

coviSYdE23-19

How SYDE 23 was impacted by Covid-19 in the 2A term

August 2020

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Foreword

In March of 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Subsequently, the University of Waterloo discontinued in-person classes and shut down campus a few days after.

This document intends to capture the various changes experienced by the Systems Design Engineering Class of 2023, before and after campus shut down due to COVID-19 and classes moved online. This 2A term marks what is likely the first time in modern history where classes were transitioned online at the University of Waterloo. Through this survey, we hope to capture 2A SYDE's experience while navigating through that time.

Analysts' Note

49/102 students were represented here. Within the survey, ways of referring to the class such as, but not limited to “we”, “people”, “respondents”, etc. are the SYDE 23 students who responded to this survey. The results of this survey only represent the class, and does not extend to any other SYDE classes, uWaterloo engineering students, uWaterloo students, or anyone else.

“Before Quarantine, BQ” is to be defined as the period between the dates of January 6 to March 13

“During Quarantine, DQ” is to be defined as the period between the dates of March 14 - April 26

The class profile was conducted by SYDE students independent of the department, faculty, and university.

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Demographics

Move Out Date

Colour shade denotes the amount of respondents moved out on that specific day.

People either moved out right when uWaterloo moved classes online, or after our last exam

3 people lived at home during 2A
5 people who are not from Waterloo are still in Waterloo

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

LEGEND				
1	2	3	4	5

Reasons For Staying

The majority of stayers stayed in Waterloo to grind it out and stay productive. #CantStudyAtHome

N = 19

Productivity
International student
Rent contract
KW is Home
Gym Productivity
Didn't want to live at home
Friends

Reasons For Leaving

Family was the biggest reason for the leavers.

N = 30

A study conducted in April by Ipsos and Global News stated that 54% of Canadians felt lonely or isolated during the quarantine season. With very little interaction with others in Waterloo after classes cancelled, family might have been one of the few ways to stay connected to others.

Source:

<https://www.ipsos.com/en-ca/news-and-polls/Majority-Of-Canadians-Say-Physical-Distancing-Has-Left-Them-Feeling-Lonely-Or-Isolated>

A word cloud of reasons for leaving, with 'Spend time with family' as the largest word. Other words include 'Loneliness', 'Wanted to go home', 'Convenience', 'Home meals', 'Catching last flight', 'Why not?', 'Rent', 'Safety', and 'Forced by parents'. The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the central phrase.

Forced by parents
Safety
Home meals
Wanted to go home
Why not?
Convenience
Rent
Loneliness
Spend time with family
Spend time with family
Catching last flight

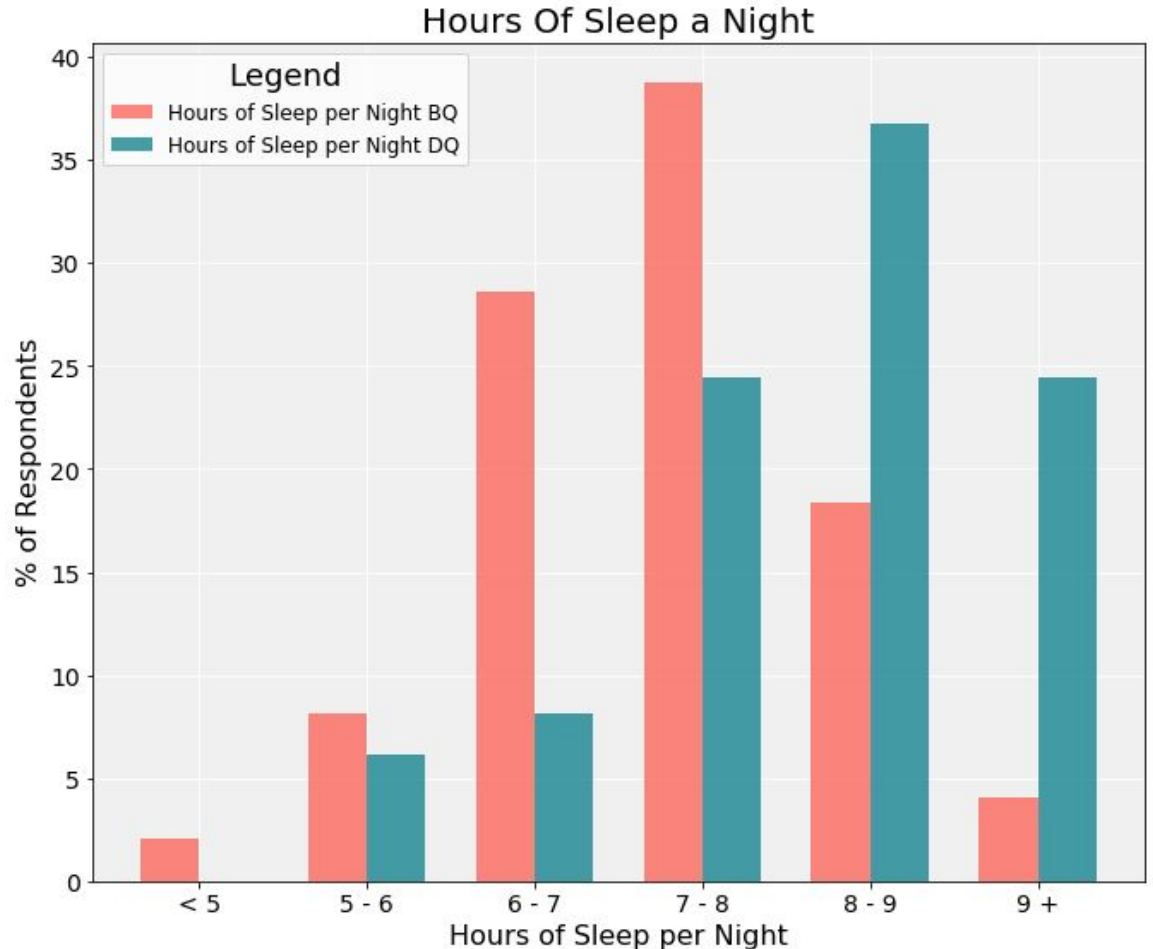
Before and During Quarantine

Hours Of Sleep

Average amount of sleep increased when in person classes were cancelled

Without the external pressure of showing up to classes, people were more likely to sleep in and sleep longer.

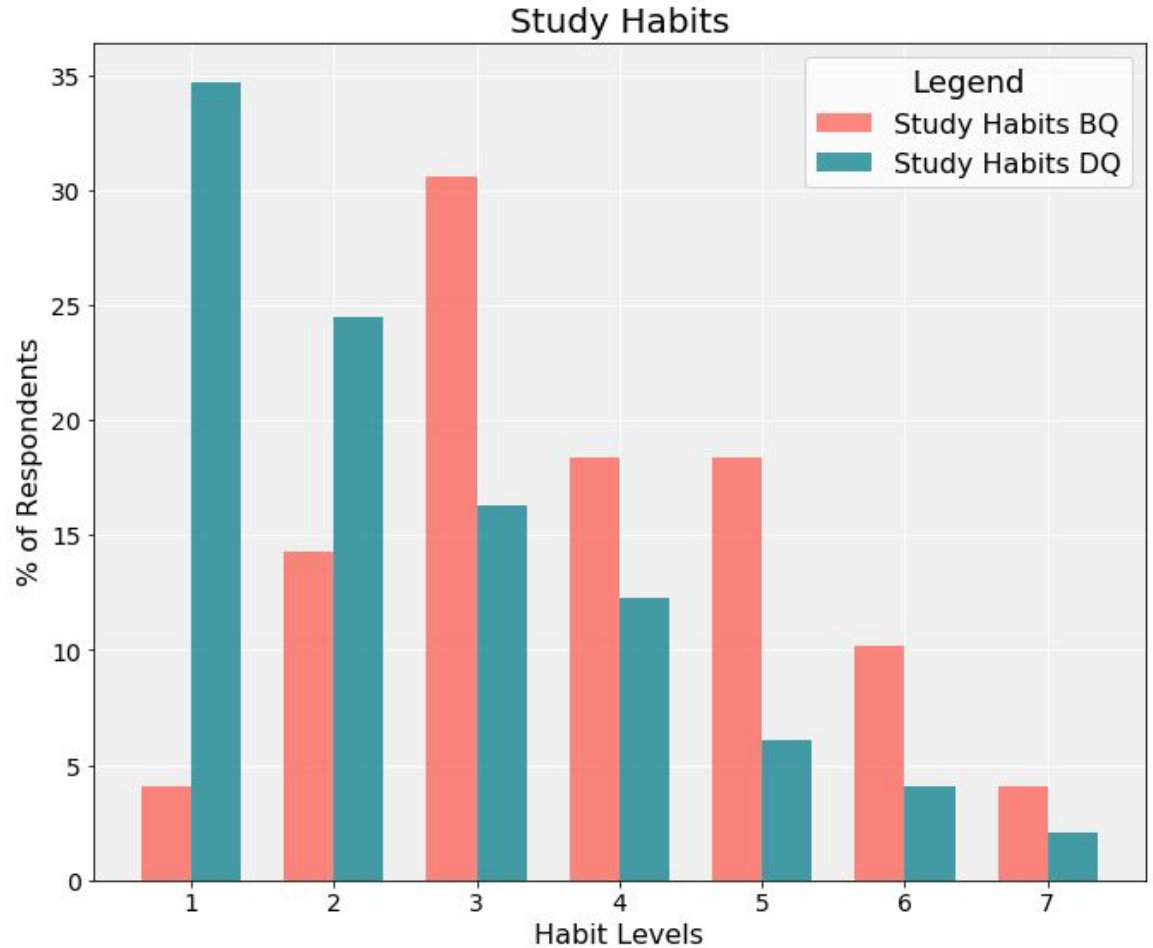
On average, respondents have reported that they slept later in the night, and woke up much later in the morning.



Study Habits

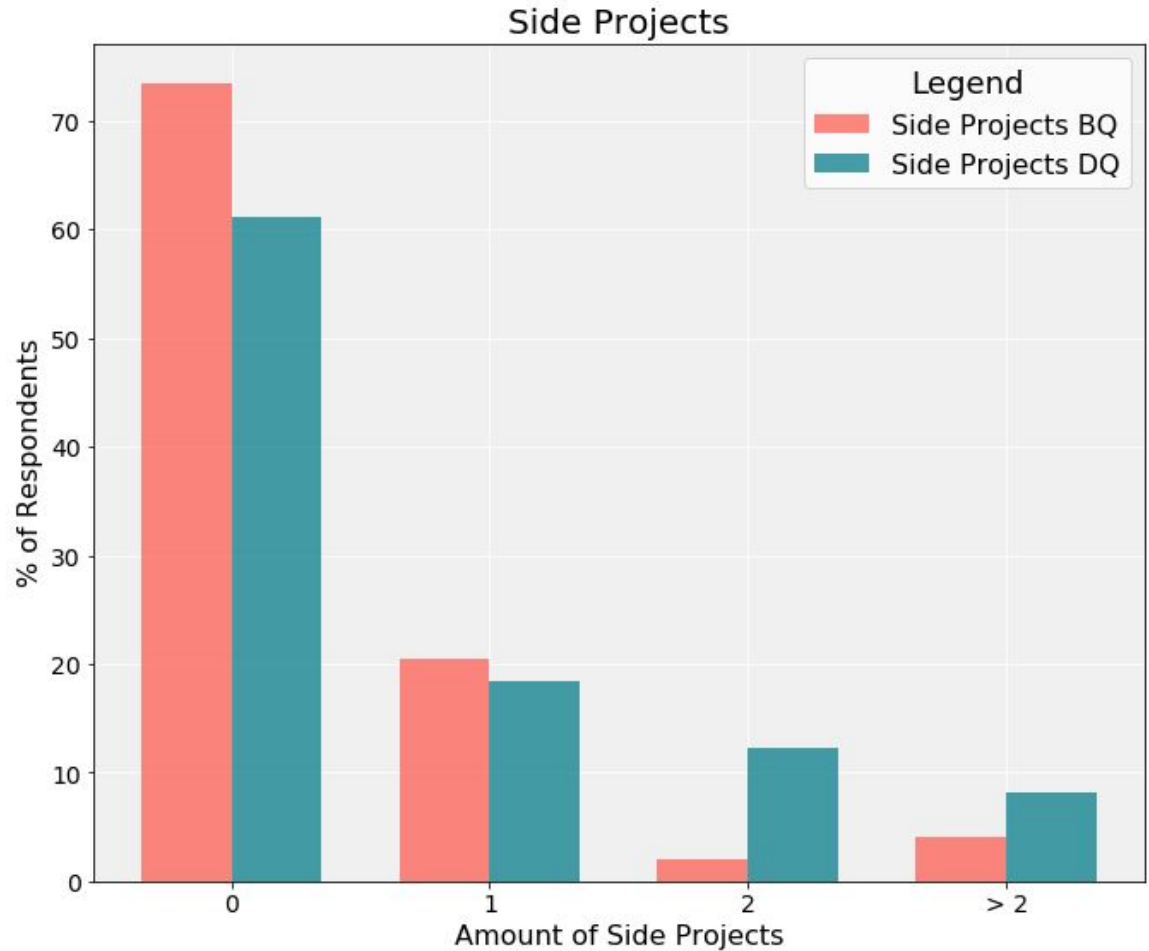
As in person classes were no more, the procrastination shot up and school was practically non-existent.

Perhaps a lot of us relied on the external pressure of in-person classes and our peers to grind.



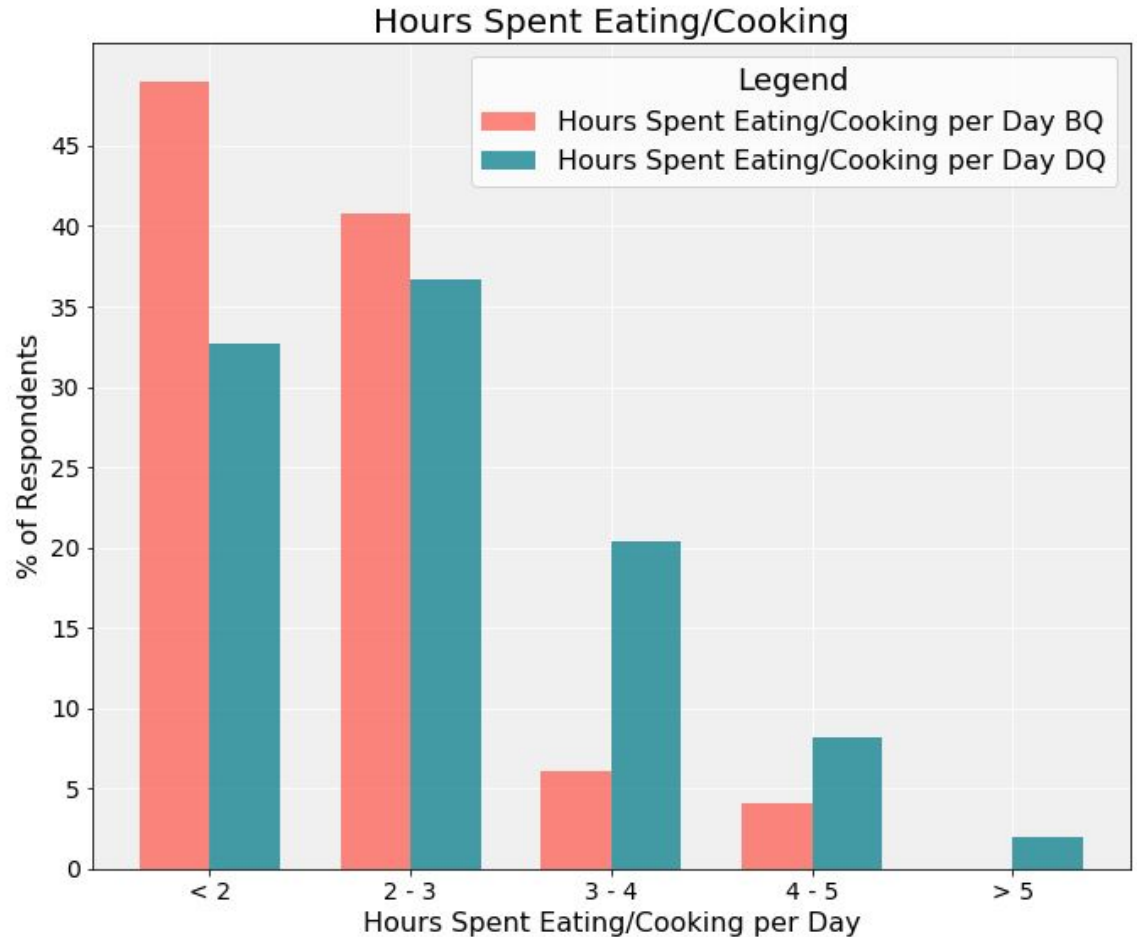
Side Projects

There was a slight shift in the amount of people doing side projects. School stuff goes down and side projects go up



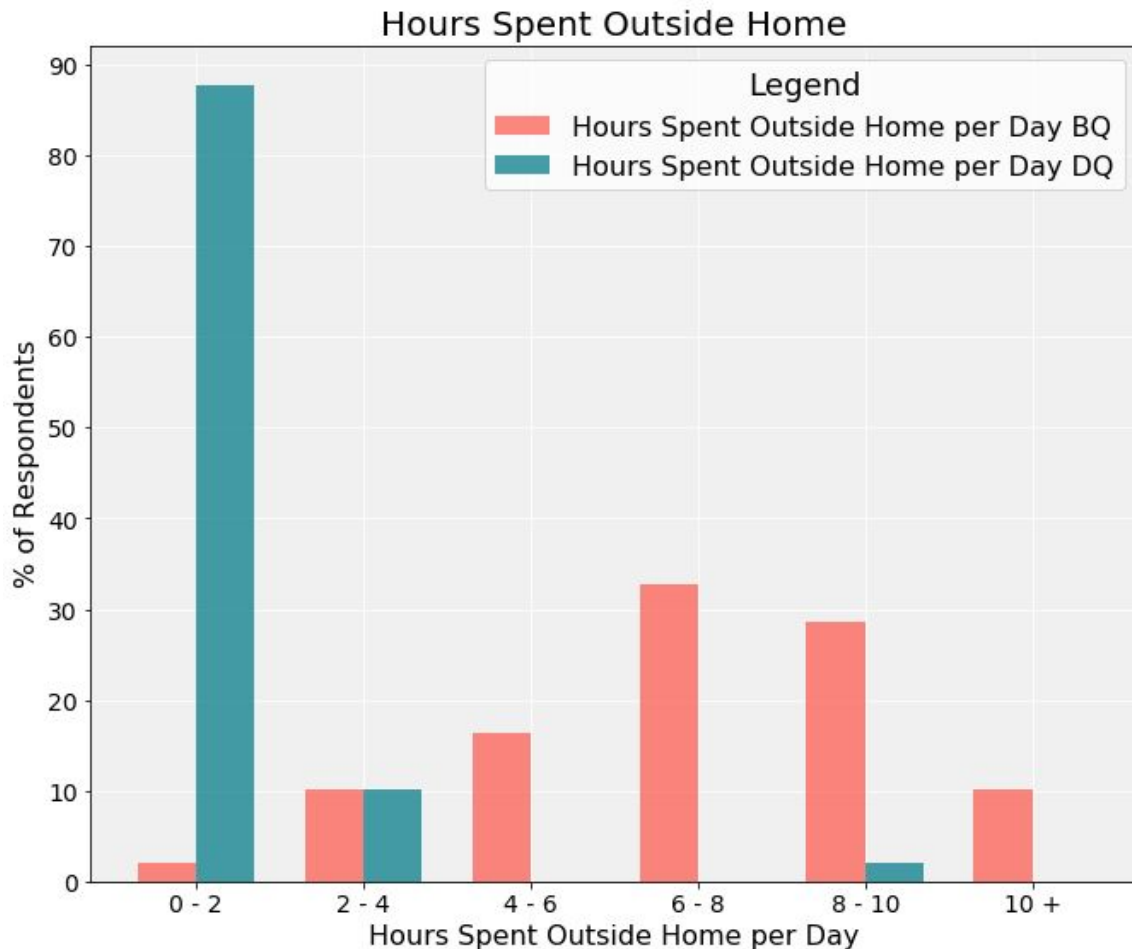
Hours Spent Eating and Cooking

Less time in school, more time cooking? Or extra bored so more snacking?



