

Covid-19 and Impact Assessment: A summary of survey results

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The Pandemic

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- ▶ Near 105 million confirmed cases globally
- ▶ Over to 2.2 million fatalities globally
- ▶ Numbers likely underreported
- ▶ 600 year old response – keep the sick from the not sick
- ▶ Physical distancing abruptly changed how we work, socialize and manage daily life

IAIA COVID 19 Pandemic Survey

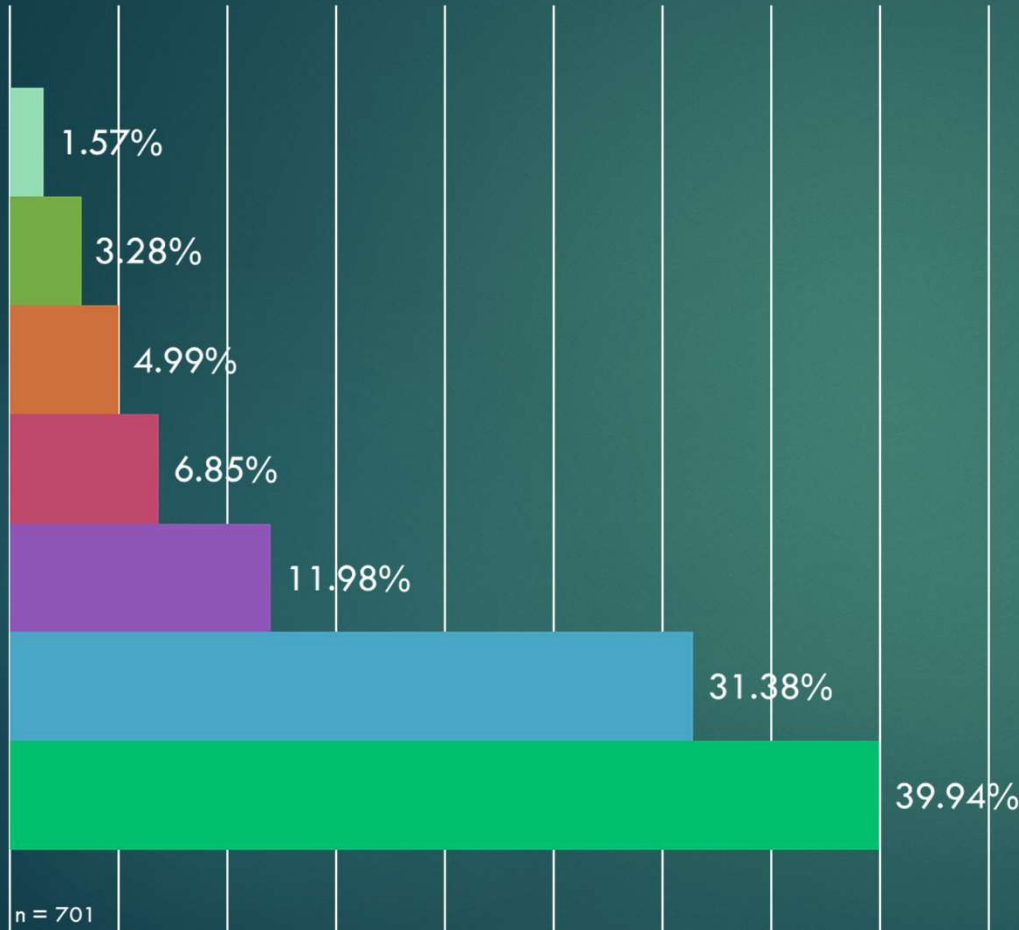
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IAIA/WAB Covid Webinar
4/121

- ▶ How the pandemic was affecting the practice of impact assessment – the work, and the people who did the work
- ▶ Two rounds – May and July-August 2020
- ▶ Respondents: 900 the first survey; 700 the second
- ▶ Details available at
 - ▶ <https://iaia.org/downloads/COVID-SURVEY-Section-2.pdf> and
 - ▶ https://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/COVID%20SURVEY_Section%201_1.pdf?_zs=VaC3b&_zl=pH7B2

