

# Combined Data Products COVID-19 context

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Survey  
Statistics  
Perspective

Research  
Examples

Privacy





## AAPOR Report on Big Data

AAPOR Big Data Task Force  
February 12, 2015

Prepared for AAPOR Council by the Task Force, with Task Force members including:

*Lilli Japec, Co-Chair, Statistics Sweden*  
*Frauke Kreuter, Co-Chair, JPSM at the U. of Maryland, U. of Mannheim & IAB*  
*Marcus Berg, Stockholm University*  
*Paul Biemer, RTI International*  
*Paul Decker, Mathematica Policy Research*  
*Cliff Lampe, School of Information at the University of Michigan*  
*Julia Lane, American Institutes for Research*  
*Cathy O'Neil, Johnson Research Labs*  
*Abe Usher, HumanGeo Group*

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The National Academies of  
SCIENCES · ENGINEERING · MEDICINE

### CONSENSUS STUDY REPORT

# FEDERAL STATISTICS, MULTIPLE DATA SOURCES, AND PRIVACY PROTECTION

## Next Steps

Chapman & Hall/CRC  
Statistics in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Series

# BIG DATA AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

A Practical Guide to Methods and Tools



Edited by  
**Ian Foster, Rayid Ghani,  
Ron S. Jarmin, Frauke Kreuter,  
and Julia Lane**

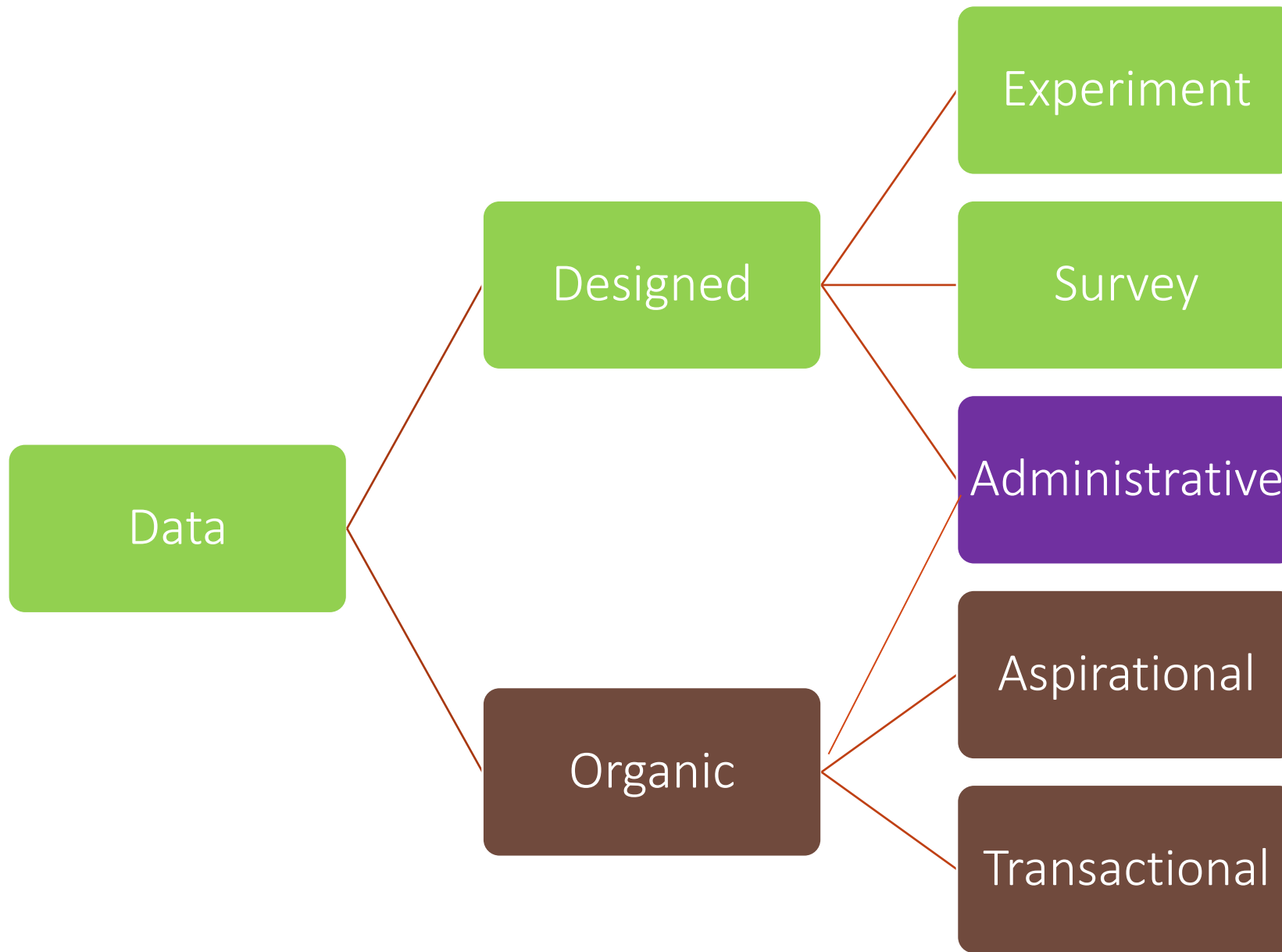
 CRC Press  
Taylor & Francis Group  
A CHAPMAN & HALL BOOK

<https://textbook.coleridgeinitiative.org/>



# Survey-Statistician Perspective

1. Combined data can **enhance our measurements**
2. **Purposeful design** is needed for success
3. **Data generating processes** need to be understood



Source: Roberto Rigobon, [Discussion on Applications and Issues with Using Commercial Data in Research](#), BEA Expert Meeting on Exploiting Commercial Data for Official Economic Statistics November 19, 2015

## Prediction of Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance

The chart presents a prediction of Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance using the University of Michigan Social Media Job Loss Index. The prediction is based on a factor analysis of social media messages mentioning job loss and related outcomes. See [Using Social Media to Measure Labor Market Flows](#) for details.

This research is a collaboration of University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, Department of Economics, and Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Stanford University's Department of Computer Science. The Economic Indicators from Social Media project is part of the Michigan Node of the NSF-Census Research Data Network (NSF SES 1131500). You can find relevant academic papers about this work [here](#).

**About this website:** The computational and data infrastructure that powers this website is described [here](#).

**For more information:**

Matthew Shapiro, shapiro at umich.edu, (734) 764-5419 (Economics)  
 Michael Cafarella, michjc at umich.edu, (734) 764-9418 (Computer Science)

**Update (June, 2015)**

We are currently in the process of revisiting our original model, which began to deviate in its estimates around mid-2014. We will be updating this site soon with our new model, along with details on our new model.

If you would like to view the original model's results, [click here](#).

Sources: *Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance (seasonally adjusted)*, U.S. Department of Labor; *Prediction*, University of Michigan Social Media Job Loss Index.

### Latest Estimate

 [download estimates](#)

Date	Initial Claims (Preliminary)	Initial Claims (Revised)	Prediction
July 15, 2017	233	n/a	296

