THE OXFORD COVID-19 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TRACKER (OXCGRT)

An Overview of Policy and Behavioural Patterns

The fight against COVID-19: effectiveness, efficiency, and tradeoffs – stock-taking and lessons for the final spurt – SUERF, 30 April 2021

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Summary

• Introduction to OxCGRT
  – What we do and why

• A glimpse at the fiscal stakes

• Some patterns in COVID-19 response policies

• Some patterns in human behaviour while such policies have been in place
What is the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT) for?

• Provides a systematic cross-national, cross-temporal measure of how government responses have evolved over the full period of the disease’s spread.

• Public health experts are learning in real time what measures are more or less effective – need up-to-date, comparable, consistent data.

• Helps answer two critical research questions.
  – What effects do government responses have, How do effects vary across different populations, countries, and contexts?
  – What leads governments to adopt different policies?
Our approach (see www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker)

- Measures of government response are recorded on an ordinal scale to capture not just the presence but also the degree of response.
- 20 specific indicators in closure and containment, health, and economic policy.
- 4 simple linear indices that are normalized to vary from 0 to 100.
- The database is freely available online and updated continuously, and is easily combined with other data sources.
- Subnational coding for the US, Brazil, UK (and growing... to China, India, Canada...).
- Brazilian subnational data for the federal government, states, state capitals and second cities: 81 jurisdictions.
- Data is collected and reviewed in real time by a team that has comprised more than 600 volunteers (80+ in Brazil), at one point or another, from Oxford University and partners.
  - Culture is key
Policy strength alongside transmission: Brazilian cities
A glimpse at the fiscal stakes (1)

FIGURE 3  Changes in real GDP, 2009 and 2020 (estimate). Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), (2020d) [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]
A glimpse at the fiscal stakes (2)
Some patterns in policy responses (1)
Some patterns in policy responses (2)
Some patterns in policy responses (3)
Behavioural patterns (1)

![Graphs showing changes in physical distancing and mask wearing over time.]

- Physical distancing
- Mask wearing

- Avoidance of gatherings
- Avoidance of going out
Behavioural patterns (2)
Thank you

- To learn more:
  - Project summary: www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker
  - GitHub: https://github.com/OxCGRT