

# Using Indirect Reporting to Monitor the COVID-19 Pandemic

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and the CoronaSurveys Team

<https://coronasurveys.org/team/>

# COVID-19, March 13th, 2020



España ya es el segundo  
país de la UE con más  
contagiados: 3.142 casos

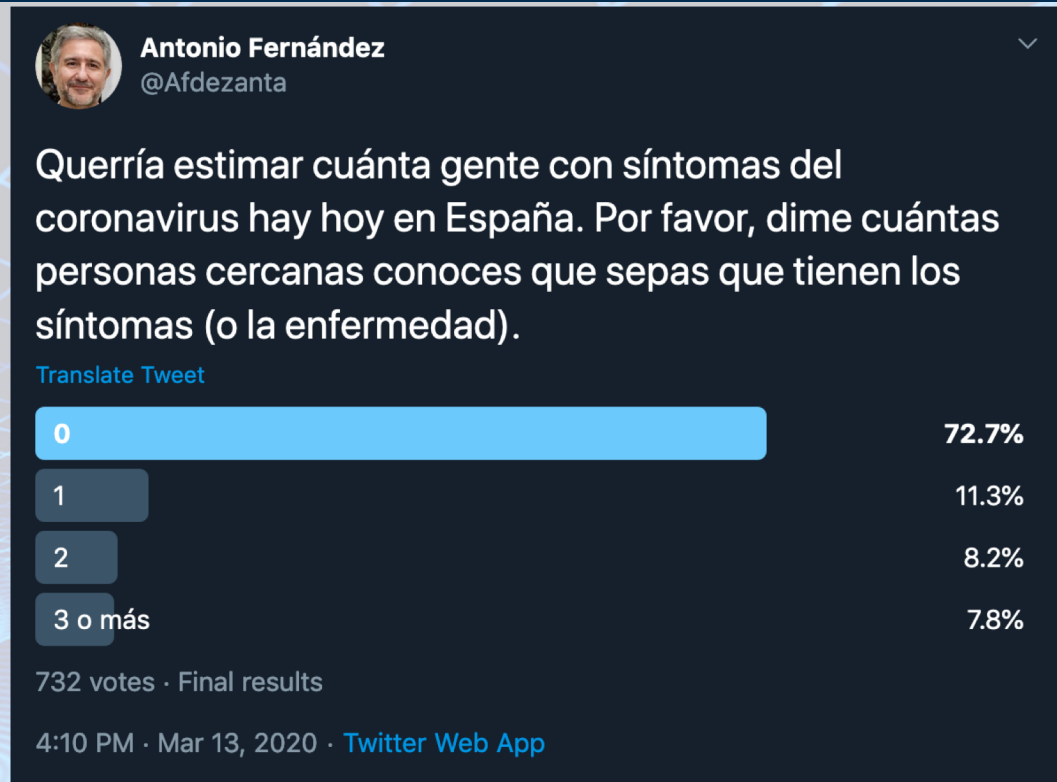
3,142 confirmed cases.  
How many actual cases?

# Twitter Survey

From confirmed deaths (a posteriori):

- 13 days onset to death
- CFR = 1.38%
- 4,089 deaths by March 27th
- $4,089 / 1.38\% = 296,304$  cases

Contacts (reach)	Cases estimate
150 people (Dunbar)	160,113 cases
77 people	311,909 cases





# CoronaSurveys Project



[coronasurveys.org](https://coronasurveys.org)

@CoronaSurveys: Monitoring the Incidence of COVID-19 via Open Surveys

- Survey with indirect reporting to monitor the evolution of the pandemic
- Available in more than 60 languages for all countries (at regional level in 150)



# Indirect Reporting

\* How many people do you know personally in this geographical area?

② Include only those whose health status you are likely to be aware of.

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REACH

\* How many of the above have been diagnosed or have had symptoms compatible with COVID-19, to the best of your knowledge?

② Include those who had the symptoms and have recovered. Common symptoms include fever, tiredness, dry cough. Other symptoms include shortness of breath, aches and pains, sore throat, and very few people will report diarrhoea, nausea or a runny nose. (From the WHO webpage.)

