

Acceptance/Adoption of Protective Measures During the Covid-19 Pandemic (#40062)

Created: 04/28/2020 11:39 AM (PT)

Public: 11/12/2020 12:44 AM (PT)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

Main research question: Which factors predict the acceptance and the adoption of protective measures during the Covid-19 pandemic?

Hypotheses:

We hypothesize that participants' risk perception (perceived risk of infection, perceived risk of hospitalization, and risk susceptibility) will make a significant, unique contribution to the prediction of acceptance and adoption of protective measures against Covid-19. This contribution will be over and above that of demographic predictors (gender, SES, age, parental status, being part of a risk group).

We also hypothesize that trust in science and trust in politics will make an additional significant contribution to the prediction of acceptance and adoption of protective measures. This contribution will be beyond that of other predictors (demographic predictors: gender, SES, age, parental status, being part of a risk group; risk perception: perceived risk of infection, perceived risk of hospitalization, risk susceptibility).

In addition, we will test whether parents (compared to childless participants) and females (compared to males) show a significantly greater acceptance of behavioral protective measures, as in a previous study. We also will test whether adoption levels are higher for females (compared to males), parents (compared to childless participants), and participants belonging to the risk group (compared to participants not belonging to the risk group), as in a previous study.

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Acceptance: We will present participants with twelve behavior-based protective measures (e.g., "Sneeze or cough into the elbow or a tissue.", "Stay home as much as possible."). For each item, participants will indicate whether they perceive this measure as reasonable on 7-point Likert-scales (ranging from 1 not reasonable to 7 very reasonable). We will calculate a mean score for acceptance of behavioral protective measures, which we will use in the analyses.

Adoption of measures: We will present participants again with the same twelve behavior-based protective measures. For each item, participants will indicate how often they engage in this behavior on 5-point Likert-scales (ranging from 1 never to 5 always). We will calculate a mean score for adoption of protective measures, which we will use in the analyses.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

n/a

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

Two hierarchical regression analyses will be performed to test which variables are most relevant for predicting acceptance and adoption of protective measures. In the first step of each regression analysis, socio-demographic variables (gender, SES, age, parental status, and being part of a risk group) will be entered into the models. In the second step, risk susceptibility, perceived risk of infection, and hospitalization will be added. Finally, trust in politics and trust in science will be added to the models in a third step. All steps will make a significant, unique contribution to the prediction of acceptance and adoption of protective measures (as indicated by significant changes in R^2). The increase in R^2 will be largest when adding trust in politics and trust in science to the model.

Group differences (e.g., females vs. males) in acceptance and adoption of protective measures will be tested using t-test.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

Participants need to be 18 years or older; younger participants will be excluded.

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.

Sample size will be $N=299$.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

An SES-index will be calculated by summing the values of income (1-7), job status (1-7) and education (1-5).

We will exploratorily compare mean acceptance and mean adoption ratings to a study conducted roughly one month earlier to explore potential changes over time. Because we added one item to the measure of acceptance/adoption for the current study ("wearing masks"), this item will not be included in the comparison of the two timepoints.