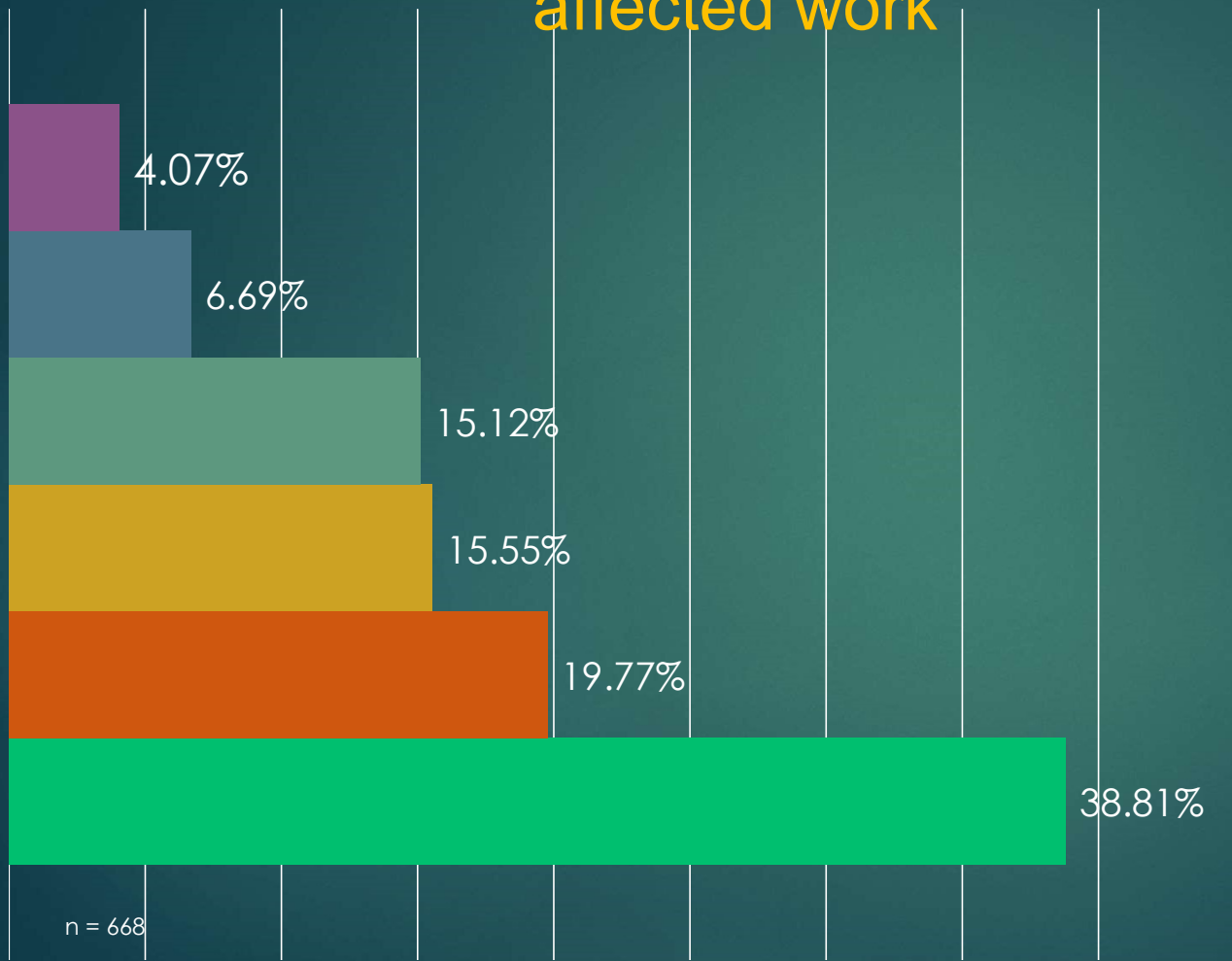
Snapshot of the 2nd survey

Way COVID-19 has most affected work



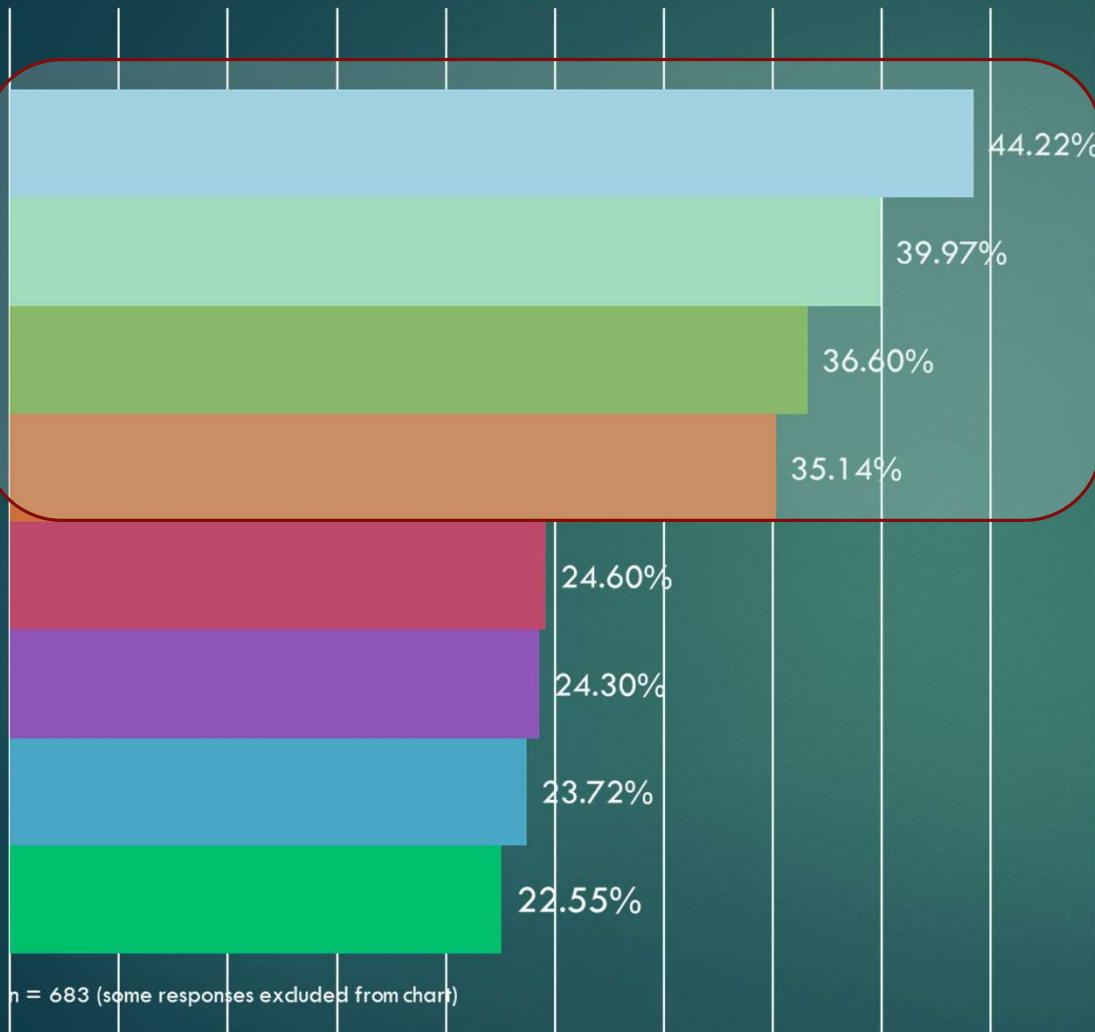
- I have received stop work orders.
- My work has been terminated or business closed.
- Work suspended due to inability to access or deploy staff.
- It has not affected or is no longer affecting my work.
- Asked to redesign work to continue working remotely.
- I have had to start to work from home.
- Only as it relates to travel and in-person meetings.

