



**The VCOS recently asked if you would complete a survey for us as we are planning Symposium in the Sun. The major purpose of the survey was to gather responses to determine what changes might need to be made as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Over 275 responses were received, and we want to share some of the results with you.

Most of us have experienced budget reductions but the extent of budget cuts are not fully realized as of yet. Capital equipment purchases may be eliminated or delayed. Some of the first budget accounts to be reduced are travel, training and public education.

- 53% of the respondents expect to see a budget reduction for the remainder of 2020
- 51% expect budget reductions in 2021
- 26% of the respondents said their travel budgets are being restricted

- 38% replied no to the travel restrictions
- 35% said they don't know at this time

When asked about 2021 travel restrictions

- 66% responded no
- 33% responded in the affirmative

Is funding for training being restricted in 2020?

- 49% responded no
- 22% responded yes
- 27% are not impacted yet

When asked about their budget for training in 2021

- 29% replied that they are already planning for a decrease
- 71% responded that they were not expecting a budget reduction for training in 2021

Now the really good news, 64% said COVID-19 would not impact their ability to attend Symposium in the Sun in November!

The VCOS planning committee is working to implement the necessary safety measures to ensure the attendees, their guests and the staff's health and safety and reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 at Symposium in the Sun. We appreciate the comments and suggestions from everyone.

Some of the general comments made by respondents include:

- As a long time attendee, I look forward to seeing everyone again.
- Travel is too risky and there are too many unknowns into November. More than likely, some form of social distancing will be in effect and will be very difficult, at best, to enforce with a large gathering such as VCOS. For me, the risks outweigh taking a chance and attending.
- Obviously plans are dependent upon travel and gathering restrictions placed by the Government, if any. We just don't know what things will be like in November!
- I think the resources, networking is a critical part of this symposium. I will miss being there in person but would be able to participate in a virtual conference. You must make it interesting and engaging. Leave the fluff and cuteness out of it.
- Possibly a virtual conference can help departments with their required training/points for the year. Also, I think some of the questions you asked may have required a "Maybe" response instead of a direct yes or no question. I am only one person responding to this but I have 4 other colleagues that I would have to ask/approve of this/these conferences. My

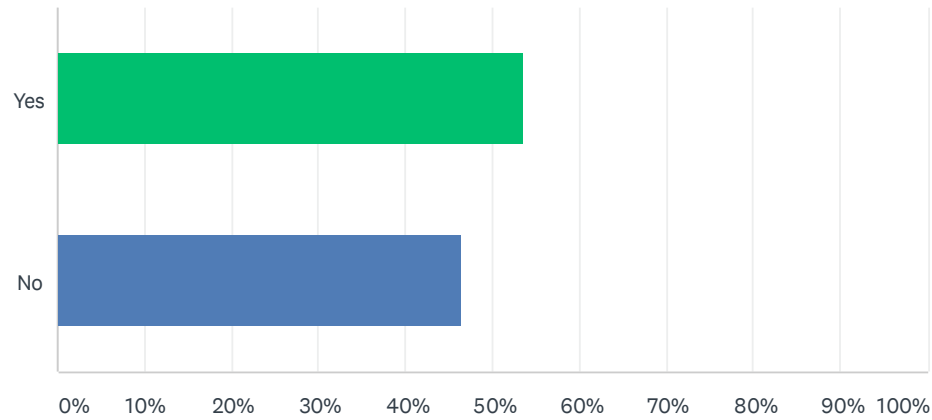
department did approve this trip for this year, but, we all have to see how this plays out within the nation.

- I wasn't planning on attending the conference, regardless of the COVID-19 situation. I feel that I needed a break and hoped that the conference would get some new life. I believe that a lot of the questions you've asked will depend heavily on what happens with COVID-19 and whether there is a resurgence in the fall. A remote conference may be interesting, but I doubt you'll get much attendance. The success of this event has, in my opinion, as much to do with the location as the content offerings.
- Not sure how much benefit would be taken from a virtual conference. Speakers would be OK but would lose vendor contact, networking and general knowledge/learning/ideas taken from a conference setting.
- We would much rather go to Clearwater than a virtual conference.
- With COVID 19 restrictions constantly changing, it is difficult to plan. Given some health concerns, traveling seems questionable.
- If travel restrictions and gathering limits are all wrapped up, we need to have the SitS. we need to get back to a normal, even if it's a new normal with guidelines in place such as hand sanitation, mask or whatever is necessary.

The following are the complete survey results.

