# Final Project Report for National Science Foundation Award 2032523 – 8/5/22

Project Title: **RAPID: Community Cooperation in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

PD/PI Name: **Frederick D Weil, Principal Investigator**

Recipient Organization: **Louisiana State University**

Project/Grant Period: **06/15/2020-05/31/2022**

# Accomplishments

## What are the major goals of the project?

We examine how communities respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic with collective resources (social capital, civic engagement, etc.), while taking unequal vulnerabilities into account. The pandemic presents communities a major new challenge compared to other disasters, and they are responding with novel strategies. Thus, we examine what new forms of cooperation people develop when the pandemic turns traditional in-person cooperation itself into a source of threat, namely, the risk of infection. To examine these questions, we employ undergraduate students to conduct in-depth, qualitative interviews in the general public, and we interview community leaders in New Orleans, a city with much experience in dealing with disasters.

## What was accomplished under these goals and objectives?

We collected 442 hour-long in-depth interviews, conducted by LSU undergraduates with people they know. The diversity of these students at a major state university contributes to the diversity of the sample. See Table 1 and Figure 1 for descriptions of this sample. We also conducted about 25 interviews with community leaders, mostly in New Orleans, totaling over 30 hours of interviews. We have transcribed all of these interviews, totaling over 10,000 pages of transcript. See Exhibits 1 and 2 for our interview protocols. Overall, we employed 118 LSU undergraduates to do interviewing and transcription; 141 additional undergraduates did interviewing for class credit, for a total of 259 undergraduate participants. In addition to our core team of 2 graduate students and one Columbia University undergraduate, four additional graduate students have worked closely on the project, and a half dozen of the undergraduates worked especially intensively on the project.

We have been analyzing the over 10,000 pages of interviews, beginning with mark-up of the transcripts and continuing with analysis in Atlas.ti, qualitative data analysis software. Our initial coding has produced over 80 themes; and several initial outputs of quotes from the transcripts amounts to over 500 pages each. This coding work is ongoing. See exhibit 3 for preliminary themes identified. Our core team has taken the lead on this. In summer 2021, we assembled a sub-team of

Black students, one graduate student and four undergraduates, to mark-up themes relevant to the Black community.  During the 2021-22 academic year, we assembled another sub-team of undergraduates to mark up themes relevant to gender.  And in the summer of 2022, we assembled another team to mark up general themes.  In addition, we have assembled 1,500 news clippings and press releases, which we are also analyzing for themes.  We are also collecting survey results from Gallup, Pew, the SEAN archive, the Northwestern CoronaData survey, among others, with over 700 pages of charts in our collection.

Our preliminary analysis of race differences in community response to Covid has produced a striking picture, which we presented this July at a plenary session of the Researchers Meeting of the 2022 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop.  Our interviews reflected the vulnerability of American Blacks to Covid and other public health issues, as well as long-standing distrust of health-care providers, in light of a history of mistreatment.  However, notably, we also found profound sources of strength and resilience in strong attachment and mutual support with community, family, and faith organizations.  The Black Lives Matter movement and protests also provided a source of strength and support.  While there was some disagreement among our Black interviewees about tactics, there was virtually universal support for the movement as a whole.  Our presentation slides and notes are attached to this report.

Our interviews with New Orleans leaders is producing several potentially interesting themes.  For instance, there is a tradition in disaster research of identifying "emergent" organizations that respond to recovery needs.  In New Orleans, there is a stratum of earlier emergent organizations that were founded after Hurricane Katrina and have become meso-level organizations between established or institutionalized and newly emergent organizations.  They are currently doing an excellent job of providing resources to the communities, but they have become critical of both the larger institutional and the new start-up organizations.  Moreover, this meso sector has been partnering with hyperlocal community actors, drawing resources in from major high-level government or nonprofit sectors, and passing them on to community actors for fine-grained distribution, in a process I've begun calling "from the firehose to the capillaries."  These patterns are likely to have important implications for our understanding of disaster response.

## What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

This project provides many opportunities for training and professional development.  Two dissertation-level graduate students are in the core team, and they are learning about primary data collection, project management, qualitative data analysis, and writing up results for presentation and publication.  Four more early-stage graduate students are also on the broader research team.  They are learning similar skills, and leadership of sub-teams. One of our graduate students, Samantha Ramey, took the lead in presenting our results at the plenary session of the Researchers Meeting of the 2022 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop.  Overall, we employed 118 LSU undergraduates under the grant to do interviewing and transcription; 141 additional undergraduates did interviewing for class credit, for a total of 259 undergraduate participants.  A half dozen of the undergraduates worked especially intensively on the project.

**Have the results been disseminated to communities of interest? If so, please provide details.**

Our team has presented two papers at the Researchers Meeting of the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Broomfield, CO (Weil, Garretson, Fan, and Qi, 2021, "Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Anxiety, Isolation, Dispute, and Support," and Weil, Ramey, Garretson, Fan, and Qi, 2022, "Racial Differences in Response to Covid-19: Solidarity, Vulnerability, and Social Justice").  My co-authors are three graduate students and an undergraduate student. I project that future papers from this project will include further graduate and undergraduate students.  We are currently analyzing data in preparation for journal submissions on the themes of: Race differences in Covid response, Economic effects of Covid; Changes in social relations during the Covid pandemic; and Political and ideological factors in community Covid response.

# Products

## Journals or Juried Conference Papers

- Weil, Frederick D., Oliver Garretson, Jiabin Fan, and Alison Qi. 2021. "Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Anxiety, Isolation, Dispute, and Support." Paper presented at the Researchers Meeting of the 2021 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Broomfield, Colorado.

- Weil, Frederick D., Samantha Ramey, Oliver Garretson, Jiabin Fan, and Alison Qi. 2022. "Racial Differences in Response to Covid-19: Solidarity, Vulnerability, and Social Justice." Paper presented in Plenary session at the Researchers Meeting of the 2022 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, July 13-14, 2022, Broomfield, Colorado.

**Table 1. Community Cooperation in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic**
**NSF Award Number: Rapid-2032523**
**Interview totals, General Public: Numbers and Demographics, 4/7/20 - 12/31/2021**
**N=442***

| | OVERALL TOTALS | | Wave 1 TOTALS 4/7/20 - 9/27/20 | | Wave 2 TOTALS 9/27/20 - 3/7/21 | | Wave 3 TOTALS 3/7/21 - 9/19/21 | | Wave 4 TOTALS 9/20/21 - 12/31/21 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Gender** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 155 | 35.1% | 43 | 31.2% | 39 | 32.0% | 42 | 39.6% | 31 | 40.8% |
| Female | 285 | 64.5% | 95 | 68.8% | 83 | 68.0% | 62 | 58.5% | 45 | 59.2% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Race** | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 279 | 63.7% | 86 | 62.8% | 83 | 68.6% | 62 | 59.6% | 48 | 63.2% |
| Black | 109 | 24.9% | 39 | 28.5% | 25 | 20.7% | 29 | 27.9% | 16 | 21.1% |
| Hispanic | 32 | 7.3% | 9 | 6.6% | 10 | 8.3% | 6 | 5.8% | 7 | 9.2% |
| Asian | 16 | 3.7% | 2 | 1.5% | 3 | 2.5% | 6 | 5.8% | 5 | 6.6% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Age** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18-24 | 201 | 45.5% | 57 | 41.3% | 50 | 41.0% | 50 | 47.2% | 44 | 57.9% |
| 25-44 | 68 | 15.4% | 22 | 15.9% | 16 | 13.1% | 18 | 17.0% | 12 | 15.8% |
| 45-59 | 109 | 24.7% | 37 | 26.8% | 36 | 29.5% | 20 | 18.9% | 16 | 21.1% |
| 60+ | 64 | 14.5% | 22 | 15.9% | 20 | 16.4% | 18 | 17.0% | 4 | 5.3% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Location** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Baton Rouge | 119 | 27.7% | 32 | 24.6% | 33 | 27.0% | 32 | 31.7% | 22 | 28.9% |
| Greater N.O. | 82 | 19.1% | 30 | 23.1% | 25 | 20.5% | 11 | 10.9% | 16 | 21.1% |
| Other LA | 120 | 28.0% | 30 | 23.1% | 41 | 33.6% | 28 | 27.7% | 21 | 27.6% |
| Other South | 76 | 17.7% | 25 | 19.2% | 22 | 18.0% | 15 | 14.9% | 14 | 18.4% |
| Other | 35 | 8.2% | 15 | 11.5% | 2 | 1.6% | 15 | 14.9% | 3 | 3.9% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Rural-Urban Continuum Code** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Metro County | 408 | 91.7% | 125 | 89.3% | 116 | 94.3% | 116 | 109.4% | 70 | 92.1% |
| Non-Metro | 21 | 4.7% | 5 | 3.6% | 6 | 4.9% | 6 | 5.7% | 6 | 7.9% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Occupation/Class** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Student | 157 | 35.7% | 39 | 28.7% | 40 | 32.5% | 37 | 35.2% | 41 | 53.9% |
| Working Class | 36 | 8.2% | 13 | 9.6% | 7 | 5.7% | 13 | 12.4% | 3 | 3.9% |
| Middle Class | 172 | 39.1% | 61 | 44.9% | 51 | 41.5% | 34 | 32.4% | 26 | 34.2% |
| Upper Income | 11 | 2.5% | 6 | 4.4% | 2 | 1.6% | 2 | 1.9% | 1 | 1.3% |
| Unemployed | 20 | 4.5% | 5 | 3.7% | 8 | 6.5% | 4 | 3.8% | 3 | 3.9% |
| Retired | 44 | 10.0% | 12 | 8.8% | 15 | 12.2% | 15 | 14.3% | 2 | 2.6% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Totals** | **442** | | **138** | | **123** | | **106** | | **76** | |

*Note. There were approximately 650 total interviews, but about 200 of them elicited only yes/no answers and are not included in these tabulations.

**Figure 1. Community Cooperation in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic**
**NSF Award Number: Rapid-2032523**
**Interview totals, General Public: Numbers and Demographics, 4/7/20 - 12/31/2021**
**N=442***



*Note.  There were approximately 650 total interviews, but about 200 of them elicited only yes/no answers and are not included in these tabulations.

Exhibit 1. Interview Protocols for general public. 4 waves.
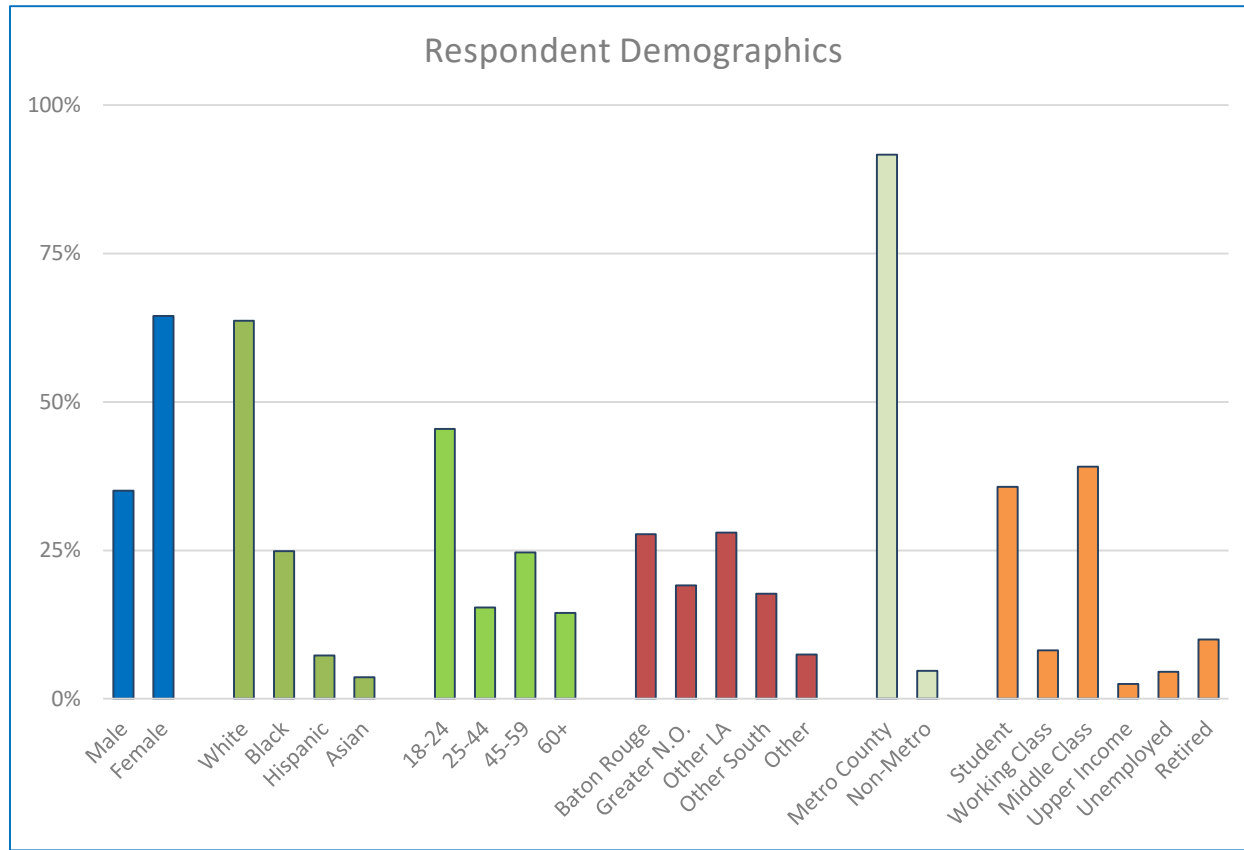
**Life in the age of the Coronavirus.**
**Interview Protocol – 1st Wave.**

1. Speak your name and email address into the recording.  Spell your name and email address clearly so that it can be transcribed.
    a. If you are an LSU student, use your LSU email address.
    b. If you are interviewing as part of an LSU class, speak your course number and professor's name into the recording.

2. Interviewee's age, gender, race, relation to interviewer

3. Do you live alone?  With family?  With friends/roommates?
    a. What family members are in the household?
    b. What others are in the household?  What is their relation to you?
    c. Are there pets?

4. What is your job/occupation?
    a. Do you work at an "essential" job that requires you to work outside the house?
    b. Do you work at a job that likely exposes you to infection?
    c. Do you work remotely from home?
    d. Have you been laid off or furloughed; do you fear being laid off or furloughed?
    e. How have things changed in your work life since the Coronavirus became a factor?

5. I want to ask you some questions about the lockdown and the stages of opening up.
    a. Did you mostly stay at home during the lockdown?
        i. If you went out, what for?  To go to work?  To exercise?  To socialize?  To walk dog? To shop for groceries?  Anything else?
    b. Since things have started to open up, and the restrictions are being eased, do you go out of the house more?  What things do you do now that they are allowed?
        i. Do you go to restaurants?  Bars?  Salons or barbers?  A fitness center or gym?  Stores or malls?  Water parks?  Team sports or other sports?  Anything else?
    c. Since the lockdown eased, even when more things are allowed, do you still avoid some of these things?  Do you worry about infection?
    d. Do you work at a job where you worry that you could be exposed to infection?  Are you required to go to work outside the house to keep your job?  If you are worried, have you asked your employer for protective gear, about delaying going back to work?  Have you quit or considered quitting?

6. Contacts with people outside the home.
    a. Do you have an internet connection?  A reliable phone?
        i. If not, do you feel this has affected you in any way? How so?
        ii. If so, what has your experience with this been? Have your online activities changed since you've been spending more time at home?
    b. How do you have contact with people outside the home?
        i. In person
        ii. By telephone
        iii. Online: Zoom, FaceTime, Skype, what else?
        iv. Other
    c. What people do you have contact with?
        i. Family, friends
        ii. Colleagues at work
        iii. Officials, agencies
    d. Have you been shopping online?
    e. Do you feel cut off, lonely?

7. Assistance
    a. Do you have people who can assist if needed?
        i. Who can assist?  Family, friends, colleagues, others?
        ii. Do you have a doctor if needed?
    b. Do you feel able to assist others? How? Here are some examples:
        i. Delivering food or other supplies?  Donating medical supplies?  Making face masks?  Making lunches for school children?  Donating Chromebooks (laptop computers) for students?
        ii. Other forms of assistance to others?
    c. If you were to lose your job, what could you do to get income?
        i. Do you fear a trade-off between having a job with income and being exposed to infection?
    d. Could you get food assistance if needed?
    e. Could you get unemployment insurance if needed?
    f. Could you get medical assistance if needed?  Do you have health insurance?  Is it adequate?
    g. Do you need childcare?  Can you obtain it, & are there issues with it?
        i. Do you face trade-offs with childcare & employment?  How do you handle that, or what have you tried?

8. Problems, dangers, fears
    a. Are you worried about access to essential things, services?
        i. How do you get food?  Are you afraid to go to the grocery store?  Can you get food delivered?  Are you afraid of infection, cost?
        ii. How about prescriptions?
        iii. Do you fear losing access to phone, internet?
        iv. Do you worry about access to sanitation?  Soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes?

b. Do you worry about people gathering & spreading the virus?
   i. Are there household members who might bring the virus into the household by contacting others outside the household?
   ii. Are there people in the neighborhood who gather & might spread the virus?
c. Do you worry about crime in the neighborhood, and whether the police or authorities could/would help?
d. Do you worry about substance abuse in the neighborhood? Inside the household?
e. Do you worry about domestic violence in the neighborhood? Inside the household?
f. Do you worry about disturbances or noise in the neighborhood? Or on the contrary, do you worry that things are too quiet & lifeless?
g. Have you gone to recent demonstrations against police violence? Do you fear that infections will increase because of the demonstrations.

9. Community organizations
   a. Do you hear about community organizations?
   b. What kind? Religious, neighborhood, ethnic, arts groups, sports groups
   c. Do you have contact with community organizations?
      i. Do you participate in community organizations? Do you give assistance to others?
      ii. Do you receive assistance from community organizations?
   d. What about group gatherings, even if it's online? Do you participate?
      i. Examples might include bible study groups, book clubs, virtual "taverns" where people gather online & just talk, re-connecting with old friends online
   e. Do you attend religious services online?
   f. Do you belong to a service organization that currently has activities?
   g. What about virtual playgroups for your children?
   h. Are you happy with these activities? Do you feel more connected or less connected than before the social distancing?

10. In the past, when there was a disaster or emergency, people could come together in person to work for recovery. Have you seen new or inventive ways that people work together now that it's not easy to come together in person? Please describe what you're seeing.

11. Recovery
   a. What do you think will happen when we feel safer to leave the household again?
   b. What are you looking forward to?
   c. What is one of the first things that you will do when we get back to a more normal schedule?
   d. How do you feel about hugging others or getting close to people again?
   e. How do you think the world will look in 3 months?

12. What city or town and state do you live in?  And what Zip code?

13. Is there anything I did not ask about that you feel is important?

**Life in the age of the Coronavirus.**
**Interview Protocol – <span style="color:red">2nd Wave</span>.**

*Note to interviewer.  Remember that this is not a yes/no interview.  Always try to get the interviewee to expand on and talk about the answers.  Ask follow-up questions as needed to encourage the interviewee to be expansive in their answers.  Remember, you can always say, "Please tell me more about that," or "Could you tell me more about what happened," or "Could you give me an example of that," or anything similar.*

*Also, remember to record the informed consent script and answers.*

1. *[Interviewer:] Speak your name and email address into the recording.  Spell your name and email address clearly so that it can be transcribed.*
   a. *If you are an LSU student, use your LSU email address.*
   b. *If you are interviewing as part of an LSU class, speak your course number and professor's name into the recording.*

2. *Ask and record the following information about the Interviewee:*
   a. *Age*
   b. *Gender*
   c. *Race/ethnicity*
   d. *Relation to interviewer*
   e. *[For New Orleans interviewees only:] We'll be asking some questions about your neighborhood. Can you tell me what neighborhood you live in?*
   f. *[If interviewee agreed to give name & contact info, ask and record that. Ask them to spell everything for the transcriber.]*

3. Do you live alone?  With family?  With friends/roommates?
   a. What family members are in the household?
   b. What others are in the household?  What is their relation to you?
   c. Are there pets?