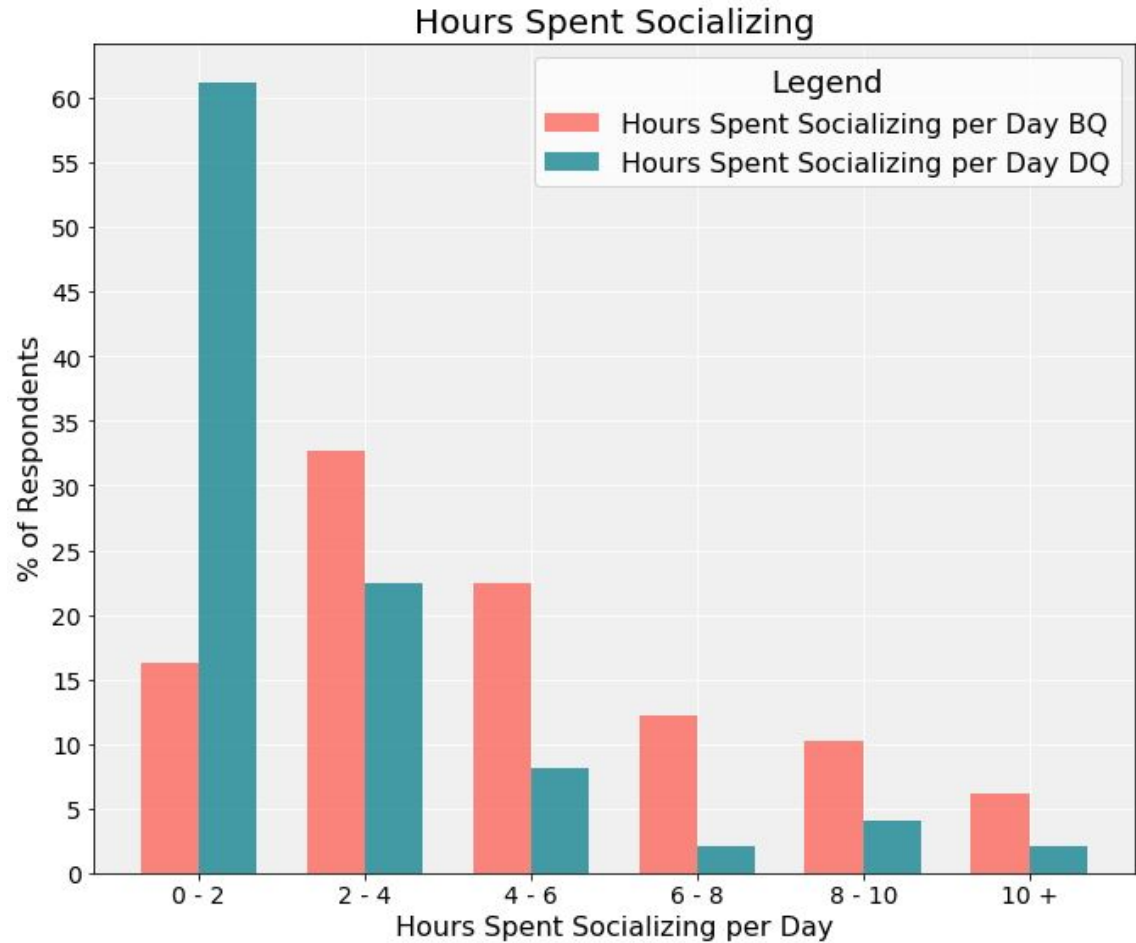
Hours Spent Outside of Home

Thank you for following social distancing and quarantining guidelines



Hours Spent Socializing

Turns out a lot of us depended on being in class or being in school to have a social life



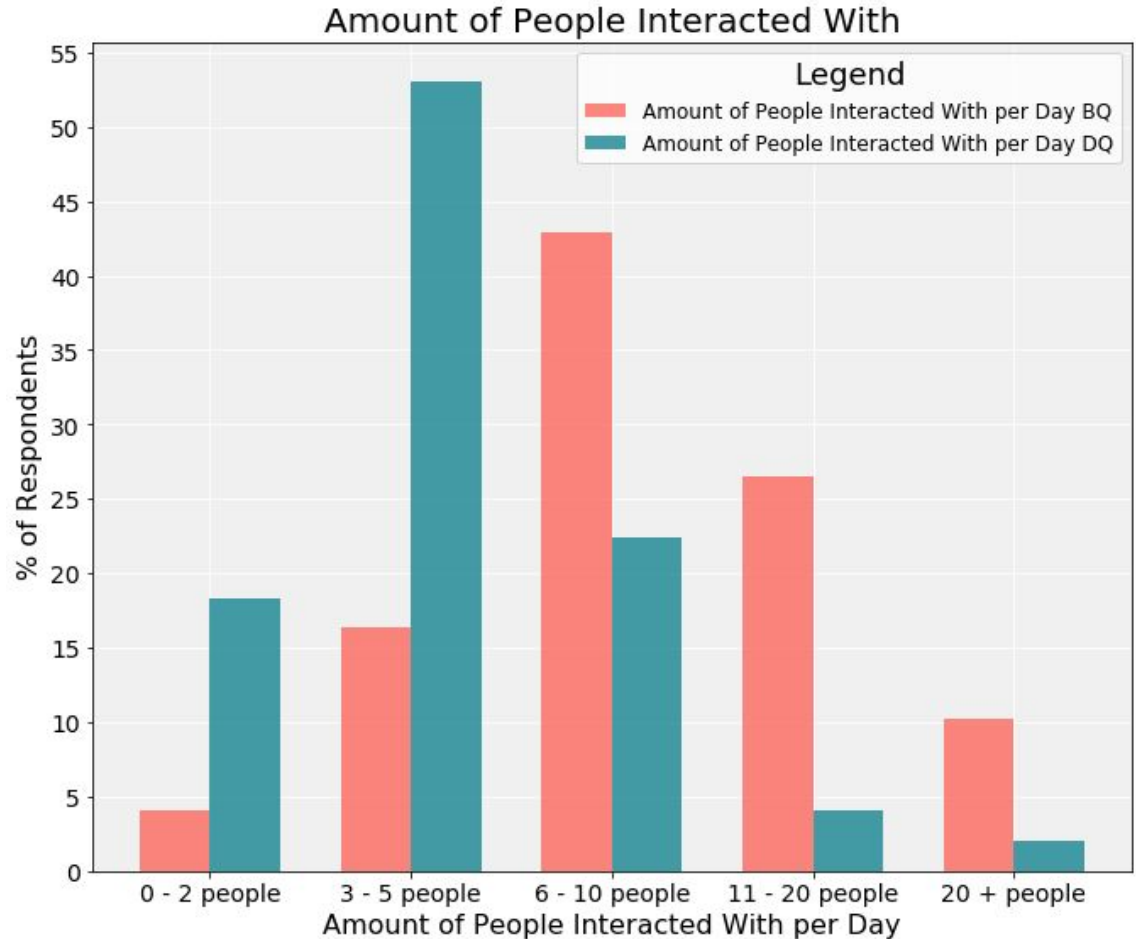
People Interacted With

Even though we are socializing for a shorter amount of time, we are also interacting with less people.

A sharp jump in the 3 - 5 may be explained for people who moved back with their families (where the average family size in Canada is 2.9 people per household). This claim needs to be verified

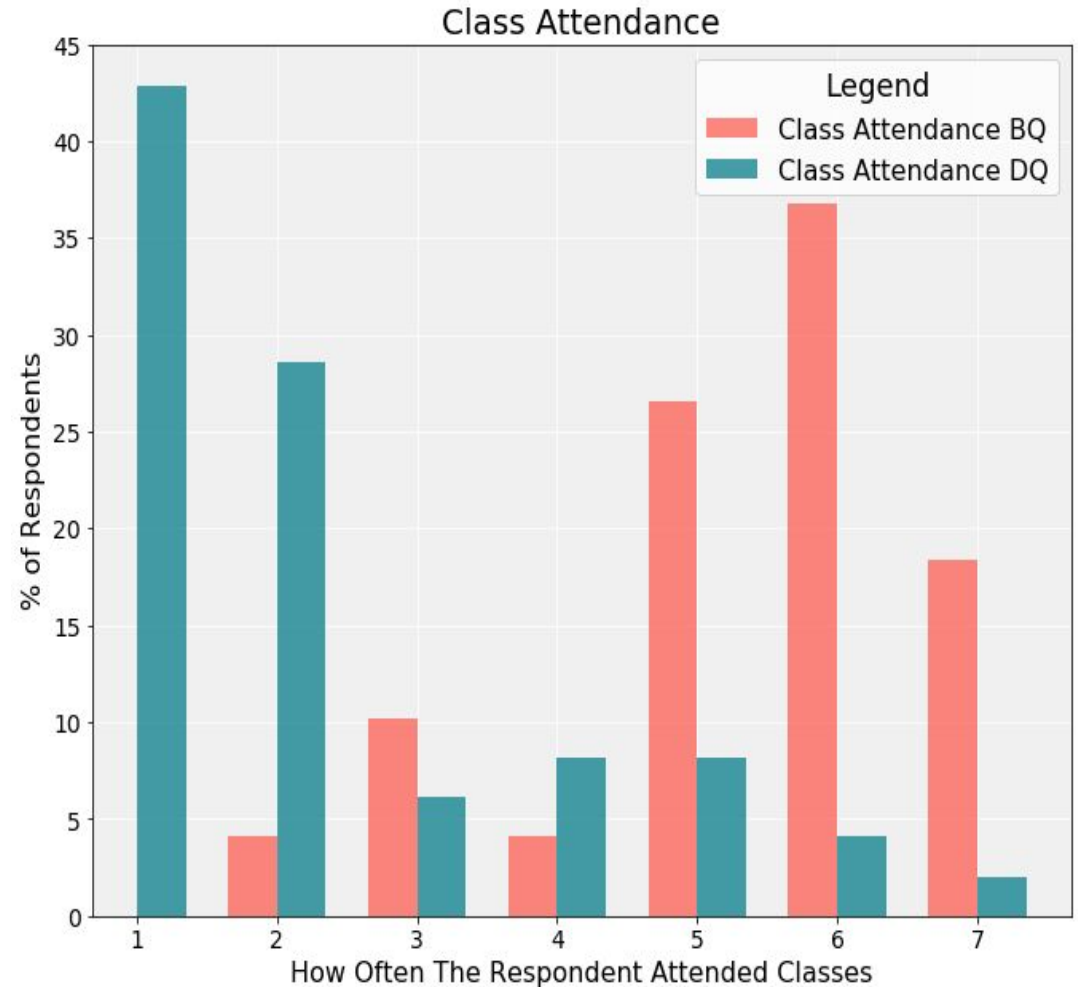
Source:

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/478948/average-family-size-in-canada/>



Class Attendance

Very few people wanted to attend
Zoom University



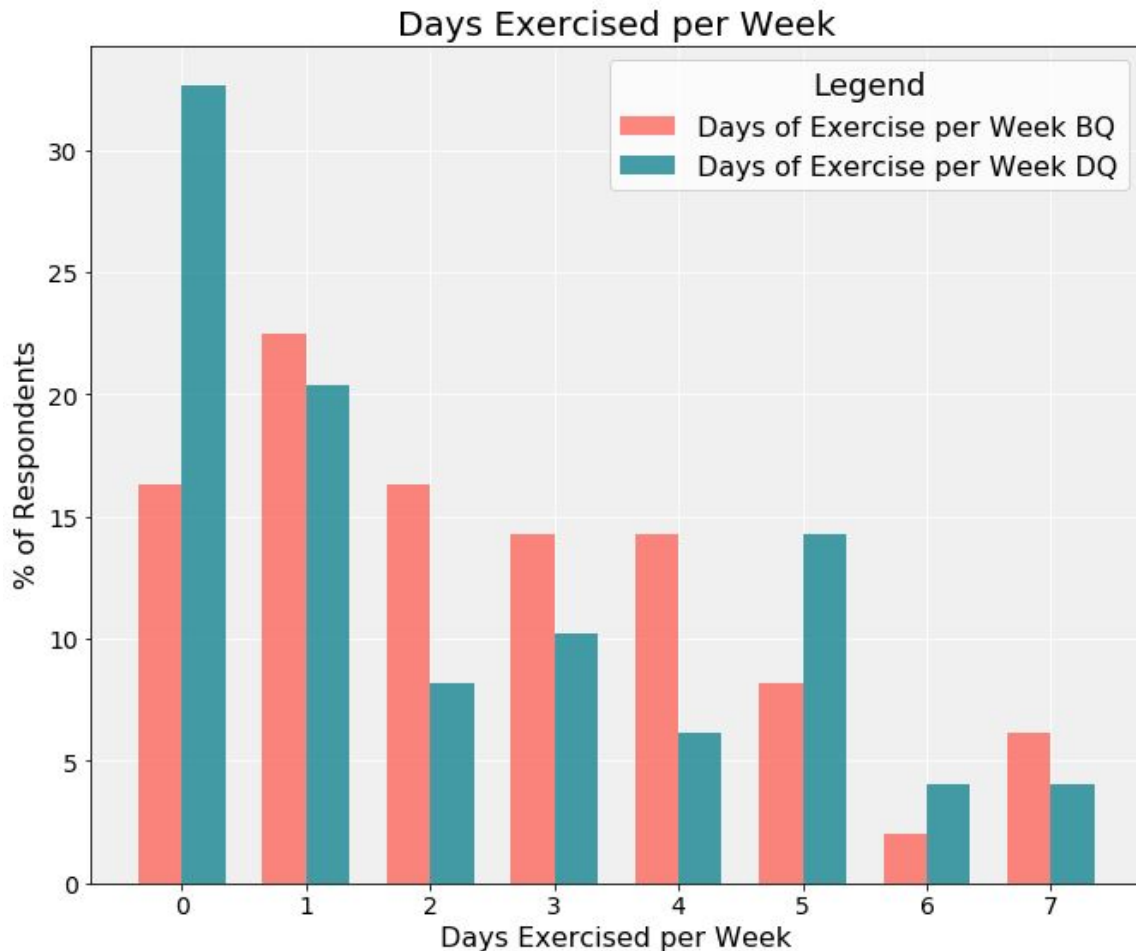
Exercise

Amount of exercise decreased as we entered quarantine season.

For reference, gyms started to close late March to early April. PAC and CIF closed their doors mid to late March.

