

Membership Survey

2023



The 2023 NAAHDRI Membership Survey was compiled by the Membership Relations and the Justice, Equity, and Future Leadership committees.

For more information on NAAHDRI committees, please visit <https://www.naahdri.org/leadership/committees/>.

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2023 Survey

Objective

The North American Alliance of Hazards and Disasters Research Institutes (NAAHDRI) is dedicated to bringing together the leaders of hazards and disaster research centers and institutes throughout North America as well as partner individuals and organizations to advance research, education, advocacy, and action.

Survey

This year's survey focused on the **operational environment** and **challenges** that NAAHDRI members are currently facing.

The membership survey was administered between April and July 2023 and contained about 30 questions. Questions focused on topics such as organizational size, funding, reporting structures, research assets, opportunities, challenges, and commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Participation

As of September 2023, NAAHDRI represents more than 100 research centers, labs, and institutes across Canada, the United States and the Caribbean. About one-third of the NAAHDRI membership submitted responses that were included in this report. Responses represent members from Canada and the United States.

Representation

Overall, there is consistency in the responses from NAAHDRI members independent of the funding levels of research centers, labs, or institutes. Where applicable, differences between NAAHDRI members with more than \$1 million in annual research expenditures and those with less funding are highlighted. This differentiation serves only analytical purposes given that about one-third of responses originate from NAAHDRI members with more than \$1 million in annual research expenditures.

Valid Responses

30

This report reflects survey responses from respondents who answered some or all questions related to the operational environment or diversity, equity, and inclusion (n=30). Out of the 30 included responses, only four respondents skipped some questions. The number of responses (n) is reported throughout the document. One-third of responses originated from NAAHDRI members with more than \$1 million in annual research expenditures.

64%

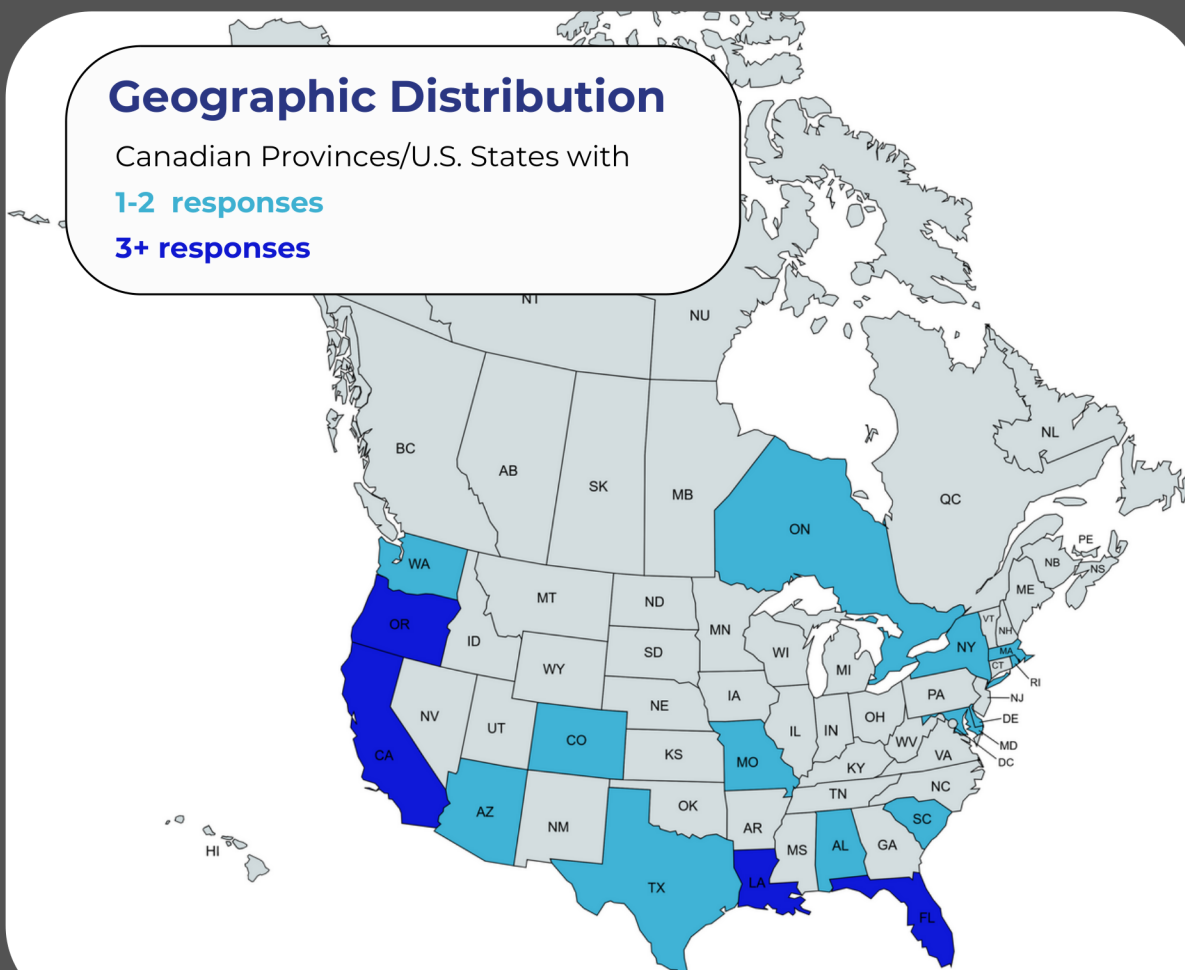
Nearly two-thirds of responses came from NAAHDMI members who are actively engaged in the Alliance. This includes members who serve on the Board of Directors, committees, or similar.

