

Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker

Brazil's Subnational Policy Response

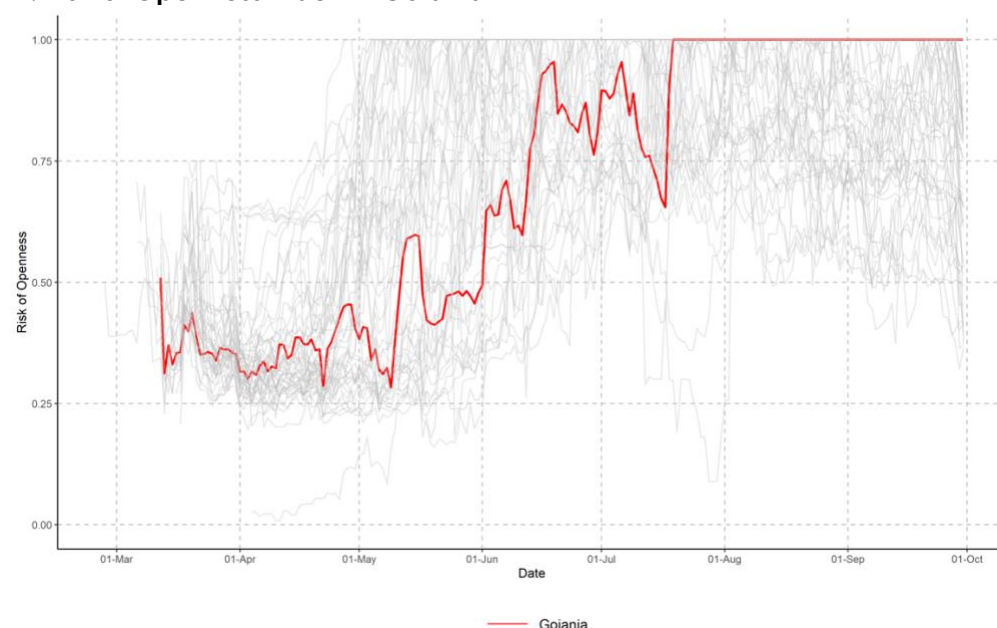
Policy note – Goiânia/Goiás



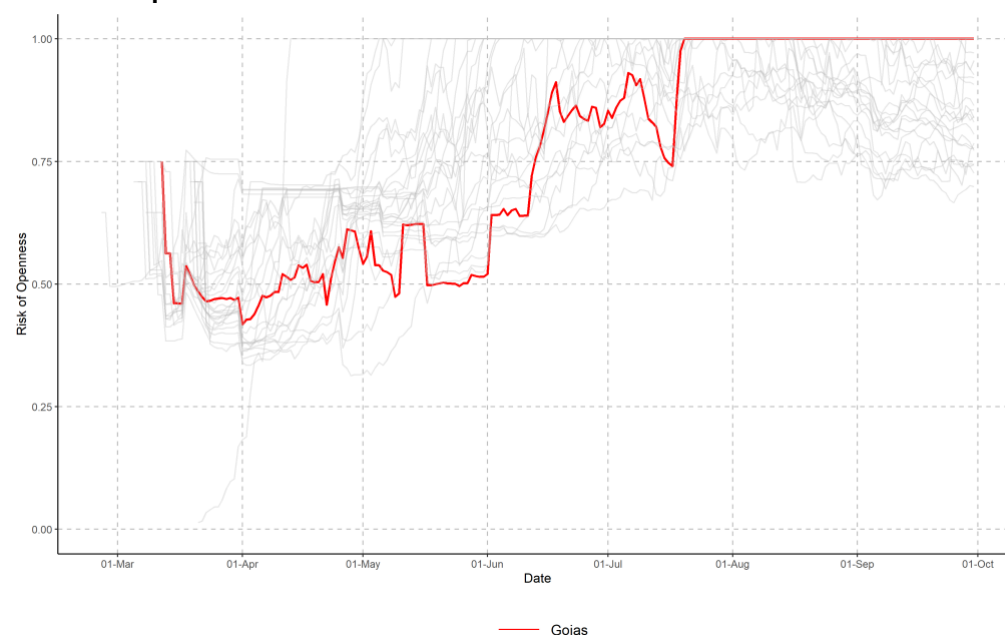
Region	Goiânia, Goiás
Period	June to October 2020
Author	Henrique Oliveira da Mota, Rodrigo Furst de Freitas Accetta, Maria Luciano and Beatriz Kira

Figure GO.1 – Risk of Openness Index (RoOI)

A. Risk of Openness Index in Goiânia



B. Risk of Openness Index in Goiás



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Respostas dos governos estadual e municipal

Figure 1 shows how the Risk of Openness (RoOI) went up over the period reported and has remained at the highest level in Goiânia and Goiás.