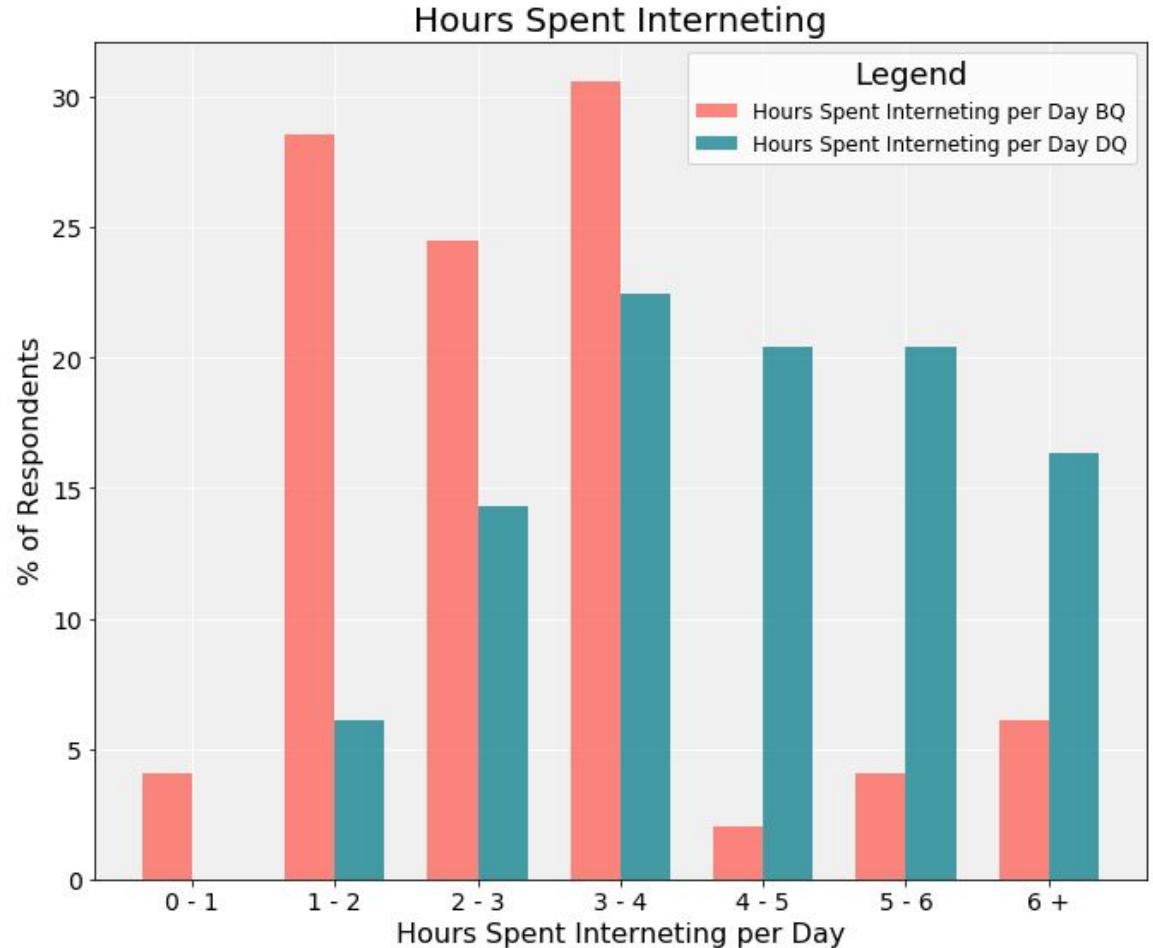
Source:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/covid-19-in-canada-what-s-closed-due-to-coronavirus-concerns-1.4854499>



Hours Spent Interneting

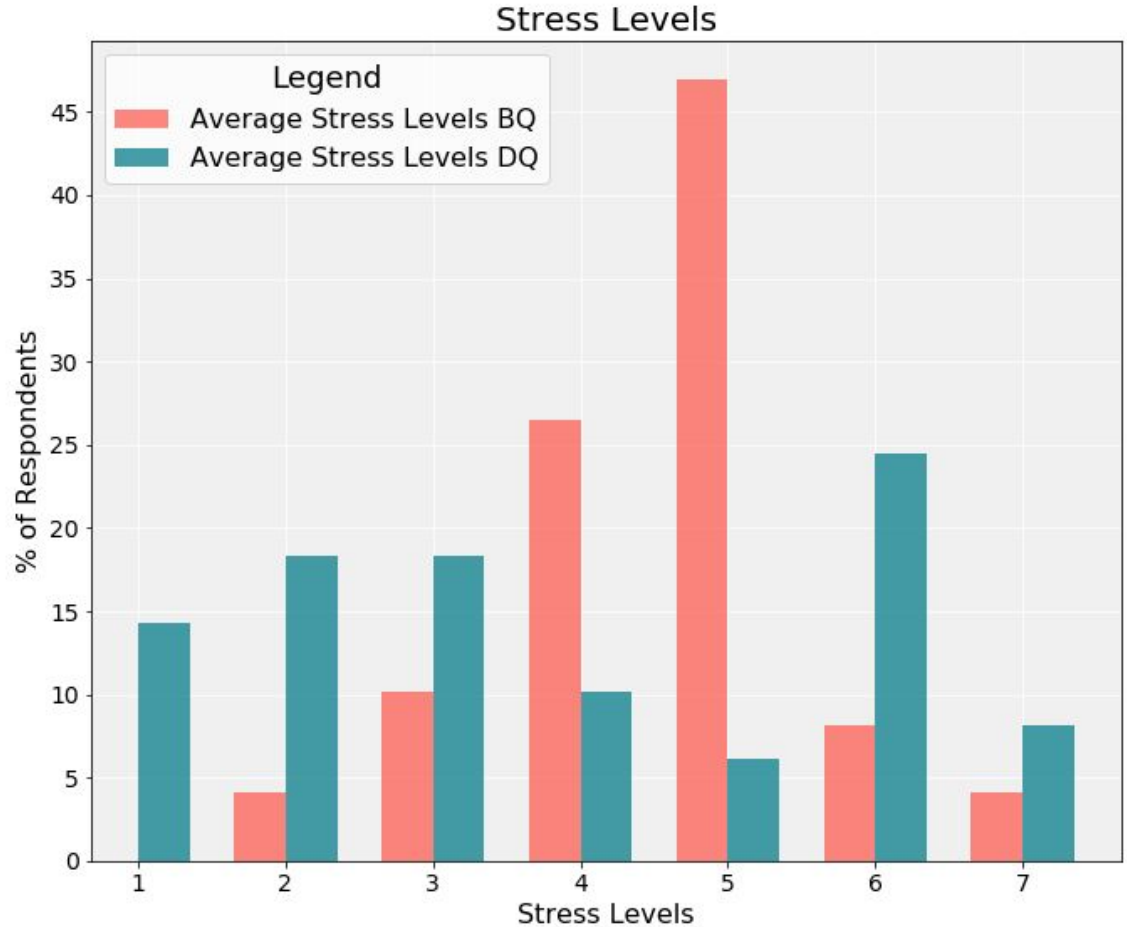
Internet browsing shot up. With less pressure on school, netflix and reddit and facebook and youtube and literally whatever shot up



Average Stress Levels

A score of **1** meant the respondent was **not stressed** during the specified time periods.

A score of **7** meant the respondent was **extremely stressed** during the specified time periods.



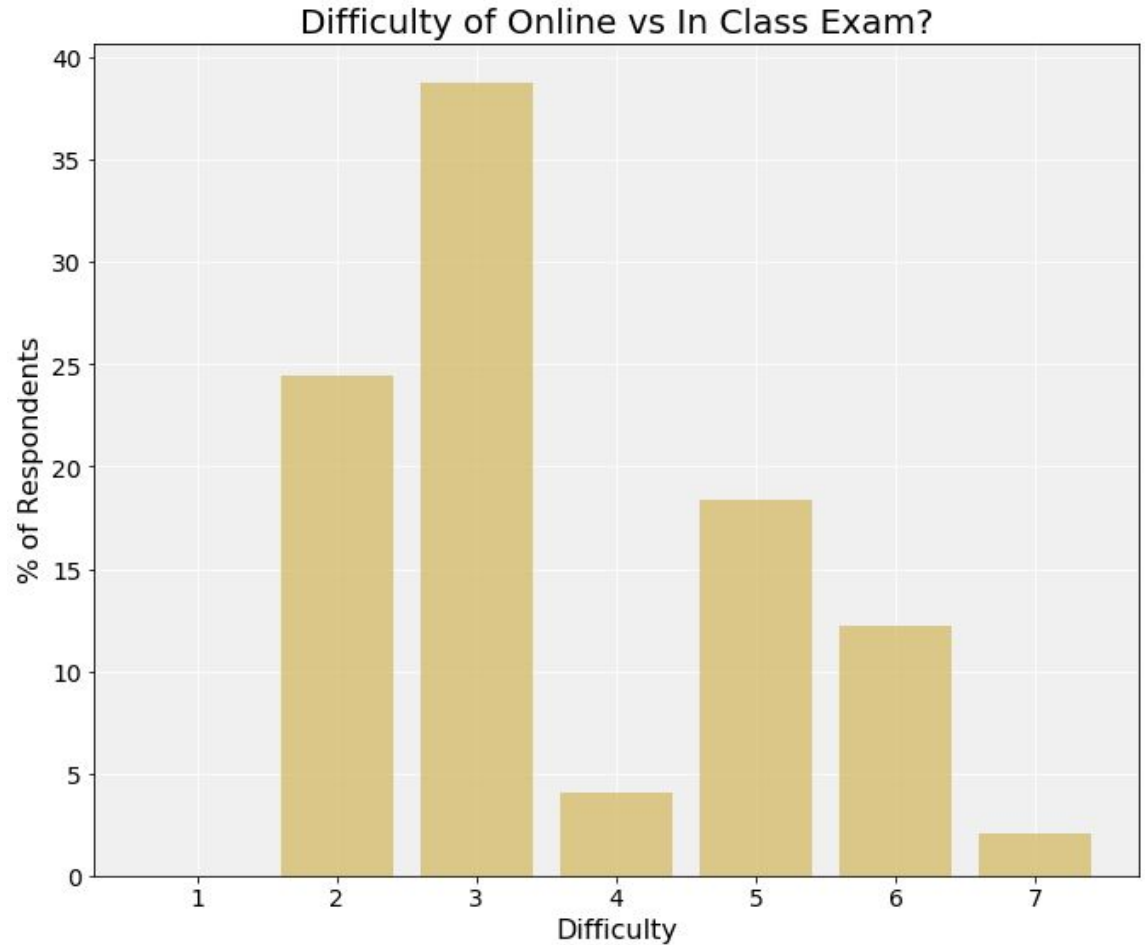
Academics

Difficulty of In Class vs Online Exams

A score of **1** meant that online exams were extremely **easier** than in-class exams.

A score of **4** meant that online exams and in-class exams have the same level of difficulty.

A score of **7** meant that online exams were extremely **harder** than in-class exams.

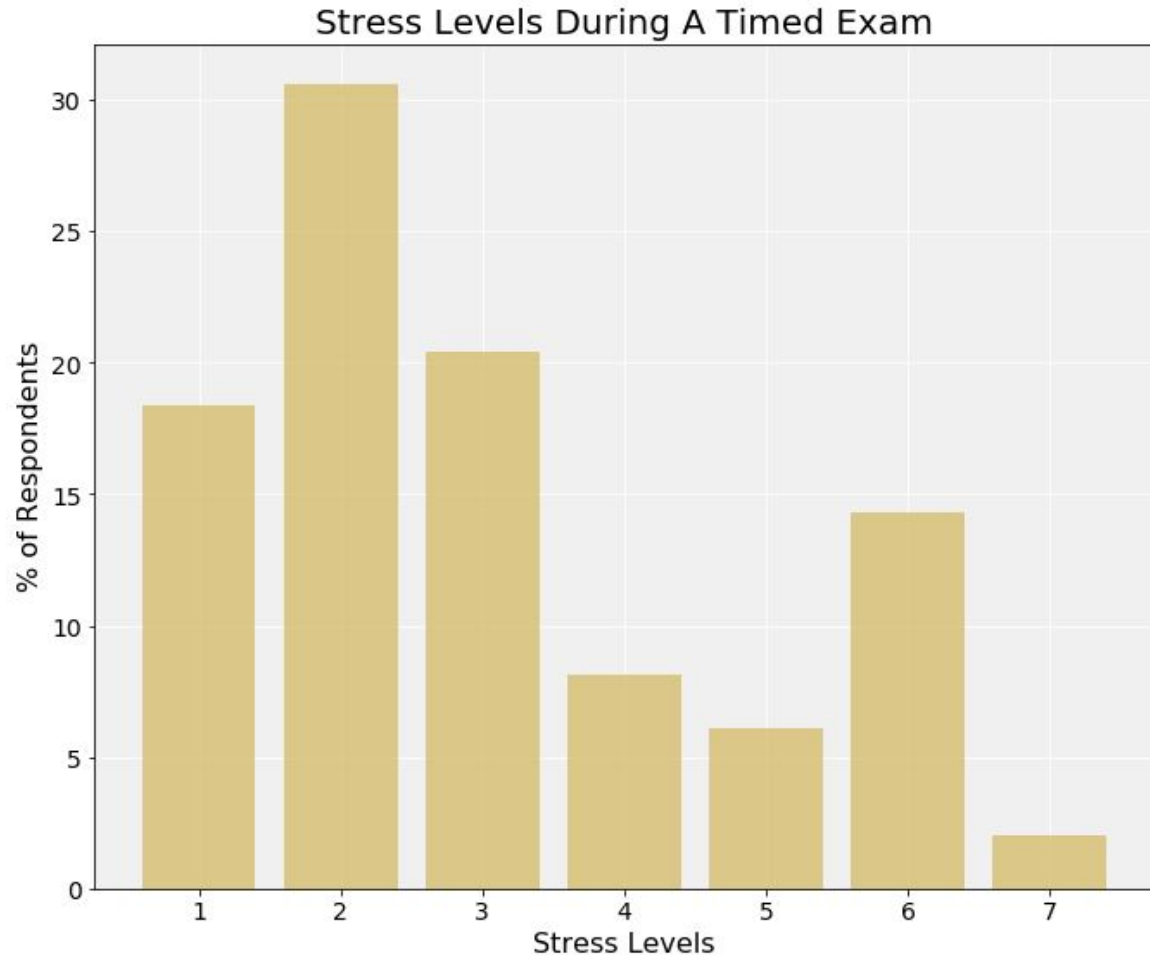


Stress Levels During a Timed Exam

A score of **1** meant that a respondent was **overstressed** during a timed exam

A score of **4** meant that a respondent had the same amount of stress as during an in-class exam

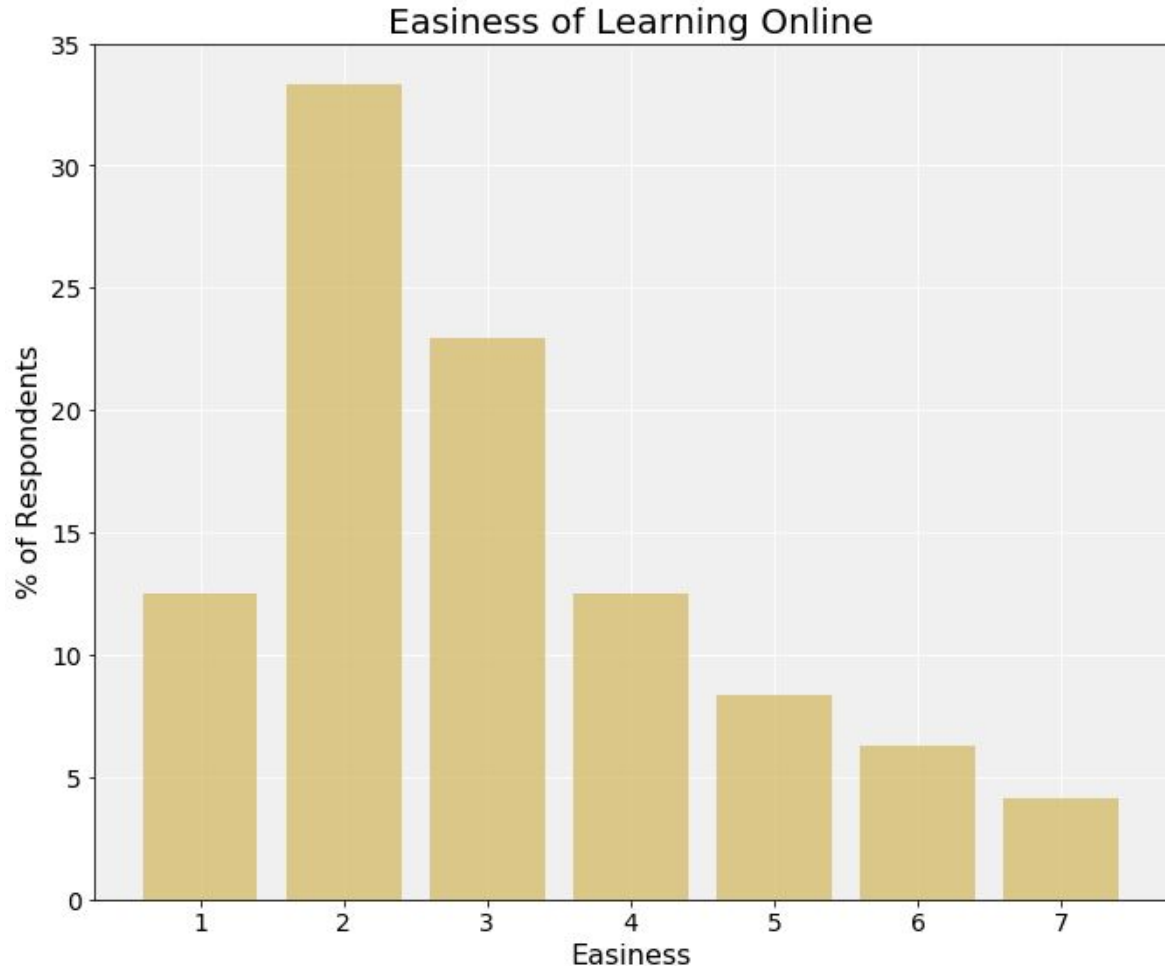
A score of **7** meant that a respondent was **not stressed** during a timed exam



Ease of Online Learning

A score of **1** meant the respondent found that online learning was **extremely challenging** compared to in-class learning

A score of **7** mean the respondent found that online learning was **extremely easy** compared to in-class learning

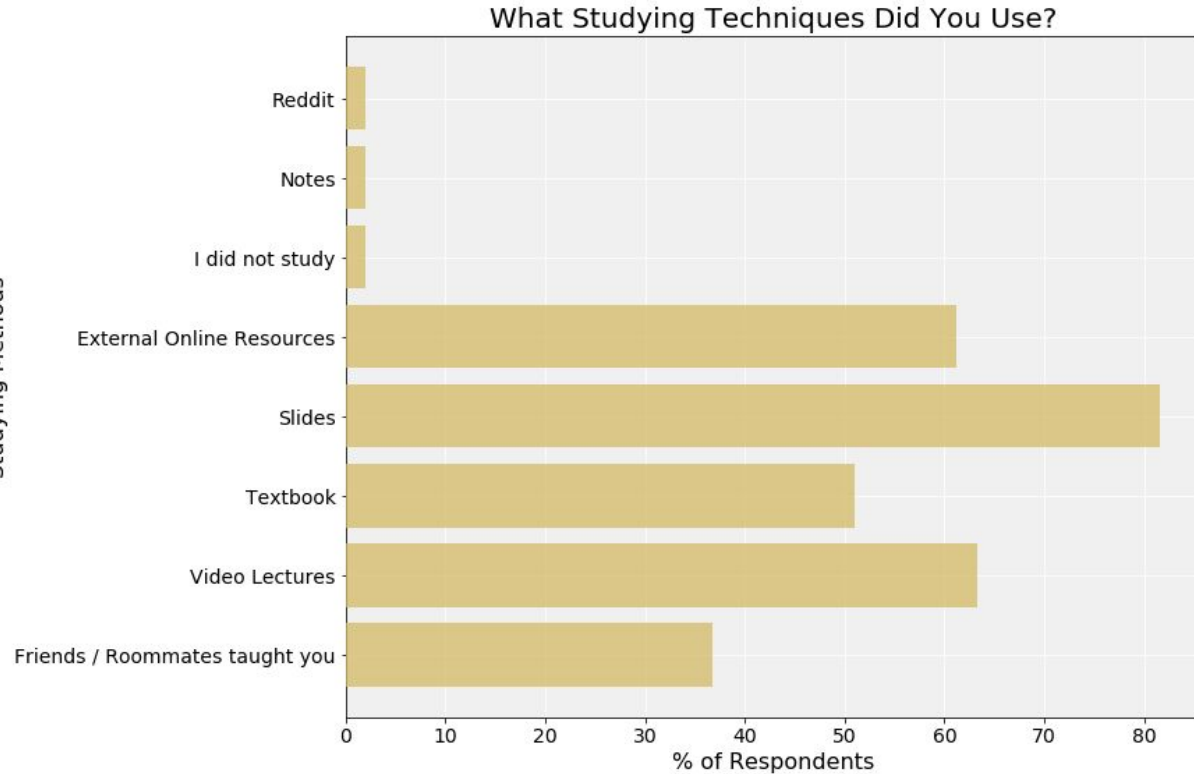


Main Methods of Studying

The most used resources to study were uploaded slides for each course, video lectures, and external online resources.