Geographic Distribution

Canadian Provinces/U.S. States with

1-2 responses

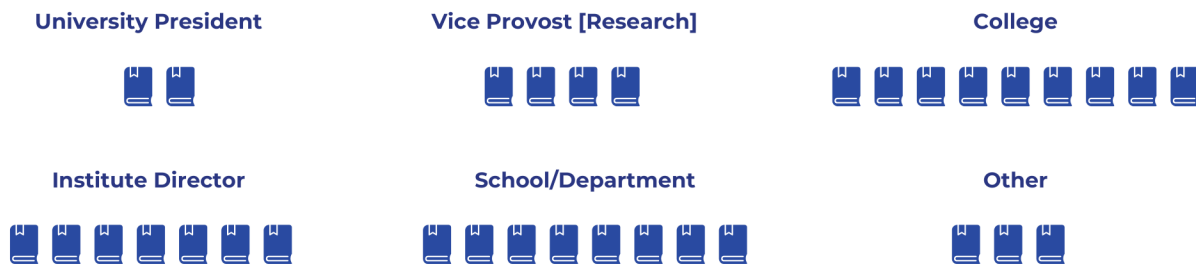
3+ responses



Disciplinary and Organizational Roots

Location within a larger institution

Nearly all responding NAAHDRI members [subsequently only referred to as “NAAHDRI members” in this document] are located within an institution of higher learning. The majority of NAAHDRI members report to a college dean, school/department, or institute director. Some members have reporting responsibilities to more than one entity. Few NAAHDRI members report directly to the highest level of administration within their institution.

