

THE HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY: PAA WEBINAR ON COVID-19

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<https://hrs.isr.umich.edu/about>

The Health and Retirement Study is a longitudinal project conducted by the Institute of Social Research at the University of Michigan and sponsored as a cooperative agreement by the National Institute on Aging (NIA U01AG009740) with additional support from the Social Security Administration.

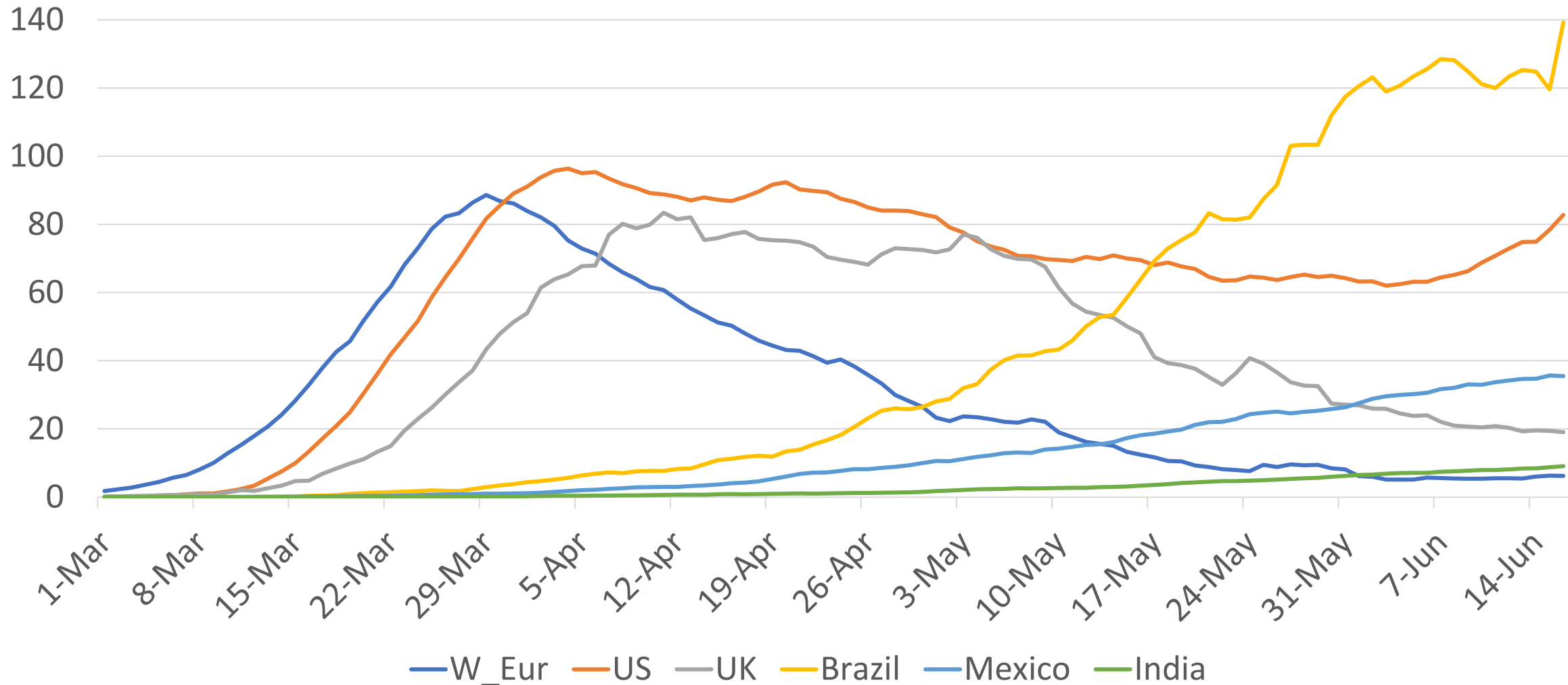
HRS | HEALTH AND
RETIREMENT
STUDY

THE HEALTH AND RETIREMENT STUDY

- Since 1992, a longitudinal study of Americans over age 50
- With substantial oversamples of African Americans and Hispanics making it a premier resource for studying racial disparities
- Also the hub of an international network in over 40 countries including 70% of the world's older population
- COVID-19 has impacted all the world, and all the HRS sister studies, but in different ways (worth its own webinar!)
- Put HRS impact and response in international context

