

Salvador, Bahia

Figure BA.1 – Accumulated number of deaths and deaths per capita for Bahia and the seven other states surveyed.

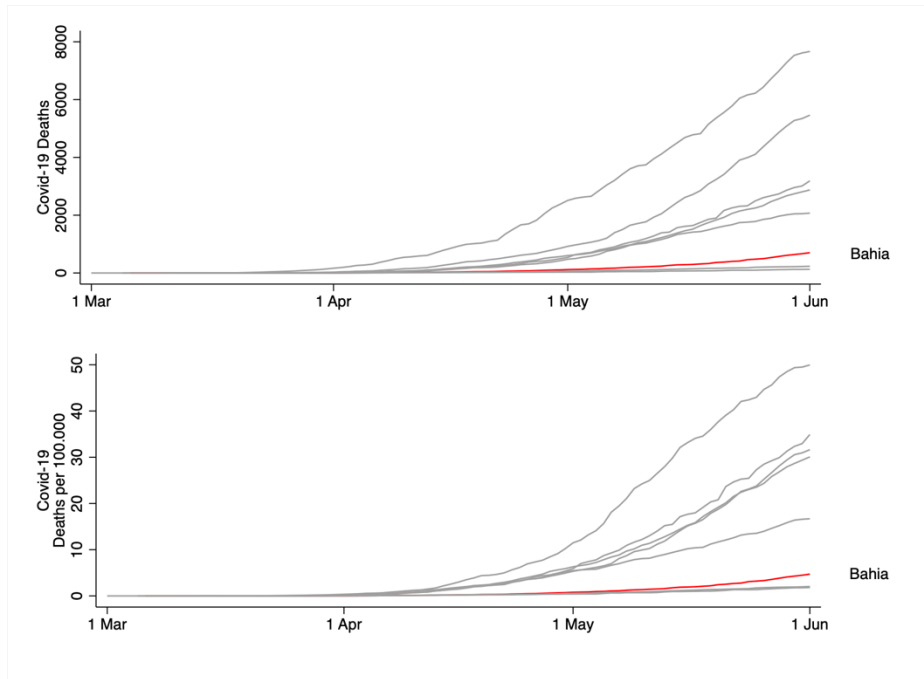
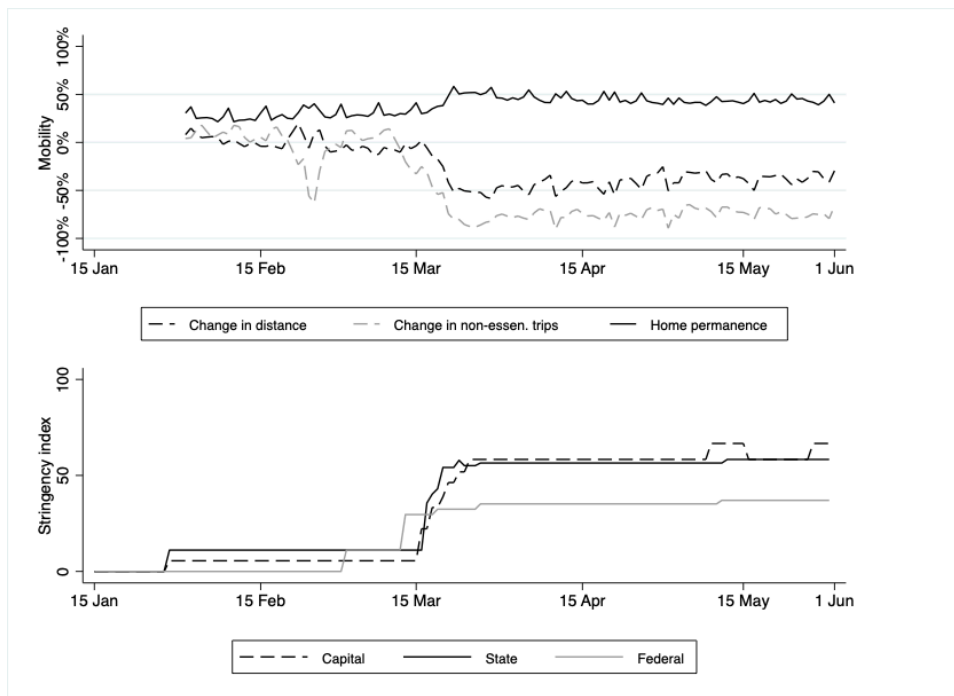


Figure BA.2 – Mobility indicators for Bahia and the OxCGRT stringency index for different levels of government.



