

Unequal distribution of the social consequences of the Corona pandemic

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Research objective

Mapping the negative societal consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (both from COVID-19 itself and from the measures taken to contain the virus) such as decreasing political trust, perceived behavioral restrictions, perceived economic vulnerability, and reduced mental well-being.

Research questions

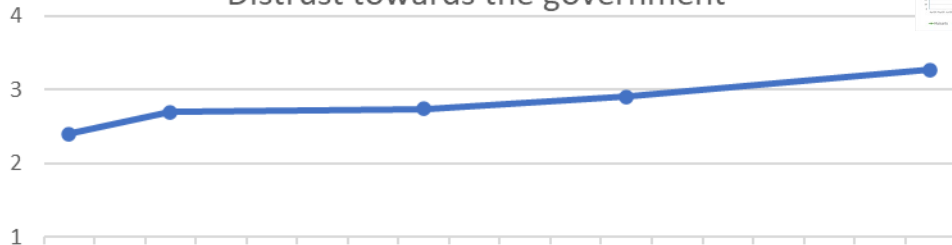
1. What were the negative societal consequences of COVID-19 during the coronavirus pandemic (between April 2020 and September 2021)?
2. To what extent are the negative effects of the pandemic unevenly distributed among social groups within the Dutch population?
3. How have the negative effects of the pandemic developed over the course of the pandemic among different social groups and types of areas? (Are there differences in the development of the consequences?)

Research design

1. Analysis of existing data collected during the pandemic
2. Data comes from a large survey research based on a panel from Kieskompas
3. Five waves in the period from April 2020 to September 2021
4. Over 6500 respondents in wave 1, more than 20,000 in the four follow-up waves

Findings (negative social consequences)

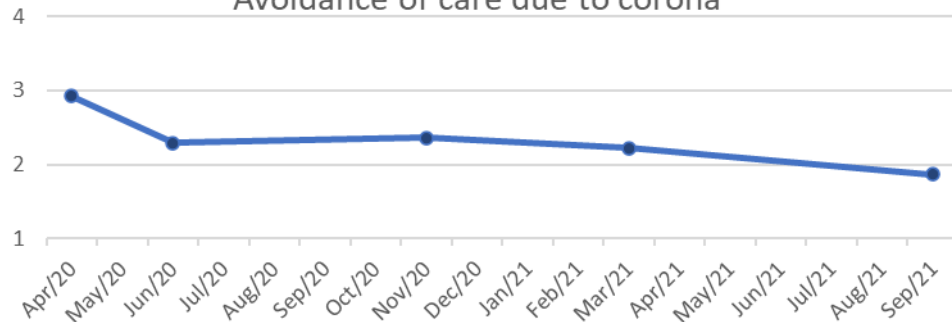
Distrust towards the government



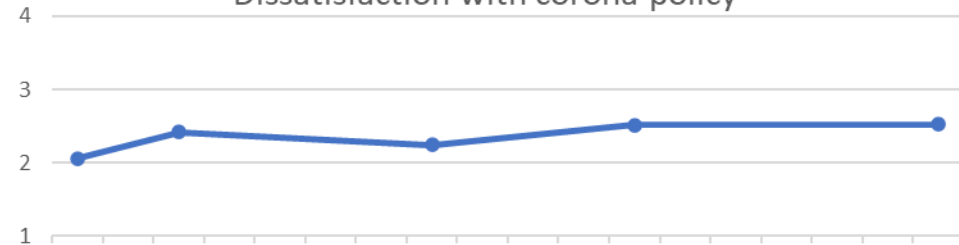
Mental tensions



Avoidance of care due to corona



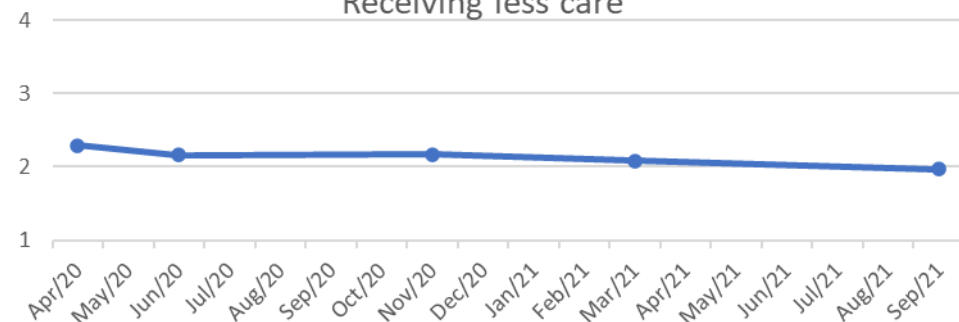
Dissatisfaction with corona policy



Experienced threat



Receiving less care



Findings (trust national government)

