

Community Resilience in Ireland

Risk & Preparedness: An Individual and Household Perspective

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Studies of Risk Perception

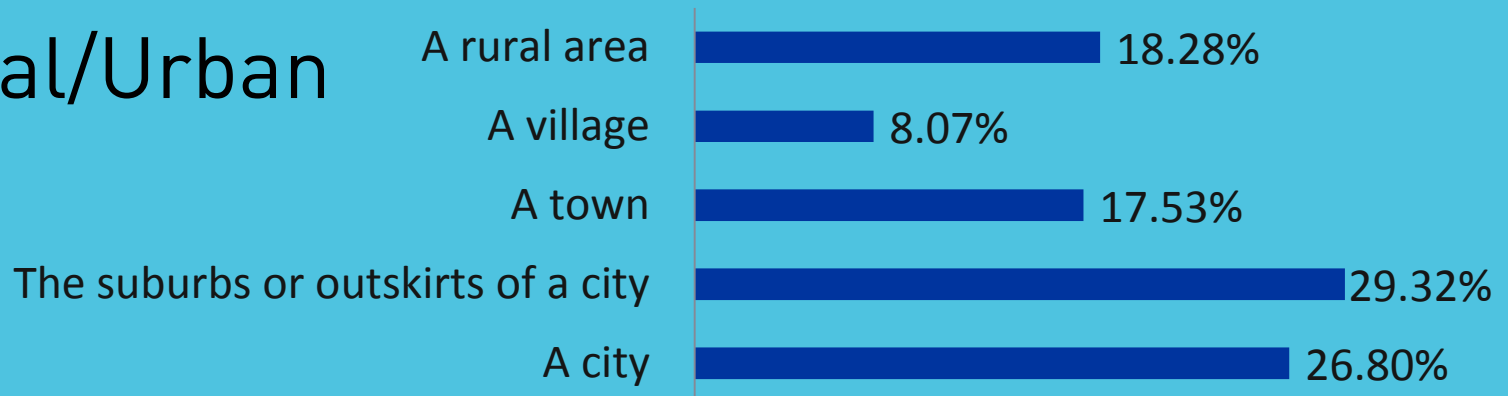
“examine the judgements people make when they are asked to characterize and evaluate hazardous activities” (Slovic, 1987, p.280).

In our study - risk perception in relation to 17 emergencies (drawn from the national risk register, 2012) which could impact on individuals and/or their homes

Risk = Likelihood x Impact

Demographics

- 2137 Responses
- Male (49%) and Female (51%)
- Age profile - under 45s (62.5%) over 45 (37.5%)
- Rural/Urban



Top 3 Most Likely Emergencies

1. Storm (3.65)
2. Disruption to Energy Supply (3.57)
3. Low Temperatures (3.47)

3 Rated “Extremely Unlikely”

1. Drought (1.98)
2. Radiation -Domestic (2.29)
3. Terrorism (2.34)

Had to share...

