

# Self-reported effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on stewardship organizations and their activities in southeast New England, USA



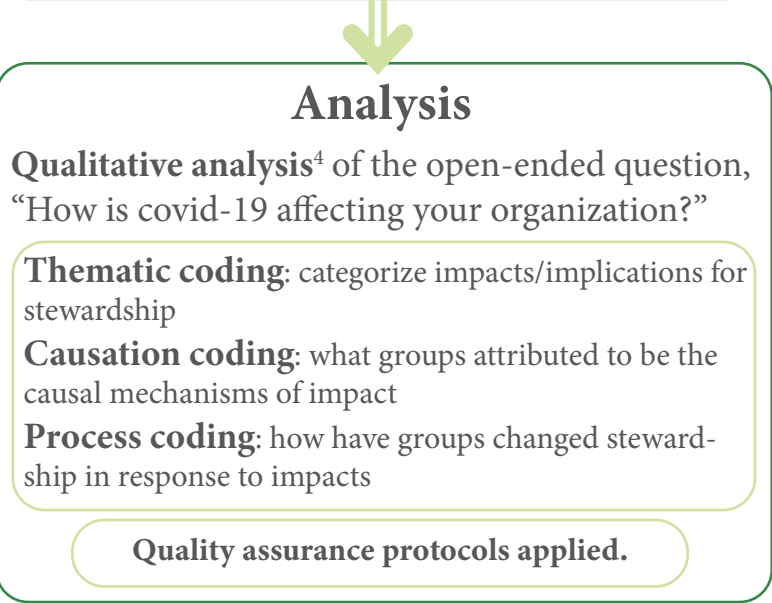
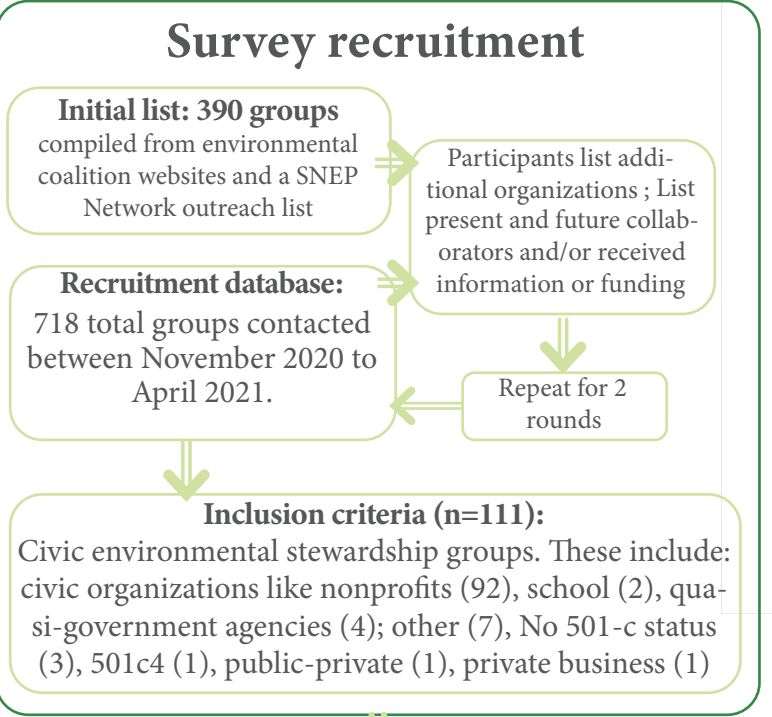
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## Introduction

- Numerous environmental stewardship groups shape the SNEP region through environmental management, protection, advocacy, education, and other activities.
- Civic environmental stewardship groups are key to modern environmental governance and socioecological outcomes<sup>1,2</sup>, in part because these groups emerge and shift as communities cope with changing dynamics<sup>3</sup>.
- The Covid-19 pandemic represented a different type of crisis, hallmarked by social distancing, office closures, and similar responses.
- In this study, we analyze how the Covid-19 pandemic, and associated responses, affected environmental stewardship in the SNEP region.



