



Paraguay

Rapid Mobile Phone Surveys (RaMPS) on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and COVID-19

October, 2021

The Rapid Mobile Phone Survey (RaMPS) on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and COVID-19 in Paraguay was conducted to understand people's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors about COVID-19 and to gauge the impact of COVID-19 on NCDs and mental health.

The computer-assisted telephone interview survey was based on a sample of 2,001 adults age 18 and older and employed random-digit-dialing (RDD) methods to produce key indicators stratified by sex. A total of 13,393 mobile phone numbers were dialed, of which 5,171 mobile phone users were contacted, and yielded 2,001 interviews. The cooperation rate* was 38.7%. Data were collected between September 14 and October 21, 2021.

Behavioral impact of COVID-19	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Percentage who avoided social contact or practiced social distancing in the last 2 weeks:						
Always	56.3	(54.2-58.5)	52.8	(49.7-55.8)	59.9	(56.9-62.9)
Sometimes	27.2	(25.3-29.2)	28.3	(25.5-31.0)	26.2	(23.5-28.9)
Never	16.4	(14.8-18.1)	19.0	(16.5-21.4)	13.9	(11.8-16.1)
Percentage who avoided public places in the last 2 weeks:						
Always	33.1	(31.1-35.2)	31.6	(28.7-34.5)	34.6	(31.7-37.6)
Sometimes	43.0	(40.8-45.2)	42.0	(39.0-45.1)	43.9	(40.8-47.0)
Never	23.9	(22.0-25.7)	26.3	(23.6-29.1)	21.4	(18.9-24.0)
Percentage who avoided public transport in the last 2 weeks:						
Always	47.4	(44.9-49.8)	45.3	(41.7-48.9)	49.2	(45.8-52.6)
Sometimes	17.8	(15.9-19.6)	14.8	(12.2-17.3)	20.3	(17.6-23.0)
Never	34.9	(32.5-37.2)	39.9	(36.4-43.5)	30.5	(27.4-33.6)
Percentage who used a mask or chinstrap when they left home in the last 2 weeks:						
Always	89.3	(87.9-90.6)	85.0	(82.7-87.2)	93.6	(92.0-95.1)
Sometimes	8.7	(7.5-10.0)	11.8	(9.8-13.8)	5.7	(4.2-7.1)
Never	2.0	(1.4-2.6)	3.2	(2.1-4.3)	0.8	(0.2-1.3)

Living conditions during COVID-19	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Impact on work or job:						
Lost job permanently	15.6	(14.0-17.2)	14.5	(12.3-16.7)	16.8	(14.5-19.1)
Lost job temporarily	24.0	(22.2-25.9)	26.5	(23.8-29.3)	21.5	(19.0-24.1)
No impact on their work or was retired or out of the workforce	60.3	(58.2-62.5)	59.0	(55.9-62.1)	61.7	(58.6-64.7)
Impact on income:						
Reduced income	60.8	(58.7-63.0)	60.1	(57.0-63.1)	61.5	(58.5-64.5)
Increased income	2.6	(1.9-3.3)	2.8	(1.8-3.8)	2.5	(1.5-3.5)
No impact on their work or was retired or out of the workforce	36.5	(34.4-38.7)	37.1	(34.1-40.1)	36.0	(33.0-39.0)

COVID-19 prevention media sources	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Percentage who think official prevention messages have influenced behavior changes that protects against COVID-19	80.5	(78.8-82.3)	78.3	(75.8-80.9)	82.7	(80.3-85.0)
Most trusted source of information to change behavior related to COVID-19:						
Ministry of Health	44.1	(41.9-46.3)	38.9	(35.8-41.9)	49.3	(46.2-52.4)
Religious community	3.1	(2.3-3.8)	3.2	(2.1-4.3)	2.9	(1.8-3.9)
Friends and family	2.9	(2.2-3.7)	3.4	(2.3-4.5)	2.5	(1.5-3.5)
Community leader	0.3	(0.1-0.6)	0.3	(0.0-0.7)	0.4	(0.0-0.8)
Independent medical societies	1.7	(1.1-2.3)	2.0	(1.1-2.9)	1.4	(0.7-2.2)
Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization	7.6	(6.5-8.8)	6.4	(5.0-8.1)	8.8	(7.2-10.7)
Social media	14.6	(13.0-16.1)	15.6	(13.4-17.8)	13.6	(11.4-15.7)
Television, Radio, Newspapers	24.2	(22.3-26.1)	27.6	(24.8-30.4)	20.8	(18.3-23.3)
None	1.4	(0.9-1.9)	2.4	(1.5-3.4)	0.4	(0.0-0.7)
Another source	0.1	(0.0-0.3)	0.2	(0.0-0.5)	.	(.-)
Main media source for COVID-19 prevention information:						
Television	44.5	(42.3-46.6)	44.2	(41.2-47.3)	44.7	(41.7-47.7)
Radio	5.1	(4.1-6.1)	7.1	(5.5-8.7)	3.1	(2.0-4.3)
Websites	8.8	(7.6-10.1)	8.6	(6.9-10.3)	9.0	(7.3-10.8)
WhatsApp	6.4	(5.3-7.5)	6.8	(5.2-8.4)	5.9	(4.4-7.4)
Social media	31.7	(29.8-33.7)	29.3	(26.6-32.0)	34.1	(31.3-36.9)
Newspapers & Magazines	2.3	(1.7-3.0)	1.8	(1.0-2.7)	2.8	(1.8-3.8)
None	0.8	(0.4-1.1)	1.4	(0.6-2.1)	0.2	(0.0-0.4)
Other	0.4	(0.1-0.7)	0.7	(0.2-1.3)	0.1	(0.0-0.3)

