

# THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ACADEMIC SCIENCE IMPACT ON SCIENTISTS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS

## Background

To assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the research workforce and identify potential implications for the diversity of the biomedical workforce, the NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity (COSWD) developed and fielded the **NIH COVID-19 Impact on Extramural Researchers Survey** in October 2020.

## Population

This fact sheet focuses on the experiences of racial and ethnic groups currently [underrepresented in biomedical research](#): Blacks/African Americans (B/AA), Hispanics/Latinos (H/L), American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN), and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders (NH/PI).

## Response Rate

Overall, **45,348 of 234,254 invited researchers responded** to the survey (19% response rate). Respondents included principal investigators, trainees, sponsors, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, scientists, and project personnel.

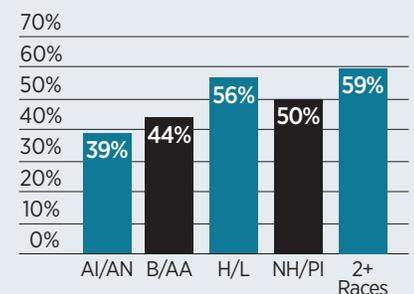
## Results

- **Demographics:** **8.5%** of respondents identified as H/L, **3.7%** of respondents identified as B/AA, **2.6%** identified as two or more races, **2.3%** identified as other race, **0.4%** identified as AI/AN, and **0.1%** identified as NH/PI.
- **Impact of Pandemic on Career Trajectory:** **55%** of all respondents anticipated a negative impact to their career trajectory as a result of the pandemic, most often driven by the impact of the pandemic on research activities. *Figure 1* depicts anticipated negative impact on career trajectory by race.
- **Impact of Pandemic on Productivity:** **78%** of all respondents reported decreased research productivity since the pandemic began; this overall finding did not differ by race. *Figure 2* depicts lower productivity by race.
- **Impact of Caretaking:** **46%** of all respondents indicated that their caretaking responsibilities made it substantially more difficult to be productive. *Figure 3* depicts the impact of caregiving on productivity by race.

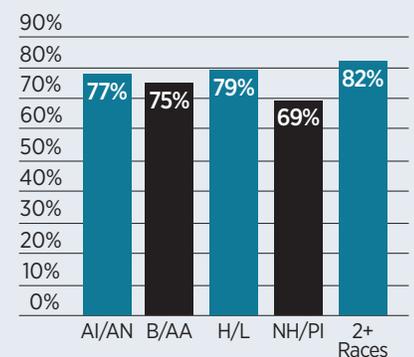
## Where Do We Go From Here?

- NIH will continue to analyze these data and share findings with the extramural research community.
- NIH intends to use these and other data as they become available to maintain its focus on evidence-based actions that foster inclusive excellence within the scientific workforce, to better support the health of our entire population.
- NIH intends to continue taking preemptive actions to support investigators whose work may be impacted by the pandemic (for example, [NOT-NS-20-076](#), [NOT-OD-21-052](#)).

*Figure 1. Percentage of Each Group Anticipating Negative Impact on Career Trajectory (n = 3,010)*



*Figure 2. Percentage of Each Group Experiencing Lower Productivity (n = 7,267)*



*Figure 3. Percentage of Each Group Indicating That Caretaking Made it Substantially More Difficult To Be Productive (n = 1,247)*

