Experimental protocols

Youngism: Discrimination and Stereotypes

Vojtěch Bartoš, Michal Bauer, Jana Cahlíková, Julie Chytilová

This version: October 1, 2024

I. Experiment 1

[English translation from Czech original]

I.1. HARDSHIP treatment

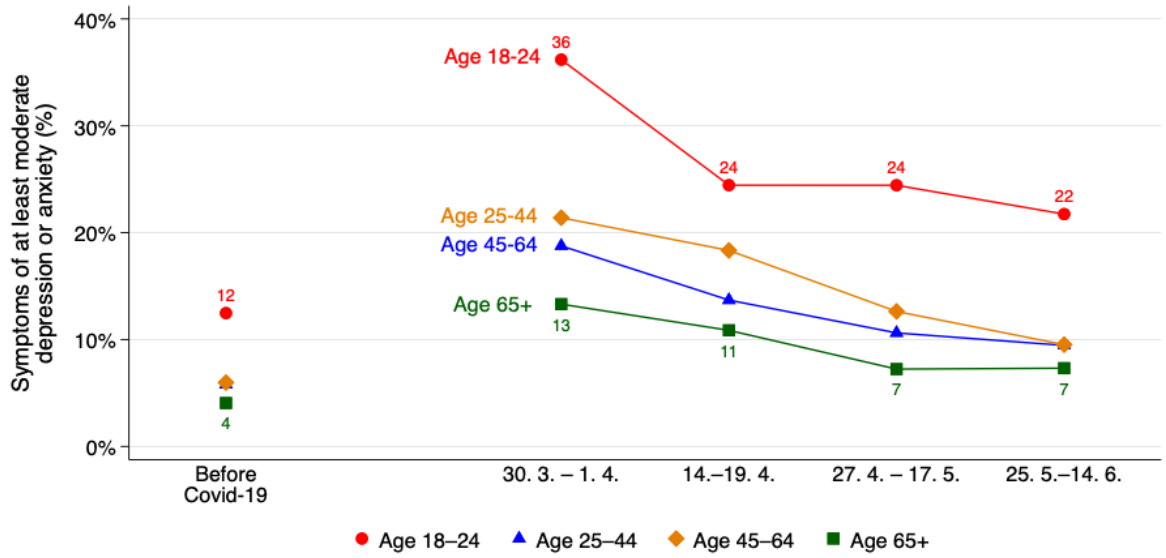
[Screen 1]

Since March 2020, we have regularly surveyed around 2,500 people about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their lives. Using data from the questionnaire, we have found, for example, that the percentage of people reporting symptoms of at least moderate depression or anxiety tripled during the first wave of the pandemic (from 6% to 22%).

[Screen 2]

However, the impact on mental health varied greatly across age groups:
1. They were the worst for young people under 25. Just after the first wave of across-the-board restrictions, 36% of young people showed symptoms of moderate depression or anxiety and their situation was only slowly improving - in June, 22% of 18-24 year olds were still showing symptoms of mental health problems.
2. Other age groups have been significantly less affected, see the graph on the following screen.

[Screen 3]



Source: mental health impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, IDEA CERGE-EI study, 07/2020.

[Screen 4]

Would you like to learn more about the study on which the graph is based?
1. Yes, I would like to receive a link to the study after the survey.
2. No

I.2. Filler questions between the HARDSHIP treatment and the Help-or-Harm task

- How many members, including you, does your household have?

[Prefilter: for multi-member households]
- How many members of your household are aged 18 and over? Do not count yourself.
- How many members in your household are aged 0 to 12 years?
- How many members in your household are aged 13 to 17?

- How many students in your household are aged 18 to 26?

- What is your highest level of education?
  Basic/Secondary school without a diploma/Secondary education with a high school diploma/Higher education

- What is your employment status?
  Employee/Self-employed/Student/On maternity or parental leave/Retired/Unemployed/Other

- What was your employment status before the Covid-19 epidemic (February 2020)?
  Employee/Self-employed/Student/On maternity or parental leave/Retired/Unemployed/Other

[Prefilter: if economic status self-employed or employee]
- Please indicate whether you worked in any of the following sectors before the Covid-19 epidemic (February 2020).
  Healthcare/Nursing profession/Education or school/Services, hospitality/Public transport driver, taxi/Public office/Occupation where I come into contact with a large number of people/None of the above

