



PathTech LISTEN

Mixed Methods Longitudinal Investigations of Students in Technician Education

Research Brief Series

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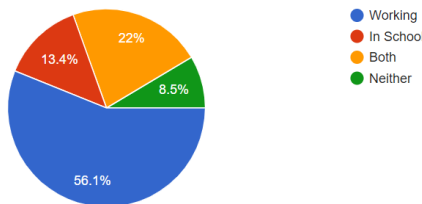
Covid-19 Pandemic Impact on LISTEN Participants Will Tyson, Ph.D. & Teresa Potter, M.S.L.I.S

PathTech LISTEN added an interview to the project in 2020 to focus on the impact of COVID-19 on work, school, and family. Results from 82 interviews conducted May 29, 2020 to September 29, 2020 showed exposure to the virus as follows:

- Personally contracted covid—5%
- Co-worker with covid—16%
- Family member with covid—23%
- Friend with covid—18%

Is this participant working, in school, both or neither?

82 responses



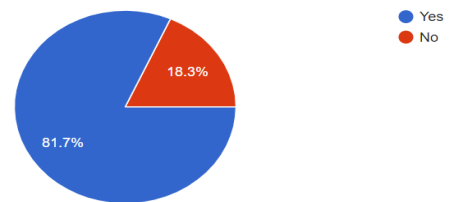
Most participants (78.1%) were employed, while 13.4% were in school and 8.5% were unemployed. The majority (63%) were deemed “essential workers”. Essential fields included technicians for medical equipment, water safety, electrical, HVAC, asbestos abatement, building safety CAD design, shipping warehouse supervisors and welders.

Many described detailed safety protocols required in their workplaces and felt safe doing their work. Masks were almost universally required, as were distanced workspaces. Some required daily temperature checks (25%) and enhanced cleaning processes. The majority worked on-site (52.4%) or a combination of on-site and remote (73.1%) while only 8.5% worked completely remotely. Those working remotely indicated that connectivity/technology, feeling isolated and difficulty communicating were the main issues.

The vast majority, nearly 82%, remained in a STEM program or field at the time of the 2020 interview.

Is the participant still in the field?

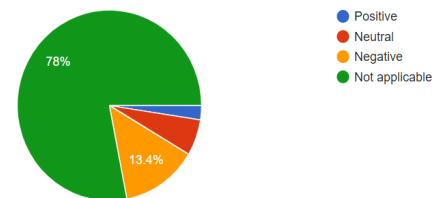
82 responses



For those not working, accessing unemployment benefits was not uniform with 13.4% of all participants having a negative experience applying for benefits. Of the participant’s interviewed, 8.5% were receiving unemployment benefits, 11% had re-

How was their experience in applying for unemployment benefits?

82 responses



ceived for part of the time, and 11% received no benefits while unemployed.

Those participants still in school (35.4%) were transitioned to online learning in March 2020. The most common issues were with connectivity and

How was the transition to online?

82 responses