DAILY NEW CASES PER MILLION POPULATION

7-DAY CENTERED MOVING AVERAGE



Author's calculations from data at Johns Hopkins

COVID-RELATED INITIATIVES

- HRS network is not centrally managed; every study had to respond to its own needs, but there are strong commonalities across instruments
- For more information on what's taking place around the world, and eventually for links to available data, go to <https://hrs.isr.umich.edu/data-products/covid-19>

HRS AND INTERNATIONAL SISTER STUDIES IMPACT AND INITIATIVES RELATED TO COVID-19

		Core wave		COVID-related initiatives	
	Study	Dates	Impact	mode	# waves
Begun before pandemic	ELSI-Brazil	2019/20	-7% of interviews	Tel	3
	SHARE	2019/20	-30% of interviews	Tel	1
	HRS	2020	mode switch	core+mail	(2)
Scheduled to start during pandemic	ELSA	2020	postponed	Web/Tel	2
	TILDA	2020	postponed/ mode switch	Tel+testing	1
	LASI	2021	---	Tel	6
	CHARLS	2021	---	in process	planning
	MHAS	2021	---	in process	

COVID-RELATED INITIATIVES

- **SHARE.** Wave 8 was 70% complete when it was halted by pandemic. Developed a COVID questionnaire for telephone to be administered once to the remaining 30% and most of the 70%. <http://www.share-project.org/home0/news/article/shares-contribution-to-research-about-the-social-health-and-economic-impact-of-covid-19.html>
 - Scherpenzeel, Annette, Kathrin Axt, Michael Bergmann, Salima Douhou, Andrea Oepen, Gregor Sand, Karin Schuller, Stephanie Stuck, Melanie Wagner, and Axel Börsch-Supan. "[Collecting survey data among the 50+ population during the COVID-19 outbreak: The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe \(SHARE\)](#)." In Survey Research Methods, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 217-221. 2020.
- **ELSA.** Postponed core 2020 survey until in-person interviewing is allowed. Developed a COVID questionnaire for web, with telephone for those not web-enabled. To be administered in June, 2020 and again in September <https://www.elsa-project.ac.uk/covid-19>

COVID-RELATED INITIATIVES

- **ELSI-Brazil.** Wave 2 was 93% complete when it was halted by pandemic. Developed a COVID questionnaire for telephone that was administered in May/June and will be twice again in July and in August.
- **LASI.** Wave 2 not yet begun. Utilized sub-sample of households selected for dementia study to conduct telephone interviews on COVID in May/June.

https://www.phenxtoolkit.org/toolkit_content/PDF/LASI-DAD.pdf

HRS AND COVID-19: SAMPLE AND MODE SWITCH

- HRS 2020 wave began in February; first interview on March 3
- HRS is mixed mode: half of sample assigned to telephone or web, and half of sample assigned to in-person with physical measures
- The in-person sample was not yet released to the field when all in-person research was halted on March 13.
- We continued working the telephone cases
- About ten days ago we released half the in-person sample, representing a one-quarter random sample of HRS, to be interviewed by telephone
- Except for physical measures, the content of telephone and in-person are identical

