

# Hurricane Preparedness during the COVID-19 Pandemic

June 2020

As the effects of COVID-19 continue, Floridians will likely face significant impacts in their ability to prepare for this hurricane season. This unprecedented pandemic was cited by respondents as causing negative impacts on their overall household preparedness, disruptions to their hurricane planning, and instilling a reluctance to evacuate in the wake of a hurricane threat.

## Respondent Overview

- 800 Coastal Households Surveyed

---

- 93% English Speakers

---

- 7% Spanish Speakers

---

- 52.8% Females

---

- 47.3% Males

---

- 77.6% Live in Single-Detached Homes

---

- 17.5% Live in Apartment, Condominium, or Townhome

---

- 3.9% Live in Manufactured or Mobile Homes

---

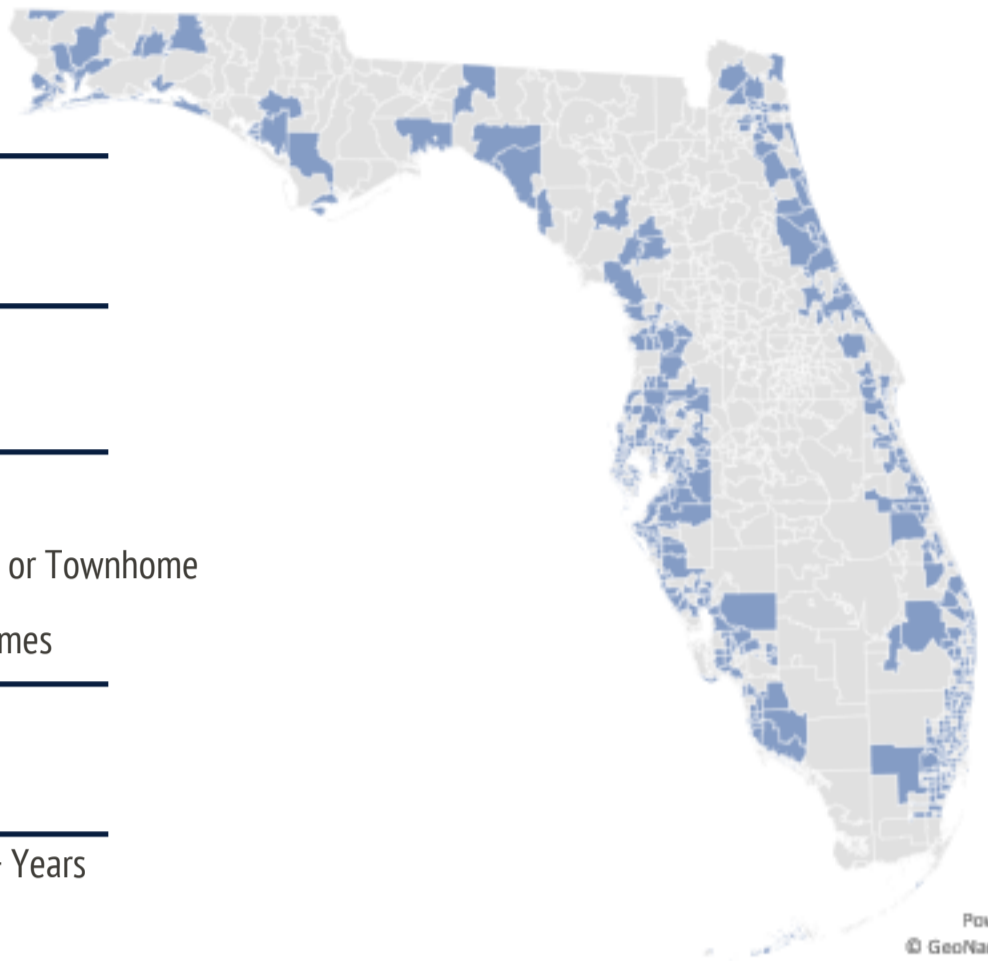
- 84.4% Owners

---

- 15.5% Renters

---

- 90.5% Permanent Resident of FL for 10+ Years



Powered by Bing  
© GeoNames, TomTom

# 53.1%

Of households feel "extremely" or "somewhat" vulnerable to damage from a hurricane and/or related tornado or flooding hazards

Do you have a plan for what you would do if a serious hurricane threatens your home?



