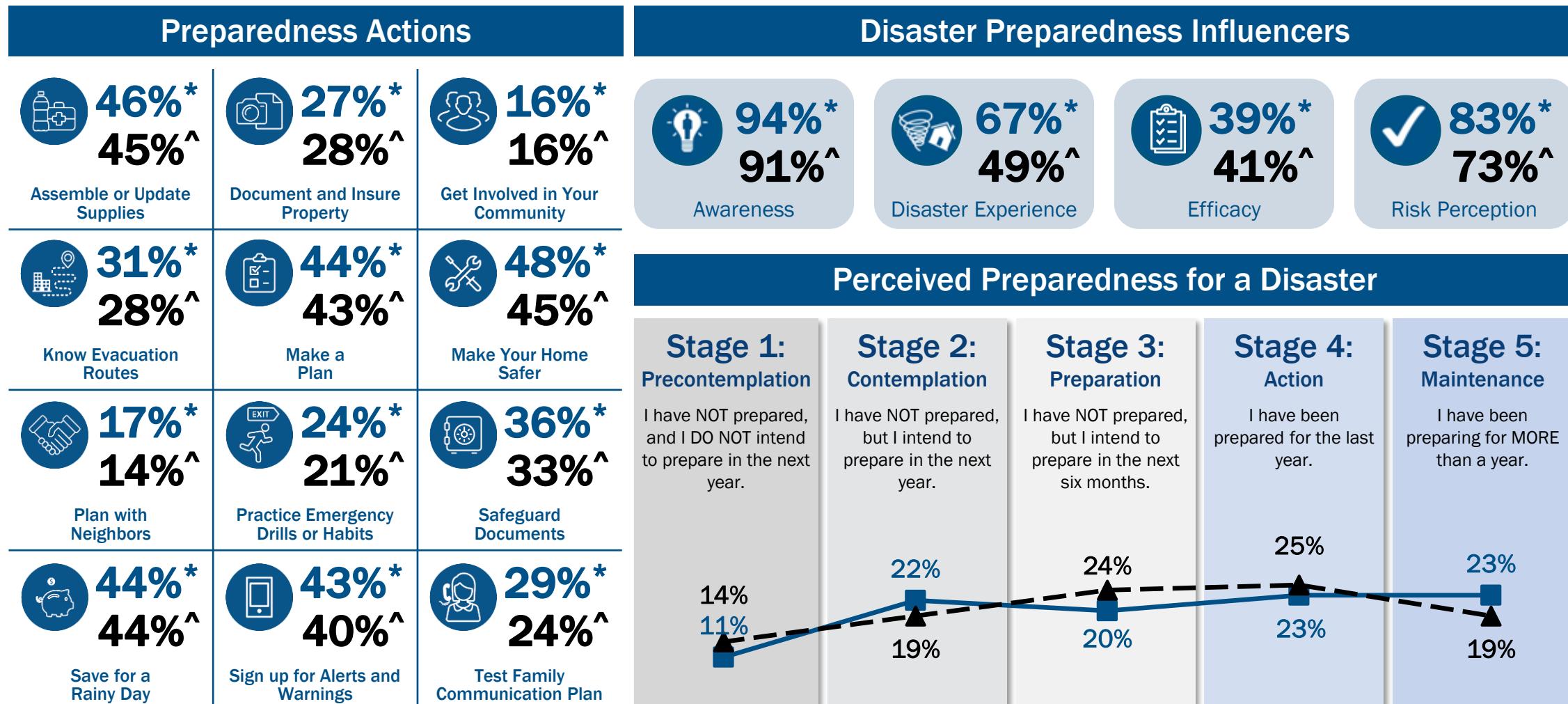


Legend: ■ = Rural ● = Urban Cluster ▲ = Urban

Person with Disability and/or Caregiver Preparedness Summary

Blue* = Person with disability and/or caregiver
 Black^ = Not Person with disability and/or caregiver

Summary of general disaster preparedness among those who have a disability or those who act as a caregiver for those with disabilities.

