1. Variation in government responses to COVID-19: This paper from the Oxford University is the main government indicator data that has been used for our project. This dataset (they call it OxCGRT – short for of Oxford Covid-19 Government Response Tracker) gives the timeseries of the government policies at the state level for all the US states from January onwards. The dataset is updated on a daily basis with the latest government policy indicators added daily. The paper talks about how the Oxford University collects the data on a regular basis, what all indicators and their different values signify, and also different ways on how the data can be utilized to suggest some bigger policy measures taken at various levels.

This is the source data for our analysis. The timeseries dataset given for the US – national level (Jurisdiction = NAT\_GOV) as well as state level (Jurisdiction = STATE\_LVL) – is given at this link: <https://github.com/OxCGRT/USA-covid-policy>

The overall policy indicators are divided into 3 major broader areas:

Containment and Closure Policies

Economic Policies

Health System Policies

This paper and the project gives multiple datasets – country level dataset for over 150 countries, US state level policies dataset, and a few others. Our area of concern here is the US data set.

1. [Mobilizing Policy (In)Capacity to Fight COVID-19: Understanding Variations in State Responses](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14494035.2020.1787628):

This paper discusses in detail the timings of the various policy measure groups taken by multiple countries over time since when the pandemic started. From this information being researched in detail, the paper points to the fact that the earlier a country took stronger measures to handle the Covid-19 spread, the better the country was in the overall attempt to handle the Covid-19 spread.

The paper also talks about the strength of the various areas of policy measures taken as a whole throughout the world, and gives a clear picture which are the most popular measures or areas of measures taken by the governments when added up together.

1. [COVID‑19 and the policy sciences: initial reactions and perspectives](https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s11077-020-09381-4.pdf):

The paper written by Weible et al. analyzes the various aspects of policy sciences and how those aspects have impacted or might impact the policy measures in the face of Covid-19. This paper starts with understanding the policy sciences explanation by the political scientist Harold Lasswell, and moves further to discuss all the various aspects which might impact the policies in wake of such emergencies. Weible and others discuss in detail what all factors like government’s influence, crisis response, influence from other geographies, scientific proof and emotions guide the overall policies implemented at various levels. They also talk about the on-the-ground implementation efficiency of the policies and the way the government narrates the policies to their public also are very important in the overall policy framework. This paper mainly talks from the theoretical point of view.

As a part of our research, the main aim was to see how the state of California could have handled the Covid-19 situation in a better way, comparing it with the state of New York. The literary papers we could find were mainly towards 2 areas – what all policies the various countries and/or states adopted to handle Covid-19 based on the data available and the theoretical review of what all policies governments can adopt based on earlier researches done around the pandemics and other emergencies. For our current paper, we had our aim to compare the 2 states and see what one could have done better by looking at the other.