

COALITION FOR ACADEMIC JUSTICE



Press Release

For: Immediate Release

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July 20, 2020

Survey Reveals Staff, Graduate Students and Faculty Concerned about Return to Campus

Tucson, Ariz., - A newly released survey found more than two-thirds of the University of Arizona faculty, staff and students who responded are uncomfortable with returning to campus and to face-to-face instruction because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coalition for Academic Justice's Re-Entry, Safety, and Public Health action group at UA surveyed 1,279 staff, faculty and graduate students in early June (see charts and graphs below).

More than 95% of those who felt uncomfortable with a return worried about the risk of getting COVID-19 or spreading it to others. One survey participant wrote, "We have to be honest, no one wants to die for their job." Some noted that staff face greater risks than faculty because they have less flexibility to decide where they will do their work.

Other respondents were concerned about impacts on Tucson: "The return of students poses a threat to the health of the Tucson community, especially the vulnerable people in the various neighborhoods around campus, but our neighbors don't have a voice regarding the reentry plan."

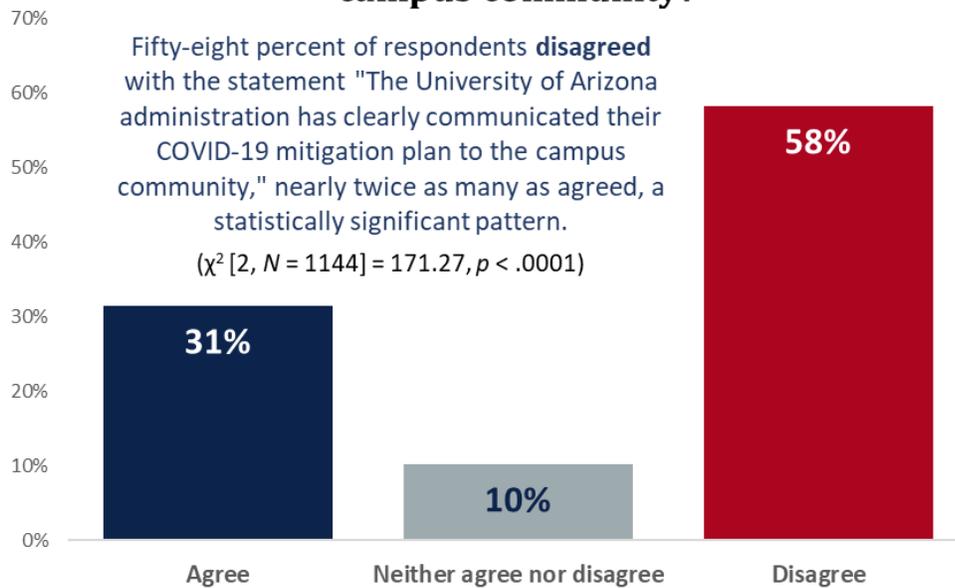
University administration sent out a re-entry survey more than a month ago, but results of that survey have yet to be released. The coalition has asked UA administrators to provide more data about COVID-19 cases and to seek more input from all members of the campus and Tucson community regarding reopening plans.

Coalition members are concerned that the university administration has put economics before public health. Associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Duarte Diaz, who is a member of the team that conducted the survey stated, "There is a general feeling that the university administration is being too cavalier with student, faculty, and staff health choosing financial needs over the public safety. This is not an area that we want to take a chance on, safety for ALL should always be the priority."

COVID-19 cases continue to spike in Arizona, making it one of the country's "red zones." If the CAJUA survey were conducted today, the percentage of those uncomfortable with a return to campus would likely be even higher.

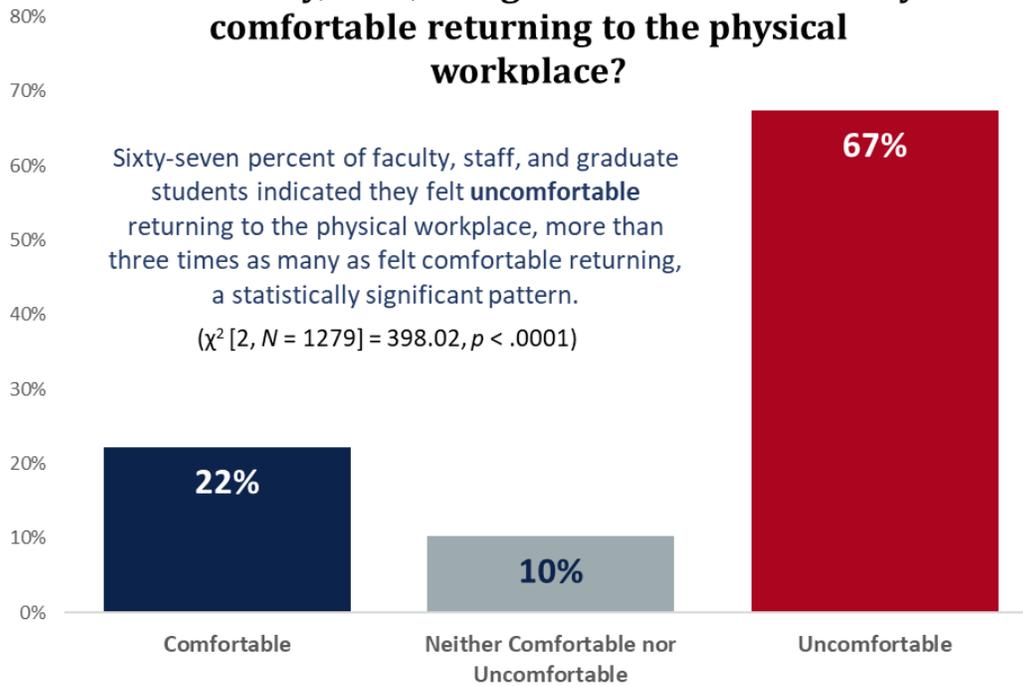
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Did the UArizona administration clearly communicate their mitigation plans to the campus community?