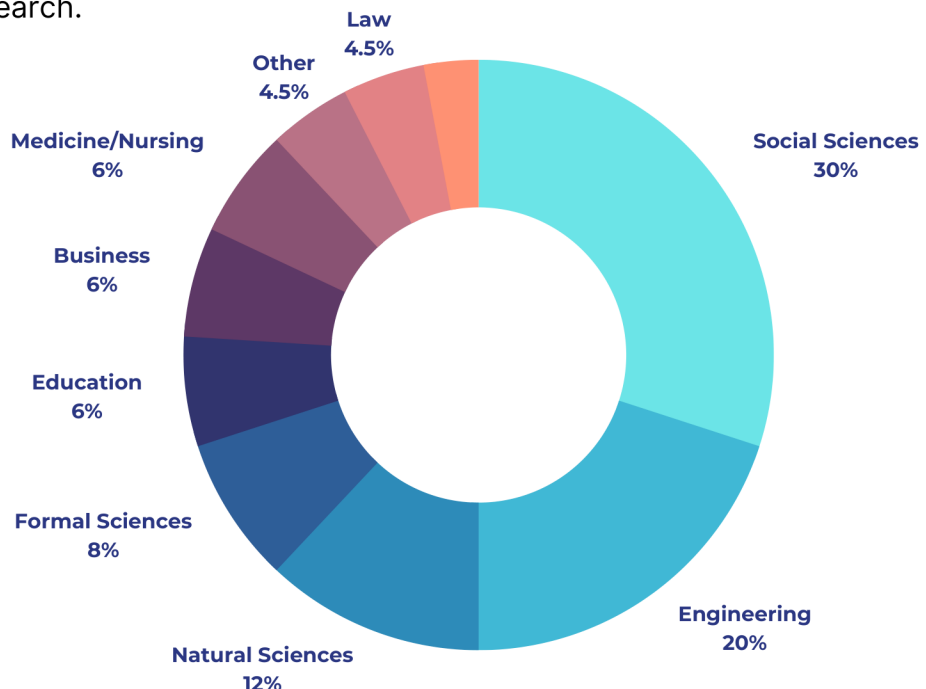


N=33,

*A book equals one count/response.

Disciplinary Home

Half of the NAAHDRI members belong to the social sciences or engineering fields. Most NAAHDRI members represent multiple disciplines. Few research centers, labs, or institutes focus on educational, legal, or business aspects of hazards and disaster research.



N = 64

*Note: Public health researchers did not feel represented by the available survey options.

Organizational Size

Personnel

Most NAAHDRI members rely primarily on full-time faculty and graduate students to fulfill their mission. NAAHDRI members with higher levels of funding tend to employ a higher number of full-time staff (*). Visiting scholars, part-time staff, and direct engagement with volunteers to support organizational activities are less frequent.

	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
Faculty	11	0	50	12.25
Full-Time Staff*	5	0	37	8.22
Post-Docs	2	0	15	3.20
Graduate Students	9	0	65	13.18
Undergraduate Students	5	0	25	5.52
Volunteers	2	0	30	5.73
Other**	2	0	8	2.08