## Q1 Are you expecting a budget reduction for the remainder of 2020?

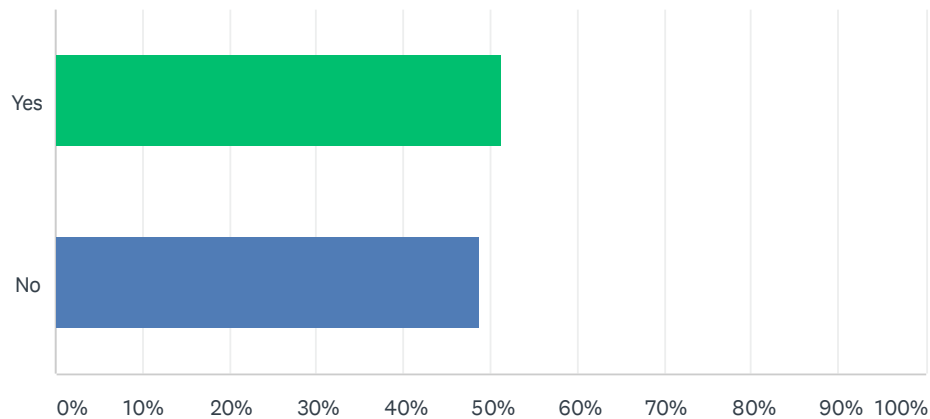
Answered: 250 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	53.60%	134
No	46.40%	116
TOTAL		250

## Q2 Are you expecting a budget reduction in 2021?

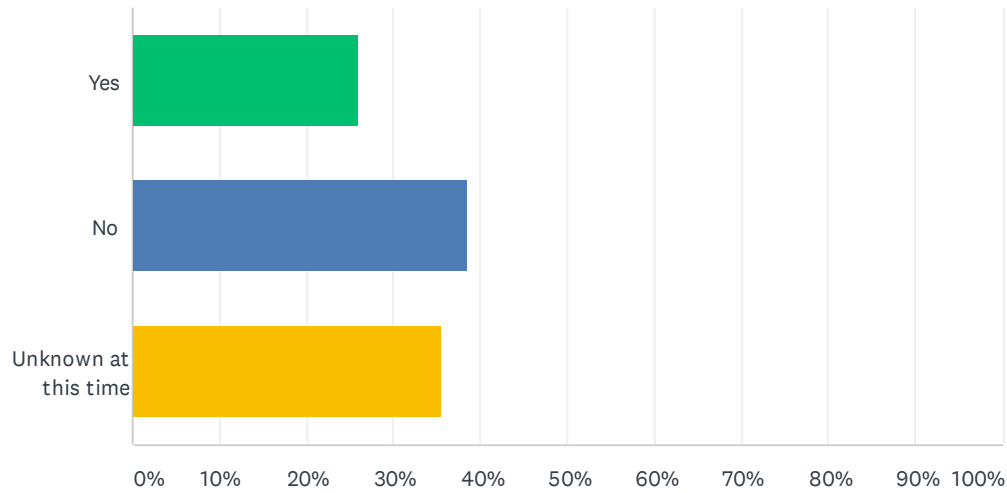
Answered: 250 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	51.20%	128
No	48.80%	122
TOTAL		250

## Q3 Is your agency restricting travel funds for 2020?

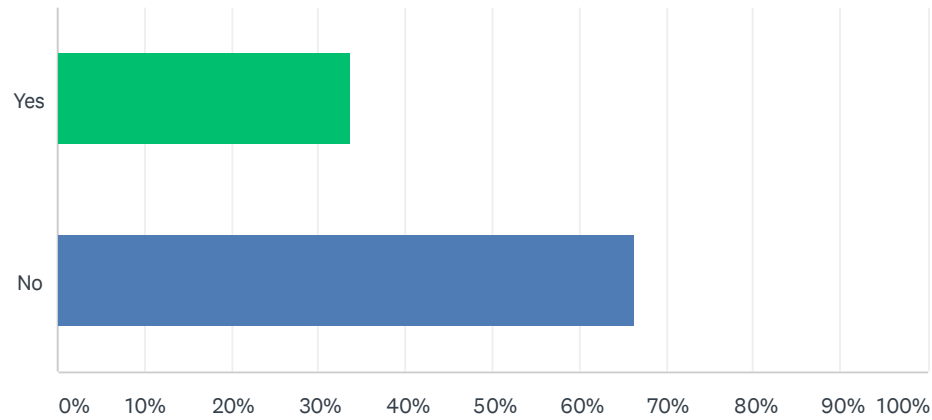
Answered: 250 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	26.00%	65
No	38.40%	96
Unknown at this time	35.60%	89
TOTAL		250

