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Abstract

Background: The Islamic Republic of Iran is at high risk of natural disasters. Households are the basic unit of society and they need to be prepared for disasters.

Aims: This study assessed disaster preparedness among Iranian households in 2015.

Methods: Using multistage cluster sampling, 2968 households in the catchment area of 53 public health departments in all 30 provinces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were surveyed on the disaster preparedness measures they had taken in the past year. The data collection questionnaire included 15 disaster preparedness measures. The mean preparedness score was calculated and its association with residence (urban versus rural), house ownership (owner versus renter) and education level of the head of the household (illiterate, elementary school, middle school, high school, university) was evaluated.

Results: The mean score for household disaster preparedness was 9.3 out of 100 (95% confidence interval: 8.3–10.3). Multivariate analysis showed higher preparedness among rural than urban households (P = 0.02). Higher education level was positively associated with a higher preparedness score (P < 0.001), as was house ownership (P