4. What is your job/occupation?
   a. How have things changed in your work life since the Coronavirus became a factor?
   b. Do you work remotely from home? What adjustments have you faced in order to make working from home possible?
   c. Do you work at an "essential" job that requires you to work outside the house?  Do you work at a job that likely exposes you to infection?
   d. If you are worried about infection at work, do you have access to protective gear or have you asked your employer for protective gear? How about delaying going back to work?  Have you quit or considered quitting?
   e. Have you been laid off or furloughed at any point since March; do you fear being laid off or furloughed?

        i.  If so, did you receive unemployment payments?  Were they enough to compensate for your job loss?

        ii.  If so, have you been able to go back to your old job or find another job?  What changes have you faced?  Have your employers changed working conditions?  Talk about what has happened.

        iii.  What were some factors that influenced your decision to return to work?  If you received unemployment insurance due to a furlough, did that impact your decision to return to work?

        iv.  Did you return to work before you felt it was safe?  What were the reasons?  Did you risk losing unemployment insurance if you did not return to work?  Describe what happened and how you feel about it?

5. I want to ask you some questions about the lockdown and the stages of opening up.
   a. Did you mostly stay at home during the lockdown?
      i. If you went out, what for? To go to work? To exercise? To socialize? To walk dogs? To shop for groceries? Anything else?
   b. Since things have started to open up, and the restrictions are being eased, do you go out of the house more?  What things do you do now that they are allowed?
      i. Do you go to restaurants? Bars? Salons or barbers? A fitness center or gym? Stores or malls? Water parks? Team sports or other sports? Anything else?
   c. What laws/orders are in effect regarding covid safety where you live? Do most people adhere to these mandates? Do you feel safer as a result of orders such as mask mandates, social distancing, etc?  Do you feel the orders are a burden or unfair?
   d. Are there any businesses or locations that you have consciously decided to patronize or not patronize in part because of their policies created to respond to the pandemic?  Tell me about that.
   e. Even as things have opened up more, even when more things are allowed, do you still avoid some of these things?  Do you worry about infection?
      i. Think about the things that are opening up again, like schools or universities, certain jobs, or stores, restaurants, or bars.  How do you feel about the reopening of these things - are you in favor or against?  Do you feel it's safe?
   f. How do you feel about students returning to school? (K-12 or college).
      i. [if the interviewee has children, or children significant in their life] What has your children's experience been like, as school has started again? What are the policies in place for your child's school? How do you feel about these policies?

6. Contacts with people outside the home.
    a. Have you had an internet connection throughout the pandemic?  A reliable phone?
        i. If not, do you feel this has affected you in any way? How so?
        ii. If so, what has your experience with this been? Have your online activities changed since you've been spending more time at home?
        iii. Have you invested in better internet, computer, or cell phone services because of the pandemic?
    b. How do you have contact with people outside the home?
        i. In person
        ii. By telephone
        iii. Online: Zoom, FaceTime, Skype, what else?
        iv. Other
    c. What people do you have contact with?
        i. Family, friends
        ii. Colleagues at work
        iii. Officials, agencies
        iv. Do most people you have contact with agree or disagree with you about how we should respond to the pandemic?
        v. Do you feel that there are increased tensions or avoidance between people if they disagree about Covid response?  Tell me about this.
        vi. *[Interviewer: these tensions are an important, but sensitive topic. Please probe for answers here, but use your judgement so as not to offend the interviewee.]*
    d. Have you been shopping online?
    e. Do you feel like your social media habits have changed throughout the course of the pandemic? For example, do you feel you use social media more/less frequently, for different reasons than before the pandemic, etc.
    f. Did you feel cut off or lonely at the start of the pandemic? Do you feel that way now?
        i. [if they've felt an improvement] What led you to feel less isolated? Have you found more ways of connecting with others? Have you been seeing more people?
        ii. [If they still feel lonely] What could help make you feel more connected with others?  Have you tried things that did or didn't help?

7. Assistance
    a. Do you have people who can assist if needed?
        i. Who can assist?  Family, friends, colleagues, others?
        ii. Do you have a doctor if needed?
    b. Do you feel able to assist others? How? Here are some examples:
        i. Delivering food or other supplies?  Donating medical supplies? Making face masks?  Making lunches for school children? Donating Chromebooks (laptop computers) for students?

  ii. Are you assisting any children in an educational capacity, e.g., virtual learning, home schooling, etc. Do you feel you have adequate resources to be successful in assisting them?

  iii. Other forms of assistance to others?

c. If you were to lose your job, what could you do to get income?

  i. Do you fear a trade-off between having a job with income and being exposed to infection?

d. Could you get food assistance if needed?

e. Could you get unemployment insurance if needed?

f. Could you get medical assistance if needed? Do you have health insurance? Is it adequate?

g. Do you need childcare? Can you obtain it, & are there issues with it?

  i. Do you face trade-offs with childcare & employment? How do you handle that, or what have you tried?

h. Do you anticipate any trouble or have you had any trouble with rent/mortgage payments? Do you know of anyone who is facing hardship with regards to housing?

  i. Are there any new policies that have helped? Are there any policies you feel are still needed?

8. How do you generally get information about the pandemic? From friends, family, and neighbors? From social media? From local, state, or federal government? From the CDC? From the news?

a. What news sources do you prefer?

b. Do you trust the information you're getting? Which sources do you trust most? Trust least?

9. Problems, dangers, fears

a. Are you worried about access to essential things, services?

  i. How do you get food? Are you afraid to go to the grocery store? Can you get food delivered? Are you afraid of infection, cost?

  ii. How about prescriptions?

  iii. Do you fear losing access to phone, internet?

  iv. Do you worry about access to sanitation? Soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes?

b. Do you think the pandemic is worsening or improving? What signs do you look for to know if it's getting better or worse?

c. Compared to earlier in the pandemic, in this past month have you felt more worried, less worried, or about the same?

d. Do you worry about people gathering & spreading the virus?

  i. Are there household members who might bring the virus into the household by contacting others outside the household?

  ii. Are there people in the neighborhood who gather & might spread the virus?

   iii. Do you feel the risk of infection is getting worse, getting better, or staying about the same?  Do you feel like this is the new normal? What do you think is causing any changes?

 e. Do you worry about crime in the neighborhood and whether the police or authorities could/would help?

 f. Do you worry about substance abuse in the neighborhood?  Inside the household?

 g. Do you worry about domestic violence in the neighborhood?  Inside the household?

 h. Do you worry about disturbances or noise in the neighborhood?  Or on the contrary, do you worry that things are too quiet & lifeless?

 i. Do you worry that college students will bring the virus into the community?

 j. Have you gone to demonstrations against police violence?  Do you fear that infections will increase because of the demonstrations?

 k. Have you been to any other large gatherings for any other reason?

10. Community organizations

 a. Do you hear about community organizations helping in the pandemic?

 b. What kind?  Religious, neighborhood, ethnic, arts groups, sports groups

 c. Have you heard about community organizations that had to shut down or reduce their services because of the pandemic?  Have they been able to resume providing services again?

 d. Have you noticed any differences in your community/ neighborhood? Are people more or less active than before the pandemic? Have you met neighbors you hadn't met before the pandemic?

 e. Do you have contact with community organizations?

   i. Do you participate in community organizations?  Do you give assistance to others?

   ii. Do you receive assistance from community organizations?

 f. What about group gatherings, even if it's online?  Do you participate?

   i. Examples might include bible study groups, book clubs, virtual "taverns" where people gather online & just talk, reconnecting with old friends online

 g. Do you attend religious services online?

 h. Do you belong to a service organization that currently has activities?

 i. What about virtual playgroups for your children?

 j. Are you happy with these activities?  Do you feel more connected or less connected than before the social distancing?

11. In the past, when there was a disaster or emergency, people could come together in person to work for recovery.  Have you seen new or inventive ways that people are working together to respond to the pandemic, especially considering that it's not as easy to come together in person?  Please describe what you're seeing.

 a. *[Interviewer: Please probe on this question to get as much response and as much detail as possible.  This is one of our most important questions.]*

12. Politicians have been blaming each other about response to the pandemic.  Do you agree with one side or the other side, or do you feel that blame is not called for?  Do you feel that one side or the other has better proposals for dealing with the pandemic?
    a. Do you feel that things have become politicized that should not become politicized?  For instance, healthcare, assistance, nonprofits, or other things that are usually nonpartisan?  If so, could you give me some examples of what you've seen or heard?

13. Recovery
    a. What do you think will happen when things become safer again?
    b. What are you looking forward to?
    c. What is one of the first things that you will do when we get back to a more normal situation?
    d. How do you feel about hugging others or getting close to people again?
    e. How do you think the world will look in 3 months?  6 months?  A year?

14. What city or town and state do you live in?  And what Zip code?

15. Is there anything I did not ask about that you feel is important?


rev. 12/19/2020

**Life in the age of the Coronavirus.**
**Interview Protocol – 3rd Wave.**


*Note to interviewer. Remember that this is not a yes/no interview. Ask follow-up questions as needed to encourage the interviewee to be expansive in their answers. Remember, you can always say, "Please tell me more about that," or "Could you tell me more about what happened," or "Could you give me an example," or anything similar.*

*Some of these questions are especially important to the research. We have marked them with an asterisk (\*) at the beginning of the question. Make a special attempt to probe on these questions and get plenty of details and examples.*

*Also, remember to record the informed consent script and answers.*


1. *[Interviewer:] Speak your name and email address into the recording. Spell your name and email address clearly so that it can be transcribed.*
    a. *If you are an LSU student, use your LSU email address.*
    b. *If you are interviewing as part of an LSU class, speak your course number and professor's name into the recording.*

2. *Ask and record the following information about the Interviewee:*
    a. *Age*
    b. *Gender*
    c. *Race/ethnicity*
    d. *Relation to interviewer*
    e. *Ask if they're currently a college/university student*
    f. *[For New Orleans interviewees only]: ask what neighborhood they live in*
    g. *[If interviewee agreed to give name & contact info]: ask and record that. Ask them to spell everything for the transcriber.*

3. Describe your household. Do you live alone, with family, or with roommates?
    a. Who are the members of your household? What is their relation to you?
    b. Are there pets?

4. What is your job/occupation? *[if they're unemployed or work part time]* does somebody else in your household have a job? If so, what is it?
    a. How has your work life changed since the start of the pandemic?
    b. Do you currently work remotely from home?
        i. *[if no]* Did you work remotely earlier in the pandemic?
        ii. What adjustments have you made in order to work from home?
    c. Do you work at an "essential" job?
    d. Do you feel your work exposes you to a high or low risk of infection?
    e. Are you worried about infection at work? Do you have access to protective gear or have you asked your employer for protective gear?

       i.   Do you think your employer has taken adequate precautions? Have their policies changed over the course of the pandemic? *[if change]* Do you think the changes are for the better or worse? Why so?

      ii.   Have you quit or considered quitting?

     iii.   Do you fear a trade-off between having a job with income and being exposed to infection?

f.   Since the start of the pandemic, have you been laid off or furloughed at any point?

       i.   *[if no]* Do you fear being laid off or furloughed?

      ii.   *[if yes]* Did you receive unemployment payments?  Were they enough to compensate for your job loss?

     iii.   Have you been able to return to your old job or find another job? What changes have you faced?  Did your employers change working conditions?  Talk about what has happened.

     iv.   *[if returned to work]* What were some factors that influenced your decision to return to work?  If you received unemployment insurance due to a furlough, did that impact your decision?

      v.   Did you return to work before you felt it was safe?  *[if yes]* How do you feel about it?

5.  I want to ask some questions about the stages of opening up since the lockdown.

a.   Since restrictions have begun to ease and things have opened up, do you go out of the house more? What things do you do now that they're allowed? (e.g., traveling, restaurants, bars, salons, barbers, fitness center or gym, stores or malls, water parks, team sports, etc.)

       i.   Even as things have opened up, are there still things you avoid?

      ii.   How do you feel about the reopenings - are you in favor or against?

     iii.   How have your shopping habits changed during the pandemic? Have you been shopping online or gone back to more in-person shopping?

b.   Do you feel like social gatherings are becoming more common again? Have you attended a social gathering recently? How do you feel about gatherings at this stage?

c.   What covid safety laws/orders are in effect where you live? (e.g., mask mandate, stay-at-home order, limited seating capacity for businesses, travel restrictions). Do you feel safer as a result? Do you feel they're a burden or unfair? Do most people adhere to the mandates?

d.   Overall, do you feel people have become exhausted with the precautions and are starting to ignore them? What are your feelings on this?

e.   How do you feel about students returning to school since the start of 2021? (K-12 or college). Did it go better or worse than you expected?

       i.   *[if the interviewee has children, or children significant in their life]* What has your children's school experience been like? What are the policies in place for your child's school? Have the policies changed over the course of the pandemic? How do you feel about

the policies? Do you think there will be an impact on students' academic abilities?

6. Contacts with people outside the home.
   a. Have you had an internet connection throughout the pandemic? A reliable phone?
      i. *[if no]* Do you feel this has affected you in any way? How so?
      ii. *[if yes]* What has your experience with this been? Have your online activities changed since you've been spending more time at home?
      iii. Have you invested in better internet or cell phone services because of the pandemic?
   b. How do you have contact with people outside the home?
      i. In person, By telephone, Online (e.g., Zoom, social media), Other.
   c. Do you have more contact with some people than you did before Covid? Is it remote? Have some relationships improved since Covid?
   d. What people do you have contact with? (family & friends, neighbors, colleagues at work, officials or agencies).
      i. Do most people you have contact with agree or disagree with you about how we should respond to the pandemic?
      ii. *Have you felt increased tensions or avoidance between people due to disagreements about Covid response? Tell me about this. *[Interviewer: these tensions are an important, but sensitive topic. Please probe for answers here, but use your judgement so as not to offend the interviewee.]*
      iii. Has anyone you have contact with outside the home tested positive for Covid? What about other members of your household? How did you cope with that or respond? How did members of your household cope or respond?

7. Psychological Impacts
   a. How has the pandemic affected you emotionally?
   b. Did you feel cut off or lonely at the start of the pandemic? Do you feel that way now?
      i. *[if they've felt an improvement]* What led you to feel less isolated? Have you found more ways of connecting with others? Have you been seeing more people?
      ii. *[if they still feel lonely]* What do you think would help improve your situation? Have you tried things that did or didn't help?
   c. Have you heard of other ways people are coping with the pandemic?

8. Assistance
   a. Do you have people who can assist if needed? (e.g., family, friends, colleagues, others).
   b. Do you feel able to assist others? In what ways? (e.g., delivering food, donating medical supplies, donating blood, making face masks).
   c. If you were to lose your job, what could you do to get income?

> > > i. Could you get food assistance or unemployment insurance?
> > d. Could you get medical assistance if needed? Do you have health insurance? Is it adequate? Do you have a doctor if needed?
> > e. Do you need childcare? Can you obtain it, & are there issues with it?
> > > i. Do you face trade-offs with childcare & employment? How do you handle that, or what have you tried?
> > f. Do you anticipate any trouble or have you had any trouble with rent/mortgage payments? Do you know of anyone who is facing hardship with regards to housing?
> > > i. Are there any new policies that have helped (such as the eviction moratorium)? Are there any policies you feel are still needed?

9. How do you generally get information about the pandemic? (e.g., friends, family, neighbors, social media, local, state, or federal government, the CDC, the news).
   a. What news outlets do you prefer? (e.g., CBS News, The New York Times, Fox News)
   b. Do you trust the information you're getting? Which sources do you trust most? Trust least?
   c. Do you feel like your social media habits have changed throughout the course of the pandemic? For example, do you feel you use social media more/less frequently, or for different reasons than before the pandemic.
   d. Do you feel that social media has become more political since the pandemic began? *[if yes]* What sites? (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

10. Problems, dangers, fears
    a. Compared to earlier in the pandemic, in this past month, how worried have you been about you, your friends, and your family contracting covid?
    b. In the past month, have you worried about access to essential things or services? (e.g., food, prescription medications, phone, internet, sanitation, soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes). Has your access changed over time? Compared to months ago, are you now more or less worried?
    c. Do you worry about people gathering & spreading the virus? Members of your household? People in your neighborhood? People at work? Are you more or less worried since the pandemic started a year ago?
    d. *Do you worry about crime in the neighborhood and whether the police or authorities could/would help?
       i. Have you perceived a rise in crime since the pandemic began? *[if yes]* Do you think it's due to the pandemic? How so?
    e. Do you worry about substance abuse in the neighborhood? Inside the household?
    f. Do you worry about domestic violence in the neighborhood? Inside the household?
    g. Do you worry about disturbances or noise in the neighborhood? Or on the contrary, do you worry that things are too quiet?

      h. Have you gone to demonstrations against police violence, because of the elections, or any others?  (Which ones?)  Do you fear that infections have or will increase because of the demonstrations?

11. *Community organizations
      a. *Do you hear about community organizations helping in the pandemic? What kind?  Religious, neighborhood, ethnic, arts groups, sports groups
           i. What kind of services or assistance do they provide? Have their services changed over the course of the pandemic? *[Common types of assistance: food, rent, financial, health services, mental health services, etc.]*
           ii. Did any community organizations start providing new services or finding new ways of providing services?
      b. *Have you heard about community organizations that had to shut down or reduce their services because of the pandemic?  Have they been able to resume providing services again?
      c. *Do you have contact with community organizations?
           i. Do you participate in community organizations?  Do you give assistance to others? What kind?
           ii. Do you receive assistance from community organizations? What kind?
      d. *Do you belong to a service organization that currently has activities? (e.g., Rotary Club, neighborhood association).
      e. Do you participate in any group gatherings online? (e.g., book clubs, reconnecting with old friends, religious services, bible study groups).
           i. What about virtual playgroups for your children?
           ii. Are you happy with these activities?  Do you feel more connected or less connected than before the social distancing?

12. *In the past, when there was a disaster or emergency, people could come together in person to work for recovery.  Have you seen new or inventive ways that people are working together to respond to the pandemic, especially considering that it's not as easy to come together in person?  Please describe what you're seeing.
      a. *[Interviewer: Please probe on this question to get as much response and as much detail as possible.  This is one of our most important questions.]*
      b. For instance, the people of Louisiana, Florida, and other places regularly experience hurricanes. What do you think the relationship is between the pandemic and preparedness, response, and recovery to natural disasters?
      c. Are people in your community/ neighborhood more or less active than before the pandemic? Please describe what you're seeing.  Have you met neighbors you hadn't met before the pandemic?

13. Vaccines and Variants
      a. Have you, or will you, get vaccinated for Covid? If not, why?
           i. Are you worried about the availability of the vaccine?

      b.  Do you have any at risk family members who have chosen not to get the vaccine? How are you handling that decision?

      c.  Some Americans are distrustful of the vaccine. Have you observed distrust among some groups? Why do you think that is?

      d.  Have you encountered any campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of the vaccine? Do you recall who has organized those campaigns?

      e.  Once most people are vaccinated, do you think we will return to normal?

      f.  Have you heard about the new strains (i.e., variants) of the virus that have been circulating in various countries? Do you find them concerning? Do you think that this may impact our recovery from the virus?

14. The Change of Administration

      a.  Politicians have blamed each other about response to the pandemic. What are your feelings about this?

          i.  Do you feel that things have become politicized that shouldn't be? (e.g., healthcare, assistance, nonprofits). *[If yes]* Could you give some examples of what you've seen or heard?

      b.  Do you think things have begun to change since the Biden administration came into office? Has it been for the better or worse? How so, and why?

15. Recovery

      a.  What do you think will happen when things become safer again?

      b.  What are you looking forward to when we get back to a more normal situation?  What is one of the first things that you will do?

      c.  How do you think the world will look in 3 months?  6 months?  A year?