Results from CAJUA Re-Entry Survey, June 1 - June 13, 2020
Cajua.weebly.com

Are faculty, staff, and graduate students really comfortable returning to the physical workplace?

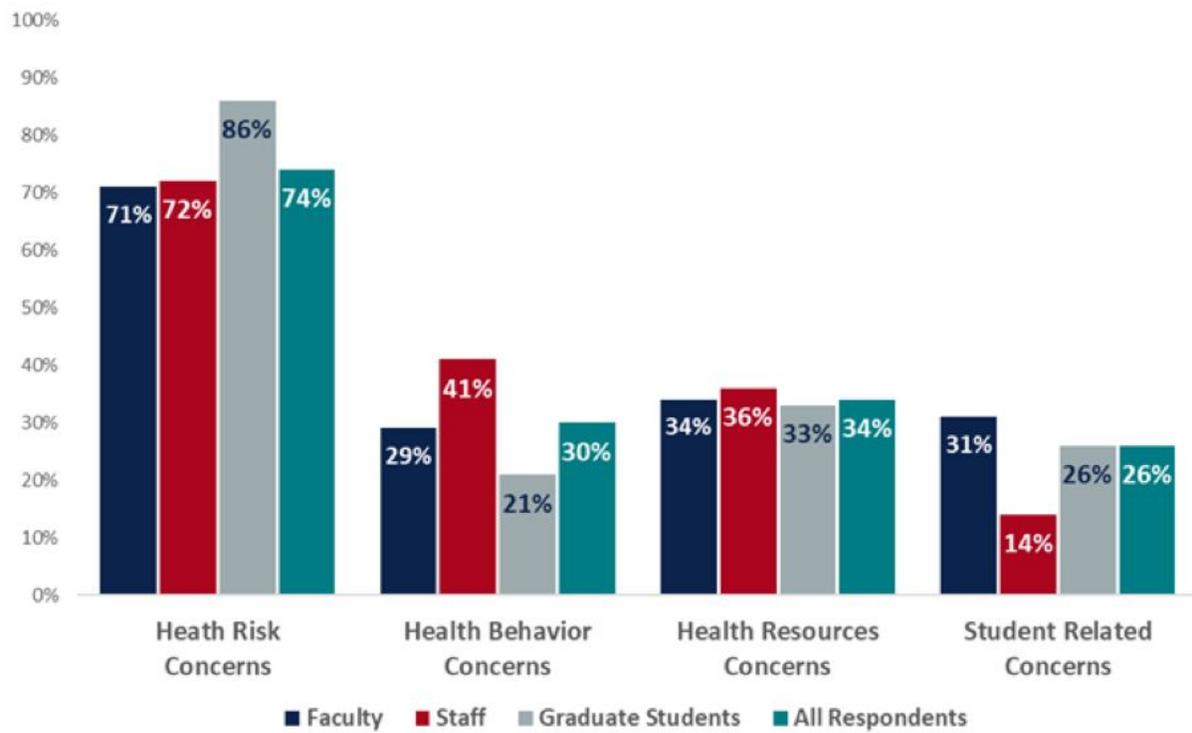


Sixty-seven percent of faculty, staff, and graduate students indicated they felt **uncomfortable** returning to the physical workplace, more than three times as many as felt comfortable returning, a statistically significant pattern.

$(\chi^2 [2, N = 1279] = 398.02, p < .0001)$

Results from CAJUA Re-Entry Survey, June 1 - June 13, 2020
Cajua.weebly.com

Most common concerns expressed by 1,191 responders to the CAJUA questionnaire regarding returning face to face for Fall 2020



Results from CAJUA Re-Entry Survey, June 1 - June 13, 2020
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