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CASES

The incidence is estimated with the Network Scale-up Method (NSUM) [Bernard et al, 1991]:

$$p = \frac{\sum CASES}{\sum REACH}$$

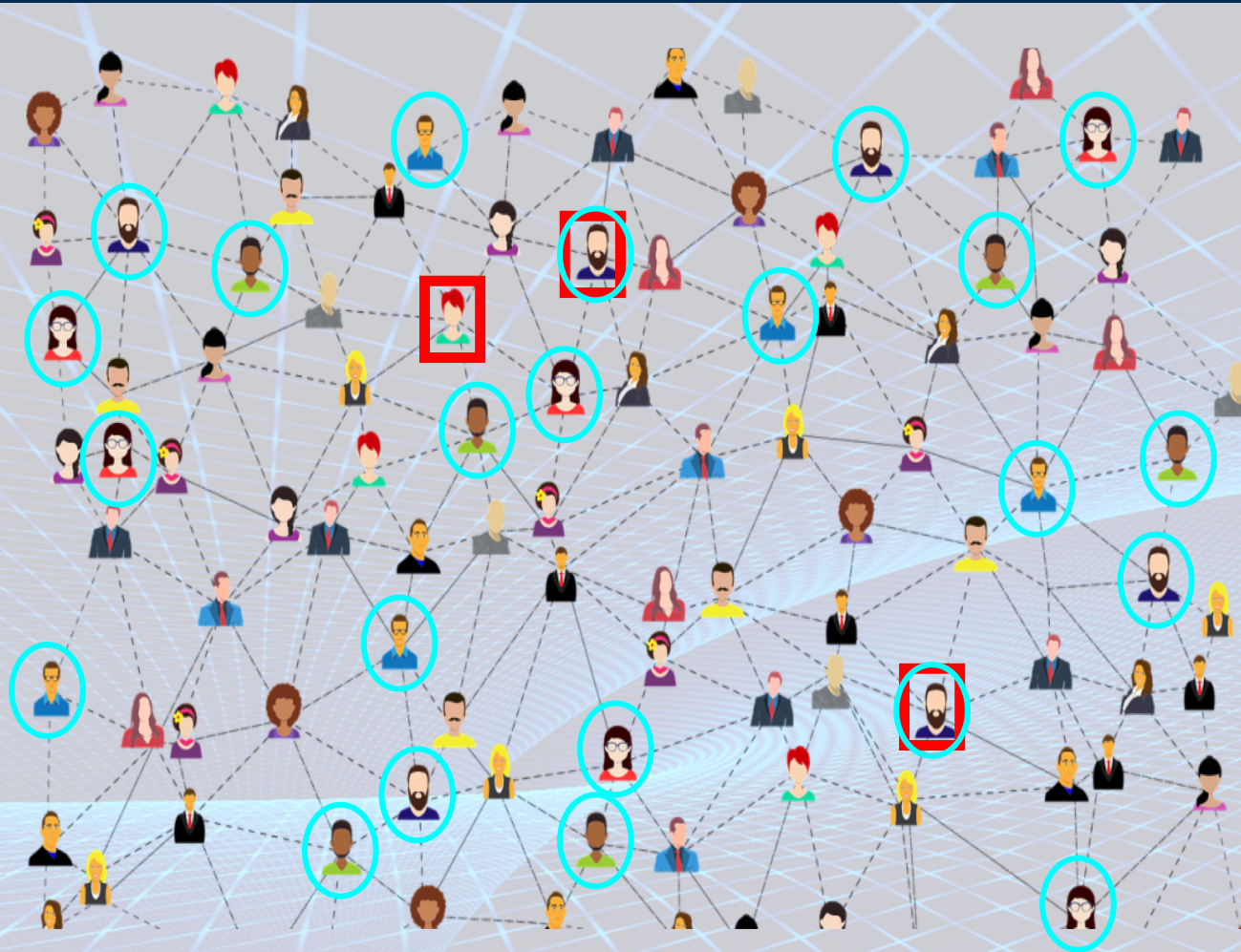
# Direct vs Indirect Reporting



Ground truth:  
 $24/102 = 23.5\%$



# Direct vs Indirect Reporting

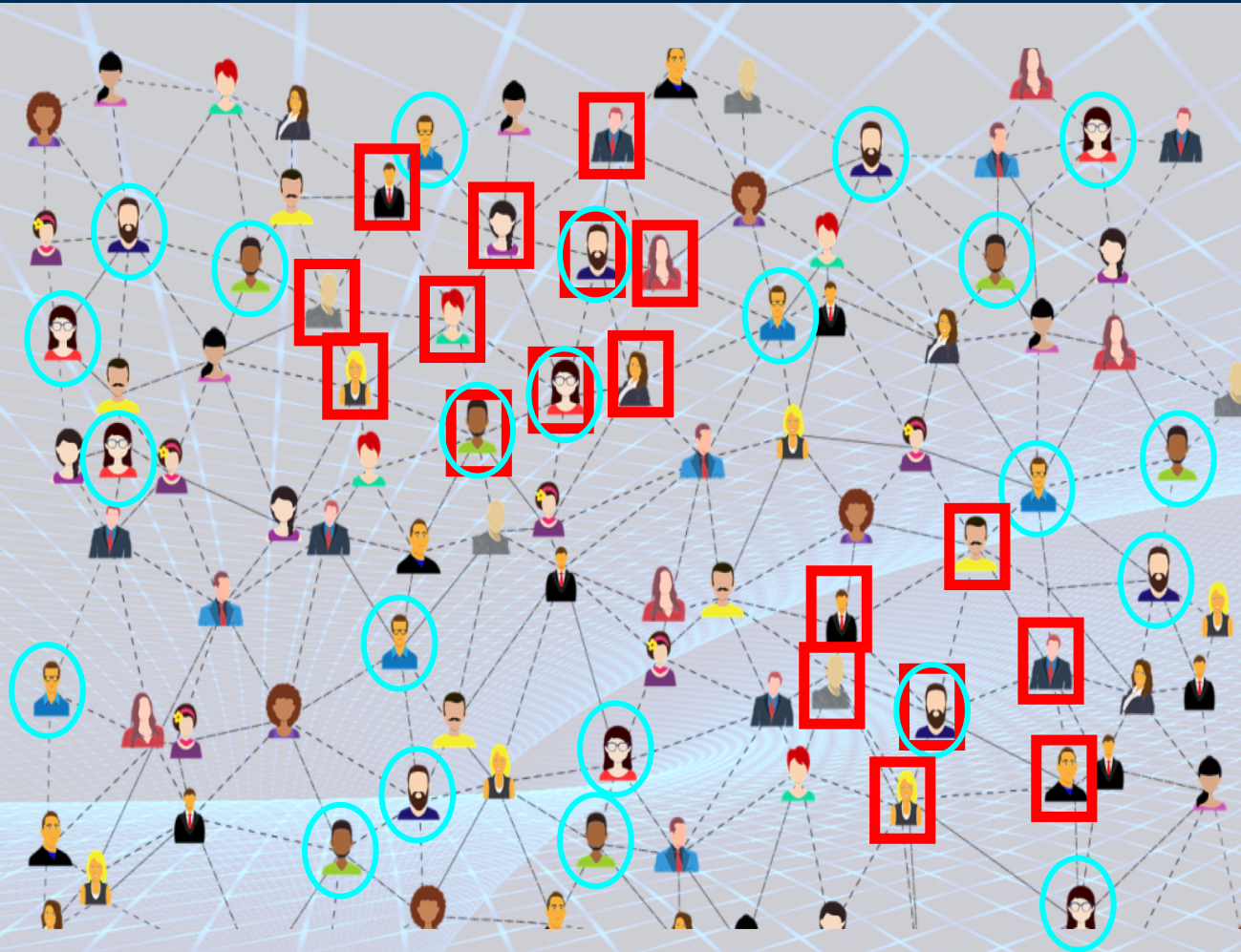