16. What city or town and state do you live in?  And what Zip code?

      a.  *[if interviewee is from New Orleans]: ask what neighborhood they live in*

17. *Is there anything I did not ask about that you feel is important?

rev. 2/25/2021

**Life in the age of the Coronavirus.**
**Interview Protocol – 4th Wave.**

*Note to interviewer.  Remember that this is not a yes/no interview.  Ask follow-up questions as needed to encourage the interviewee to be expansive in their answers. Remember, you can always say, "Please tell me more about that," or "Could you tell me more about what happened," or "Could you give me an example," or anything similar.*

*Some of these questions are especially important to the research. We have marked them with an asterisk (\*) at the beginning of the question. Make a special attempt to probe on these questions and get plenty of details and examples.*

*Also, remember to record the informed consent script and answers.*

1. *[Interviewer:] Speak your name and email address into the recording.  Spell your name and email address clearly so that it can be transcribed.*
   a. *If you are an LSU student, use your LSU email address.*
   b. *If you are interviewing as part of an LSU class, speak your course number and professor's name into the recording.*

2. *Ask and record the following information about the Interviewee:*
   a. *Age*
   b. *Gender*
   c. *Race/ethnicity*
   d. *Relation to interviewer*
   e. *Ask if they're currently a college/university student*
   f. *[For New Orleans interviewees only]: ask what neighborhood they live in*
   g. *[If interviewee agreed to give name & contact info]: ask and record that. Ask them to spell everything for the transcriber.*

3. Describe your household. Do you live alone, with family, or with roommates?
   a. Who are the members of your household? What is their relation to you?
   b. Are there pets?

4. What is your job/occupation? *[if they're unemployed or work part time]* does somebody else in your household have a job? If so, what is it?
   a. How has your work life changed since the start of the pandemic?
   b. Do you currently work remotely from home?
      i. *[if no]* Did you work remotely earlier in the pandemic?
      ii. What adjustments have you made in order to work from home?
   c. Do you work at an "essential" job?
   d. Do you feel your work exposes you to a high or low risk of infection?
   e. Are you worried about infection at work? Do you have access to protective gear or have you asked your employer for protective gear?

       i. Do you think your employer has taken adequate precautions? Have their policies changed over the course of the pandemic? *[if change]* Do you think the changes are for the better or worse? Why so?

       ii. Have you quit or considered quitting?

       iii. Do you fear a trade-off between having a job with income and being exposed to infection?

  f. Since the start of the pandemic, have you been laid off or furloughed at any point?

       i. *[if no]* Do you fear being laid off or furloughed?

       ii. *[if yes]* Did you receive unemployment payments?  Were they enough to compensate for your job loss?

       iii. Have you been able to return to your old job or find another job? What changes have you faced?  Did your employers change working conditions?  Talk about what has happened.

       iv. *[if returned to work]* What were some factors that influenced your decision to return to work?  If you received unemployment insurance due to a furlough, did that impact your decision?

       v. Did you return to work before you felt it was safe?  *[if yes]* How do you feel about it?

5. I want to ask some questions about precautions, lockdowns, and the stages of opening up.

  a. What covid safety laws/orders are in effect where you live? (e.g., mask mandate, vaccination mandates, stay-at-home order, limited seating capacity for businesses, travel restrictions). Do you feel safer as a result?

  b. Compared to earlier in the pandemic, do you now go out of the house more? What things do you do now that they're allowed? (e.g., traveling, restaurants, bars, salons, barbers, fitness center or gym, stores or malls, water parks, team sports, etc.)

       i. Are there still things you avoid?

       ii. How do you feel about the reopenings - are you in favor or against?

       iii. How have your shopping habits changed during the pandemic? Have you been shopping online or gone back to more in-person shopping?

  c. Do you feel like social gatherings have become more common again? Have you attended a social gathering recently? How do you feel about gatherings at this stage?

  d. Do you feel covid safety laws/orders are a burden or unfair? Do most people adhere to the mandates?

  e. Overall, do you feel people have become exhausted with the precautions and are starting to ignore them? What are your feelings on this?

  f. How do you feel about students returning to school this semester? (K-12 or college). Is it going better or worse than you expected?

       i. *[if the interviewee has children, or children significant in their life]* What has your children's school experience been like? What are the policies in place for your child's school? Have the policies

changed over the course of the pandemic? How do you feel about the policies? Which policies do you prefer? Do you think there will be an impact on students' academic abilities?

6. Contacts with people outside the home.
    a. Have you had an internet connection throughout the pandemic? A reliable phone?
        i. *[if no]* Do you feel this has affected you in any way? How so?
        ii. *[if yes]* What has your experience with this been? Have your online activities changed if you've been spending more time at home?
        iii. Have you invested in better internet or cell phone services because of the pandemic?
    b. How do you have contact with people outside the home?
        i. In person, By telephone, Online (e.g., Zoom, social media), Other.
    c. Do you have more contact with some people than you did before Covid? Is it remote? Have some relationships improved since Covid?
    d. What people do you have contact with? (family & friends, neighbors, colleagues at work, officials or agencies).
        i. Do most people you have contact with agree or disagree with you about how we should respond to the pandemic?
        ii. *Have you felt increased tensions or avoidance between people due to disagreements about Covid response? Tell me about this. *[Interviewer: these tensions are an important, but sensitive topic. Please probe for answers here, but use your judgement so as not to offend the interviewee.]*
        iii. Has anyone you have contact with outside the home tested positive for Covid? What about other members of your household? How did you cope with that or respond? How did members of your household cope or respond?

7. Psychological Impacts
    a. How has the pandemic affected you emotionally?
    b. Have you felt cut off or lonely at any point during the pandemic? Do you feel that way now?
        i. *[if they've felt an improvement]* What led you to feel less isolated? Have you found more ways of connecting with others? Have you been seeing more people?
        ii. *[if they still feel lonely]* What do you think would help improve your situation? Have you tried things that did or didn't help?
    c. Have you heard of other ways people are coping with the pandemic?

8. Assistance
    a. Do you have people who can assist if needed? (e.g., family, friends, colleagues, others).
    b. Do you feel able to assist others? In what ways? (e.g., delivering food, donating medical supplies, donating blood, making face masks).

c. If you were to lose your job, what could you do to get income?
   i. Could you get food assistance or unemployment insurance?
d. Could you get medical assistance if needed? Do you have health insurance? Is it adequate? Do you have a doctor if needed?
e. Do you need childcare? Can you obtain it, & are there issues with it?
   i. Do you face trade-offs with childcare & employment? How do you handle that, or what have you tried?
f. Do you anticipate any trouble or have you had any trouble with rent/mortgage payments? Do you know of anyone who is facing hardship with regards to housing?
   i. Are there any policies that have helped (such as the eviction moratorium)? Are there policies you feel are still needed?

9. How do you generally get information about the pandemic? (e.g., friends, family, neighbors, social media, local, state, or federal government, the CDC, the news).
   a. What news outlets do you prefer? (e.g., CBS News, The New York Times, Fox News)
   b. Do you trust the information you're getting? Which sources do you trust most? Trust least?
   c. Do you feel like your social media habits have changed throughout the course of the pandemic? For example, do you feel you use social media more/less frequently, or for different reasons than before the pandemic.
   d. Do you feel that social media has become more political since the pandemic began? *[if yes]* What sites? (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

10. Problems, dangers, fears
    a. Compared to earlier in the pandemic, in this past month, how worried have you been about you, your friends, and your family contracting covid?
    b. In the past month, have you worried about access to essential things or services? (e.g., food, prescription medications, phone, internet, sanitation, soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes). Has your access changed over time? Compared to months ago, are you now more or less worried?
    c. Are you worried about a lack of hospital beds? Are you worried about a shortage of doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel to treat Covid patients? Are you worried that hospitals can't treat people with non-Covid medical issues because they're filled with Covid patients?
    d. Do you worry about people gathering & spreading the virus? Members of your household? People in your neighborhood? People at work? Are you more or less worried since the pandemic started?
    e. *Do you worry about crime in the neighborhood and whether the police or authorities could/would help?
       i. Have you perceived a rise in crime since the pandemic began? *[if yes]* Do you think it's due to the pandemic? How so?
    f. Do you worry about substance abuse in the neighborhood? Inside the household?

g. Do you worry about domestic violence in the neighborhood?  Inside the household?

h. Do you worry about disturbances or noise in the neighborhood?  Or on the contrary, do you worry that things are too quiet?

i. Have you gone to demonstrations against police violence, because of the elections, because of mask mandates, or any others?  (Which ones?)  Do you fear that infections have or will increase because of the demonstrations?

j. How do you feel about the various demonstrations?

11. *Community organizations
   a. *Do you hear about community organizations helping in the pandemic? What kind?  Religious, neighborhood, ethnic, arts groups, sports groups
      i. What kind of services or assistance do they provide? Have their services changed over the course of the pandemic? *[Common types of assistance: food, rent, financial, health services, mental health services, etc.]*
      ii. Did any community organizations start providing new services or finding new ways of providing services?
   b. *Do you have contact with community organizations?
      i. Do you participate in community organizations?  Do you give assistance to others? What kind?
      ii. Do you receive assistance from community organizations? What kind?
   c. *Have you heard about community organizations that had to shut down or reduce their services because of the pandemic?  Have they been able to resume providing services again?
   d. *Do you belong to a service organization that currently has activities? (e.g., Rotary Club, neighborhood association).
   e. Do you participate in any group gatherings online? (e.g., book clubs, reconnecting with old friends, religious services, bible study groups).
      i. What about virtual playgroups for your children?
      ii. Are you happy with these activities?  Do you feel more connected or less connected than before the social distancing?

12. *In the past, when there was a disaster or emergency, people could come together in person to work for recovery.  Have you seen new or inventive ways that people are working together to respond to the pandemic, especially considering that it's not as easy to come together in person?  Please describe what you're seeing.
   a. *[Interviewer: Please probe on this question to get as much response and as much detail as possible.  This is one of our most important questions.]*
   b. Are people in your community/ neighborhood more or less active than before the pandemic? Please describe what you're seeing.  Have you met neighbors you hadn't met before the pandemic?

13. Speaking of disasters, I'd like your thoughts about when people experience both a disaster and Covid together. For instance, the people of Louisiana, Florida, and other places regularly experience hurricanes, and the West Coast has been having wildfires.
    a. Have you been affected by a disaster, for instance, Hurricane Ida, or Hurricane Laura or Hurricane Delta last year, or the wildfires in the West?
        i. *[if they've been affected]* how long did you experience the effects of the disaster? Or, are you still experiencing them? What impact did the disaster have on you or your community? (e.g., property damage, financial, mental health, injury)
        ii. *[if they've been affected]* Did the risk of Covid infection make you afraid in the course of the disaster?
        iii. *[if they've been affected]* What did you do to mitigate Covid risks during a disaster or disaster recovery?
    b. From your own experience or what you've heard, how did these disasters affect the Covid situation?
        i. Was there more risk of infection because of a natural disaster?
        ii. How did people respond? For instance, did fear of Covid make people neglect disaster safety? (e.g., not evacuating, avoiding hotels, Airbnbs, or shelters). Or on the contrary, did the disaster lead people to neglect Covid precautions? (e.g., worry about property damage, prolonged loss of power and/or Internet).
        iii. Did Covid interfere with people's attempts to recover from a disaster? What disaster recovery troubles have you experienced or heard of?
    c. Any other thoughts about Covid during a natural disaster?

14. Vaccines and Variants
    a. Have you, or will you, get vaccinated for Covid? Why or why not?
        i. *[If they have been vaccinated previously]* If a 3rd dose or booster shot becomes available to the public, will you get it? Why or why not?
        ii. What have you learned about the 3rd dose so far? Who or which sources did you get the information of the booster shot from?
    b. Do you have any at risk family members who have chosen not to get the vaccine? How are you handling that decision?
    c. Some Americans are distrustful of the vaccine. Have you observed distrust among some groups? Why do you think that is?
    d. Have you encountered any campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of the vaccine? Do you recall who has organized those campaigns?
        i. How do you feel about lotteries or other measures to encourage people to get vaccinated?
    e. Do you feel that there is much misinformation about vaccines that affects people's decisions on getting vaccinated? What do you think are the sources of any such misinformation, and where do you think people hear about misinformation?

    f.  How do you feel about vaccination mandates, that is, requiring people to get vaccinated?
- i.  Does it matter to you whether a vaccination mandate comes from an employer, a school or university, the government, or some other source?
- ii.  How do you feel about politicians or community members who resist vaccine mandates?  Some people say they're protecting freedoms.  Other people say they're increasing the risk of infection.
- iii.  Some people have been getting angry either about people refusing to get vaccinated or about vaccination mandates.  Have ever felt angry about this issue?  Do you know people who have gotten angry?  Have you seen or experienced conflict around this issue?
- iv.  Once most people are vaccinated, do you think we will return to normal?

    g.  Other than the Delta variant, have you heard about the new strains (i.e., variants) of the virus? Do you worry that new strains might emerge? Do you think this may impact our recovery from the virus?

15. The Change of Administration
    a. Politicians have blamed each other about response to the pandemic. What are your feelings about this?
        i. Do you feel that things have become politicized that shouldn't be? (e.g., healthcare, assistance, nonprofits). *[If yes]* Could you give some examples of what you've seen or heard?
        ii. On the contrary, do you feel that some political leaders deserve to be blamed?
    b. Do you think things have changed since the Biden administration came into office? Has it been for the better or worse? How so, and why?
        i. Do you feel that some political leaders have changed their policy positions on Covid just because of who's in office?
    c. How about the response of news sources to political leaders?  Do you feel that the news is politicized about Covid?  Do you feel that the news is reliable or unreliable due to political leanings?  Do you feel that there are unbiased sources of news and information?  Which ones?

16. Recovery
    a. What do you think will happen when things become safer again?
    b. What are you looking forward to when we get back to a more normal situation?  What is one of the first things that you will do?
    c. How do you think the world will look in 3 months?  6 months?  A year?
    d. Do you think we will ever get rid of Covid?

17. What city or town and state do you live in?  And what Zip code?
    a. *[if interviewee is from New Orleans]: ask what neighborhood they live in*

18. *Is there anything I did not ask about that you feel is important?

Exhibit 2. Interview Protocol for Nola community leaders.

**Life in the age of the Coronavirus.  A Qualitative Study.**

**Interview Protocol for New Orleans Community Leaders.**

1.  Note R's age, gender, race, community, organization, role or position.  If R's work is neighborhood-based, which neighborhood.

2.  When you think about the impact that the coronavirus has had on New Orleans, do you feel like your neighborhood or community has been hit harder than most?  About the same?  Not as hard?
    a.  Why do you think this is?
    b.  Do you think community members have been taking social distance orders seriously?
    c.  Are there a lot of people who can shelter in place, work remotely, and stay safe?
    d.  Are there a lot of people in "essential services" who cannot avoid risk of infection if they want to keep their jobs?
    e.  Are there a lot of people who have lost their jobs?
    f.  Are there a lot of people who work in healthcare and are exposed to risk of infection?

3.  Do many people in your community live alone?  Or in a household with lots of other people?
    a.  Are their households crowded; do people have space?  Do they have their own rooms, in case someone in the household gets sick?  Can they keep a distance, or will it probably spread to most people in the household?
    b.  Are there a lot of elderly people who live alone?  Do you think they might be isolated?

4.  What do most people in your community go out of the house for, and is it safe for them?
    a.  Do they go to work outside the home?  Do they have to commute?  Do they have to take public transportation?
    b.  Do they go out for groceries or prescriptions?  Do you think they feel safe in those stores?  Can they get these things delivered?
    c.  Do they go to restaurants, bars, etc?  Are there places open they can go to?  Can they get take-out at restaurants?
    d.  Do they go out to walk, exercise, walk the dog?  Do they sit on the front porch or stoop?  Is there active life on the streets?  Is it less active than before the coronavirus?
    e.  Have people tried to organize or attend public events or gatherings like festivals, second lines, fairs, balls, large parties, etc, even if they're not supposed to?

5. How do people in your community keep up contacts with people outside the household.  What's your impression?
    a. Do they have an internet connection?  A reliable phone?
        i. If not, do they feel this has affected them? How so?
        ii. If so, what has their experience with this been? Have their online activities changed since they've been spending more time at home?
    b. How do they have contact with people outside the household?
        i. In person
        ii. By telephone
        iii. Online
            1. Zoom, FaceTime, Skype, what else?
            2. Social media like Instagram, Facebook?
        iv. Other
    c. What people do they have contact with?
        i. Family, friends
        ii. Neighbors
        iii. Colleagues at work
        iv. Officials, agencies
    d. Have they been shopping online?
    e. Do they feel cut off, lonely?

6. What are your impressions about problems, dangers, fears in your community
    a. Are community members worried about access to essential things, services in community?
        i. Are people afraid to go to the grocery store or pharmacy?  Can they get things delivered?
        ii. Do they fear losing access to phone, internet?
        iii. Do they worry about access to sanitation?  Soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes?
    b. Do they worry about people gathering & spreading the virus?
        i. Are there household members who might bring the virus into the household by contacting others outside the household?
        ii. Are there people in the neighborhood who gather & might spread the virus?
    c. Do community members worry about increased crime in the neighborhood, and whether the police or authorities could/would help?
    d. Do they worry about increased substance abuse in the neighborhood? Inside the household?
    e. Do they worry about increased domestic violence in the neighborhood? Inside the household?
    f. Do they worry about disturbances or noise in the neighborhood?  Or on the contrary, do they worry that things are too quiet & lifeless?

7. Do you worry that musicians and clubs, artists, chefs and restaurants, and other "culture bearers" might not survive this pandemic, either by becoming sick or economically? Do you worry about what that could do to New Orleans culture?

8. What are your impressions about community needs?
   a. Do community members have people who can assist if needed?
      i. Who can provide assistance? Family, friends, colleagues, others?
      ii. Do they have a doctor if needed?
   b. If they were to lose their job, what could they do to get income?
      i. Do they fear a trade-off between having a job with income and being exposed to infection?
   c. Could they get food assistance if needed?
   d. Could they get unemployment insurance if needed?
   e. Could they get medical assistance if needed? Do they have health insurance? Is it adequate?
   f. Do they need childcare? Can they obtain it, & are there issues with it?
      i. Do they face trade-offs with childcare & employment? How do they handle that, or what have they tried?

9. As a community leader, do you feel able to assist others? How? Here are some examples:
   a. Providing or delivering food, prescriptions, or other supplies?
   b. Donating medical supplies?
   c. Making face masks?
   d. Making lunches for school children?
   e. Other forms of assistance to others?

10. We are especially interested in how communities are organizing themselves in the pandemic
   a. Do you feel that community organizations have been active?
   b. What kind of organizations? Religious, neighborhood, ethnic, arts groups, sports groups
   c. When you think about community organizations, do you think lots of community members –
      i. Are connected, are informed, communicate?
      ii. Participate?
      iii. Receive assistance?
   d. What about social gatherings, even if it's online? Do you see this much?
      i. Examples might include book clubs, religious study groups, virtual "taverns" where people gather online & just talk, re-connecting with old friends online
   e. Do people attend religious services online?
   f. Do you think service organizations have been active?
   g. What about virtual playgroups for children?
   h. Do you feel these activities have been working well? Do you think people feel more connected or less connected than before the social distancing?

11. Do you think city government and nonprofits have been doing a good job in providing information and assistance?
    a. Can you give some examples of things that have gone well or badly?
    b. What kind of information has been provided?
        i. Is it useful?
        ii. Is it accessible?  How is it communicated?  In person?  Remotely?  By conference calls, zoom, social media?  Is that effective?
        iii. Have community leaders been able to ask questions, give feedback, ask for resources, and get responses?
    c. Have you had contact with the mayor's Neighborhood Engagement Office?  Have they been doing a good job?

12. In the past, when there was a disaster or emergency, people could come together in person to work for recovery.  It's not so easy to come together in person now.
    a. Have you seen new or inventive ways that people work together now while maintaining safe social distancing?  What are you seeing?
    b. Have you heard of initiatives that try to connect and organize different groups who could work together?  Possible examples could be –
        i. Assistance to restaurants, who could keep their staff employed, hire unemployed people for delivery, and distribute the food to the needy or to hospital workers.
        ii. Umbrella organizations, like after Katrina, that bring together leaders from different communities, who could work together, learn from each other.
    c. Have you and your organization thought of new ways to organize assistance while maintaining safe social distancing?  Please describe.

13. Do you personally feel busier than before the pandemic started?
    a. How worried are you about yourself and your community in the pandemic?
    b. Do you feel that people are coming closer together to meet the new challenges?  Or are you sensing conflict?
    c. Do you personally feel more fulfilled working to meet the new challenges, even though it's a bad situation?  Are you more stressed?