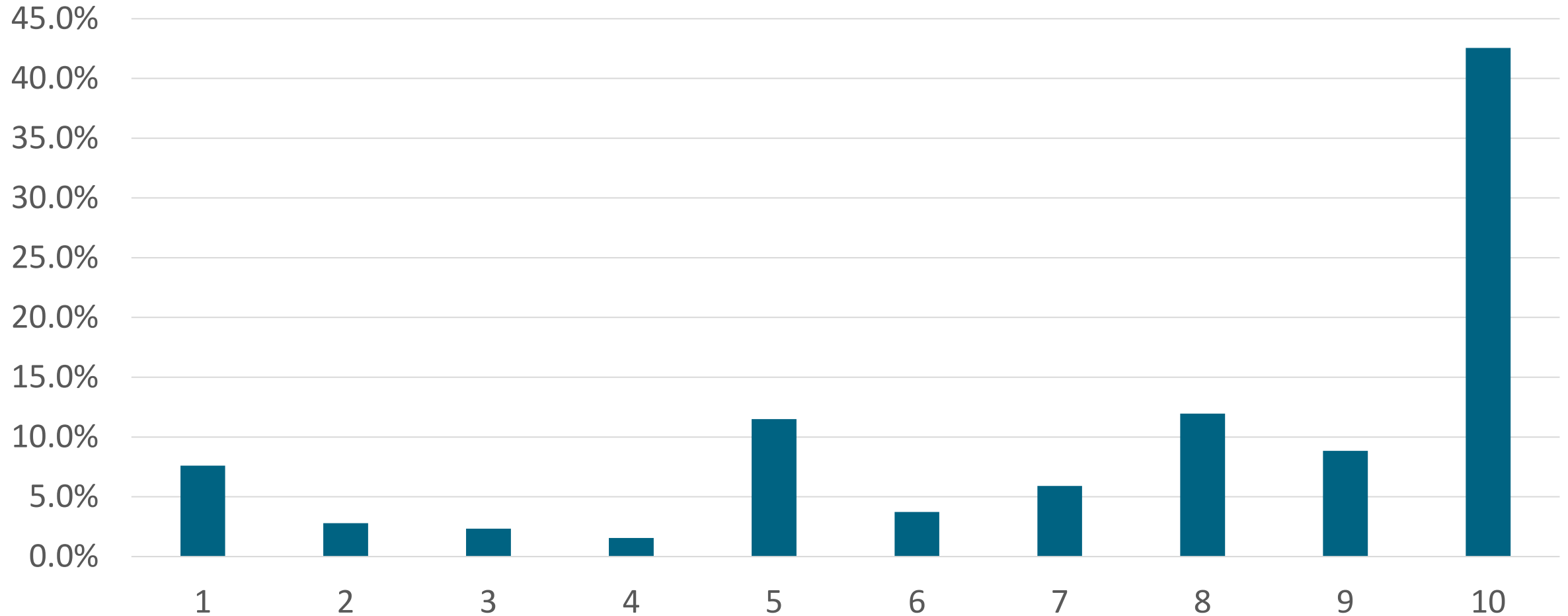
HRS AND COVID-19: RESPONSE STRATEGIES BY MODE

1. Top priority is to preserve the core longitudinal interview
2. Added to the core survey about ten minutes of new content on COVID starting in mid-May prior to release of new random sample replicate in June. (See below)
3. Added about six pages of content to our written self-administered lifestyle questionnaire on activity change, social distancing and hygiene behaviors, psychological impacts, etc.
4. We intend to introduce antibody testing in the fall to get accurate data on exposure to the virus
5. We will conduct a mail survey with the full sample in 2021