Estimate direct:  
 $2/3=66.7\%$

Ground truth:  
 $24/102 = 23.5\%$



# Direct vs Indirect Reporting



Estimate direct:  
 $2/3=66.7\%$

Ground truth:  
 $24/102 = 23.5\%$

Estimate NSUM:  
 $(2+1+2)/(7+7+6)=$   
 $5/20=25\%$

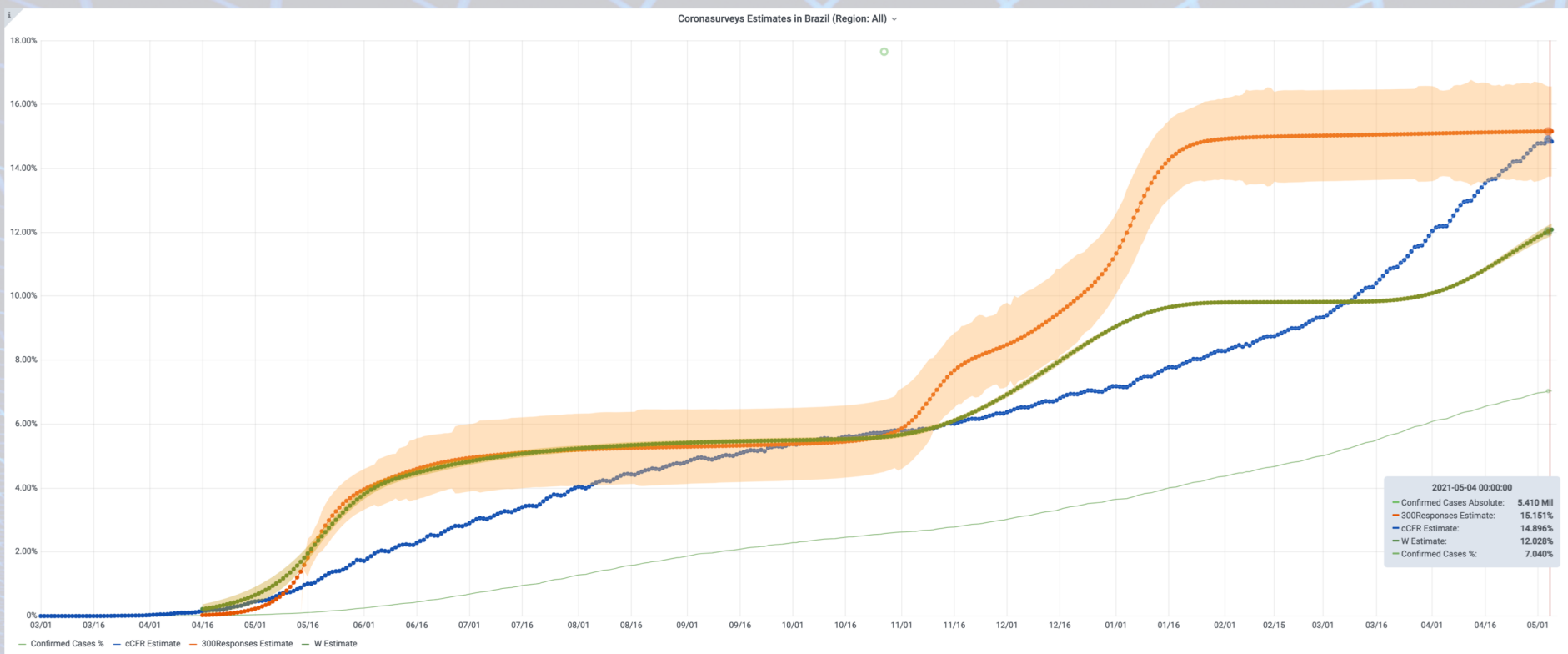


# Known Biases

- Transmission and recall errors: The participant
  - Is not aware of health status of some contacts
  - Does not recall all contacts or some infected contacts
  - **Wisdom of the crowd**
- Barrier effect: All contacts of a participant are close to her
  - **Collect “enough” responses**
  - **Collect responses at regional level, and aggregate if convenient**
- Response bias: Deliberate misreporting
  - **Filter out outliers and inconsistent responses**

