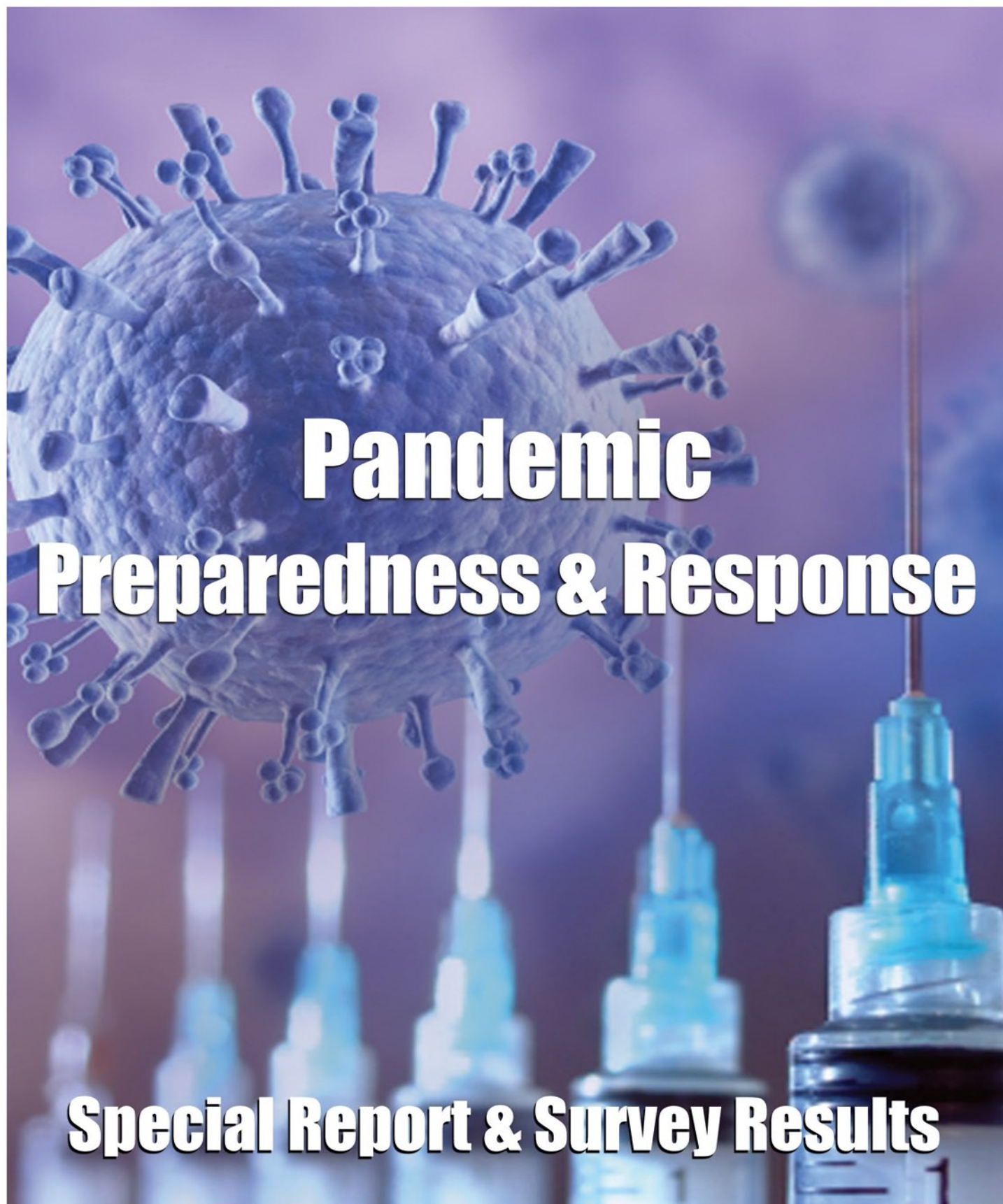




DomPrep Journal

US Annual \$100 Special Report April 2010



Pandemic Preparedness & Response

Special Report & Survey Results

Special Report & Survey Results

Pandemic Preparedness & Response

Prepared by Dr. Paul E. Jarris, ASTHO (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials) Executive Director; Summarized by John F. Morton, DP40



WHO: DomPrep40 plus DomPrep Readers

WHAT: A short survey and report

WHEN: April 2010

WHERE: Online at DomesticPreparedness.com and SurveyMonkey.com

WHY: To provide policy makers a snapshot of strengths, gaps, and weaknesses

This DomPrep40 survey on pandemic preparedness and response, prepared by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and its executive director, Paul E. Jarris, MD, MBA, indicates there is a possible fault line in current pandemic planning assumptions that may have to be addressed.

