



Impact of COVID 19 in the Inter-American Division

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Never before have I been so convinced that God has been preparing us for this COVID 19 pandemic or for other pandemics.



Ever since creation, God gave specific instructions to his creatures about their feeding, outdoor activities, rest, self control, and their relationship and communication with Him.



Throughout history God has continually admonished and warned about what we needed to do to receive his blessings. Health was one of them.



After 400 years of slavery in Egypt, God gathered his people and gave them new instructions.

- *²⁶“If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”*

Exodus 15:26 (NIV)



Blessed by Obeying

Deuteronomy 28:1

“If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth.”.



June – 1863
(157 years ago)

God gives us a Health Message with instructions about:

“Fresh air, sun light, abstinence, rest, exercise, a convenient nutritional regimen, water and confidence in God are the true remedies”



Evidence of the 8 principles

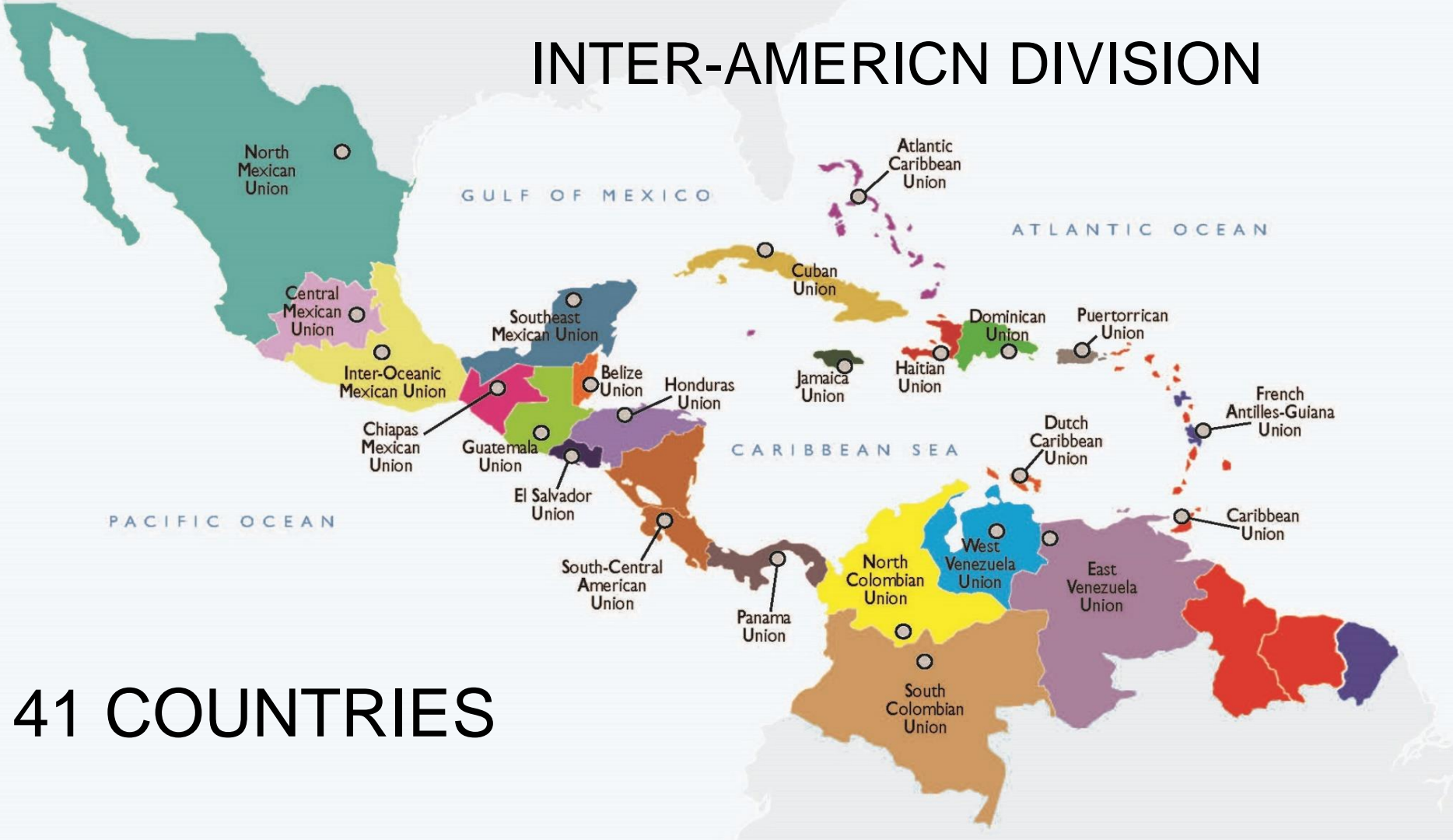
In 1918, the “Spanish Flu” Pandemic where millions worldwide were infected and over a thousand persons died each day. In the United States 675 thousand persons died. The Adventist made the headlines when the Adventist Seminary in Hutchinson Minnesota reported 90 students infected with the virus H1N1, out of a population of 180; however none of the infected died.