# Job Vacancy Prediction

Big Data ESSNet  
presented in Sofia. 24-25 February 2017

- United Kingdom (lead)
- Germany
- Sweden
- Slovenia
- Italy
- Greece



Job Portal Ads



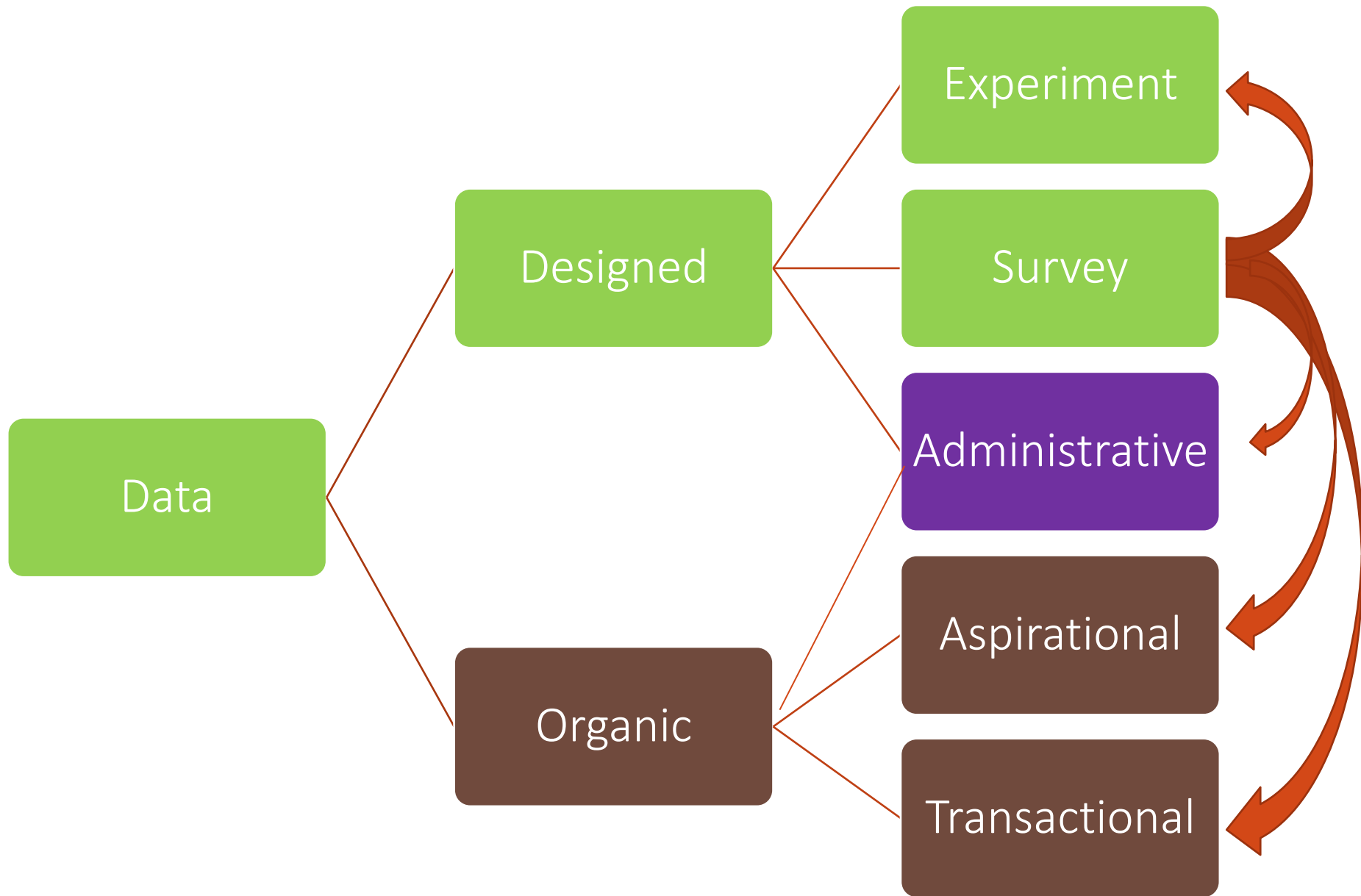
Pre-processed



Data Processing –  
Deduplication



Data Analysis



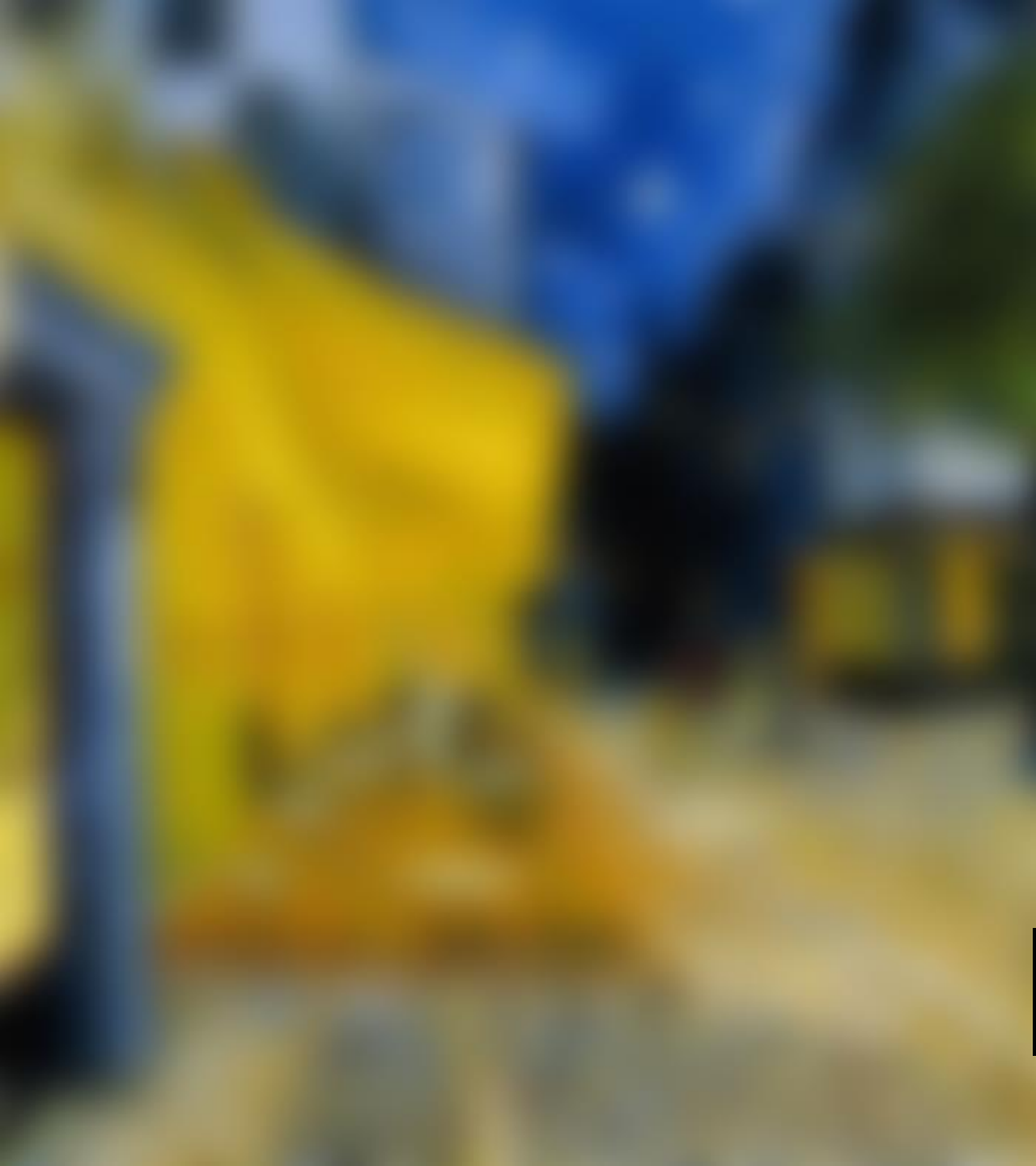
Source: Roberto Rigobon, [Discussion on Applications and Issues with Using Commercial Data in Research](#), BEA Expert Meeting on Exploiting Commercial Data for Official Economic Statistics November 19, 2015





# VINCENT VAN GOGH

Credit: Ralph Klüber, p3 Insights



VINCENT VAN GOGH

Credit: Ralph Klüber, p3 Insights

Big Data



# VINCENT VAN GOGH

Credit: Ralph Klüber, p3 Insights

Surveys



VINCENT VAN GOGH

Credit: Ralph Klüber, p3 Insights

Designed Product

collection

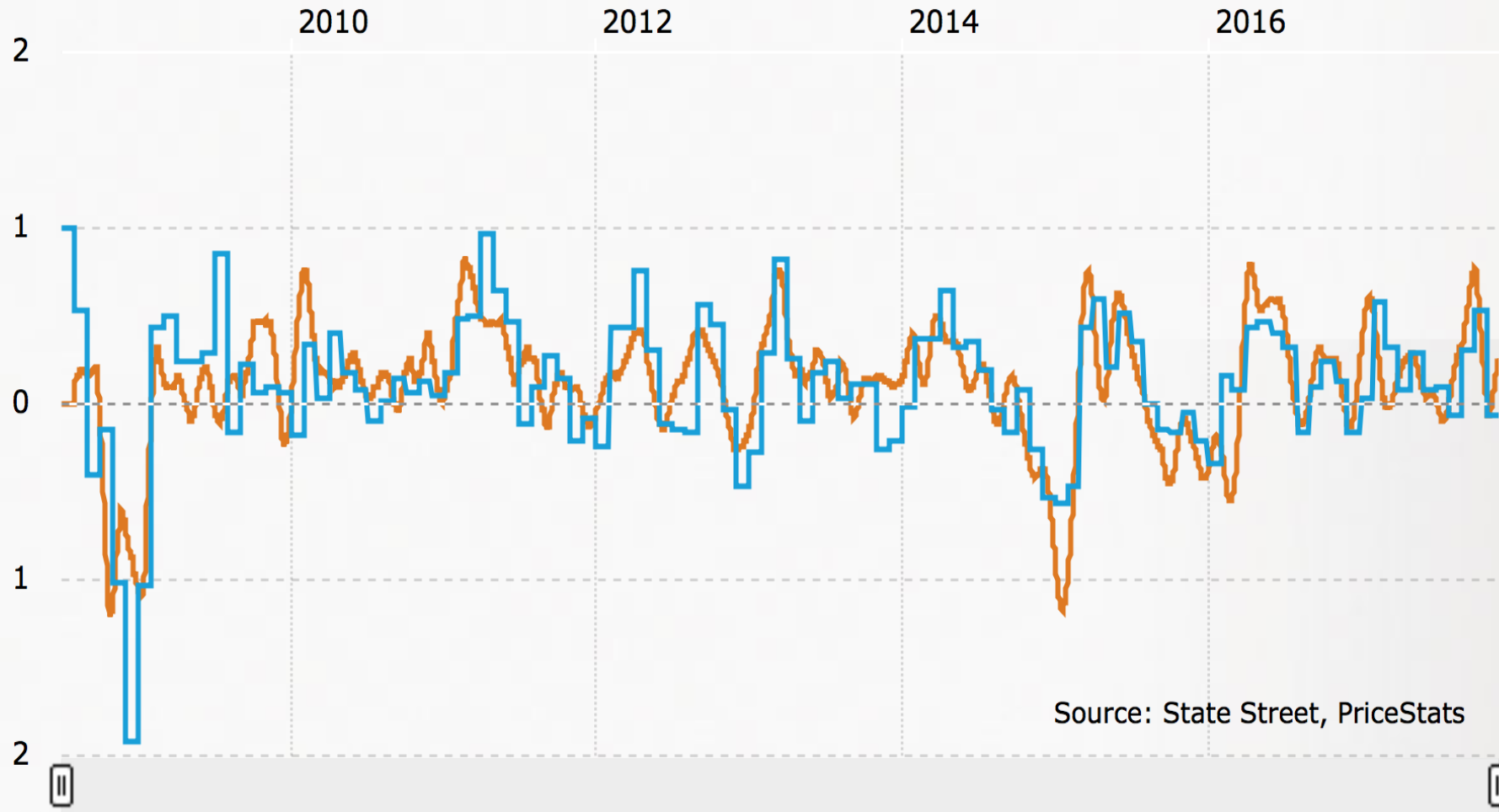
One way to think about a data ~~analysis~~ is to think of it as a product to be designed. [...] Producing a useful product requires careful consideration of who will be using it.

Roger Peng, 2018

# US Aggregate Inflation Series

(Monthly Rate, 2008 - Present)

- Official CPI
- PriceStats Index



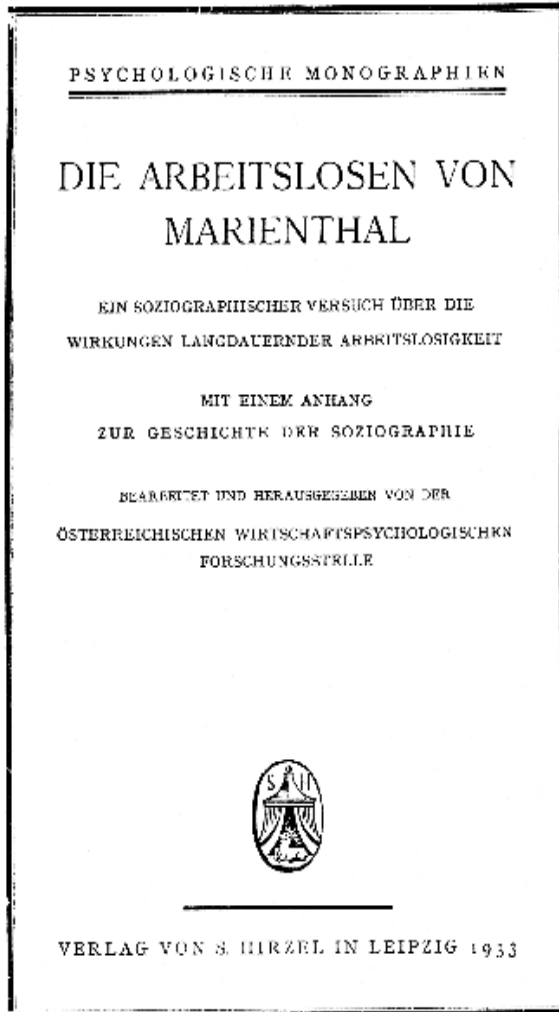




# Example 1 – Economic Research

1. Old measurements possible at scale with new devices
2. Coverage error and non-participation error detection requires careful design and combined data
3. Measurement error detection will keep us busy for a while

