

Qualitative Survey

INFO 498-B, Winter 2023

Description

This document aims to allow future researchers to understand the methodology behind the survey we developed. This survey could be run as-is, or used as a template.

Survey Background and Purpose

The overall goal for our qualitative research was to confirm the trends from secondary, qualitative data sources with first-hand experience from Latinos in Eastern Washington. Originally, the survey was to serve as the lowest fidelity option for gathering qualitative data from our target population of Latinos in Eastern Washington. As such, the structure of the survey was meant to emulate the live interview we were going to conduct.

However, while we did expect higher volume with the survey, we focused much of our time preparing for the interviews. So, pivoting to the survey as the main form of primary data posed some challenges in order to ensure the highest quality and relevance of responses as possible.

Survey Content

We first identified the four types of subjects we may encounter with a survey: Latinos with Long COVID, the friends and family of those with Long COVID, those who didn't know anyone with Long COVID, and invalid respondents.

As a result, we first asked participants for some basic information to gauge the general demographics of people being affected by Long COVID. This first set of questions also aimed to filter out any possible invalid respondents by filtering through the zip codes during the data processing phase.

The second section of questions determined which of the remaining three types of subjects a respondent may be and would redirect them to the corresponding section. Not only was this important for maintaining the quality of data collected, but also served as an opportunity to teach any respondents who didn't know anyone with Long COVID on what it is and what it looks like.

From there, the questions from sections three and four are fairly similar, asking about social impacts they or their friends/family might have or are experiencing. Section three differs as it is

asking subjects about their own experiences with Long COVID and thus inquires more into their own medical experiences.

Finally, section five, serves as a guard for invalid respondents like section one did, as it asks for who they heard about the survey from. While not guaranteed, as people may share between friends or family, it does give us a chance to verify the validity of a response.

A snapshot of the survey in the form of a Google Form is available in Appendix A.

Question Sequence

The questions were specifically ordered to match the general flow of our interview (see [here](#)). Some edits have been made from this model, particularly with questions requiring free response and questions pertaining to a participant's symptoms with Long COVID. We tried to avoid these short-response questions where we could in order to streamline data processing.

Question Phrasing

We focused on making the questions as straightforward as possible with providing explanations whenever needed for the survey. Additionally, we also ensured that all Spanish translations of questions used the formal tense whenever possible.

Limitations

Unlike interviews, the survey doesn't have much leeway in terms of asking follow up questions to respondents. We agreed that having a section for people to explain their answers for multiple questions would lead to a higher chance of incomplete responses, survey fatigue, or issues with obfuscating PII.

Additionally, we also felt that an online survey puts a wall up between ourselves and the Latino communities of Eastern Washington. With in-person interviews, it's far easier to explain what we plan on doing with the information we gather and show more transparency in our conduct. The survey somewhat obscures what we're doing. However, our community contacts in Eastern Washington serve as an important bridge in trust between us as researchers and the various Latino communities we want to work with.

Survey Distribution and Logistics

We are fortunate to have multiple contacts in Eastern Washington that are trusted by their communities. Our initial talks with said contacts gave us a picture of the lingering COVID misinformation in the area in addition to the lack of trust we would have as researchers within Eastern Washingtonian Latino communities. As a result, we have relied on our community based organizations (CBOs) to handle the distribution of the survey.

As for specific logistics, we have created flyers with a QR code for the CBOs to distribute along with a shortened URL to the survey as well. We don't have any specific targets for how long the survey will be open for at this time. However, we do have a goal of getting ideally 30-40 responses within the lifetime of the survey. Gauging the quality of the responses may also be difficult, but an average complete response will have at the very least the first two sections fully filled.

Data Processing and Analysis

Another important part of the survey was to keep the responses as easily normalized as possible. This included removal of many free response sections and making the majority of questions multiple choice, yes/no, or rating scale responses. The goal was not only to remove opportunities for participants to accidentally give PII about themselves or their friends/family, but also to make analysis easier as well.

Ethical Considerations

First and foremost, we wanted to only collect the information that was strictly necessary in order to maintain participant confidentiality. As a result, we dropped questions from our survey regarding PII such as name and age.

Furthermore, we also wanted to ensure subject autonomy, we wanted to make all questions voluntary to answer outside of a select few required questions. Given what we've learned from our community contacts, our study is coming from a position of distrust. As a result, we felt it was best to make a participant's location and who referred them to our survey as the only necessary pieces of information. We kept location vague by asking for a zip code only and the purpose of asking who referred them to the survey was meant to serve as a basic way to verify the validity of a response.

Appendix A - Survey as Google Form

Long COVID Survey // Encuesta de COVID prolongado

This survey will be used to gather your responses to questions related to long COVID. If you are uncomfortable answering a specific question, feel free to leave it blank. The whole survey is projected to take between 3-8 minutes to complete. Thank you in advance for your time!

En este cuestionario habrá preguntas relacionadas al COVID prolongado. Si usted prefiere no responder a alguna de las preguntas, la puede dejar en blanco. Le tomará 3-8 minutos completar este cuestionario. Muchas gracias por su contribución a nuestra investigación científica.

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* Required

What is your sex?
¿Cuál es su sexo?

- ☐ Male/Hombre
☐ Female/Mujer

What is your zip code? *
¿Cuál es su código postal?

Your answer _____

Do you have access to healthcare providers near you?
¿Tiene acceso a servicios médicos cerca de donde vive?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Do you have health insurance?

¿Tiene seguro médico?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do you have a job?

¿Tiene trabajo?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What is your occupation?

¿En qué industria trabaja?

Choose

Have you received the COVID-19 vaccine?