Using your notes was implied to be the main method of studying for all participants

Studying Methods

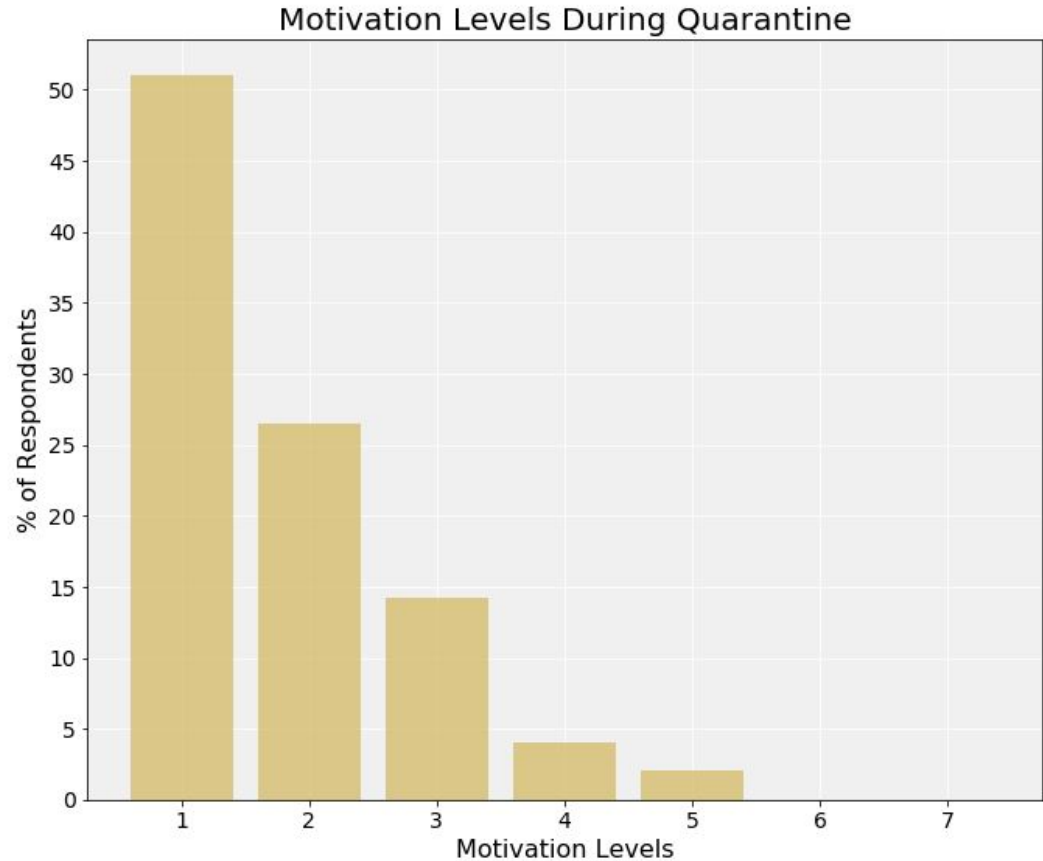


Motivation

A score of **1** meant the respondent had **absolutely zero motivation** to do anything.

A score of **7** meant the respondent had **extremely high levels of motivation** to do anything.

~~Zero motivation gang~~

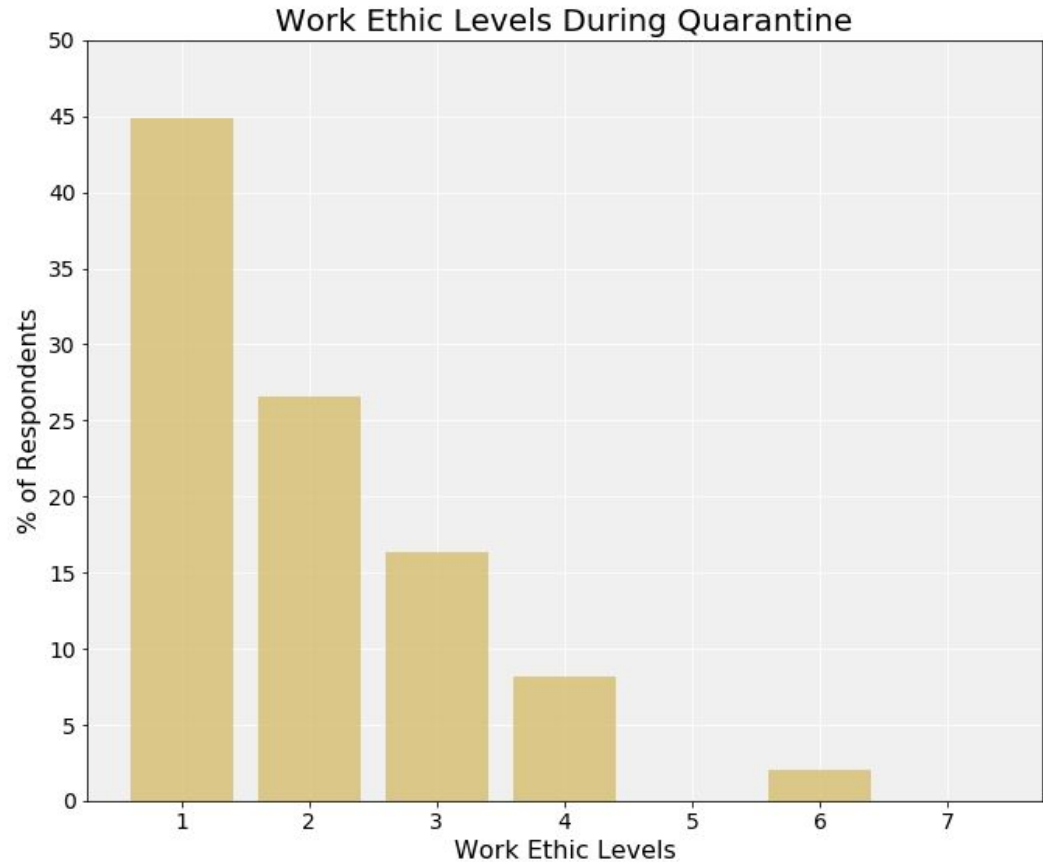


Work Ethic

A score of **1** meant the respondent had **no sense of work ethic** during quarantine.

A score of **7** mean the respondent had **high levels of work ethic** during quarantine.

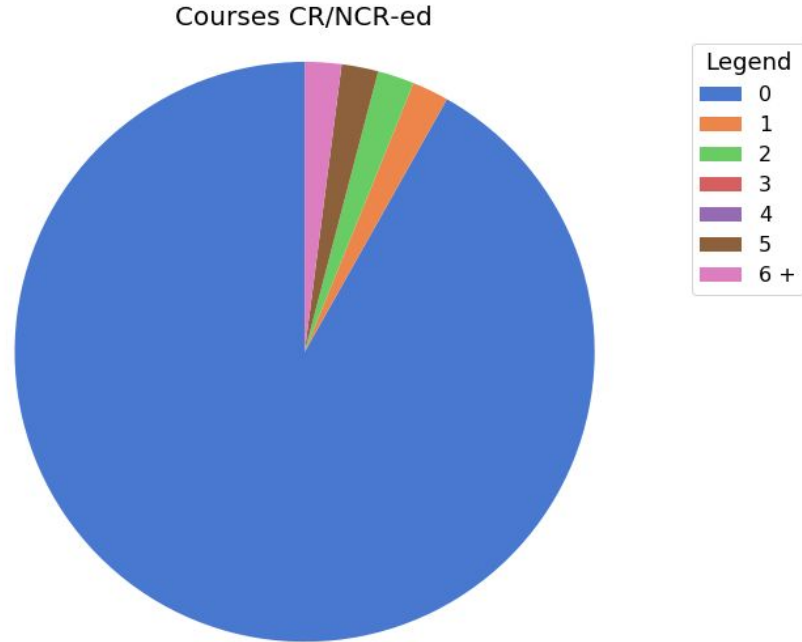
Motivation levels dropped and work ethic levels dropped too.



Courses CR-ed

If a person chose to CR a course, the person would lose out on anything that involved GPA calculations.

This would mean that they might not be able to qualify for exchange.



Co-op

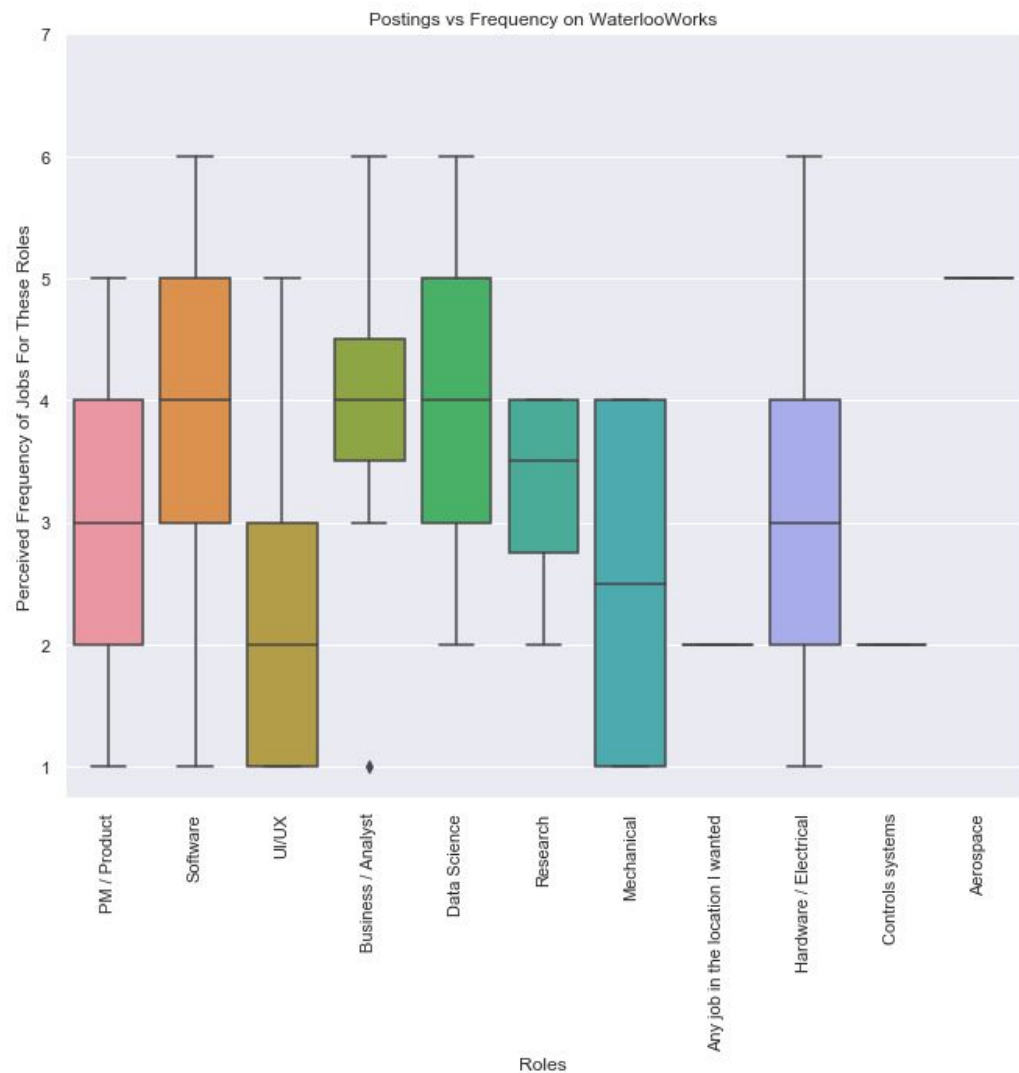
Postings for Positions

Were there a lot of available jobs for the roles that you wanted?

Quoting my roommate: “there’s a drought for design jobs”

N Values:

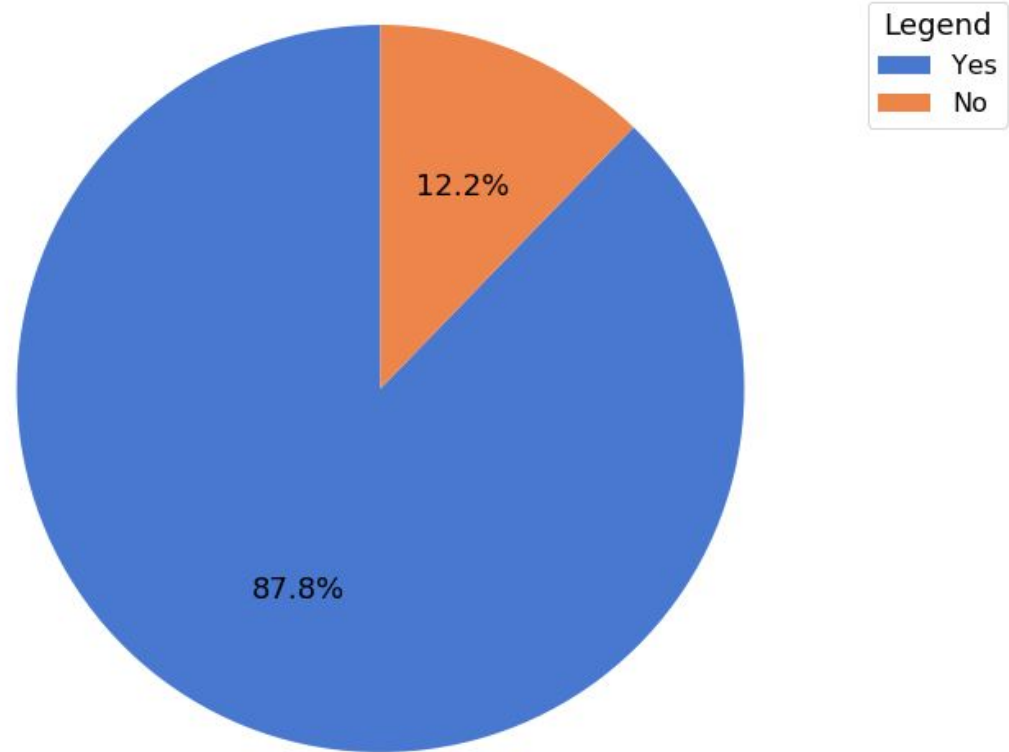
- PM : 20
- SWE : 29
- UI/UX : 17
- B/A : 7
- Data Sci : 11
- Research : 4
- Mech : 6
- ECE : 5
- Any: 1
- Controls: 1
- Aerospace: 1



Had Offer

43 respondents received an offer for a job for Spring 2020 at any point in the term

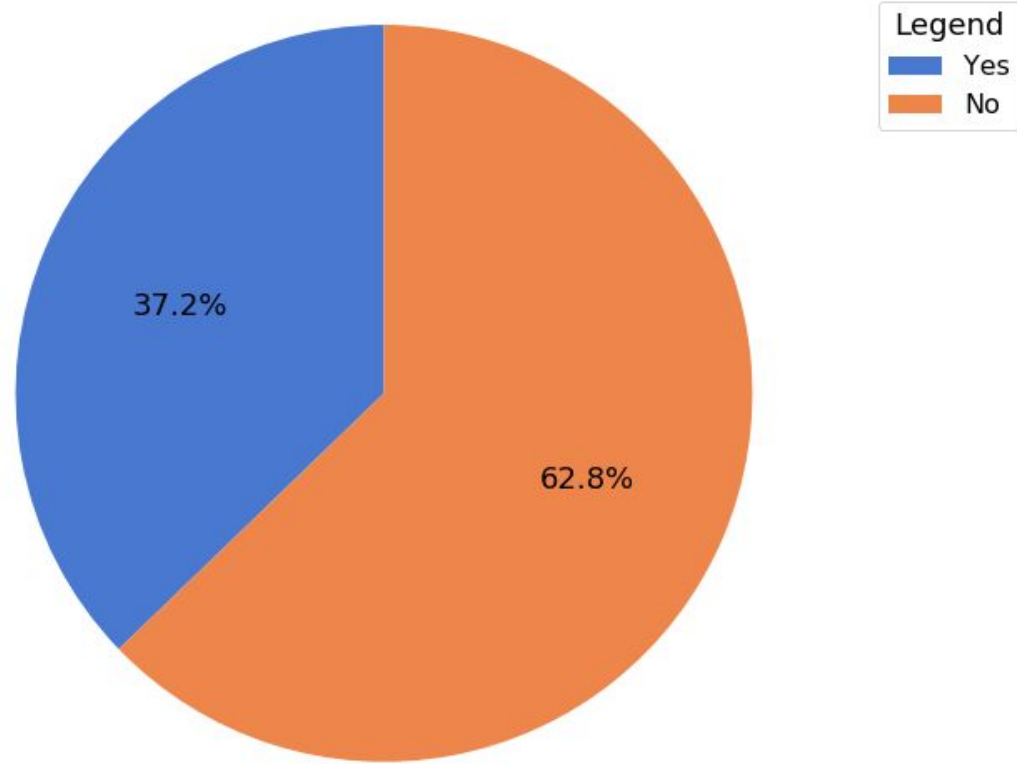
Had an Offer at ANY Point in the Term



Had Cancelled Offer

Of the 43 respondents who had an offer at any point in the term, 16 had their offers cancelled

Had an Offer that was Cancelled



Date of Job Cancellation

The news hit pretty late in the continuous round, so the chances of getting another job were decently low. With the amount of postings on WaterlooWorks being much lower than usual, it was an even harder hit.