➤ They applied the 8 natural remedies that God included in the Health Message.

➤ They followed all the sanitary and hygienic measures possible to avoid being infected

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION





The Inter-American Division with 41 countries in its territory, has also been a victim of COVID 19 with some of the countries affected more than others; therefore the Unions within these countries are the ones most severely impacted.



- In first place let us give thanks to God for providing Dr. Henry and his administration with understanding and comprehensive hearts to implement rapid intervention for the crisis that was fast approaching.
- Preventive measures were adopted at the IAD headquarters and recommendations were issued to the Unions for them to follow and act as quickly as possible according to their circumstances



Immediately we started to:

1. Provide education and information based on what we knew about Covid 19 up to that moment.
2. Close the offices at Headquarters.
3. Promote social distancing.
4. Implement rigorous hygiene, hand washing and the use of face mask for personal protection. and the protection of others.
5. The 8 health principles offered to us by God in the Health Message was emphasized.
6. Communication through all media was used to keep Unions and local feels informed.



I want to share with you the results of a survey that was done in the territory of the Inter-American Division.

There were 4,242 participants who answered the survey.

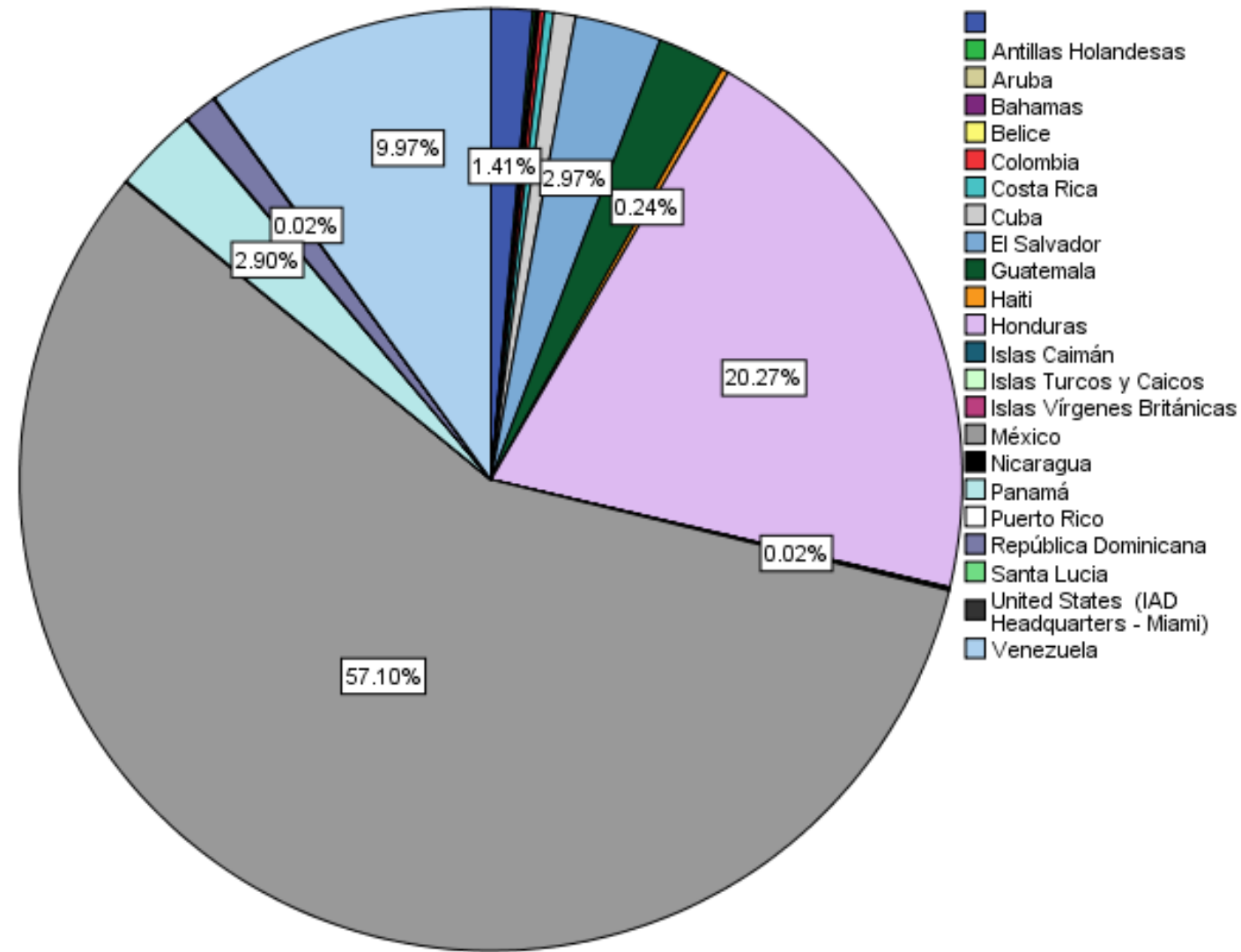
This sample permits us to project descriptively what is happening in our territory as a result of the impact of COVID 19.



