# Insights Extraction

## Main Questions

1. What is the trend? What can we tell from it?
2. Why did the trend occur? Is it possible to infer from data? – where relevant

## Insights

Generally, we observe that frequency of post relevant to mental health have increased significantly with covid, as seen from the upwards trend in *figure 1*. From *figure 2*, post frequency peaked in second quarter of the year for both 2020 and 2021, during April and May respectively.

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Figure Overall Reddit Post Frequency against Time Figure Monthly Reddit Post Frequency

Interestingly, these peaks align with the drastically increasing new community cases each week in April 2020 and May 2021, as shown in *figure 3*. That said, such similarity only suggest correlation not causation, but it hints that the covid situation is influential on redditors’ behaviors and mental state.

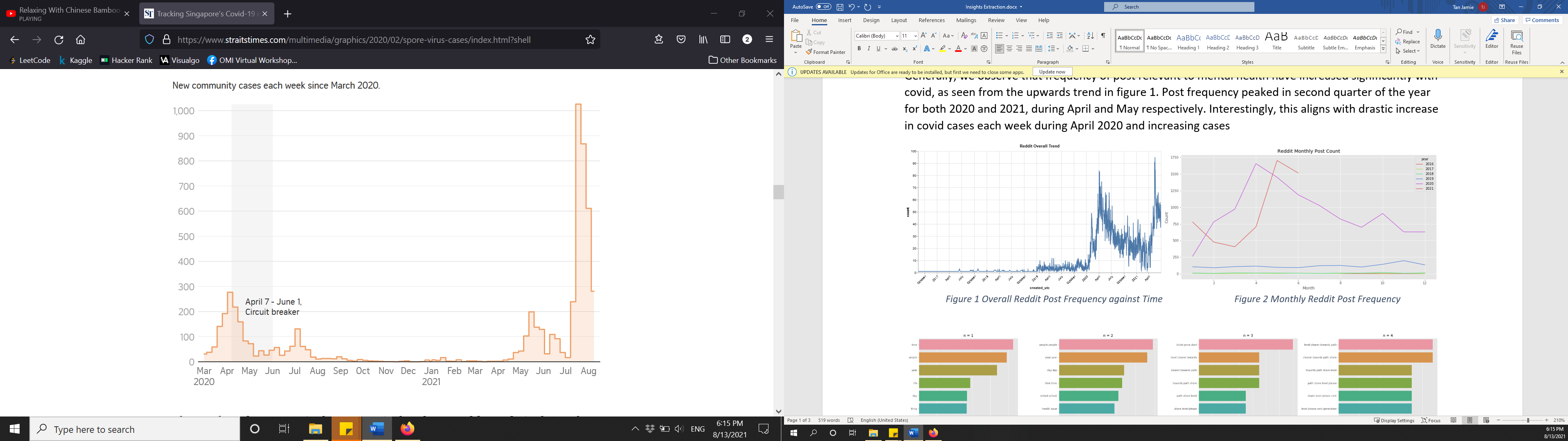


Figure New community cases each week since March 2020 (source: [Straits Times](https://www.straitstimes.com/multimedia/graphics/2020/02/spore-virus-cases/index.html?shell))

Borrowing *figure 1* illustrating *frequency of post against time*, the number of relevant posts in mid-covid is significantly larger than pre-covid period. It is thus no surprise that the values on axes of ngrams representing mid-covid *(figure 5)* timeframe are of greater order.