14. Is there anything I did not ask about that you feel is important?

# Project: Covid - General Public

Report created by Frederick Weil on 7/6/2022

## Contents

# Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Anxiety, Isolation, Dispute, and Support

**Presented at the Researchers Meeting of the
2021 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Broomfield, Colorado
July 15, 2021**

**By Frederick D. Weil, Oliver Garretson, and Jiabin Fan, LSU,
and Alison Qi, Columbia University**

**Rick Weil
Department of Sociology, LSU
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# Background:

## LSU Post-Katrina Research
## on Disaster Recovery & Community Resilience

## Data Basis:

7,000 interviews in main *Household Survey*

ca. 100 interviews with *Neighborhood Association Leaders*

*Ethnographic* research with over 200 groups

ca. 150 *Videotaped* in-depth interviews: 400-500 hours

# LSU Post-Katrina Research

## on Disaster Recovery & Community Resilience

## Map of Flooding & Damage

**Greater New Orleans**

**Damage to Residence**
- No Damage
- Some damage
- Major damage
- Complete destruction
- Extent of Flooding
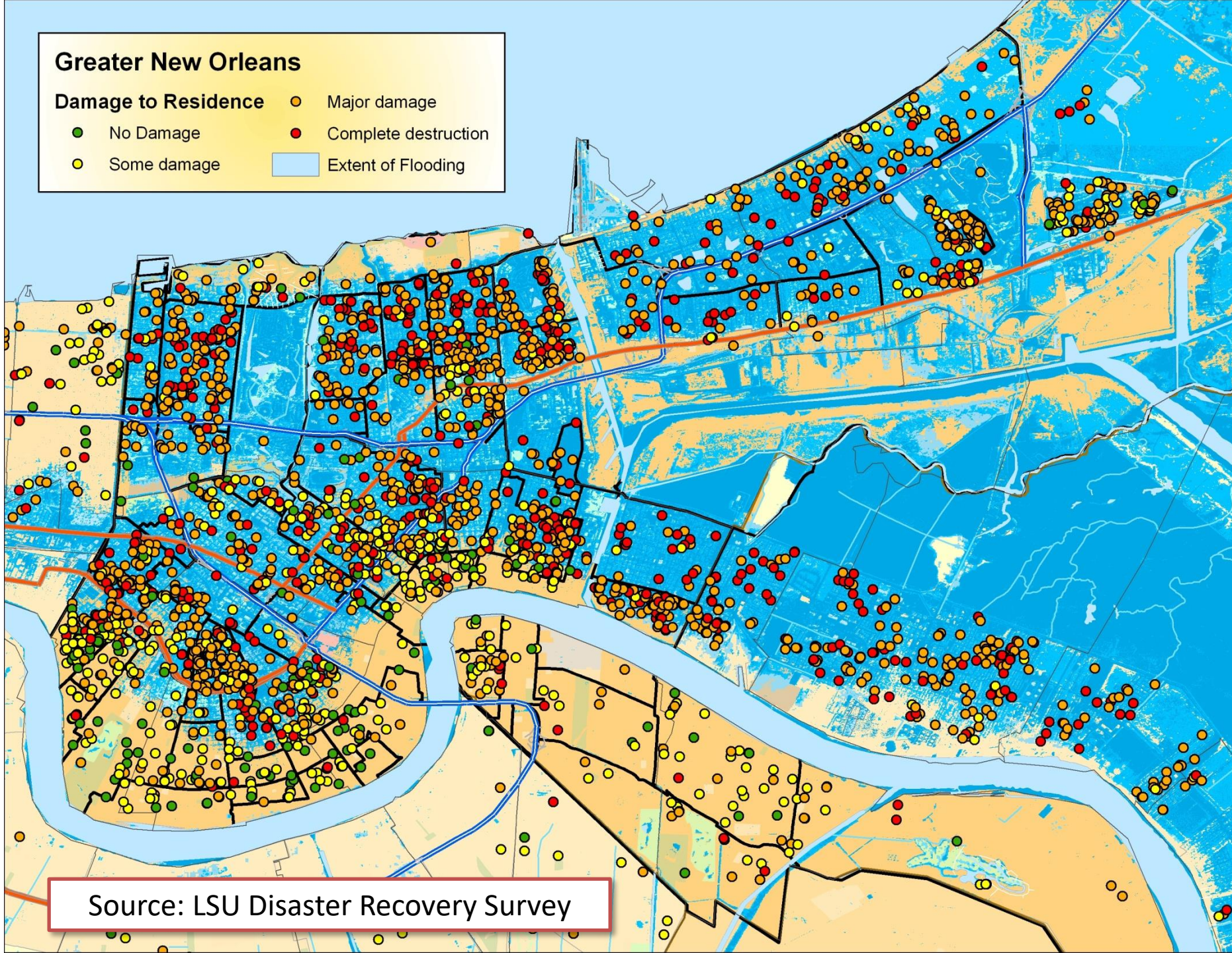
Source: LSU Disaster Recovery Survey

# We aggregated 7,000 survey responses to the census tract level to conduct aggregate analyses.



Post-Katrina New Orleans

Number of Interviews: 0 - 5, 6 - 8, 9 - 13, 14 - 23, 24 - 40, 41 - 71, 72 - 128

Number of Interviews Per Census Tract in New Orleans
Mean = 21; Median = 14
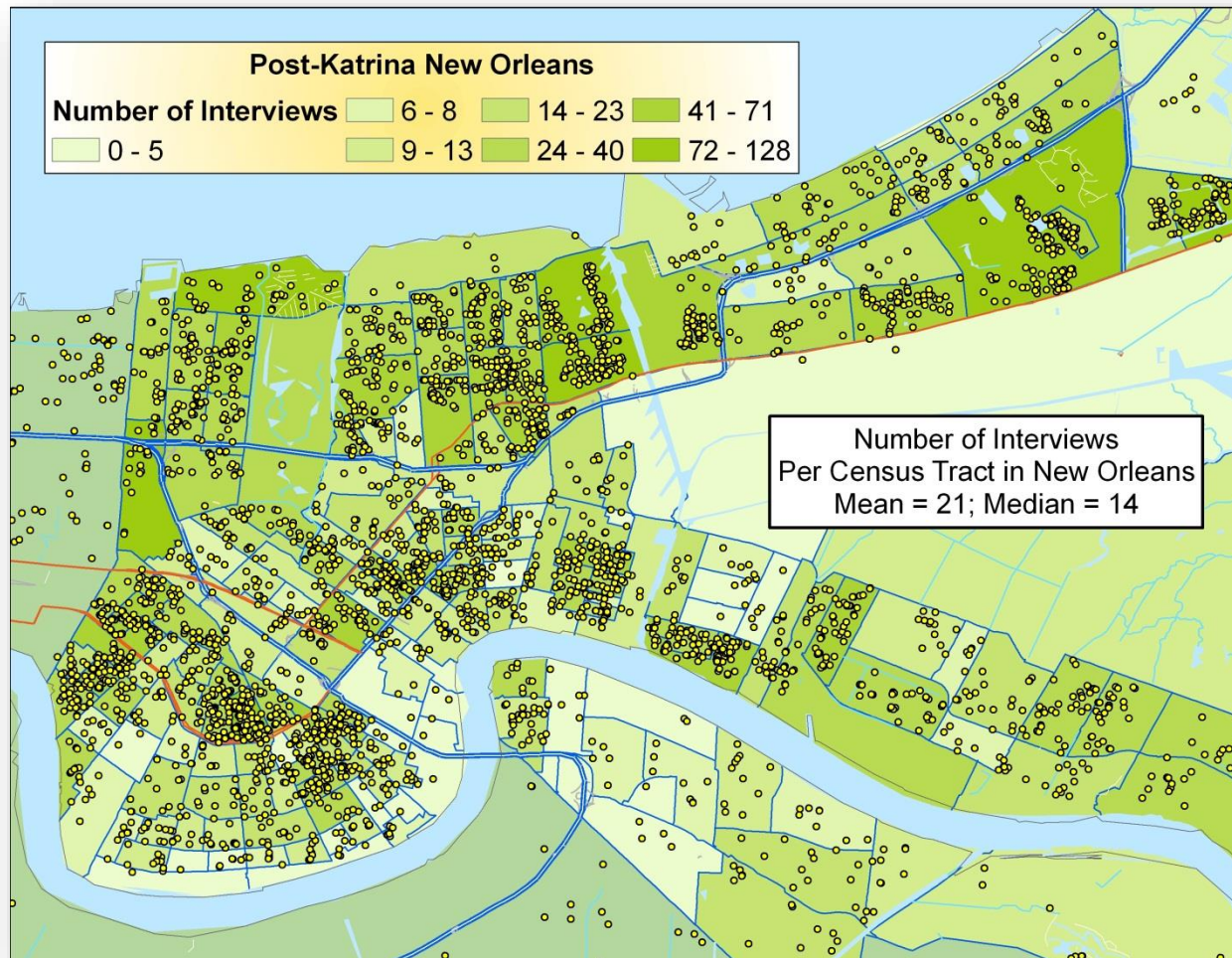
# Example Analyses: Civic Engagement
## Aggregated to Census Tracts.



Post-Katrina New Orleans
Civic Engagement
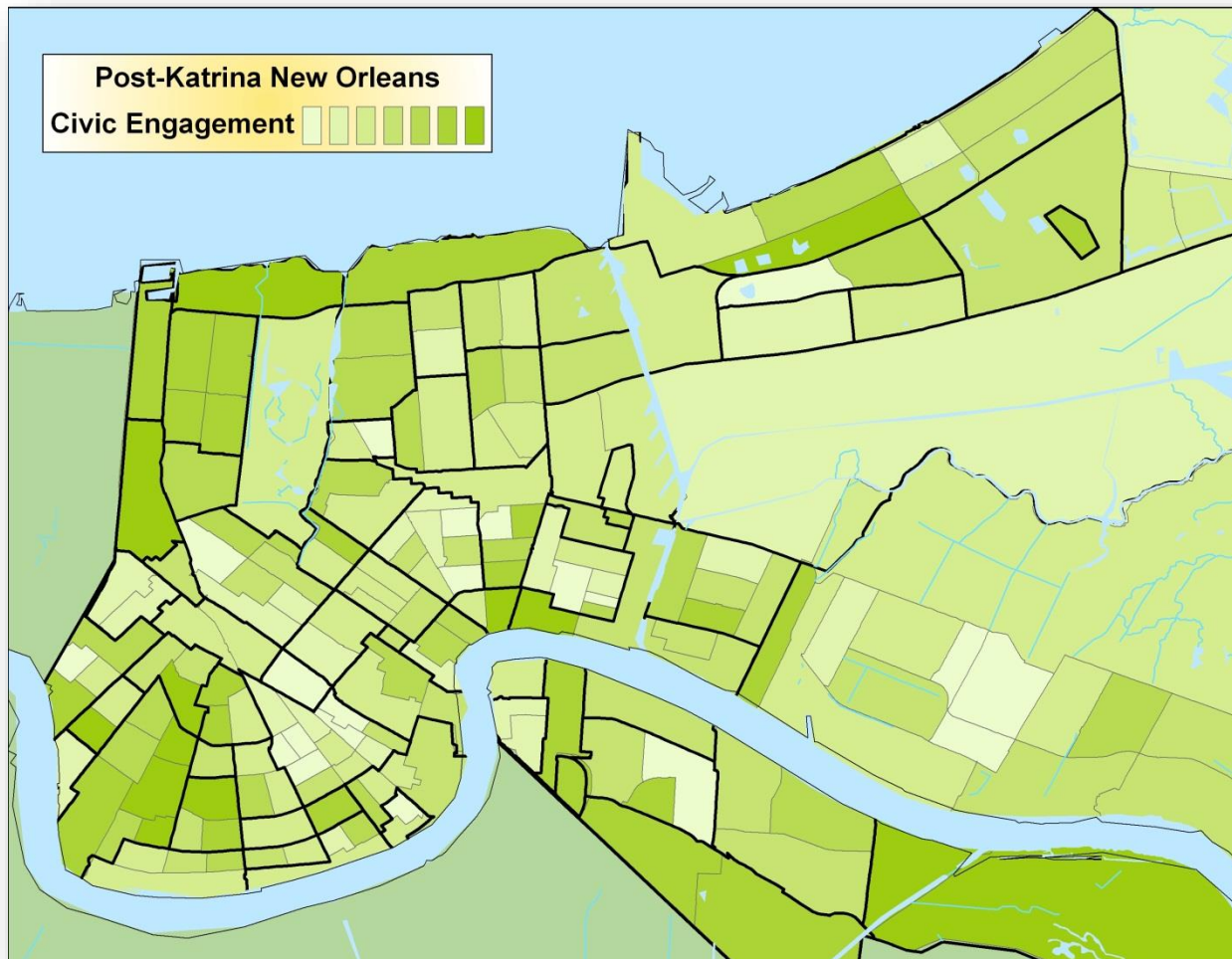
# Aggregate Data Analysis
## Low Damage & Civic Engagement
## Promote Repopulation per Census Tract*
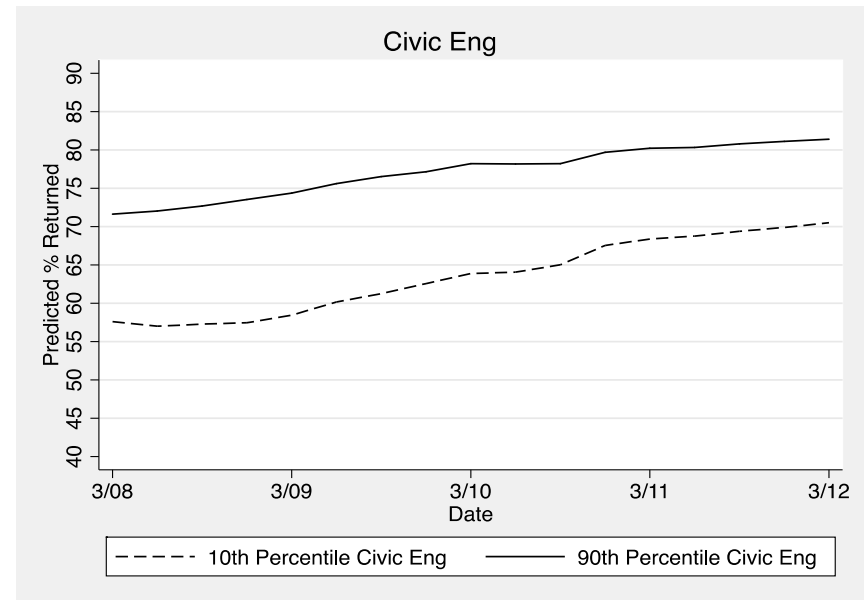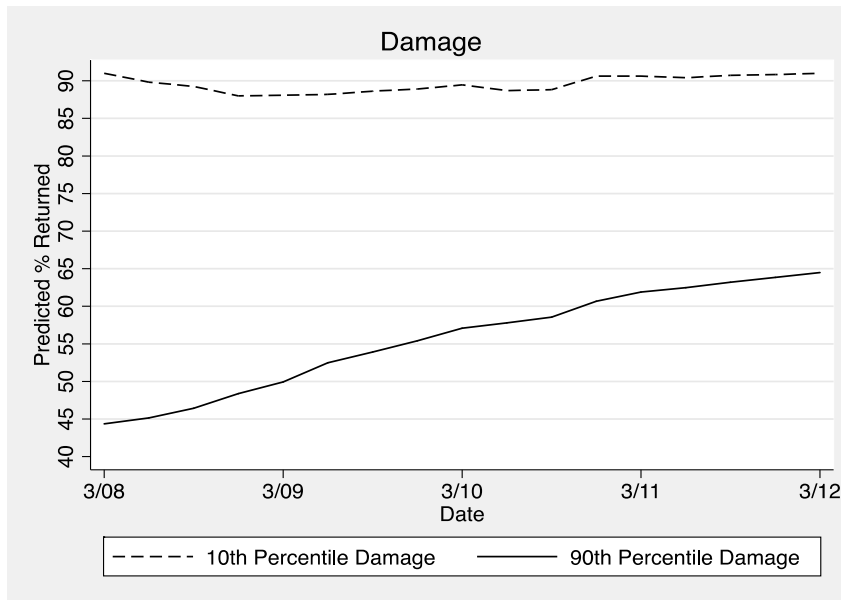


*Net Effects from multivariate time-series models

# When does Civic Engagement help?
## And when doesn't it?

Goals are:

| Outcome | Adversarial | | Mixed | Cooperative | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Crime | Airbnbs | Blight | Repopulation | Foreclosures | Employment |
| Rootedness | | x | | | | |
| Faith-based engagement | | x | | | | |
| Social Trust | x | | | | x | |
| Bonding Networks | | | | | | |
| Bridging Networks | x | x | | | | x |
| Civic Engagement | | | x | x | x | x |

Passive ↑ ↓ Active

# LSU Covid-19 Research
## Through the lens of Disaster Response and Community Resilience

## Data Basis:

- 336 In-Depth Qualitative Interviews in the general public, weighted toward Louisiana & New Orleans (conducted by LSU undergraduates)
- Ca. 25 In-Depth Qualitative Interviews with Community Leaders in New Orleans (conducted by PI)

# Interviews with the General Public

| Number of Interviews | |
| --- | --- |
| Pre-NSF | 44 |
| Wave 1 | 91 |
| Wave 2 | 122 |
| Wave 3 | 79 |
| **Total** | **336** |