## Methods



## Results

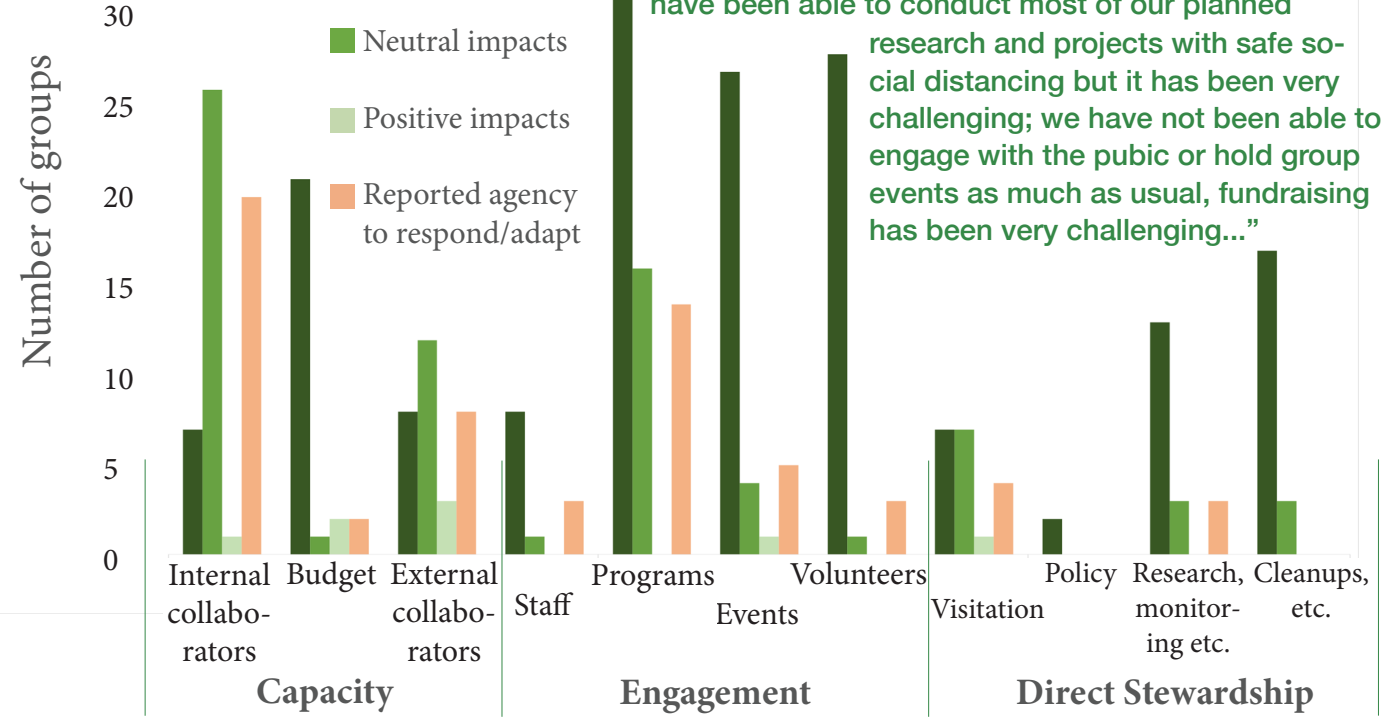


Figure 1. Self-reported impacts on environmental stewardship organizations.

## Discussion

**Capacity and environmental governance:**

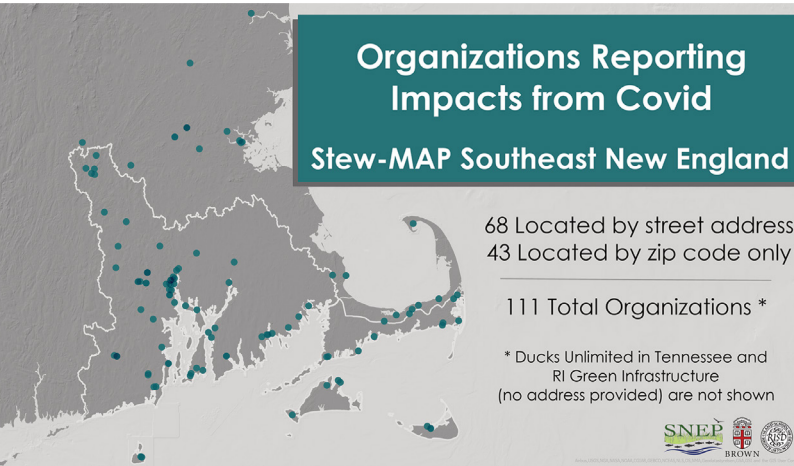
- Results show negative impacts on volunteer work.
- Groups adapted workflows to leverage internal group strengths and work from home, sometimes reducing part-time and temporary opportunities.

**Engagement and nature contact following disturbance:**

- Shifted activities online and often re-oriented around educational efforts, reducing other kinds of stewardship activities.
- These changes raise concern over public space access, and moves the conversation toward an urgent need for nature-contact in public health crisis contexts.

**Direct stewardship and environmental outcomes:**

- Results show overall practice was impacted, as well as decreases in research such as water testing, environmental cleanups, and urban tree maintenance.
- May leave gaps in civic science-generated data.



**Sources** | 1. Svendsen, E. S. (2010). Civic Environmental Stewardship as a Form of Governance in New York City. 2. Campbell, L. K., Svendsen, E., and Johnson, M. (2021). Activating urban environments as social infrastructure through civic stewardship. Urban Geo-

graph. 1–22. 3. Connolly, J. J., Svendsen, E. S., Fisher, D. R., and Campbell, L. K. (2013). Organizing urban ecosystem services through environmental stewardship governance in New York City. *Landsc. Urban Plann.* 109, 76–84. 4. Saldaña, J. (2015). *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers*. Newcastle upon Tyne: Sage. **Data Availability Statement** | The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation. **Ethics Statement** | The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by University of Rhode Island IRB. Written informed consent for participation was not required for this study in accordance with the national legislation and the institutional requirements. **Author Disclaimer** | All opinions expressed in this paper are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the policies and views of US EPA, DOE, or ORAU/ORISE. **Acknowledgements** | We would like to thank Marisa Mazzotta, Kate Mulvaney, Ryan Furey, Martha Sheils, and Phaeng Southisombath for reviewing and commenting on earlier drafts of this manuscript.

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