# Effects of Unemployment?



**The Sociography of an  
Unemployed Community**

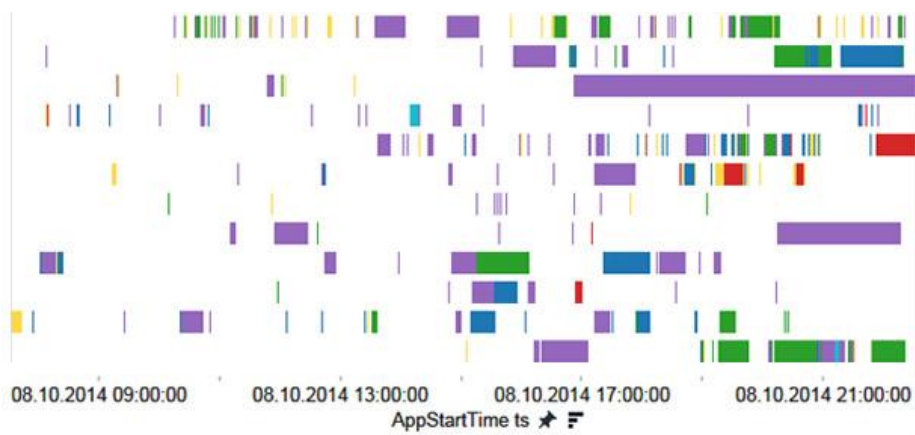
Marie Jahoda, Paul F. Lazarsfeld,  
and Hans Zeisel



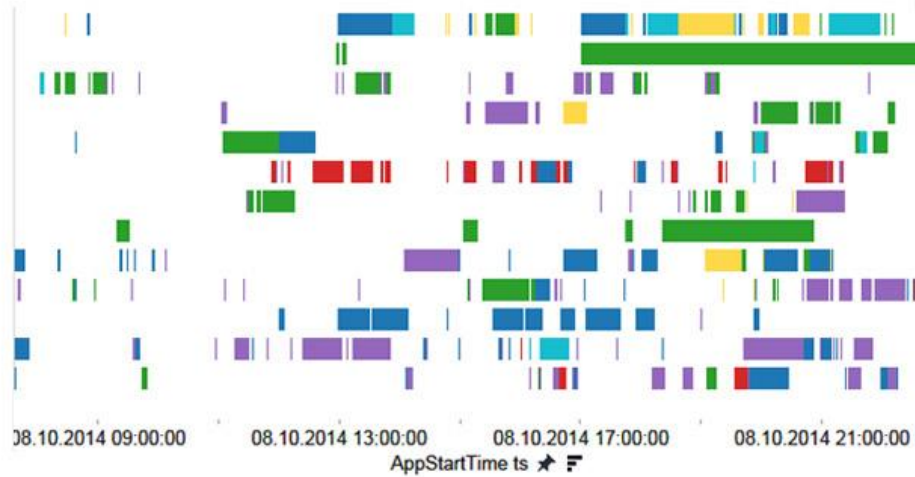
Source: Archives for the History of Sociology in Austria (Graz), »Marienthal« Virtual Archives



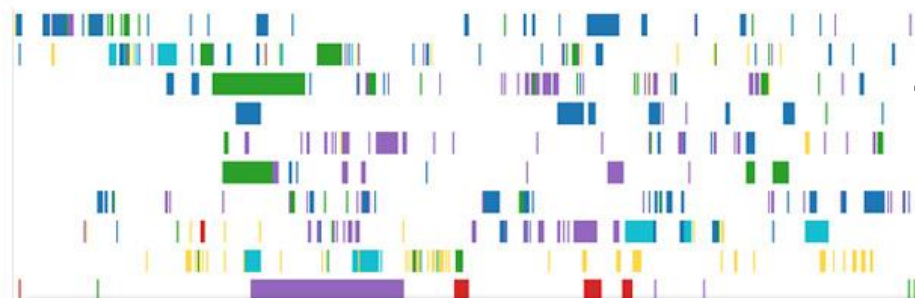




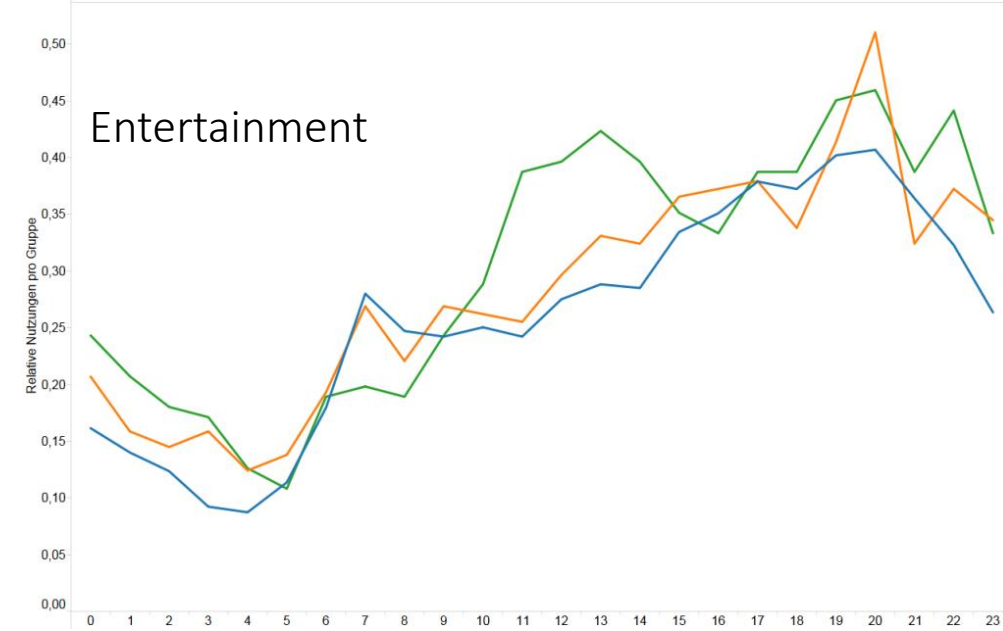
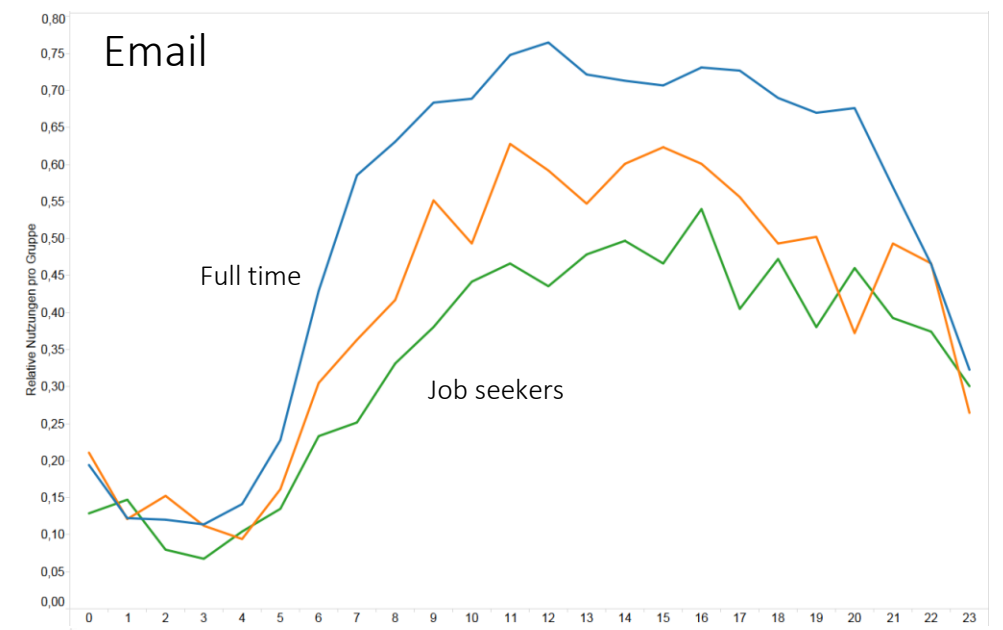
Full-time employed  
→ App use past 5pm



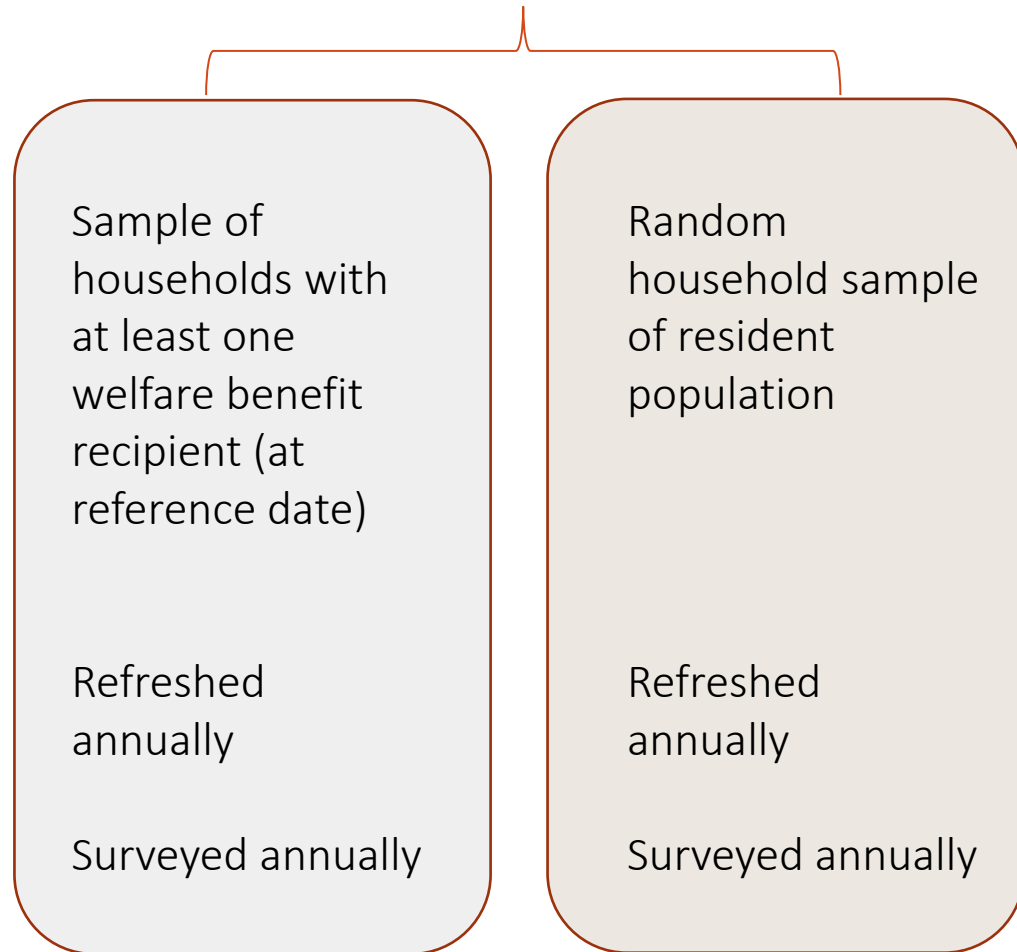
Part-time employed  
→ App use at noon



Job seekers  
→ Continuous app use



# PASS – Panel (10 years) + Administrative Data



### Meldung zur Sozialversicherung

Personalauswahl

Versicherungsnummer  Personalnummer (freiwillige Angabe)