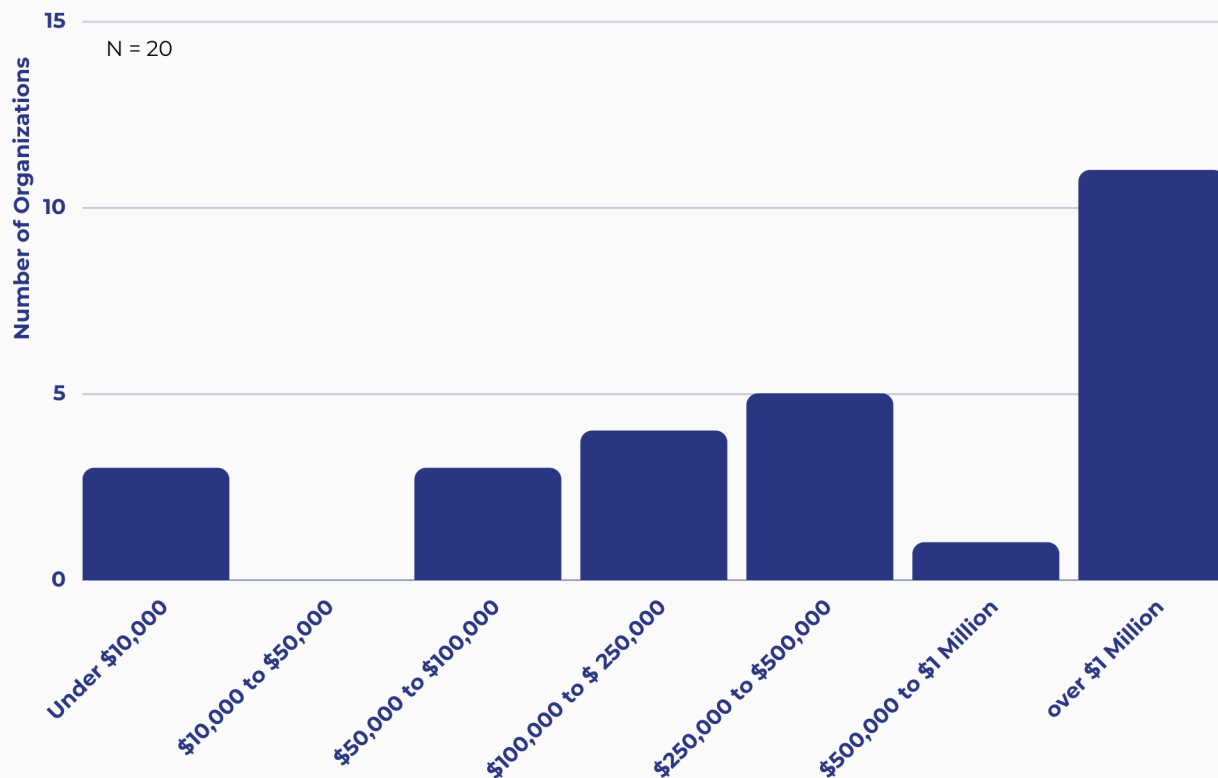
N=29

** Other includes part-time staff, visiting scholars, etc.

Funding

Research Expenditures

One-third of NAAHDRI members represent research centers with more than \$1 million in annual research expenditures. Most of NAAHDRI's members operate on less than \$500,000 of annual research expenditures.



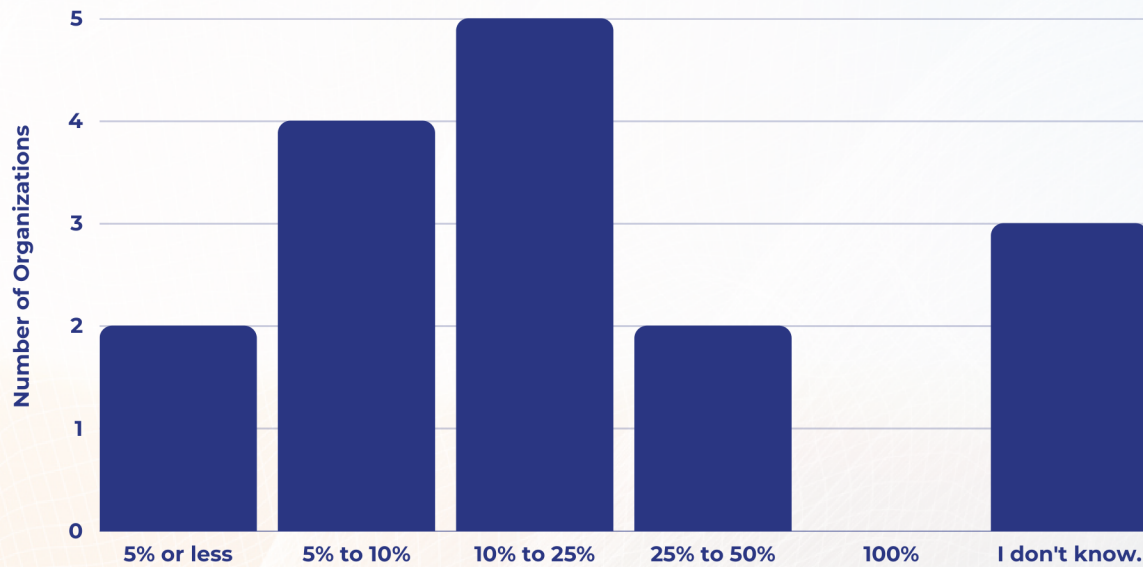
Indirect Costs

Nearly 40% of NAAHDRI members do not recapture a portion of the indirect costs (F&A) that they generate through external funding for the larger insitutions within which they reside.



Indirect Cost Recapture

Of the NAAHDRI members that recapture portions of their indirect cost (62%), most receive between 5% and 25% of indirect costs. A few members are unaware of the amount of indirect costs they recapture.



N=16

Note: The indirect cost categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, if a NAAHDRI member receives 10% of indirect costs, the response could have been reported in the 5-10% category or in the 10-15% category.