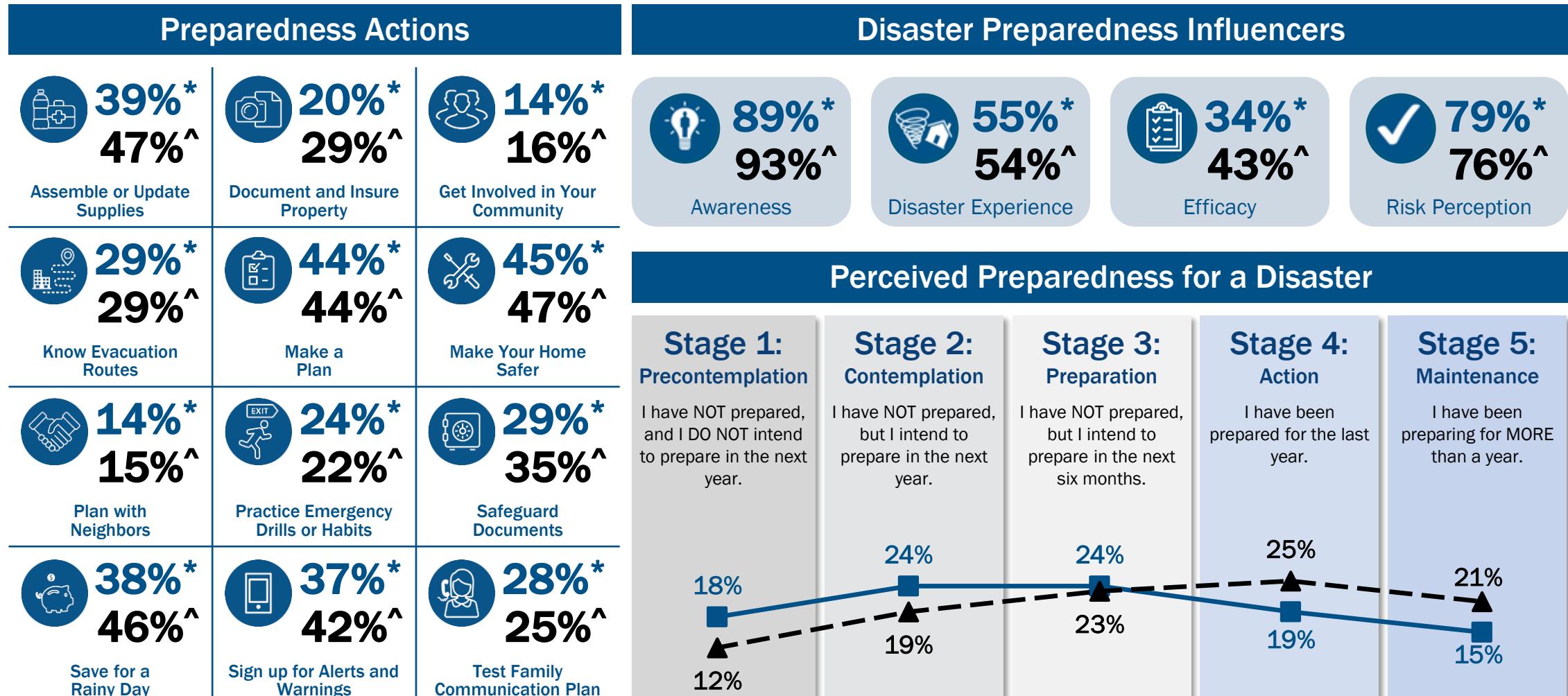


Legend: ■ = Person with disability and/or caregiver
 ▲ = Not Person with disability and/or caregiver

Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Preparedness Summary

Blue* = Disadvantaged
Black^ = Not Disadvantaged

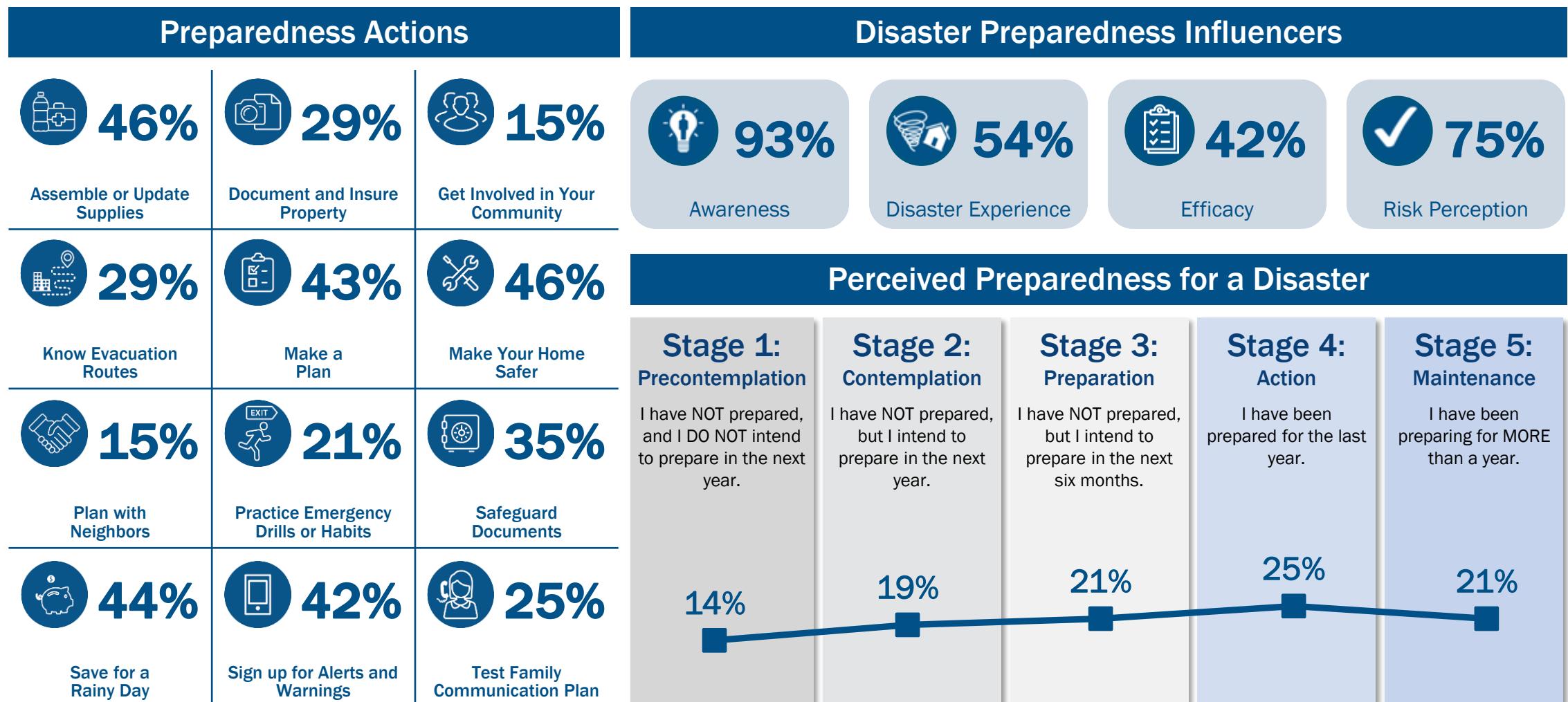
Summary of general disaster preparedness among those considered socioeconomically disadvantaged and those who are not.