The questions pertained to:

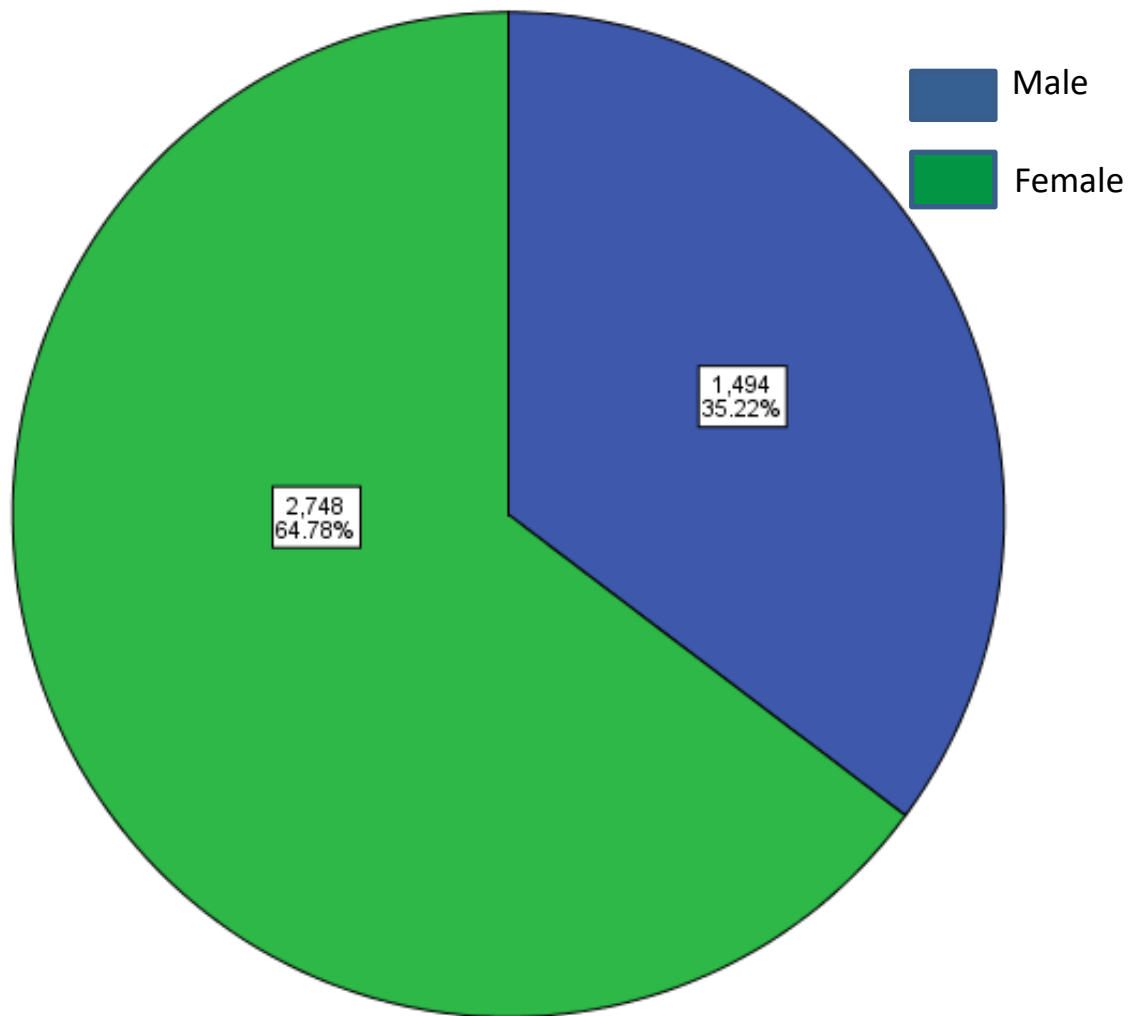
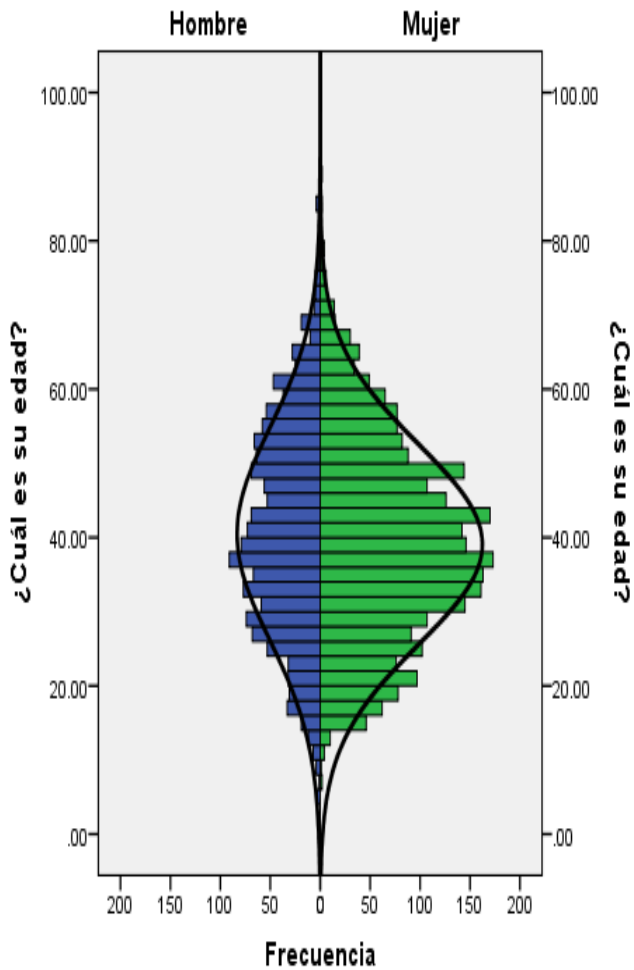
- Age
- Gender
- Contact with COVID 19
- Financial impact
- Spiritual impact
- Mental Health