Name  Vorsatz  Zusatz  Titel

Vorname

Straße und Hausnummer (Anschrift nur bei Anmeldung und Anschriftenänderung)

(Land)  Postleitzahl  Wohnort

Grund der Abgabe  Entgelt in Gleitzone  Namensänderung

**Beschäftigungszeit**

von  bis  Betriebsnummer des Arbeitgebers  Personengruppe

Mehrfachbeschäftigung  Ost  West

Beitragsgruppen KV  RV  ALV  PV  Angaben zur Tätigkeit  Aktuelle

Beitragspflichtiges Bruttoarbeitsentgelt (in DM ohne Pfennige / Euro ohne Cent)  DM  Euro  Statuskennzeichen

**Wenn keine Versicherungsnummer angegeben werden kann:**

Geburtsname  Vorsatz  Zusatz  Geburtsort

Geburtsdatum  Geschlecht männlich  weiblich

# Inference to Population

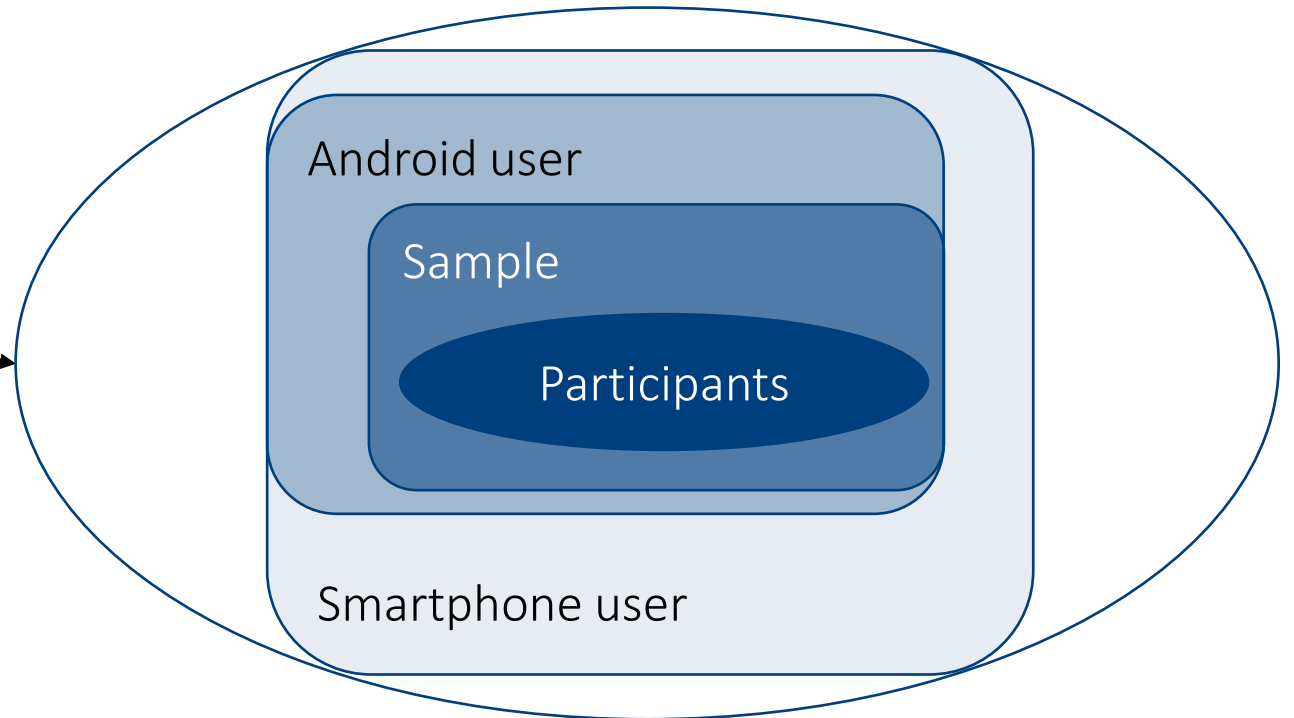
...owning a (specific) smartphone

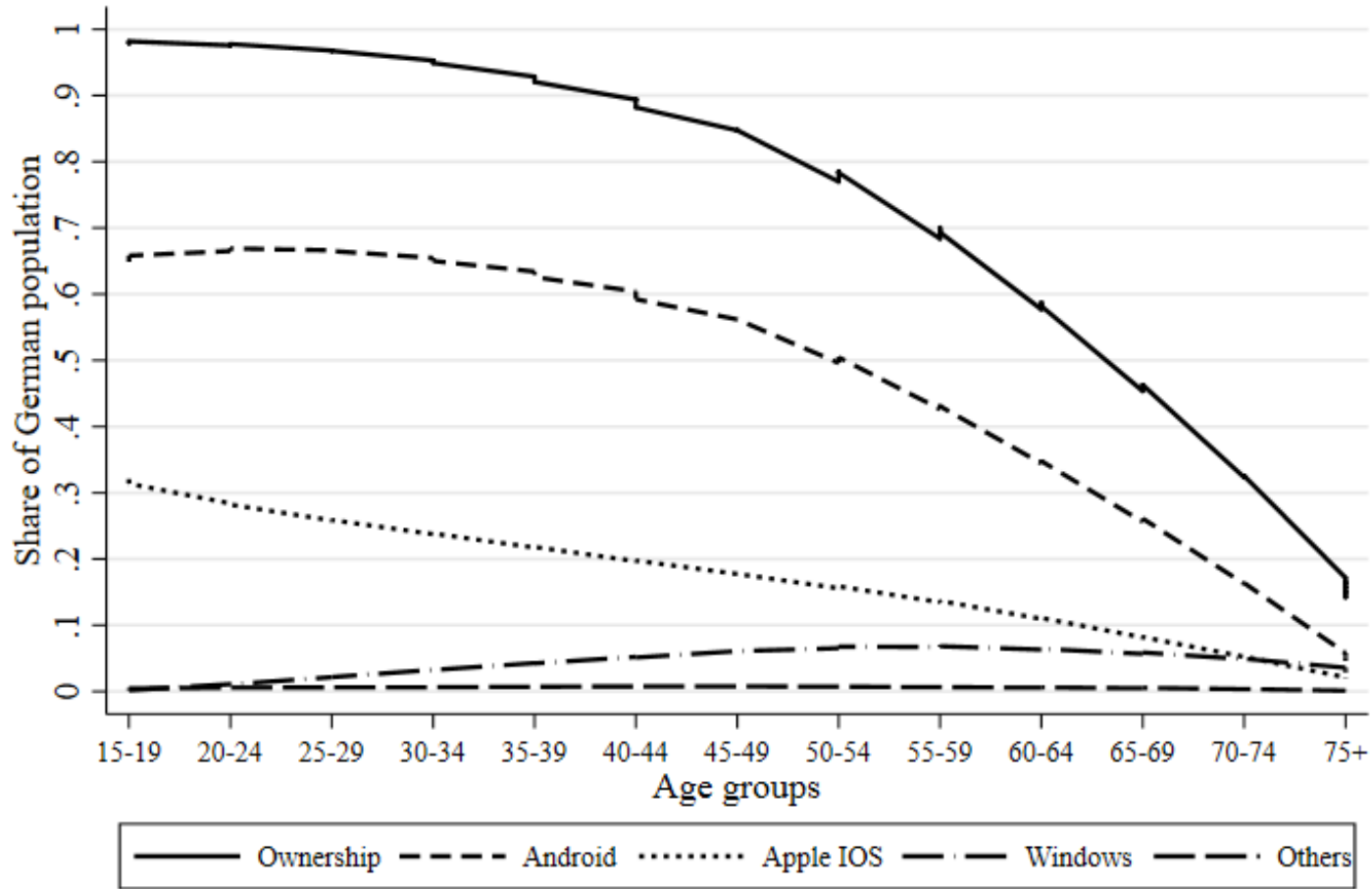
...being able to download an app

...being willing to download an app

} Nonparticipation error

Population  
German Residents  
PASS Panel at IAB  
Wave 11 question on  
smart phone use & OS