- What is the size of your place of residence?
  Up to 999 inhabitants/1000 to 1999 inhabitants/2000 to 4999 inhabitants/5,000 to 19,999 inhabitants/20 000 to 49 999 inhabitants/50 000 to 99 999 inhabitants/100 000 inhabitants and over

- In which region do you live?
  Prague/Central Bohemia/South Bohemia/Pilsen/Karlovy Vary/Ústí nad Labem/Liberec/Hradec Králové/Pardubice/Vysočina/South Moravia/Olomouc/Zlín/Moravia-Silesia Region

- What is the current total net monthly income of your household?
  (Include in income all income from employment, pensions, rent and benefits from all members of your household that you have available despite the changes related to the coronavirus epidemic)
  Up to CZK 10 000/10 001 - 15 000 CZK/15 001 - 20 000 CZK/20 001 - 25 000 CZK/25 001 - 30 000 CZK/30 001 - 35 000 CZK/35 001 - 40 000 CZK/40 001 - 50 000 CZK/50 001 - 60 000 CZK/Over 60 000 CZK/Don't know or don't want to answer

- What was the total net monthly income of your household in January 2020 (before the Covid-19 epidemic in the Czech Republic)?
  (Include in your income all income from employment, pensions, rent and benefits available to all members of your household.)
  Up to CZK 10 000/10 001 - 15 000 CZK/15 001 - 20 000 CZK/20 001 - 25 000 CZK/25 001 - 30 000 CZK/30 001 - 35 000 CZK/35 001 - 40 000 CZK/40 001 - 50 000 CZK/50 001 - 60 000 CZK/Over 60 000 CZK/Don't know or don't want to answer

- When do you think the COVID-19 vaccine will be approved?
  Autumn 2020/Winter 2020/21/Spring 2021/Summer 2021/Autumn 2021/Later

- When do you think the COVID-19 vaccine will be available in the country?
  Autumn 2020/Winter 2020/21/Spring 2021/Summer 2021/Autumn 2021/Later

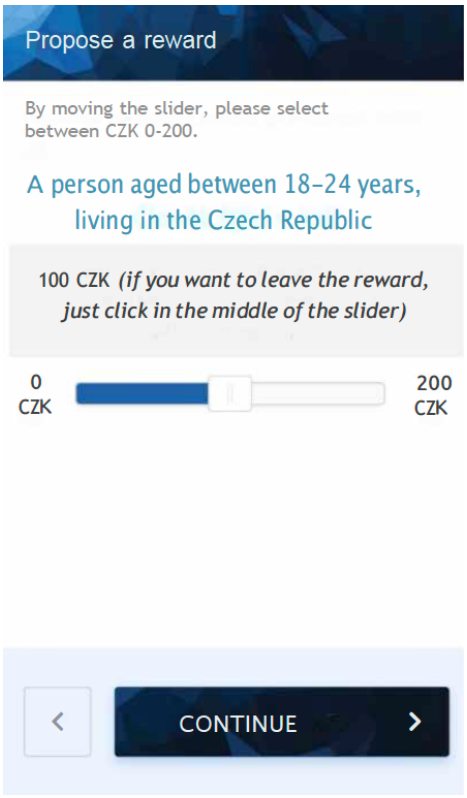
I.3. Help-or-Harm task

Now there will be a different activity. In contrast to traditional survey questions, you are to make several decisions that may have real consequences on the financial reward received by someone else. We will ask you whether you want to increase or decrease the reward of several people. Each of them is a different person, and none of them participated in this survey. After this survey, we will randomly select thirty participants and select one of their decisions that will determine the reward for someone else. Please make your decisions carefully, because each of your decisions may play a role.

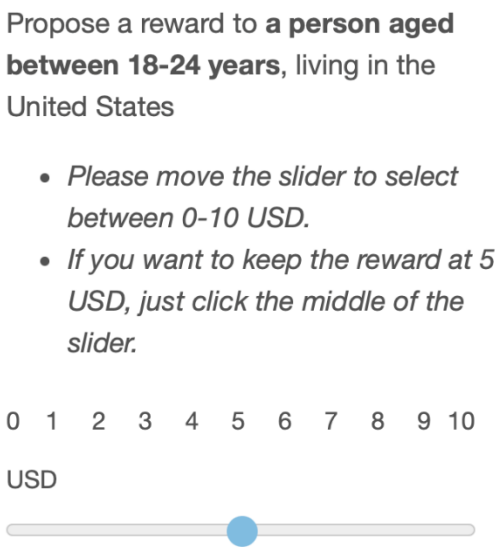
Now please make a decision for each of the persons listed below. If you decide not to change their reward, they will receive CZK 100. But you can decide to increase or decrease their reward to any amount between CZK 0 and CZK 200. Please use the slider to determine the reward for each of these individuals.