3 Rated “Extremely Unlikely”

1. Drought (1.98)
2. Radiation -Domestic (2.29)
3. Terrorism (2.34)
4. Flooding (2.36)

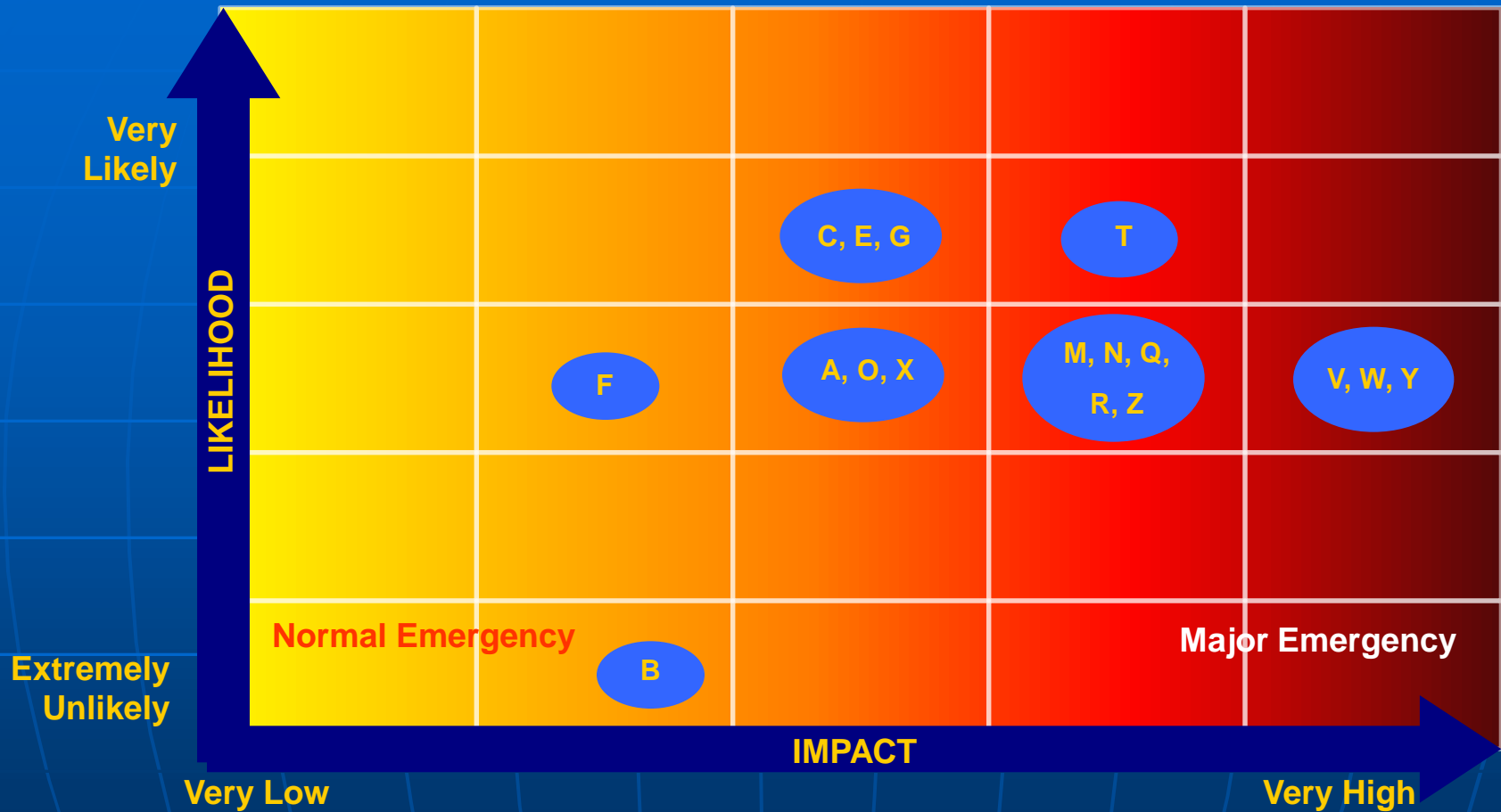
“Highest” Impact on Individual/Home

- Fire (4.28)
- Loss of Critical Infrastructure e.g. water (3.81)
- Infectious Disease affecting humans (3.75)

“Lowest” Impact on Individual/Home

- High temperatures (2.5)
- Drought (2.62)
- Low temperatures (2.85)

Individual Risk Perception Matrix, 2015



- A: Flooding
- B: Drought
- C: Snow
- E: Storm

- F: High Temp.
- G: Low Temp.

