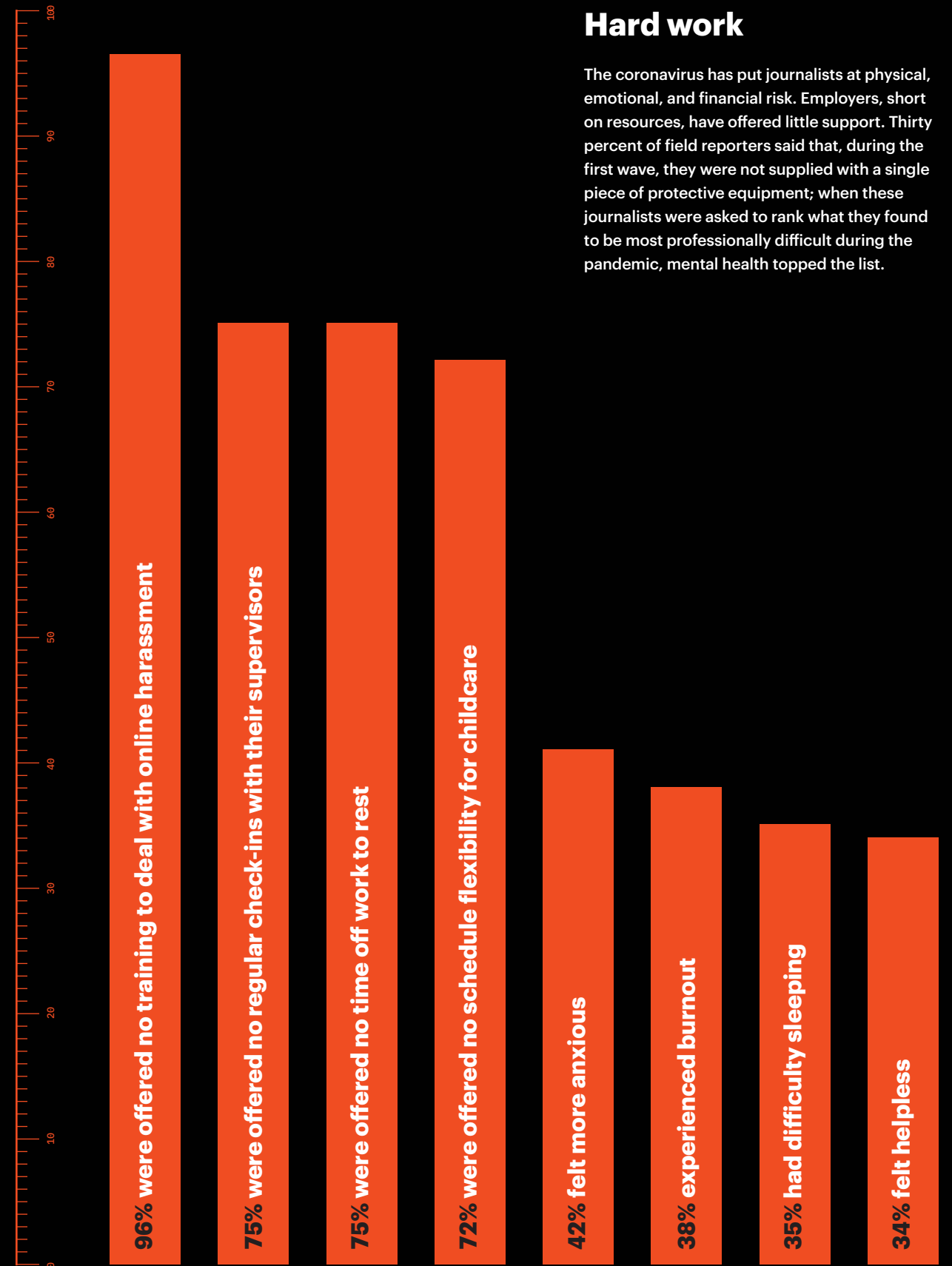


How are we feeling? This year delivered a professional paradox: the coronavirus highlighted the importance of a vibrant press, yet the crisis introduced new levels of instability and viral disinformation, which piled on to the stresses of an industry already overloaded. To better understand how members of the media are faring, the International Center for Journalists and Columbia's Tow Center for Digital Journalism began the Journalism and the Pandemic Project, surveying news workers around the world. The initial findings, from English-speaking respondents in 125 countries, provide a snapshot of the mood... *Not great.*



Hard work

The coronavirus has put journalists at physical, emotional, and financial risk. Employers, short on resources, have offered little support. Thirty percent of field reporters said that, during the first wave, they were not supplied with a single piece of protective equipment; when these journalists were asked to rank what they found to be most professionally difficult during the pandemic, mental health topped the list.

Against a Wall

Respondents listed ways the outbreak exacerbated their already difficult jobs.

Unemployment or other financial concerns	67%
Intense workload	64%
Technical challenges of reporting	51%
Work-life balance	42%

We're relying more heavily on...

Nearly half of respondents identified political leaders as major sources of misinformation, yet constraints on reporting permit few trustworthy alternatives.

32%	Official sources and government statements
31%	Closed social media communities (to surface stories)
23%	User-generated content
22%	Social media communities (to fact-check and verify)
11%	Citizen reporting (e.g., unpaid correspondents)
11%	Members programs (to aid reporting)

This data comes from the work of Julie Posetti, who leads the ICFJ's global research program, and the Tow Center's Emily Bell and Peter Brown. Between May 13 and June 30, using SurveyMonkey, they released a poll that was completed by 1,406 English-speaking journalists and news workers from 125 countries. (The survey was also conducted in Arabic, Chinese, French,

A free and effective press needs not just protection from abuse and interference, but also financial support and a more rigorously regulated information environment.

82%

report at least one negative emotional or psychological reaction to the pandemic

76%

of respondents say their greatest need is funding to cover newsroom operating costs, including salaries

65%

report feeling less secure in their job as a result of the pandemic

Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish; a synthesis of the complete data set will be published later on.) The Committee to Protect Journalists is a subpartner on this project; Luminate contributed financial support; and the Dart Centre Asia Pacific's Cait McMahon provided guidance on the poll.