COVID-19 Survey Community Profile

Assyrian

A summary of our research into the views of the Assyrian speaking community in Greater Western Sydney about COVID-19, conducted between 21/03/21 and 09/07/21

- 133 people who speak Assyrian as their main language at home took part
- o 68% speak English very well/well (90 out of 133)
- o 61% read Assyrian very well/well (81 out of 133)
- 54% adequate health literacy (72 out of 133)



Average 3.1/10 score for risk perception



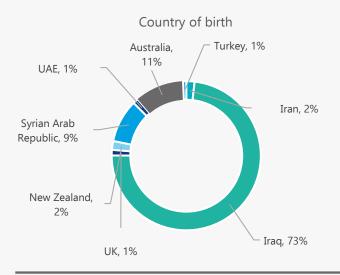
41% would say Yes to a vaccine

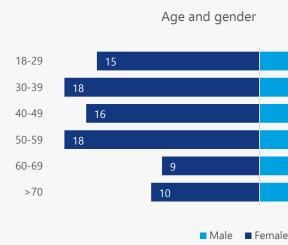


80% would get tested 'No matter what'



Top source for COVID-19 information was Australian commercial sources (63%)





Top Sources for COVID-19 Information

- 1. **Australian commercial source (63%):** Australian commercial TV (84%); Australian news/magazine website (14%)
- 2. **Official Australian source (58%):** Australian public TV (73%); Health professional (52%); Australian government websites (28%)
- 3. **Social media (41%):** Facebook (94%); YouTube (39%); Instagram (30%)
- 4. **Friends or family living in Australia (32%):** living in Australia longer than the participant (88%)

33% get information about COVID-19 in a language other than English

Average of **5.6** out of 10 for difficulty finding COVID-19 information in Assyrian that is easy to understand*

Average of **4.2** out of 10 for difficulty finding information in English that is easy to understand*

*where 10 = extremely difficult



Literacy

Top barriers to getting a COVID-19 vaccine

41%

If a COVID-19 vaccine is recommended to me, I will get it

14% 29% I do not trust the drug I am worried about companies side effects 20% 10% I do not think the vaccine will be safe

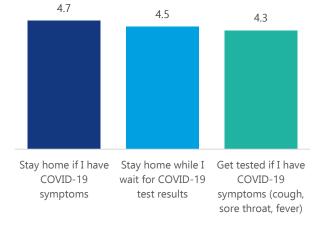
- Risk perception very low (average of 3.1 out of 10)
- High intentions to perform COVID-19 prevention behaviours (average of 4.5 out of 5)

On a scale of 0 to 10, how serious a public health problem do you think COVID-19 is currently, in Australia?

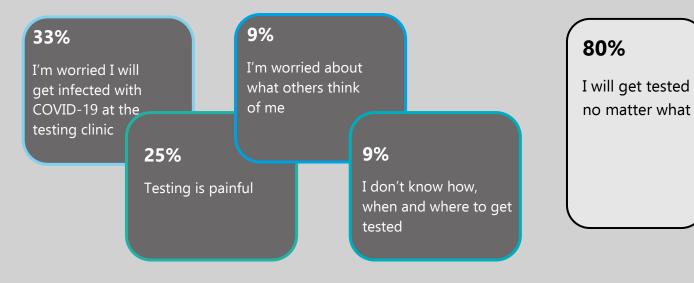


Where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree,

In the next 4 weeks, I will...



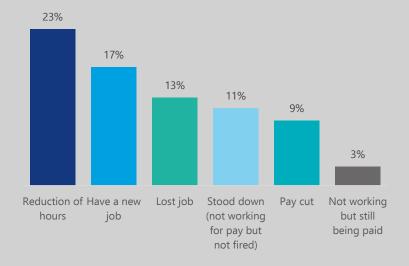
Top barriers to getting tested for COVID-19



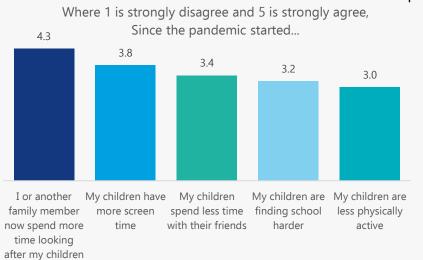
Impacts of COVID-19: Employment

- 18% said their employment had changed as a result of COVID-19
- 29% said they were 'Not at all' or 'A little bit' able to meet their weekly expenses.
 29% were 'Somewhat' able to, and 42% said 'Quite a bit' or 'Very much'
- 50% said they were 'Not at all' or 'A little bit' worried about the financial problems they will have in the future as a result of the pandemic. 21% were 'Somewhat' worried, and 29% said that they were 'Quite a bit' or 'Very much' worried

How has your employment changed?



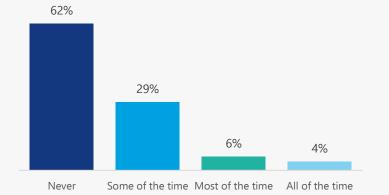
Impacts of COVID-19: Relationships + Children



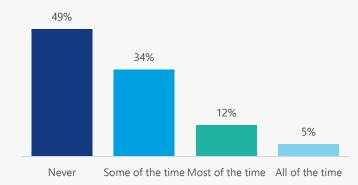
- 88% said COVID-19 has had no effect on their relationship with their partner
- 10% said COVID-19 has had positive effects on their relationship with their partner
- 3% said COVID-19 has had negative effects on their relationship with their partner

Impacts of COVID-19: Mental Health

Over the past week, how often have you felt alone or lonely because of COVID-19?



Over the past week, how often have you felt nervous or "stressed" because of COVID-19?



This research was a collaboration between the Sydney Health Literacy Lab (The University of Sydney), Health Literacy Hub (Western Sydney Local Health District), and Western Sydney, South Western Sydney, and Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health Districts. We would like to acknowledge and thank all staff, community members, and participants who made this project possible.



Notes

Raw counts are shown in the age and gender figure on page 1. Elsewhere in the report, counts were re-weighted to reflect the population profile in Greater Western Sydney.

This data was collected between 21st March and 9th July 2021. At the time of writing (2nd August 2021), the most recent outbreak commenced on 17th June 2020, and reached 448 cases by day 23 (9th July) when the survey closed.

You can find the University of Sydney Health Literacy Lab at https://sydneyhealthliteracylab.org.au/
The Western Sydney Health Literacy Hub can be found at https://www.healthliteracyhub.org.au/
You can find COVID-19 community resources for Western Sydney LHD at https://www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/
Resources for South Western Sydney LHD at https://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/
And resources for Nepean Blue Mountains LHD at https://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/

This community profile was prepared by Carys Batcup. To reference the profile, please use this reference:

Ayre J, Muscat DMM, Mac O, Batcup C, Cvejic E, Pickles K, Dolan H, Bonner C, Mouwad D, Zachariah D, Turalic U, Santalucia Y,
Chen T, Vasic G, McCaffery K. 2021. COVID-19 Survey Community Profile: Assyrian. Available from

http://healthliteracyhub.org.au