Countries Unions



Sexo

No





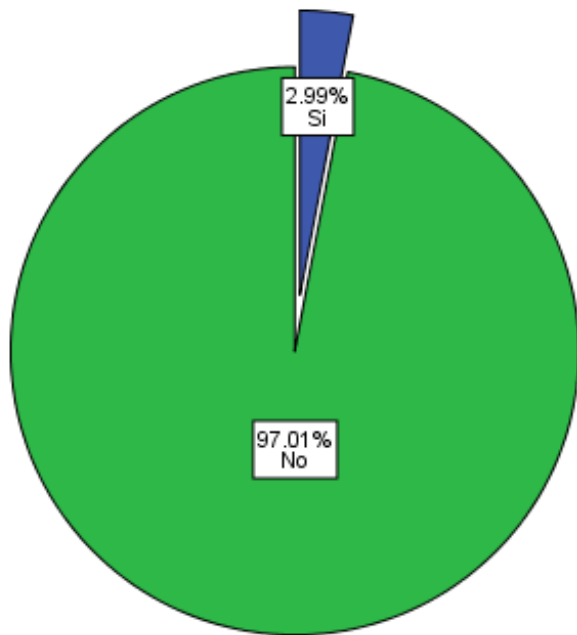
Have you been infected by COVID-19?