Figure E1. Help-or-Harm task decision screen

Panel A: Experiment 1 (Czechia)



Panel B: Experiment 2 (US)



Notes: In Panel A, the translation into English from Czech is displayed.

[Decision-making environment displayed in Figure E1 was displayed on a separate screen for each of the following 21 people]

[Randomization: The Age module was randomly presented before/after the other modules. The order within the modules is also randomized.]

Help-or-Harm task: Age module

- A person aged between 18-24 years, living in the Czech Republic
- A person aged between 25-44 years, living in the Czech Republic
- A person aged between 45-64 years, living in the Czech Republic
- Person aged 65 and over, living in the Czech Republic

Help-or-Harm task: Other modules

- A person living in your region
- A person living in another region in the Czech Republic
- A person living in Prague
- A person whose political opinions are close to yours (i.e., votes for the same political party)
- A person whose political opinions are different from yours (i.e., votes for a party from the opposite side of the political spectrum)
- A person who identifies as a member of the majority population in the Czech Republic
- A person who identifies as a member of the Roma ethnic minority
- A person living in the Czech Republic
- A person who moved to the Czech Republic in the last five years
- A person living in the European Union
- A person living in the United States
- A person living in Africa
- A person living in Asia
- A person living in the Czech Republic, with no religious affiliation
- A person living in the Czech Republic, Christian affiliation
- A person living in the Czech Republic, Muslim affiliation
- A person living in the Czech Republic, Jewish affiliation

I.4. Policy support

How much should the state currently support and invest funding in mental health services, e.g. crisis lines, access to specialist care?
(Scale 0-100. 0 = Not at all; 100= It should be an important priority)

- For minors (14-17 years)
- For young people (18-24 years)
- For middle-aged people (25-64 years)
- For seniors (65 and over)

How much should the state currently financially support the following groups of people?
(Scale 0-100. 0 = Not at all; 100= It should be an important priority)

- Young people (18-24 years)
- Middle-aged people (25-64 years)
- Seniors (65 and over)

II. Experiment 2

II.1. Help-or-Harm task

Unlike in usual survey questions, you will now make several **decisions** that can have a **real impact on someone else's financial reward**. We will ask you whether you want to increase or decrease a reward of several people. Each of them is a different person, but none of them is a participant in this survey. After this survey, we will randomly select thirty participants and choose one of their decisions to determine someone else's reward. So please choose carefully, as **each of your decisions may play a role.**

Now please make a decision for each person listed below. **If you don't change their reward, they will receive 5 USD. However, you can choose to increase or decrease their reward to any amount between 0 USD and 10 USD.** Please use the slider to determine the reward for each of them.

[Decision-making environment displayed in Figure A1 (right) was displayed on a separate screen for each of the following 4 people]

[Randomization: The order within the module is randomized.]

Help-or-Harm task: Age module

- A person aged between 18-24 years, living in the Czech Republic
- A person aged between 25-44 years, living in the Czech Republic
- A person aged between 45-64 years, living in the Czech Republic
- Person aged 65 and over, living in the Czech Republic

II.2. Unprompted questions on Help-or-Harm behavior

We asked participants who allocated different amounts to their own group and to the 18-24 years and 65 and over, respectively, in the Help-or-Harm task, to describe reasons for their decision.
[Randomization: The order in which the question for a young vs. senior were asked was randomized.]

Young vs. own age group [18-24 not asked this question]
Now we want to understand why you decided to allocate the following rewards:

- You gave [X] USD to a person aged 18-24
- You gave [Y] USD to a person aged [own age group]

What were the main reasons for this choice? [Text field]

Senior vs. own age group [65 and over not asked this question]
Now we want to understand why you decided to allocate the following rewards:

- You gave [X] USD to a person aged [own age group]
- You gave [Y] USD to a person aged 65 and over

What were the main reasons for this choice? [Text field]

II.3. Prompted questions on Help-or-Harm behavior

Next, we will ask you why you allocated these rewards to these four people:

- **Aged 18-24:** [X] USD
- **Aged 25-44:** [W] USD
- **Aged 45-64:** [Y] USD
- **Aged 65 and over:** [Z] USD

[Randomization: The order in which the age groups are presented is randomized.]