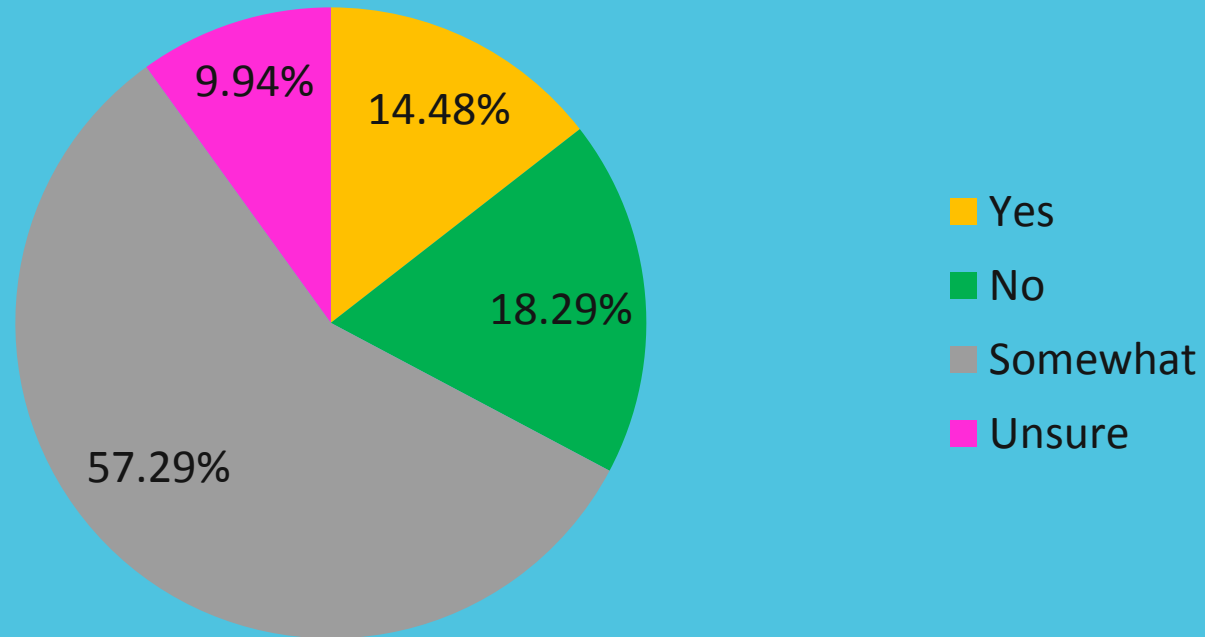
- M: Loss Critical Infrastructure
- N: Infectious Disease
- O: Animal Disease

- Q: Water Borne Outbreak
- R: Food Borne Outbreak
- T: Disruption to Energy Supply

- V: Fire
- W: Nuclear (Abroad)
- X: Cyber Incident
- Y: Radiation (Domestic)
- Z: Terrorist Activity

Preparedness

Would you consider yourself prepared to deal with an emergency?

