



Deo Volente Fall 2020 COVID-19 Survey Brief:
Actual versus Predicted Giving

Deo Volente: Who We Are and What We Do

We are a ministry focused on assisting churches and mission organizations with strategy, research, and project initiation. Our work is non-fee based. Our intent is Kingdom growth. Our team’s background is steeped in business, ministry, research, and project delivery. Our sole orientation is to add value to Kingdom ministries. Visit <https://deo-volente.org/our-projects/> to learn more about the survey and <https://deo-volente.org/> to learn more about Deo Volente. Feel free to contact us at info@deo-volente.org.

Actual versus Predicted Giving

In May of 2020, the world was still in the throes of trying to make sense of the most consequential disruption of everyday life in decades, if not longer. We surveyed churches and mission organizations to understand the impact of the pandemic on giving, organizational effectiveness, and their predictions on giving in six months. By November of 2020 the dust had largely settled even though COVID-19 was still racing across the globe. People and organizations had adjusted to a new way of life. We, therefore, conducted a follow-up survey to see how things have changed. **In this survey brief, we look at how the predictions made in the tumult of May about future giving compare to what actually happened.**

The figure below suggests a number of interesting results. **First of all, respondents were generally pessimistic relative to what actually happened.** Overall, 62 percent anticipated a decrease of some degree, compared to 55 percent that actually experienced a decrease.

Fortunately, not as many experienced dramatic losses as predicted. Only five percent experienced a decrease of 50 percent or more compared to the predicted 10 percent.

Those that actually experienced increases far outpaced predictions. Approximately 18 percent of respondents in November experienced increases in giving, three times the six percent in May that predicted increases.

Although there were clearly devastating losses experienced by churches and mission organizations across the country, the evidence suggests that churches, mission organizations, and the society at large have adapted to the pandemic more effectively than originally anticipated.