How COVID-19 travel restrictions have most affected work



- I have stopped work.
- There has been no effect.
- I work less than before.
- I was working remotely, but now I have returned, full- or part-time, to my pre-COVID work location.
- Travel restrictions make it very difficult to continue working.
- I continue to work as before, but I now work remotely.

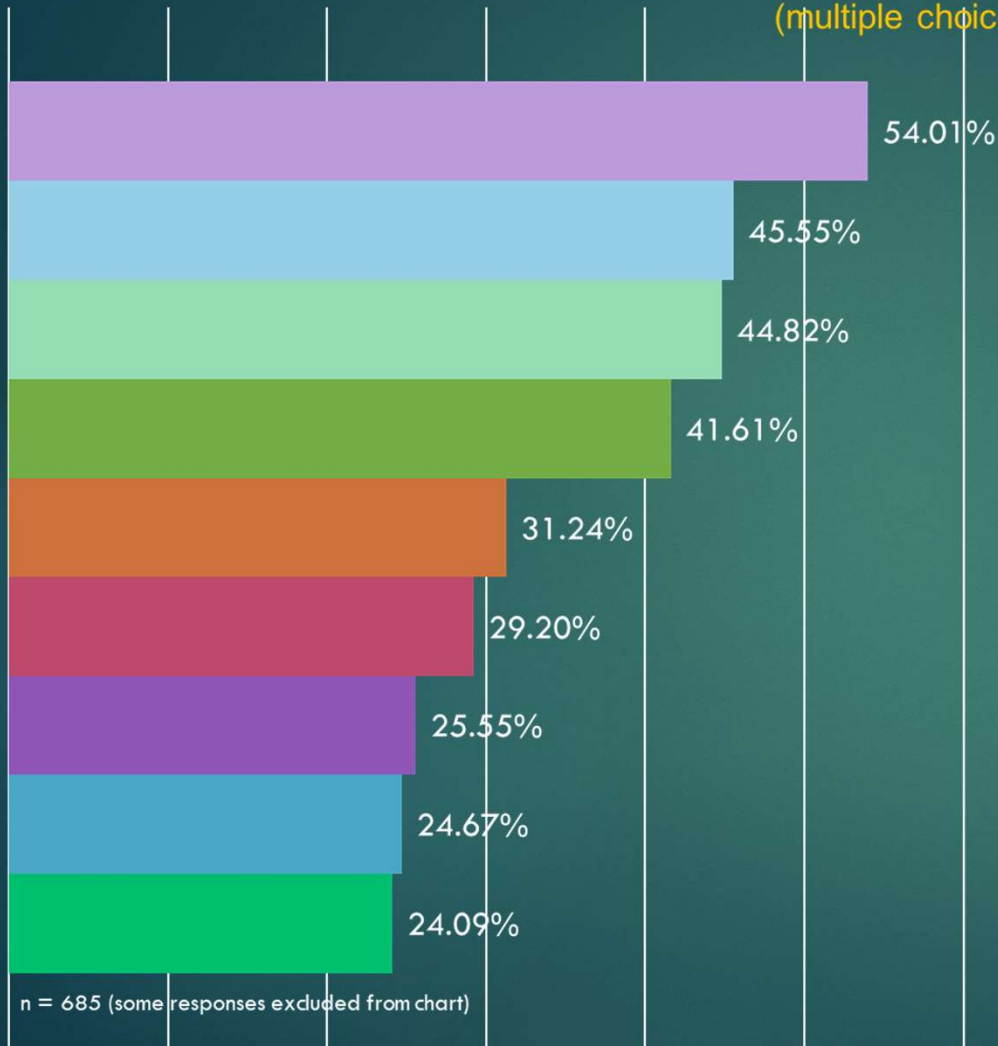
How has the pandemic affected you personally? (multiple responses possible)



