

PASS FIJI

Population-based Age-stratified assessment
of SARS-COV2 Seropositivity in Fiji

Stories from the Field





Our data collection journey

We began our journey to collect data on COVID-19 immunity in Fiji in 25th February, 2023. Our project team was excited to begin our field visits in the Central division on Viti Levu. Five teams were deployed to the Western division, three teams to the North and two to the Eastern division. We were divided into 10 groups, and each group had two field research assistants and a phlebotomist.

Our teams went throughout Fiji and visited places as far as Talaulia, Kadavu in the East and Lagi Village in the North. Despite the logistical challenges of being spread out across different areas, we stayed connected through regular video calls and zoom meetings, ensuring that everyone was on the same page and working towards a common goal. By the end of June our teams had visited 1000 homes across the country and collected valuable information and blood samples from 2000 Fijians of all ages and all walks of life.

Our journey through post-COVID Fiji gave us a deep appreciation of the beauty and resilience of the Fijian people. From the coasts of Sigatoka to the highlands of Nausori we have seen and been inspired by the strong sense of community that still exists in Fiji. We are grateful for the widespread community support for the project and people's willingness to participate in this important research.

By the end of our data collection journey we realized that not only did we achieve our goals but we had also forged lasting relationships with people from all around the country. This has strengthened our sense of purpose and a renewed commitment to protecting the health of all Fijians through the work we will continue to do through this research.



Field work: What we did



We collected blood samples from Fijians around the country and worked with staff from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to make sure these samples were processed, stored and transported to the Fiji CDC and FNU serology laboratory in Suva for testing.

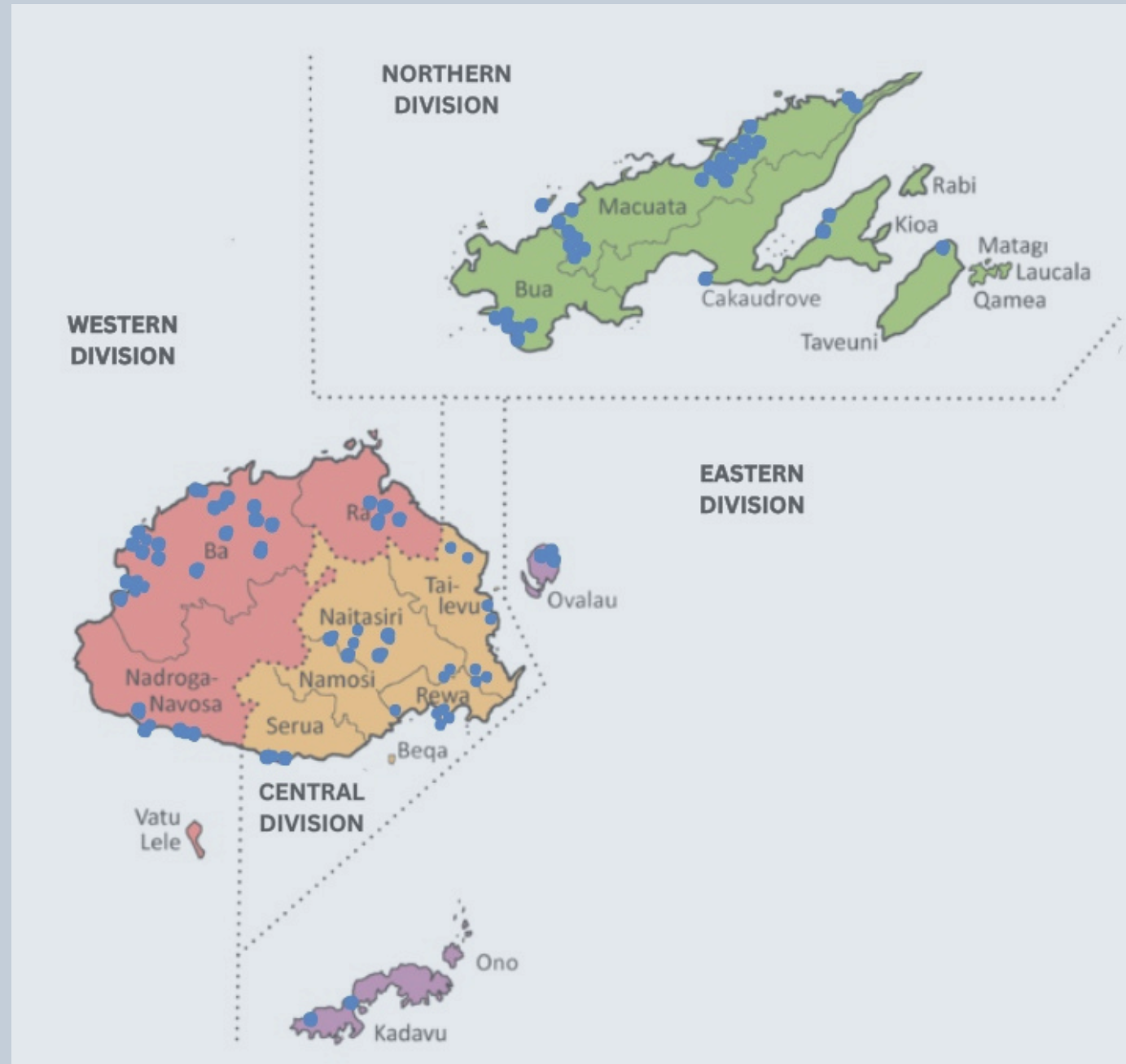


We didn't just collect information, we also spread awareness on the importance of participating in the PASS FIJI study. We were driven by a shared mission to educate, inform and emphasize the importance of research to guide how we fight diseases such as COVID-19.



Our team was amazed at the passion and enthusiasm that communities around the country showed us. Despite the challenges we faced, the support and positive attitude of communities we visited made our work enjoyable and we look forward to our next phase.

Areas covered in 2023



Field work: Where we went



Central Division

The Central division was divided into rural and urban areas. Each team was assigned 2 areas, this included areas along the Suva-Nausori corridor and the central rural Naitasiri, Rewa and Serua



Western Division

5 Teams were assigned to the Western division. Teams had to collect samples along the Sigatoka-Rakiraki coast. The field team went as far to the villages in the Nausori Highlands.



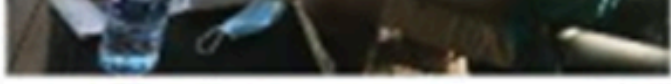
Eastern Division

2 Teams were assigned to the Eastern division, samples were collected from islands as far as Kadavu, Levuka and Taveuni.

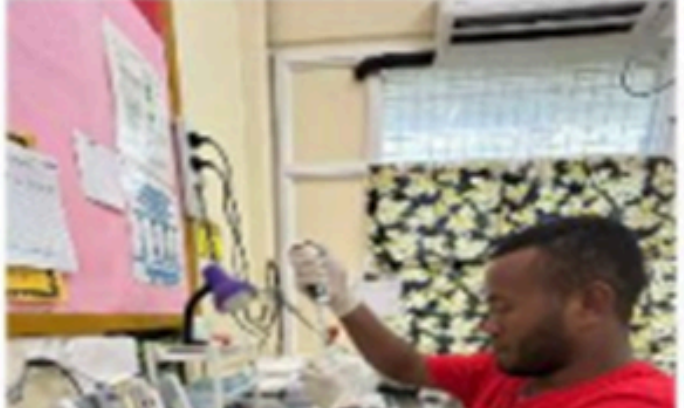


Northern Division

Team North consisting of 3 teams covered the 3 main sub divisions, Cakaudrove, Bua and Macuata.



Field visits





Where to find us

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