Non-Research Related Funding

Non-research related funding makes up a substantial portion of the annual budget of NAAHDRI members. Most of the NAAHDRI members (82% of responses) secure non-grant funded support. This support comes largely from university-level allocations, donations, or other revenue streams. However, the share of these allocations varies by about +/- 10% for NAAHDRI members with less funding (*).



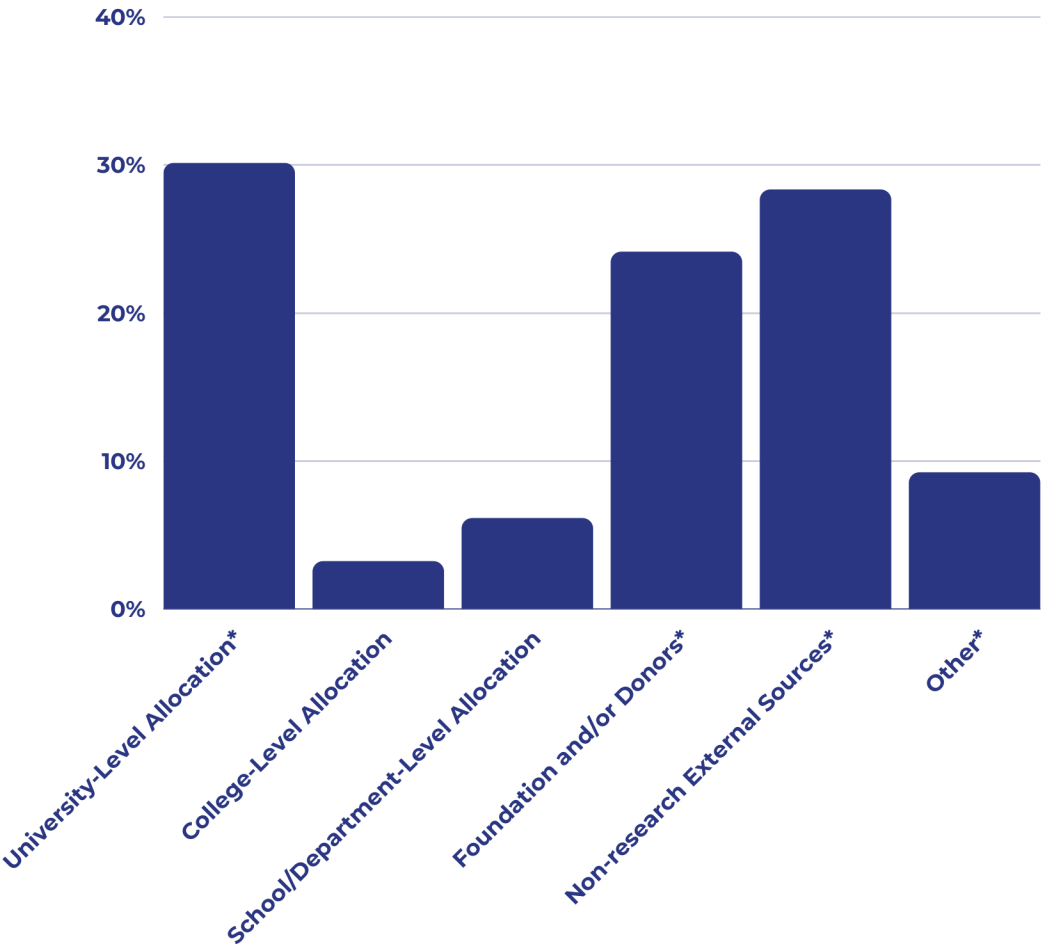
of NAAHDRI members
receive institutional financial support.

N = 26



Out of the NAAHDRI members receiving
institutional support, about 80% receive
more than \$50,000 annually.

