

The Coronavirus Victimization Distress Scale (CVDS)
Fordham University Pathways to Health Study

Study PIs

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The Pathways to Health Study was conducted in April 2020 to understand the biosocial, psychological, and social impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on young adults (age 18 – 25; N = 600) from diverse racial/ethnic groups, socioeconomic and employment status and geographic regions of the U.S. The anonymous survey conducted through Qualtrics examined participants' self-reported sleep patterns, somatic symptoms, feelings of anxiety and depression, substance use, social isolation, racial/ethnic discrimination, Coronavirus stigmatization and Coronavirus racial bias. The study was conducted by [Celia B. Fisher](#) and [Tiffany Yip](#) and funded by the [Fordham University Center for Ethics Education](#), Director, Celia B. Fisher.

The Coronavirus Victimization Distress Scale (CVDS)

The Coronavirus Victimization Distress Scale (CVDS) is a brief self-report questionnaire developed by Fordham University's Center for Ethics Education and Applied Developmental Psychology Program as part of the Pathways to Health Study. The CVDS assesses bully and cyberbully victimization distress results from being viewed as having coronavirus. Questions include distress about being verbally and physically bullied, treated rudely or unfairly, verbally taunted in public, and cyberbullied because of coronavirus.

Psychometric Properties

Each item on the CVDS is rated on a 5-point scale, from 1 (It never happened) to 5 (It happened and upset me quite a bit). The CVDS score is based on the mean score for the 5 items. The CVDS was developed on a large sample of Asian, Black, Indigenous, Latinx and non-Hispanic white young adults (n = 581; 18 – 25 year) living in the United States. The CVDS has high inter-item reliability (alpha = .92) and construct validity: (1) Employed participants score significantly higher on the CVDS than unemployed young adults; (2) Participants who have been mistreated by healthcare providers because of coronavirus score significantly higher on the CVDS than those who have not been mistreated; (3) CVDS scores are significantly correlated with anxiety, depression, substance use, sleep disturbance, and somatic symptoms.

THE CORONAVIRUS VICTIMIZATION DISTRESS SCALE

Hello and thank you for your interest in our research study. Right now all of us are experiencing new life challenges as we individually and together face the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We would like to learn more about your experiences to better understand how people across the country are meeting these challenges so that we can better inform current and future policies to prevent and to help address these health, mental health and social challenges.

Please indicate if you have had any of these experiences during the past month...

	It never happened (1)	It happened and did not upset me (2)	It happened and upset me a little (3)	It happened and upset me moderately (4)	It happened and upset me quite a bit (5)
1. I have been teased or bullied because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus					
2. I have been physically threatened, hit or beaten up because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus					
3. I have been treated rudely or unfairly because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus					
4. I have been verbally taunted or called bad names in public because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus					
5. I have been cyberbullied because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus					

Consent to Participate in the Pathways to Health Study conducted as part of the Human Development and Social Justice Lab (HDSJ)

Fordham University Center for Ethics Education

WHO IS CONDUCTING THIS STUDY. We invite you to participate in this research study conducted by Professors Celia B. Fisher, Ph.D. and Tiffany Yip, Ph.D. Department of Psychology, Fordham University.

Key points of the study: What you need to know

The purpose of this survey study is to understand how people across the country are meeting challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic so that we can better inform current and future policies to prevent and to help address physical health, mental health and social challenges that the Coronavirus and potentially future local or global epidemics may raise.

In this survey we will ask you about your current health and sleep patterns and the Coronavirus related health of your family members or individuals you live with. We will also ask questions about your emotional wellbeing, your attitudes about past and current health services, and the extent to which you have experienced positive support or negative or discriminatory responses from people you know or strangers.

The study is anonymous, your survey responses will not be linked to any identifying information. Your panel providers will not be able to link your responses to your survey answers. Drs. Fisher and Yip will not have access to your personal emails or any other contact information. Your responses are confidential and encrypted when submitted. You can also protect your privacy by completing the survey in private on your phone or private computer with a secured internet access instead of publicly available computers and WIFI.

The study will take approximately 20 – 30 minutes to complete. If you complete the entire questionnaire you will be compensated for your time within 7 days by your panel provider for the agreed upon amount. You will only receive points for one survey. Your participation is voluntary. You can close the survey at any time and none of your answers will be recorded.

If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to contact Dr. Fisher at (718) 817-3793 or ethicsadm@fordham.edu. Michele Kuchera at Fordham's Office of Research, (718) 817-0876, irb@fordham.edu, can answer questions about your research rights as a participant

If you would like to participate please click the button below. We thank you for your consideration.

- I agree (4)
- I do not agree (5)