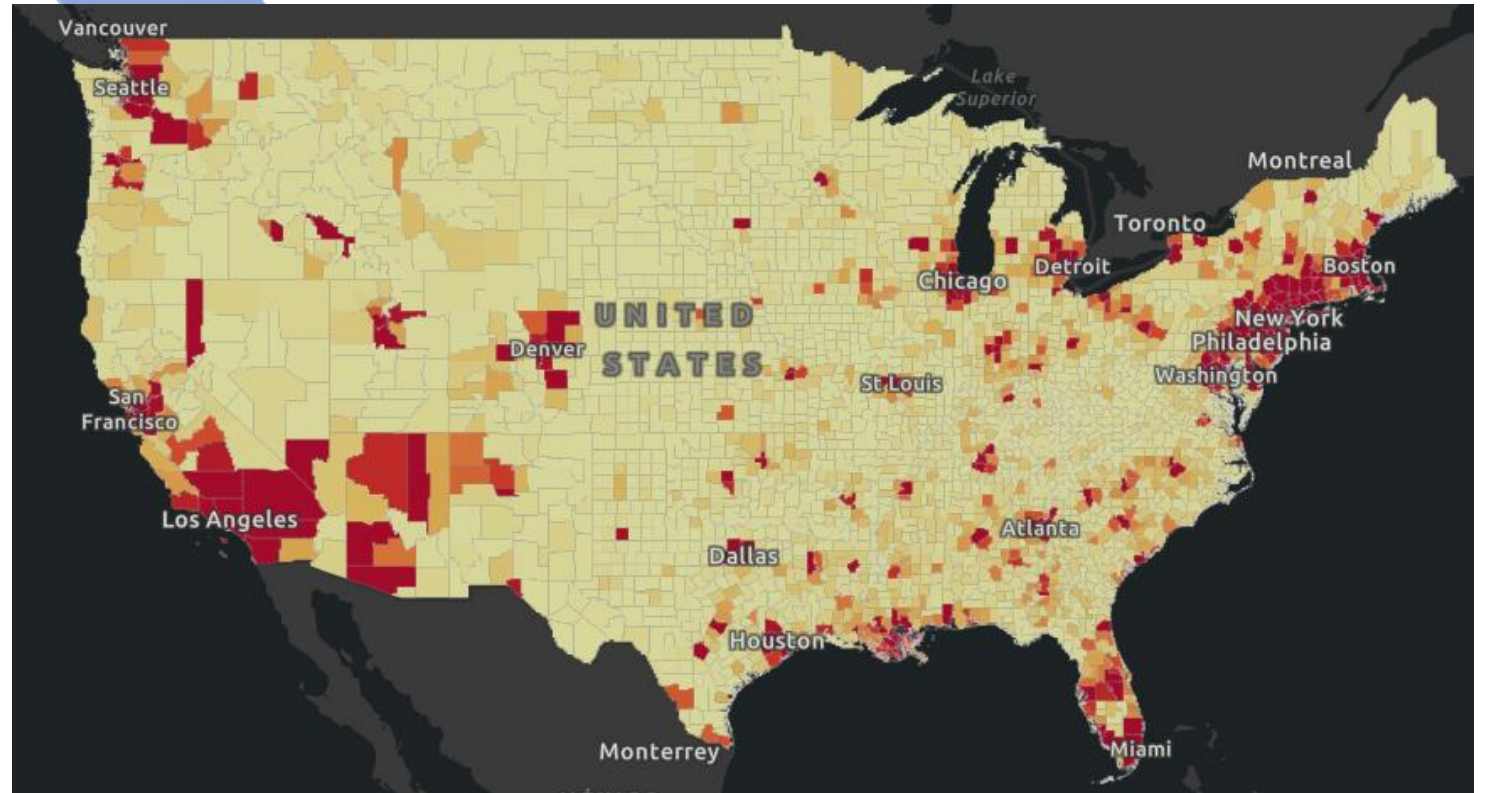# Media Bias for the Coronavirus

Project Proposal

Coronavirus confirmed cases by State

State/territory	Confirmed cases	Governor Party	Senate Party
New York	203020	Democratic	Democratic
New Jersey	68824	Democratic	Democratic
Massachusetts	28164	Republican	Democratic
Michigan	27001	Democratic	Democratic
Pennsylvania	25465	Democratic	Both
California	25356	Democratic	Democratic
Illinois	23248	Democratic	Democratic
Florida	21628	Republican	Republican
Louisiana	21518	Democratic	Republican
Texas	15006	Republican	Republican

Democratic-leaning states have larger number of confirmed cases.