Sample Demographics
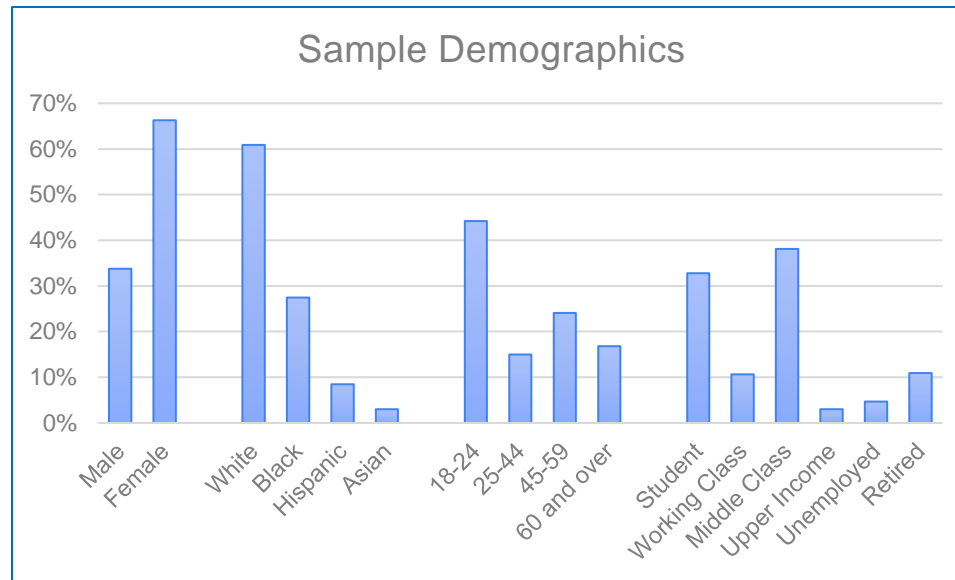
# Daily New Covid Cases
# in the U.S., Louisiana, Nola, Baton Rouge
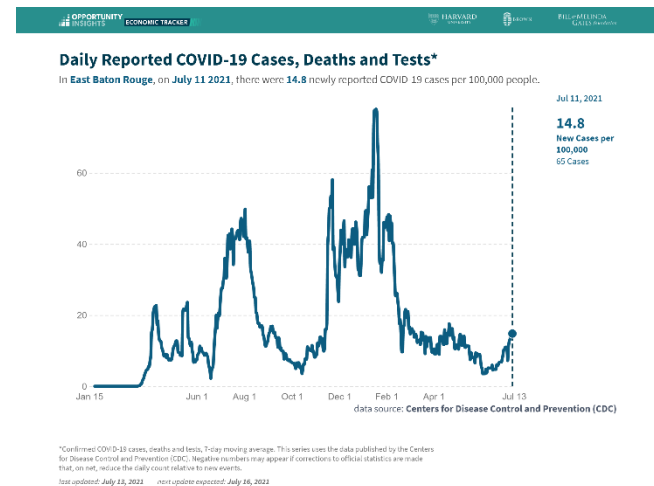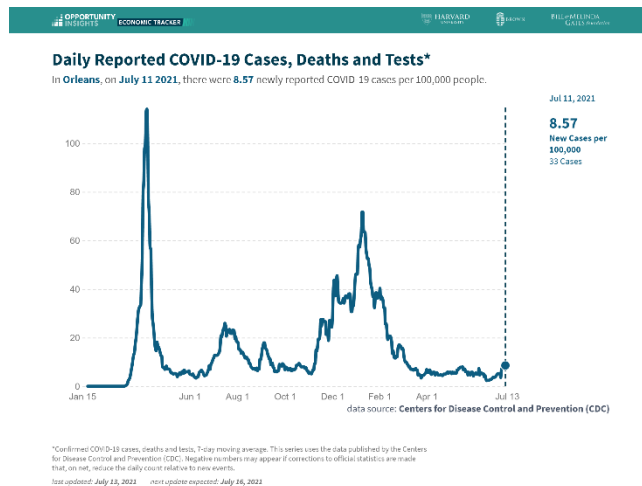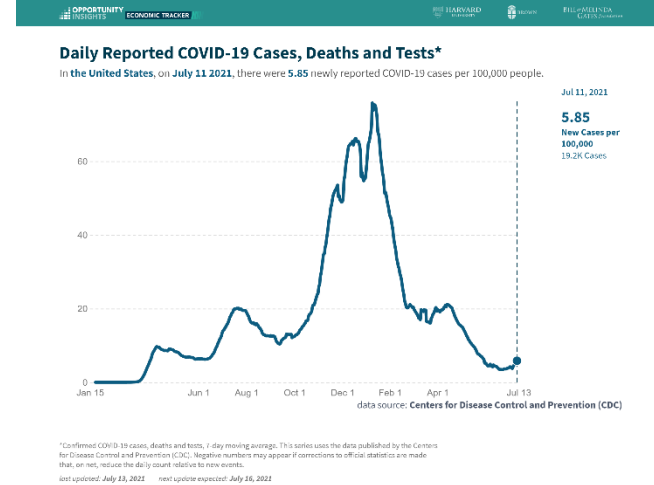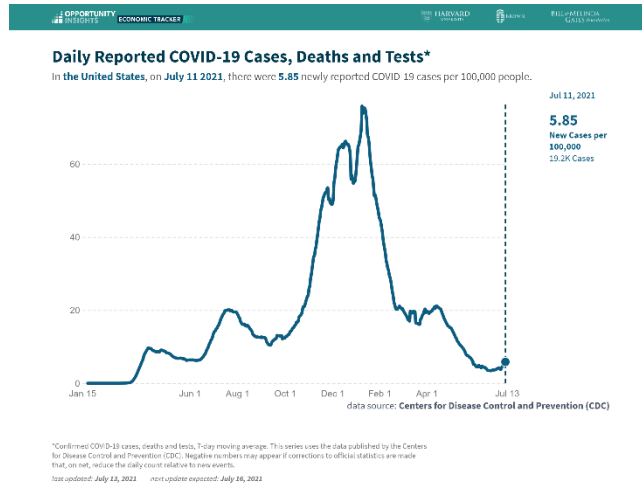
Source: Raj Chetty's Economic Tracker

# Risk of Covid by Age & Gender
## Older people and men have higher risk of infection & death
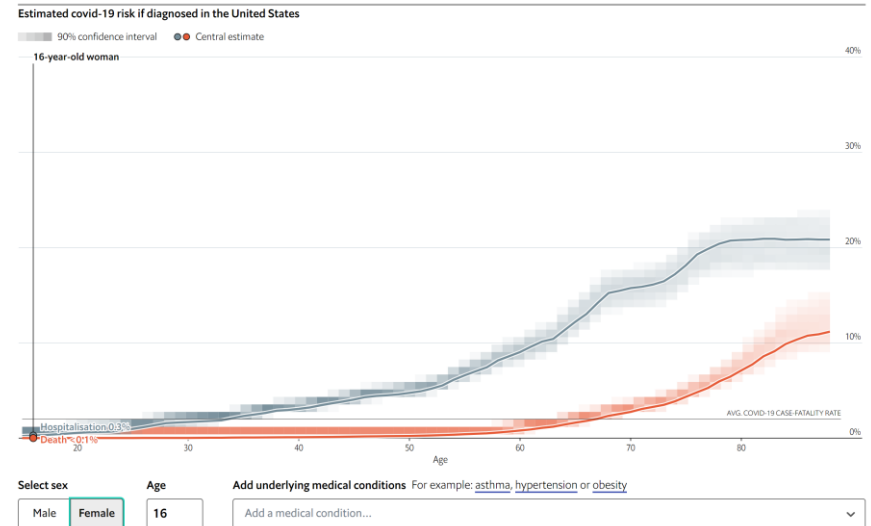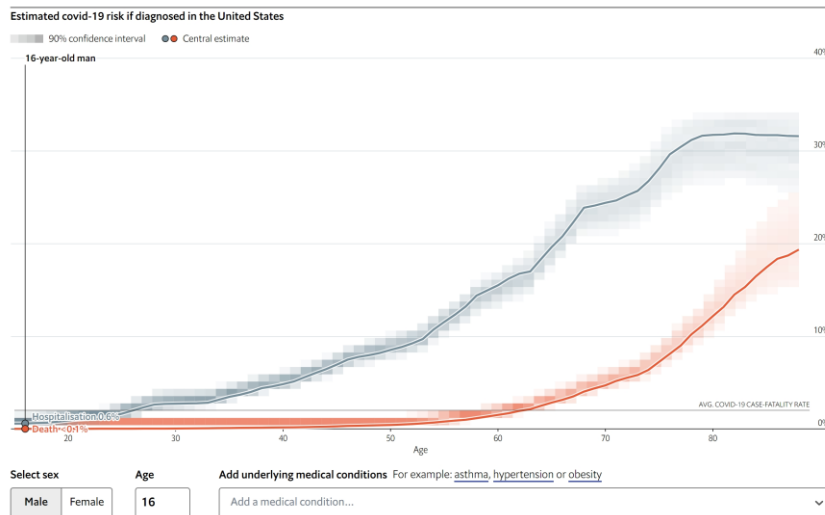


Source: The Economist, 3/11/21

# Precautions shot up at the beginning of the pandemic, but as the vaccine emerged and infection rates went down, precautions declined
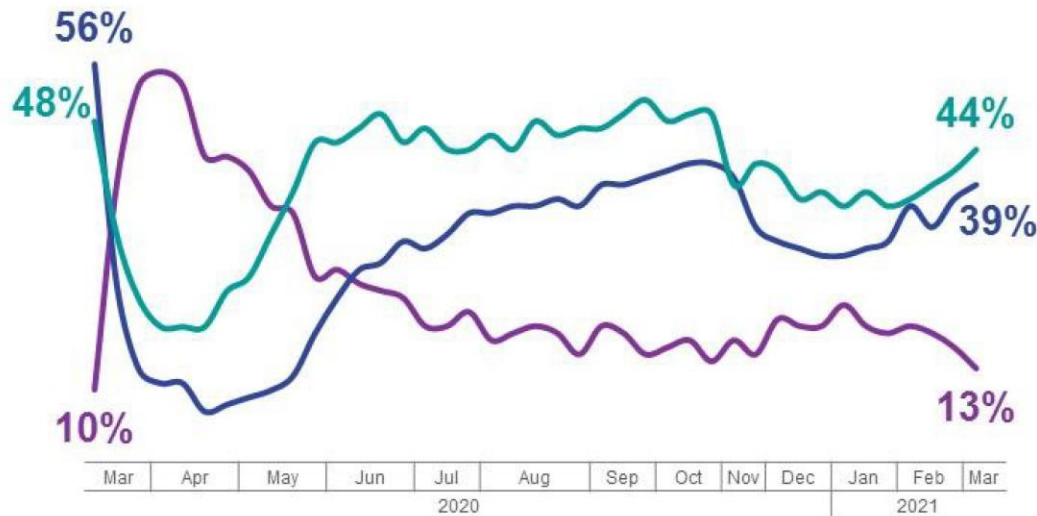


Source: Ipsos

# Americans' willingness to get the vaccine rose from mid-2020 to mid-2021
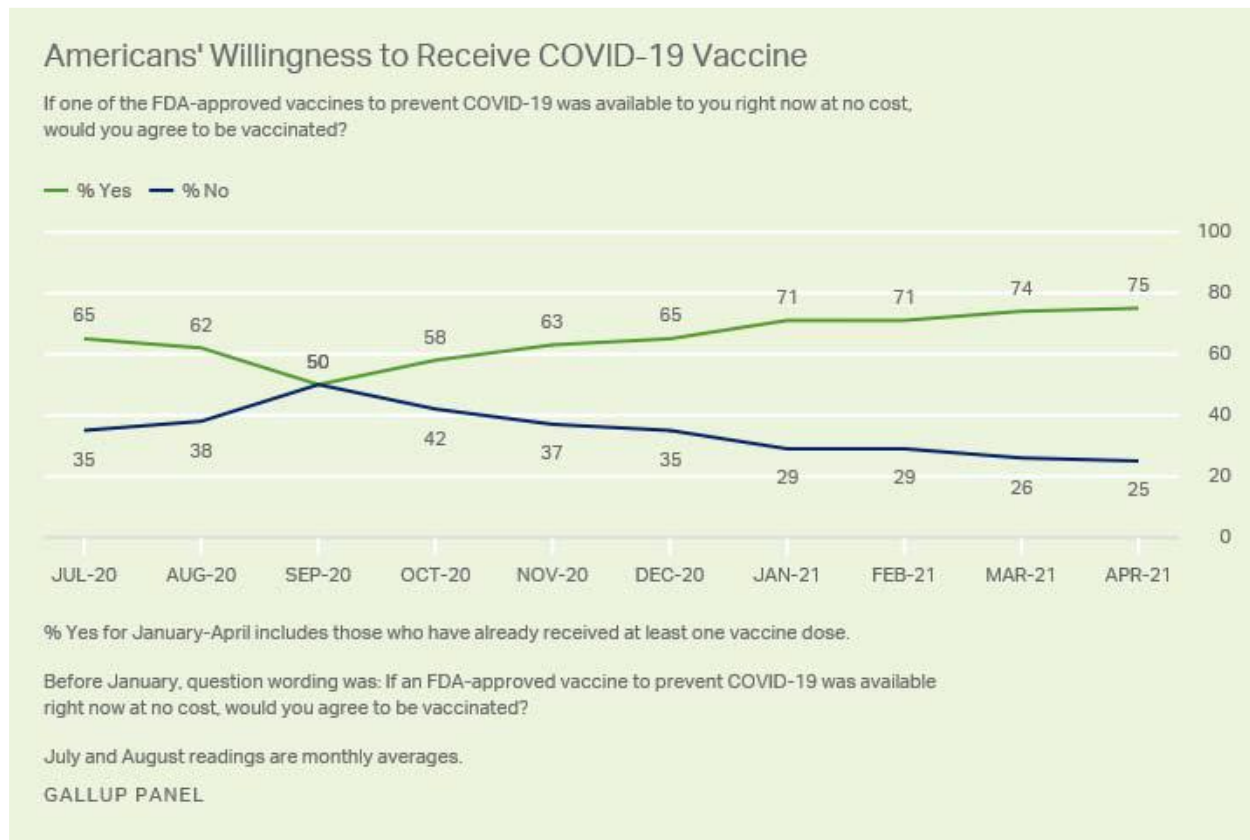


Source: Gallup

# Precautions.

## By late 2020/early 2021, began to attend social gatherings and do things they had stopped doing earlier in the pandemic.

- "I've been to a football game."
- "Most of the people I hang out with, they agree with how they should respond to it. I think we're all kind of over it."
- "Getting outside more often compared to the first wave, and not just limited to grocery shopping. I also went to the mall, travel to other places."
- "More social gathering but we still practice social distancing during our Halloween party."
- "I think people are tired of it and I understand that. I think if you're in a certain age bracket or you have certain pre existing conditions, that gives people more pause to not do those sorts of things."
- "I'm very much in favor of [opening up], because education is extremely important, and so is the economy. While the disease may be harmful to some, the economy is a very big factor to all our livelihoods. You have to weigh that. Personally, I think that is important. Otherwise, you would shut down for the flu or for stomach bug or any other disease that has been out in our public for years. We don't do that so why are we doing it now?"
- "[Students returning to school in college] is a little more dangerous. Because college students are going to have parties. No matter what rules are in place, we're going to have parties."

# Signs of worry & stress shot up in spring 2020, but slowly declined to pre-pandemic levels by winter 2021
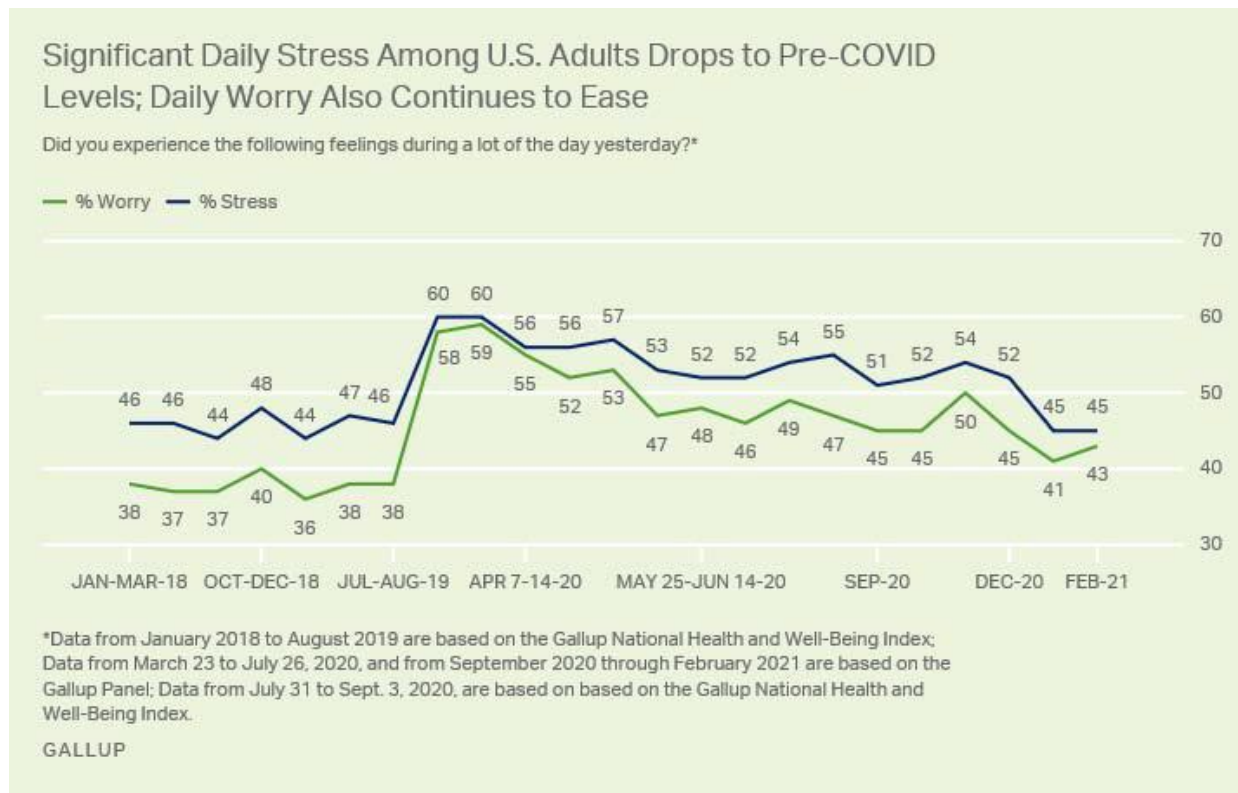


Source: Gallup

**Psychological distress was higher among women, young people, lower income, unemployed, Democrats.
But race and ethnic differences were not as big.**

Source: Pew, 2/16-21/2021



## Income, age and gender are associated with higher levels of psychological distress

*% of U.S. adults who fall into each category of psychological distress*

|  | High distress | Medium distress | Low distress |
|---|---|---|---|
| February 2021 | 21 | 24 | 54 |
| April 2020 | 23 | 25 | 50 |
| March 2020 | 24 | 26 | 49 |
| Men | 16 | 22 | 61 |
| Women | 24 | 25 | 48 |
| White | 21 | 24 | 54 |
| Black | 19 | 25 | 54 |
| Hispanic | 24 | 24 | 51 |
| Asian* | 15 | 19 | 65 |
| Ages 18-29 | 32 | 31 | 36 |
| 30-49 | 21 | 24 | 54 |
| 50-64 | 19 | 23 | 57 |
| 65+ | 13 | 19 | 66 |
| Upper income | 13 | 22 | 65 |
| Middle income | 18 | 24 | 56 |
| Lower income | 31 | 25 | 42 |
| Has a disability | 36 | 23 | 40 |
| No disability | 17 | 24 | 57 |
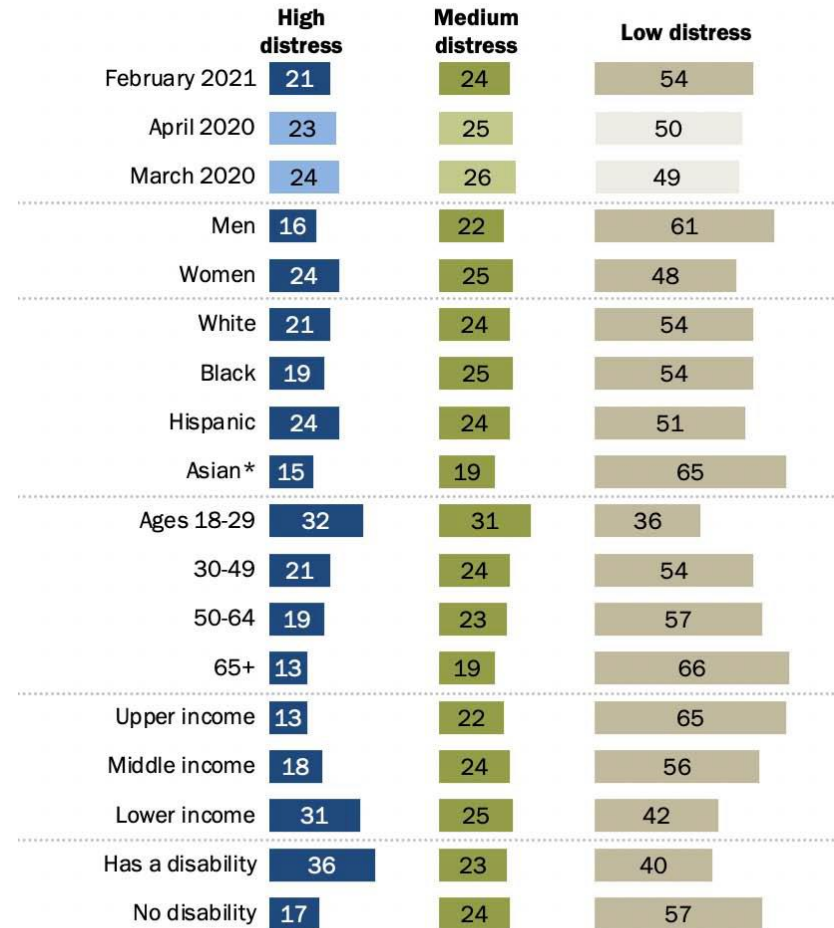
*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.
Note: Additive psychological distress scale based on responses to five standard measures of psychological distress adapted from GAD-7, CES-D, Impact to Event Scale–Revised. Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2019 earnings.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 16-21, 2021.