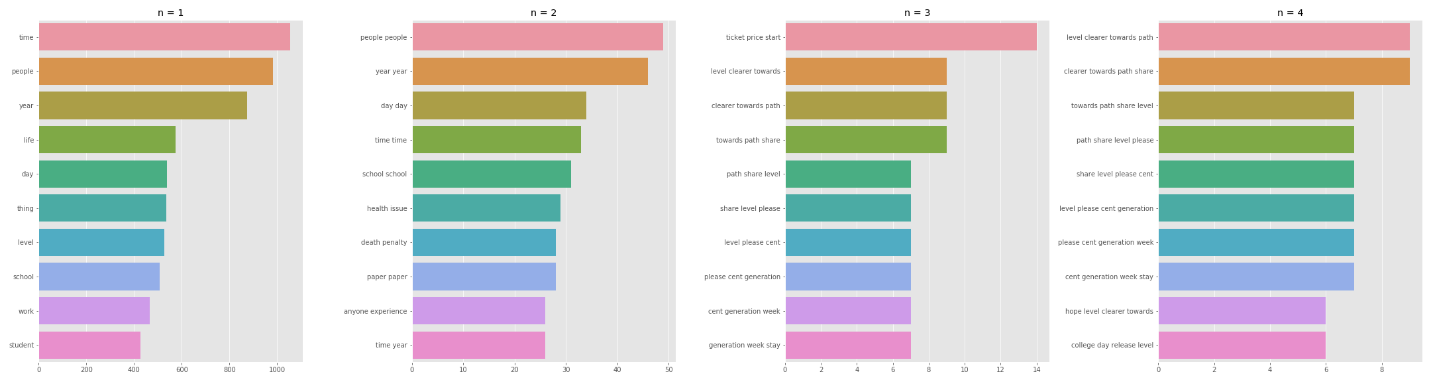


Figure Pre-covid Ngrams

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Figure Mid-covid Ngrams

In general, pre and mid covid *1-gram* are similar *(figure 4 & 5)*. However, some new addition to the list during the pandemic include “covid” and “help”. Further probing using [LDA](C://Users/20jam/Documents/GitHub/omdena-singapore-covid-health/src/tasks/task-3-data-exploration-and-analysis/reddit/lda_help.html) raise topics like work and school to associate with “help”. It aligns with the increase in frequency of “school”, “student” and “work” during covid. These suggest that the mental states of working adults and schooling learners are most affected by covid. This is also supported by *4-gram* (mid-covid) that contain terms mostly related to examination, which is a stark contrast to that of pre-covid.

Unsurprisingly, covid-19 is highly discussed, as inferred from “circuit breaker”, “covid case” and “community case” in *figure 5 2-gram*. “Part time” also entered the top-10 used phrase as depicted in *figure 5 2-gram* and “part time job” in *figure 5 3-gram*. Interestingly, the sentiment related to these 2 phrases is highly polarized, although most seem positive as shown in *figure 7*.

Chart

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Figure Overall Reddit Sentiment across Time Figure Sentiment Distribution

*Figure 6* shows an increasing trend for all class of emotions which is likely influenced by the increase engagement in Reddit during Covid. However, frequency of positive posts exceeds that of negative and neutral posts especially after April 2020. This is particularly reflected in NationalServiceSG, Singapore, SingaporeRaw (*figure 8*) which represent the general public and young adults. Their mid-Covid word clouds show less variation in topic of discussion during covid, with an obvious focus on the covid situation rather than other cases which are debatedly more emotional inducing for example: death, depression, anxiety, penalty, abuse, murder, drug and fight. Although covid is not independent of these topics, the trend of the lesser negativity in discussions about covid requires more exploration.

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*\*ignore SMU\_Singapore because it is not representative, with only one post remaining after cleaning*

Figure Sentiment Score Before & After Covid

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Figure SingaporeRaw (pre-Covid) Figure Singapore (pre-Covid) Figure NationalServiceSG (pre-Covid)

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Figure 12 SingaporeRaw (mid-Covid Figure 12 Singapore (mid-Covid) Figure 14 NationalServiceSG (mid-Covid)

That said, this does not mean there is no negative sentiments. Negative emotions persist although they seem relatively less intense. Common negative empath includes fear and disappointment which seem haphazard but its general trend can coincide with number of covid cases and government interventions.

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