Both groups – the DomPrep40 and DomesticPreparedness readers – are in a three-way split over which level of government has the primary responsibility for pandemic flu planning and response. But nine out of ten respondents in both groups strongly believe that state and local levels lack the resources to respond to emerging infections.

Key Findings

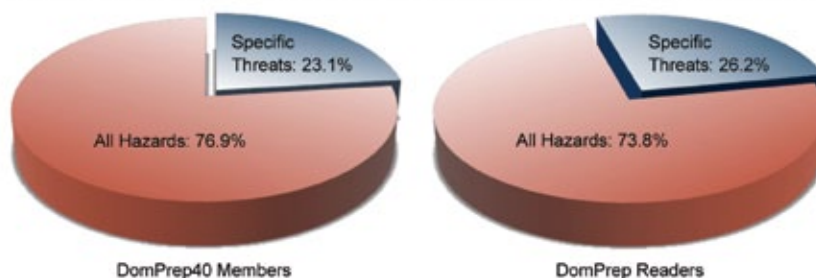
Plus-or-minus 75 percent of both the DomPrep40 and the DomesticPreparedness readers favor federal funding going beyond preparedness for specific pandemic threats to cover all hazards.

Both the readers and the DP40 registered a mixed result – i.e., reached no consensus – as to whether the federal, state, or local government should have the primary responsibility for pandemic flu planning and response. On balance, though, both groups tilted to assigning that responsibility to the federal level.

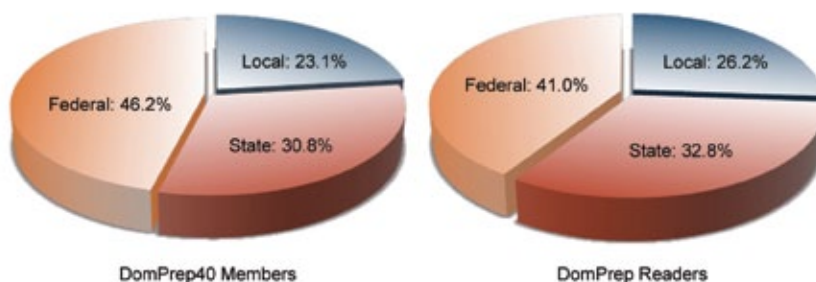
The table represents the DomPrep40 responses to additional questions asked in the survey. Several conclusions, based on the answers indicated in the table, become evident, including the following: (1) on the whole, readers were less convinced than the DP40 were that the H1N1 vaccine campaign affords important lessons learned for future seasonal-flu vaccination efforts; (2) although seven out of ten

DP40 members believe that the federal government should provide more guidance for state pandemic planning and response, somewhat fewer readers – six out of ten – share that opinion; and (3) roughly nine out of ten members of both groups members voiced their opinion that most if not all states and/or local communities lack the resources needed to mount an effective response to an emerging infection.

Should the federal government continue to fund specific threats, such as pandemic influenza, or broaden its public health funding to cover "all-hazards"?



Who do you believe should have primary responsibility for pandemic flu planning and response?



It was a near-even split among the DomPrep40 over whether the Strategic National Stockpile should cover all needs required for an effective pandemic-influenza response, or those needs not met by the private sector. Among readers, the split was exactly 50-50.