How has COVID-19 changed your plans?

"More urgent to try to find supplies since more people are trying to get them"

"Keep[s] us more inclined to stay in place"

"Being in the 60's, not a viable option to go to a shelter. May stay or leave the state."



1 2 3 4 5  
Least Prepared Most Prepared

## Preparation & Evacuation

When would you begin to prepare your home for a hurricane?

	Percent
When a hurricane watch is issued (48 hours before a storm)	24.3 %
When a hurricane warning is issued (36 hours before a storm)	14.2 %
Your home is already prepared and could be secured within a few hours	41.4 %
You won't make any special preparations to your home	11.8 %
Other	6.1 %
Not sure	2.3 %

**38.5%**  
Would begin preparations when there is an immediate hurricane threat

**3.8%**  
Increase in households that will not make any special preparations since 2019 survey

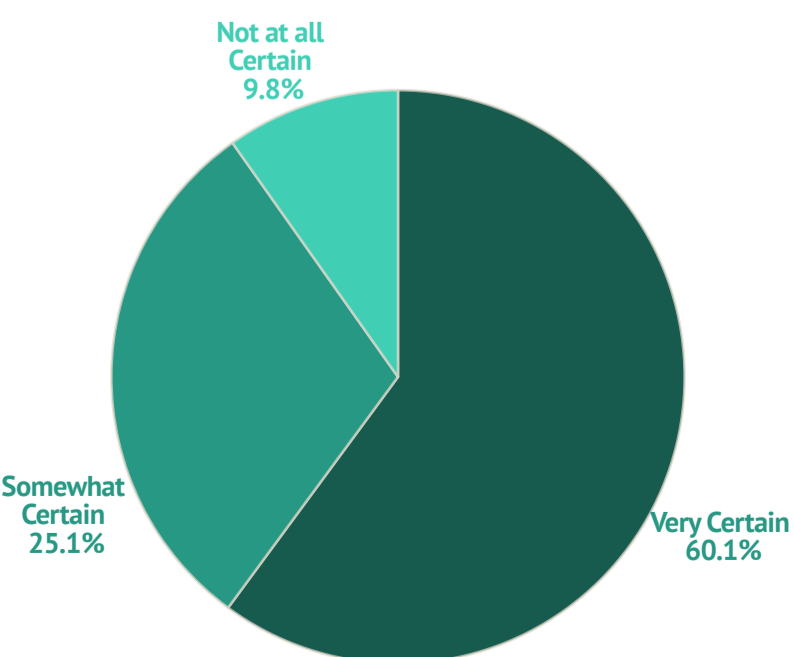
**34.4%**  
Would evacuate when there is an immediate hurricane threat

**8.2%**  
Increase in evacuation reluctance since 2019 survey

When would you evacuate?

	Percent
If a hurricane watch is issued (48 hours before a storm)	10.8 %
If a hurricane warning is issued (36 hours before a storm)	6.8 %
If a category 3 hurricane or stronger was going to hit your home within 24 hrs	16.8 %
If emergency management officials ordered you to evacuate	28.7 %
Will not evacuate due to COVID-19 concerns	5.1 %
Probably never	24.4 %
Other	7.5 %

How certain are you that your household would have all the information needed to protect yourselves and your home from hurricane damage?



If you needed to evacuate, where would you go?

- 36.4%** Shelter or local friend's house
- 13.3%** Another location within Florida
- 24.1%** Another state
- 15.3%** Would not leave under any circumstances



Jorge M. Pérez  
Metropolitan Center