Legend: ■ = Disadvantaged ▲ = Not Disadvantaged

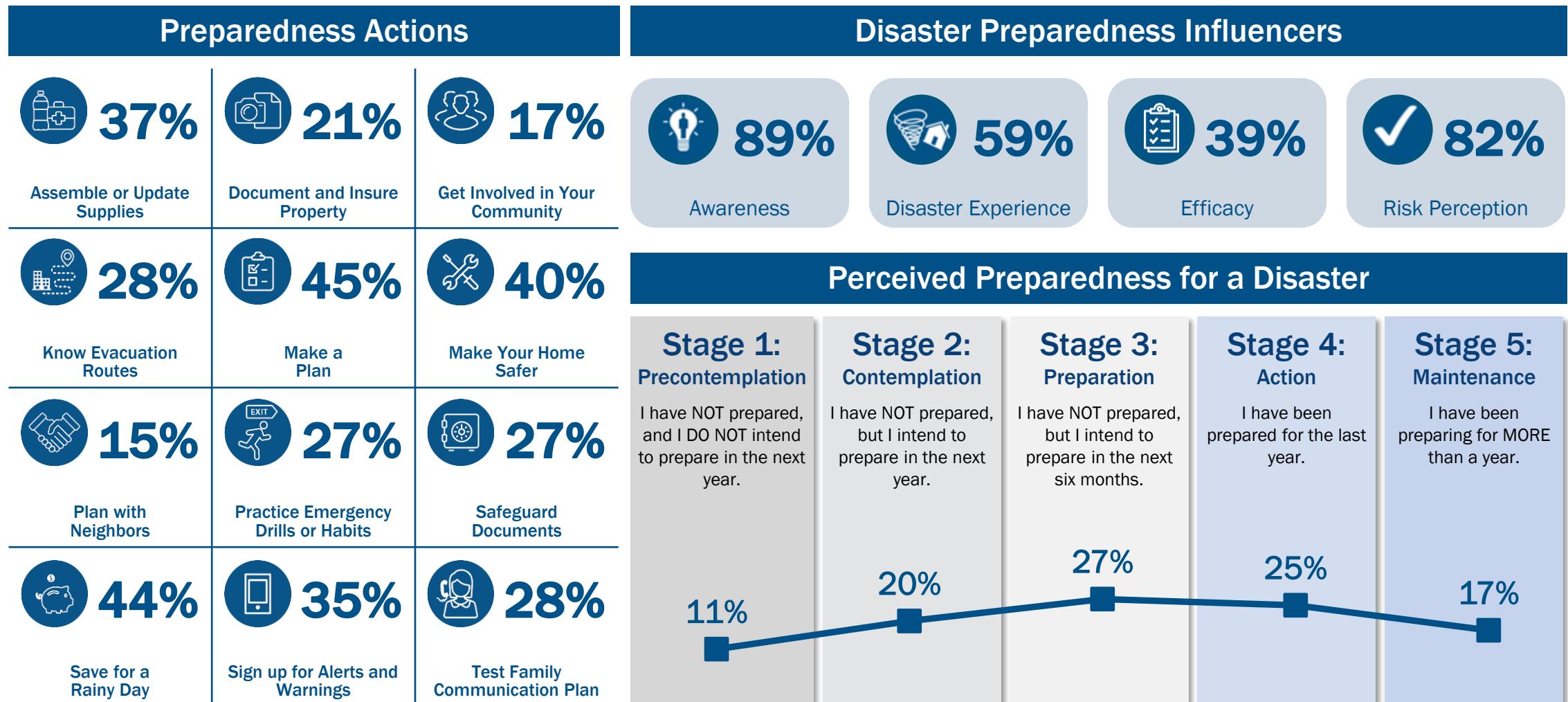
White Preparedness Summary

Summary of general disaster preparedness among those who identified as White.



Black or African American Preparedness Summary

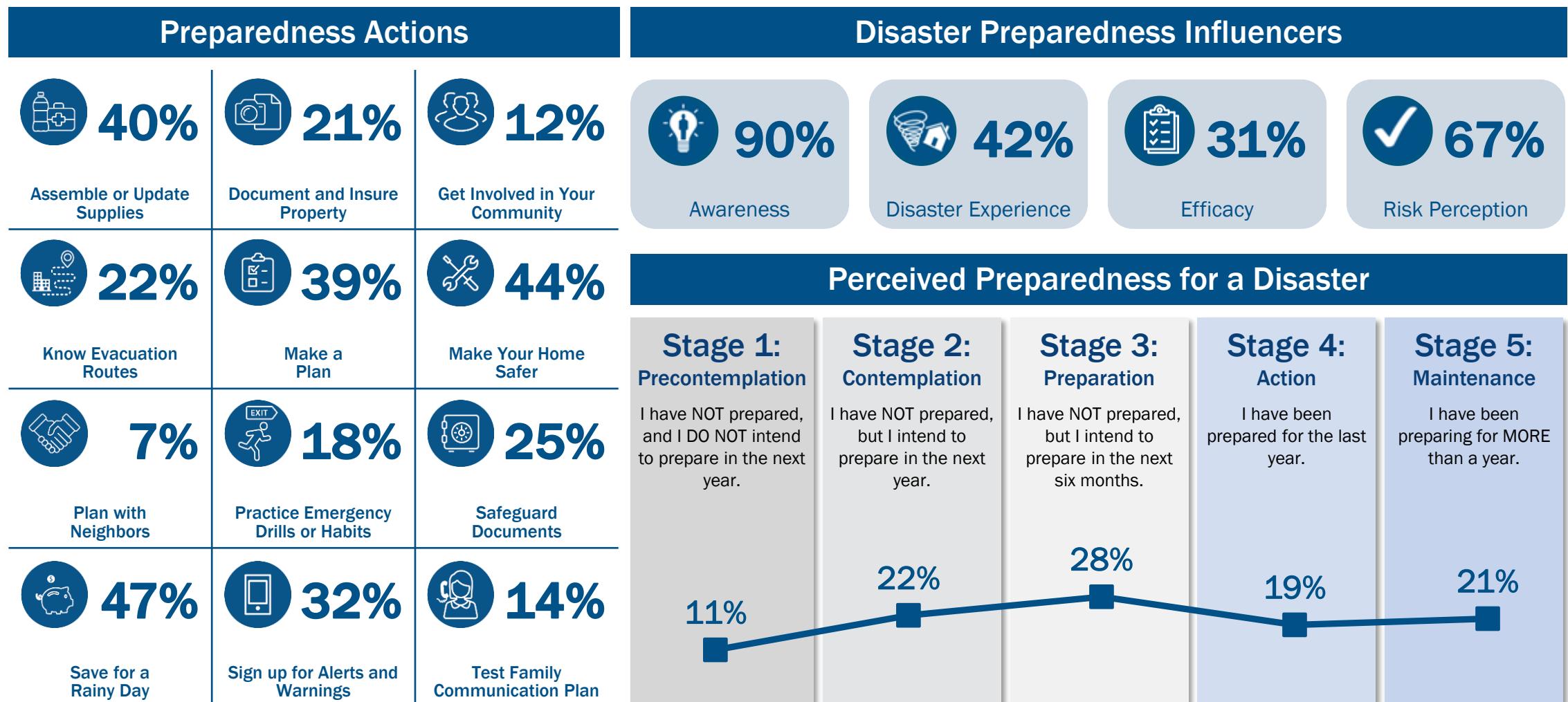
Summary of general disaster preparedness among those who identified as Black or African American.