I. Laga, L. Bao, X. Niu. Thirty Years of The Network Scale up Method. arXiv:2011.12516 [stat.ME], 2020

# Country Estimates

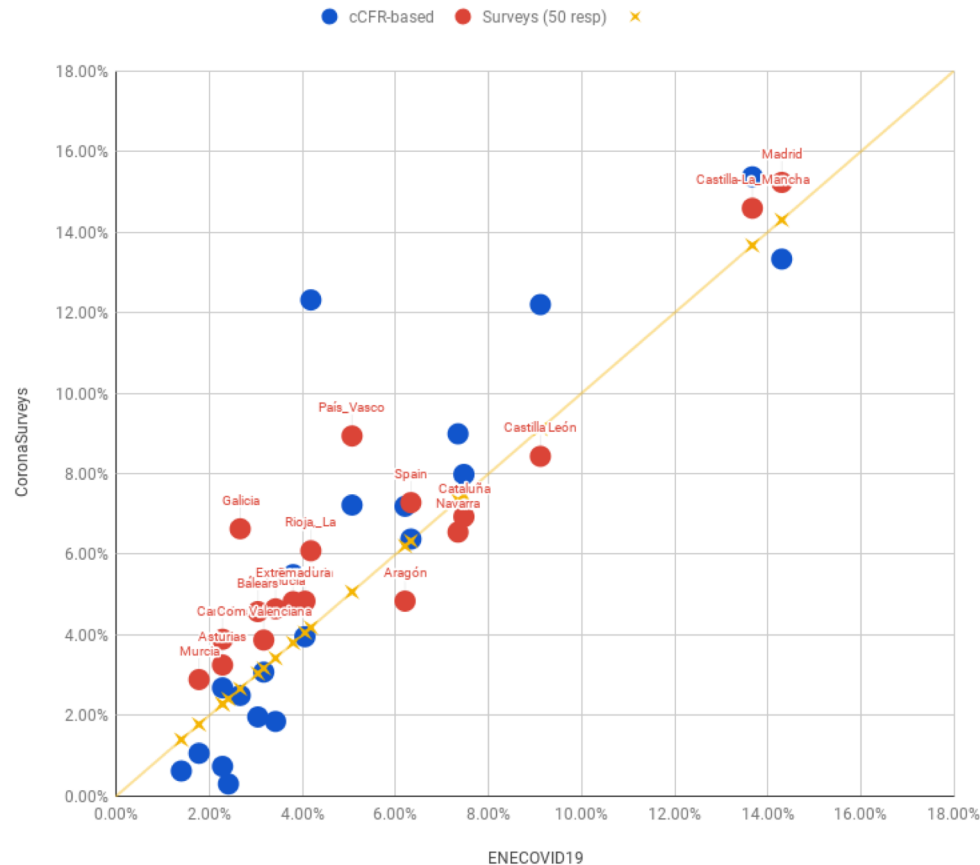


T Russel et al. Using a delay-adjusted case fatality ratio to estimate under-reporting. Centre for Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases Repository (2020)



# Validation: Serology Study & cCFR

ENECOV19 (round 1) vs cCFR-based and Surveys

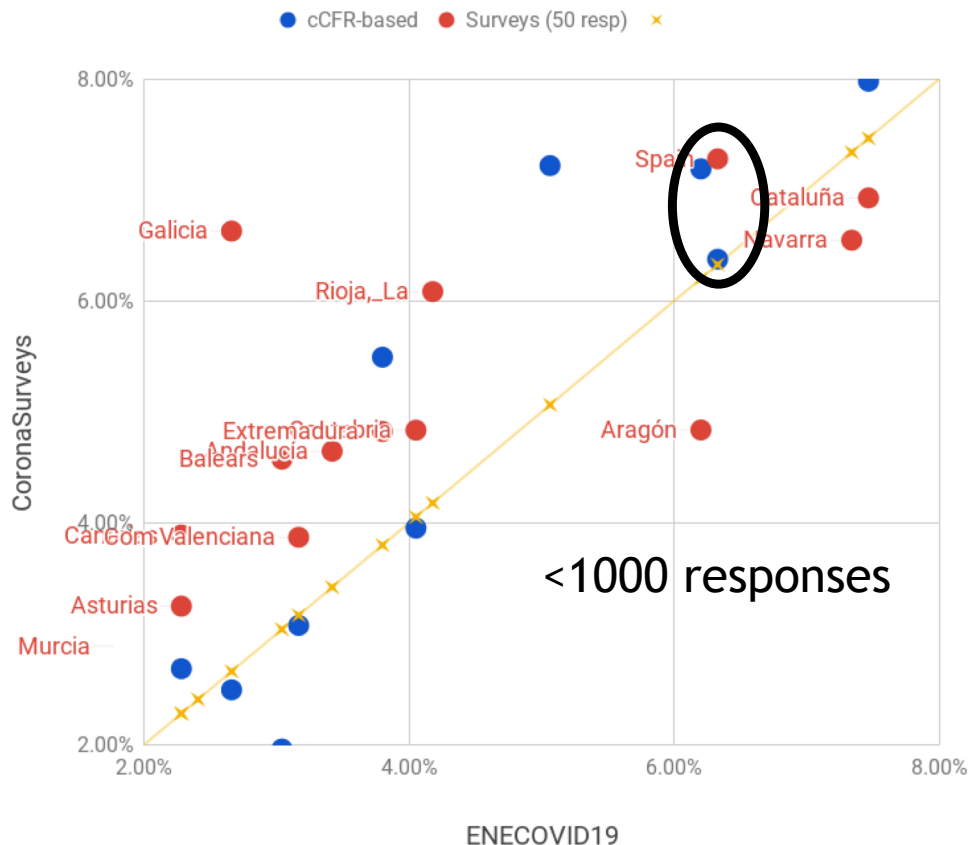


Pollán, Marina, et al. "Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in Spain (ENE-COVID): a nationwide, population-based seroepidemiological study." *The Lancet* (2020)

Garcia-Agundez, Augusto, et al. "Estimating the COVID-19 Prevalence in Spain with Indirect Reporting via Open Surveys." *Frontiers in Public Health* 9 (2021)

# Validation: Serology Study & cCFR

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Pollán, Marina, et al. "Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in Spain (ENE-COVID): a nationwide, population-based seroepidemiological study." *The Lancet* (2020)

- 60,000 people tested (2 tests in each wave)
- Medical teams all over the country
- 2 weeks of collecting samples
- \$\$\$

# Results in Ukraine

- Thanks to Anna Ishchenko and Oleksiy Kebkal a survey was deployed in Ukraine in April 2020

## Опитування щодо кількості в Україні осіб із симптомами, схожими із COVID-19

Ми - міжнародна команда вчених із кількох науково-дослідних установ по всьому світу. Ми намагаємося зібрати дані, що можуть бути використані для оцінки кількості осіб із симптомами, схожими із COVID-19, в різних країнах, та зміни цього показника у часі.