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# Younger people have more signs of psychological distress
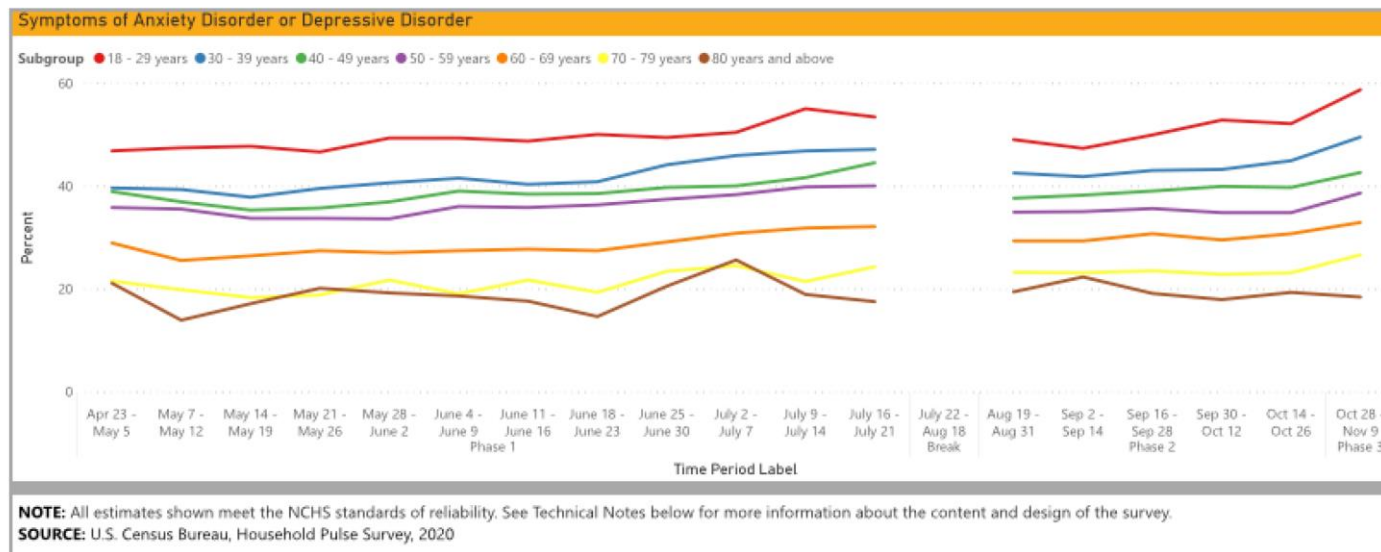


Source: U.S. Census Household Pulse survey

# Younger people are also more likely to have lost jobs

**One-quarter of young adult workers have lost their jobs in the COVID-19 downturn**

*Employed workers, in millions*

| | May 2020 | February 2020 | % loss in COVID-19 downturn | % loss in Great Recession |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ages 16-24 | 14.4 | 19.1 | **-25%** | -15% |
| 25-34 | 31.4 | 36.0 | **-13** | -6 |
| 35-44 | 30.2 | 33.3 | **-9** | -9 |
| 45-54 | 28.6 | 31.8 | **-10** | -3 |
| 55+ | 33.0 | 37.8 | **-13** | 4 |
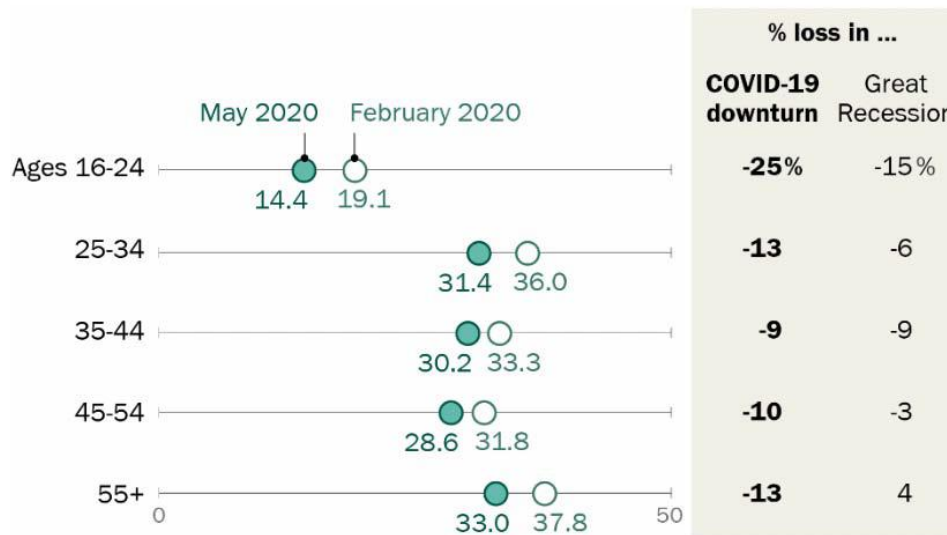
Note: Estimates refer to employed workers ages 16 and older, nonseasonally adjusted. Estimates for 2007 and 2009 refer to the fourth quarter of each year.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Source: Pew

# Psychological distress.

**Earlier in the pandemic, People worried about isolation and loneliness caused by quarantining. Similarly, people expressed a sense of disorientation, or odd hard-to-express feelings.**

- "There's been a great loss of sense of time. What time of the day it is, how did it get to suddenly be time for me to be cooking dinner again? You know, I thought it was three it's actually six. What day of the week it is, what day of the month it is. It was very shocking to me yesterday when I got up and I looked at my phone and it was the second to last day of the month of April and I literally recoiled and did a double take because I had no idea how we suddenly ended the month."

- "I definitely would say that my mental health has taken a big hit. But I've just been trying to journal and kind of talk with my close friends."

- "I'm cut off from my family. The loneliness comes from not being able to have the freedom that I used to have. I used to just go out there and I walk on the walk track that's right behind my house, but when it looks like it's too many people out there, I'm afraid to go out there. I want my freedom back. Yeah, I feel like caged in."

# Psychological distress.
## With the vaccinations underway, negative feelings & experiences, appear to be less significant but are still present

- "At the beginning of the pandemic, because I was in the hospital, I was petrified, didn't know if I was gonna live or die. Then when I got out the hospital, my husband died, so I was very alone. Throughout the process of going through the grieving process, I've developed a better relationship with families and friends. I have a stronger sense of survivals because of this. I interact with others more. I do it because I like people, I'm a people person, but I know that I can't do it the way that I used to. I interact more with people in various ways. Then try to be creative and come up with ways to interact even more so. … I do not feel lonely anymore. I did initially, but most of that was because of grief, going through the stages of bereavement. Now, I am full of family, friends, and love ones so I feel much better."

- "I'm more worried. The people continue not to wear their mask, not to stay six feet apart. They're coming together in groups, and partying… Some people still believe that COVID-19 is not real. That bothers me because as a victim of corona, a survivor of COVID-19, then I know that it is very much real."

# Psychological distress.

## Some people have even found benefits of social distancing, like having more time to slow down, reflect, and be creative.

- "Yeah. When it first happened, the first couple of days, it gave me a chance to relax, to tune in on some things. But as it progressed, it did become stressful seeing the world around us: the lockdown, how everything started to shut down. It becomes stressful at that point. As time went on, it did give me a chance to focus on some things. I started back writing, something I used to do when I was younger. As I grew older I started to doubt whether my work was actually good or not, so I've laid out for a while. When the Coronavirus hit, there was nothing to do so it brought me back to that area of writing and brainstorming. It was the point where I start to become really creative and start to get back in that mode of being inspired by watching different TV shows and movies. Yeah, it was like recentering, it brought me back to the core of things. Before the virus, the world is just like go, go, go, moving at a fast pace. You don't stop to realize and appreciate things. The virus forced us to stop and take a look at different things. It reconnected me to my core."

# Worries & dangers: Crime

## People were worried about problems in their neighborhoods, especially rising crime

- "I sleep with a weapon near me. For the first time in my life, I've come close to carrying a weapon in my truck, but I haven't yet." (interviewee was 76-year-old man)

- "The police are being furloughed here in our city so there is less police presence, which has had an increase in crime. We haven't seen it right here in our neighborhood but it definitely has had a negative impact on the city."

- "Where I live in New Orleans, a lot of times it takes the police a while to come whenever a crime has happened. Yes, I do you worry about that."

- "I've been crying. I've seen some stuff go down in my neighborhood, especially now because I've seen stuff very close, I've seen shootings happen at a very close scale. I get certain times where I have to get down all of a sudden because somebody's shooting. At this point, I'm used to it. That's one of the things being from certain parts of New Orleans. I'm not so concerned about the crime, but at the same time you have to watch yourself, environment, and surroundings."

# Interpersonal conflict

## Public tension: people disagreed about certain precautious (e.g., whether to wear a mask in public or practice social distancing) but people tend to avoid direct conflict

- "I was at Best Buy. I wasn't six feet apart from this from this lady and we were both wearing masks. We had our mask on and as far as I know, masks work. I wasn't six feet apart from her, but she told me to back up. I don't know that kind of aggravated me a little bit because it kind of bothered me. I felt like we were both wearing masks, none of us are going to get COVID and that's pretty much the end of the story. Everything's was gonna be alright. I guess because I wasn't six feet apart, it kind of put her on edge. I feel like some people are more on edge than others."

- "So this can be actually a very sensitive topic. I do think that there's an increased tension."

- [tension between restaurant employees and customers] "There's usually a lot more people in the wait, which becomes a hassle because then people are just hanging around. You gotta tell them to go outside. They get angry."

- [avoidance of confrontation with strangers in public] "Outside the hospital setting, they might get a dirty look or two, but nobody confront someone and says "put it up." I think the kind of person who'll flagrantly not wear a mask isn't somebody you want to confront anyway, they'll likely to just go off. So we leave them alone, but we walk around them. We avoid them."

# Interpersonal conflict
## Tensions between the generations and in the family

- "People in those age groups that are young find, irresponsibly, there's minimal risk. Even if they're asymptomatic they don't care because of their self indulgence."

- "What I worry that college students, some, I'm not going to see all, there's some that won't take it serious enough thinking that it won't happen to them and become not careful and cautious about their surroundings and who they're with and who they been around. Not taking the social distancing, not washing their hands, and not wearing their mask. That's my concern."

- Example of age & family life. The interviewee is a student who is living at home & they're caught in middle of conflict between their parents (the parents disagree about covid response). Remain neutral or side with one parent? "But then I do know even just between my family, during the pandemic, my dad wanted me to travel by plane to go on a vacation and my mom didn't think that it was right. Both of their opinions kind of coming through me took a toll on me, and neither of them were going to get mad at me for going or not going. But I could tell my mom thought it was irresponsible and she was mad at my dad for putting me in that position, then my dad thought that it was completely fine and he was irritated that my mom was working me up about it and stuff like that. So I do think that it changes how people think of their friends, and I think that it changes how they interact with each other."

# Covid has tightened family bonds in many countries (summer 2020).

Source: Pew, Summer 2020

## Many in countries hit hard by COVID-19 say the pandemic has tightened family bonds

*% who say their relationship with immediate family members has become ___ as a result of the coronavirus outbreak*

| | Stronger | Has not changed much | Weaker |
|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 42% | 53% | 5% |
| Italy | 41 | 56 | 3 |
| UK | 41 | 50 | 9 |
| U.S. | 41 | 50 | 8 |
| Canada | 37 | 57 | 6 |
| Belgium | 32 | 57 | 11 |
| France | 32 | 61 | 6 |
| Australia | 32 | 60 | 7 |
| Sweden | 27 | 63 | 9 |
| Denmark | 24 | 71 | 4 |
| Netherlands | 24 | 67 | 9 |
| Germany | 21 | 65 | 13 |
| Japan | 18 | 79 | 3 |
| South Korea | 18 | 72 | 10 |
| 14-COUNTRY MEDIAN | 32 | 61 | 8 |
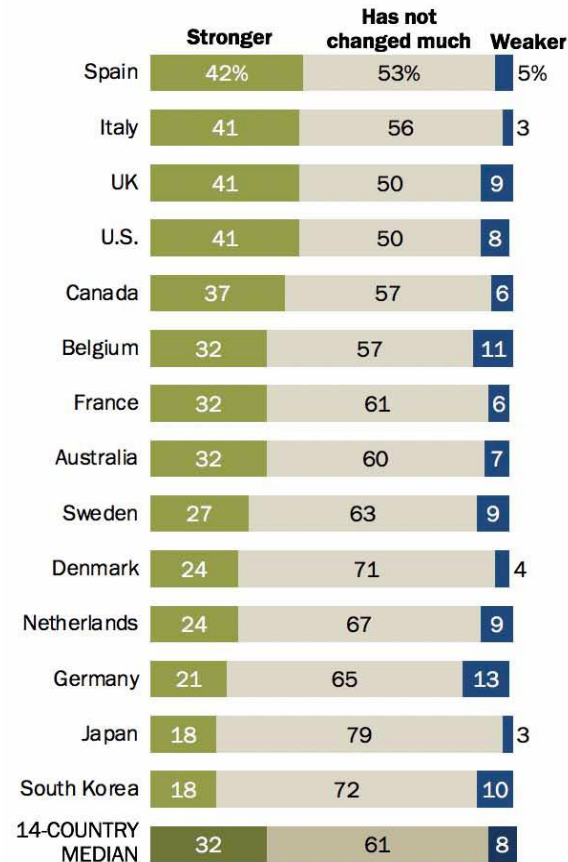
Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. In Australia and Canada, the question asked about "COVID-19." In Japan, it asked about "the novel coronavirus," and in South Korea, it asked about "Corona19."
Source: Summer 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q2c.
"More Americans Than People in Other Advanced Economies Say COVID-19 Has Strengthened Religious Faith"

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# Covid has tightened family bonds in many cases

- "I have been able to soak up extra time with my family that I wouldn't have had because I would have been at school."

- "Well, everybody's thinking, "bad, bad, bad!" But the positive side to this whole thing if you can find one, I'll say it's bringing families together. Immediate families. I have so enjoyed. I can't speak for them because I probably would not get it right. But we have enjoyed having the girls here together. Amery home early, and then Tilly. Of course, when all together my mother's here and we've done a lot of fun things. We've cooked a lot together. We've had dinner a lot together. We've been outside. We've swam, we've laid out, spend a lot of time together. We've played games. We've tie-dyed, we've painted, we've worked in the yard, planted flowers—which is one of the really great things is still going on, people are still loving the plant mark in the yard. I think it's slowed people down. And it has made them realize, that there's more important things and rushing around in life. So that's a positive to it. And I've enjoyed every second of that aspect of it."

- "I definitely think that my relationships have gotten a lot stronger, especially since I had to spend six months with just my mom and my sister. Yeah."

# By the same token, more young adults are living back with their parents



**COVID-19 disruptions associated with a large increase in the share of young adults living with parent(s)**

*% of 18- to 29-year-olds in U.S. living with a parent*
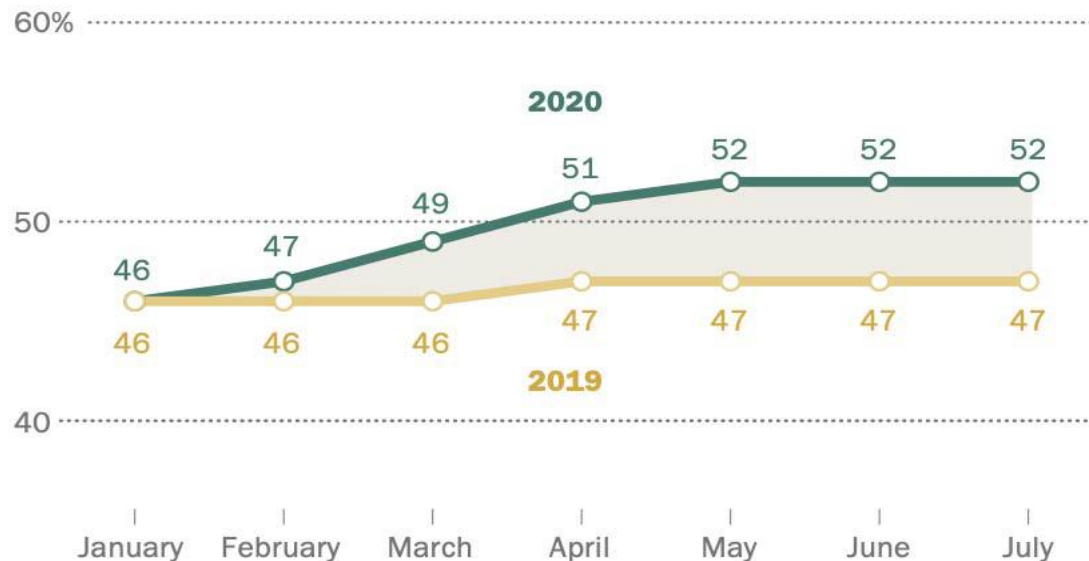
Note: "Living with a parent" refers to those who are residing with at least one parent in the household.
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2019 and 2020 Current Population Survey monthly files.

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# Community Assistance
## New and inventive ways of coming together

- Some people didn't see any. "If you think about it, Hurricane Katrina is kind of a great example where we had this horrible event that occurred here. But people could come together you know, you have your neighbors, fed your neighbors, everybody got together and grilled what was in their freezer that they were going to lose anyway and fed whoever needed to eat and you can't do that now. So the way that we that we have traditionally gotten through things like this is basically the one thing you can't do now."

- "Yeah, a good example is response to the hurricanes and the provision of food, all the massive drive thru operations for distributing food to people that need it. To distribute needed items via drive thru format."

- "Yeah, we experienced that after Katrina, here in New Orleans where everybody did come together in person to help and I would say that I see more people on the next door neighbor app offering to help out elderly neighbors, bring them groceries and do things for them. And I think that we will see that increasing, the more confident people get about going out."

- "Oh god yes. And yes, I can't even say that enough. There have just been a ridiculously amounts of work being done by the community. ... We had restaurants and just businesses everywhere, sending treats and sending lunch and dinner to the nurses around the clock, to the health care workers, even the ones who are at home. We're getting free meals, you know, just come." (registered nurse at hospital)

- "People organize more events online to help people with whatever they need whether that be mental health or other social services."

- "Social injustice has brought people together in a different way. I've seen a lot of people on social media outlets that have been using their platforms as a way to raise awareness. I've had people that added me into groups on Facebook with thousands of other black theatre artists, so it's brought people together so we can all help each other get through what's called a difficult time for us."

# Community Assistance
## Community organizations assisting others

- "The service organization that I belong to, we donated Thanksgiving meals to families that are in need, worked with some other community agencies to make sure that the kids have the proper things that they need at home when they were taking zoom classes. We also were able to periodically provide food, pay rent, utility bills, those kinds of things."

- "We had grown a garden when the corona started and started with chickens so we would give people some eggs and fruits and vegetables."

- "We did hurricane relief drives throughout the hurricanes that hit Lake Charles and we've gathered a bunch of supplies for those people and brought it down to them and help them fix up their houses. I also, during Thanksgiving, for my job, went around and picked up Thanksgiving baskets for each of the properties that we own and deliver them to Baton Rouge Food Bank."

- "Religious organizations have helped. Rotary Clubs and business community organizations have done a lot of outreach for COVID."

- "Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America, they're kind of like mentors and counselors for the kids. We've had people bring food for the kids - food drives, clothing drives. We've had some financial donations."

- "I got a letter in the mail one day, and it was filled with cards from people who make cards as a hobby. They heard that I had cancer from a distant relative. I got about, I don't know, 25 or 30 cards from people that I don't know. I'll get a message on Twitter or Facebook, saying that I've been put on a prayer list in another state, churches that I don't go to have me on prayer lists."

# Partisanship.

**Democrats see Covid as a health danger far more than Republicans, but parties don't differ much in assessment of threat to the economy**

Source: Pew

## Far more Democrats than Republicans see COVID-19 as major threat to the health of the U.S. public

*% who say the coronavirus outbreak is a major threat to the health of the U.S. population as a whole ...*



Dem/Lean Dem

78  82  85

66  64  67

U.S. adults

59

47  43  46

33  52

Rep/Lean Rep
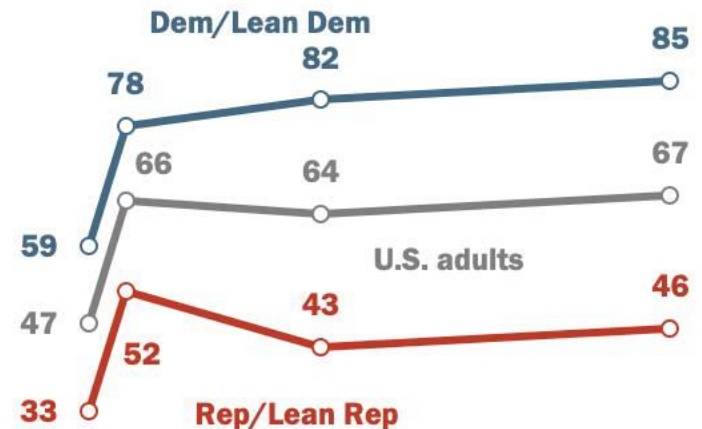
March        May        July

Source: Survey conducted July 13-19, 2020.

