

Within the American Heart’s Association research enterprise, applicants, volunteer peer reviewers, and awardees are surveyed annually to gain valuable feedback on the AHA’s support services and research program processes. To gain additional insight and clarity around the specific impact the pandemic has had on AHA-funded research across tenures, currently-active AHA research awardees were surveyed twice:

- The first query was a standard year-end satisfaction survey conducted in February 2021 that included questions about the impact of the pandemic on awardees’ work progress. It contained 24 questions and was distributed to 1,010 active foundational awardees. The AHA received 452 responses – a 45% response rate.
- The second survey, conducted in March 2021, consisted of three questions focused specifically on the pandemic’s impact on AHA awardees’ work progress. This survey was distributed to all 1,242 active research awardees (recipients of both foundational and strategic awards). The AHA received 322 responses – a 26% response rate.

Summary findings:

- Only 4% of respondents reported no impact on their work; 74% reported a significant or moderate slow down with respect to progress on their AHA-funded award (Figure 1).
- 56% of respondents had already or planned to request six-month no-cost extensions. This response rate was consistent among both surveys (Figure 2).
- Of those award recipients who planned six-month extensions, 48% anticipated still not being able to complete their projects despite the extended time.

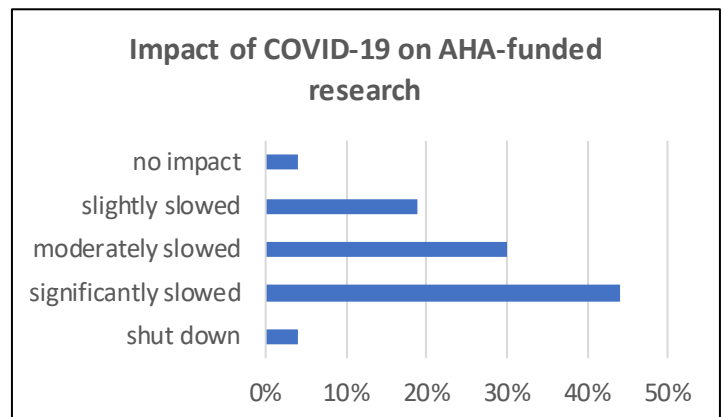


Figure 1. The research of nearly ¾ of AHA-funded investigators was moderately or significantly impacted by COVID-19.

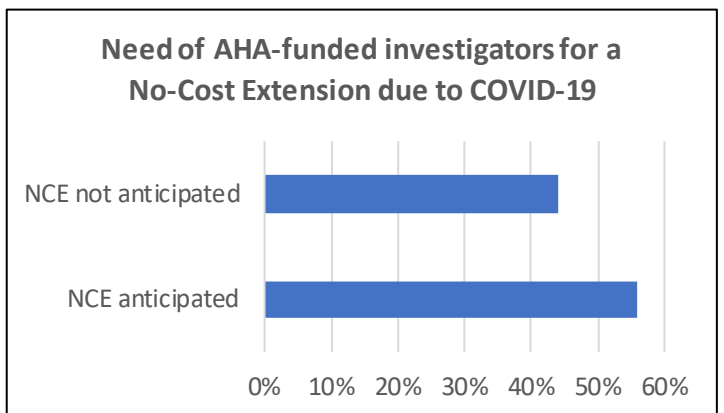


Figure 2. More than half of AHA-funded investigators anticipate requesting a NCE due to the impact of COVID-19 on their research progress.