N =20



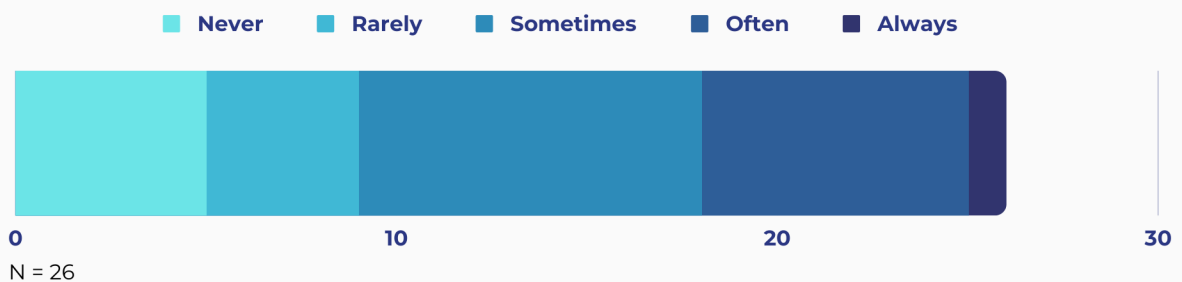
N = 20;

*When excluding responses from NAAHDRI members with more than \$1 million in annual research expenditures, the share of university-level allocation as well as donations/foundation drops by 5%. Similarly, the share of non-research external sources and other drops by nearly 10%.

Contributions by Members

Rapid Response Activities

Many NAAHDRI members participate in quick response activities after an incident and conduct, for example, reconnaissance, damage assessments, evacuation surveys, and more. More highly funded NAAHDRI members tend to engage more frequently in rapid response activities compared to NAAHDRI members with less funding. A significant number of NAAHDRI members engage rarely or never in rapid response activities.



Assets

N = 19

NAAHDRI members contribute a suite of knowledge and tangible resources that are either deployed by the members themselves or called up by the research community at large. These resources include:

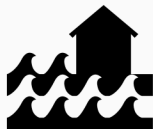


Equipment

Demonstration home, thermal (imaging) sensors, drones, high-performance computing, field data collection instruments, medical disaster response supplies, virtual reality equipment



Centrifuges, shaketable, reaction wall



Weather and tide stations, high water mark flagging kits, wave flumes, directional wave basin, elevated hinge wave maker, underwater force balance plate, motion tracking system



Wind simulators



Data

Data archives, libraries, GIS hubs, maps and models (hazards, risk, vulnerability, impacts, etc.)



Community

Long-standing partnerships, leadership, network of experts, media, governance



Knowledge

Artifacts, indigenous knowledge, training modules, decision-support systems



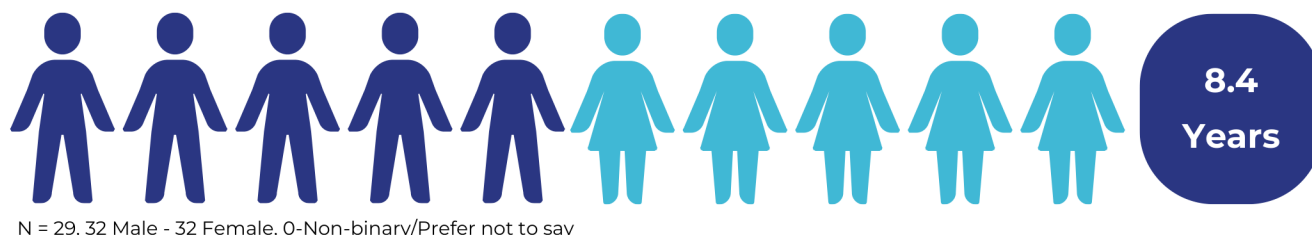
2023 NAAHDRI MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