## Q4 Do you anticipate your agency will restrict travel funds for 2021?

Answered: 250 Skipped: 0

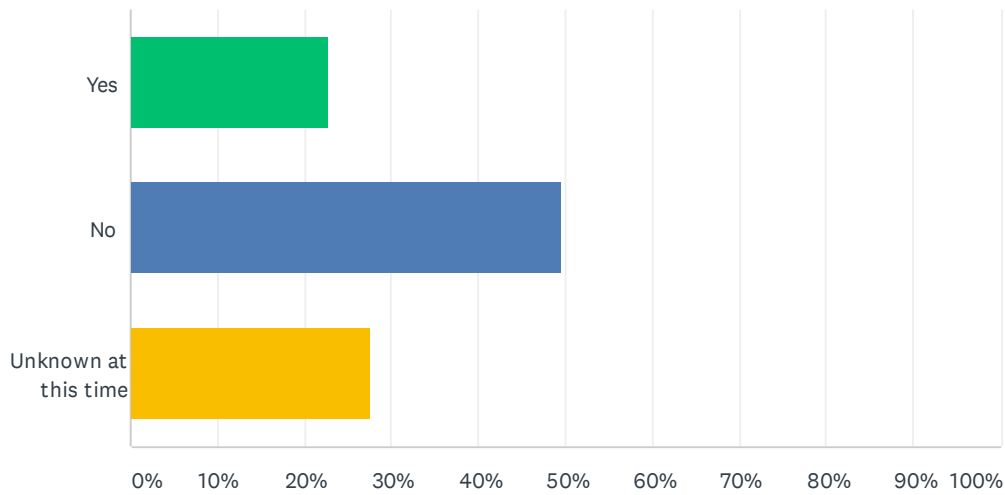


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.60%	84
No	66.40%	166
TOTAL		250



## Q5 Is funding for education/training being restricted for 2020?

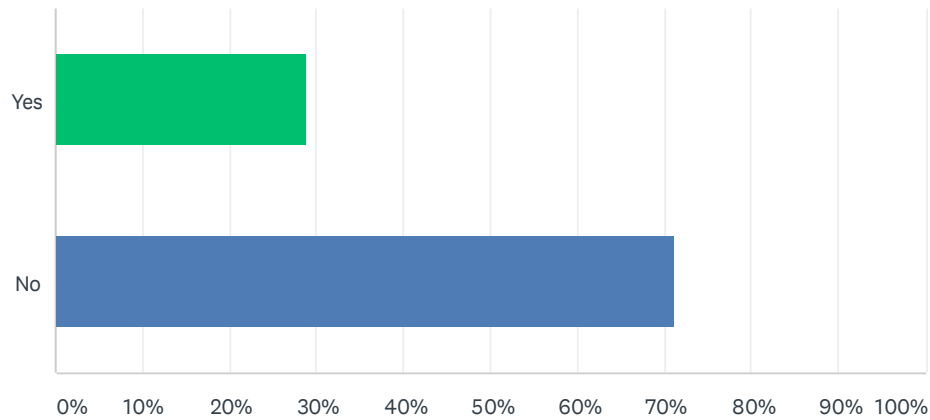
Answered: 250 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	22.80%	57
No	49.60%	124
Unknown at this time	27.60%	69
TOTAL		250

## Q6 Do you anticipate funding for education/training being restricted for 2021?

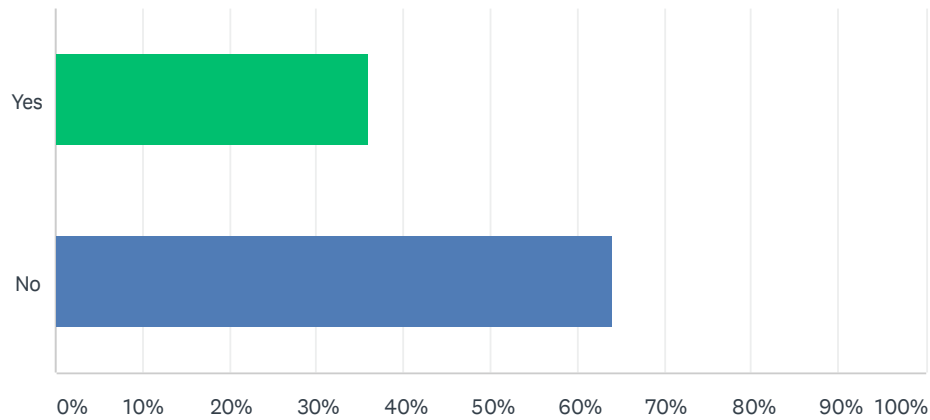
Answered: 249 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	28.92%	72
No	71.08%	177
TOTAL		249

