

OII EUROPE  
**COVID-19**  
Follow Up  
INTERSEX SURVEY 2022

Days survey was open for:

35



6

**Languages**

The survey was launched in English, French, German, Greek, Russian and Turkish

47

**Intersex people**

and 2 family members participated in the survey



12

**Participants came from:**

**EU member states** (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Sweden) & **6 non EU countries** (Iceland, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine)

12

**of August**

The survey was launched on August 12th, 2022



# GENERAL IMPACT AND SAFETY

For intersex participants the main areas of their life being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic were:

- mental health (68%)
- health (55%)
- intersex activism (53%)
- travel (47%)
- employment (30%)
- finances (30%)
- human rights 26%

**In comparison, the 2020 survey results were:**

- mental health (67%)
- travel (64%)
- finances (41%)
- intersex activism (38%)
- employment (32%)
- health (29%)
- education (18%)
- personal safety (11%)
- housing (5%)

Percent of intersex participants answered positively **that hate speech and/or hate crimes has increased towards them or intersex community in their country throughout the pandemic:**

**30%**

Percent of intersex participants shared that **they did not feel safe in their place of living and with people they live with:**

**6%**

Percent of intersex participants answered that the **COVID-19 pandemic impacted their housing situation:**

**13%**

# HEALTH

Survey participants **rated their mental health throughout the past 2,5 years as:**

**4,6**  
out of 10

Survey participants **rated their mental health right now as:**

**5,6**  
out of 10

Intersex participants that **did experience COVID-19 symptoms:**

**53%**

Intersex participants that **reported having long covid symptoms:**

**30%**

Survey participants **rated their physical health throughout the past two years as:**

**5,5**  
out of 10

Intersex participants whose **health issues that had already existed before the pandemic had aggravated during the pandemic:**

**34%**

# HEALTH

Intersex participants **that developed health issues during the pandemic:**

28%

Intersex survey participants **that are fully vaccinated and boosted:**

62%

(Vaccine) "was quite accessible. However, **research on the vaccine has not been for intersex people.** So I didn't know if I should vaccinate or no my intersex child. I finally vaccinated him but without having important information that I needed." (translated from Greek)

"During the pandemic specific advice was given out to xx trans people and xy trans people about which vaccines were preferable for each group. **No such advice was given to intersex people** and no one within the system seemed to be able to provide answers if xy intersex women should follow the same advice as xy trans women, often being on the same hrt, or if they should follow the advice given for trans men if they were fully on testosterone.

**More care could have been provided to provide clearer aspects of which part of a person biology and HRT regime was likely to react** and expand the information given to include a broader scope of people."

"In some cases, **it was difficult for people with a non-male or non-female marital status to register** because the corresponding additional options were missing from the forms." (translated from German)

"But often in public transport and supermarkets (the only places I could not avoid) there were always people not wearing masks - **making me anxious and increasing my phobia** to be around people."

(COVID restrictions were) "**relatively weak and not closely followed** – which was **terrifying as an immunocompromised** person"

"the doctors I asked **did not know if my XXY child should be vaccinated,** nor with which vaccine" (translated from Greek)

# FINANCE

Intersex participants that said **their income has decreased during the pandemic:**

**43%**  
compared to 41% in 2020

Intersex participants **that hold the pandemic directly responsible for worsened financial situation**

**23%**

Intersex participants that reported **losing their job because of the pandemic's impact:**

**4%**  
compared to 18% in 2020, & 32% in 2020 reporting the the pandemic affecting their employment situation

Intersex respondents that **reported having to leave their place of education because of the pandemic's impact:**

**6%**  
compared to 22% in 2020

Intersex participants that **experienced bullying in their place of education during the pandemic:**

**9%**

Intersex participants that **have traveled during the pandemic:**

**38%**  
out of them none encountered problems - compared to 64% of intersex participants reporting in 2020 the pandemic affecting their traveling plans

# LIFE, COMMUNITY AND INTERSEX ACTIVISM

Most commonly used word when talking about their life during the pandemic in their quotes was the word "**isolated**"

Participants also reported:

- **a lot of events happening in their lives,**
- **traveling**
- **participating in in-person meetings less and the challenge this caused to their mental health.**

Number of participants who said the **pandemic changed the frequency/way participants were meeting up with other intersex people or hosting intersex community meetings/event:**

**43%**

"Several projects and activities **were cancelled**, others became **very difficult to proceed with**, especially when they require in-person presence. Processes slowed down or delayed significantly. Other activities we were **able to successfully integrate** into our **online-work**"

(my activism) "has **significantly slowed down** but it has begun to pick up again since June of this year" (2022)

"**I had to stop** my activism"



# NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGE

"We started **meeting online** with our peer group"

"Online activism **gave us momentum and strengthened our solidarity**. We realised that we can work together without physically coming together" (translated from Turkish)

"Almost all our activities **are postponed or stopped**. There is **not enough support (financially and emotionally)** for intersex people and their parents"

"Online community meetings are **empowering**. Meeting in real life is still **much nicer**."

"I think there is now **more material in the media** about intersex people. I read and watch something on the topic quite often"(translated from Russian)

"**Didn't do any activism**, hiding in my house from everything" (translated from Russian)

"Yes; we **had to go online and cancel a lot of events**, sometimes at the last minute. The cancellations on our part have also **created tensions** with other less cautious associations" (translated from French)

"I believe that intersex activism **has made great progress in the last 2.5 years**, more people have **learned about us**, our community has become more visible, there have been many interviews and programs and movies on YouTube about and with intersex people.

We have **missed meeting and interacting with people from the community**, but throughout the pandemic we have been **supporting each other** in general online chat, and travel restrictions have disrupted plans to meet people from the community. Traditional community meetings **were postponed**" (translated from Russian)