COVID-19 Impact on Health and Well-being Survey

Background and Guiding Principles

The COVID-19 Impact on Health and Well-being Survey was designed to examine how mental health and well-being are impacted by shelter in home/place mandates. This survey was created as a result of collaborative efforts involving UTRGV Departments of Population Health & Biostatistics, Family Medicine, Psychological Sciences and Sociology. The survey instrument was created using REDCap, is available in English and Spanish, was designed to be anonymous and takes approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. Please see Table 1 for a general overview of survey content. Most survey sections including demographics ask specifically how daily living has been impacted by sheltering in place/home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All data collected from the survey will be housed at UTRGV School of Medicine, Department of Population Health & Biostatistics. Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the UTRGV Institutional Review Board.

Study Sample

A snowball sampling method was employed to recruit non-institutionalized adults 18 years and older who were currently sheltering in place. A list of community organizations (hospitals, clinics, non-profits, institutes of /higher education) with active e-mail distribution lists or social media pages were asked to promote the use and sharing of survey among members. Weekly recruitment reports summarizing key demographic information of respondents were used to inform subsequent waves of targeted recruitment to diversify sample. We also partnered with Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) in our geographic region to administer the survey over the phone to clinic populations. This ensured the inclusion of hard to reach populations among respondents (e.g. rural, underserved, uninsured). Given our affiliation to a Hispanic serving institution and our geographic region along the Texas-Mexico border, we also initially failed to recruit African American/Black respondents. To date, we have collected over 600 responses to our survey. The majority of our respondents are female (70%), half are Hispanic and most live in Texas, although we have received responses from over 27 states.

Future Collaborations

There is potential for rich data to be generated by this study and these data are intended to provide a broad resource for secondary data analyses on the impact of mental health and well-being while sheltering in place/home. Principal and co-investigators will have the opportunity to develop an area of interest that leads to scientific papers including the opportunity for first authorship. Primary investigators will be granted sufficient time to analyze and publish their primary research initiatives. Outside collaborators are also welcomed to develop research questions.

Current Investigators

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