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## Partisanship.
**Democrats are much more likely to take precautions than Republicans, and more likely to want or get vaccines**

Source: Pew

### Republicans and Democrats are far more divided on ways to address coronavirus than at start of outbreak

*% of U.S. adults who say each of the following are necessary to address the coronavirus outbreak*

|  | Mar. 2020 | Feb. 2021 |
|---|---|---|
| ● Rep/lean Rep ● Dem/lean Dem | | |
| Requiring face masks for travel on airplanes and public transportation | Not asked | 72 ● ● 96 |
| Restricting international travel to the U.S. | 94 ● 96 | 71 ● ● 87 |
| Asking people to avoid gathering in large groups* | 82 ● ● 92 | 56 ● ● 93 |
| Limiting restaurants to carry-out only | 78 ● ● 91 | 23 ● ● 74 |
| Closing K-12 schools for in-person learning* | 85 ● ● 94 | 25 ● ● 66 |

0      100    0      100
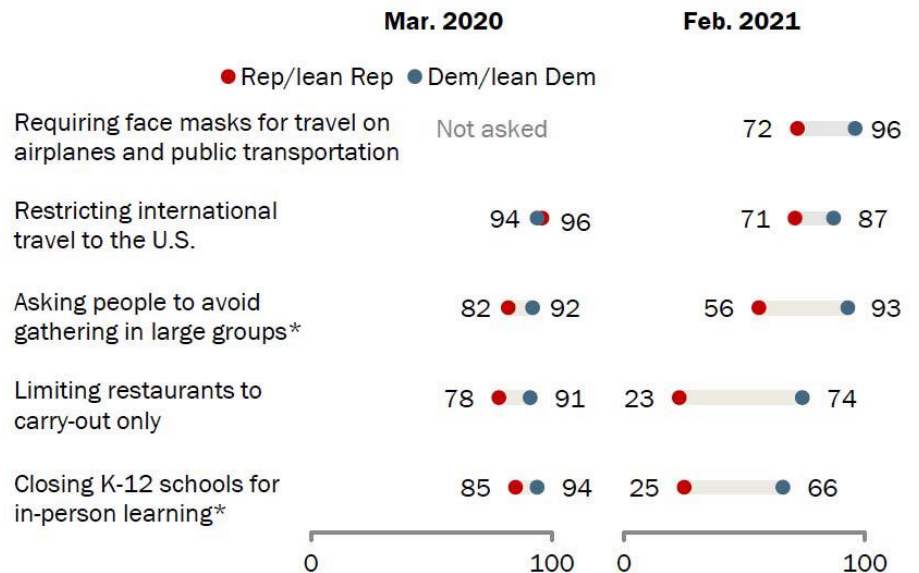
*See Topline for details on wording differences between Mar. 2020 and Feb. 2021 surveys.
Note: Respondents who gave other responses or did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey conducted Feb. 16-21, 2021.
"Growing Share of Americans Say They Plan To Get a COVID-19 Vaccine – or Already Have"

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# Partisanship.
## People feel that health issues have been politicized and don't like that.

- "This year is the ugliest year I've ever seen. I think there are a lot of people using this pandemic for both sides and the way that they think - we'll get votes in a few days. I'll be interested to see, after the election, the runoff, the lawsuits, and all the ugliness, it's going to come, how do we get back together again, as a society?"

- "COVID is so ticky tacky. It came out of nowhere. Then people relate healthcare to COVID. Whenever you're talking about health care, the politicians always talk about COVID in health care. They shouldn't even be talking about COVID politically. Everyone should just drop politics in general and should just try to find a solution to fix this pandemic, to overcome this pandemic."

- "Another main thing is that wearing a mask is being very politicized. People are connecting wearing a mask to the Constitution, where they are declining to wear a mask, because it limits their freedom that is stated by the Constitution that everybody has. I think that it shouldn't be that way."

- "I believe that the healthcare system has really become politicized."

- "They're using it as a political initiative. This is serious. This is not about politics. This is about life and death, that's what this is about. Life and death."

# Partisanship.

## Trust in information, news media, social media, & politicians is highly partisan. There is widespread distrust of information.

- "That is a lot of information. I don't do social media very well. I kind of quit taking on the news. I know that sounds terrible, but it doesn't really have a lot of good things to say. Unless they change to tell me something good, I'm okay with that."

- "I think, right now, we have a serious problem with the media. Are they telling the stories they need to tell? I think they're so focused on telling the stories they want to tell and trying to tell us how to think."

- "One month they tell you masks aren't effective then the next they tell you that they are effective, and they just seem to contradict. Every month they just go back and forth. They can't seem to make up their mind. Government officials or even mainstream media, they just seem to cause more fear and panic than a sense of calm or unity or agreeance. It seems like no one knows how to handle the situation."

- "I definitely do not trust. I guess I semi trust the general gist of the information that is given. It's Twitter, probably a lot of stuff is a little misconstrued."

# Race, BLM, Demonstrations.

**Most people are worried about an increase in Covid cases
from the demonstrations.
It is heavily partisan, but notably,
minorities are more worried than whites.**

Figure 5

## A Majority Of The Public Are Worried About Increase In Coronavirus Cases From Protests

How worried are you, if at all, that recent protests may lead to an increase in coronavirus cases in your area?

■ Worried    ■ Not worried

| | Worried | Not worried |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 56% | 43% |
| Democrats | 73% | 27% |
| Independents | 56% | 43% |
| Republicans | 37% | 62% |
| White, non-Hispanic | 52% | 47% |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 68% | 31% |
| Hispanic | 71% | 29% |

SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted June 8-14, 2020). See topline for full question wording.

**KFF**
HENRY J KAISER
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Source: KFF

# Race, BLM, Demonstrations.
## Blacks are worried about an increase in Covid cases from the demonstrations. They also worry about discrimination due to masking.

- "I saw something somebody posted somewhere that black people are going through two pandemics, COVID-19 and racism."
- "It's always the right time to fight for what was right. During Corona, I don't think so. I'm not gonna pick a side, because I'm not completely sure."
- They said, "don't worry you don't need to wear masks." I wasn't [concerned]. When I go in public spaces, my grandma gave me a bandana. The bandana is nice and all but it's... I'm Black. Wearing a bandana around your face makes you look like a robber. Being Black and looking like a robber isn't really.. I don't need to get shot is what I'm saying. So it's kind of in my list of worries."
- But many whites also see danger. "I think it's definitely there was an increase just because if you're getting that many people together that often because like, protests are still going on so like there's people meeting up pretty regularly. I think no matter how many - if all of them wear masks and all of them sanitize and stuff, I think there's still going to be an increase." (white female college student)

# Race, BLM, Demonstrations.

**There is also a strong sense of community and support/responsibility, of caring for others within the community.**

- "Because we all have a response. To protect each other. And if that was the goal, then that was what my mindset was. It's never about me individually. It's more about me, helping my community because New Orleans was hard hit with not just the virus, but the amount of people that was dying in this city."

- "And the amount of support that I've seen at the protests that I've attended by non-black people has been incredible. I know that it's a sense of community. ... But, I know here, the sense of community, it runs deep. ... But we look out for each other. We look out for the kids in our block in our neighborhood, and that type of thing. And you see people come together very quickly here, because maybe, maybe it's because we have such a large black community in the city."

# Americans' willingness to get the vaccine varies across social groups

Majorities Across Demographic Groups Are At Least Somewhat Open To COVID-19 Vaccine; Older Adults, Democrats Most Enthusiastic; Younger Adults, Republicans Least Enthusiastic

Have you personally received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or not? When an FDA authorized vaccine for COVID-19 is available to you for free, do you think you will…?

■ Already received at least one dose  ■ Get vaccinated ASAP  ■ Wait and see  ■ Only if required  ■ Definitely not

| | Already received at least one dose | Get vaccinated ASAP | Wait and see | Only if required | Definitely not |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ages 65 and older | 76% | | | 8% | 10% |
| Democrats | 70% | | 10% | 12% | |
| College graduates | 75% | | | 8% | 8% |
| Individual w/serious health condition | 64% | | 8% | 13% | 10% |
| Ages 50-64 | 63% | | 7% | 13% | 12% |
| White adults | 60% | 6% | 13% | 6% | 13% |
| Suburban residents | 58% | 9% | 13% | | 14% |
| Hispanic adults | 47% | 17% | 18% | 7% | 9% |
| Urban residents | 55% | 9% | 19% | 6% | 9% |
| Total | 56% | 9% | 15% | 6% | 13% |
| No serious health condition | 52% | 9% | 16% | 7% | 13% |
| Independents | 48% | 11% | 19% | 7% | 13% |
| White Evangelical Christians | 54% | 13% | | 6% | 20% |
| Black adults | 51% | 9% | 19% | 7% | 13% |
| Ages 30-49 | 48% | 11% | 16% | 7% | 16% |
| Adults without a college degree | 48% | 10% | 19% | 7% | 15% |
| Republicans | 52% | 14% | | 8% | 20% |
| Rural residents | 50% | 16% | | 9% | 17% |
| Ages 18-29 | 40% | 10% | 24% | 12% | 12% |

NOTE: See topline for full question wording.
SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor (April 15-29, 2021)

**KFF COVID-19**
**Vaccine Monitor**

# Race, Medicine, Vaccines.

**There is also distrust of medicine & vaccines due to past history of unethical treatment of black population.**

- "It depends. I talked about the Tuskegee Syphilis experiment and if it was to come out, I wouldn't take it, because it's in it's early stages of coming out and they have to test it."

- "Let me ask the million dollar question. There's people saying they want us to take this vaccine. The answer of the question of trust is the foremost concern because if you trust them, then there's no problem, we should take the vaccine. It's not like these institutions that are telling us what to do haven't lied to us before. It's hard to know. I was just watching the interview about this and it made so much sense because they're basically saying stay inside the house only, don't leave. We got this. We're gonna help you out. It's like, "Okay, do I want to trust this?" Before even more, because they hadn't tried to ease restrictions yet. Before, you couldn't really deny it really. You had to accept it and live with that reality because that's what most people were doing. But it's inconclusive. I don't know if I trust it."

# In-Depth interviews with New Orleans community leaders.
## Examples

- Many of them learned disaster response after Hurricane Katrina.
- Some of the emergent organizations from that time are now established mid-level nonprofits. (And some even complain about new emergent organizations!)
- Some of these mid-level nonprofits have developed innovative connections to block-level neighborhood leaders.
- These connections form a kind of "From the Firehose to the Capillaries" structure. The mid-level organizations bring massive amounts of food or other supplies into the city, and the neighborhood leaders help distribute it to needy people who might otherwise be missed.
- In all cases, leaders are highly cognizant of infection risks and take extensive precautions to keep everyone safe.

# Thank you

# Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Anxiety, Isolation, Dispute, and Support

**Presented at the Researchers Meeting of the
2021 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Broomfield, Colorado
July 15, 2021**

**(Supported by the National Science Foundation)**

**By Frederick D. Weil, Oliver Garretson, and Jiabin Fan, LSU,
and Alison Qi, Columbia University**

**Rick Weil
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# Racial Differences in Response to COVID-19: Solidarity, Vulnerability, and Social Justice

*Presented at the Researchers Meeting, Plenary Session*
*of the 2022 Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop*
*July 13, 2022*

By Dr. Frederick Weil, Samantha Ramey,

Oliver Garretson, Jiabin Fan, and Alison Qi, LSU & Columbia U.

Rick Weil
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# Methodology

- Sampling: not probability, but diverse
- Demographics
- Open-ended, qualitative with a questionnaire protocol
- Future plans: quantifying the responses

# Student Interviewers & Transcribers

|  |  | NSF Interviewers | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  | No | Yes |  |
| **NSF** | No |  | 15 | 15 |
| **Transcribers** | Yes | 38 | 65 | 103 |
|  |  | 38 | 80 | 118 |

**Interviewed for class credit** 141

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| | |
|---|---|
| **Total Interviewers** | **221** |
| **Total Transcribers** | **103** |
| **Total Undergrad participants** | **259** |

# Methods Notes

- Focus on community response – beyond vulnerability, impact, & material resources
- Weil a survey analyst since 1970s.  Previous work:
  - Democratization surveys in Europe, 1945-1990s
  - Disaster surveys since Hurricane Katrina
    - 7,000 response survey
    - 100 response survey of Neighborhood Assn Presidents
    - 150 Open-ended qualitative interviews
  - Neighborhoods Portraits interviews
- Covid.  Decided not to do quantitative surveys.  Rather, qualitative, using a protocol.
- Took page from traditional European quota sampling.  Leveraged LSU student diversity.
  - Students interviewed people they know, remotely on Zoom or in household
    - Produced more intimate interviews
  - Hired 118 students thru grant to do interviewing and transcribing
  - 141 students also did interviews as part of classwork
  - Total: 221 student interviewers
  - Total: 259 total undergraduate participants
  - Half dozen grad students have also worked on the project

Respondent Demographics
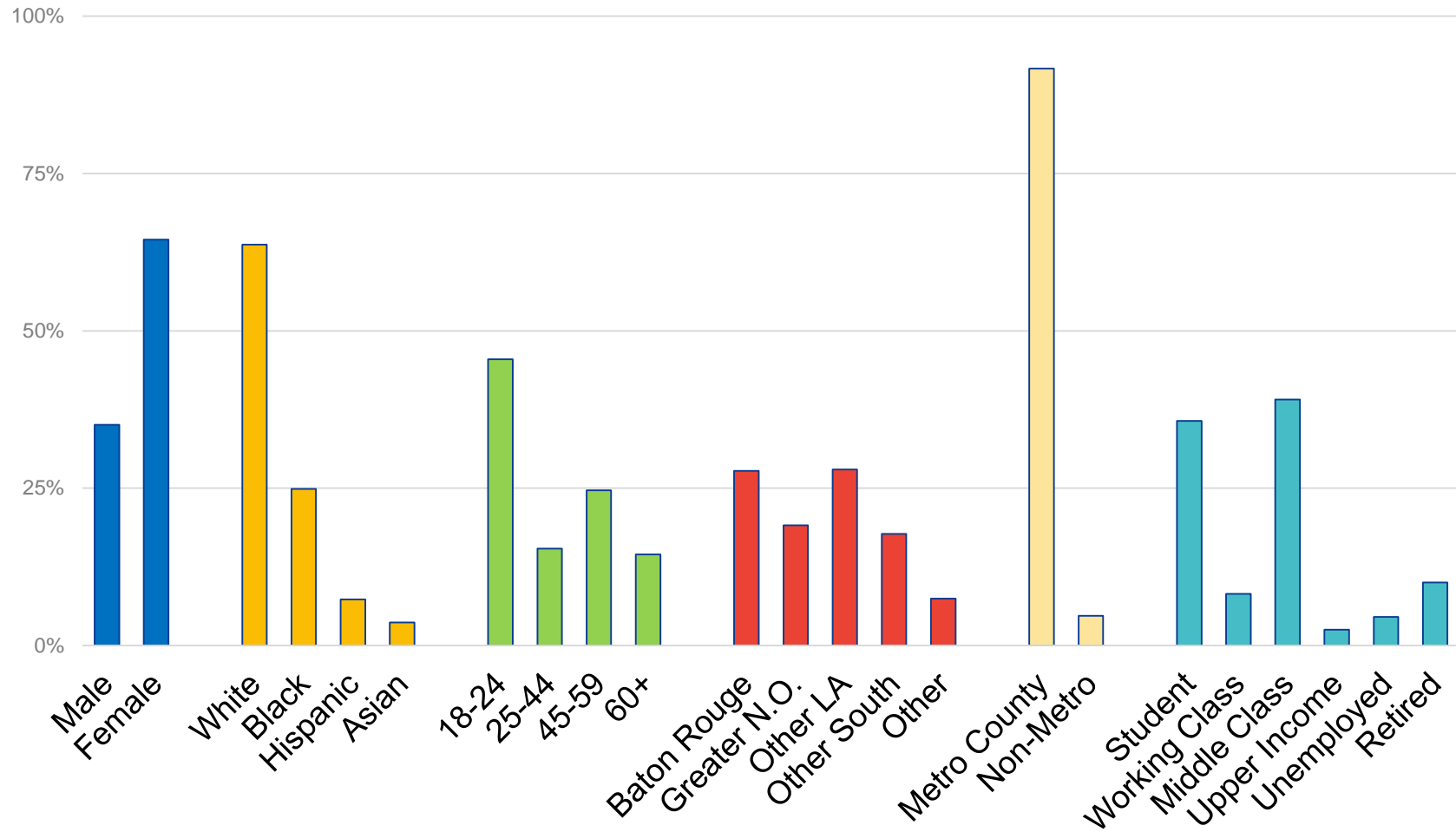
# Sample & Analysis Notes

- Collected ca. 650 interviews, of which 450 are good.
  - Interviewing took place from March/April, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2021, covering the initial arc of the pandemic, from the outbreak to the current extent of vaccination
  - Interviews mostly in Louisiana, but some elsewhere
  - Not a probability sample, but diverse, reflecting the population
    - Demographics
  - Note: 118 interviews with Blacks

- Interviews recorded & transcribed, yielding 10,000 +/- pages of transcripts.

- We have done several levels of mark-up of transcripts.
  - Incl 4 Black undergrads, Samantha Ramey, & Weil, meeting through last summer, in preparation for this paper.

- We are now processing transcripts for themes, and are part-way through.

- We also plan to quantify the survey responses, yielding a non-probability sample of 650
  - We also use external quantitative polling results and public health data to put our qualitative findings into perspective
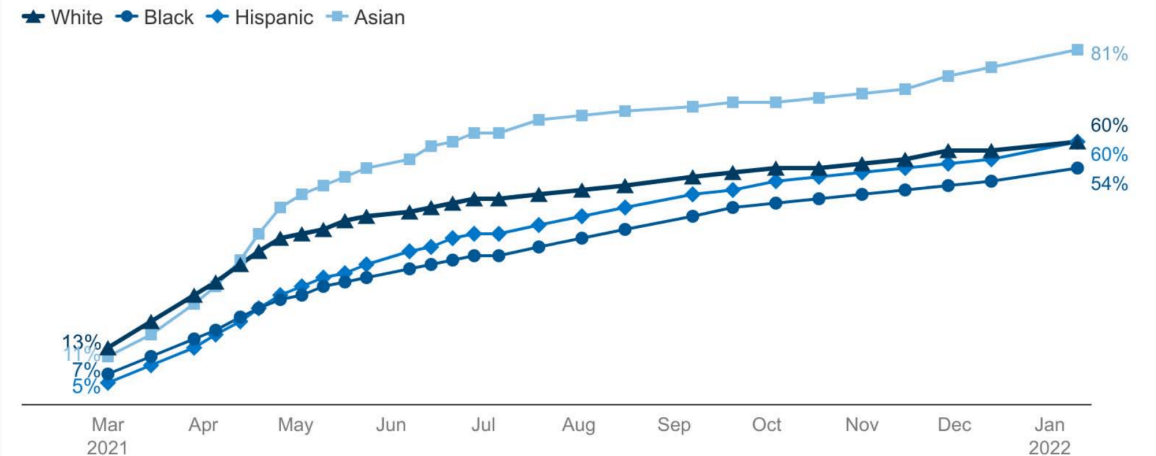
# Key Themes

- Pandemic Safety Measures
- Vulnerability
- Psychological Distress
- Trust and Doubt
- Development of Resilience
- Social Justice

# Pandemic Safety Measures

- Attitude towards-
  - Masks
  - Quarantine/Reopening
  - Social distancing

- Strong reaction to vaccines

Figure 3

## Percent of Total Population that Has Received at Least One COVID-19 Vaccine Dose by Race/Ethnicity, March 1 to January 10, 2022

White — Black — Hispanic — Asian

81%

60%
60%
54%

13%
11%
7%
5%

Mar 2021 · Apr · May · Jun · Jul · Aug · Sep · Oct · Nov · Dec · Jan 2022

SOURCE: Vaccination data based on KFF analysis of publicly available data on state websites; total population data used to calculate rates based on KFF analysis of 2019 American Community Survey data. Number of states included in analysis varies based on available data at time of data collection.

