ASPREDICTED

A Non-Remote Observational Study of Mask Adherence at UC-San Diego (#47038)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
It's complicated. We have already collected some data but explain in Question 8 why readers may consider this a valid pre-registration nevertheless.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
COVID19 Adherence: There are differences in mask adherence related to sex, race, age, student/non-student, current location, and the type of mask worn.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
- Mask Adherence
This will be assessed by observing (A) whether someone has a mask in their possession and (B) if the mask is on.

Worst case scenario is if someone has a mask in their possession but is holding it in their hands. The outside of the mask is considered dirty; thus, holding it in your hands increases the risk of cross-contamination.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
There are no experimental conditions in this observational study.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
The primary analyses will be chi-square given the categorical nature of the data being collected.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We will exclude infants from observations as it's unlikely that infants possess the cognitive infrastructure to understand why putting on a mask at this time in history would be an informed decision. It was likely put on by the parent rather than via the infant's own volition.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
Anticipated N = 5000. In addition to assessing demographic trends, we plan to assess change over time during the Fall Quarter.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)
It's Complicated = A pilot-sample of 420 observations was collected. We intend to collect thousands of cases at the University of California San Diego, the neighboring community, & other places this Fall Quarter.

Auxiliary analyses will include time of day, day of the week, & family status. In regard to family status, it may be the case that married women and/or women with children are more likely to wear their mask compared to women who are single who may have their mask off in an effort to attract a potential lover.

UPDATE
A preregistration was submitted in August that one of our previously listed members failed to approve. We proceeded to collect additional data during that time (currently N = 1214). As this is a daily observational study of mask behavior, we did not want to pause data collection during the interval while waiting on the previously listed individual. For instance, the San Diego area was removed from California's watch list during that time interval. As such, missing a chance to analyze the shift in behavior from data collected through last week compared to the data we'll be collecting during the 're'-reopening episode would be a potentially significant loss of data that can only be collected once.*

* = the data can only be collected once because hopefully we won't have to shut everything down again like we did in July when San Diego was put on California's watchlist. Moreover, this appears to be a once in a century event (e.g., Spanish Flu ~100 years ago). Thus, data collection has been ongoing as we don't want to fail to capture behavioral patterns during this historic event.