



**COVID** AND IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT  
4<sup>TH</sup> IAIA SURVEY RESULTS

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# Background

- ▶ Four surveys conducted by IAIA with member support
- ▶ March 2022, March-April 2021, May 2020, March 2020
- ▶ Response rates between 700 and 1,000 of 10,000 contacted
- ▶ Surveys content evolved but has sufficient overlap to compare over time
- ▶ Provide a snapshot of how Covid affected the practice of impact assessment and the people involved
- ▶ May provide insight on how impact assessment policy and practice may change going forward
- ▶ Results to date are based on preliminary analysis

What is your current situation?	March 2022	March- April 2021	May 2020	March 2020
Formally quarantined	3.03%	31.99%	32.72%	17.29%
Staying at home - government recommendation	7.44%	27.39%	31.02%	62.69%
Staying at home - personal decision	15.29%	19.32%	20.25%	9.41%
I am working away from home - perform an essential service.	5.92%	7.41%	6.66%	5.80%
I am in a hospital or other medical care facility.	0.28%	6.29%	4.53%	0.33%
Working and traveling as before.	22.87%	5.91%	4.53%	1.97%
Working as normal but with limitations	45.18%	1.69%	0.28%	1.53%
Respondents	736	1066	706	905

<b>How has the COVID-19 pandemic has affected you personally? (Select all that apply.)</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Survey</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Survey</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Survey</b>
I am feeling a sense of professional isolation.	33.53%	35.44%	36.60%
I am feeling a sense of social isolation.	34.43%	39.24%	39.97%
I am experiencing personal worry, anxiety or concerns.	34.28%	30.63%	35.14%
I am feeling uncertainty about the future.	32.34%	34.93%	44.22%
Responses	668	999	683

<b>Positive impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. (Select all that apply.)</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Survey</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Survey</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Survey</b>
I have had more time to spend with family.	52.66%	48.75%	54.01%
I have less commute time.	42.34%	35.66%	41.82%
I am spending less money (on commuting, lunches, etc.).	33.08%	35.96%	45.55%
I have the opportunity to develop better and/or more efficient ways to conduct my work.	30.65%	29.57%	29.2%
There has been a positive impact on the environment.	29.89%	28.87%	44.82%
My work environment is quieter due to fewer people.	28.53%	24.26%	24.67%
<b>Respondents</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>685</b>

How are COVID-19 travel restrictions currently affecting your work?	March 2022	March-April 2021	May 2020
No effect	18.87%	10.16%	38.81%
Work as before, but now remotely	28.88%	41.50%	19.77%
Was working remotely, but now have returned to my pre-COVID work location.	33.82%	19.92%	15.55%
Work less than before	8.85%	12.21%	15.12%
Travel restrictions make it very difficult to continue working	8.71%	13.28%	6.69%
I have stopped work.	0.87%	2.93%	4.07%
Responses	689	1024	688

<b>New ways of working or innovations. (Select all that apply.)</b>	<b>4th Survey</b>	<b>3rd Survey</b>
<b>Increased use of virtual meetings, virtual conferences and/or webinars to maintain engagement levels with colleagues</b>	<b>94.64%</b>	<b>81.05%</b>
<b>Increased use of digital methods or platforms to conduct work</b>	<b>73.04%</b>	<b>65.38%</b>
<b>Remote working, working from home, or flexible working</b>	<b>75.54%</b>	<b>69.01%</b>
<b>Development or use of online training/learning</b>	<b>65.00%</b>	<b>58.13%</b>
<b>Health and sanitary safeguards at work</b>	<b>51.25%</b>	<b>38.71%</b>
<b>Work rotations to meet social distancing guidance</b>	<b>32.32%</b>	<b>24.21%</b>
<b>Other (please specify)</b>	<b>3.93%</b>	<b>2.92%</b>
<b>Responses</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>885</b>

<b>What types of new or different technology or field methods are you using to overcome restrictions (on travel)? (Select all that apply.)</b>	4th survey	3rd Survey
Not using anything new or different	45.13%	37.04%
Aerial or satellite photos	23.54%	24.45%
Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV, "drones")	12.50%	17.10%
Engaging with local organizations to collect information, including photos and samples	31.01%	32.74%
Promoting Citizen Science or similar approaches	10.71%	14.38%
Training community members to do field work	17.21%	15.01%
Other (please specify)	11.20%	5.77%
<b>Responses</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>953</b>



<p>Please select one of the following responses to indicate how environmental rules and regulations in the country where you work have changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic</p>	<p>4th Survey</p>	<p>3rd Survey</p>
<p>The Government has formally bypassed environmental rules and regulations based on the pandemic.</p>	<p>13.64%</p>	<p>14.36%</p>
<p>The Government has proposed, but not enacted, changes to environmental rules and regulations based on the pandemic.</p>	<p>19.86%</p>	<p>23.18%</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>5.70%</p>	<p>11.10%</p>
<p>The Government has taken no action, and has not proposed, changes to existing environmental rules and regulations in response to the pandemic.</p>	<p>60.79%</p>	<p>51.36%</p>
<p>Responses</p>	<p>579</p>	<p>919</p>

# In Closing ....

- ▶ The surveys changed over time but provide insight into how the pandemic affected impact assessment and the individuals involved
- ▶ The surveys documented
  - ▶ A shift to increased use of communications and other technologies
  - ▶ A demand for skill development in the use of these technologies
- ▶ Time series data suggest a return toward “normal”, but the aggregate of responses may hide geographic differences
- ▶ The survey hasn't really captured changes in impact assessment policy; It is unclear if there will be any changes in the end
- ▶ The data, although not perfect, should be used to frame IAIA strategies and support to the field going forward
- ▶ The surveys are the result of the hard work of IAIA staff and IAIA members, who are thanked for their efforts.



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