
CANADIAN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS: THEIR CONCERNS AT THE FRONT LINE ADDRESSING COVID-19

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METHODOLOGY FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS SURVEY

- The Association for Canadian Studies worked with selected provincial history and social studies teachers' associations to construct the questionnaire and collect the responses from some 250 high school teachers. The survey was conducted between September 4th and 14th. Given its web base and selected identifiable sample it does not allow for margin of error estimates.

NEARLY EIGHT IN TEN TEACHERS SURVEYED FEAR CATCHING COVID-19 REPRESENTING 15 POINTS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

Are you personally afraid of catching COVID-19?	Female n=177	Male n=88	Total
Very afraid	27.7%	25.0%	26.8%
Somewhat afraid	53.1%	47.7%	51.3%
Not very afraid	14.7%	23.9%	17.7%
Not afraid at all	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%
Don't Know	0.6%		0.4%
Prefer not to answer	0.6%		0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

SOME 86% OF TEACHERS SURVEYED THAT ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 35 ARE AFRAID OF CATCHING COVID-19 REPRESENTING 17 POINTS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR THAT AGE COHORT

Are you personally afraid of catching COVID-19?	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Total Afraid	86.4%	80%	73.1%	77.2%	78.1%
Very afraid	37.8%	24.2%	22.6%	34.3%	26.8%
Somewhat afraid	48.6%	55.8%	50.5%	42.9%	51.3%
Not very afraid	5.4%	15.8%	23.7%	20.0%	17.7%
Not afraid at all	5.4%	4.2%	2.2%	2.9%	3.4%
Don't Know	2.7%				0.4%
Prefer not to answer			1.1%		0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MOST TEACHERS SURVEYED GET THEIR INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 FROM THE MEDIA

What are the sources of information about COVID-19	Female n=177	Male n=88	Total
News/media sources (TV, radio, newspapers, websites)	55.4%	67.0%	59.2%
Government officials/authorities	31.6%	20.5%	27.9%
Social Media posts	9.0%	4.5%	7.5%
Family members and friends	2.3%	4.5%	3.0%
Other	1.7%	3.5%	2.4%

ONE IN FOUR TEACHERS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE MEASURES THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN TO SUPPORT THE WELL BEING OF THE STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

I understand the measures that need to be taken to support the well-being of students during the pandemic	Are you...?		Total
	Female	Male	
Strongly agree	21.1%	28.2%	23.6%
Somewhat agree	49.0%	53.8%	50.7%
Strongly disagree	13.6%	3.8%	10.2%
Somewhat disagree	15.0%	14.1%	14.7%
Prefer not to answer	1.4%		0.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

MAJORITY OF TEACHERS SURVEYED ARE NOT CONFIDENT ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO UPHOLD SAFETY PROTOCOLS WITHIN THEIR CLASSROOM

Confident	Female n=147	Male n=78	Total n=225
Ensuring the integrity of evaluating student performance	64.6%	70.5%	66.7%
Achieving the right balance between digital and screen-free activities	46.3%	51.3%	48%
Adapting to the changes required by the COVID-19 pandemic	49.7%	64.0%	54.7%
Upholding safety protocols within your classroom	38.1%	44.9%	40.5%
Supporting parents and caregivers with student learning	65.3%	74.3%	68.4%

TEACHERS SURVEYED COMMITTED TO DISCUSSING COVID-19 CONCERNS WITH STUDENTS

Likely	Female	Male	Total
Discuss students reactions to COVID-19 in class and encourage them to express and communicate their feelings	94.6%	89.7%	92.8%
Share accurate information on COVID-19	95.2%	96.2%	95.6%
Teach how to find accurate information on COVID-19	91.8%	89.4%	88.9%
Enhance media literacy to empower students to be critical thinkers and help improve their ability to detect misinformation	96.6%	96.1%	96.4%
Incorporate relevant health education into the classroom curriculum	81%	73.1%	78.2%

HOW HAS COVID-19 IMPACTED YOUR TEACHING PRACTICE?

- “Have to prepare to go online at any point.”
- “Worry over quarantine and substitutes.”
- “Release pressure over assessment.”
- “Much more supervision and less relaxation.”
- “A lot of uncertainty, hard to plan ahead, working on multiple new things at the same time, mostly relying on digital means. Not always able to support students and parents when teaching online.”

MORE COMMENTS

- “Everything has changed very quickly and I am reevaluating how I teach.”
- “Far less student focus and desire for education.”
- “Has made me not want to go back to school this Fall for the first time in 28 years.”
- “Has made me see how unappreciated teachers are given me the urge to pursue other career options. Public criticism and lack of government support has pinned teachers as uncooperative when in fact they're looking out for the well being of students, themselves and families.”

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