

Understanding Coronavirus in America

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The Understanding America Study (UAS)



We cover the whole population



Computer tablets if respondents don't have Internet



Understanding America Study (UAS)



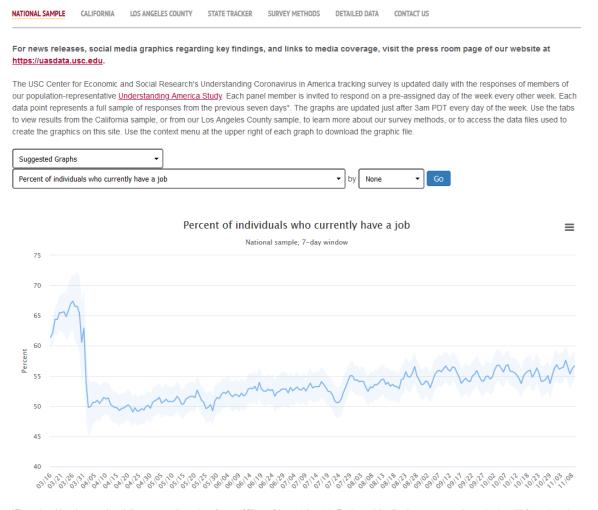
- Since 2014, longitudinal, national probability-based internet panel of currently approximately 9,000 US residents, collecting information at multiple time points each year on economic, labor, attitudinal, and health measures, etc.
- Tracking pandemic effects started March 10, 2020
 - First survey in field March 10-31
 - As of April 1, two-weekly tracking surveys

Every day ~500 respondents answer our questions



7,000 over two weeks

Almost three thousand new graphs every day



Making Data Widely Available



- Thousands of graphs updating daily show results: https://covid19pulse.usc.edu/
- Full wave data files released for public use every two weeks, including a harmonized longitudinal file and codebooks: https://uasdata.usc.edu/page/Covid-19+Home
 - Currently sixteen waves of national data and thirty-one waves of LA County data available.
 - Currently well over 200 research groups worldwide are using UAS COVID19-related data
 - We have added contextual data that can be downloaded with the longitudinal data
- With current funding, we expect to continue the tracking surveys until mid-2021

Survey Categories - Longitudinal Questions



- Symptoms, Testing, and Medical Care
- Coronavirus Knowledge and Expectations
- Protective Social and Health Behaviors
- Risk Perceptions
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Discrimination and Stigma
- Economic and Food Insecurity
- Social Safety Net
- Housing and Debt
- Crime and Safety
- Labor Market Outcomes

Survey Categories - Additional Questions



- K-12 Education / Post-secondary Education
- Behavioral Health
 - Social media use
 - Alcohol and cannabis use
 - Chronic disease diagnoses
 - Mental health condition diagnosis
 - PTSD, OCD, eating disorders, loneliness
- Sexual and Gender Identity
- Food Security / Food purchasing behaviors
- Entrepreneurial activities and plans
- Use of cash
- Attitudes towards lifting stay at home order
- Vaccination attitudes/expectations

Potential for Analysis

- UAS has thousands of background variables that can be used to inform understanding of how families experience the pandemic
- Daily tracking illuminates developments in real time
- New questions build on six years of collected data on the same households and we can add new questions quickly
- Use of contextual data allows for assessment of the effects of policy measures on behavior and outcomes

Why High Frequency?

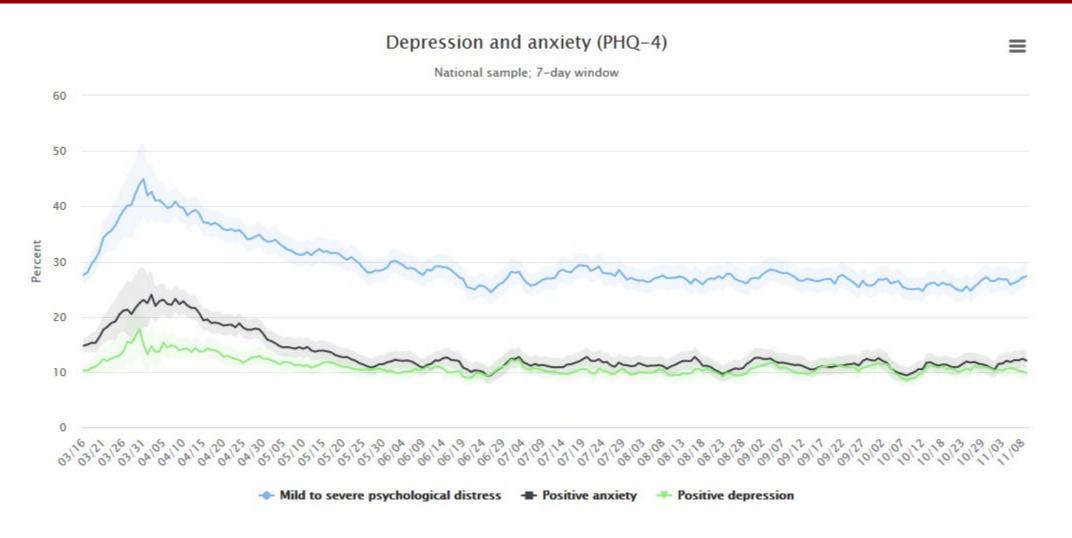
- We started this without insight into how long the pandemic would last or which events or factors would be salient and when.
- It seems plausible that households respond to new developments quickly, e.g.
 - Local infection rates
 - Government measures (lock-downs, school closures)
 - Job loss and benefit receipt
- So we wanted to pick up as many factors as possible that may affect households
- To maximize the chance that we measure what matters at the time that it matters



