

# Shanghai Survey of Couples' Relationship During COVID

*A study by the Shanghai Municipal People's Government about better understanding how we can support our community during the pandemic and afterwards.*



The Shanghai Census Bureau is conducting the Survey of Couples' Relationship During COVID on behalf of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government (SMPG). We would like to understand the status quo and plan for potential mental aid, financial aid, and other types of services. Eventually we would like to mitigate the bad effects brought by this round of COVID strike and improve the happiness of our citizens.

Any information you provide will be shared among a limited number of Census Bureau and the University of Chicago relevant staff only for work-related purposes under the Personal Information Protection Law and Data Security Law.

## START HERE

Respond online today at: <https://respond.shanghai.census.gov/relationships>

**OR** complete this form and mail it back as soon as possible.

The SMPG would like to thank you for your patience weathering this pandemic with everyone, and for helping out to fill out this survey. Please complete this survey to the best of your ability. There are 26 questions in total and most of them are choices questions so it should be easy to complete.

How long will the survey take? - It takes about 5-20 minutes to complete.

Is my data safe? Yes! First of all, this survey does not require you to provide sensitive information that led anyone to identify you (for example, detailed address, phone number, national ID, etc). Secondly, your response is anonymous and the data can solely be accessed by the SMPG-COVID survey project team during the analysis process.

For help or questions about completing this form, please call 1-425-503-6900. The telephone call is free. For Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) assistance, please call 1-425-503-6901. The telephone call is free.

## A. Participant Screener

### A1. How old are you?

*Please provide your age in years, round up 1 year if it's more than six months now after your last birthday.*

Age in years

If you reported any age below 22 years, please **STOP HERE** and return this survey to us in the closed envelope. It is important that we receive a response from every participant selected for this study.

### A2. Which city have you been living since the beginning of April 2022?

*Please mark (X) in only one of the boxes below*

- ☐ Beijing
- ☐ Hangzhou
- ☐ Shanghai
- ☐ None of the above

If you reported any city other than Shanghai, please **STOP HERE** and return this survey to us in the closed envelope.

### A3. How would you characterize your current relationship status?

- ☐ Single
- ☐ In a relationship (Defined as having a romantic relationship but neither side are engaged or married)
- ☐ Married or engaged
- ☐ Divorced or separated
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Other (Please specify):

If you reported any status other than the second or the third option (which is in a relationship, married or engaged), please **STOP HERE** and return this survey to us in the closed envelope.

### A4. Are you living with your partner during April, 2022?"

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No - If you reported any city other than Shanghai, please **STOP HERE** and return this survey to us in the closed envelope.

## B. Demographics and General Background

**B1. Do you and your partner usually live together during regular workdays?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**B2. How long have you been sharing a domicile that is the primary place of residence for both you and your partner?**

*A primary residence is considered to be a legal residence for the purpose of income tax and/or acquiring a mortgage. As long as you two are staying together, it doesn't matter if you move around together. Also, you should count in the time spend apart for holidays/work trips, unless any of those time periods exceeds 6 months.*

☐ Less than a year

☐ Between 1 to 5 years

☐ Between 5 to 10 years

☐ Over 10 years

**B3. What is your sex by birth?**

*Mark (X) ONE BOX*

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Intersex

☐ Prefer not to respond

**B4. What is your gender identity?**

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Trans Male

☐ Trans Female

☐ Genderqueer/ Gender non-conforming

☐ Gender non-binary

☐ Self-identify (please specify):

☐ Prefer not to respond

**B5. What is your partner's sex by birth?**

*Mark (X) ONE BOX*

☐ Male

☐ Female

☐ Intersex

☐ Prefer not to respond

**B6. What is your partner's gender identity?**

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Trans Male
- ☐ Trans Female
- ☐ Genderqueer/ Gender non-conforming
- ☐ Gender non-binary
- ☐ Self-identify (please specify):
- ☐ Prefer not to respond

**B7. How many people in your household earns periodical income?**

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3 or more (please specify the numbers):   people

**B8. What is your total household income per year, including all earners in your household (after tax) in RMB?**

*Please select one from the sections below*

- ☐ Below 5k
- ☐ 5k-10k
- ☐ 10k-20k
- ☐ 20k-50k
- ☐ 50k-100k
- ☐ Above 100k.