Це опитування спрямоване на отримання даних з України. Відповідайте, будь ласка, лише відносно людей, яких ви особисто знаєте у цій країні.

БУДЬ ЛАСКА, ВІДПОВІДАЙТЕ НА ЦЕ ОПИТУВАННЯ РАЗ НА ДЕНЬ, НАВІТЬ ЯКЩО ВАШІ ВІДПОВІДІ НЕ ЗМІНЮЮТЬСЯ.

Натискання кнопки "надіслати" означає чітку згоду з такими умовами цього опитування:

- зібрані дані будуть оприлюднені відповідно до Open Data Commons Attribution License;
- дані збираються в анонімній формі. Дослідники не можуть відслідкувати дані за учасниками;
- дані не можуть бути змінені та видалені після завершення опитування;
- ми використовуємо Google Forms для опитування. Ми не збираємо особисті дані, проте не можемо гарантувати повну анонімність, адже є ймовірність, що Google пов'яже відповіді з вашою особою.

Із коментарями чи запитаннями щодо захисту даних ви можете звертатися до Антоніо Фернандеса Анта з IMDEA Networks Institute, Іспанія, за адресою [coronasurveys@gmail.com](mailto:coronasurveys@gmail.com) з темою "coronasurvey".

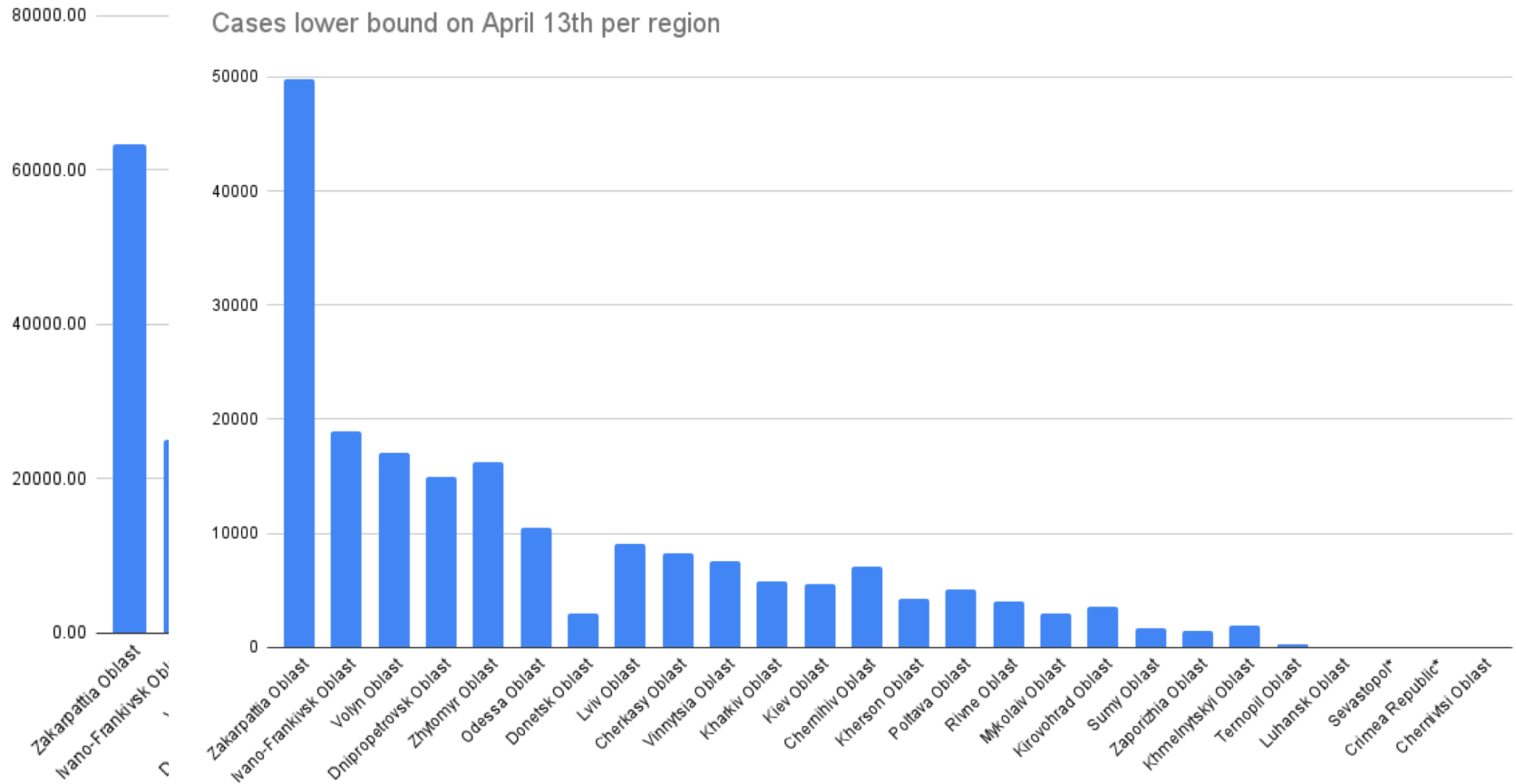


# Results in Ukraine

- Thanks to Anna Ishchenko and Oleksiy Kebkal a survey was deployed in Ukraine in April 2020
- In one week by April 13th had 2000+ responses
- Estimates:
  - Average reach: ~90 persons
  - CoronaSurveys cases: ~300,000 (min. 200,000 95%CI)
  - Confirmed cases: 3,102
  - Cases from 209 deaths on April 26th: 15,145
- On July 13th, officially
  - ~55,000 cases
  - Cases from 1624 deaths on July 26th: 117,754

# Cases in Ukraine per Region

Estimated cases on April 13th per region



# Beyond Cumulative Incidence

↳ How many are still sick?

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↳ How many started with symptoms in the latest 7 days?

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↳ If you get sick, how many of the people you know personally would be aware of it?

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↳ How many of the people you know personally have been given a COVID-19 vaccine?

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↳ How many of the people you know personally refuse to be vaccinated?