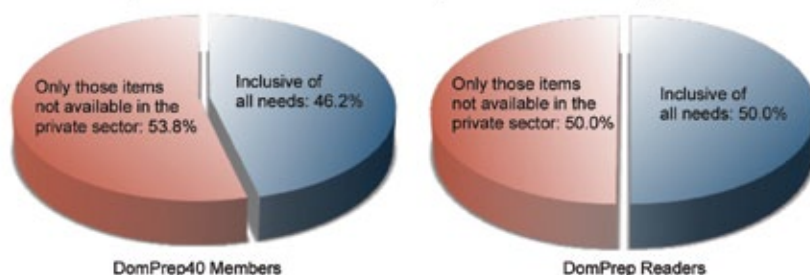
Just under two-thirds of the DomPrep40 registered a belief that clarification of responsibilities between public health and emergency management is the most important issue needing improvement. A little over a quarter said the most important issue is communication. Slightly less than half of the readers agreed that responsibilities need to be clarified – but 36.1 percent pinged on communication.

To summarize: The DomPrep40 and DomesticPreparedness readers have registered a lack of consensus over what level of government should have the lead in pandemic planning and response. This absence of agreement among representative homeland security professionals suggests that all levels need to come together to reconsider both the topic and the strategy – especially in view of the group’s near-unanimous agreement on deficiencies in the state and local resources available for response.

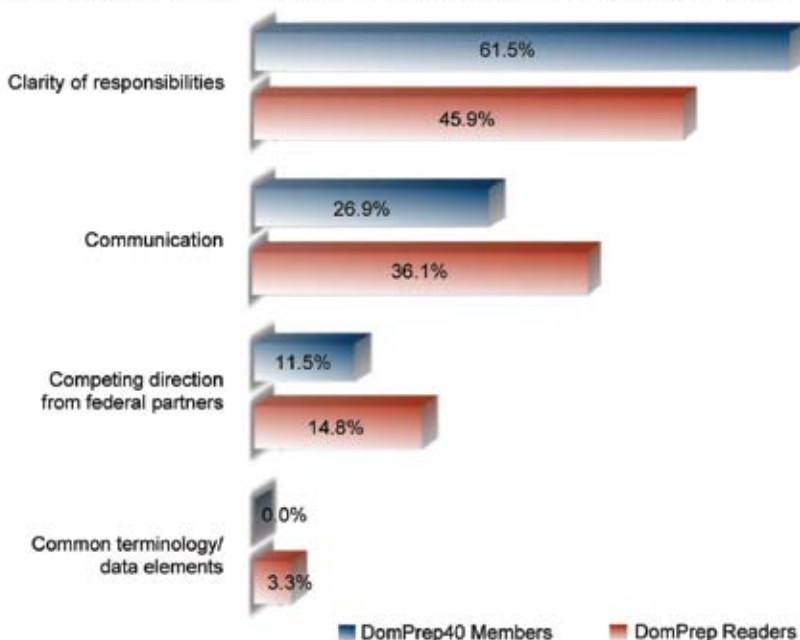
The survey suggests that pandemic planning may have to assume more of an all-hazards cast – which would be a definite capacity challenge. Of equal importance, it seems, is that a policy approach that proposes to build out from individual household preparedness and into a YOYO (“You’re on your own”) alternative may have to be revisited. By default, should we conclude that it is the federal government that has primary responsibility for pandemic planning and response? We are left with one conclusion: This question begs further study as the administration moves forward with its biopreparedness plans.

	Yes		No	
	DomPrep40 Members	DomPrep Readers	DomPrep40 Members	DomPrep Readers
Will the successes and lessons learned from the recent H1N1 vaccine campaign have a long-term impact on future seasonal influenza vaccination efforts?	84.6%	61.7%	15.4%	38.3%
Should the federal government provide more standardized prescriptive guidance to states for their pandemic planning and response?	69.2%	62.3%	30.8%	37.7%
The H1N1 pandemic demonstrated the responsibilities that each level of government has in a response to an emerging infection. Do state and local governments currently have sufficient resources to carry out their tasks?	7.7%	10.0%	92.3%	90.0%

Should the SNS be inclusive of all the needs of a response to pandemic influenza or concentrate only on those items not easily accessible & abundant through the commercial supply chain?



As the Public Health and Emergency Management communities work more closely together what is the most important issue for improvement?



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