## Q7 Has the COVID-19 crisis affected your plans to attend the 2020 VCOS Symposium in the Sun?

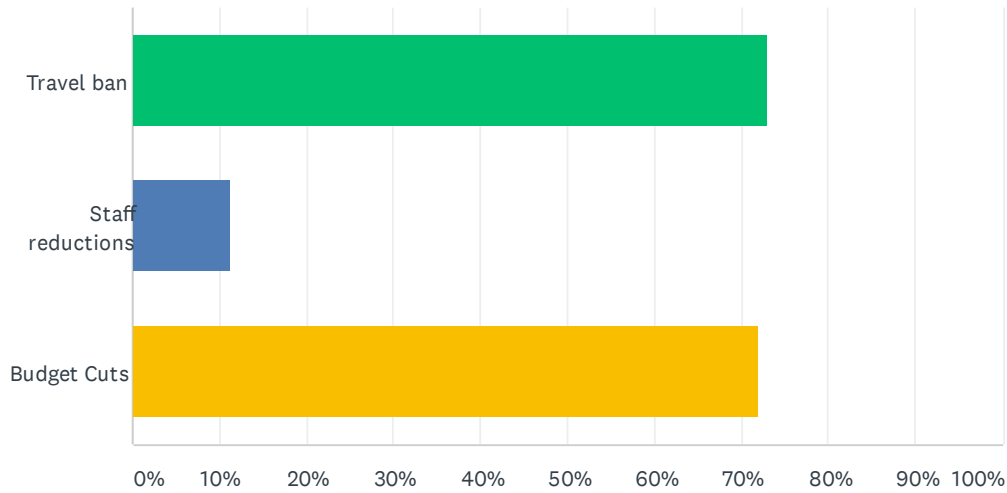
Answered: 250 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	36.00%	90
No	64.00%	160
TOTAL		250

## Q8 If yes, please indicate reasons, check all that apply

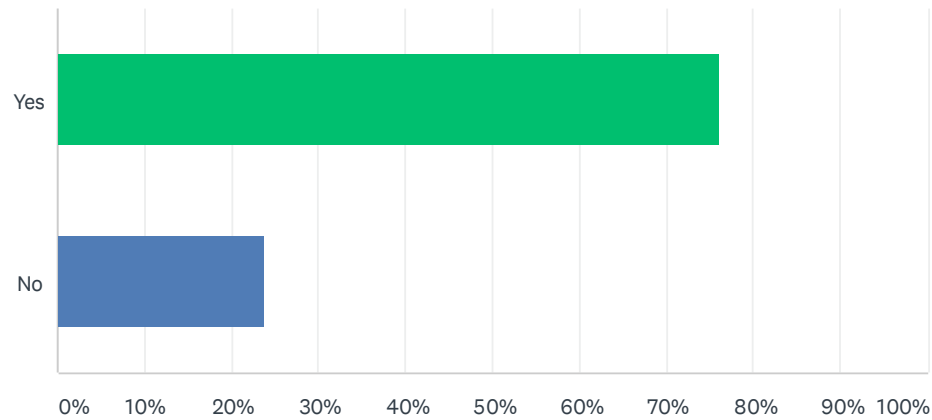
Answered: 89 Skipped: 161



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Travel ban	73.03%	65
Staff reductions	11.24%	10
Budget Cuts	71.91%	64
Total Respondents: 89		

## Q9 Will you/others be attending the 2020 Conference if the state ban for gatherings/meetings has been lifted?

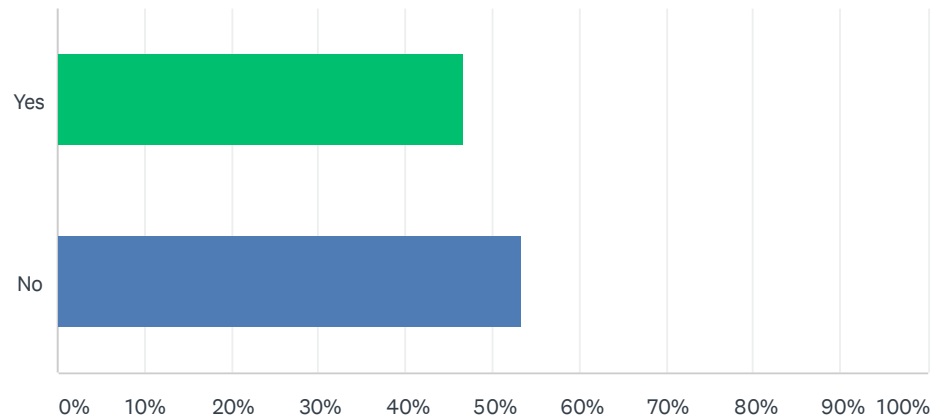
Answered: 248 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	76.21%	189
No	23.79%	59
TOTAL		248

## Q11 Would you consider attending a virtual conference in lieu of an in-person event?

Answered: 244 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		46.72%	114
No		53.28%	130
TOTAL			244