

# São Paulo, São Paulo

Figure SP.1 – Accumulated number of deaths and deaths per capita for São Paulo and the seven other states surveyed.

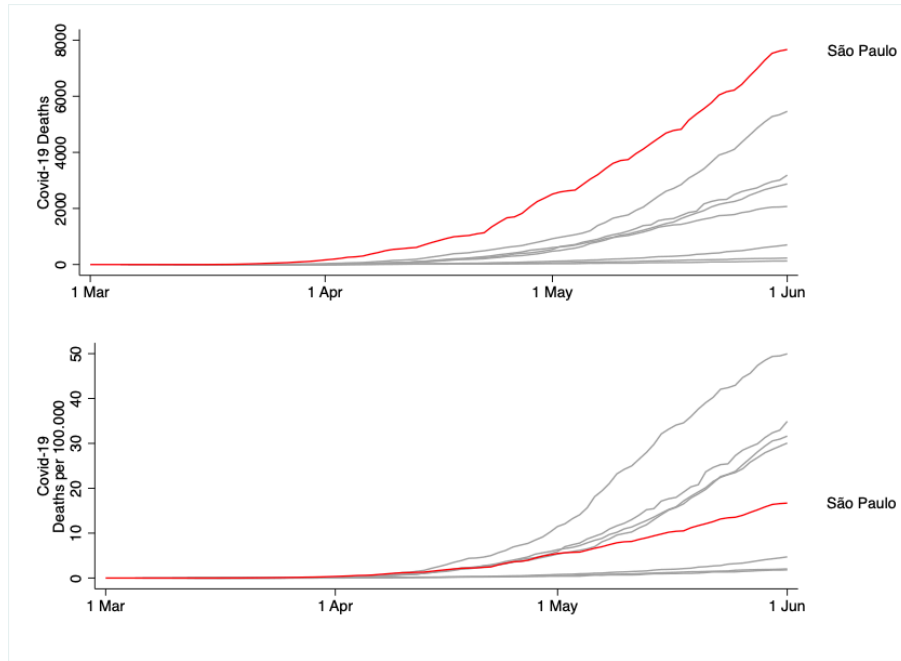
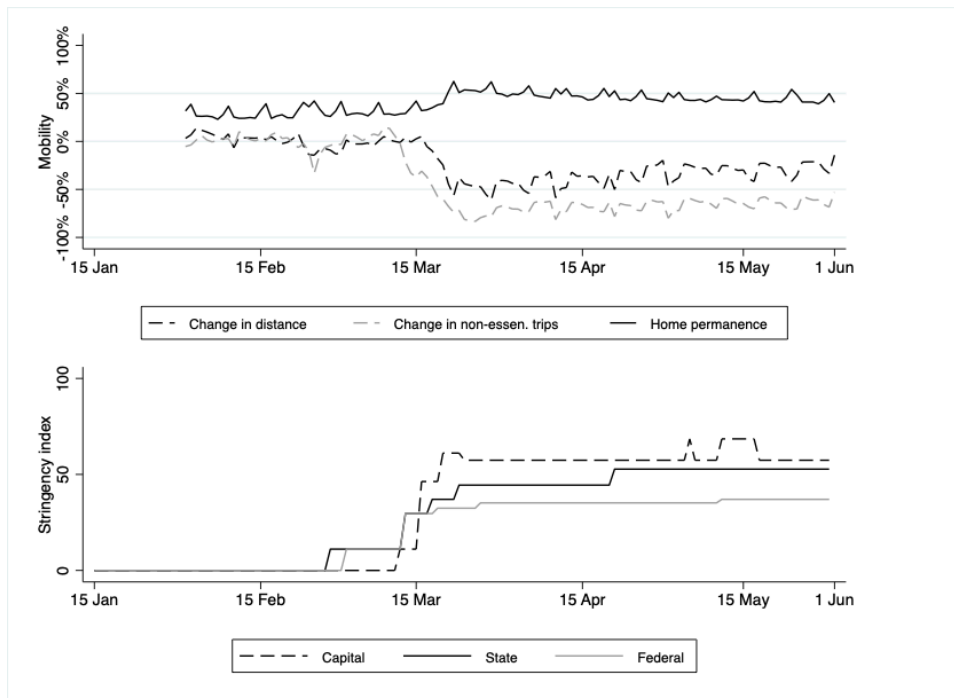


Figure SP.2 – Mobility indicators for São Paulo state and the OxCGRT stringency index for different levels of government.