Press F for the person who had their job cancelled on April Fools

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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LEGEND

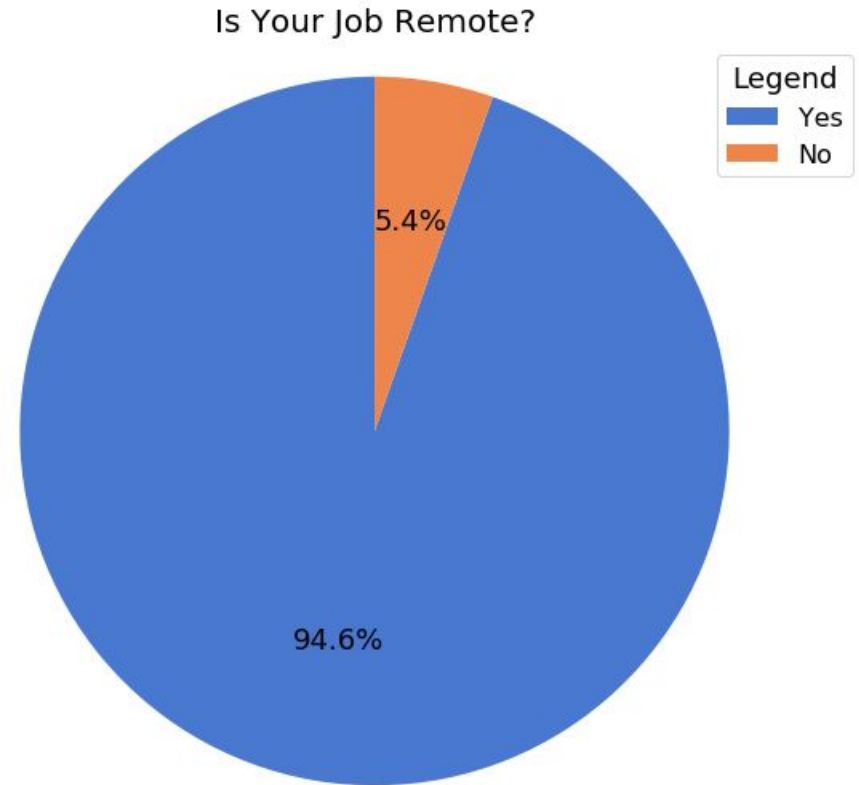
1

2

3

Is Your Job Remote?

To the 5.4% of respondents to this questions (N = 38), we hope you are safe and Covid-free

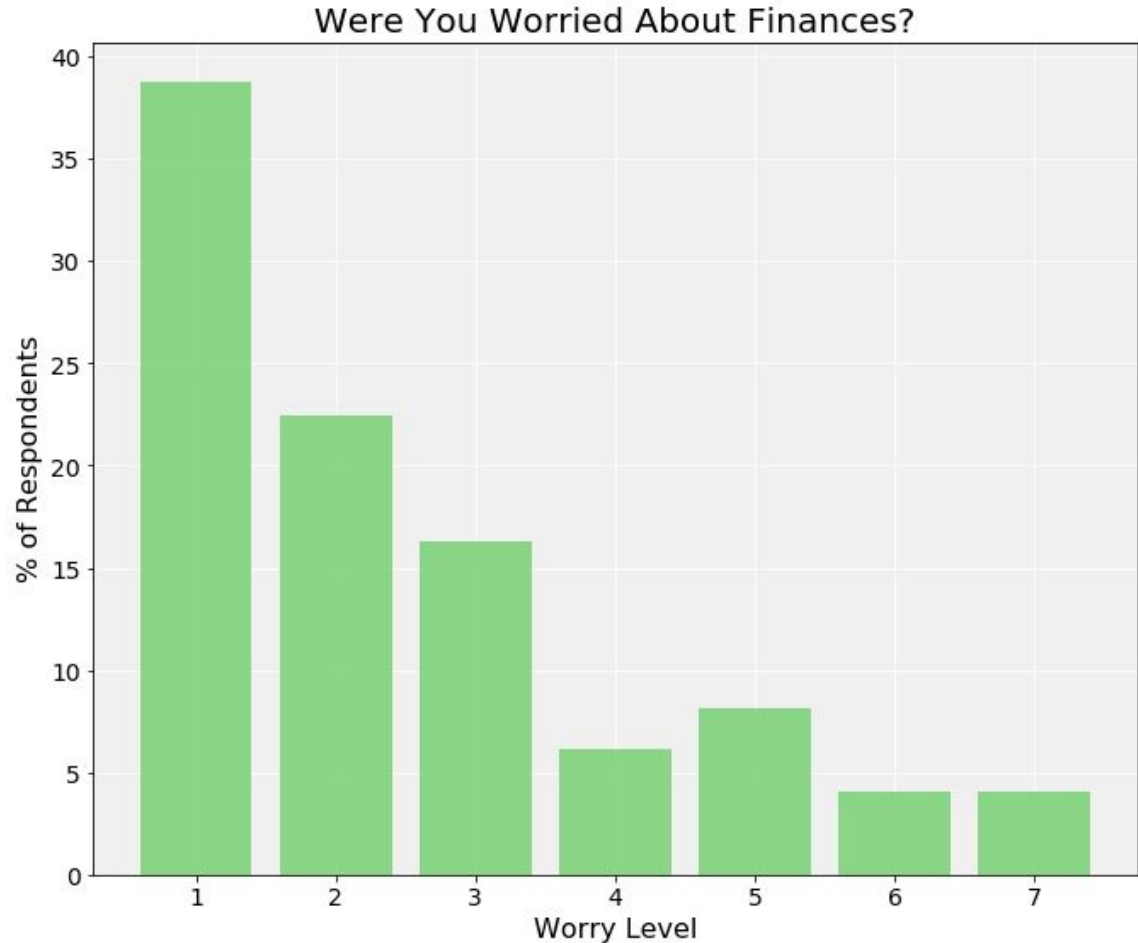


Finances

Financial Worry

A score of **1** meant that a respondent was **not worried** about their financial situation when Covid-19 happened

A score of **7** meant that a respondent was **very worried** about their financial situation when Covid-19 happened

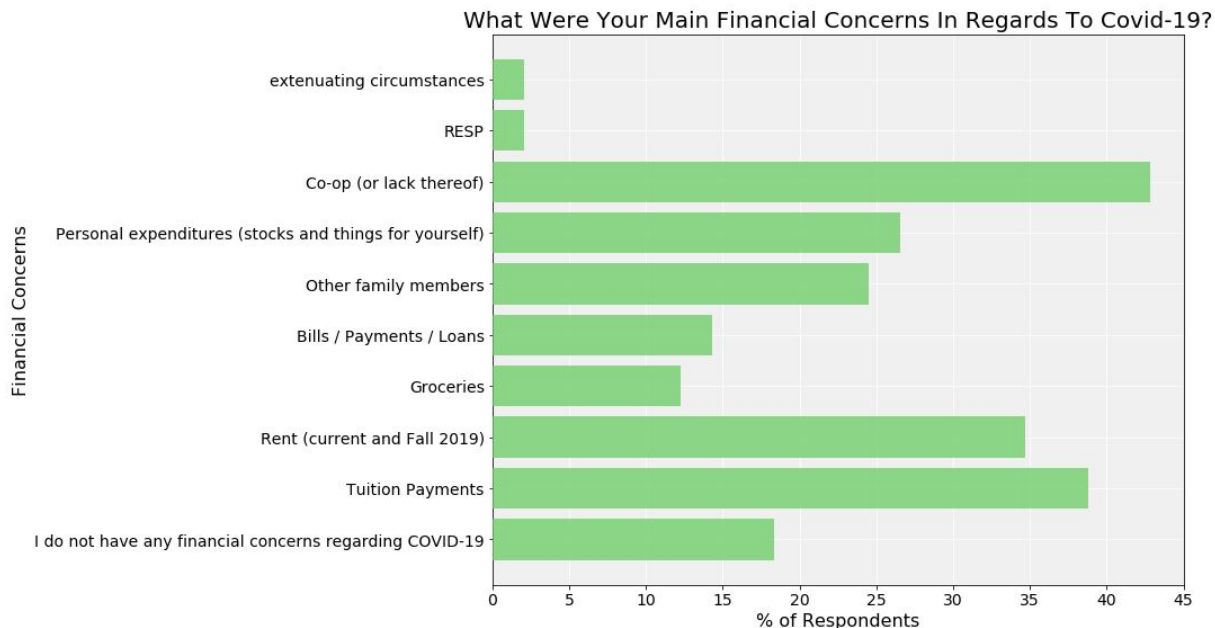


Main Financial Concerns

To quote one respondent regarding the RESP:

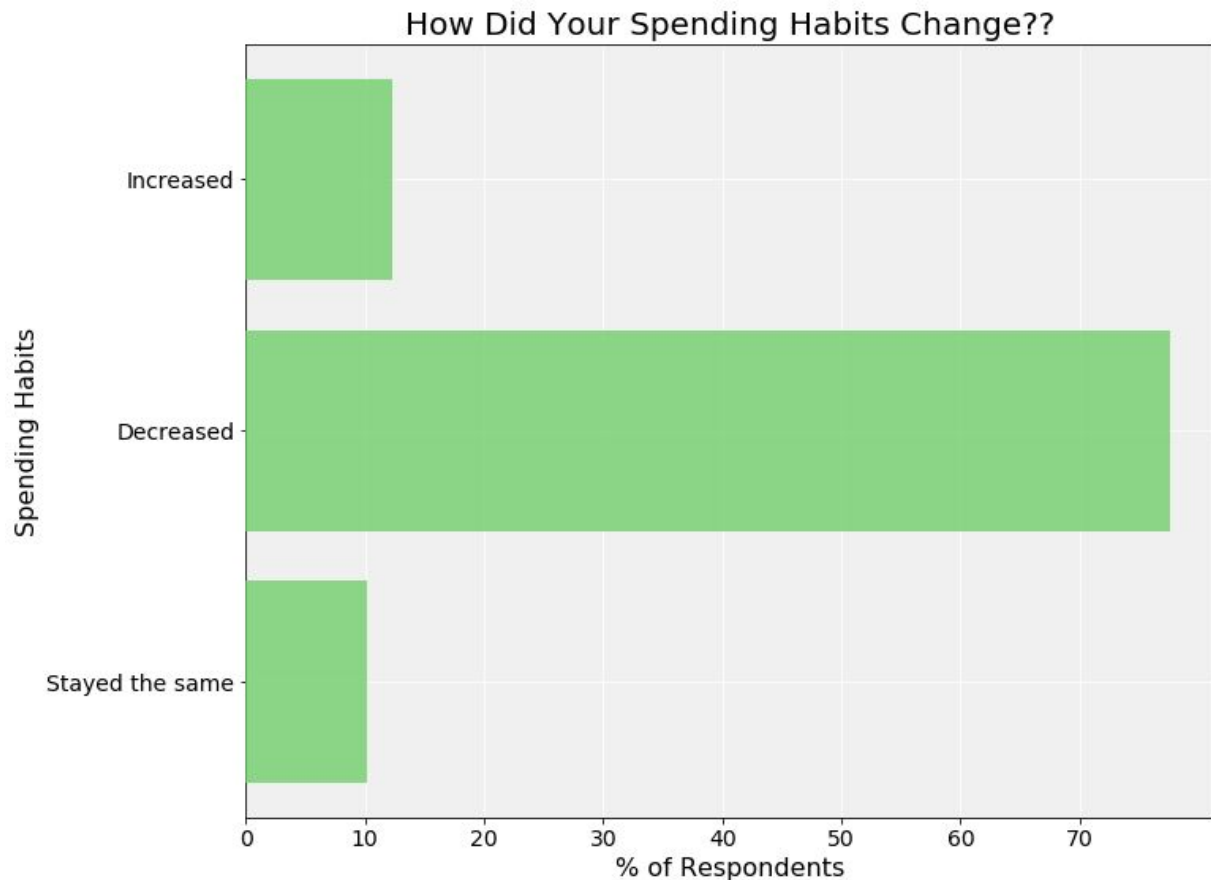
“Everyone lost RESP money (and my mom won’t stop talking about it)”

Co-ops getting cancelled back and forth didn’t exact help the financial aspects of it either



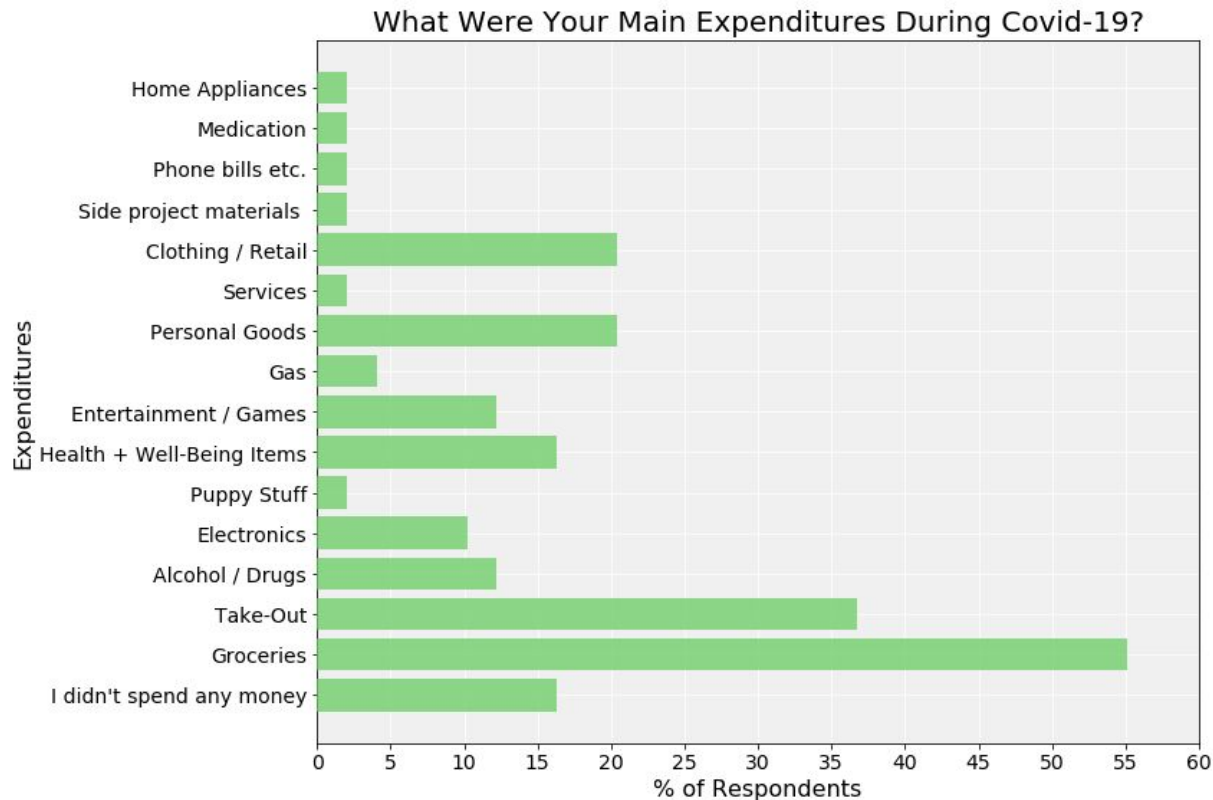
Changes In Spending Habits

A decent chunk of us moved back with our families, and we went out much less, so spending generally decreased