**B9. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?**

- ☐ 高中及以下(High school and below)
- ☐ 大专 (college level professional school)
- ☐ 本科肄业 (dropped out of university and did not receive bachelor degree)
- ☐ 本科 (Bachelor's degree)
- ☐ 研究生(Graduate degree)

**B10. What is the highest level of school your partner has completed or the highest degree your partner has received?**

- ☐ 高中及以下(High school and below)
- ☐ 大专 (college level professional school)
- ☐ 本科肄业 (dropped out of university and did not receive bachelor degree)
- ☐ 本科 (Bachelor's degree)
- ☐ 研究生(Graduate degree)

**B11. Please estimate the length of your current romantic relationship since your first serious date as a couple.**

*Romantic relationship means marriage or a relationship between individuals involving casual or*

*serious dating, sexual contact, intimacy, or any other conduct typically associated with a romantic or sexual relationship. If you two happened to break up in a while but later came back together, please subtract that period and then round up to the nearest full year.*

Year(s)

**B12. What is the current number of children or other dependents living in your household, for whom you or your partner is responsible?**

*Dependents are those who relied on you for care other than your own children.*

☐ None → *SKIP to Part C. Relationship*

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4 or more

**B13. Among those dependents, how many of them are below 18 years (not included) of age?**

☐ None

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4 or more

## C. Relationships

**C1. In the past 30 days, how happy do you feel your relationship with your partner becoming at the moment comparing with that of before the surge of COVID in April 2022, all things considered?**

A lot Happier	Somehow Happier	Unchanged	Somehow Unhappier	A lot Unhappier
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**C2. Please evaluate your overall stress level change comparing with that of before the surge of COVID in April 2022, all things considered.**

A lot more stressful	Somehow more stressful	Unchanged	Less stressful	A lot less stressful
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**C3. Which one of you shoulder the most responsibility of household chores/tasks before COVID?**

- ☐ Me
- ☐ My partner
- ☐ Somebody else (parents, children, etc)

**C4. How has the responsibility of chores of this person you answered in C3 changed since the surge of COVID in April 2022?**

- ☐ Increased
- ☐ Decreased
- ☐ Didn't change

**C5. How has your income changed during April 2022?**

- ☐ Increased
- ☐ Decreased
- ☐ Didn't change

**C6. How has your partner's income changed during April 2022?**

- ☐ Increased
- ☐ Decreased
- ☐ Didn't change

**C7. How has your household's overall income changed during April 2022?**

- ☐ Increased
- ☐ Decreased

☐ Didn't change

**C8. Over the last two weeks, how often have the two of you helped each other relax with pleasant activities?**

*We define enjoyable leisure activities broadly as the pleasurable activities that individuals engage in voluntarily when they are free from the demands of work or other responsibilities. These might include hobbies, sports, socializing, or spending time in nature. Please use the one that you two do the most to answer this question.*

☐ Everyday

☐ Twice or three times a week

☐ Once a week

☐ Once every two weeks

☐ Rarely or Never

**C9. What is the most challenging relationship circumstance you and your partner have encountered during this round of pandemic? Please use the box below for your answer.**



## **Mailing Instructions**

### **Thank you for your participation.**

On behalf of the Shanghai Municipal People's Government, we would like to thank you for the time and effort you have spent sharing the information about your household and your partner.

Your answers are important to us and will help researchers, policy makers, and advocates to better understand the relationships and need of couples in our city.

### **Please make sure you have...**

- Answered all questions till you encountered a STOP instruction
- Or answered all questions on page 2-8

**Place the completed questionnaire in the postage-paid return envelope. If the envelope has been misplaced, please mail the questionnaire to:**

上海市黄浦区威海路 48 号中国民生银行大厦上海统计局 邮编: 200003

Shanghai City, Huangpu District, Weihai Rd #48, China Minsheng Bank Building, Shanghai Statistics Bureau Zip: 200003