KFF

# Pandemic Safety Measures Notes 1

We find that our respondents, for the most part, were willing to follow pandemic safety protocols. With regards to specific measures, respondents did not consider the mask mandates, social distancing, quarantine practices to be unfair, but necessary, and something that everyone should take part in to slow the spread of the virus. Some respondents also expressed a desire for reopening at some point for the sake of helping small and local businesses.

Many of these same respondents also tended to admonish those who chose not to follow these guidelines.

We believe that the respondents are paying a bit of LIP SERVICE to these safety measures, as the respondents were quick to express their support of these measures, with little dissent presented or commented on. However, we found there to be stronger reactions when questioned on the idea of receiving a vaccine. A few people were accepting of the idea of getting vaccinated. More commonly, however, respondents expressed their issues with trust in the vaccine itself and/or the medical system administering it.

# Pandemic Safety Measures Notes 2

For example, a different 20 year old Black Female from the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area referenced the Tuskegee Syphilis experiments as a major deterrent for receiving the vaccine. Others would cite other reasons such as the vaccines not having been tested properly, possible side effects, religious reasons, or that they had contracted COVID already and now have antibodies. Then you also have the people who are just antivaxxers and avoid all vaccines anyway.

Then we had some who were initially hesitant, but came around to accepting the vaccine due to: seeing peers or people in authority take it, a desire to protect their loved ones, and to just follow mandates.
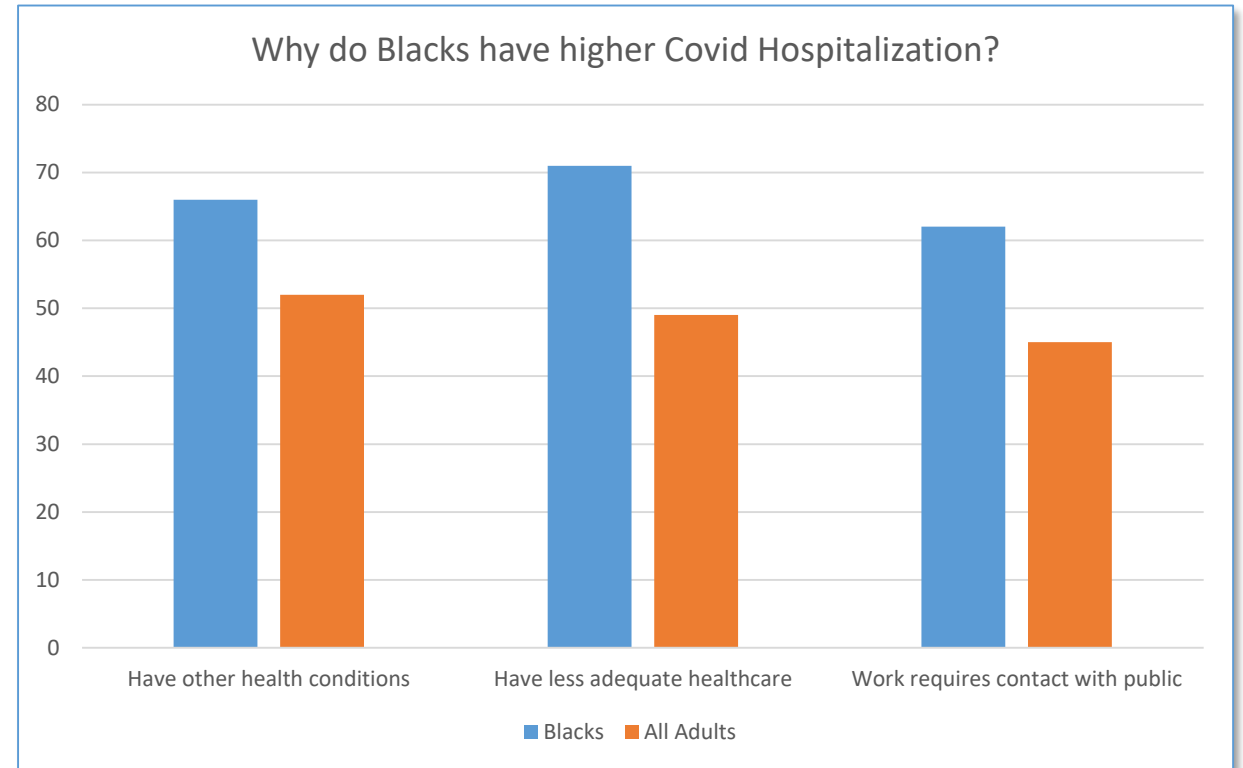
We also see on the right side in the chart from Pew that blacks lagged behind other races when it came to receiving vaccinations, but soon caught up.

# Vulnerability

- Pre-existing vulnerabilities are well-known inside and outside the black community-
  - Medical, economic

Why do Blacks have higher Covid Hospitalization?

Source: Pew, June 2020

# Vulnerability Notes

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light the pre-existing vulnerabilities within the black community. For example, on the medical side, respondents would speak on how black and brown people have been disproportionately affected by the virus due to having more underlying health issues/comorbidities.
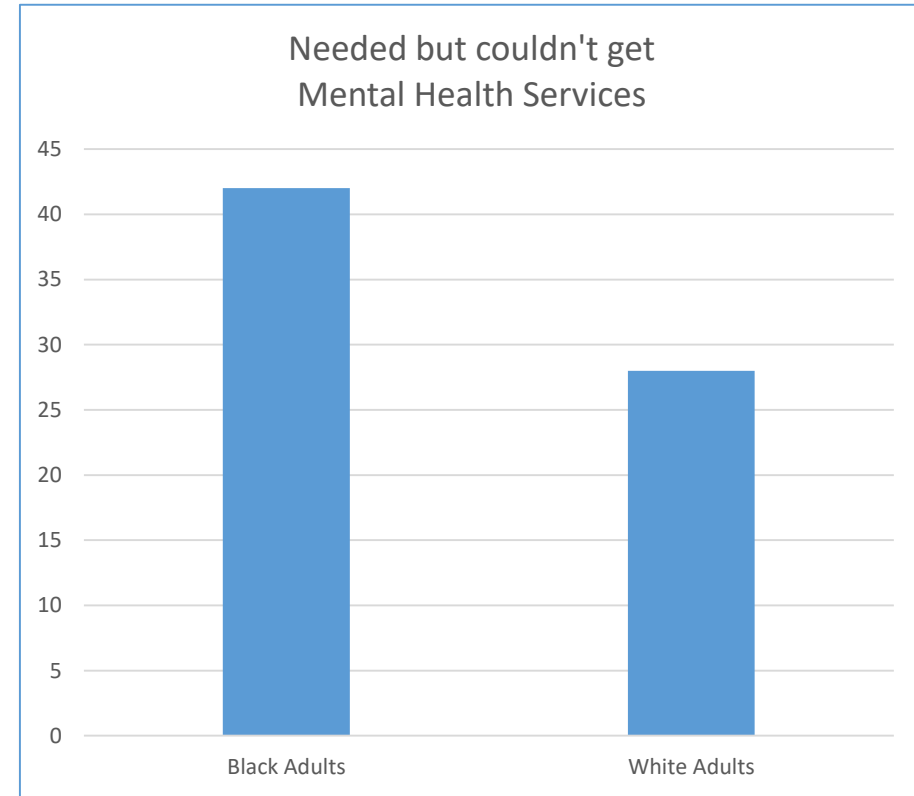
On the economic side, you have respondents stating that members of the black community cannot easily follow COVID safety measures due to living with more people in smaller homes. Respondents also bemoaned the loss of jobs in the hospitality industry, especially in Southern Louisiana, which is a tourist-haven that, understandably, would need to have a plethora of jobs in hospitality. Specifically, a 37 y/o black female from BR states that those jobs, the one in the restaurants, hotels are "our jobs", and since many of them are gone or on hold or what have you, the Black community has suffered economically as a result.

The chart in the slide taken from PEW shows these vulnerabilities as well.

# Psychological Distress

- Sources of distress-
  - Impact of disconnection and isolation

Needed but couldn't get
Mental Health Services

| | Black Adults | White Adults |
|---|---|---|
| Value | ~42 | ~28 |

Source: KFF, March 2021

# Psychological Distress Notes

Our respondents shared how remaining separated from others at the beginning of the pandemic negatively impacted their mental health. Common sentiments include feeling lonely or cut off in the first few months, which resulted in the development of anxiety and depression. A 61 y/o Black female from BR lamented over how even though she could talk to people over the phone, no one could come visit her at her house, and the only people that would come would be food deliverers who dropped off food at your door "like you're a cat." Some even believed that the physical impacts of contracting COVID was small compared to the overwhelming and devastating loneliness that one felt as they stayed separated from loved ones.
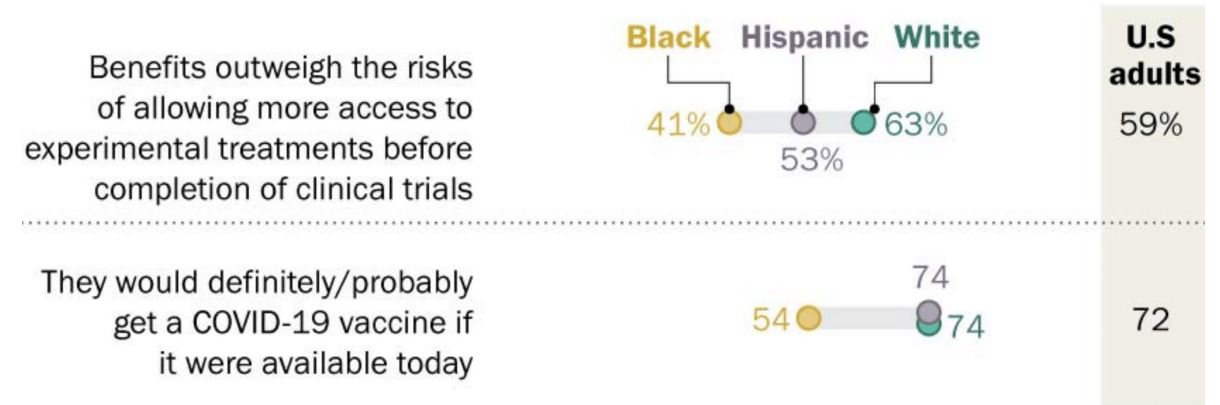
The chart on the ride shows how a higher percentage of blacks, as opposed to whites were unable to find mental health services.

# Trust and Doubt

- Differing levels of trust towards-
  - Medicine and healthcare
  - News sources
  - Government
  - Politicization

**Black Americans are more skeptical of experimental treatments, potential COVID-19 vaccine than Hispanic and white adults**

*% of U.S. adults who say ...*

|  | Black | Hispanic | White | U.S adults |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benefits outweigh the risks of allowing more access to experimental treatments before completion of clinical trials | 41% | 53% | 63% | 59% |
| They would definitely/probably get a COVID-19 vaccine if it were available today | 54 | 74 | 74 | 72 |

Note: Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.
Source: Survey conducted April 29-May 5, 2020.

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# Trust and Doubt Notes

Respondents expressed varying levels of trust towards specific topics, which include medicine and healthcare, news sources, the government, and politicization of the pandemic.

We have already touched upon distrust regarding the vaccine at the beginning of the presentation, so I'll go into a little more detail.

Of course, we had people cite the history of medical abuse of the black community, having cited Tuskegee by name. Some also said that racism in the medical field continues to this day and that it's not just an issue that occurred in the past, which for them is a valid reason for not getting vaccinated. On the other hand, we have some that said, yes, we know these things happened in the past, but times are different now. We've come a long way. So once again, differing opinions popped up in the interviews.

We see instances of this distrust in the chart on the right.

# A Story…

- …of two middle-aged black women that vividly illustrates the black community's ability to overcome adversity :
  - Both had COVID-19 and felt close to death
  - Both lost husbands to COVID, one lost a cousin, sister, and best friend
  - But they remained resilient. How did they do it?

# A Story… Notes

Another story, a bit more personal, that illustrates the black community's ability to overcome adversity.

We had two middle-aged black women in our pool of respondents. Both were supervisors in the field of social services. Both had contracted COVID and felt close to death at the peak of their illness. Both lost their husbands, with one also losing a sister, cousin, and best friend. However, both of these women maintained a striking level of resilience in the midst of these tragic times. We will now look into how they, and our other respondents, developed such resiliency.
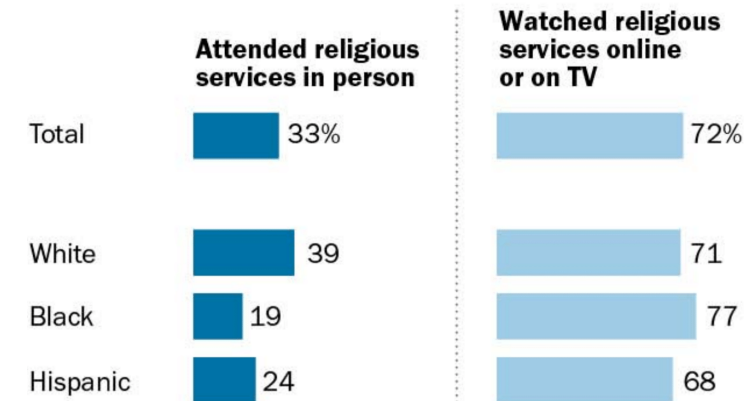
# Development of Resilience

- Social support-
  - Religion
  - Community
  - Family
- Personal growth

**Black, Hispanic worshippers less likely than their white counterparts to attend in-person services during pandemic**

*Among U.S. adults who typically attend religious services at least monthly, % who say that in the last month they have …*

|  | Attended religious services in person | Watched religious services online or on TV |
|---|---|---|
| Total | 33% | 72% |
| White | 39 | 71 |
| Black | 19 | 77 |
| Hispanic | 24 | 68 |

Note: White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Source: Survey conducted July 13-19, 2020, among U.S. adults.

"Americans Oppose Religious Exemptions From Coronavirus-Related Restrictions"

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# Development of Resilience Notes 1

These women both adhered to a specific from of religious faith. One woman felt she was designated by God to carry on and help those in need. The other woman said, regarding the experience, that "it's made me grow spiritually, for sure."

They both also had a commitment to their ethnic community since they provided social services. Also, they're both social people so they relied on their family and social circle for extra support. This allowed them to overcome their crippling sense of loneliness from the isolation.

Of course, all this information does not just apply to these two! People started prayer journals, attended bible studies—people felt that God was on their side, that if they would only place their trust in him, He would protect them through it all.

People also aligned with their community to give back to those who lost so much during the pandemic, opting to participate in organization specializing in, for example, blood drives, mental health, or domestic abuse. Some also referenced past disasters (Hurricane Katrina being an example) when explaining their reasonings for participating in these organizations, saying we know what it's like, so we're gonna go out there and help others).
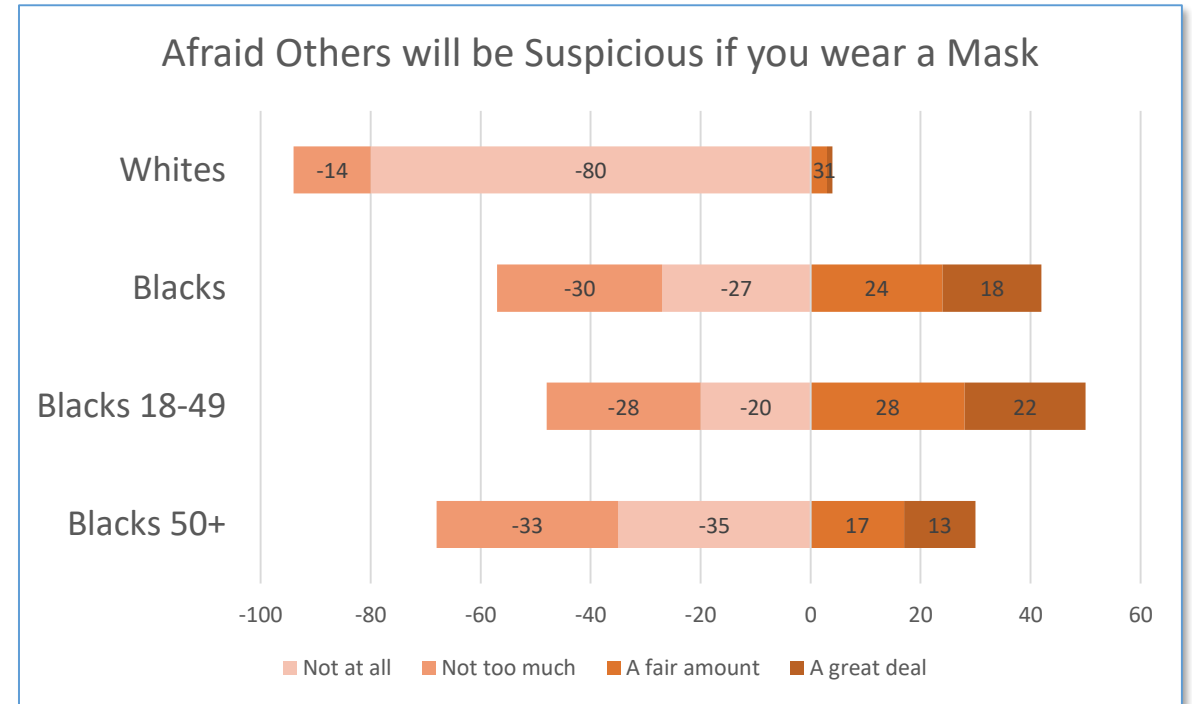
# Development of Resilience Notes 2

Also, there was a reliance on family members. For many, family is often the front line of solidarity. Some stay home with family to help care for them, or younger people receive help from their family. Many young people take special care not to become infected & bring it into the household, where some family members might be especially vulnerable.

With these pillar of support, members of the black community could then turn inward and reflect on what is truly important in their lives. Some respondents stated that they had already begun their journey of personal growth before the pandemic, and that this time finally gave them the chance to change for the better.

We see this reliance on religious support, as well as desire to follow pandemic safety protocols, for blacks in the right-side chart from PEW.

# Social Justice

- Views on-
  - Inequality
  - Black Lives Matter movement and demonstrations



Afraid Others will be Suspicious if you wear a Mask

| | Not at all | Not too much | A fair amount | A great deal |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Whites | -80 | -14 | 31 | |
| Blacks | -27 | -30 | 24 | 18 |
| Blacks 18-49 | -20 | -28 | 28 | 22 |
| Blacks 50+ | -35 | -33 | 17 | 13 |

Source: Pew, June 2020

# Social Justice Notes 1

Even though our findings show that members of the black community can remain resilient in the face of hardship, the story does not end here. In fact, it continues to this very hour, as the black community struggles to remain resilient in the face of present-day inequality.

To quote a 29 y/o black female from Michigan:

> "But, also it can be very draining on an energy level, on an emotional level, even on a spiritual level to deal with what we're dealing with in society, all while through a pandemic. I saw something somebody posted somewhere that black people are going through two pandemics, COVID-19 and racism. And I saw another post that said black women are going through three pandemics."

To give an example of such racism, some respondents expressed concern at the idea of wearing a face covering in public due to fears of looking like a criminal, as shown in the chart on the right side.

Let's talk about some respondent opinions on the BLM protest. The interviewees agreed that the demonstrations were an immediate response to the threat of police violence against the black community.  Also, most agreed that these demonstrations were necessary despite fear of infection/violence.

# Social Justice Notes 2

Actually, most of our black interviewees had noted that the demonstrations did not cause a spike in infections, which directly goes against the claims made by whites that the demonstrations would spread infection.

An interesting note is that our interviewees did not agree on whether these protests were a by-product of boredom from being the house for the past few months, or a genuine desire to seek change in society. Despite this, there was wide-spread agreement that the demonstrations were necessary in order to show people, especially white people, that what is happening in our country is real. It's not just a video you see on social media, or some passing story someone covers on the news. This is happening, and it needs to be shown so people truly understand what's going on.

In closing,

The Black Lives Matter protests were not the first iteration of civil rights movements, and it certainly will not be the last. As such, the story is far from over. We will have to remain resilient as we wait for what the future holds.

# Thank you!

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