State and City Government Responses

On 6 March, Bahia was the fifth state in Brazil to confirm a case of Covid-19. Its first confirmed death was on 29 March. Since then, numbers have grown fast and the state had registered 244.7 cases and 7.4 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants as of 15 June. However, as far back as 29 January, before a Covid-19 case was reported anywhere in Brazil, the state's official communication channels (its website and social media channels) started publishing information about how to prevent the virus's spread. A more concerted effort, in the form of an official campaign called 'A Prevenção Está em Nossas Mãos' (meaning 'prevention is within reach') was launched on 17 March, which asked people to avoid social gatherings and to wash their hands frequently. Since then, the state health secretary's website and social media pages have been continuously updated with Covid-related information.

A day before the launch of 'A Prevenção Está em Nossas Mãos', on 16 March, the state government introduced the first set of public health measures, requiring the cancellation of all events with more than 50 people, and the closure of schools, gyms, zoos, museums, and theatres in cities with confirmed cases. By that point in time, Salvador, Feira de Santana, Porto Seguro, and Prado were the only cities in the state with confirmed cases. The state government also introduced travel restrictions, and the new rules meant that all passengers arriving from places with community transmission had their temperatures screened, whether they were arriving in Bahia via bus, boat, or aeroplane.

On 18 March, the state government declared an emergency and amplified the scope of its mandated closure and containment policies. Interstate buses were suspended. Entertainment establishments and schools were told to close, gatherings of more than 50 people were prohibited, and public events were cancelled in all municipalities of the state. These measures were initially put in place for 10 days, but over time they have been extended and are currently in place until 21 June.

The state government has not mandated that industrial, commercial, and most service-sector workplaces close. However, it has required employers to supply masks, protective equipment, and to make available hand sanitising facilities to all workers, or face a fine of R\$ 1,000 (US \$ 200) per worker. The state government has also not officially required people to stay at home, although the governor has urged this in his announcements, and government vehicles have been reportedly circulating throughout the capital, Salvador, to advise people to remain at home. Intercity buses have been suspended between certain municipalities; the state government has continuously updated a list of affected cities as the state's outbreak has evolved.

On 12 May, the governor and the mayors of Itabuna and Ipiaú established a curfew in these two cities due to the severity of their outbreaks. This prohibited people living in these cities from leaving their homes between 8pm and 5am, and required the

suspension of all commercial activities during those hours, with the exception of pharmacies. Other municipalities have since been required to implement similar measures. In early June the state government announced a curfew in 19 cities in southern Bahia, where the number of cases has been growing fast, including the historical city Porto Seguro.

The Salvador city government has adopted additional policies to restrict movement, aligned with the state government. For example, the mayor has suspended all activities in public markets, concert halls, nightclubs; closed bars, restaurants, shopping centers and social clubs; and prohibited meetings, gatherings or events with more than 50 people. The municipal government has also restricted access to Salvador's beaches and reduced the public bus fleet by 30%. From early May, the Salvador city government brought in even more restrictive measures targeted at neighbourhoods with the highest number of Covid-19 cases, requiring all but the most essential services to close in these districts and not allowing anyone but residents to enter these areas of the city. Starting on 20 May, the city government permitted some commercial establishments with a total area of less than 200m² to open to the public, provided protective measures were in place.

Salvador Survey Results

Salvador is the third most populous municipality in Brazil, home to 2.9 million inhabitants, 9% of whom are above 60 years of age. Its HDI is 0.759, making it the 11th most developed state capital in Brazil (among 27 cities).

In Salvador, 15% of people did not leave their homes during a two-week period from 22 April and 13 May. Those who ventured out, did so on average on 4.7 days during that period. As elsewhere, most people (68%) left home for essential tasks, such as going to the supermarket, pharmacy or bank; 29% of all respondents reported leaving home to go work during the fortnight (compared to 62% who reported going out to work in February). Those who went out estimated, on average, that 80% of people on the street were wearing masks. Ten percent of respondents reported having had at least one Covid-19 symptom in the week prior to interview. Nine percent of people reported having been tested, and 1% stated that they had tried to get tested without success.

In hospitals and supermarkets, the use of masks by employees, and measures to ensure that visitors remained two metres apart, and had access to soap or alcohol gel to wash their hands, were widespread. Respondents leaving home to go to work indicated that social distancing measures were less common in workplaces; 63% of these people said that such steps had been taken in their place of work. Reductions in public transport prevented 19% of people from going about their intended activities. Just less than a quarter of people (22%) stated that they had used public transport during the previous two weeks, while exactly a third said they used it in February.

The vast majority of people in Salvador (81%) see Covid-19 as much more serious than a common flu. The average score for knowledge about Covid-19 symptoms was 83 out of 100, while that for knowledge about the meaning and practices of self-isolation was 45 out of 100. (See the results section of the main paper for an explanation of these scores.)