Social Distancing Measures

Bans on large gatherings

School closures

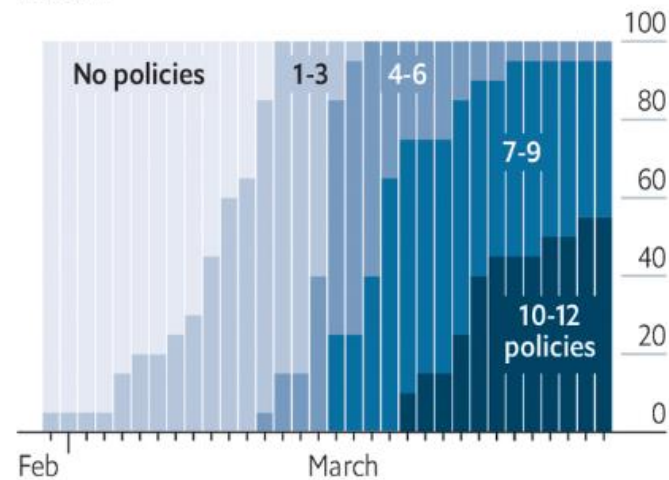Restrictions on restaurant operations

Business closures

Stay-at-home orders

7 Republican States without Stay-at-home orders: Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
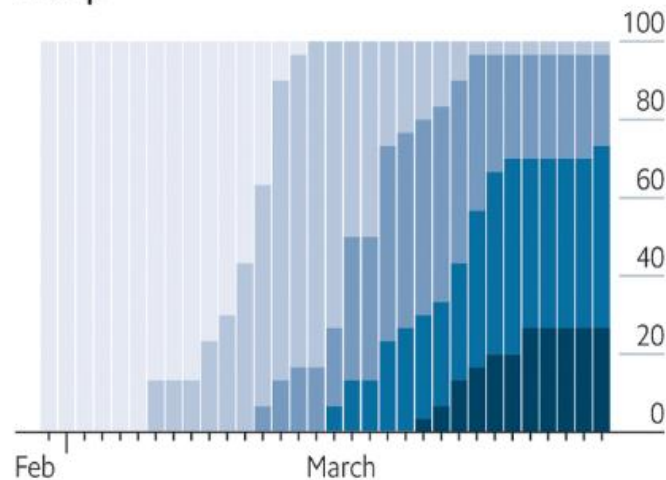
Social-Distancing Measures by State

States enacting social-distancing policies, % of total
By vote in the 2016 presidential election

A new paper by researchers at the University of Washington finds that lawmakers in right-leaning states have been noticeably slower at rolling out social-distancing measures.

Sources: "State-level social distancing policies in response to covid-19 in the US" by N. Fullman et al.; *The Economist*

The Economist

Media Bias for different news outlets

- 8 in 10 Fox News viewers say the media exaggerated the threat from coronavirus as compared to 54% of CNN viewers and just 35% of MSNBC watchers.

AllSides™

Top Online News Media Bias Ratings

AllSides media bias ratings are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis.
All ratings are based on online content only — not TV, print, or radio content.
Ratings do not reflect accuracy or credibility; they speak to perspective only.
Visit AllSides.com to view over 600 media bias ratings.

L LEFT   L LEAN LEFT   C CENTER   R LEAN RIGHT   R RIGHT

Version 1.1 | AllSides 2019

Research Question

- How severe is the media bias in the news reporting about the coronavirus?

- How does it influence people's view of coronavirus and their actions towards it (like the enforcement of stay-at-home orders)?

Data Source and Collection

- AllSites Media Bias Ratings have included 600 online news media and users' ratings.

- News Articles: Using web-scarping tools to collect all news articles related to coronavirus in the last three months.

- Twitter/Facebook:

- Check the amount of retweets/likes/sharing these new articles have on social media platform

Data Analysis—News Reports

- NLP sentiment analysis

- Classify the articles based on their positive and negative views on different topics like coronavirus, stay-at-home orders, the president's reaction to the pandemic…

- Compare the results with the ratings from AllSites to see for the media sites: whether their different views of coronavirus comply with their left-right rating score?

Data Analysis—Social Media

- Web-Scrapping Tweets/Facebook Posts in the past three months with hashtag #coronavirus, #stay-at-home……

- NLP sentiment analysis by State

- Classify the posts based on positive and negative views and then separate the results based on different State

- Calculate number of repost/like/retweet/sharing of news articles and separate the results to get an average view by State

Implications of media bias

- Although most states have issued stay-at-home orders, the enforcement of orders varies due to different views of the coronavirus.

- Compare the number of violations of Stay-at-Home Orders with the news report bias and social media view for each state to see whether they have a correlation.