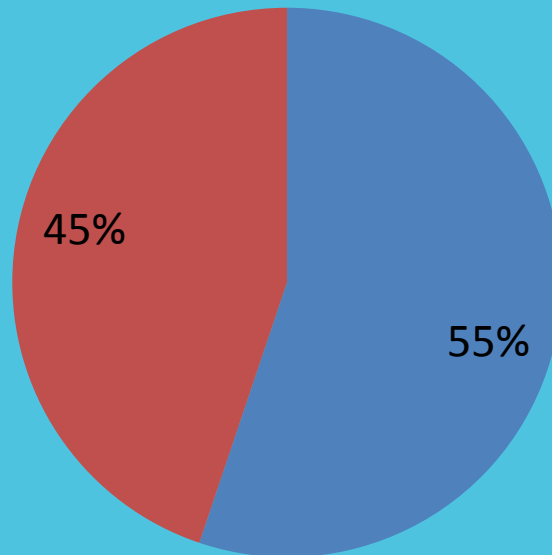


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Preparedness

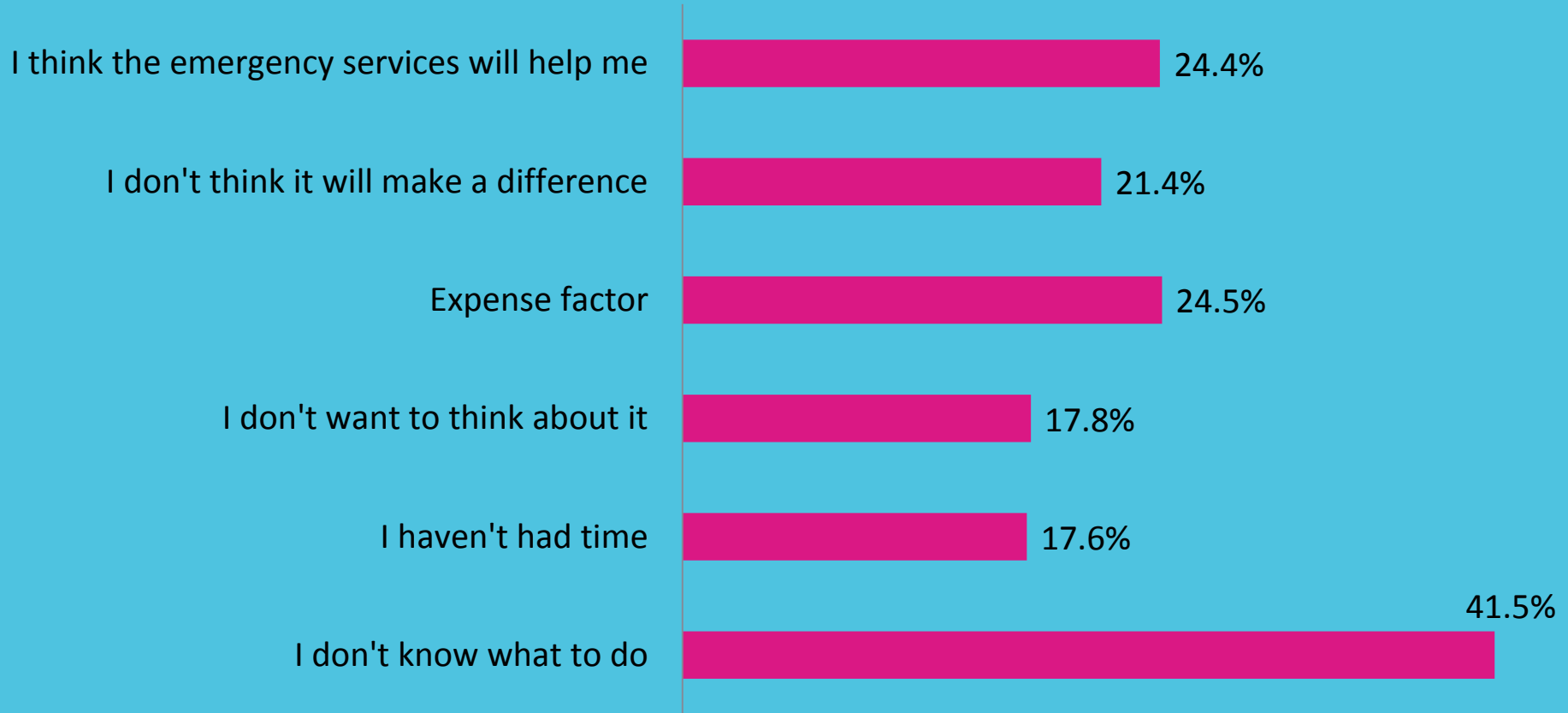
Have you taken any action to protect yourself or your home in case of an emergency?

■ YES ■ NO



n=1809

If not, why not?