Financial Expenditures

Shoutout to that one person who got a dog, we hope it's a good boy/girl

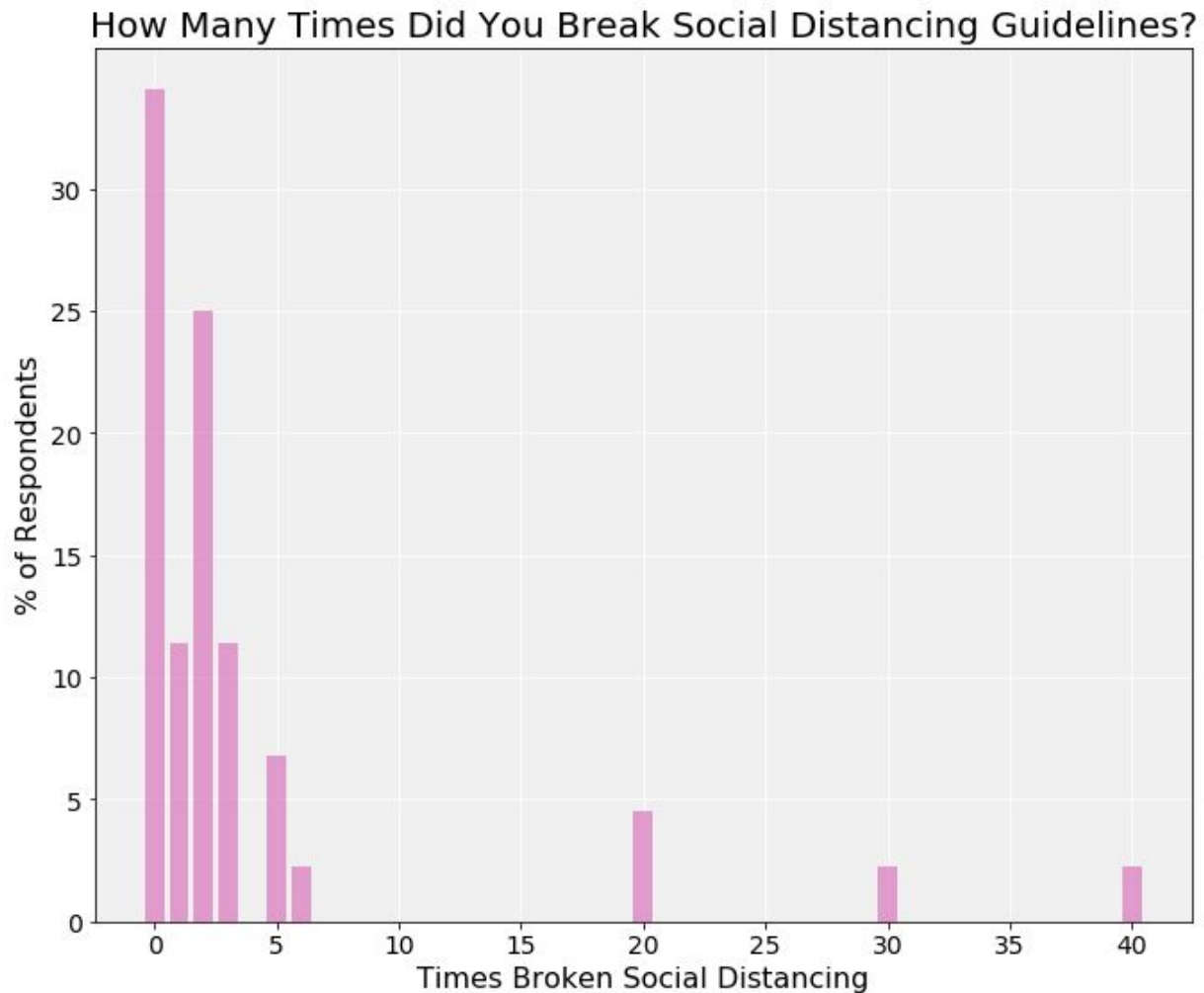


Mental Health

Times Broken Social Distancing

We're human, so it's fine that we broke social distancing *sometimes*

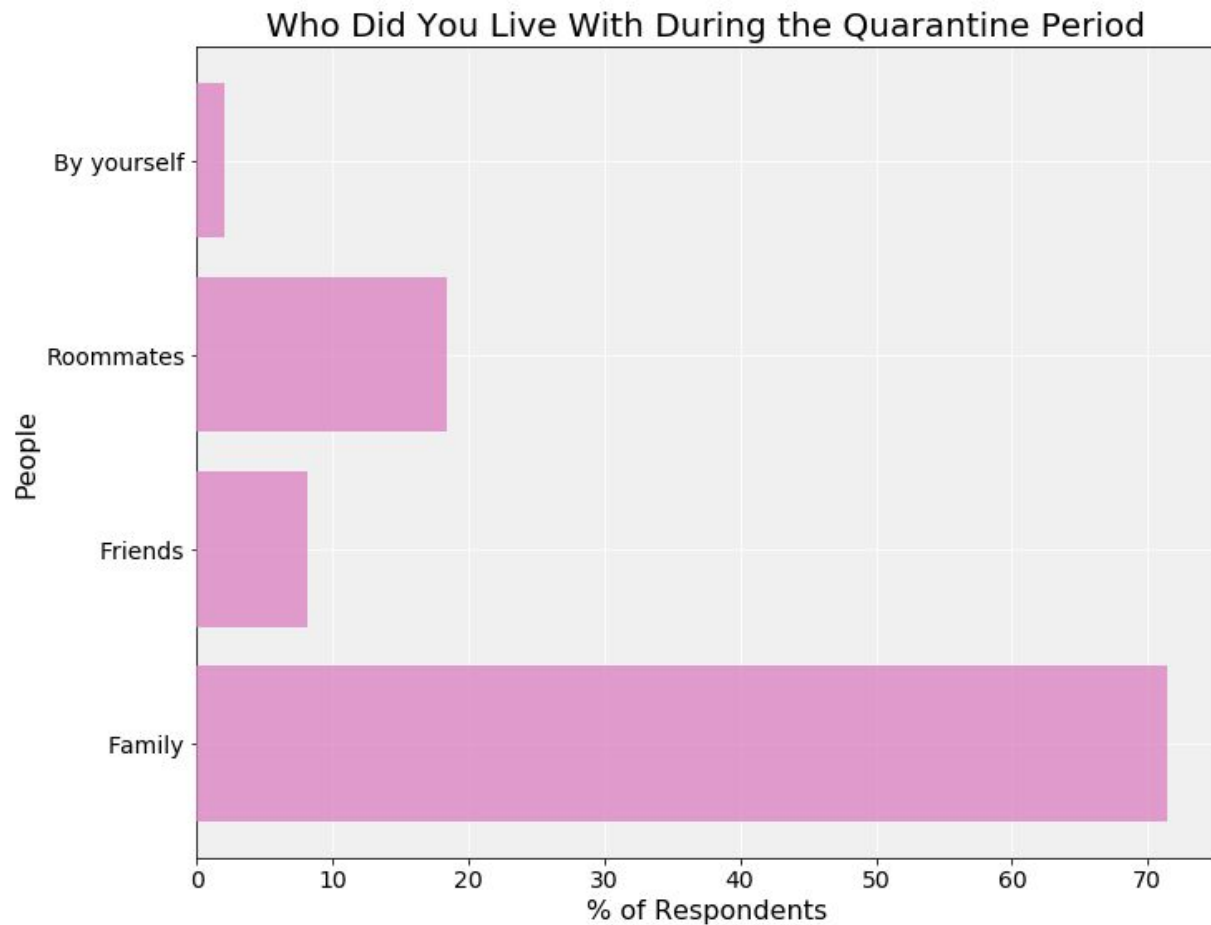
~~To be fair they were just guidelines~~



Who Did You Live With?

If your roommates were your friends, then they are your friends.

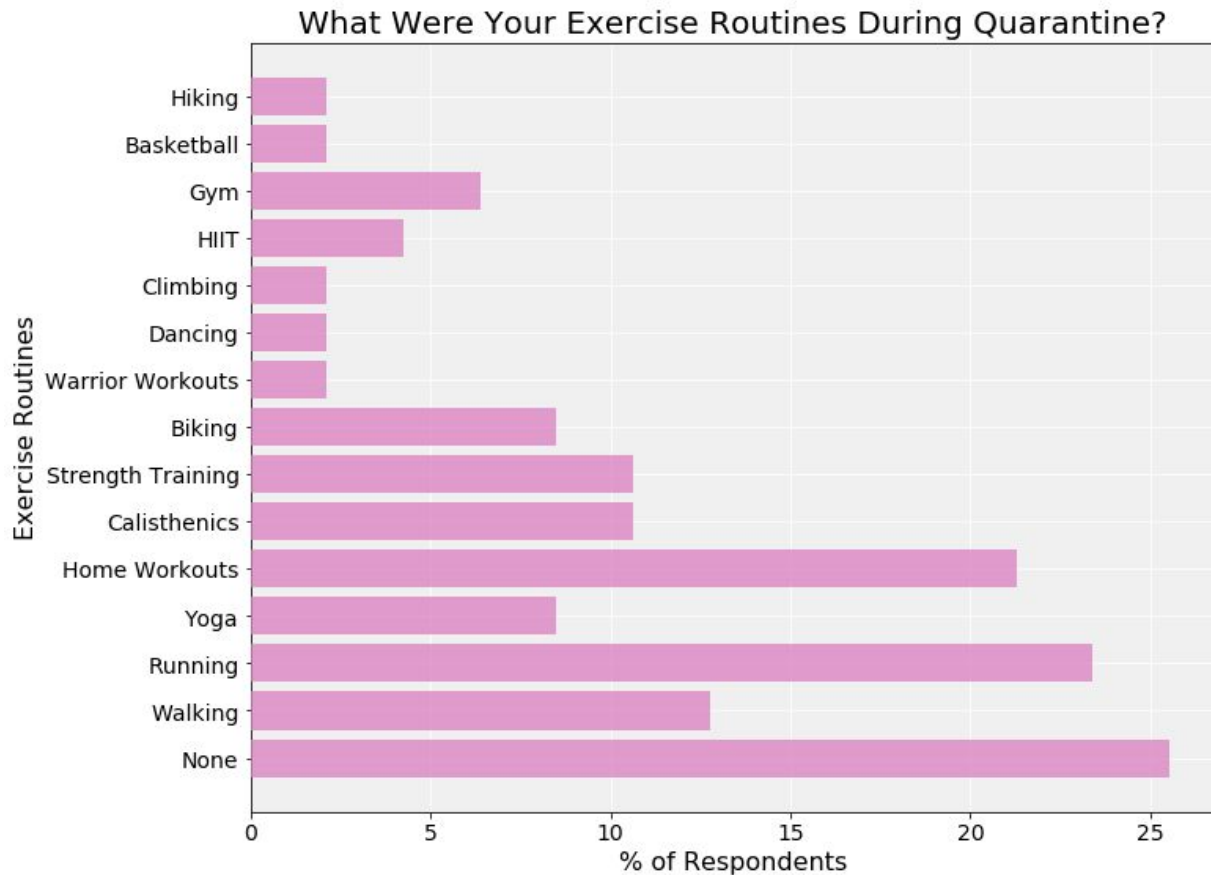
Roommates \Leftrightarrow Friends
- but they can be tho



Exercise Routines

Despite the gyms being closed, the majority of us kept going with various types of at-home workouts

“Bench pressing my roommates” was categorized under strength training



Cabin Fever

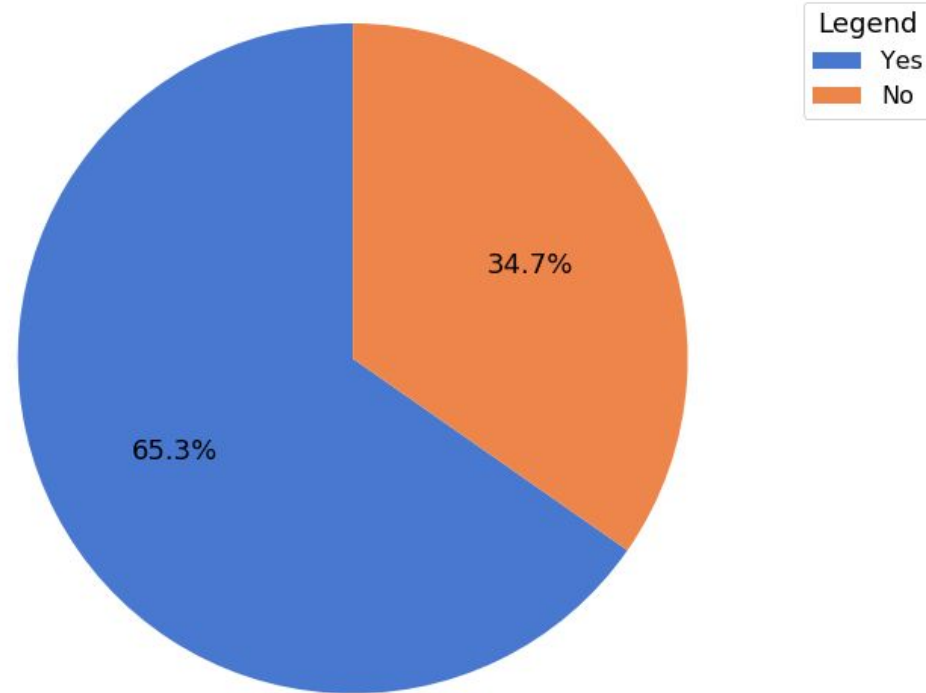
Cabin Fever: extreme irritability and restlessness from living in isolation or a confined indoor area for a prolonged time.

Being forced to stay indoors all of a sudden really took a toll on us

Source:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cabin%20fever>

Experienced Cabin Fever

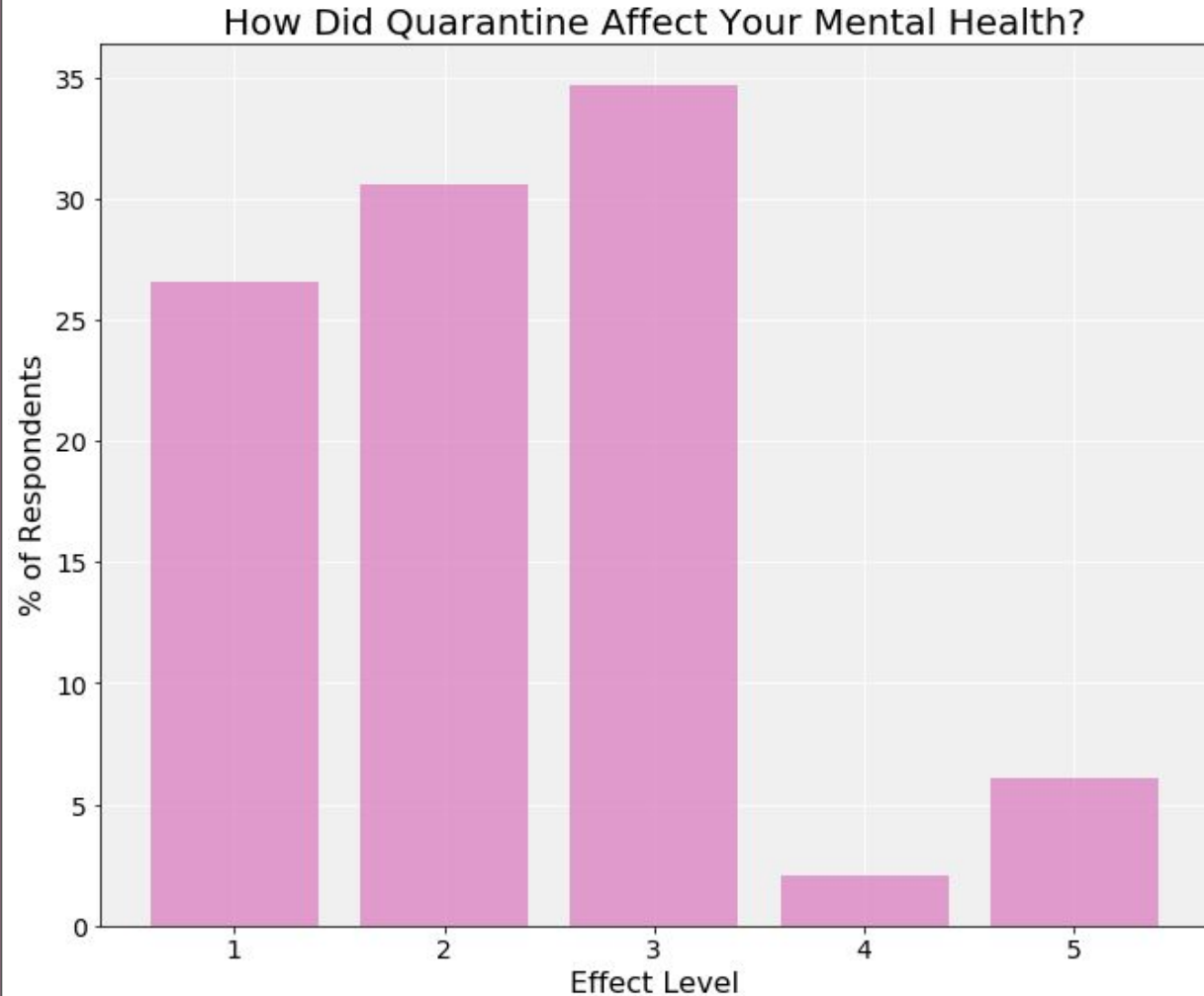


Quarantine Mental Health Levels

A score of **1** meant the respondent felt that quarantine made their mental health **worse**

A score of **5** meant the respondent felt that quarantine made **improved** their mental health.

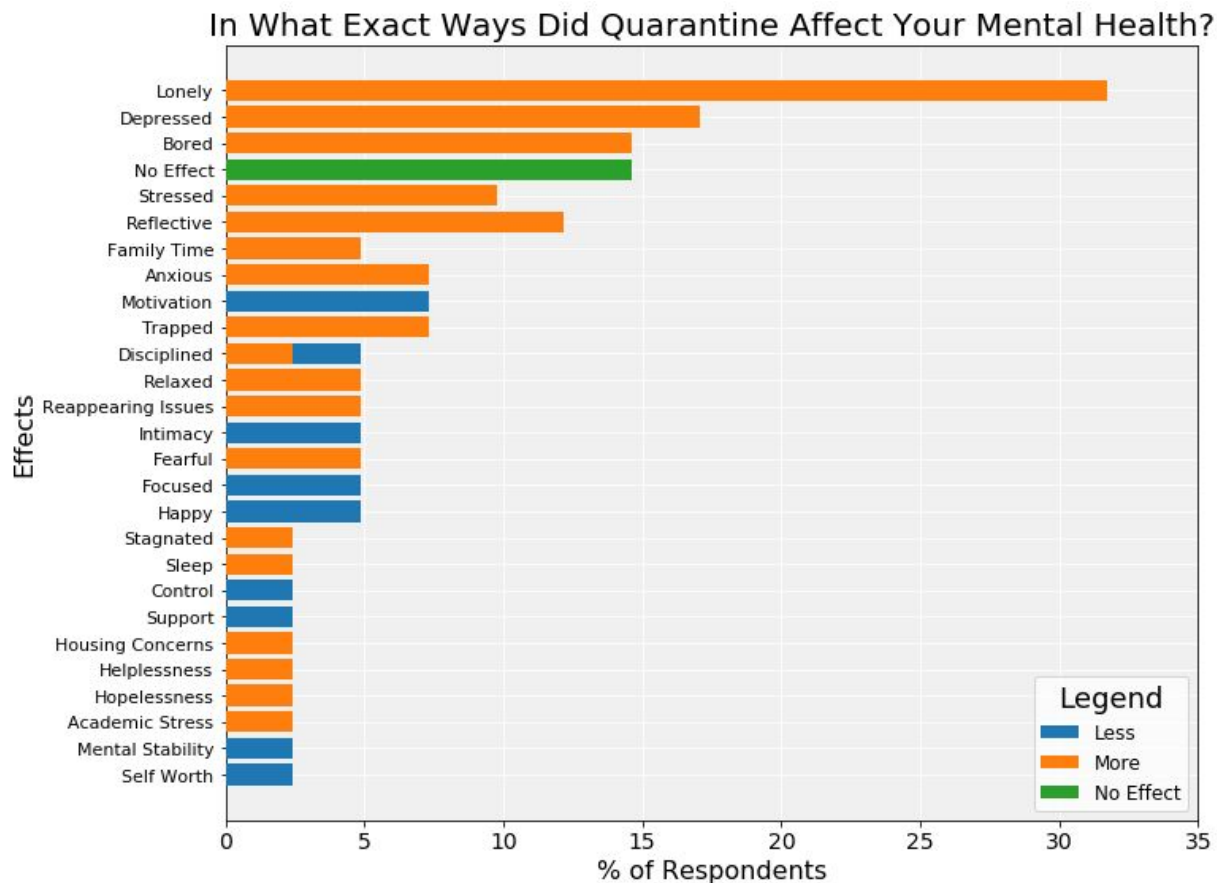
Cabin fever really did something to us



What Quarantine Made Us

Quarantine brought upon more negative impacts to our mental health. 32% of us said we were much more lonely during this period, especially with the amount of social interaction being reduced.