## State and City Government Responses

The city of São Paulo registered Brazil's first case of the new coronavirus on 26 February. The individual in question was a 61-year-old man arriving from Italy. The country's second, third, and fourth cases were also confirmed in the city, which quickly became the epicentre of Brazil's outbreak. The first Covid-19 death in both São Paulo and Brazil occurred on 17 March. As of 15 June, the state of São Paulo had recorded 388 cases and 23.3 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants.

On 16 March, São Paulo's state government started to introduce social distancing requirements. It required schools and universities to gradually close between March 16 and March 23, when all in-person classes were suspended across the state. On 22 March, the governor published a decree putting in place a series of stricter measures, allowing only essential services, certain industries, and construction to continue operating. The governor also recommended that people only travel within the state under exceptional circumstances, and that they leave home only to buy groceries, for health reasons, and go out to work if their job is considered to be an essential role. The measures were initially brought in to last until 7 April, and after being extended several times, they were in force until 31 May. Thereafter the state government implemented a five-phase plan to gradually ease closure and containment policies.

On 30 March, the state government announced a new communication campaign that emphasised staying at home. The governor also urged people not to travel during the Easter and Workers' Day holidays, and, in particular, to not to go to beaches due to the risk of taking the virus to coastal cities that have little in the way of public health infrastructure.

On 27 May, the governor published a phased plan to loosen response policies in some parts of the state. According to the plan, each municipality could consider gradually opening workplaces and public spaces from 1 June, based on the number of cases, the availability of hospital beds, and on people's behaviour in public spaces. In all 645 municipalities of São Paulo, industry and civil construction activities are allowed to operate normally. However, the plan keeps in place a total ban on public events, theatre shows, cinema screenings and big gatherings (such as parties, concerts, and sports events), which will gradually be lifted. Schools remain closed, but the state governor has announced that classes will be resumed, initially with only some of the students attending in person.

The mayor of São Paulo has issued additional regulations, tightening the statewide policies within the city. On 17 March, he signed a decree declaring a state of emergency, closing museums, libraries, theatres, sports clubs and cultural centres, cancelling all public events, and limiting attendance at burials and funerals to a maximum of 10 people. On 20 March, he closed all bars and restaurants to the public and recommended that the city's residents stay home.

From 11 May, the mayor brought in further measures to cut in half the number of cars circulating in São Paulo city. On calendar days ending in 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8, only cars with

number plates ending in even numbers were allowed on the streets. On calendar days ending in 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9, only cars with number plates ending in odd numbers were allowed to circulate. But because these measures were not considered successful in reducing mobility in the city (according to mobile phone data), they were lifted after only a week. Extra buses have been added to the public transport fleet to reduce the number of passengers in each public transport vehicle.

From 1 June, according to the criteria established in the phased plan designed by the state government, the city of São Paulo would be in 'orange' phase, whereby some non-essential businesses (including shopping centres, and other commercial and service-sector firms) can open their doors to the public. This reopening depends on the approval of a proposal presented by representatives from each sector to the municipal government, listing all protective measures that would be place for that sector, including staggered shifts, hygiene and social distancing protocols, and childcare support. After reviewing several proposals, the São Paulo city government approved the reopening of high-street shops from 11 June and of shopping centres from the following day.

### São Paulo Survey Results

São Paulo, the capital of the state of the same name, is a huge city of 12.2 million inhabitants, with 12% of its population above 60 years of age. The city's HDI is 0.805, which makes it the 7<sup>th</sup> most developed state capital (among 27 cities).

Approximately 13% of respondents in São Paulo did not leave home for at least two weeks during the period between 22 April and 13 May. Those who did leave went out on average on 5.44 days. About 81% of São Paulo residents left home to go to the supermarket, pharmacy or to the banks; 24% left home to go to work (compared to 65% who reported to leave regularly to work in February). Survey respondents who did leave home estimated 74% of people on the street, on average, to be wearing masks. Eight percent of people reported having had at least one Covid-19 symptom in the previous week, 3% said they had been tested, and 1% stated that they had tried to get tested without success.

Respondents who had visited hospitals and supermarkets reported widespread use of masks among hospital and supermarket workers, and that measures had been established to ensure a physical distance of at least two metres between people. In these places, visitors could easily wash their hands with soap or alcohol gel. Respondents going out to work found that distancing in the workplace was less common; 58% of this group said that their workplace had put in place measures to maintain a 2-metre distance between them and their colleagues.

Changes in public transportation did little to prevent people going about their intended activities. Only 8% of respondents claimed that this was the case. In February, 36% of

people reportedly used public transport. Twenty-two percent said they had used it in the previous two weeks.