Goiás began the month of June with 3874 confirmed cases (1977 in Goiânia) and 127 deaths. Throughout the month, the state governor maintained the measures previously adopted. Still according to previous decrees, schools remained closed at all levels across the state, as well as a significant part of workplaces considered non-essential. Those that could operate continued to do so at 50% of their maximum capacity. In addition, the restriction to agglomerations with more than 10 people and the order to cancel all public events continued.

The mayor of the capital, Goiânia, worked in coordination with the state governor, maintaining similar policies at the municipal level. On 1 June, the suspension of classes in the city was extended until the 30th of the month. Policies regarding the opening of establishments, cancellations of public events and restrictions on agglomerations also mirrored the measures adopted by the state government.

By the end of June, although the recommendations to avoid leaving home were maintained, both the state of Goiás and the city of Goiânia experienced a great increase in the number of cases of Covid-19. In Goiânia, the number of infected during the month grew 353%, tallying 6983 on 1 July. In the same period, the state recorded 84% of its total confirmed cases to date, a dramatic increase in a short period. In response, the state governor issued a decree on 30 June, requiring all non-essential establishments to be closed for a period of 14 days. After these two weeks, the operation of such places would be allowed for the same period (14 days of opening interspersed with 14 days of closure) following some safety measures and operating at 50% of its total capacity. The mayor of Goiânia followed the governor's orders, adopting similar measures.

However, the municipal decree was challenged in court by the Federation of Commerce, Goods and Services of Goiás (Fecomércio) and the Association of Companies of the Real Estate Market of Goiás (Ademi). Local courts accepted the requests and revoked the decree by means of an injunction on 2 July, allowing sectors such as retail to reopen. The next day, the injunction was overturned, and the municipal decree was maintained. Another important decision made in June was the mandatory use of masks. In force since the 23rd, the measure made the use of the face masks compulsory on all roads and public spaces, public transport, commercial and industrial establishments, and businesses, including common areas and inside cars. Municipal Guard agents were in charge of monitoring the measure, and failure to comply with the requirement could result in a fine of up to R\$ 627.38.

On 13 July, when the opening of non-essential establishments would be authorised for 14 days, the state government also allowed the operation of bars and restaurants on the condition that they would comply with certain sanitary requirements and control the number of customers and keep a distance of 2 meters between all individuals. The opening occurred when the case curve in the state seemed to stabilise. After 14 days, on 27 July, when trade was due to close again, the state

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governor issued a new decree, following a technical note from the state health department, extending the flexibility indefinitely. Cinemas, nightclubs, and similar establishments, continued to be banned and are still suspended to date, with no expected return.

Since then, non-essential activities in Goiás have been allowed to remain opened in most municipalities, including the capital, but they continue to operate at 50% of their total capacity. Restrictions on public events and agglomerations have also been maintained.

In Goiânia, the order to cancel all public events is still in force, restrictions on agglomerations of more than 10 people remain in place, and recommendations for citizens to avoid leaving home are still valid. In addition, since April, public transport in the capital can only operate within the limit of the number of seats available to passengers. In person lessons are still suspended at all levels in the state of Goiás. On 16 September, the governor announced that classes in public schools will only return when a vaccine is available; therefore, a return in 2020 seems unlikely.

In September, the capital relaxed certain restrictions on educational activities. On the 15th, the city of Goiânia authorised the resumption of professional courses and sports at schools for students over 12 years of age as well as the reopening of recreational clubs. At the same time, the pandemic continued to advance in the state and in Goiânia. At the end of September, the availability of beds in ICUs was considered critical by Fiocruz, and between the period from 8 to 22 September, the state registered a 26% increase in the average of deaths. At the end of the month, Goiás had 212,898 cases and 4,723 confirmed deaths.

