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).

Learn about COSWD’s efforts to diversify the scientific workforce at diversity.nih.gov