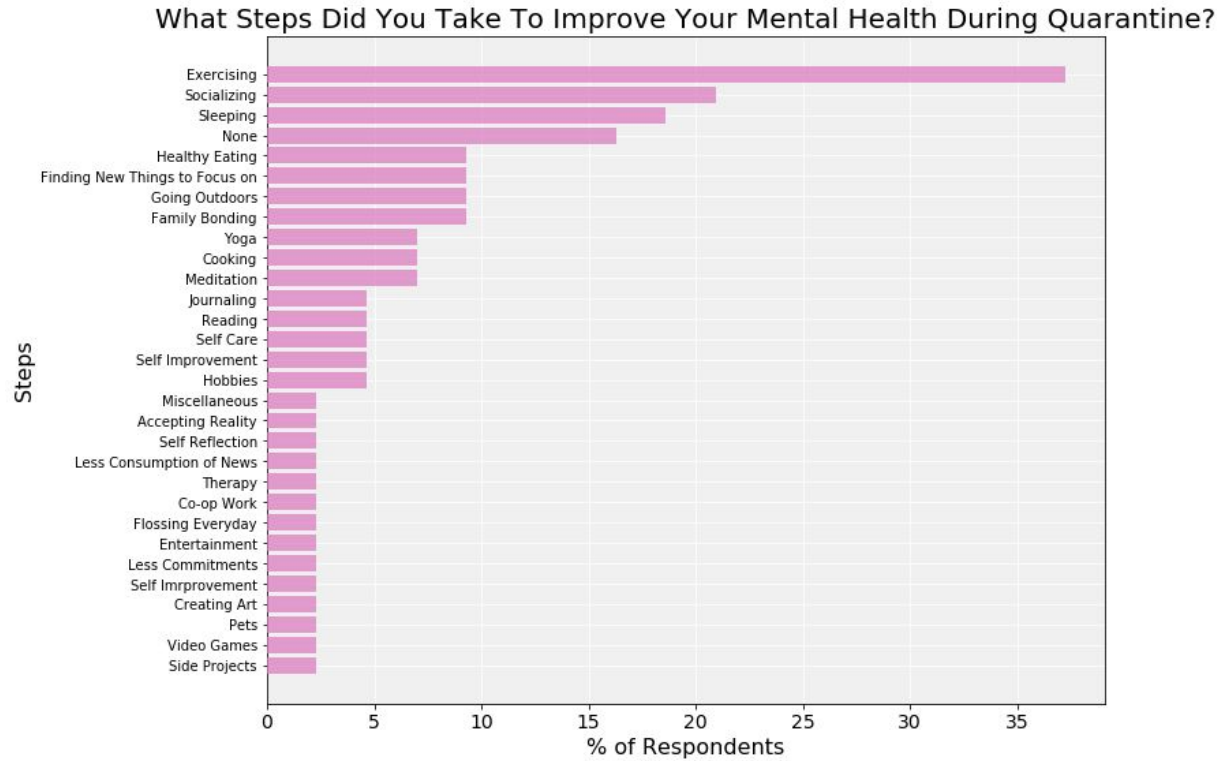
One of the few benefits was that we had more sleep, more relaxed, and more time to spend with our families



Steps Taken To Improve Mental Health

A large majority of respondents took some sort of action to help improve their mental health

If you are struggling to cope with your mental health and need someone to talk to, please book an appointment with uWaterloo Counselling Services, UW MATES, Engineering Counselling, or any other mental health services.



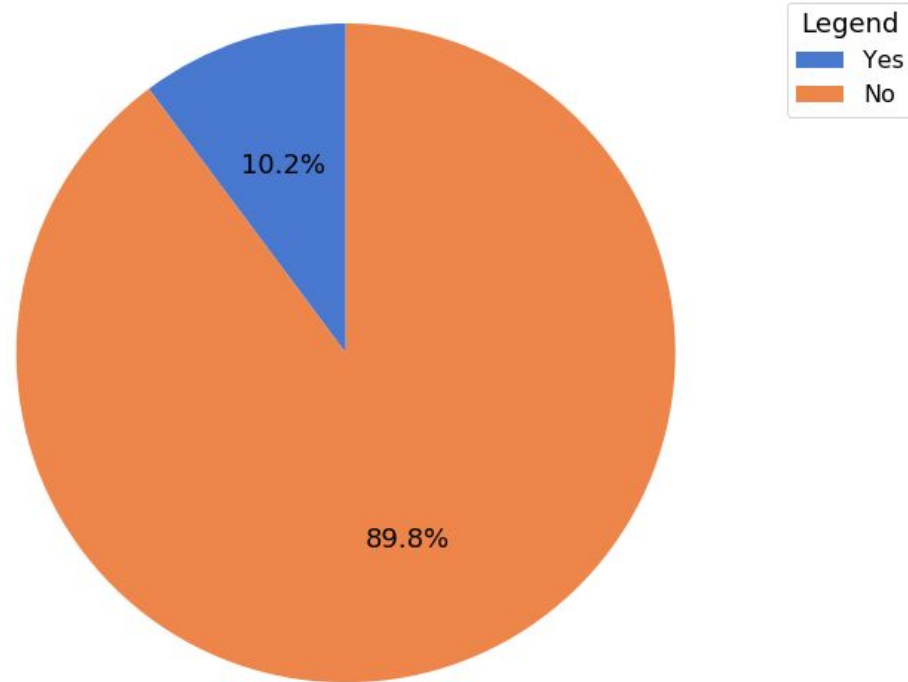
Just For Fun

Panic Buy

During the first couple of weeks of quarantine, grocery store shelves were empty. Everything was rummaged through and there were barely “survival essentials” left.

10% of us contributed to that.

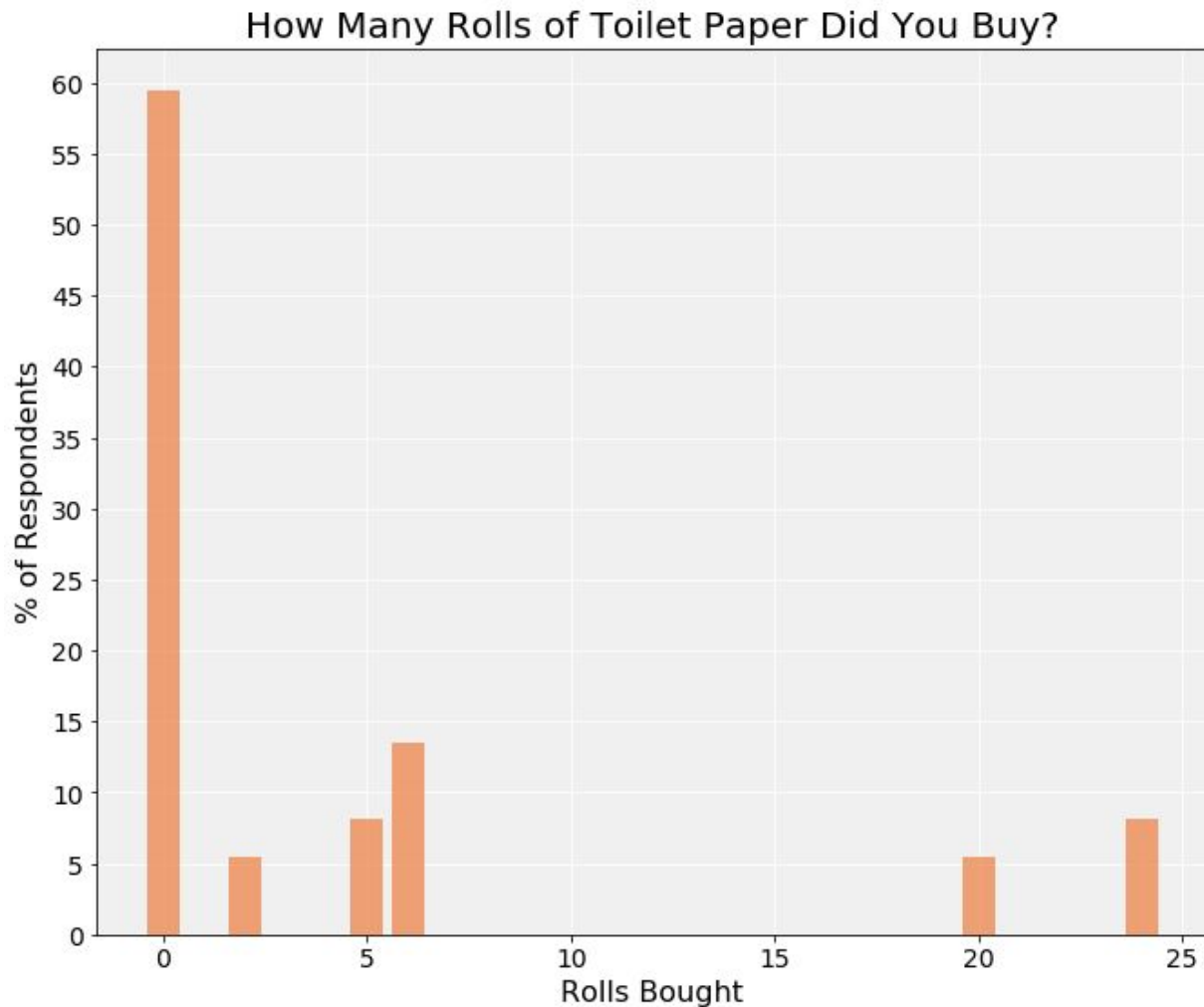
Did you Panic Buy at the Grocery Store?



Rolls of Toilet Paper Bought

Grand total:

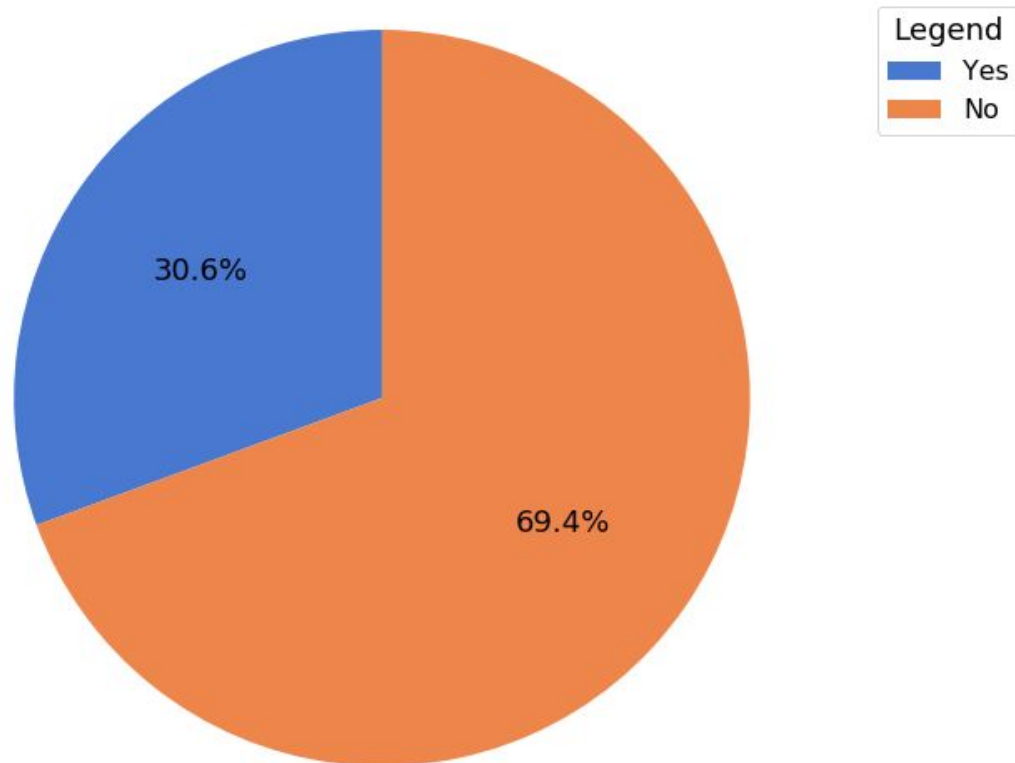
**161
ROLLS**



Self Haircuts

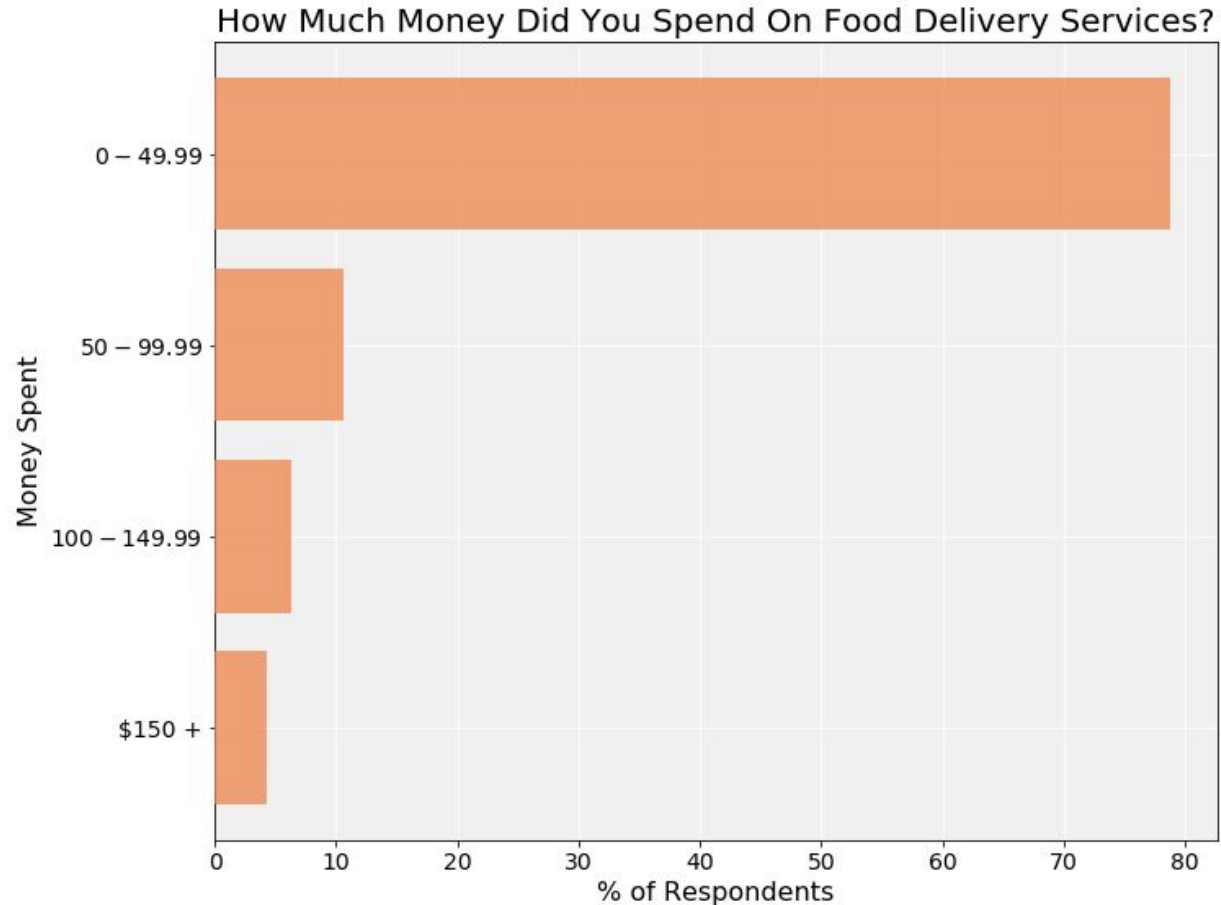
Quarantine bangs?

Did You Cut Your Own Hair?



Food Delivery Service Usage

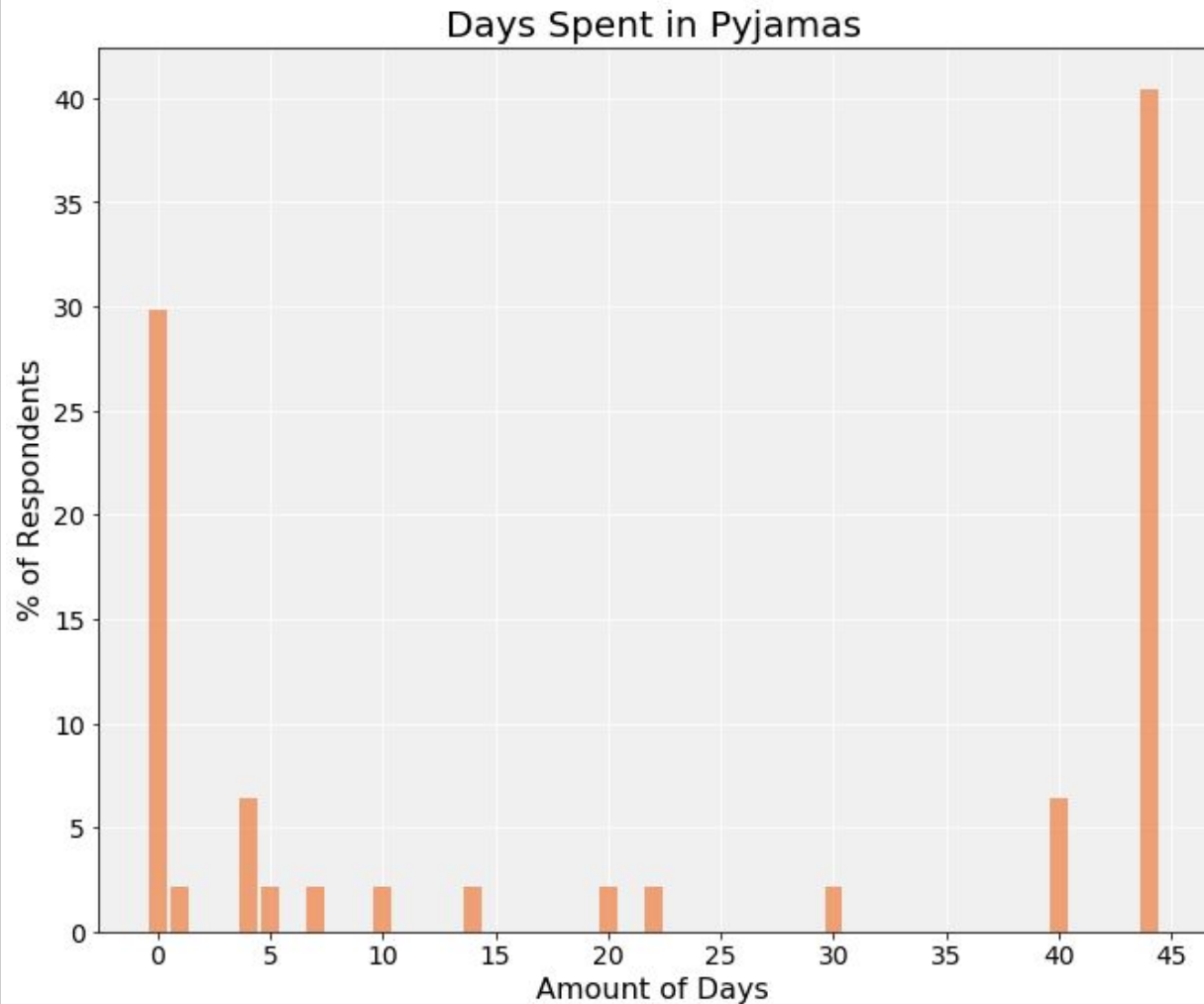
Includes, but not limited to: Uber Eats, Skip the Dishes, DoorDash, Fantuan, etc.