Legend: ■ = 2021

Asian Preparedness Summary

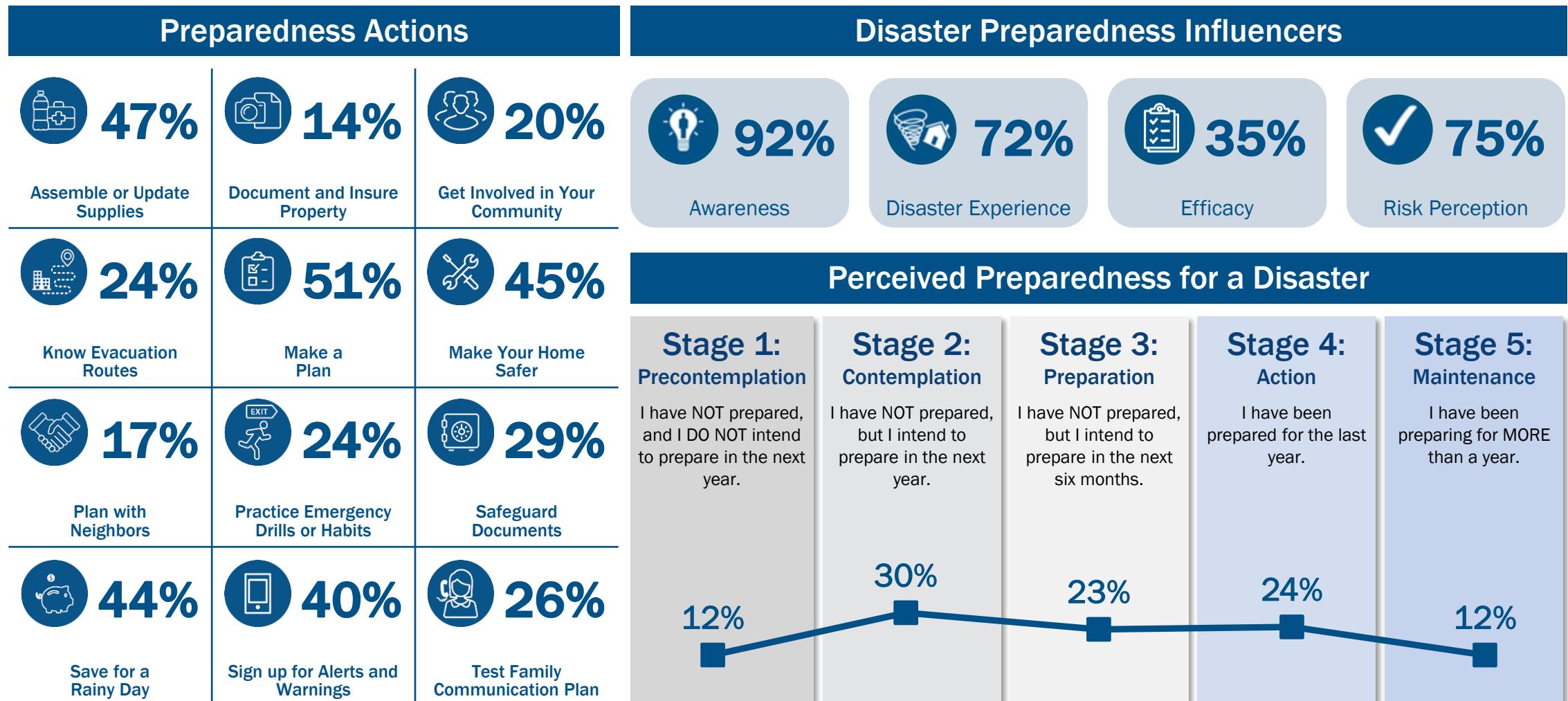
Summary of general disaster preparedness among those who identified as Asian.