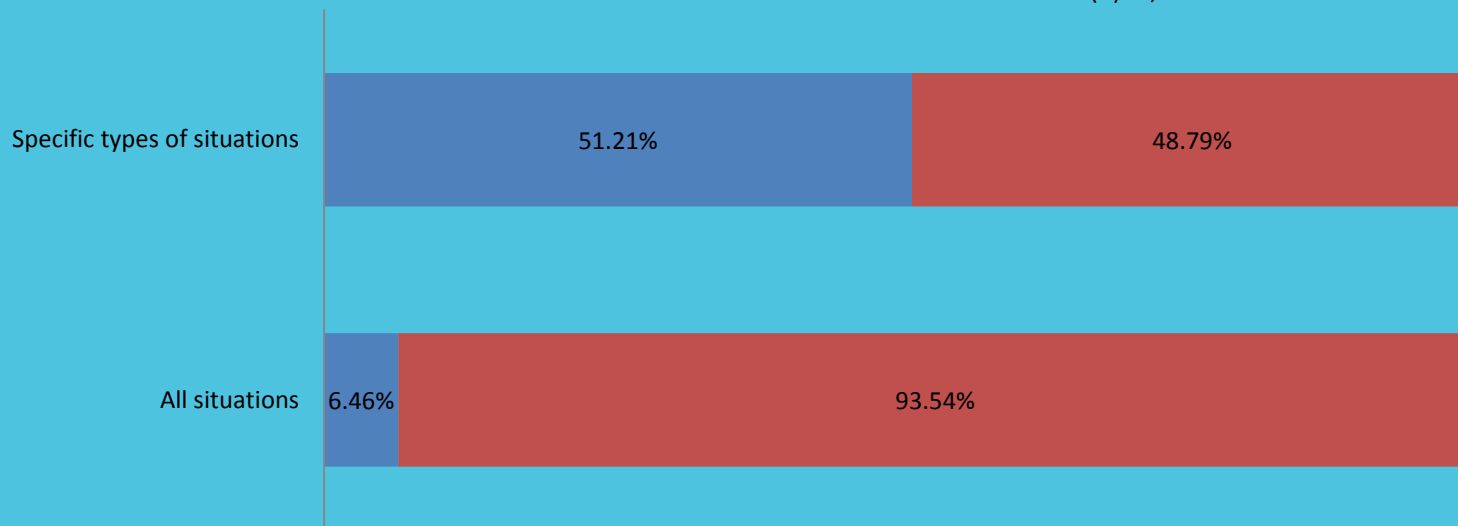


Household Emergency Plans

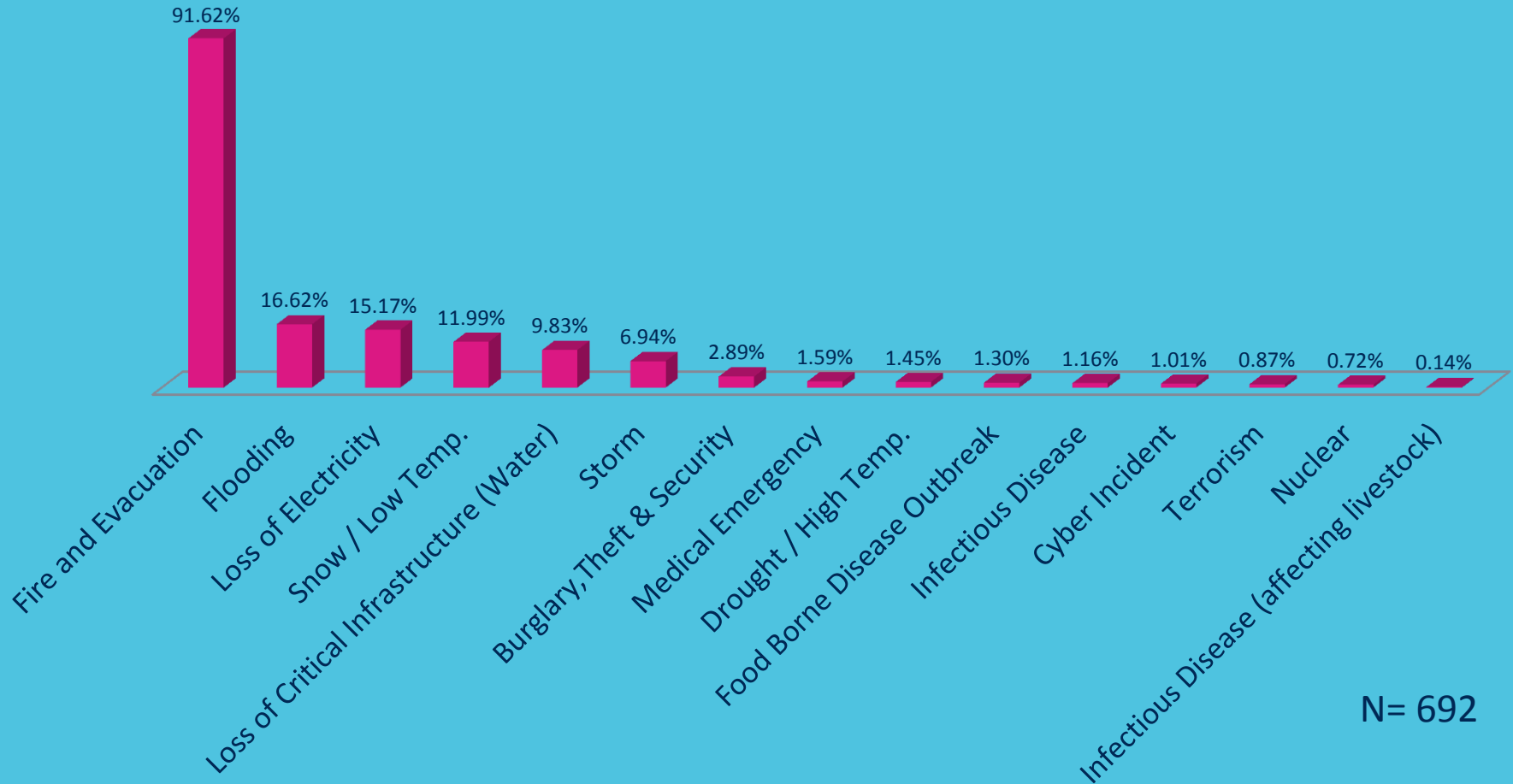
Do you have a household emergency plan for...