Yes

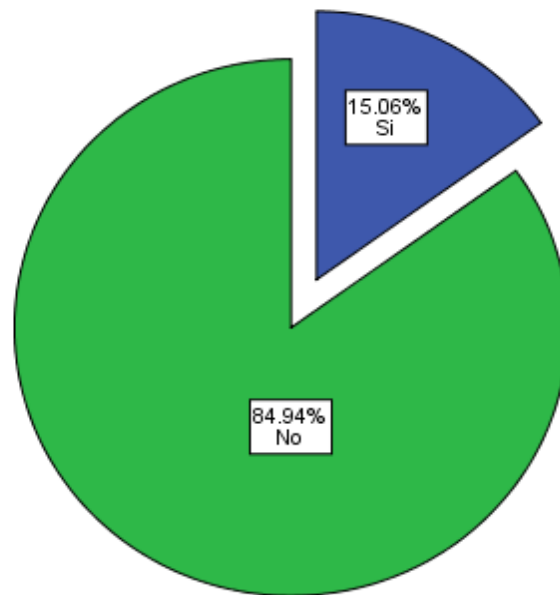


No



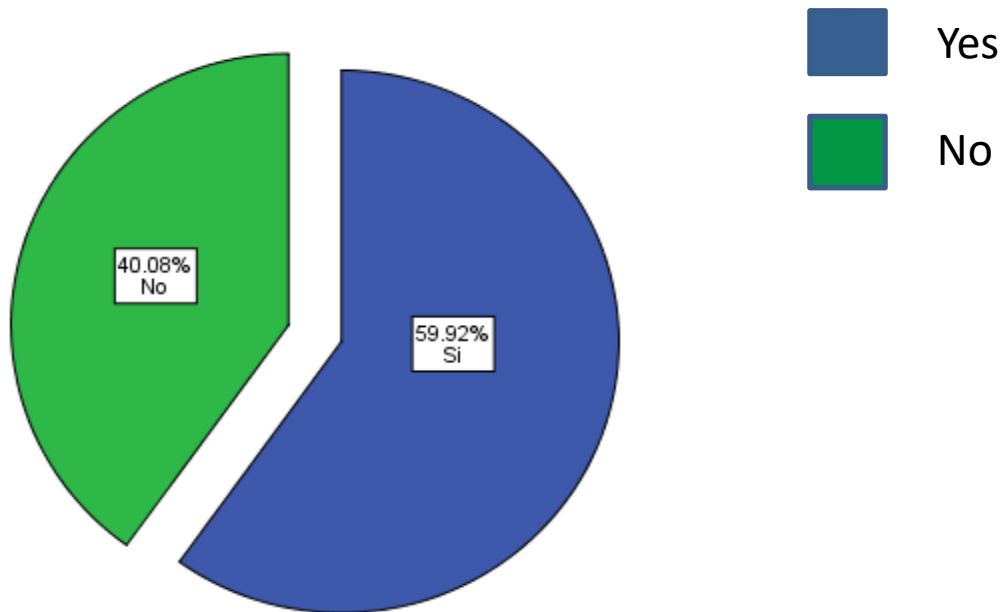


Someone in your family have been infected by COVID-19?



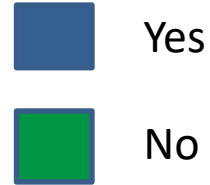
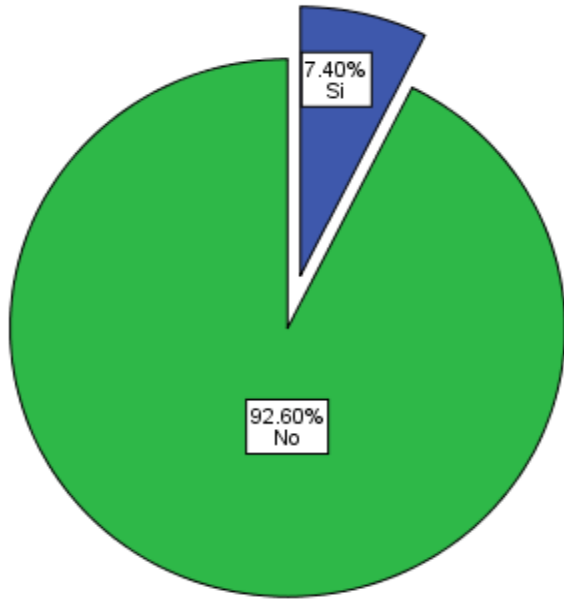


Do you know of anyone who has been infected by COVID-19?