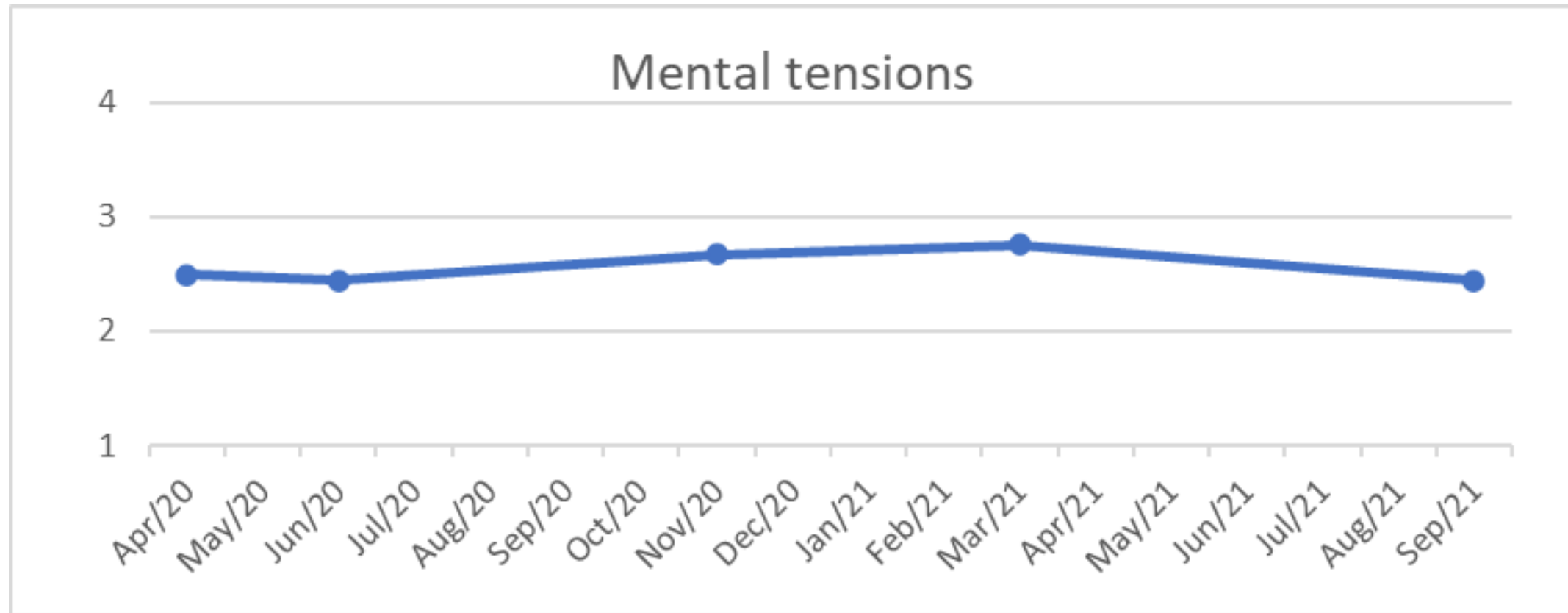
Correlation with constant factors over time

- Regarding the development (decline) in trust in the national government, there is little difference between social groups.
- Regardless of gender, age, family situation, and migration background, the decline in trust in the government during the coronavirus pandemic is more or less the same for all respondents.
- Trust among higher educated individuals declined more sharply than among lower educated respondents.

Correlation with time varying factors

- Trust among respondents who are more dissatisfied with the coronavirus policy declines more than among those with less dissatisfaction.
- Trust among individuals who struggle financially declined less rapidly than among those who are doing well financially.
- No effects of perceived threat and experienced health problems on the declining trust in the government.

Findings (mental tensions)



Findings (mental tensions)

- Regarding the fluctuating mental tensions during the pandemic (June 2020 - September 2021), we found little difference between social groups.
- Among women, young people (18-35 years), and lower-educated respondents, the mental tensions increased more sharply at the beginning of the pandemic, but then they also decreased more significantly for them later on.
- Additionally, the mental tensions increased more for respondents with poorer perceived health, reduced social contacts, and respondents who experienced the virus as more threatening in the first phase of the pandemic. In the same groups, the mental tensions decreased more sharply later in the pandemic.
- Changes in received support and the extent to which people could get by, were not related to the increase or decrease in mental tensions.

Findings (Trust)