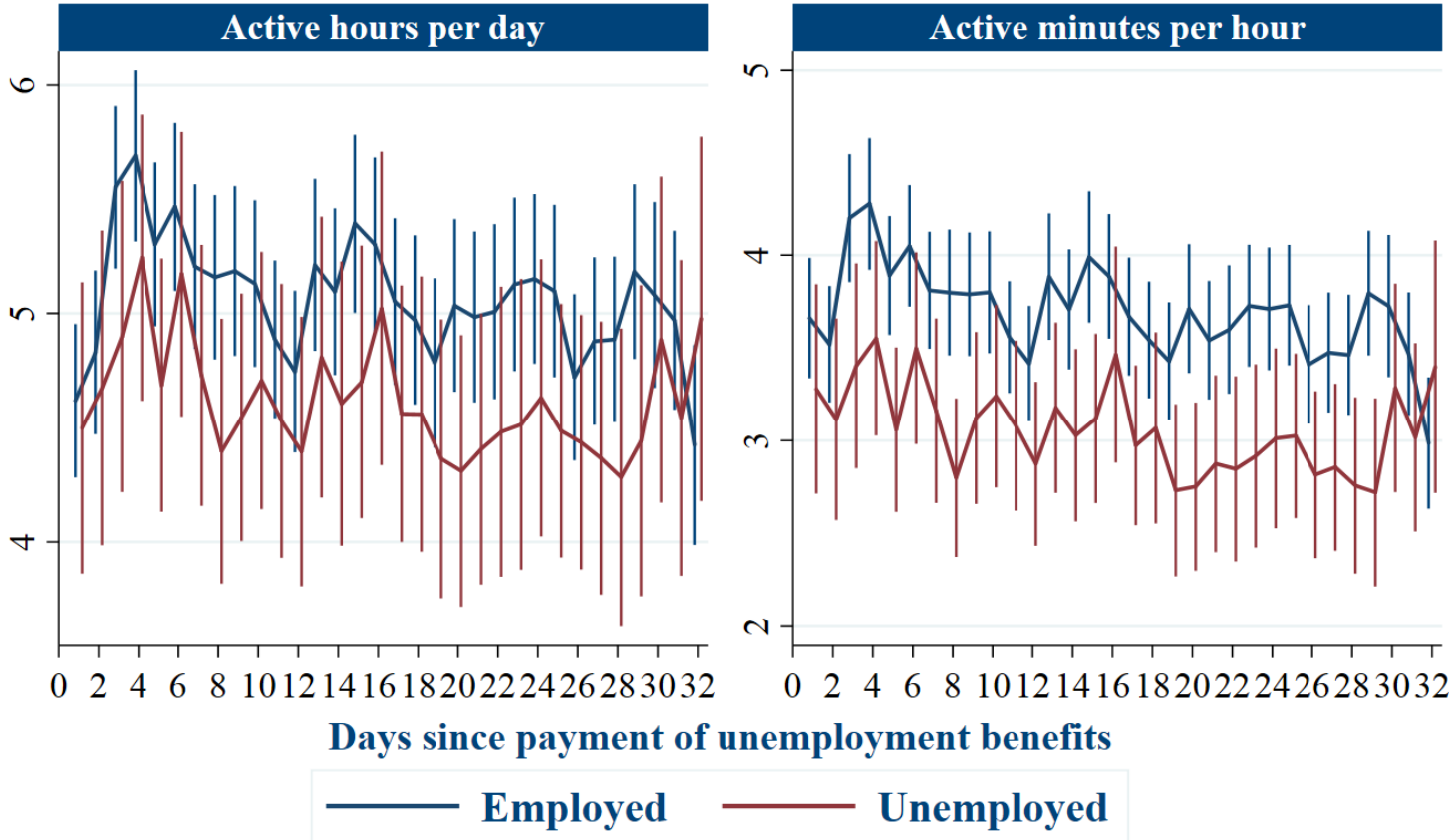


Smartphone ownership also correlates with...

- Educational attainment (higher)
- Immigrant (less likely)
- Region (less in East)
- Community size (smaller less)

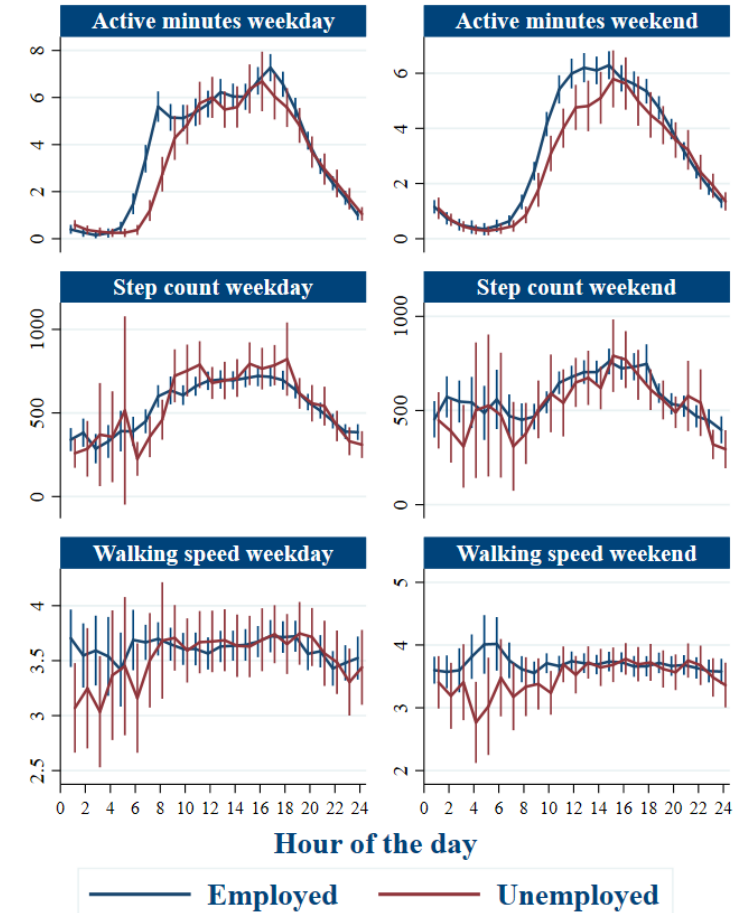
# Sneak Peak

## Rhythm of the payment of unemployment benefits



Predictive Margins with 95% confidence intervals.  
 Controls: Gender, age, weekday, hours smartphone is kept nearby.

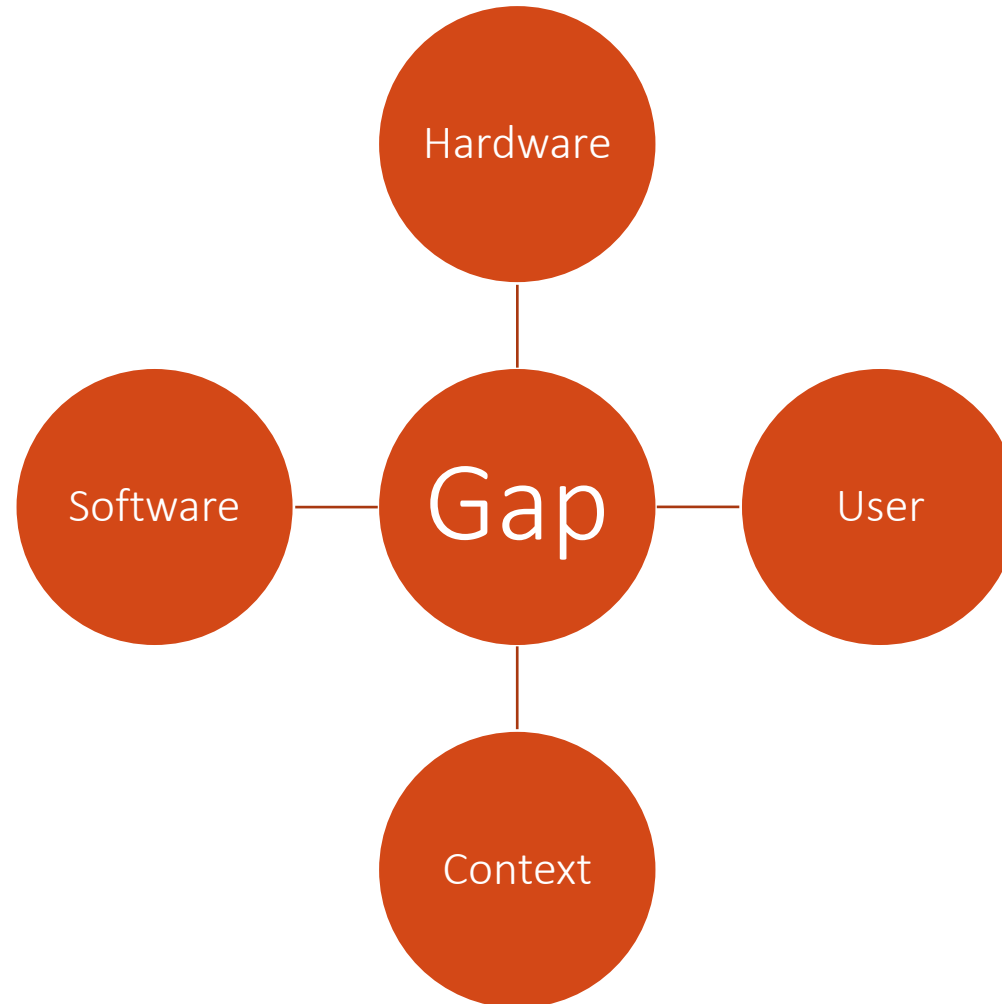
## Loss of day structure / resignation



Predictive Margins with 95% confidence intervals.  
 Controls: Gender, age, hours smartphone is kept nearby.