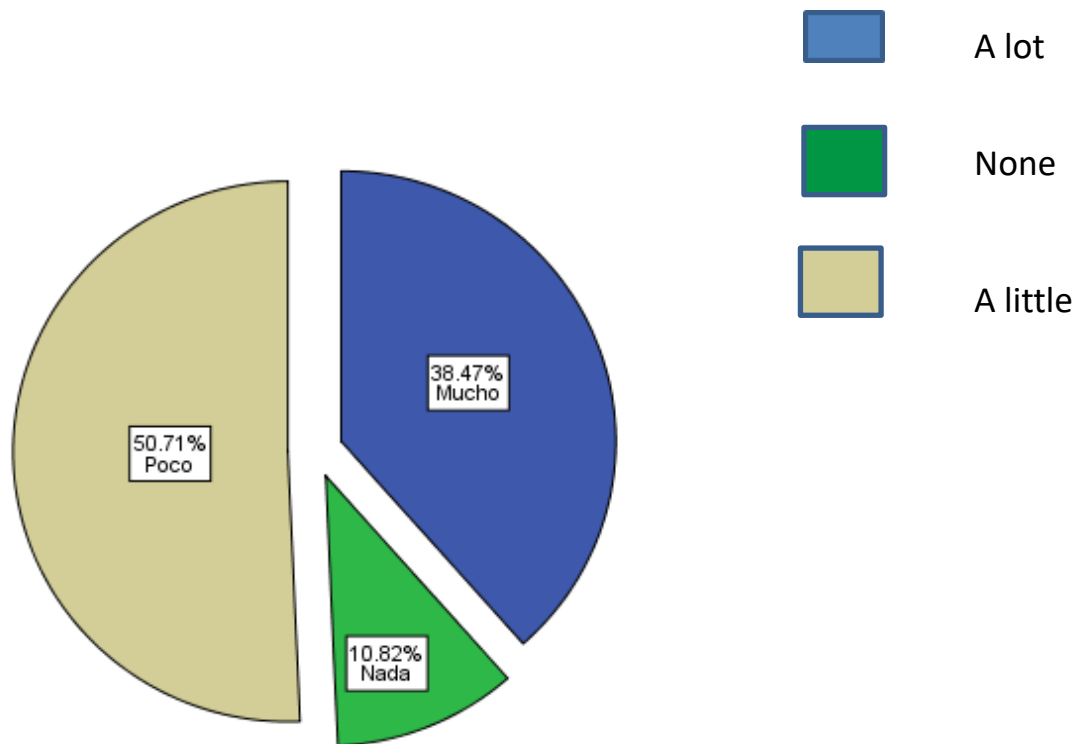


Have you lost any family members to COVID-19?



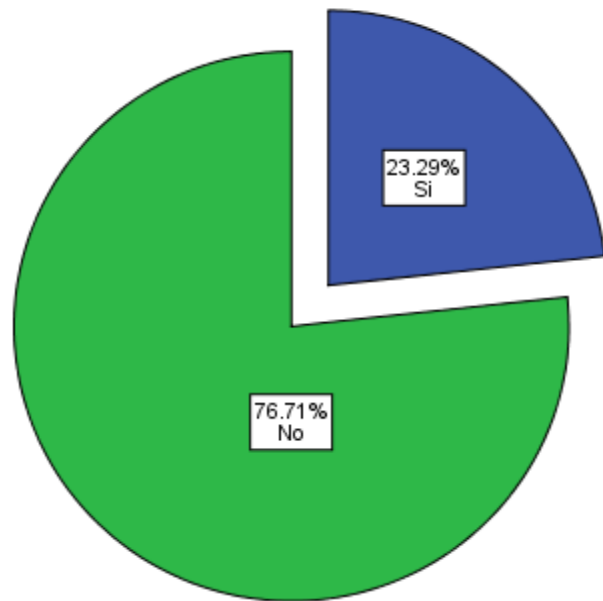


Has the finances of your home suffered due to COVID-19?





Has the spiritual environment of your home been affected by the pandemic?