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Figure GO.2 – Accumulated number of deaths and deaths per capita for Goiás and the eight other states surveyed

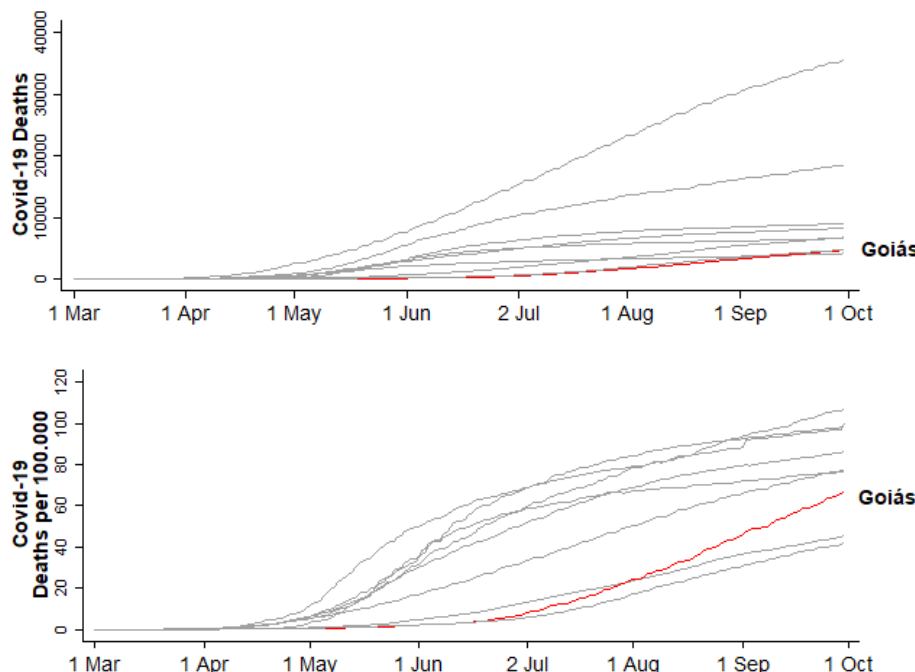
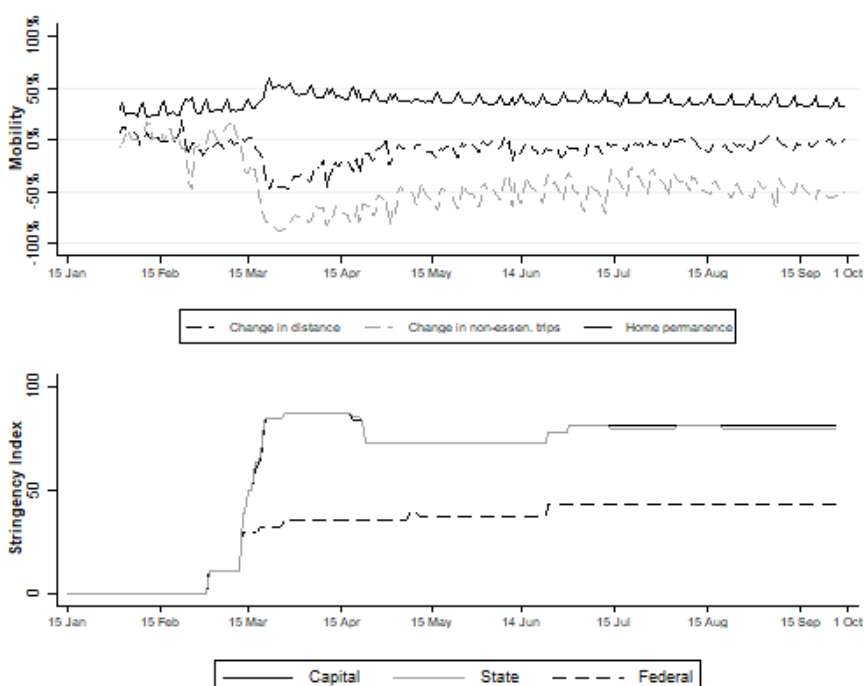


Figure GO.3 – Mobility indicators for Goiás and the OxCGR stringency index for different levels of government



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Goiânia Survey Results

Goiânia has 1.5 million inhabitants, with 10% of the population over 60 years of age. Its HDI is 0.799, making it the 10th most developed capital out of 27 Brazilian capitals.