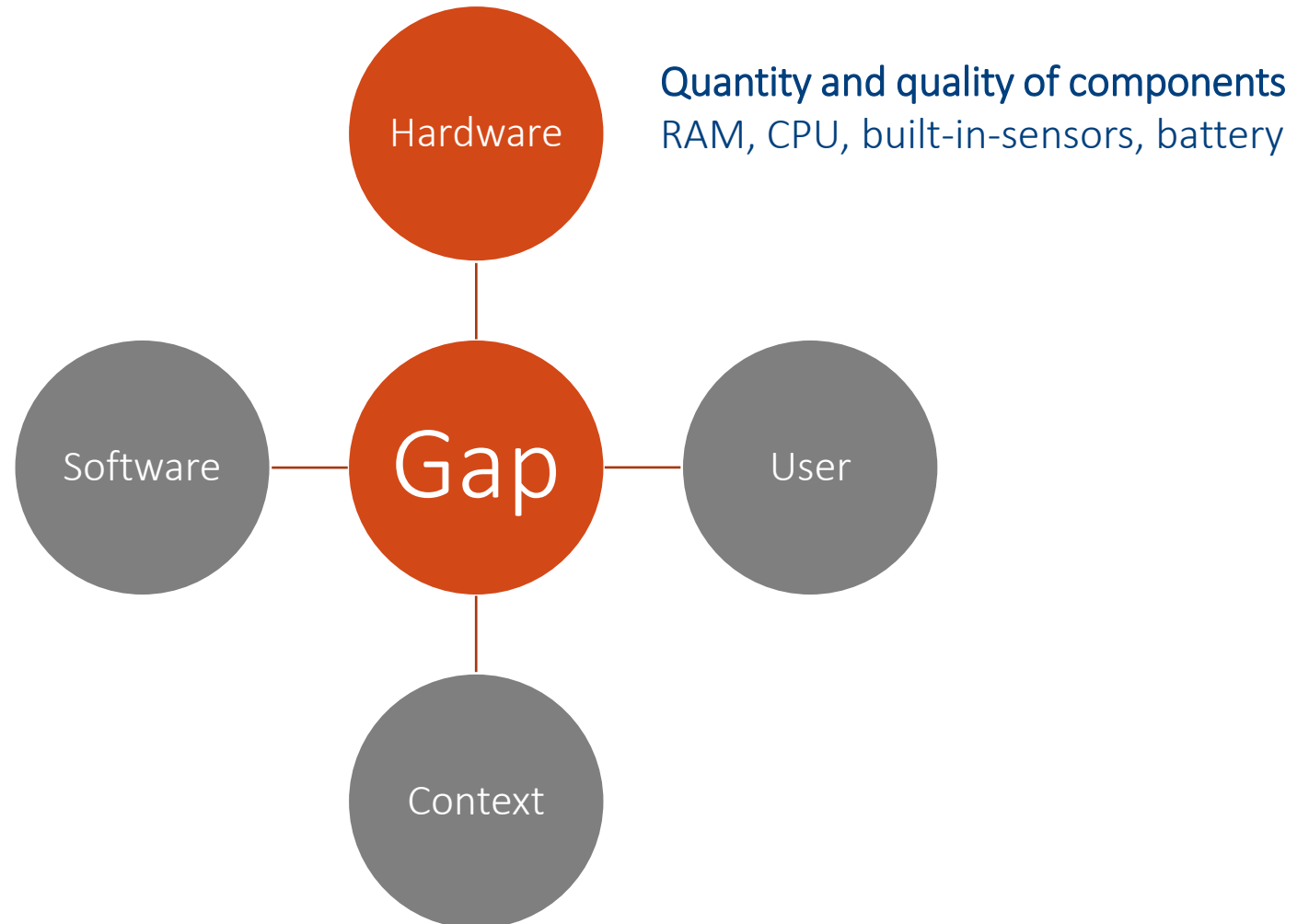
## Error sources

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## Error sources

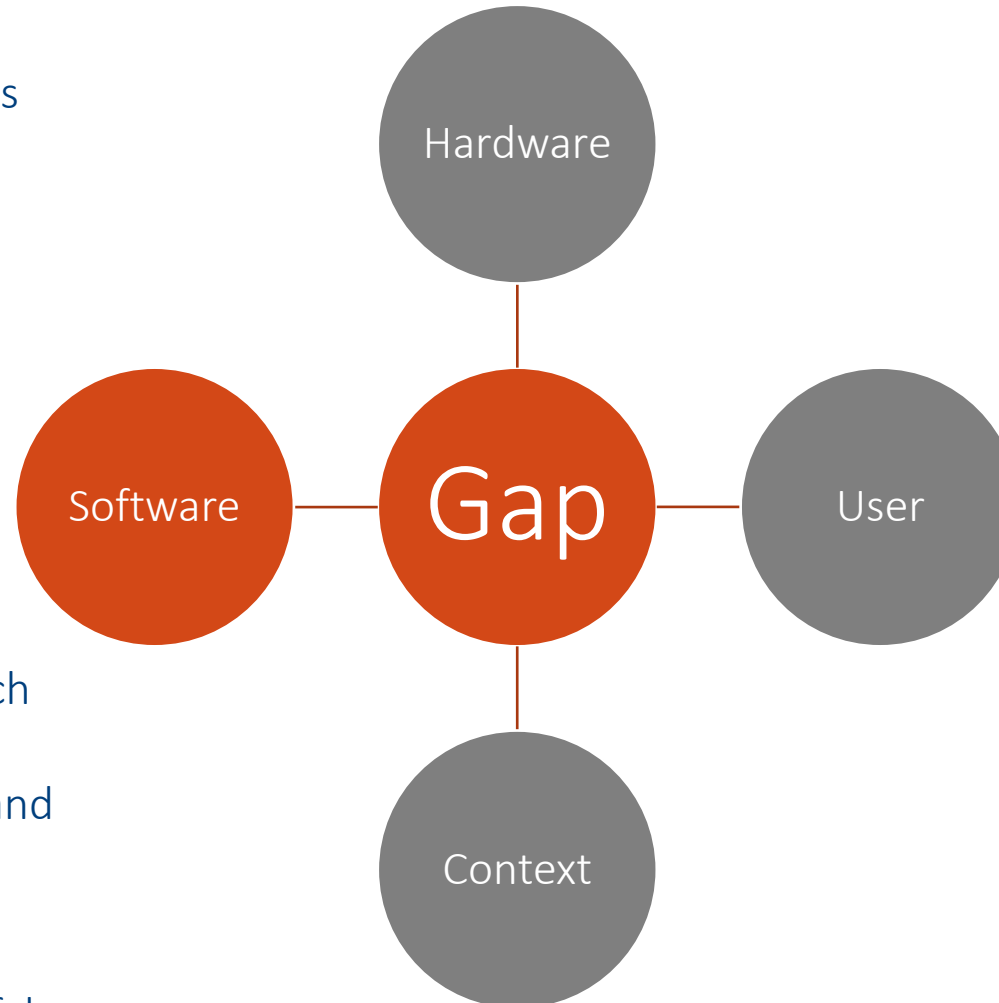
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## Error sources

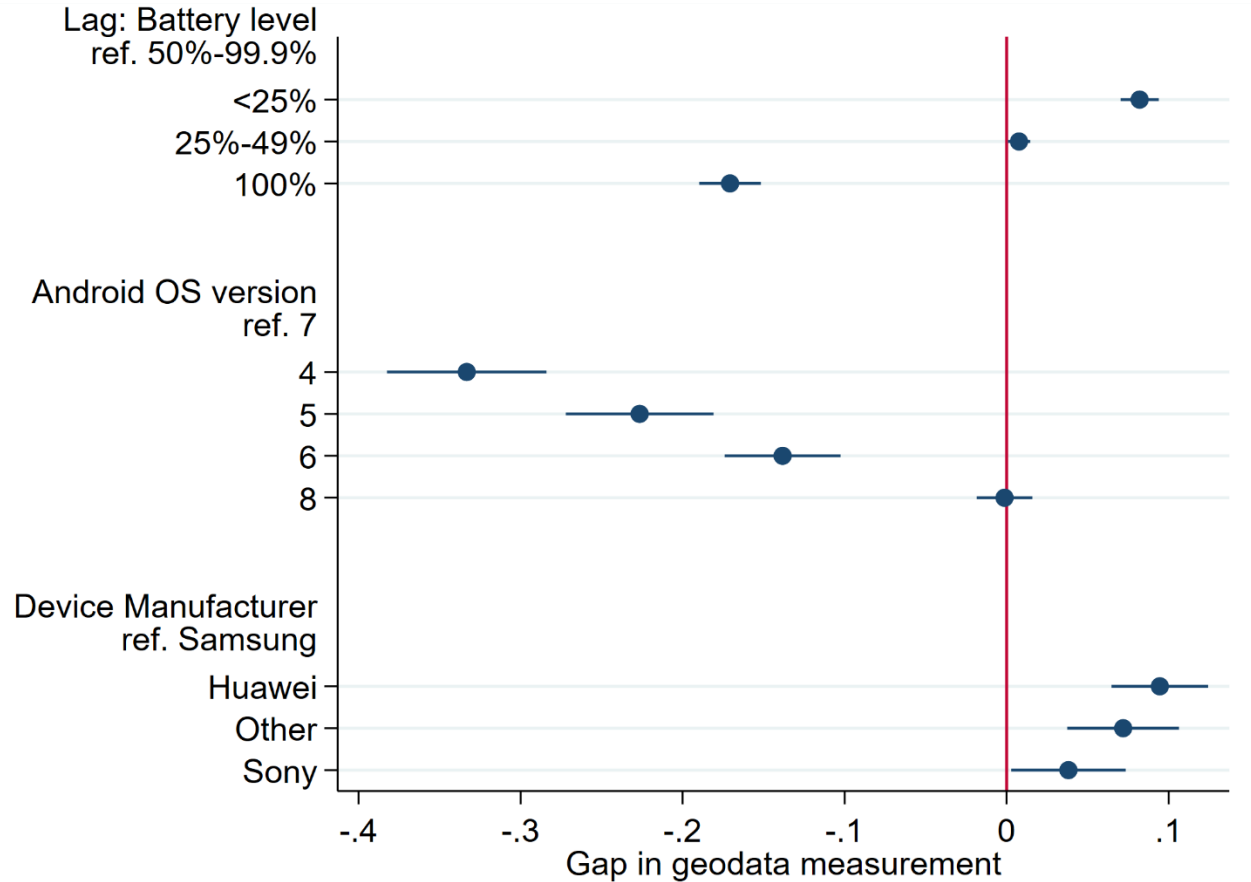
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- **Manufacturer Settings**  
Device specific doze-/battery saving modes inhibit data collection
- **Operating System Settings**  
Data collection may be inhibited by the Operating System (OS)  
OS versions may vary in their rights management
- **Research App Settings**  
How the research app collects the data (what, when, where, for how long, at which interval, from whom)  
Interacts with device / OS / user: battery and RAM/CPU drain
- **Third Party Apps**  
Battery saving apps, Task-killer apps, GPS faker apps





# Device-related error sources



AME (with 95% CI) based on binomial probit regression with robust standard errors.

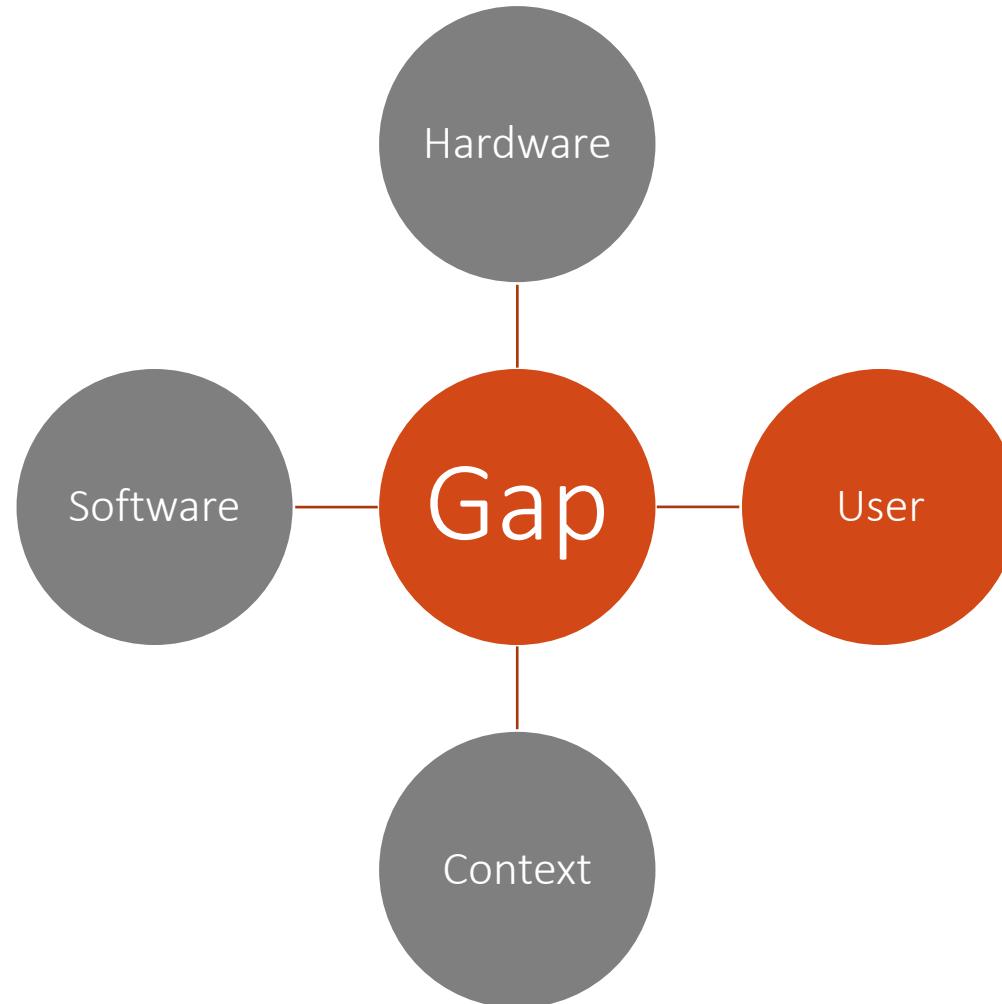
Low battery endangers data-collection

Older OS versions seem to be less prone to gaps

Device specific effects indicate hardware and software issues

# Error sources

---



## Participant characteristics

- Technical Competence

## Participant behavior

- Fake data, kill / de-install battery-draining apps
- selectively turn off data collection