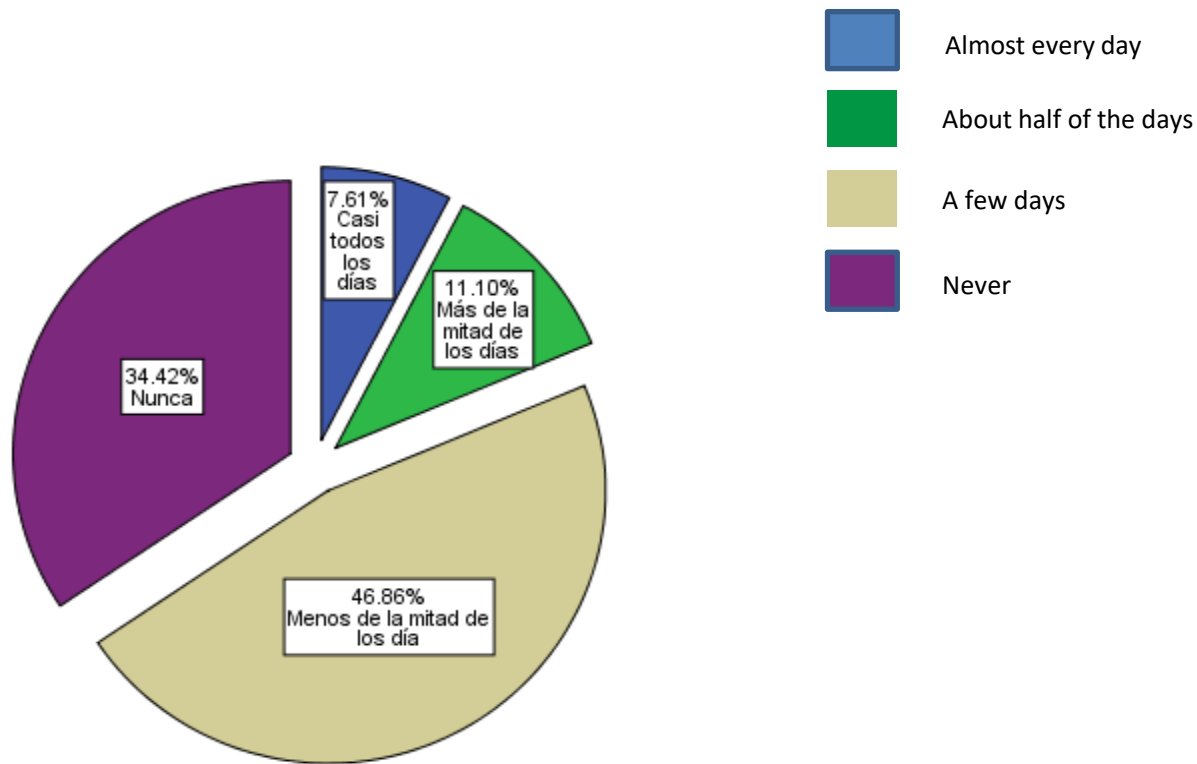
Yes



No

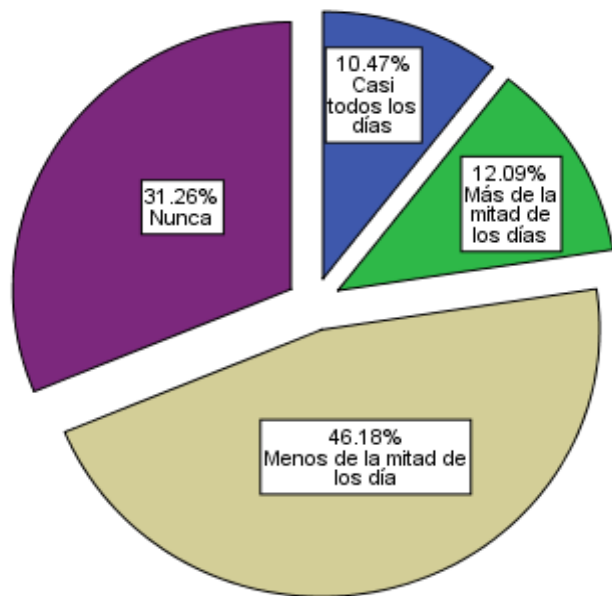


Do you feel nervous, anxious or very disturbed because of COVID-19?





Can you stop worrying because of COVID-19?



Almost every day



About half of the days



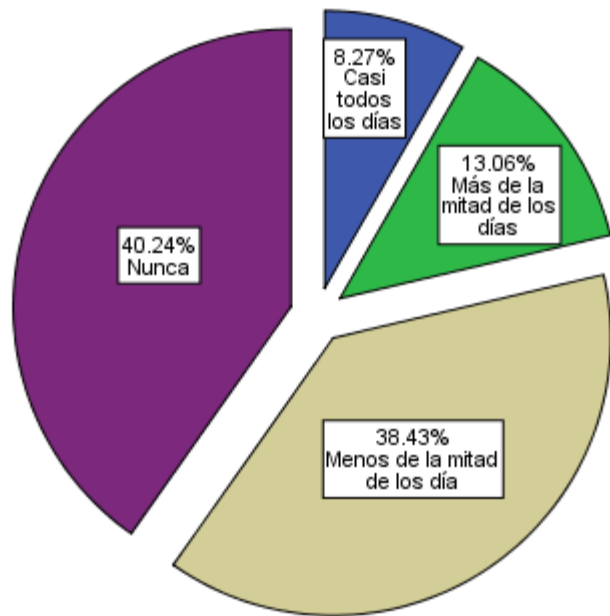
A few days



Never



Do you find it difficult to relax due to COVID-19?