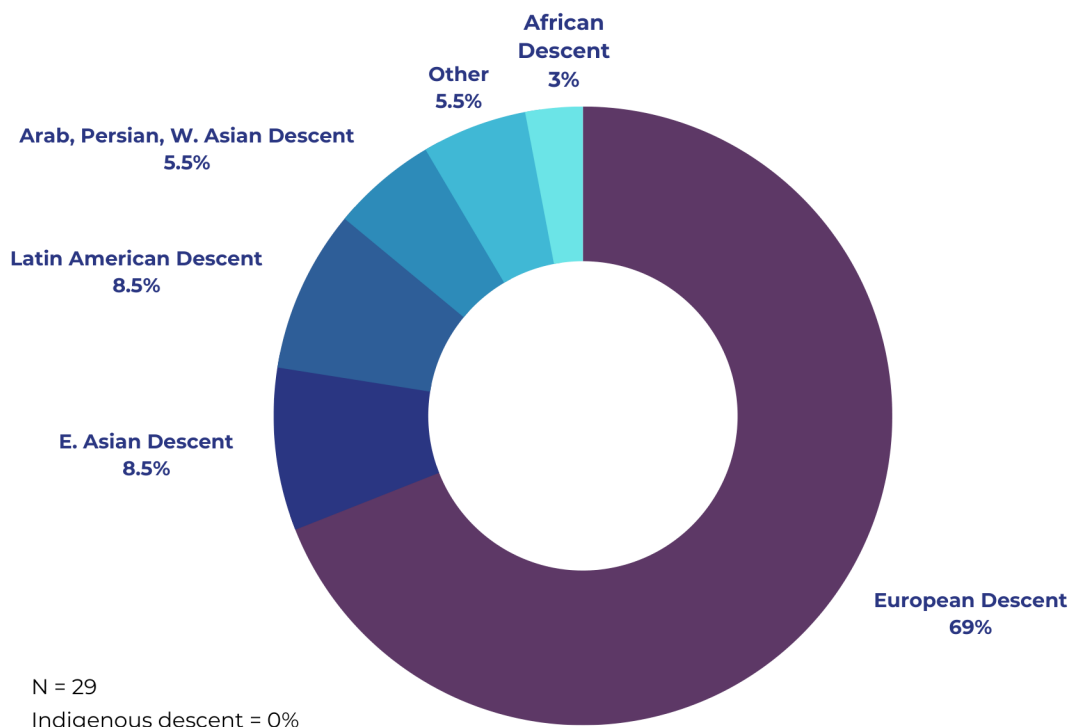
Belonging

Leadership

The leadership of NAAHDRI research centers, labs, and institutes shows a balanced split between genders. A few organizations exhibit shared leadership, which resulted in multiple leadership counts per organization. The current tenure of personnel in leadership positions is 8.4 years.



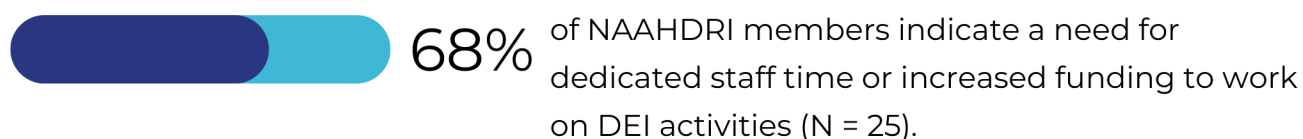
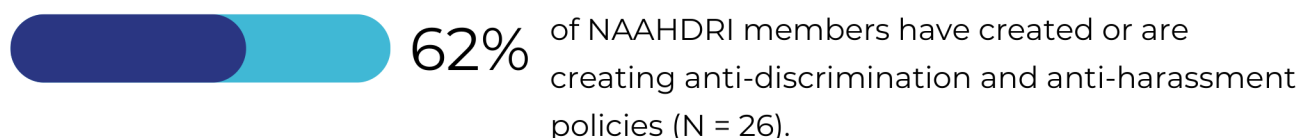
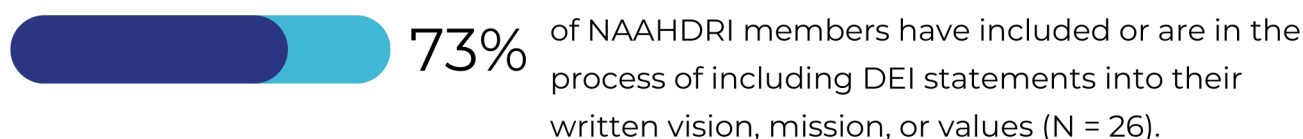
More than two-thirds of leadership representatives are of European descent. Leaders of Latin American or East Asian descent account for less than 20% of NAAHDRI member organizations. There is an underrepresentation of leaders of African, South/Southeast Asian, and/or indigenous descent among NAAHDRI member leadership.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

NAAHDRI members support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) but struggle to initiate change and implement DEI activities. At this point, most efforts (e.g., DEI training, centering equity) have not (yet) achieved tangible changes in representation.