The average score among respondents in São Paulo for knowledge about the symptoms of Covid-19 was 83 out of 100. The average score for knowledge about the meaning and practices of self-isolation was 44 out of 100. (See the results section of the main paper for an explanation of these scores.)

Only a small proportion of people in São Paulo said that they believe the public health system in their region is either well prepared (11%) or very well prepared (8%) to deal with the outbreak, while 86% said they were either worried (11%) or very worried (75%) about the possibility of shortages of medical equipment, hospital beds, or doctors.

For Paulistas, TV news shows (62%), and newspapers and newspapers websites (19%) were the main source of information about Covid-19. Among the 69% of the population who had seen a public information campaign, the vast majority (89%) had seen one on TV, 41% had seen one in a newspaper, 29% on blogs, 29% had come across one via Facebook or Twitter, and 23% had seen one on WhatsApp. The state government was perceived as the main source of such information campaigns; 67% of people who had seen one said they had seen a state government campaign.

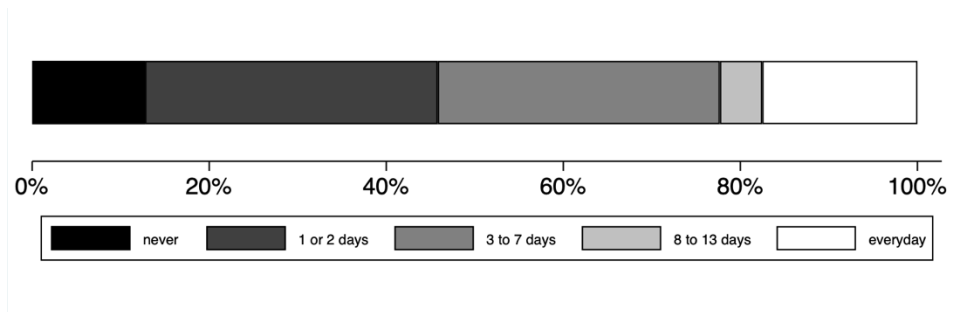
Around 56% of Paulistas said that their income had reduced since February, and 35% said they had experienced a drop of 50% or more. Seven percent of the population reported a total loss of income.

The vast majority of Paulistas (81%) see Covid-19 as more than just a flu. Approximately the same proportion of people (45%) assess the government response measures that have been introduced to fight the spread of the disease to be insufficiently strict, as judged them to be adequate (43%). Only 12% of respondents said the measures were too strict. People in São Paulo on average believe it will take, 4.3 months for all restrictions to be lifted. Twenty percent expect measures to be lifted all at once.

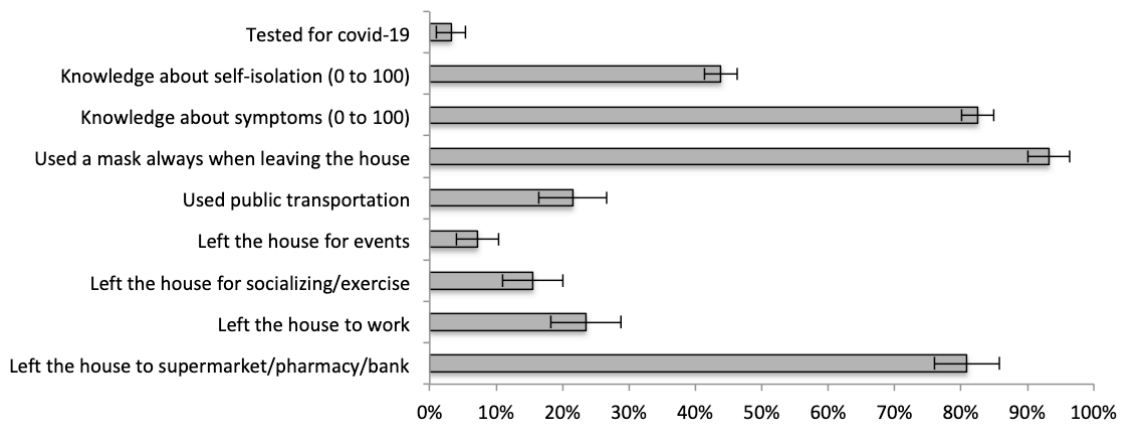
This summary is part of a broader study about Brazil's Covid-19 response policies. Please visit <https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/research/research-projects/brazils-covid-19-policy-response> for the full report: Petherick A., Goldszmidt R., Kira B. and L. Barberia. 'Do Brazil's COVID-19 government response measures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

**Figure SP.3 – Social distancing, knowledge and testing in São Paulo city.**

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



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



**Figure SP.4: Hand hygiene, distancing and mask use.**