Only 7% of respondents in Goiânia said that they had not left home during a two-week period before 6 to 27 May, compared to 3% during a two-week prior to the period between 27 July and 2 October. The remainder went out, on average, on 6.5 days home during two weeks prior to the first period, compared to 8.1 days during a two-week window prior to the second period. Of the whole sample, 80% went out for essential activities, such as to the supermarket, the pharmacy or to the bank during a two-week period before the interviews in the first round, compared to 75% between in the second round. Thirty-four percent went out to work during the first round period (compared to 70% who reported going out to work in February), and 50% during the second period (compared to 60% who did in February). Those who left the house estimated that 80% of people, on average, were wearing masks on the streets in both rounds. Four percent of respondents in Goiânia said they had at least one symptom of Covid-19 during the seven days prior to the first round interview, compared to 24% in the second round. Just 3% of the people had ever been tested during the first round, while this number went up to 22% in the second round. One percent said that they had tried to get tested but without success in both rounds.

In February, 28% of people in Goiânia reportedly used public transport, whereas only 9% used it during the two weeks prior to first round survey interviews, compared to 22% during the two weeks prior to second round. Reductions in public transport services prevented only 12% and 6% of people doing what they had intended in the first and second round, respectively.

Levels of knowledge about the symptoms of Covid-19 and about the meaning and practices of self-isolation were similar among the inhabitants of Goiânia to averages across the eight surveyed populations. In Goiânia, the average score for 'knowledge about symptoms' was 84 and 80 out of 100 intended in the first and second round, respectively, and that of 'knowledge about self-isolation' was 43 and 46 out of 100 intended in the first and second round, respectively. (See the results section of the main paper for an explanation of these scores.)

TV news shows (50% and 61% in the first and second round, respectively), and newspapers and newspapers websites (25% and 11% in the first and second round, respectively) are the main sources of Covid-19 information for people in Goiânia. Public information campaigns were reaching the majority of the population between 6 and 27 May (57%), and between 27 July and 2 October (70%). Of those in the first round who said they had seen or heard these directly, 71% had seen them on TV, 31% through Facebook or Twitter, 29% had read them in newspapers, 21% on blogs, and 19% had come across them on WhatsApp. Of those in the second round, in turn, 87% had seen them on TV, 40% had read them in newspapers, 32% through Facebook or Twitter, 26% on WhatsApp, and 15% had come across them on blogs. The state government was perceived to be the main source of such campaigns in both periods; 77% and 63% of people in the first and second round, respectively, who had seen a public information campaign had seen one from the state government, 31% and 40% in the first and second round, respectively, had seen one from the

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federal government, and 16% and 37% in the first and second round, respectively, had seen one from the city government.

More than half (55%) of those surveyed in the first round said that their incomes had reduced since February, compared to 33% in the second, and 42% of people interviewed between 6 and 27 May reported a drop of half or more of their household income, compared to 18% between 27 July and 2 October. Six percent of people reported a total loss of income in the first round, while 3% reported in the second.

Concern about regional shortages of medical equipment, hospital beds, or doctors is evident. Twenty-four percent of people interviewed between 6 and 27 May in Goiânia said that they were worried by this, and 56% said they were very worried. Confidence in the preparedness of the regional public health system is low: only 27% of people believe it is either well prepared (16%) or very well prepared (11%) to deal with the outbreak.

In Goiânia, 81% of residents perceived Covid-19 to be much more serious than a common flu in the first round, compared to 72% in the second. In the first round, the majority of population also assessed the public policies put in place to fight the spread of the disease as adequate (57%). Smaller proportions considered them to be less stringent than necessary (32%), and only 10% considered measures to be too stringent. Between 27 July and 2 October, 53% considered the response to be adequate, while 40% of people of the opinion that the measures are insufficiently stringent, and 7% believing them to be too stringent.

In the first round, most people in the city expected that these measures would be lifted gradually, with just 22% saying they believed all government response policies would be removed at the same time. On average, people interviewed in Goiânia between 6 and 27 May estimated it would take 4.4 months for all restrictions to be lifted, compare to 6.8 months between 27 July and 2 October.