¿Ha recibido alguna(s) vacuna(s) contra el COVID-19?

☐ Yes, I've received at least one dose of COVID-19./Sí he recibido por lo menos una dosis de la vacuna

☐ Yes, I've received two doses of COVID-19./ Sí he recibido las dos dosis de la vacuna

☐ Yes, I've received two doses of COVID-19 and a booster dose. / Sí he recibido las dos dosis de la vacuna y me puse un refuerzo también

☐ No

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Long COVID Explanation/ ¿Qué es el COVID prolongado?

Long COVID are the possible symptoms people may have after having COVID. The symptoms include fatigue, trouble breathing, sustained coughing and fever, and difficulty concentrating. These symptoms may last weeks or months after an initial case of COVID.

El COVID prolongado es el nombre que se le ha dado a los síntomas que uno puede experimentar después de haberse contagiado con el COVID-19. Los síntomas incluyen fatiga, tos, fiebre, dificultad para respirar (sentir que le falta el aire), y dificultad para pensar o concentrarse. Puede ser que estos síntomas duren semanas o meses después de haberse enfermado de COVID-19.

Before now, how familiar are you with Long COVID? *

¿Hasta ahora, qué tan familiarizado está usted con el COVID prolongado?

1 2 3 4 5

Not familiar at all/No sabia nada del COVID prolongado

☐☐☐☐☐

Very familiar/Ya sabia del COVID prolongado

Have you or someone you've known had experience with Long COVID? *

¿Usted o alguien que conoce ha experimentado el COVID prolongado?

☐

Yes, I've had Long COVID myself/ Sí lo he experimentado

☐

Yes, I know someone who has experienced Long COVID / Sí conozco a alguien que lo ha experimentado

☐

No

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Long COVID Self / Usted ha experimentado síntomas del COVID prolongado

Can you work as much as you used to?

¿Considera que su capacidad de trabajar es consistente con lo que pudo hacer antes de que le dio COVID prolongado?

- ☐ Yes / Sí
- ☐ No, I work less now / No, siento que no tengo la misma capacidad
- ☐ No, I can't work at all / No, no puedo trabajar
- ☐ I didn't work before having Long COVID / No trabaje antes del COVID prolongado

Have you needed to put more effort into work than usual?

¿Ha notado que ahora le tiene que echar más ganas al trabajo para obtener el mismo resultado que antes?

- 1 2 3 4 5
- No change / Nada ha cambiado ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Significantly harder / Mucho más difícil

Have you needed to put more effort into activities outside of work?

¿Ha notado una diferencia del esfuerzo que requieren las actividades que hace fuera del trabajo?

- 1 2 3 4 5
- No change / No ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Significantly harder / Sí todo se me hace mas difícil

How has long COVID impacted your day to day life?

¿Cómo te afecta el COVID prolongado en tu vida diaria?

Your answer

Have you faced difficulties accessing medical and health services in the past?
¿En el pasado, ha sido difícil tener acceso servicios médicos?

☐ Yes / Sí

☐ No

Would you like to explain your choice for the previous question?
¿Tiene algo más qué decir sobre su respuesta a la pregunta anterior?

Your answer

Would you feel more comfortable seeing a doctor if they spoke Spanish?
¿Usted se sentiría mejor hablando con un médico si podría hablarle en español?

☐ Yes / Sí

☐ No

How would you rate your English proficiency?
¿Considera usted que puede hablar inglés con fluidez?

1 2 3 4 5
Not fluent/ No ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Fluent / Claro que sí

How comfortable are you reaching out for help from your community?
¿Qué tan cómodo/a se siente pidiéndole ayuda a su comunidad?

1 2 3 4 5
Not comfortable at all / No ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Very comfortable / Me siento
me siento cómodo/a muy cómodo/a

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Long COVID Other / Conoce a otra persona que tiene experiencia con el COVID prolongado

How do you know the person who currently has or had Long COVID?
¿Cómo conoce a esta persona que ha experimentado/esta experimentando el COVID prolongado?

- ☐ Family member / Es un miembro de mi familia
- ☐ Friend / Es un Amigo
- ☐ Other: _____

Do you know if they can work as much as they used to?
¿Sabe usted si tienen la misma capacidad de trabajar como antes?

- ☐ Yes / Sí
- ☐ No, less than they used to / No, no tienen la misma capacidad
- ☐ No, not at all / No, no pueden trabajar
- ☐ I don't know / No sé

Have you needed to care for them as they deal with their symptoms?
¿Usted ha tenido de cuidarlos?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you have needed to care for them, has that affected your ability to work/continue in your day to day routine?

¿Si los ha tenido que cuidar, usted ha notado que le es más difícil seguir una rutina diaria/o que usted no puede trabajar tanto como antes?

- ☐ Yes / Sí
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A / No aplica

Has there been a change in their day to day routine?

¿Ha cambiado la rutina diaria de la persona que ha experimentado/esta experimentando el COVID prolongado?

- ☐ Yes / Sí
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know / No sé

How would you rate their English proficiency?

¿Diría usted que ellos pueden hablar inglés con fluidez?

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Not fluent / No | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Fluent / Sí |

How comfortable are they with reaching out for help?

¿Esa persona se siente cómoda pidiendo ayuda a mí?

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Not comfortable at all/hasn't reach out No / No me ha pedido a mi | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | Very comfortable / Sí |


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Long COVID Survey // Encuesta de COVID prolongado

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* Required

Source of the survey / ¿Cómo encontró nuestra encuesta?

How did you hear about the survey? / *

¿Cómo encontró nuestra encuesta?

Your answer

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End of Survey Screenshots.