



**March 15, 2024**  
**Weekly Situational Awareness Brief**

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**Awareness Topics**

**'Prepping' for disaster diversifies as more Americans lose trust**

“Researchers say the number of preppers has doubled in size to about 20 million since 2017. Much of that growth is from minorities and people considered left-of-center politically, whose sense of insecurity was heightened by Donald Trump’s 2016 election, the COVID-19 pandemic, more frequent extreme weather and the 2020 racial justice protests following the murder of George Floyd.”

**WISQARS™ — Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System**

“CDC’s WISQARS™ is an interactive, online database that provides fatal and nonfatal injury, violent death, and cost of injury data. Researchers, the media, public health professionals, and the public can use WISQARS™ data to learn more about the public health and economic burden associated with unintentional and violence-related injury in the United States. Click here for help using injury data.”

**Family Caregivers: Critical Members of the Care Team**

“In the United States, 20 million family caregivers provide support in the home to loved ones with complex health needs, playing a critical role in their care. To do so, they must

navigate unfamiliar health systems while seeking out support, guidance, and instruction. Join AARP and other industry experts for a discussion of best practices for including family caregivers as an essential part of the care team, and why creating a culture of family-centered care is good for everyone, including the hospital bottom line.”

### **COVID-19 Virus Can Stay in the Body More Than a Year after Infection**

“The COVID-19 virus can persist in the blood and tissue of patients for more than a year after the acute phase of the illness has ended, according to new research from UC San Francisco that offers potential clues to why some people develop long COVID.”

### **Health Professional vs Layperson Values and Preferences on Scarce Resource Allocation**

“COVID-19 prompted rapid development of scarce resource allocation (SRA) policies to be implemented if demand eclipsed health systems’ ability to provide critical care. While SRA policies follow general ethical frameworks, understanding priorities of those affected by policies and/or tasked with implementing them is critical.”

### **Mortality for Time-Sensitive Conditions at Urban vs Rural Hospitals During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

“In this cohort study of 3813 US hospitals, including 18 601 925 hospitalizations, odds of in-hospital mortality increased significantly for non–COVID-19 sepsis and pneumonia during the pandemic (March 8, 2020, to December 31, 2021) compared with before the pandemic (January 1, 2017, to March 7, 2020) at both urban and rural hospitals, but the increase was greater at rural hospitals. In-hospital mortality significantly increased for acute myocardial infarction and gastrointestinal bleeding at urban hospitals and for hip fracture at rural hospitals.”

## **Events**

### **[Click Here for Current and Upcoming Events List](#)**

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