# User-related error sources



codestring	timestamp	latitude	longitude	country
dfeh7r4v2v	05aug2018 10:28:48	52.2	8.6	Germany
dfeh7r4v2v	05aug2018 11:43:38	52.2	8.6	Germany
dfeh7r4v2v	05aug2018 12:22:50	8.6	52.2	
dfeh7r4v2v	05aug2018 12:52:49	8.6	52.2	

Apps falsify geolocation

Aim: Privacy, access location-specific content

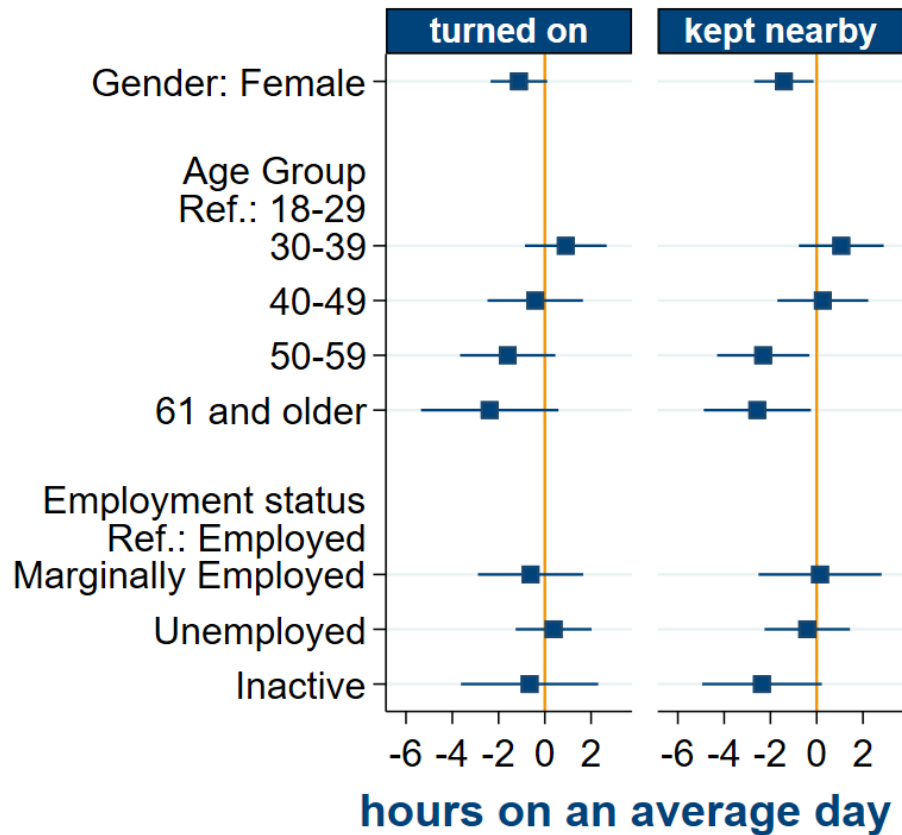
Validation with app usage data

4 / 621 participants had such apps installed

→ Replace false geo-positions with data from immediately before the app use

codestring	AppName	timestamp_start	timestamp_end
dfeh7r4v2v	Fake GPS with Joystick	05aug2018 12:11:21	05aug2018 12:11:32
dfeh7r4v2v	Fake GPS with Joystick	05aug2018 12:12:31	05aug2018 12:16:11
dfeh7r4v2v	Fake GPS with Joystick	05aug2018 12:18:31	05aug2018 12:18:40
dfeh7r4v2v	Fake GPS with Joystick	05aug2018 12:19:00	05aug2018 12:19:03

# Quality assessment from In-App surveys



389 participants, AMEs with 95% confidence intervals.

Turned on - On average, how many hours per day is your smartphone turned on?

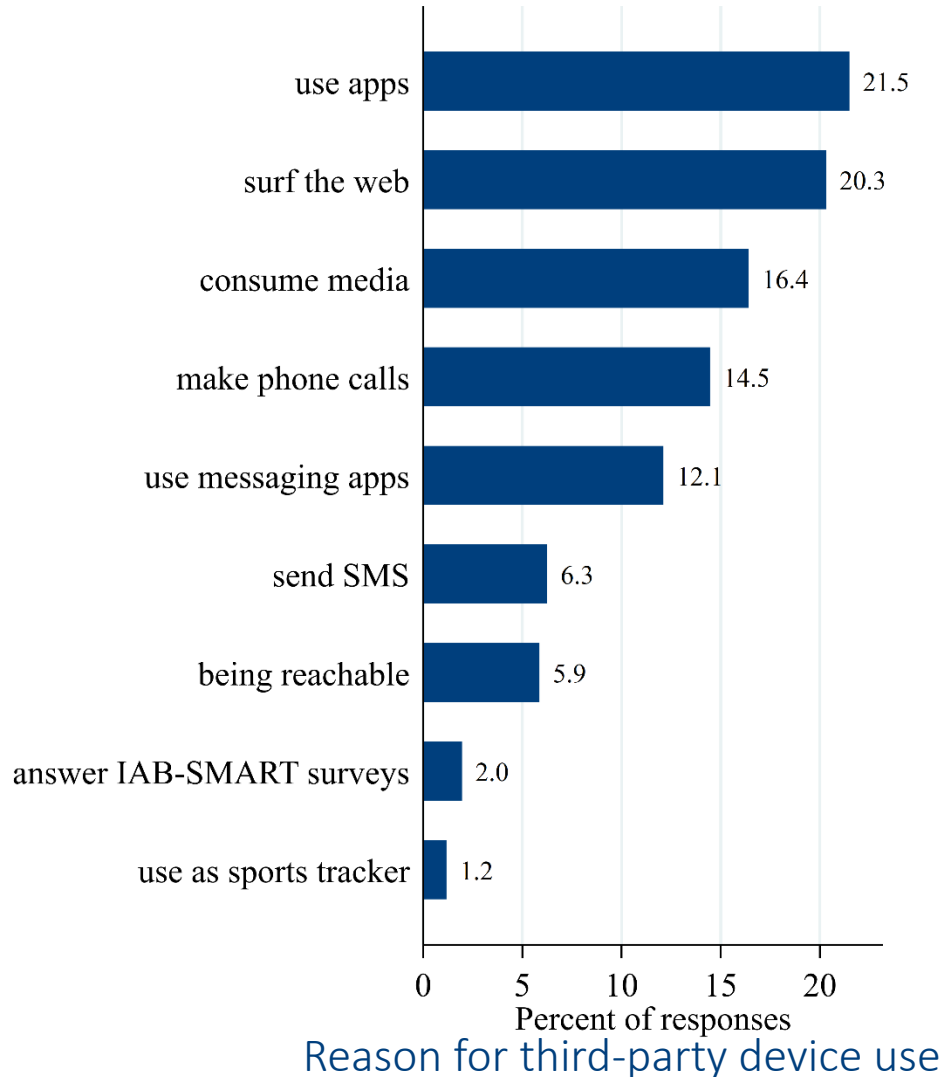
Kept nearby - How many hours is the smartphone in your immediate vicinity (i.e. on your body, in the same building / car)?

- End of study survey includes rating questions

	Hours	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
turned on		462	20.9	5.8	1	24
kept nearby		462	11.3	6.2	0	24

- Women tend to use their smartphone less than men
- Smartphone use drops at about 50 years of age
- There is no difference in use between employed and unemployed persons
- These characteristics and the usage information itself can be controlled in the models

# Quality assessment from In-App surveys



- End of study survey includes questions about **third-party device use (3pdu)**

	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Any 3pdu	465	<b>0.16</b>	0.4	0	1
Days with 3pdu	71	<b>11.03</b>	27.3	0	180
3pdu >10 days	471	<b>0.03</b>	0.2	0	1

- Reason for and extent of 3pdu determine scope of problem
- Depends on specific research questions



## Example 2 – COVID-19 global survey

1. Scaling reach of surveys through public-private partnership
2. Daily monitoring and trend detection emphasized over full population coverage

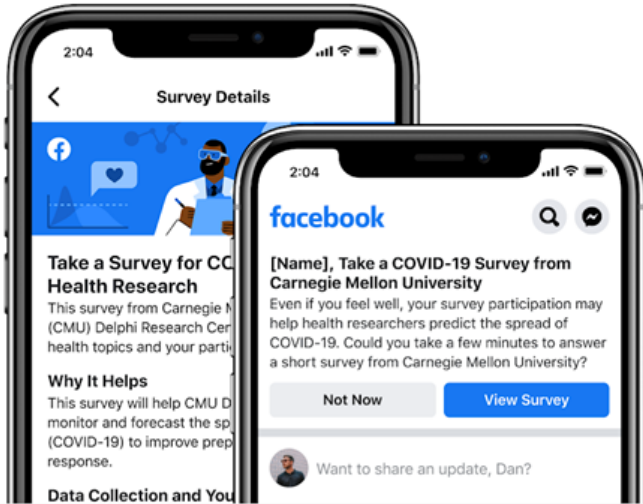
# Responding to the Need for Syndromic Surveillance

Syndromic surveillance enables policymakers and public health systems to make decisions before diagnosis data are available, especially in low resource areas with limited testing capabilities.