■ Yes ■ No

Answered (n): 1,657

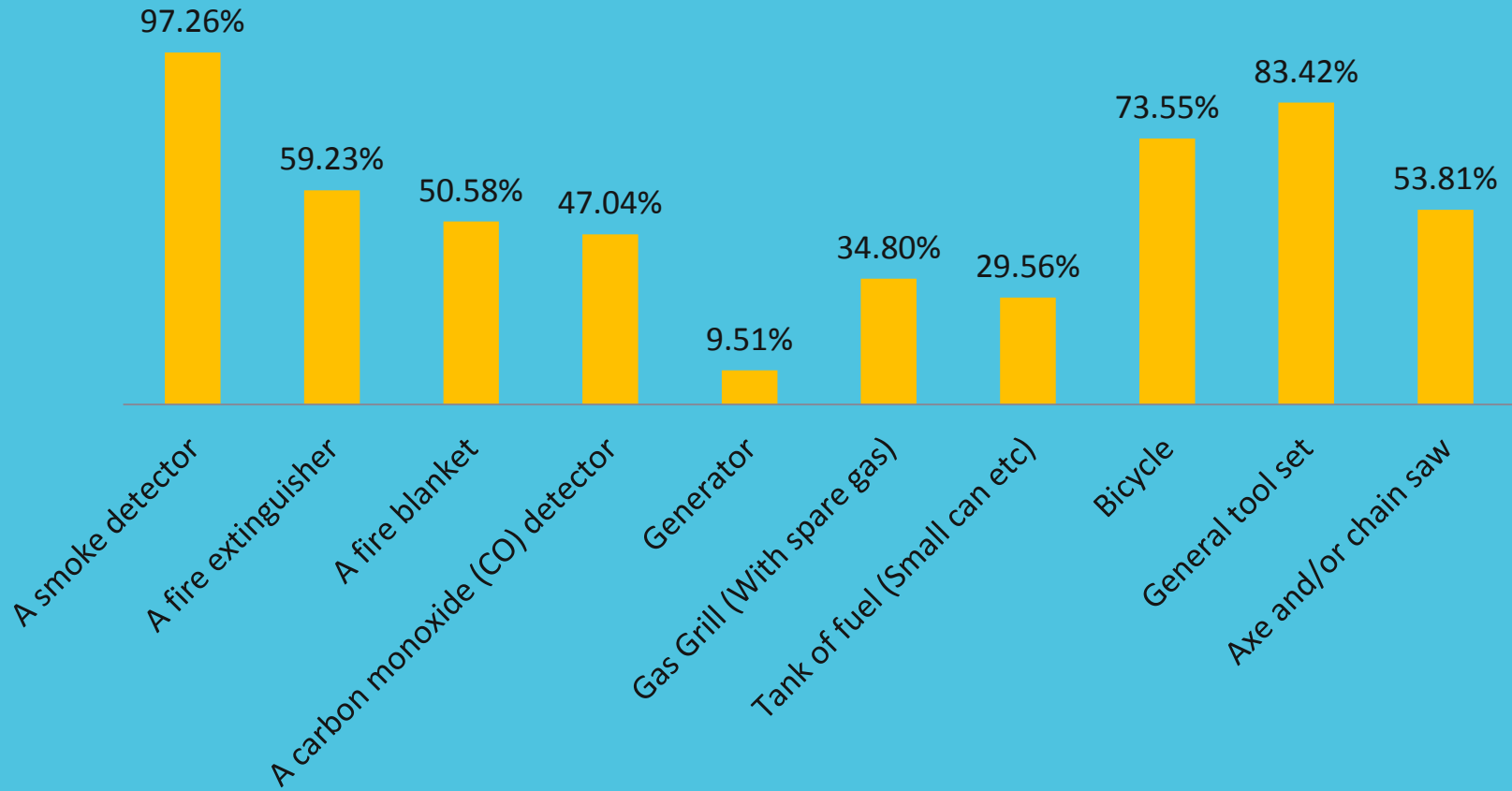


Types of Plan(s)