Access to services	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Percentage who needed mental health services because of the COVID-19 pandemic	15.1	(13.5-16.7)	12.0	(10.0-14.0)	18.2	(15.8-20.6)
Among those who needed mental health services because of the COVID-19 pandemic, percentage who consulted mental health services	36.3	(30.8-41.8)	34.3	(25.6-43.0)	37.6	(30.5-44.7)
Percentage who were told by a doctor or other health professional that they have high blood pressure or hypertension	27.8	(25.9-29.7)	26.2	(23.5-28.8)	29.4	(26.7-32.1)
Among those diagnosed with hypertension, percentage who use medication for hypertension	64.5	(60.6-68.5)	60.2	(54.2-66.1)	68.4	(63.1-73.6)
Among those diagnosed who use hypertension medication, percentage who had to stop using it during the pandemic	6.9	(4.2-9.6)	5.7	(1.8-9.5)	7.9	(4.0-11.7)
Percentage who were told by a doctor or other health professional that they have high blood sugar or diabetes	11.9	(10.5-13.3)	11.4	(9.4-13.4)	12.4	(10.4-14.5)
Among those diagnosed with diabetes, percentage who use medication for diabetes management	56.3	(49.8-62.8)	56.0	(46.5-65.5)	56.6	(47.8-65.5)
Among those diagnosed who use diabetes medication, percentage who had to stop using it during the pandemic	13.5	(7.6-19.4)	11.2	(3.2-19.1)	15.6	(7.1-24.2)

COVID-19 vaccine receptivity	Total		Male		Female	
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Percentage who were vaccinated against COVID-19	79.1	(77.3-80.9)	77.4	(74.9-80.0)	80.8	(78.4-83.2)
Among unvaccinated, percentage who would get a COVID-19 vaccine if it were available today:						
Definitely yes	39.5	(34.9-44.2)	37.3	(31.0-43.6)	42.2	(35.3-49.1)
Probably yes	24.9	(20.8-29.0)	24.2	(18.7-29.7)	25.8	(19.7-31.8)
Probably not	7.0	(4.6-9.5)	8.6	(5.0-12.2)	5.2	(2.0-8.3)
Definitely not	28.5	(24.2-32.8)	29.9	(23.9-35.9)	26.9	(20.7-33.2)
Among those unvaccinated who would get a vaccine if it were available today, percentage who would prefer to get it at:						
Public hospital	40.7	(34.9-46.5)	41.4	(33.2-49.5)	40.1	(31.8-48.3)
Private hospital	10.4	(6.8-14.0)	11.1	(5.9-16.3)	9.6	(4.6-14.6)
Health center	34.7	(29.1-40.3)	32.4	(24.7-40.1)	37.1	(28.9-45.4)
Pharmacy	11.6	(7.8-15.3)	10.7	(5.7-15.6)	12.5	(6.9-18.2)
Other	2.6	(0.7-4.6)	4.5	(1.0-8.1)	0.7	(0.0-1.9)
Among those unvaccinated who would not get a vaccine if it were available today, main reason why they would not get it:						
Do not think it is safe	14.6	(10.2-19.1)	14.4	(8.5-20.2)	14.9	(8.2-21.7)
Do not think it is effective	8.6	(5.2-12.0)	8.7	(4.1-13.2)	8.5	(3.4-13.5)
Waiting for a specific COVID-19 vaccine brand	8.3	(4.9-11.6)	8.7	(4.1-13.3)	7.7	(2.8-12.5)
Waiting to decide	15.4	(11.0-19.8)	16.1	(10.0-22.2)	14.5	(8.1-20.9)
Think he/she will get COVID-19	1.4	(0.0-2.8)	0.7	(0.0-1.9)	2.4	(0.0-5.1)
Do not believe in vaccination	34.0	(28.1-39.8)	35.2	(27.2-43.1)	32.4	(23.8-41.1)
Other	17.7	(13.0-22.5)	16.3	(10.1-22.4)	19.6	(12.2-27.0)
Percentage who know where to get a COVID-19 test	87.5	(86.1-89.0)	85.6	(83.4-87.8)	89.4	(87.5-91.3)

*The cooperation rate is the number of complete interviews divided by the number of interviews (complete plus partial) plus the number of non-interviews that involve the identification of and contact with an eligible respondent (refusal and break-off plus other).

For further information, please contact nmhsurveillance@paho.org