**Appendices**

**Exact wording of the questions:**

Because of the COVID-19 epidemic, governments are asking everyone to stay home, except for strictly essential work and basic necessities like grocery shopping. How strongly do you support or oppose that decision? (0 to 10 scale; I fully oppose to I fully support)

When do you think that governments will allow nearly everyone to go back to work?

 April 2020

 May 2020

 June 2020

 July 2020

 August 2020

 September 2020

 October 2020

 November 2020

 December 2020

 Sometime in 2021

 Never

**Example of question wording for the two treatments**

Here is a graph showing the evolution of COVID-19 cases in Canada:



Here is a graph showing the evolution of COVID-19 cases in Canada:



**Distribution of the dependent variables**

Figure 1: Distribution of responses for the pessimism and support variables



Figure 2: Distribution of responses for the pessimism and support variables by treatment



**Full regression results**

Table 1. Full results (pessimism) by experimental condition, age group, region, and gender (OLS regression)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Lin vs. Log  | Lin or Log  | Gender  | Age  | Education  | Region  |
|  Linear scale  | 0.106  |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | (0.111)  |   |   |   |   |   |
|  Logarithmic scale  | 0.108  |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | (0.112)  |   |   |   |   |   |
|  Either Graph  |   | 0.107  |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | (0.096)  |   |   |   |   |
|  Women  |   |   | -0.052  |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | (0.091)  |   |   |   |
|  30-64  |   |   |   | -0.036  |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | (0.126)  |   |   |
|  65+  |   |   |   | 0.289  |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | (0.155)  |   |   |
|  Education: Low  |   |   |   |   | 0.335  |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | (0.189)  |   |
|  Education: Middle  |   |   |   |   | 0.135  |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | (0.097)  |   |
|  Quebec  |   |   |   |   |   | -0.155  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.166)  |
|  Atlantic  |   |   |   |   |   | 0.114  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.220)  |
|  Ontario  |   |   |   |   |   | 0.301  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.155)  |
|  Prairies  |   |   |   |   |   | -0.029  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.217)  |
|  BC  |   |   |   |   |   | 0.356  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.184)  |
|  Intercept  | 4.920  | 4.920  | 5.017  | 4.961  | 4.891  | 4.857  |
|   | (0.078)  | (0.078)  | (0.065)  | (0.112)  | (0.076)  | (0.136)  |
|  Num.Obs.  | 2499  | 2499  | 2499  | 2499  | 2499  | 2499  |
|  R2  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.003  | 0.002  | 0.008  |
|  Adj.R2  | -0.000  | 0.000  | -0.000  | 0.002  | 0.001  | 0.006  |
|  AIC  | 11210.7  | 11208.7  | 11209.6  | 11204.6  | 11208.0  | 11198.4  |
|  BIC  | 11234.0  | 11226.2  | 11227.1  | 11227.9  | 11231.3  | 11239.1  |
|  Log.Lik.  | -5601.356  | -5601.356  | -5601.809  | -5598.309  | -5600.017  | -5592.179  |

Table 2: Full results (support) by experimental condition, age group, region, and gender (OLS regression)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Lin vs. Log  | Lin or Log  | Gender  | Age  | Education  | Region  |
|  Linear scale  | 0.157  |   |   |   |   |   |
|  | (0.083)  |   |   |   |   |   |
|  Logarithmic scale  | 0.078  |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | (0.084)  |   |   |   |   |   |
|  Either Graph  |   | 0.118  |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | (0.072)  |   |   |   |   |
|  Women  |   |   | 0.314  |   |   |   |
|   |   |   | (0.068)  |   |   |   |
|  30-64  |   |   |   | 0.420  |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | (0.093)  |   |   |
|  65+  |   |   |   | 0.831  |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | (0.115)  |   |   |
|  Education: Low  |   |   |   |   | -0.708  |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | (0.141)  |   |
|  Education: Middle  |   |   |   |   | -0.071  |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | (0.072)  |   |
|  Quebec  |   |   |   |   |   | 0.086  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.125)  |
|  Atlantic  |   |   |   |   |   | -0.021  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.166)  |
|  Ontario  |   |   |   |   |   | 0.089  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.116)  |
|  Prairies  |   |   |   |   |   | 0.124  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.163)  |
|  BC  |   |   |   |   |   | 0.094  |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | (0.138)  |
|  Intercept  | 8.767  | 8.767  | 8.684  | 8.418  | 8.934  | 8.771  |
|   | (0.059)  | (0.059)  | (0.049)  | (0.084)  | (0.056)  | (0.102)  |
|  Num.Obs.  | 2499  | 2499  | 2499  | 2499  | 2499  | 2499  |
|  R2  | 0.001  | 0.001  | 0.008  | 0.021  | 0.010  | 0.001  |
|  Adj.R2  | 0.001  | 0.001  | 0.008  | 0.020  | 0.009  | -0.001  |
|  AIC  | 9769.6  | 9768.5  | 9749.9  | 9721.4  | 9747.6  | 9777.8  |
|  BIC  | 9792.9  | 9786.0  | 9767.4  | 9744.7  | 9770.9  | 9818.6  |
|  Log.Lik.  | -4880.811  | -4881.259  | -4871.960  | -4856.698  | -4869.821  | -4881.909  |