Examples

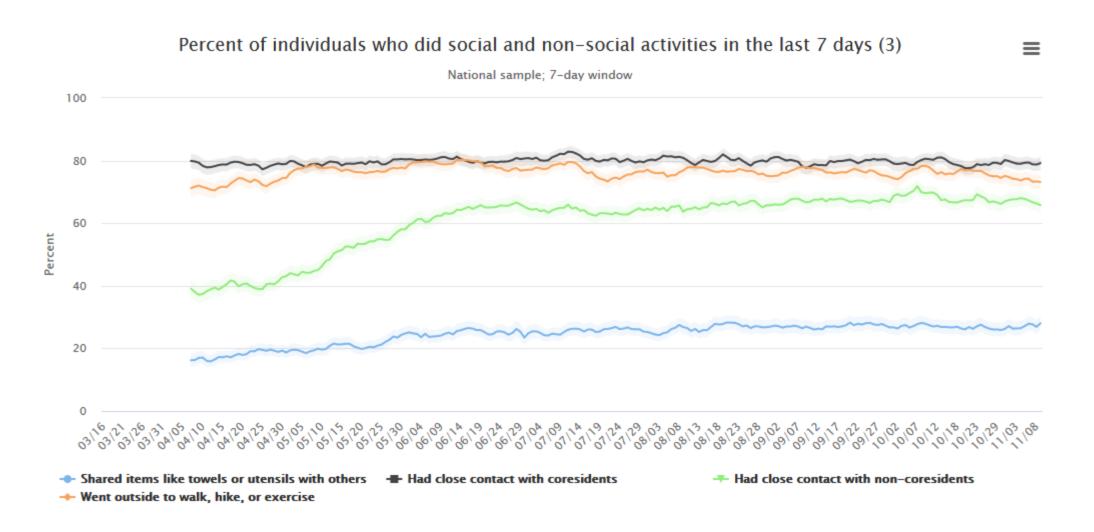
Psychological distress peaked early April





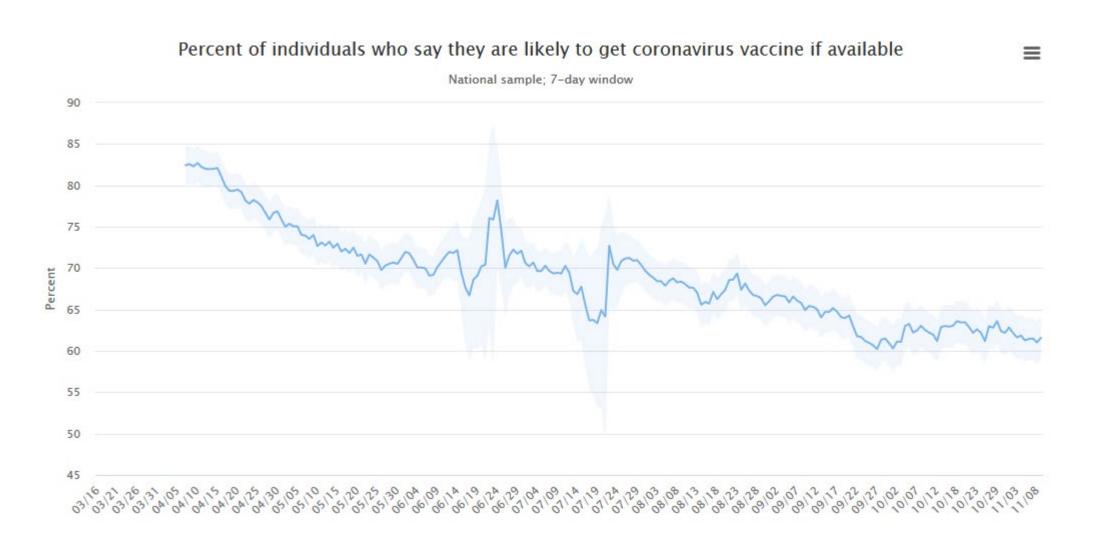
Protective behaviors





Vaccination hesitancy







Thank you!