

Sonographer Wellbeing through 2020: Initial Findings

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ABSTRACT

In the early stages of 2020, the idea that a world-wide pandemic, with whole city/ town/ country lock downs was the farthest thing from any of our minds- unless your passion was Epidemiology. Little did we know that by March the 11th 2020, the World Health Organization would indeed characterize the outbreak of COVID-19 as a global pandemic. We saw frightening scenes from Italy, China and other parts of the world that all seemed so far away from the shores of our countries. But with the advancement of international travel, the spread of the coronavirus disease was rapid. Whilst the first reported case of COVID-19 in Australia was in January 2020, and February in New Zealand both the Australian and New Zealand Governments issued lockdown orders towards the end of March. Things changed for everyone from that time. This presentation provides the ASA and attendees with a glimpse into the initial findings of a series of surveys conducted during the early, mid and late stages of 2020. The surveys aimed at all sonographers in Australia and New Zealand was well responded to and provided an overview into the front-line effects of COVID-19 on sonographers. Surveys were conducted at 3 points of time during 2020 from which 3 research papers will be written and submitted for publication. Today's presentation will look at the initial findings of this research, in particular, sonographer well-being from a point in time of the first survey, and how that changed to the 2nd survey. What were the effects of sonographers' well-being during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, in Australia and New Zealand and did they change between the first survey into sonographer well-being, and the second?

Keywords: Pandemic, Sonographer, COVID-19, Epidemiology

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