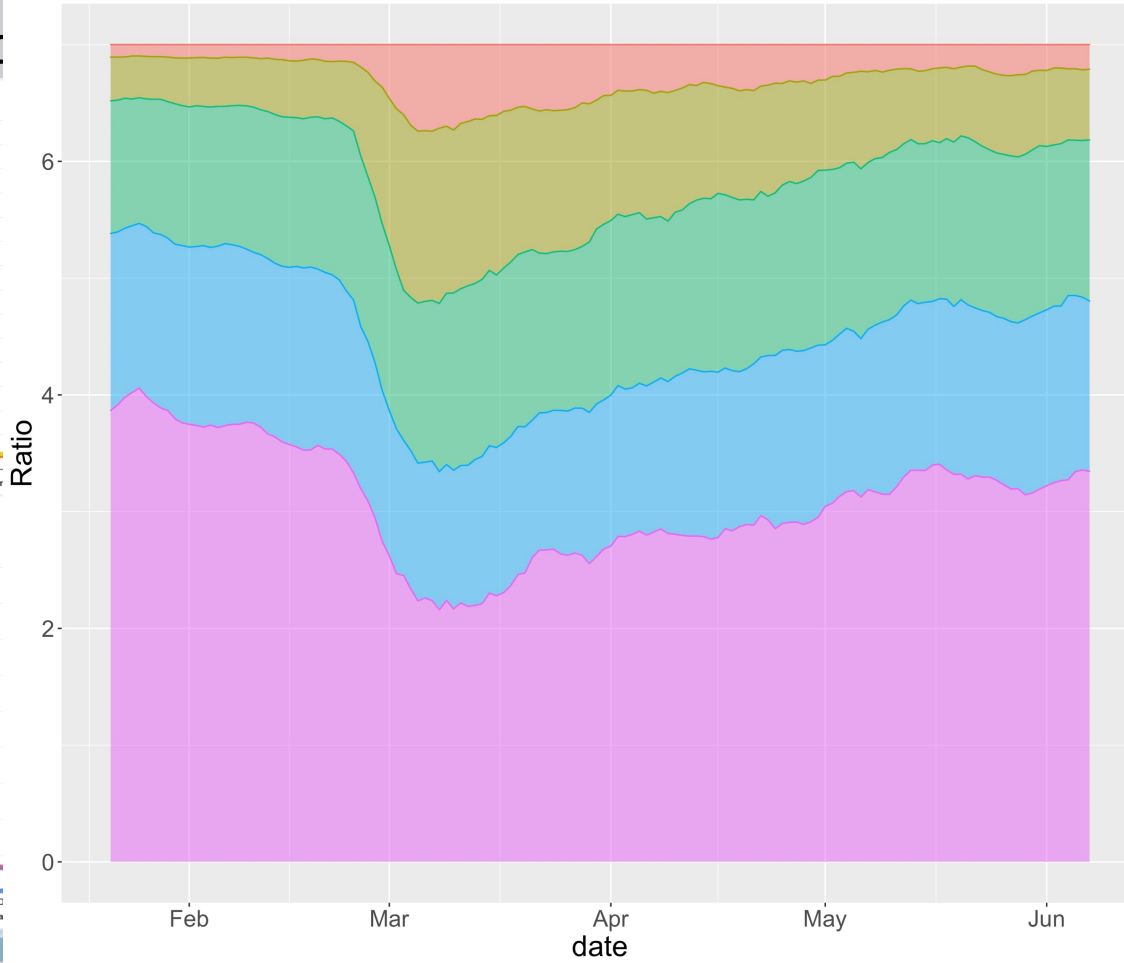
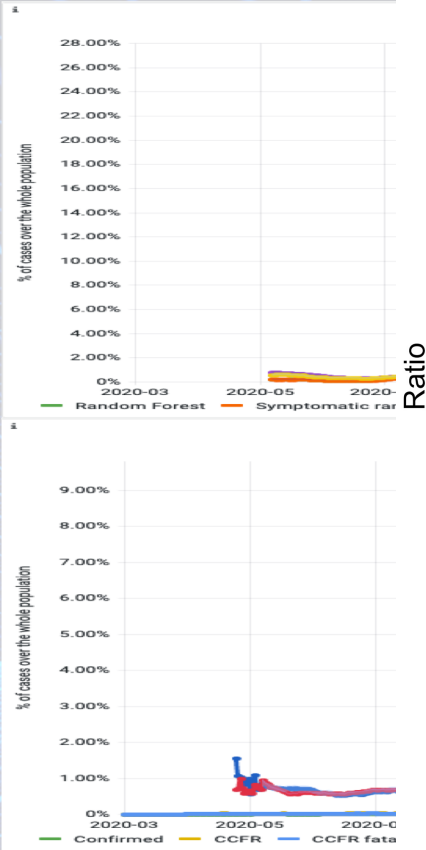
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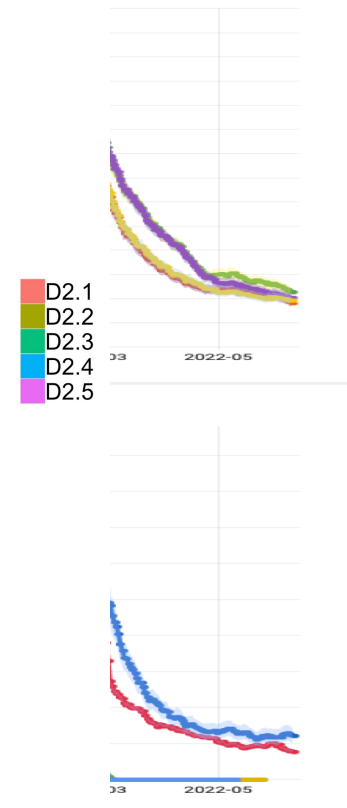
# Integration with Symptom Survey

- The COVID-19 has lots of data

UA-During the past 7 days, how often did you feel so depressed that nothing could cheer you up? {1:All of the time,2:Most of the time,3:Some of the time,4:A little of the time,5:None of the time}



and FB



# Conclusions

- Indirect reporting (Aggregated Relational Data) with Network Scale-up Method are a useful tool to track the pandemic evolution
- Easy, fast, and cheap to deploy
  - Possible game changer for LMIC
  - Complements and contrasts the available data
- Good estimates even with limited number of responses



# Future Work

- Campaigns to maintain constant flow of responses
- Deploy questions and mechanisms to compensate for the known biases
- Integrating with other data sources
  - CMU/UMD COVID-19 Symptom Survey
  - Oxford data on interventions
  - Google data on mobility
- Forecasting methods with all the data
- Propose interventions

# Thank you!

## <https://coronasurveys.org>

- Augusto Garcia-Agundez et al. [Estimating the COVID-19 Prevalence in Spain with Indirect Reporting via Open Surveys](#), Front. Public Health, 09 April 2021
- INESC TEC. [Estimating active cases of COVID-19: The unknown matters](#), Medium.com, July 16th, 2020.
- Oluwasegun Ojo et al. [CoronaSurveys: Using Surveys with Indirect Reporting to Estimate the Incidence and Evolution of Epidemics](#), arXiv:2005.12783 v2 [cs.DC], June 2020. KDD Workshop on Humanitarian Mapping, San Diego, California USA, August 24, 2020.
- Carlos Baquero et al. [Measuring Icebergs: Using Different Methods to Estimate the Number of COVID-19 Cases in Portugal and Spain](#), medRxiv, April 2020.