April 30, 2020

To researchers interested in empirical analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Researcher,

Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic requires as much information as we can possibly lay our hands on. I want to draw your attention to a rich resource of longitudinal micro-data on the economic, physical, and mental health effects of the pandemic.

At the Center for Economic and Social Research, we have been collecting survey data on the household experiences and reactions to the pandemic since March 10, 2020. After the initial survey, which was in the field between March 10 and March 31, we have launched a tracking survey, where respondents to the Understanding America Study (UAS: https://uasdata.usc.edu) are surveyed every fourteen days (about 500 a day for a full sample of 7000 over 14 days). Topline results are posted daily in the form of about 3000 graphs on https://covid19pulse.usc.edu.

The underlying microdata can be downloaded from https://uasdata.usc.edu/covid19, subject to a simple registration process. Current survey topics include: symptoms, testing, health and healthcare; coronavirus knowledge and expectations; protective social and health behaviors; coronavirus risk perceptions; mental health and substance abuse; discrimination and stigma; economic and food insecurity; social safety net; housing and debt; crime and safety; labor market outcomes; educational effects on children and the effect school closures on families. In addition to the March survey, the first full wave of the tracking survey is available now, representing responses mainly collected in the first half of April. Subsequent waves will be made available on May 14th and 28th.

Moreover, this information can be linked to a wealth of financial, health, and other information collected in the UAS.

Sincerely,

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