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INSIGHTS: Data Brief

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WILDFIRE SMOKE IMPACTS IN WESTERN STATES AND GAPS IN HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS



of Western residents in the U.S. were **exposed to wildfire smoke** between 2020 and 2023.



While nearly half of U.S. Western residents report not having high levels of knowledge or ability to take action to prepare themselves for wildfire smoke.



One-fifth of adults living in Western states reported that their household would be **unprepared for wildfires** right now. **This finding represents approximately five million households that are currently unprepared for wildfires today.**

Data are from Heluna Health's online panel survey of adults conducted in May 2023. The survey included 1,780 adults living in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

More than one in four adults exposed to wildfire smoke between 2020 and 2023 reported being **impacted by the smoke**, with the highest impacts reported in outdoor air quality; exercise and physical activity; and mood and mental well-being.

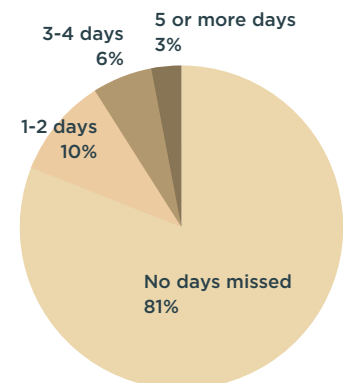
DO WE KNOW HOW TO PREPARE?

▲ Low knowledge or ability ▲ Moderate knowledge or ability ▲ High knowledge or ability

Preparedness Action	Low knowledge or ability	Moderate knowledge or ability	High knowledge or ability
Able to spend the night at somewhere other than home if needed	12%	29%	59%
Able to check air quality around home	10%	32%	58%
Able to seal drafts in home	9%	30%	61%
Know how to use a HEPA air filter	18%	39%	43%
Know how to install a high efficiency air conditioning filter (MERV-13 or higher)	37%	30%	33%
Know how to run the air conditioning on recirculation mode	19%	34%	47%
Know when to use N95 or similar quality masks	11%	35%	54%
Know when to stay indoors during wildfire smoke	11%	32%	57%
Know where to find information about recommended actions to take during a wildfire	13%	36%	51%
Know where to find information about current wildfire smoke conditions	14%	37%	49%

Knowledge and capabilities related to wildfire smoke preparedness differed among adults living in Western states. Adults who were younger (ages 18-29), Black, or with an annual household income below \$55,000 were **more likely to report low knowledge** or ability to be prepared for wildfire smoke.

MISSED WORK DAYS



Among adults exposed to wildfire smoke between 2020 and 2023, **one in five** missed work due to the smoke

Citation: Beck C, Ghosh JK. Wildfire smoke impacts in Western states and gaps in household preparedness. Data Brief: Volume 1, Issue 2. Heluna Health. August 2023.