Few members offer financial or programmatic support for DEI activities such as a dedicated staff position (e.g., Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion), joint activities with programs that support scholars of color such as the Bill Anderson Fund, fellowship programs for students from underrepresented groups, and transfers from and/or recruitment programs with minority-serving institutions.



Changes in local political climates have caused several home institutions of NAAHDRI members to eliminate DEI investments, activities, etc., thereby halting and undermining progress.

For NAAHDRI members, this creates a challenging environment in which to recruit talented students, staff, and faculty from underrepresented groups, and makes it more difficult to engage with the community, build networks and capacity, share information, and advance hazards and disasters research.

Membership Voices

Actions

As part of the survey, NAAHDRI members ranked a set of eight key areas. Several responses offered additional areas for potential NAAHDRI priorities and service to the membership. The list below reflects the key areas in order of importance as assigned by the respondents.

Share Funding Opportunities

Foster Collaboration

Showcase Innovative or New Research

Assist New Research Centers, Labs, or Institutes

Support Academic Freedom and Scientific Autonomy

Provide Access to Data (Integration)

Assist in Filling Student or Professional Positions

Expand Professional Network Geographically Beyond NAAHDRI

Additional Recommendations

Share Leadership Lessons

Focus on DEI among Membership

Showcase Student Projects

Be a Voice for Communities (Research,
Local, State, Federal)

Communicate Impact of Research on
Practice

Concerns

As part of the survey, NAAHDRI members ranked a set of eight areas that challenge the survival, health, or sustainability of NAAHDRI members. Several responses offered additional areas of concern. The list below reflects the key areas in order of importance as assigned by the respondents.

Reduction in Funding

Work-Life Balance

Boundary-Spanning/Non-Traditional Fit within Home Institution

Qualified Staffing Shortage

Professional Development Opportunities

Outside Political Interference

Lack/Halting of DEI Efforts

Mental and Physical Health Support

Additional Areas of Concern

Lack of Non-Research Funding

Inadequate Space/Equipment

Lack of Dedicated Personnel

Opportunities

Several NAAHDRI research centers, labs, and institutes have upcoming job opportunities across all organizational levels. Funding opportunities related to applied and interdisciplinary research along with the convergence of hazard and disaster research and climate adaptation may help overcome some of the existing funding challenges.

New Leadership Hires

New Staff and Student Hires

Research and Extension Opportunities

Funding Related to Climate Change Adaptation

Interdisciplinary Research

Knowledge Transfer between Research and Practice

About

The North American Alliance of Hazards and Disasters Research Institutes (NAAHDRI) is dedicated to bringing together the leaders of hazards and disaster research centers and institutes throughout North America as well as partner individuals and organizations to advance research, education, advocacy, and action.

We are now living in an era where, on average, a disaster occurs somewhere in the world every day. These events destroy built and ecological environments and greatly impact local communities. Although disaster-related deaths have declined substantially in high-income countries over the last century, monetary damage and social disruption from natural and technological hazards have been on a sharp incline. Moreover, the threat of pandemics and other public health emergencies, as well as terrorism and other forms of willful human-caused violence, remains high globally. Escalating disaster losses demand new, boundary-spanning approaches to science, education, policy, and action. Hazard mitigation and disaster risk reduction efforts require the commitment of substantial intellectual and financial resources over a long period. These efforts should be guided by constantly improving disaster science with advanced research and a commitment to collaboration with vulnerability-bearers, solution-providers, and each other.

To move toward the goal of reducing hazards losses through evidence-based action, the directors of the hazards and disaster research centers and institutes of North America have formed an alliance to advance and marshal disaster research to inform policy and education. The creation of the North American Alliance of Hazards and Disaster Research Institutes (NAAHDRI) is part of a larger Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI).

Membership

As of September 2023, the North American Alliance of Hazards and Disaster Research Institutes (NAAHDRI) comprises 104 members.

For a list of current NAAHDRI members, please visit <https://www.naahdri.org/membership/institutes-centers-and-laboratories/>.



**Contact us
for further
inquiries**

Download the
2023 Membership
Survey Report at



<https://www.naahdri.org>

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