- I am feeling uncertainty about the future.
- I am feeling a sense of social isolation.
- I am feeling a sense of professional isolation.
- I am experiencing personal worry, anxiety or concerns.
- I am juggling work and family activities such as childcare, home schooling, etc.
- I have less time for exercise.
- I have less time for relaxation.
- I am experiencing increased economic hardship.

n = 683 (some responses excluded from chart)

Positive impacts of the pandemic (multiple choices possible)



n = 685 (some responses excluded from chart)

- I have had more time to spend with family.
- I am spending less money (on commuting lunches, etc.).
- There has been a positive impact on the environment.
- I have less commute time.
- The air quality has improved.
- I have the opportunity to develop better and/or more efficient ways to conduct my work.
- There is less noise from vehicular traffic, airplanes, construction, and other sources.
- My work environment is quieter due to fewer people.
- I have more time to relax and/or exercise.

Technology or techniques used to conduct consultations, public meetings, hearings, or to receive comments on documents (multiple responses possible)



n = 650

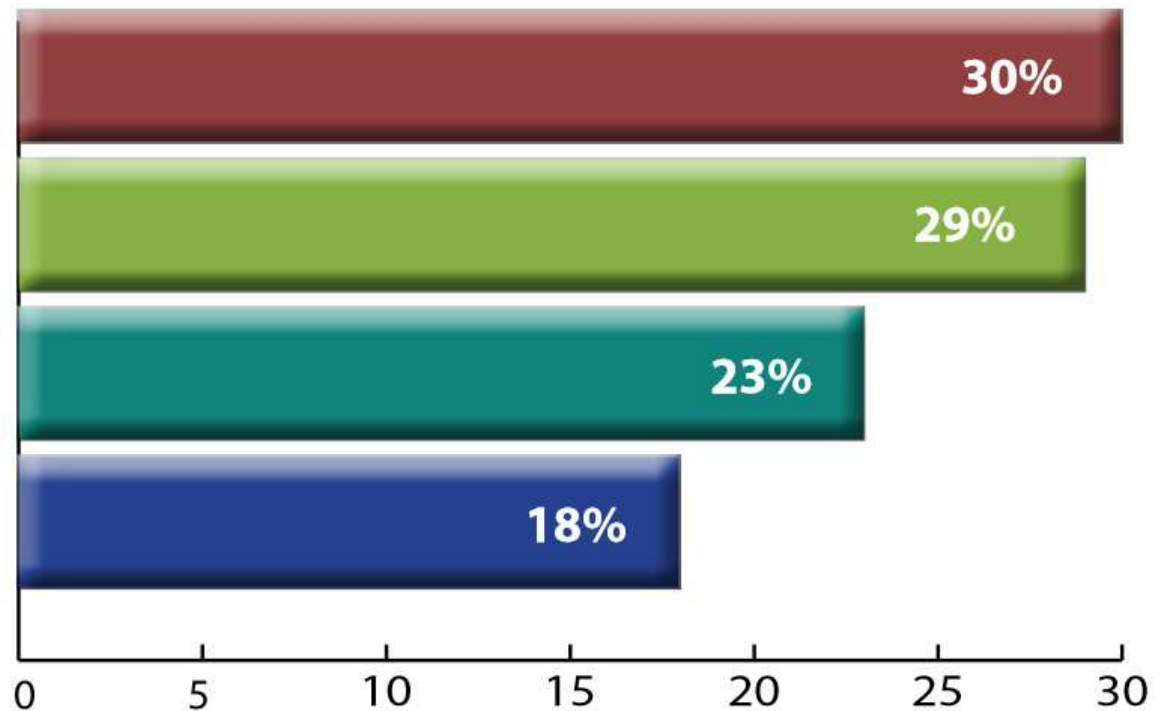
HOW DO YOU BELIEVE THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES WILL CHANGE - OR HAVE ALREADY CHANGED - AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