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Figure GO.4 – Social distancing, knowledge and testing in Goiânia

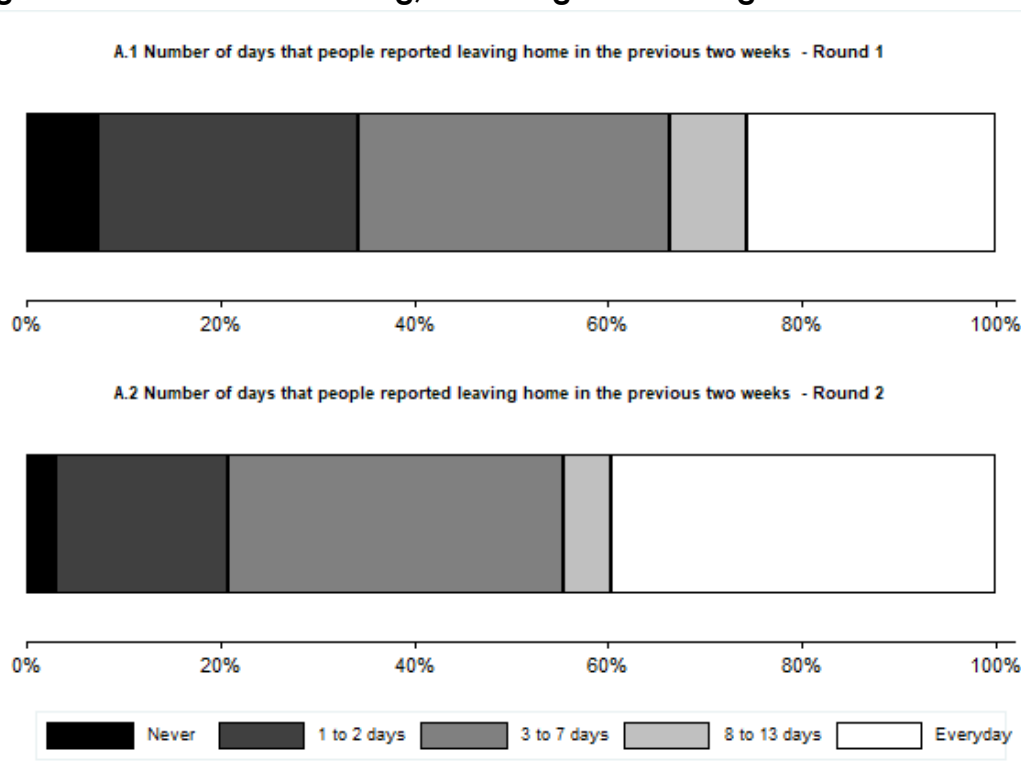
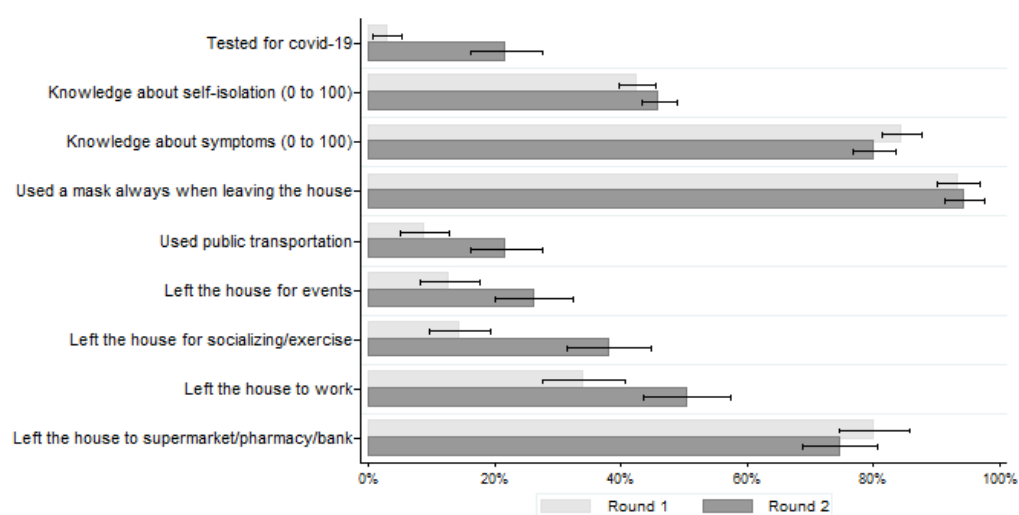


Figure GO.5 – Testing, knowledge, mask use, and reasons for leaving home



Data available at: <https://github.com/OxCGRT/Brazil-covid-policy>