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Heat Health Behaviors During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Data Collection Instrument

Invent the Future

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
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Summer 2020 Phone Survey Questions

1. Prior to this summer, when it got especially hot outside, had you left your home for cooler air-conditioned public spaces, such as malls, stores, libraries, recreation centers, or churches?

Yes

No

2. Prior to this summer, when it got especially hot outside, had you left your home to cool down at public swimming pools or recreational areas (e.g. lakes, rivers, or water parks)?

Yes

No

3. Prior to this summer, when it got especially hot outside, had you ever felt so hot or dehydrated that you sought medical attention?

Yes

No

4. Prior to this summer, had you ever felt you could not keep your house cool enough due to the high cost of air-conditioning?

Yes

No

5. Prior to this summer, had you opened windows in your house during the evening to cool your house down?

Yes

No

6. Prior to this summer, had you used fans to cool your house down?

Yes

No

7. Prior to this summer, had you closed blinds or curtains during the hottest part of the day to reduce the heat coming into your home?

Yes

No

8. Prior to this summer, when it got especially hot, had you checked in with friends and family that are vulnerable, such as older adults, pregnant women, or those with infants or small children?

Yes

No

Now I will ask you about whether you have changed, or plan to change, any of these actions to keep cool this summer.

9. When it gets especially hot outside this summer, do you think you will leave your home for cooler air-conditioned public spaces?

Yes

No

IF DIFFERENT from Question #3 answer follow-up with:

Could you explain why your answer is different for this year compared to previous years?

10. When it gets especially hot outside this summer, do you think you will leave your home to cool down at public swimming pools or recreational areas (e.g. lakes, rivers, or water parks)?

Yes

No

IF DIFFERENT from Question #4 answer follow-up with:

Could you explain why your answer is different for this year compared to previous years?

11. If you feel so hot or dehydrated that you are worried you are endangering your health, would you seek medical attention?

Yes

No

IF NO:

Could you explain why you would not seek medical attention?

12. Are you worried that you will not be able to keep your house cool enough due to the high cost of air-conditioning?

Yes

No

IF DIFFERENT from Question #6 answer follow-up with:

Could you explain why your answer is different for this year compared to previous years?

13. Will you open windows in your house during the evening to cool your house down?

Yes

No

IF DIFFERENT from Question #7 answer follow-up with:

Could you explain why your answer is different for this year compared to previous years?

14. Will you used fans to cool your house down?

Yes

No

IF DIFFERENT from Question #8 answer follow-up with:

Could you explain why your answer is different for this year compared to previous years?

15. Will you close blinds or curtains during the hottest part of the day to reduce the heat coming into your home?

Yes

No

IF DIFFERENT from Question #9 answer follow-up with:

Could you explain why your answer is different for this year compared to previous years?

16. When it gets especially hot outside this summer, do you think you will check in with friends and family that are vulnerable, such as older adults, pregnant women, or those with small children?

Yes

No

IF DIFFERENT from Question #10 answer follow-up with:

Could you explain why your answer is different for this year compared to previous years?

Now I will ask you about whether recent cases of police brutality have changed your health behaviors this summer.

- 17. Have recent cases of police brutality changed your perception of safety for visiting public spaces or recreational areas (e.g. public swimming pools, water parks, rivers etc.)?
- 18. Have recent cases of police brutality changed your trust in local emergency management or health care providers? For example, are you more or less likely to go to urgent care, emergency room, or call 911 if you or a loved one needed medical attention?
- 19. Are there other aspects of the recent cases of police brutality that you believe has affected your health, or the health of your family and friends?

Now I will ask you a series of questions about you and your household.

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

11. Birth Month

Birth Year

12. What is your home address?

Street

City

ZIP code

13. How long have you lived in this community?

- A. 0-5 years
- B. 6-15 years
- C. More than 15 years

14. What is your gender?

- A. Male
- B. Female
- C. Other

15. What ethnicity or ancestry do you identify with? Please answer yes or no to each:

- A. American Indian or Alaska Native
- B. Asian
- C. Black or African
- D. Hispanic or Latino
- E. Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islander
- F. White or European
- G. Other (please write in)

16. Indicate the highest level of education that you have completed: (Check 1 / ONE)

- A. Less than a High School Diploma
- B. High School Diploma (or High School Equivalence Certificate)
- C. Post-Secondary Certificate (Vocational or Technical Certificate)
- D. Some College Courses or Associate's Degree
- E. Bachelor's Degree
- F. Graduate Degree (Master's or Doctorate)

17. Indicate the income, before taxes, from all household members during the past 12 months: (Check 1 / ONE)

- A. Less than \$20,000
- B. \$20,000 to \$49,999
- C. \$50,000 to \$74,000
- D. \$75,000 to more

18. Did you participate in a study in the summer of 2017 by wearing a temperature monitor on your shoe? (Check 1 / ONE)

- A. Yes
- B. No

19. In general, would you say that your health is: (Check 1 / ONE)

- A. Excellent
- B. Good
- C. Fair
- D. Poor

20. Have you participated in focus groups or table discussions about environmental priorities with these organizers in the past 5 years? (Check 1 / ONE)

- A. Yes
- B. No

Follow-up Phone Survey Questions

Phone script for follow-up calls to consented participants when forecast predicts weather in the National Weather Service Danger or Extreme Danger Heat Index categories (<https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat-index>)

1. Do you feel you have you been able to stay cool so far this summer?

Yes

No

If NO, could you explain why?

2. Are you concerned that you won't be able to stay cool in this upcoming hot weather that is forecasted?

Yes

No

If YES, could you explain why?

I have some information on ways to stay cool that you may want to consider. Present CDC and WHO guidance as well as local information on stay at home orders and re-opening statuses or pools, malls, libraries, churches, cooling centers, parks and recreational facilities.

3. Do you think you will use any of these methods to keep you and your friends and family cool during the upcoming heatwave?

Yes

No

If Yes, which ones?

If No, why?

Thank you so much for your time in participating in this study.