Regulations/standards/policies will relax temporarily to stimulate the economy

Impact assessment will become more important

There will be no change

COVID-19 will be used to dilute impact assessment permanently

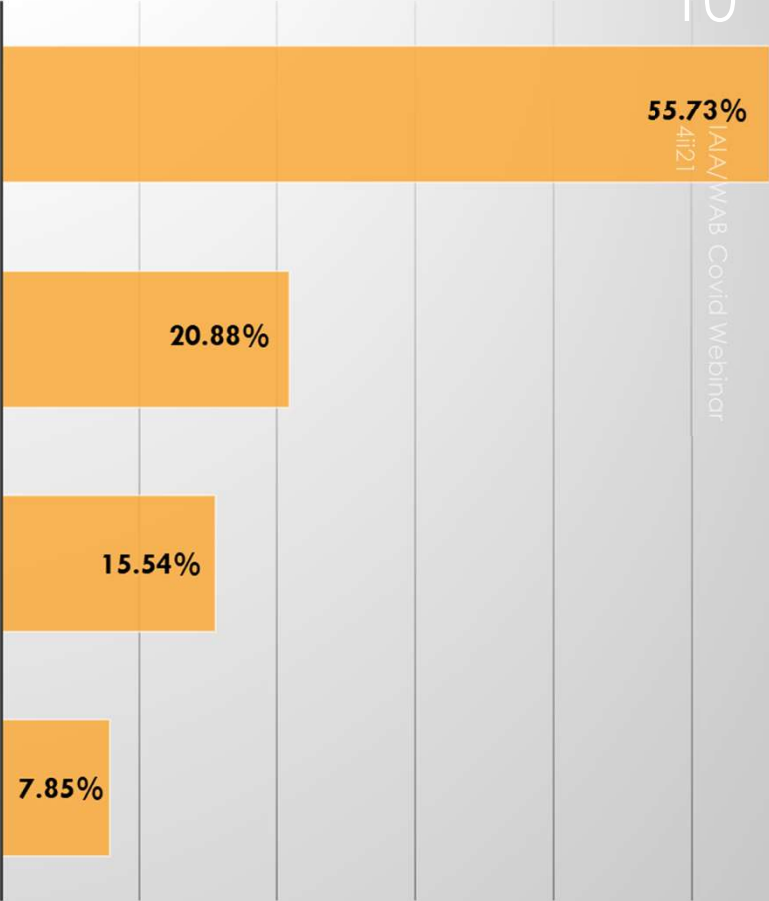


THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NO ACTION, AND HAS NOT PROPOSED, CHANGES TO EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROPOSED, BUT NOT ENACTED, CHANGES TO ENVIRONMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS BASED ON THE PANDEMIC.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS FORMALLY BYPASSED ENVIRONMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS BASED ON THE PANDEMIC.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS FORMALLY BYPASSED OR PROPOSES TO BYPASS ENVIRONMENTAL RULES AND REGULATIONS BASED ON THE PANDEMIC, BUT THESE CHANGES ARE BEING CONTESTED IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM.



Summary

- ▶ Reliance on electronic communications may be excluding those on the other side of the digital divide
- ▶ Impact assessment rules and regulations may be changing: temporary or permanent?
- ▶ Impact Assessment can have a role in pandemic recovery, but uncertainty as to whether the pandemic will be used to bypass normal impact assessment requirements
- ▶ Some benefits noted by survey, but indicators of pandemic-associated stress were also reported, a matter of concern

Covid-19 and Impact Assessment.12

A summary of survey results

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Please feel free to contact me with any questions

More details on the surveys at

<https://iaia.org/downloads/COVID-SURVEY-Section-2.pdf> and

https://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/COVID%20SURVEY_Section%201_1.pdf?_zs=VaC3b&_zl=pH7B2