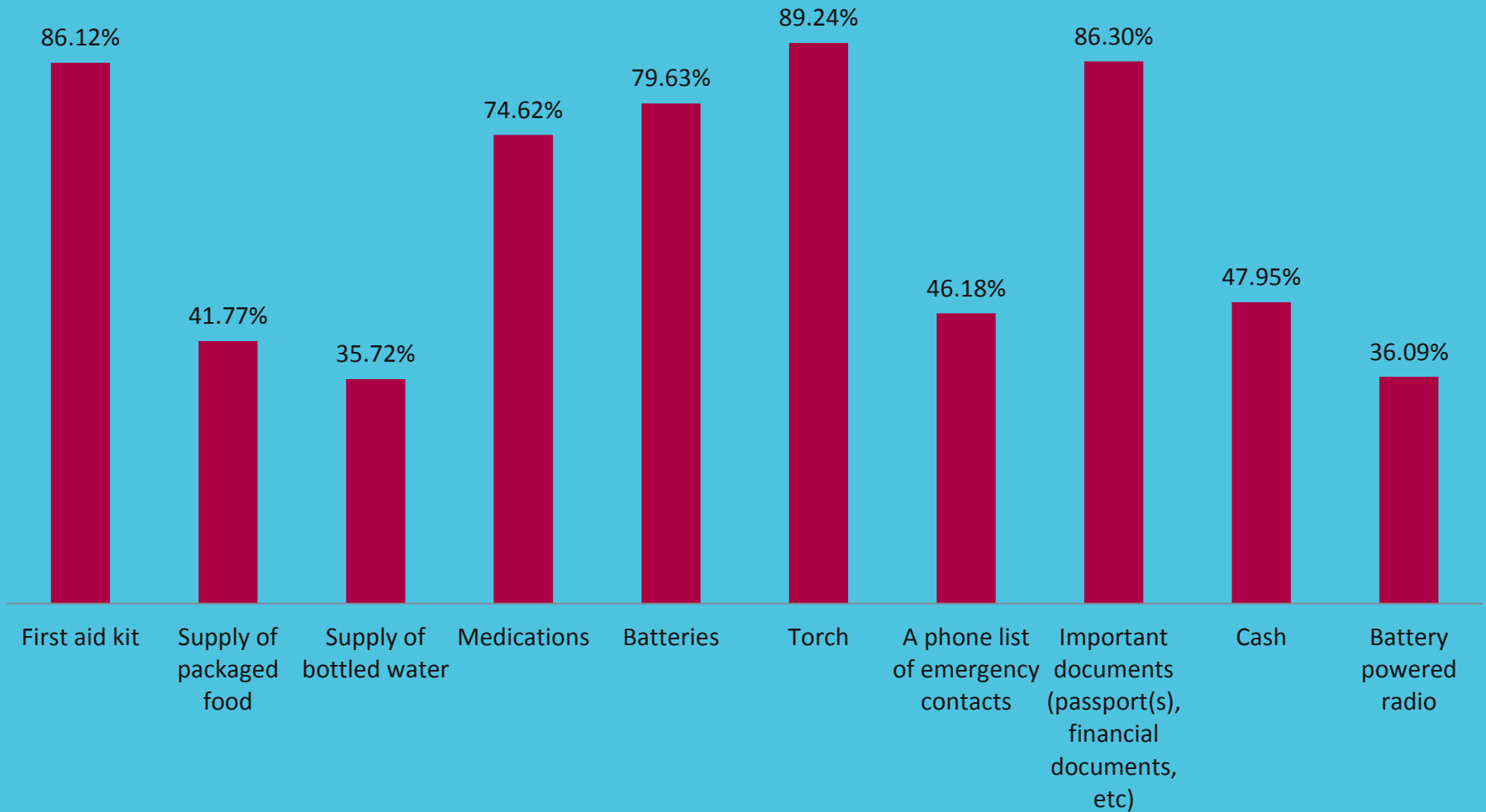


N= 692

Present in Homes



Emergency Supplies



Critical Supplies

	0 Days	1-2 Days	3-5 Days	6-7 Day	8+ Days	Response Count
Enough bottled water for	35.71%	33.45%	19.16%	6.75%	4.93%	1644
Enough food for	2.85%	12.92%	36.89%	23.67%	23.67%	1648
Enough medication for	8.28%	8.89%	20.17%	17.90%	44.76%	1631

Transport

- 93.18% of households have a vehicle
- However, 73.77% drive until fuel tank is close to empty
- On refuelling: 49.12% fill; 17.20% half fill; 6.58% quarter fill the tank

Funding Priorities

How important is it that national government invest in:

	Not important	Not very important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important
Protecting private property	4.93%	9.37%	17.81%	35.86%	32.04%
Protecting historical and cultural landmarks	2.09%	4.31%	9.61%	37.09%	46.89%
Preventing development in hazardous areas	1.05%	1.66%	5.11%	17.56%	74.61%
Protecting and reducing damage to utilities	0.80%	1.05%	4.81%	20.72%	72.63%
Strengthening emergency services	0.80%	0.68%	2.40%	15.47%	80.64%
Protecting critical facilities (e.g. hospitals, fire stations, transport networks)	0.80%	0.55%	2.09%	8.50%	88.05%

Support for Policy/Funding

Which of the following do you support?					