Days Spent in Pyjamas

All or nothing

No obligation to see people in person,
no need to dress up



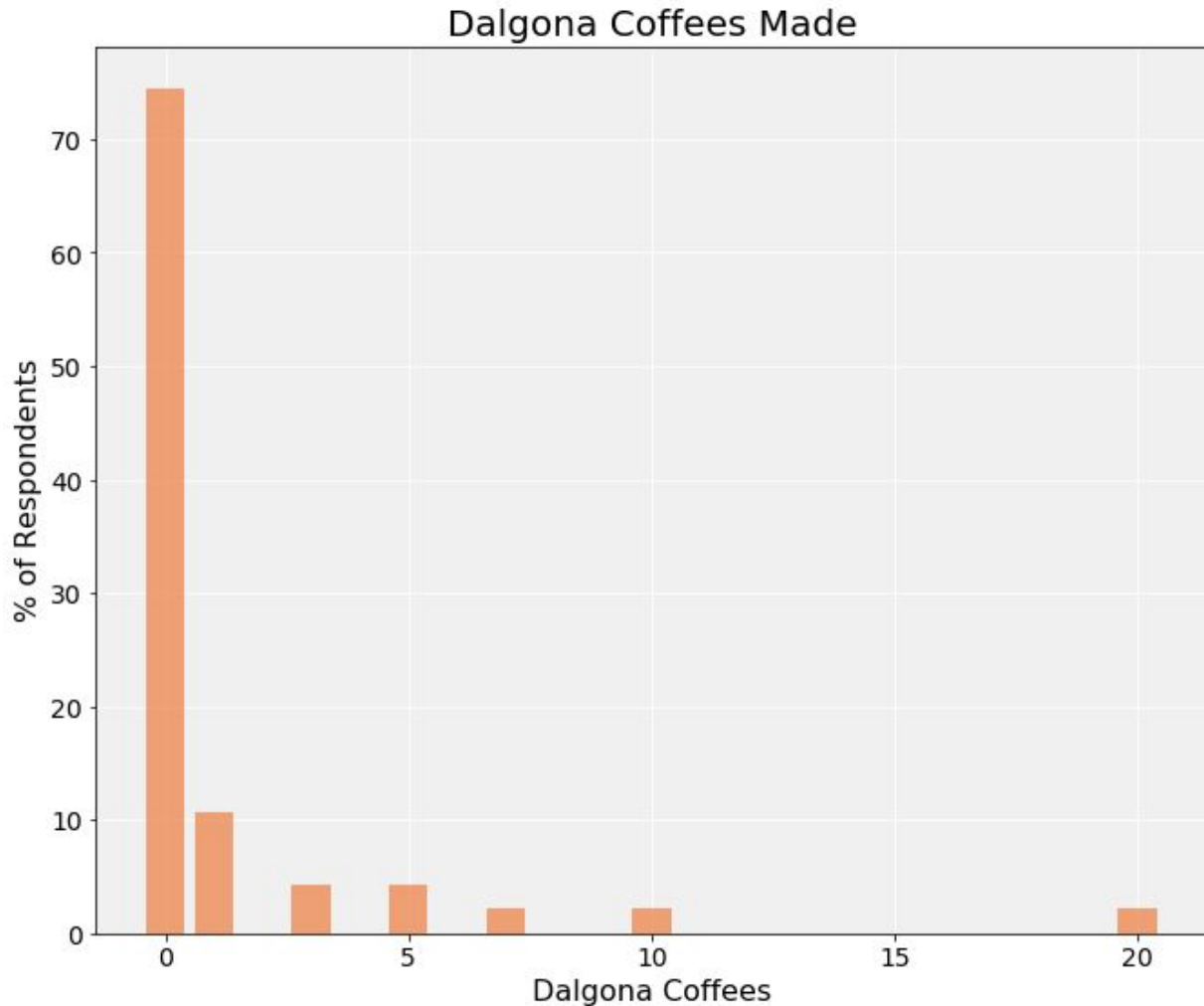
Dalgona Coffees Made

A Dalgona Coffee is beverage made by whipping equal proportions of instant coffee powder, sugar, and hot water until it becomes creamy and then adding it to cold or hot milk [Wikipedia]

Grand total:

58

**DALGONA
COFFEES**



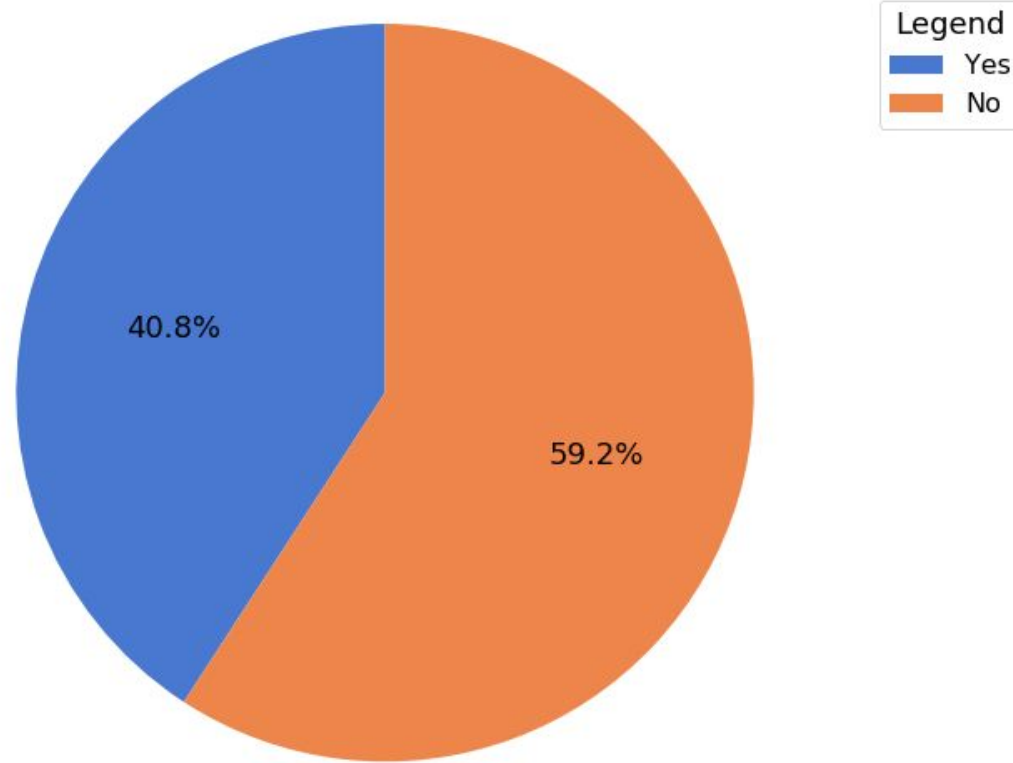
Baking Own Bread

About 4 weeks into quarantine, there was a yeast shortage since a lot of people decided to make their own bread at home

Source:

<https://www.foodandwine.com/news/yeast-supply-shortage-coronavirus>

Did You Make Your Own Bread?



Dating Apps

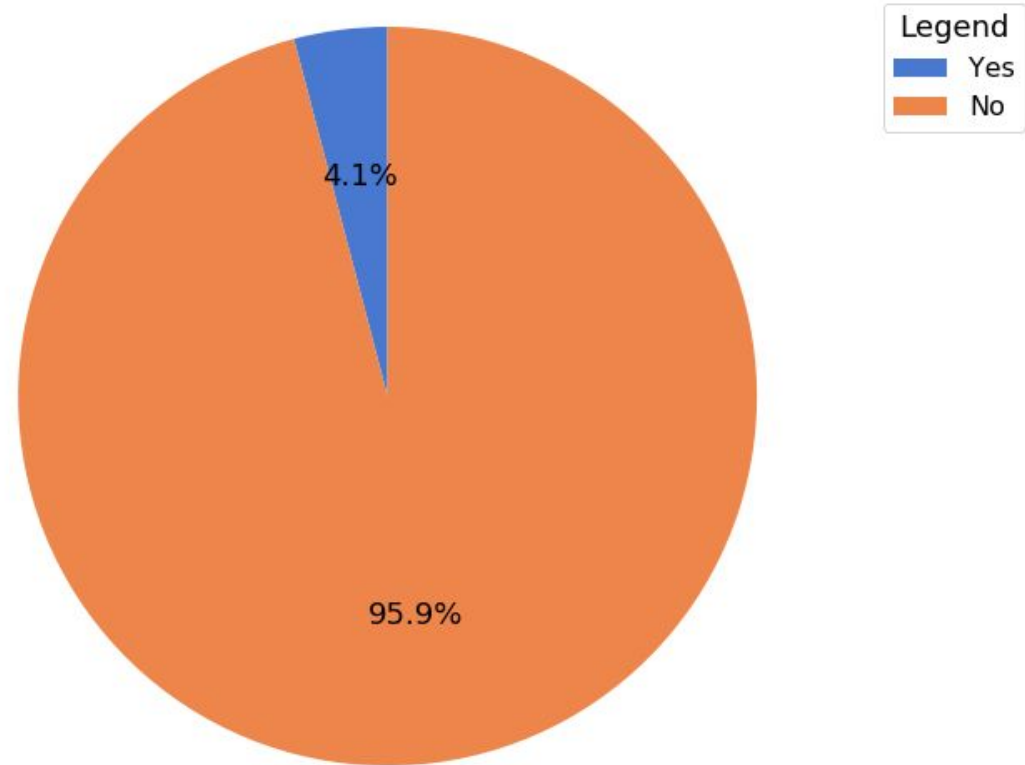
During the quarantine season, dating apps such as Tinder, Hinge, OKCupid, etc. saw a global **increase** in first time subscriptions.

In terms of new dating app users, Systems Design Engineering users fell short. #WaterWaterWater

Source:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/tinder-hinge-match-group-dating-apps-more-users-coronavirus-2020-8>

Did You Download Dating Apps For the First Time?



Swipe Frequency on Dating Apps

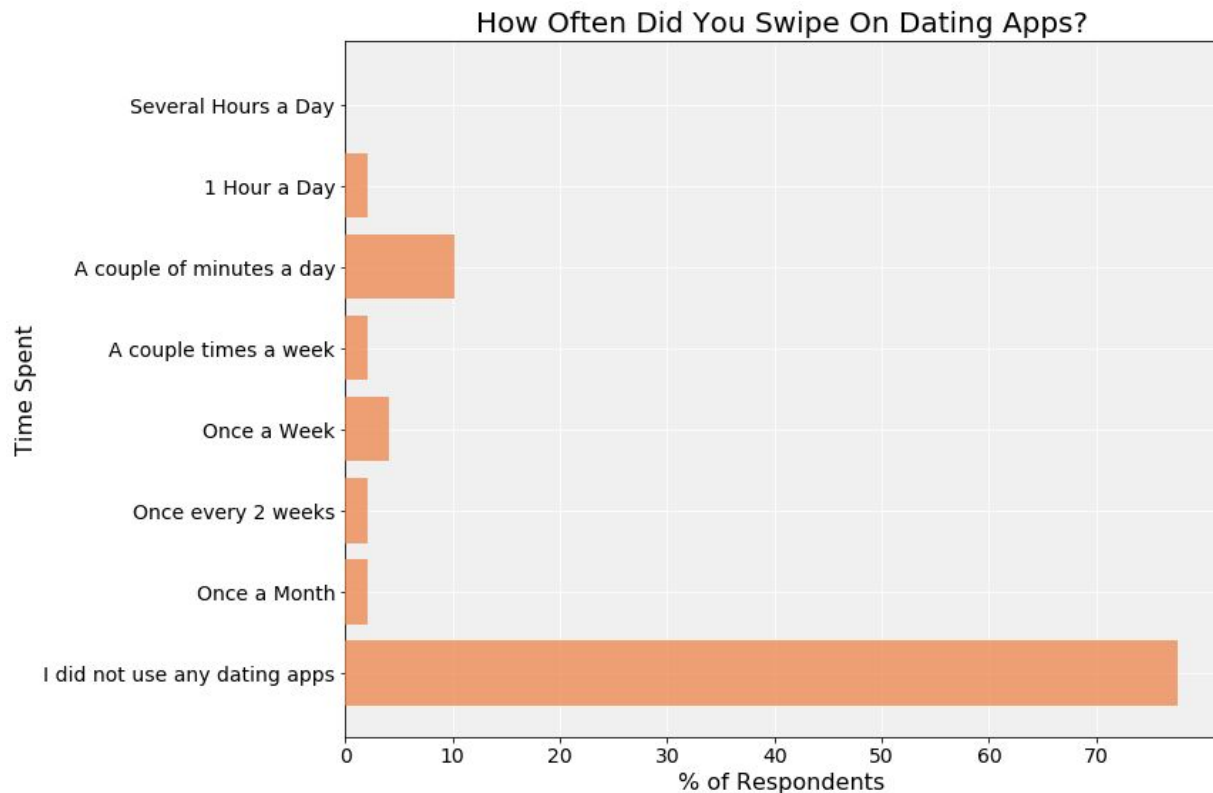
Certain dating apps, like Tinder and Bumble, introduced video chat on their platform to help with finding a love life during quarantine.

That being said, most swiping was done for a few minutes a day, with 11 respondents using dating apps.

Source:

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/8/21316317/tinder-face-to-face-rollout-video-calls>

<https://bumble.com/the-buzz/video-chat-voice-call>



Tinder Passport Usage

N = 11

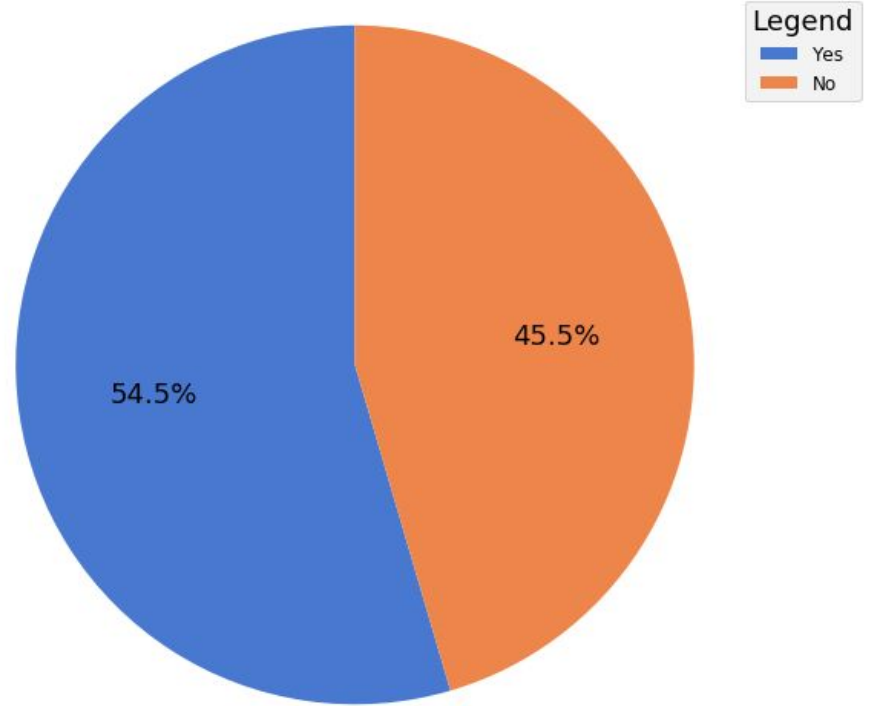
In March and April, Tinder made its passport feature free for all users.

Tinder Passport allows you swipe in any geographical location around the world

Source:

<https://www.help.tinder.com/hc/en-us/articles/115004490423-Passport>

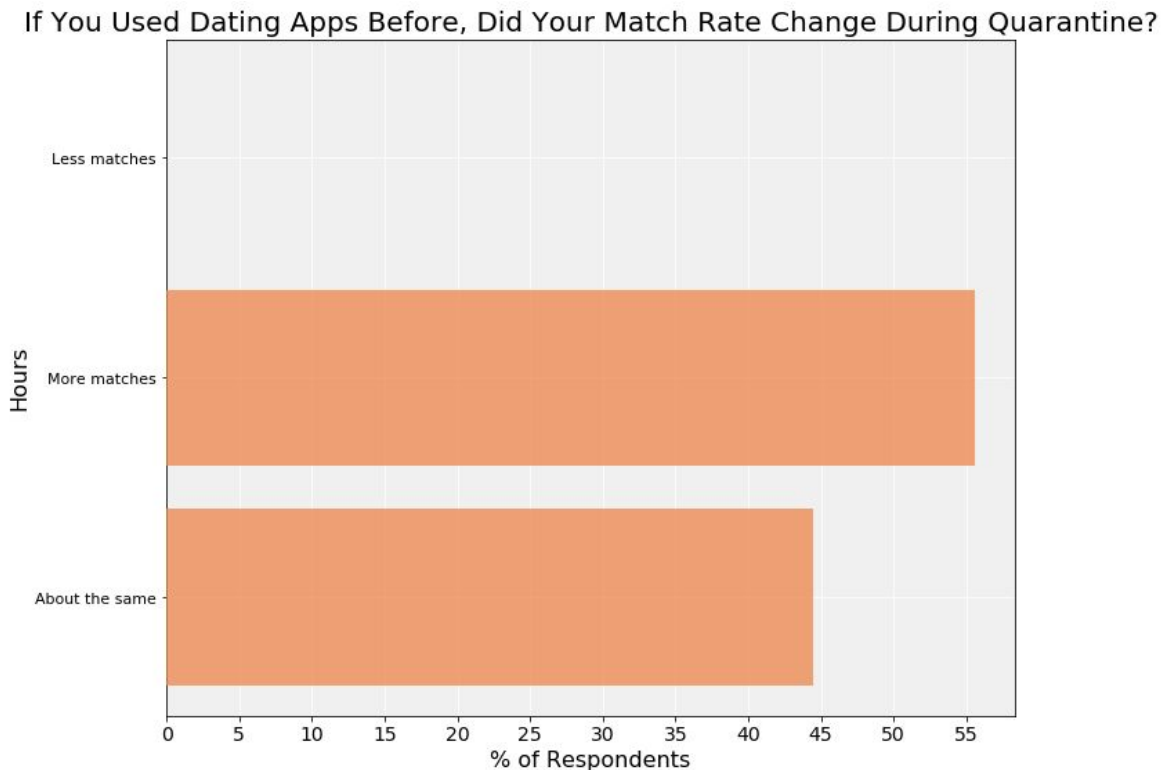
Did You Use Tinder Passport or any Equivalents?



Changes in Amount of Matches

N = 9

A decent chunk of people said they felt more lonely during quarantine, so any form of contact, virtual or not, was appreciate. More matches because more people were lonely?



Time Spent Playing Video Games

As school stopped, video game time soared.

Did moving classes online make people play more video games, or did more video games make people stop going to class?

Time Spent



Video Games Played

A lot of us had diverse video game interests.

There exists a SYDE-only minecraft server which was pretty big during 2A.

Animal Crossing New Horizons was released for the switch on March 20, a week after quarantine started



Movies / TV Shows / Web Series Watched

Video streaming platforms were a hit as well, especially with people having nothing else to do



Closing Remarks

Acknowledgements

Major Shoutout to the SYDE 2017 and the SYDE 2019 class profiles for inspirations and for the general format of all of this

Shoutout to Nolan (SYDE 2019) for early game help

More analysis to be done soon, stay tuned

La Fin

Thanks for reading (:

If you have any questions, hit the team up:

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