

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ALASKA FAMILIES

Survey Methodology

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by becoming infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. COVID-19 is highly contagious and has spread worldwide, reaching Alaska in March 2020. In mid-April 2020, the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health launched a series of short surveys to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Alaskan families.

The surveys were promoted through mass media distribution, social media, and listservs. The Chief Medical Officer announced the first survey at an evening press conference and a press release was shared with information about how to respond to the survey. Alaskans were invited to text a phone number to receive a link to the online survey, or to go to the Maternal Child Health Epidemiology Unit website to find the link if they wished to respond. Each additional survey was promoted in a similar fashion, as well as sent directly via text message to those utilizing the texting service. For Survey 4, the survey link was sent directly to all Alaskans who had signed up for DHSS COVID alerts.

Conducted as a public health needs assessment based on the convenience sample of those who voluntarily responded, the survey results are used to inform DHSS in its response to the pandemic and are not intended to provide information generalizable to the total population of Alaska.

The survey results are confidential and no identifiable information about the respondent was collected. Device IP addresses were collected and maintained in order to link responses from individual surveys to each other.

Survey 1 – Health (“AKFAMILY” survey)

- Survey conducted: April 13-23, 2020
- 2,969 responses

Survey 3 - Mental Health

- Survey conducted: May 13 – May 28, 2020
- 818 responses

Survey 2 - Physical Health

- Survey conducted: April 22 – May 4, 2020
- 1,085 responses

Survey 4 – Winter Follow-up

- Survey conducted Nov 16 – Dec 7, 2020
- 7,179 responses