I allocated [X/W/Y/Z] USD to a person **[age category]**, because I see that person as:
(Select up to three most important reasons that affected your decision by dragging them from the list to the box on the right. Please order them based on importance.)

Randomization: The order in which the options are displayed is randomized using four different combinations.]

Items: [Moral | Immoral | Similar political views from mine | I like their lifestyle | I dislike their lifestyle | Rich | Poor | Friendly | Unfriendly | Healthy / fit | Unhealthy / frail | Happy | Sad | Facing challenges | Having an easy life | Selfish | Helping others | Respectful | Disrespectful | Lazy | Hard-working | Responsible | Irresponsible | Competent | Incompetent | Other (Specify other) | None of the above]

II.4. Stereotypes

Next, we would like to get your views about people from these four age groups living in the United States in general:

- People **aged 18-24**
- People **aged 25-44**
- People **aged 45-64**
- People **aged 65 and over**

How do you see people **aged [age category]** in general?
(We understand all people are different. But try to drag a slider to the position that mostly represents your view of people from that age category.)

[Randomization: The order in which the age groups are presented is randomized. The sliders are presented in a fixed order within an age group.]

A set of sliders on a scale from 0 to 10 is presented. Following trade-offs are elicited:

- People [age group] are typically... [Moral = 0] / [Immoral = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] typically have... [Similar political views to mine = 0] / [Different political views to mine = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- For people [age group], typically... [I like their lifestyle = 0] / [I dislike their lifestyle = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Rich = 0] / [Poor = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Friendly = 0] / [Unfriendly = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Healthy / fit = 0] / [Unhealthy / frail = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Happy = 0] / [Unhappy = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Facing challenges = 0] / [Having an easy life = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Selfish = 0] / [Helping others = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Respectful = 0] / [Disrespectful = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Lazy = 0] / [Hard-working= 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Responsible = 0] / [Irresponsible = 10]; [Neutral = 5]
- People [age group] are typically... [Competent = 0] / [Incompetent = 10]; [Neutral = 5]

III. Supplementary survey on mental health

[English translation from Czech original]

III.1. Mental health module (also implemented in Experiment 1)

Now let us ask you a few questions about how you are currently doing.

- Overall, how happy do you feel now?
  0=Very unhappy; 10=Very happy

- Please indicate how often the following problems have bothered you during the past two weeks.
  In each row select one answer: Not at all/Some days/More than half the days/Almost every day
  - Trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, or sleeping too much
  - Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge
  - Poor appetite or overeating
  - Test your attention span (select "several days")
  - Feeling tired or having little energy
  - Little interest or pleasure in doing things
  - Becoming easily annoyed or irritable
  - * Not being able to stop or control worrying[1]
  - * Feeling down, depressed or hopeless
- Please indicate how often in the last fourteen days you have felt the following.
  In each row select one answer: Never/Almost never/Sometimes/Quite often/Very often
  - I felt that I were unable to control the important things in my life
  - I felt confident about my ability to handle my personal problems
  - I felt that things were going my way
  - I felt difficulties were piling up so high that I could not handle them

- What are your feelings about the ongoing coronavirus epidemic? Are you...
  0=Very calm; 100=Very worried

III.2. Beliefs about mental health

Using this questionnaire, we found that 6% of the Czech population showed symptoms of mental health problems - at least moderate depression or anxiety - before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

- What percentage of people in the Czech Republic do you think showed these symptoms during the first wave of the pandemic in the second half of March 2020? (Slider 0-100%)
- What percentage of young people (18 to 24 years old) do you think showed these symptoms? (Slider 0-100%)
- What percentage of people in middle age (25-64 years) do you think showed these symptoms? (Slider 0-100%)
- What percentage of seniors (65 years and older) do you think showed these symptoms? (Slider 0-100%)

[1] The last two questions were only asked in some waves of in the supplementary survey; they are not part of our main index of depression and anxiety symptom.