Almost every day



About half of the days



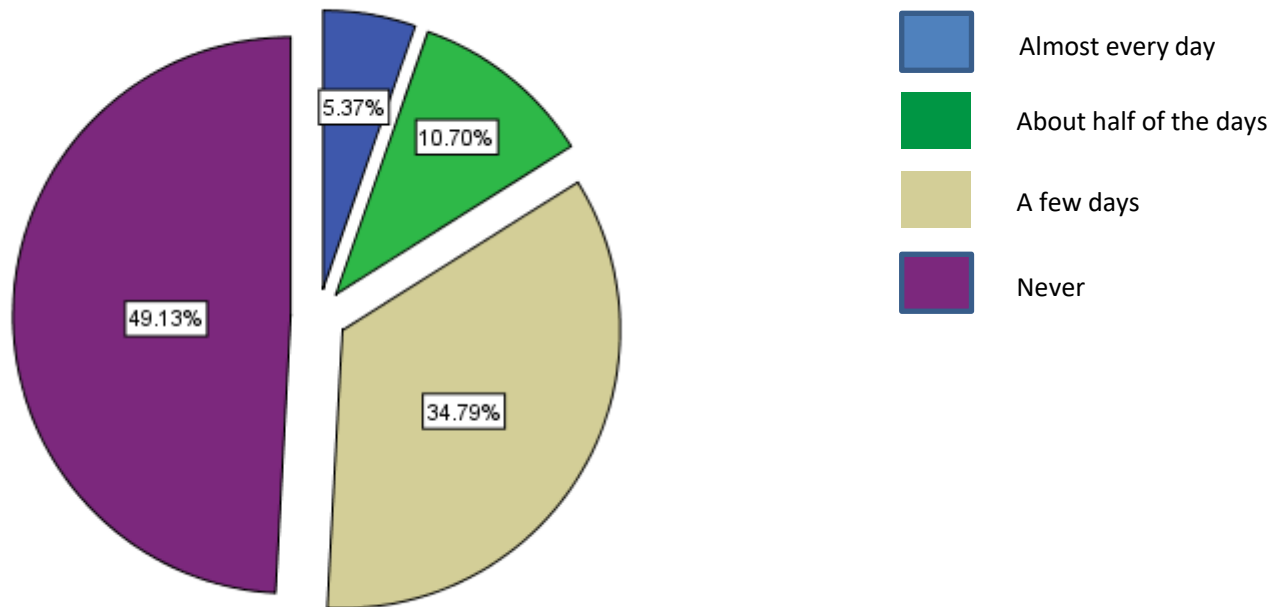
A few days




Never

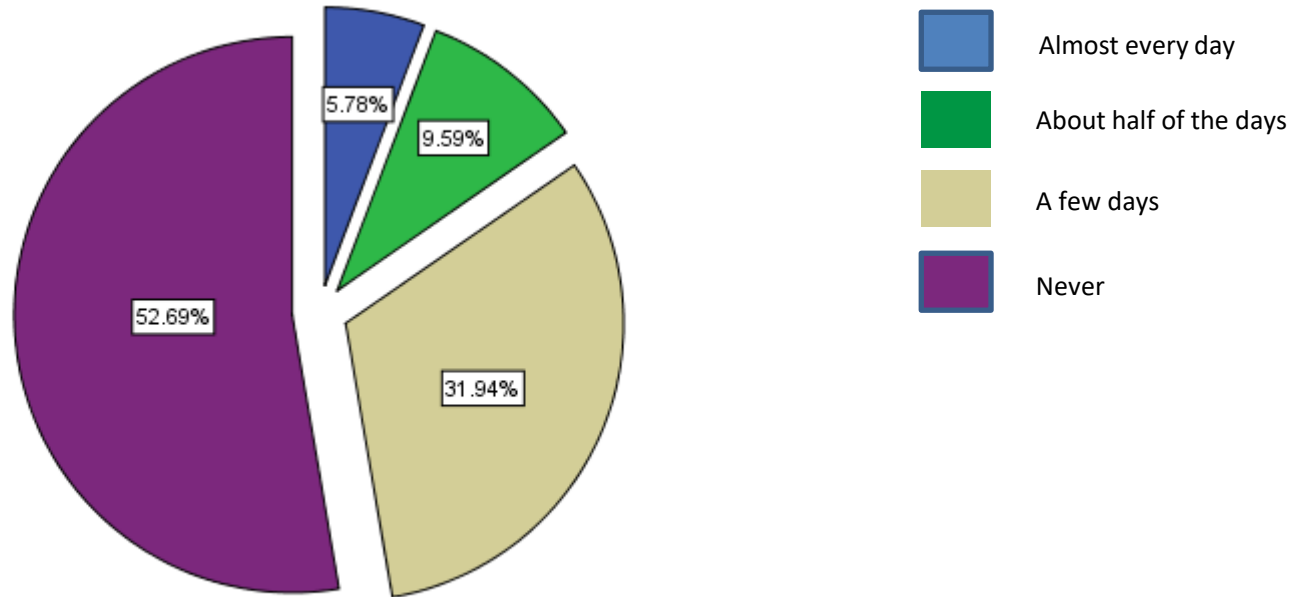


Do you get upset or irritated more easily because of COVID-19?





Do you feel uneasy and find it very difficult to stay still because of COVID-19?





Taking into consideration how extensive is the territory of the Division, I can say up to now God has helped us.

- Our Health Care institutions have maintained rigorous and strict sanitary measures to protect the employees.
- So far we know of two cases:
 - A resident doctor (had visited New York)
 - A Pediatrician



This survey should help us to open our eyes and be aware of the next Pandemic that is quickly approaching, if not here already. I know some symptoms are being felt. This is the **Mental Health Pandemic.**

This was expected since uncertainty, stress, fear anxiety, sadness, depression, panic attacks and anger are invading the homes and it is affecting family life.



We continue to provide training on Mental Health. We have a team from Loma Linda University and professionals from the Inter-American Division that are offering training to those Unions that request it. Recently we were with the French Guiana Antilles Union; at the end of the month of July we will be with the Jamaica and Caribbean Unions. We must continue this work to be prepared for the upcoming crisis.



LEADERS, THIS IS A RED FLAG THAT WE NEED
TO ADDRESS



Those of you who attended the Health Summit, “Your Brain, Your Body, Your Heart” last January, can give testimony that God is in control of our lives as he permitted us to carry out this event in preparation for the COVID 19 Pandemic that would eventually impact us.



- Jeremiah 29:11 - NIV

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.