HIGHLY PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM NEW COVID CONTENT IN CORE HRS2020 INTERVIEW

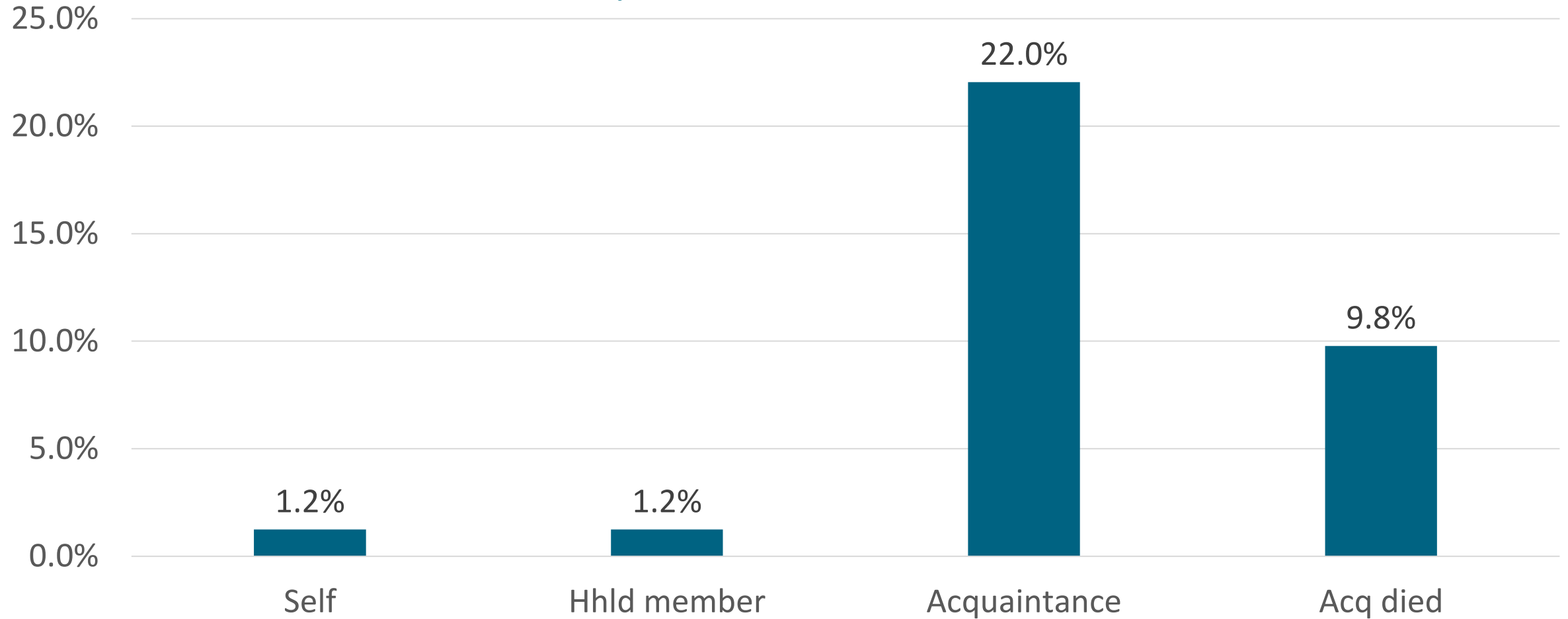
- Purpose in showing this is to illustrate some of what's in the survey
- Sample receiving these questions is not random – over half of the telephone sample was completed prior to the new content
- N=644
- Presented here just because data are a more fun way to see content than a questionnaire