The main source of information about Covid-19 were TV news shows (62%) and newspapers and newspapers websites (18%). As many as 71% of respondents reported having seen government information campaigns, which is above the average across the eight cities surveyed (65%). Of those who had seen public information campaigns, 68% said they thought they had seen a campaign from the state government, 25% said they thought they had seen one from the federal government, and 59% from the municipal government.

Around 56% of people in Salvador reported reductions in household income, 42% said they had lost at least half of their income since February, and 8% had experienced a complete loss of income since February.

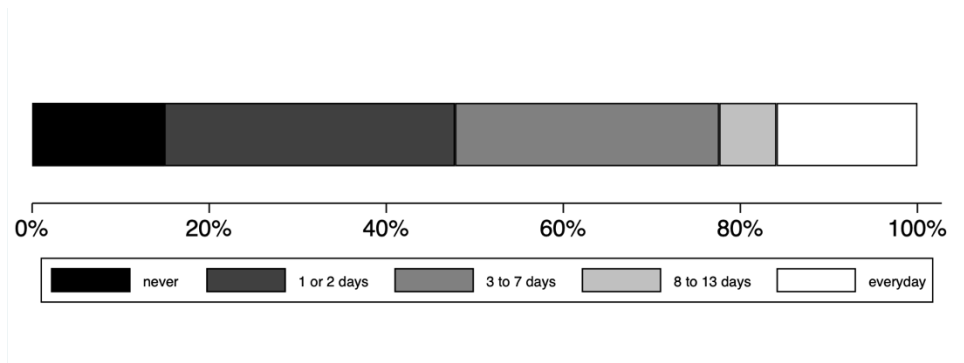
Only 37% of respondents in Salvador reported believing that the public health system in their region is either well prepared (20%) or very well prepared (17%) for the outbreak. As many as 85% of people stated that they were either worried (11%) or very worried (74%) that there might be insufficient medical equipment, hospital beds, or doctors to with the outbreak in their region.

Nonetheless, most respondents in Salvador (65%) assessed the policy responses adopted to fight the spread of Covid-19 as adequate. Just over a quarter (26%) considered the policies to be insufficiently strict, while only 9% considered them too stringent. Most respondents thought that these policies will be removed gradually, with only 17% saying they thought they would all be removed at once. On average people in Salvador believe it will take 4.6 months for Covid-19 response policies to be completely removed.

This summary is part of a broader study about Brazil's Covid-19 response policies. Please visit <https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research/research-projects/brazils-covid-19-policy-response> for the full report: Petherick A., Goldszmidt R., Kira B. and L. Barberia. 'Do Brazil's COVID-19 government response measures meet the WHO's criteria for policy easing?' Blavatnik School of Government Working Paper, June 2020.

Figure BA.3 – Social distancing, knowledge and testing in Salvador.

A. Number of days that respondents left home in the previous two weeks.



B. Testing, knowledge, mask use, and reasons for leaving home.

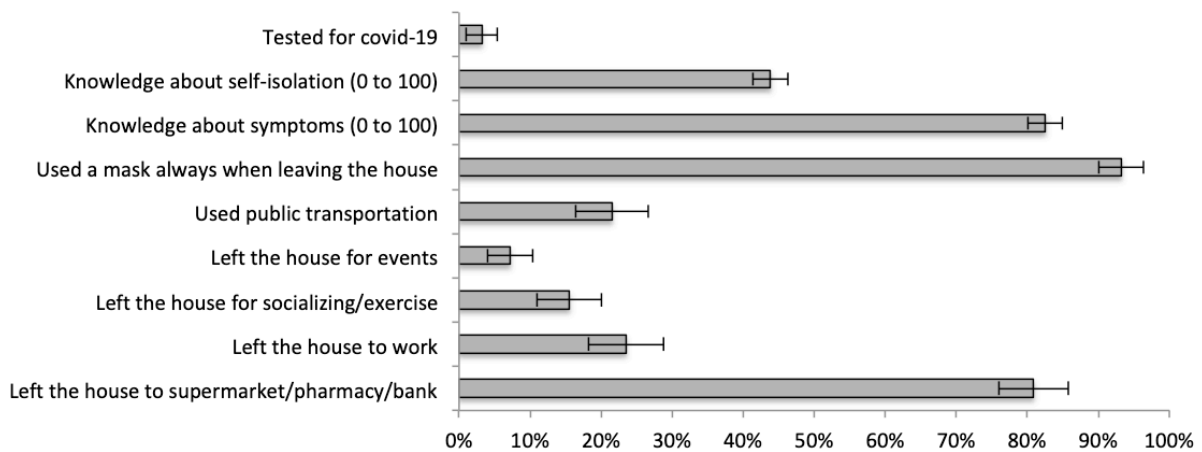


Figure BA.4: Hand hygiene, distancing and mask use.