	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neither oppose or support	Somewhat support	Strongly support
The disclosure of natural hazard risks during real estate transactions	1.36%	0.86%	11.43%	14.95%	71.40%
A local inventory of at-risk buildings and infrastructure	0.74%	0.99%	13.90%	28.17%	56.21%
Improving the emergency preparedness of local schools	0.68%	0.68%	6.23%	21.65%	70.76%
Steps to safeguard the local economy following a major emergency	0.74%	0.92%	10.05%	27.93%	60.36%
Policies to prohibit development in areas subject to natural hazards	0.43%	1.17%	8.15%	21.42%	68.83%
Use of local tax money to reduce risks and losses from natural hazards	1.48%	2.84%	12.40%	36.03%	47.25%
Protecting historical and cultural structures	1.05%	2.41%	14.99%	35.72%	45.84%

Conclusion

- “We believe that studies of public attitudes could be used to highlight the concerns of people at risk and to forecast their reactions to hazards and their management.” (Slovic, 1982, p.89)

References

- Slovic, P. Fischhoff, B. & Lichtenstein, S. 1982, “Why study risk perception?” Risk Analysis, Vol.2, No.2, pp.83-93.
- Slovic, P. 1987, “Perception of Risk.” Science, Vol.236, No.4799, pp.280-285

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