LEVEL OF CONCERN ABOUT PANDEMIC ON A SCALE FROM 1 TO 10



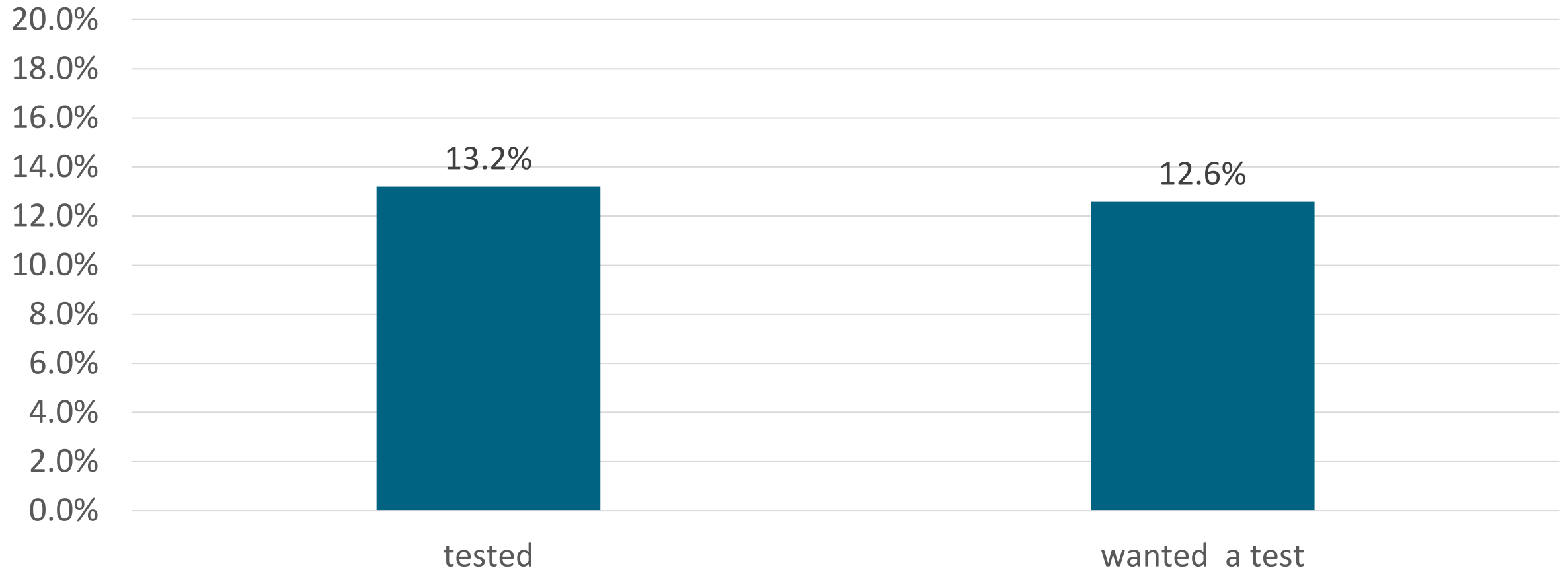
- Unweighted data from HRS 2020, n=644

EXPOSURE TO COVID-19: REPORTED DIAGNOSES OF SELF, HOUSEHOLD, AND PERSONS YOU KNOW



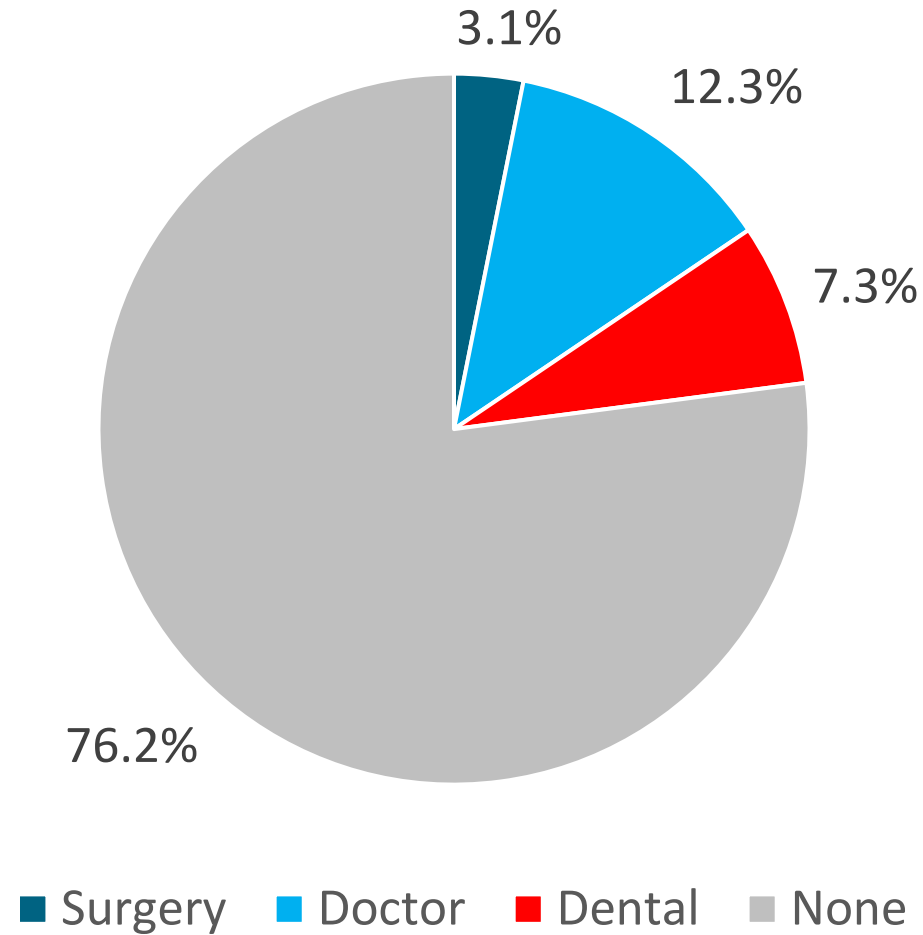
- Unweighted data from HRS 2020, n=644

PERCENT TESTED FOR COVID-19 AND PERCENT WHO WANTED BUT DID NOT GET A TEST



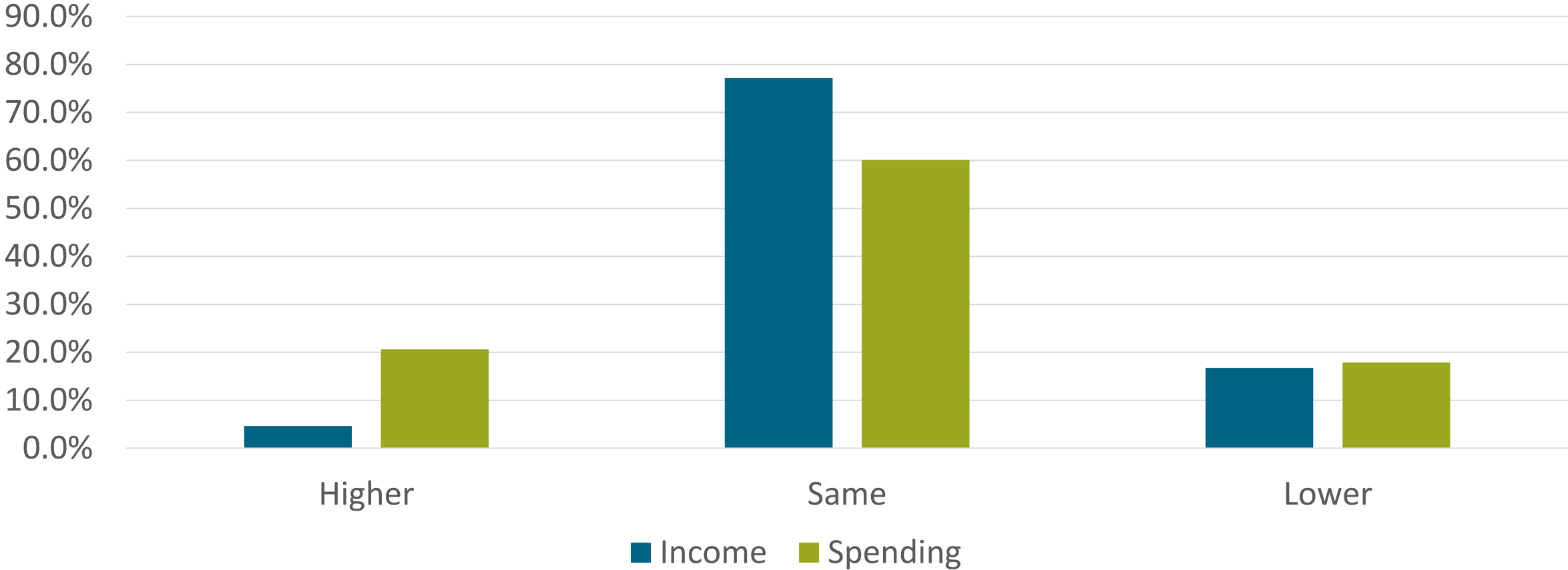
- Unweighted data from HRS 2020, n=644

POSTPONEMENT OF HEALTH CARE



- Unweighted data from HRS 2020, n=644

CHANGES IN HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND SPENDING



- Unweighted data from HRS 2020, n=644

PERCENT GIVING AND RECEIVING HELP WITH MONEY OR CHORES (RIDES, SHOPPING, ETC)



- Unweighted data from HRS 2020, n=644

HRS AS A RESOURCE FOR COVID RESEARCH

- Remarkable data on prior conditions influencing exposure and vulnerability:
 - Genetics
 - Immune system (flow cytometry; cytokines)
 - Health, work, family, social networks
- Medicare and Medicaid linkage to study health care before, during and after the pandemic, including detailed data on nursing homes (Minimum Data Set)
- Contextual data on physical and social environments
 - Including an archive of state-level COVID policies from Raifman J, Nocka K, Jones D, Bor J, Lipson S, Jay J, and Chan P. (2020). "COVID-19 US state policy database." Available at: www.tinyurl.com/statepolicies

HRS DATA AVAILABILITY

- In normal times HRS releases early data about three months after the end of fieldwork → May/June, 2021
- We are considering a super-early release of a less-than-complete sample with less-than-complete variables if it could be done without risking confidentiality and could significantly enable research on COVID
- We'll let you know on twitter and email, but for us and all the HRS international network, look for updates on <https://hrs.isr.umich.edu/data-products/covid-19>

THANK YOU!

<http://hrsonline.isr.umich.edu/>

And now on twitter @hrsir



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