Legend: ■ = 2021

Two or More Races Preparedness Summary

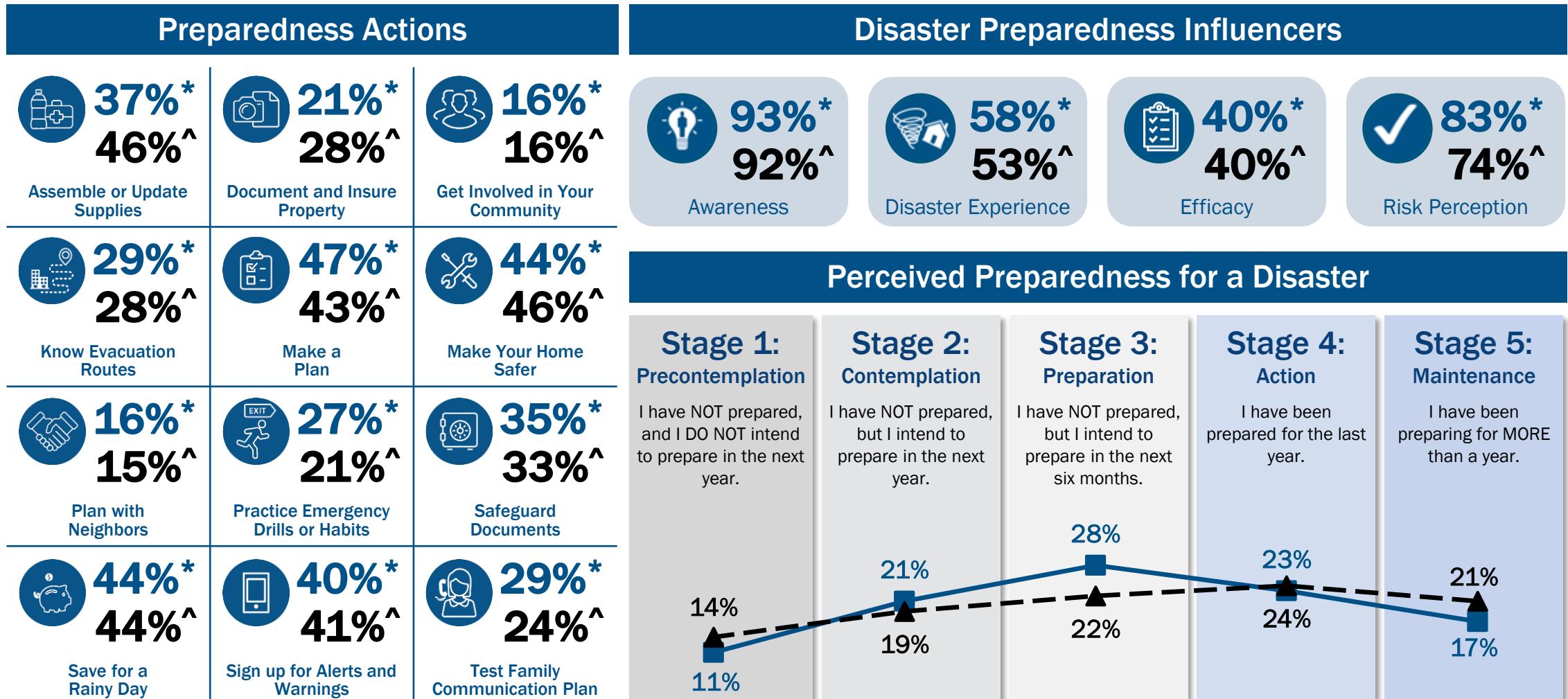
Summary of general disaster preparedness among those who selected two or more races.



Hispanic/Latino Preparedness Summary

Blue* = Hispanic/Latino
Black^ = Not Hispanic or Latino

Summary of general disaster preparedness among those who identified as Hispanic/Latino and those who do not.



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

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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