Facebook can reach large segments of the target population daily with the technical infrastructure to provide bias correction. And, the speed and scale of the symptom surveys allow them to act as early warning systems.



## 1 Who's Taking the Survey



Facebook invites a new, random sample of users to participate each day.

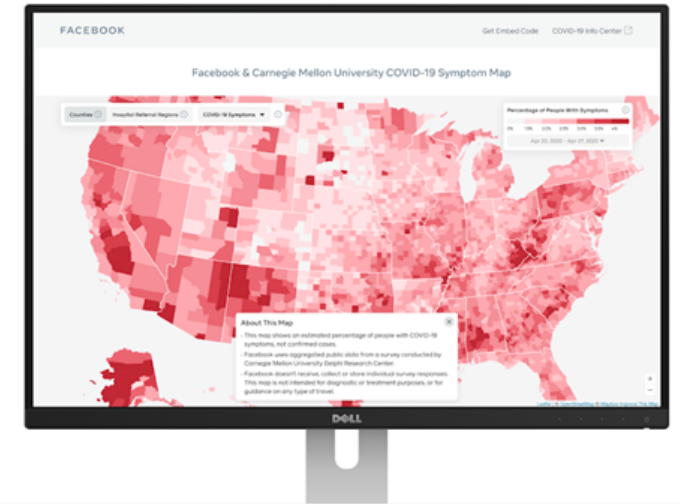
## 2 How the Survey Works



Users are sent to the survey hosted by UMD or CMU using Qualtrics.

Facebook does not receive responses, but does calculate weights to correct for non-response bias and sampling frame coverage bias using internal Facebook data for 115 countries or territories.

## 3 Using the Survey Data



Using the aggregated data, Facebook created a map visualization to help policymakers and public health systems make decisions.

The non-aggregate data are available to eligible academic and nonprofit researchers by request.

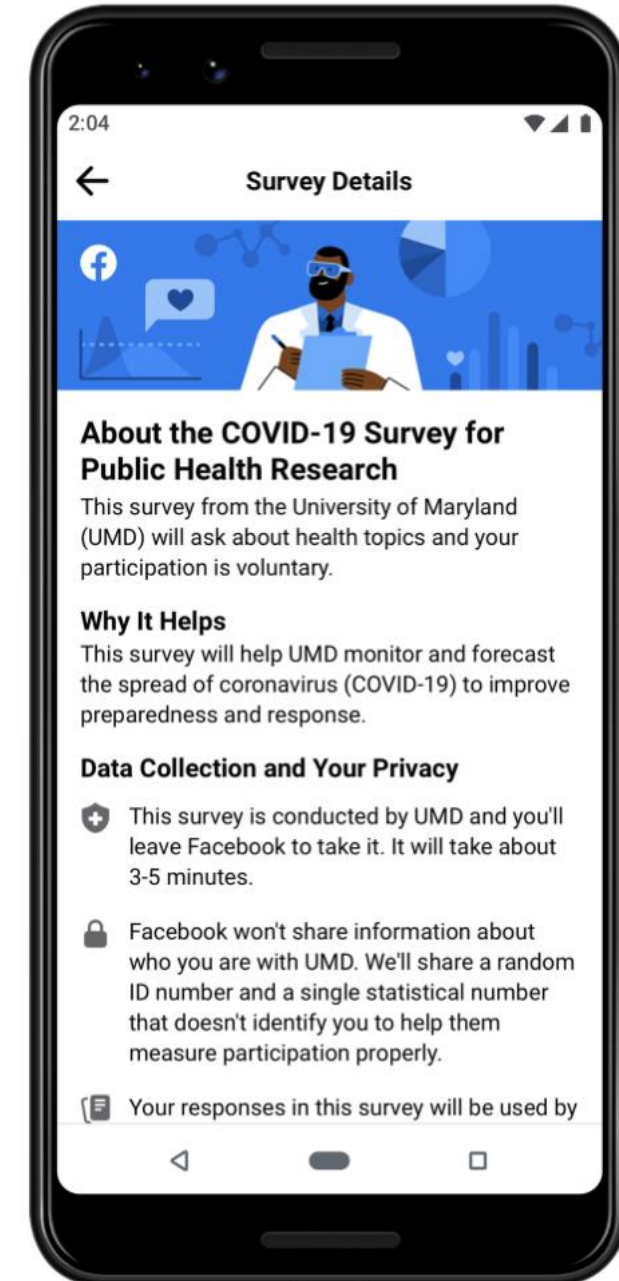
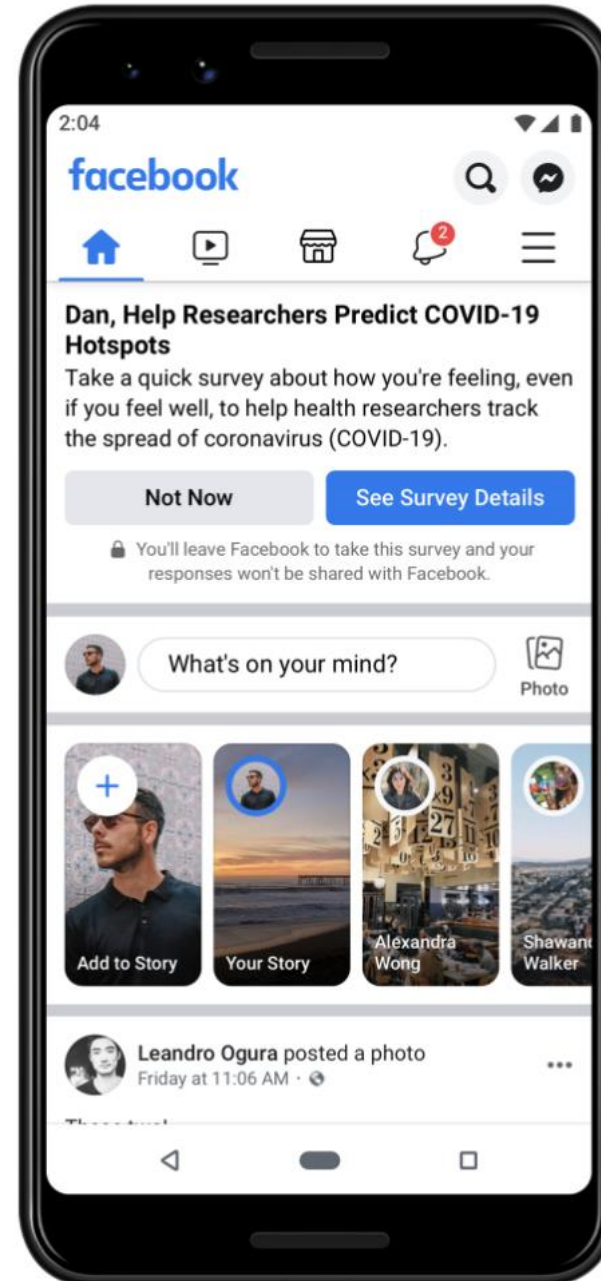


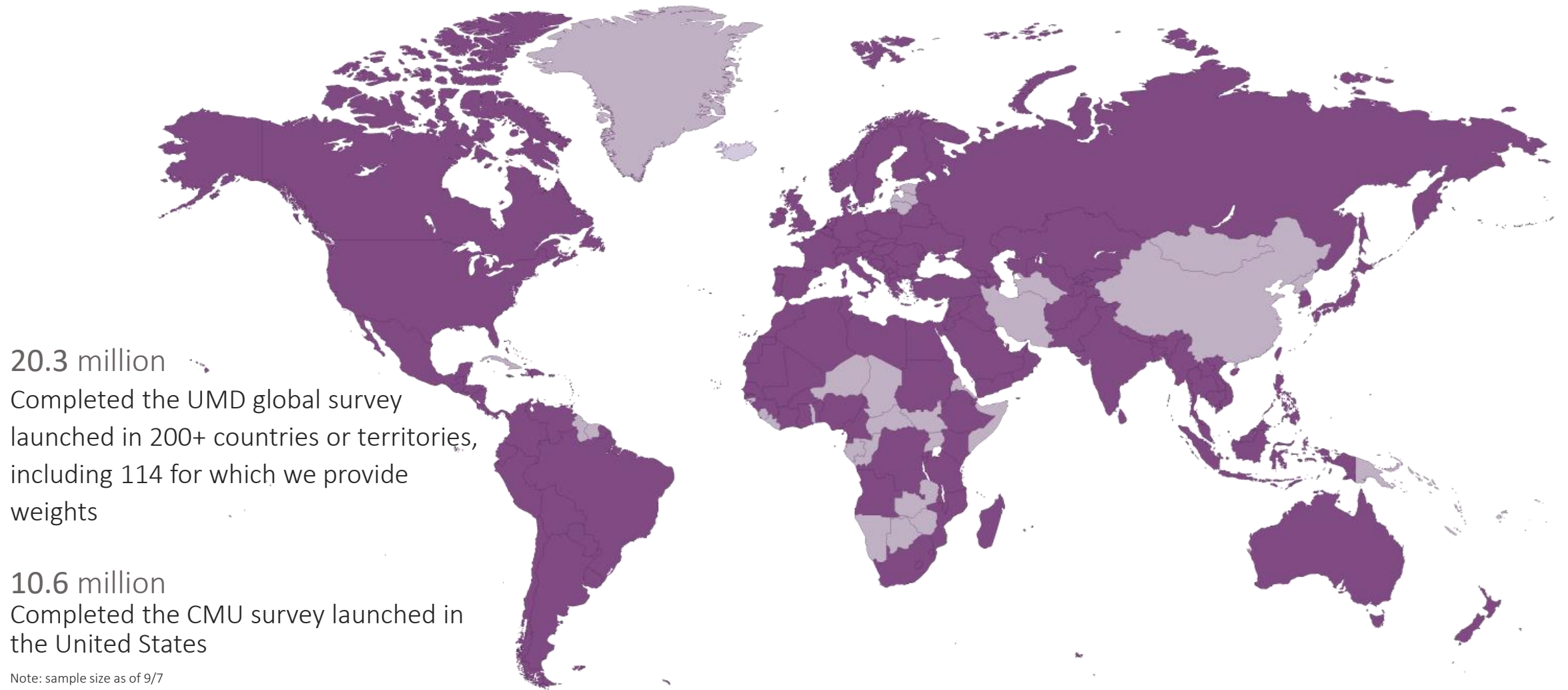
# UMD Global Survey Instrument

Available in 50+ languages

Survey Instrument has 5 Sections:

- Consent
- Health symptoms
- Contacts with others
- Mental health and economic security
- Demographic characteristics



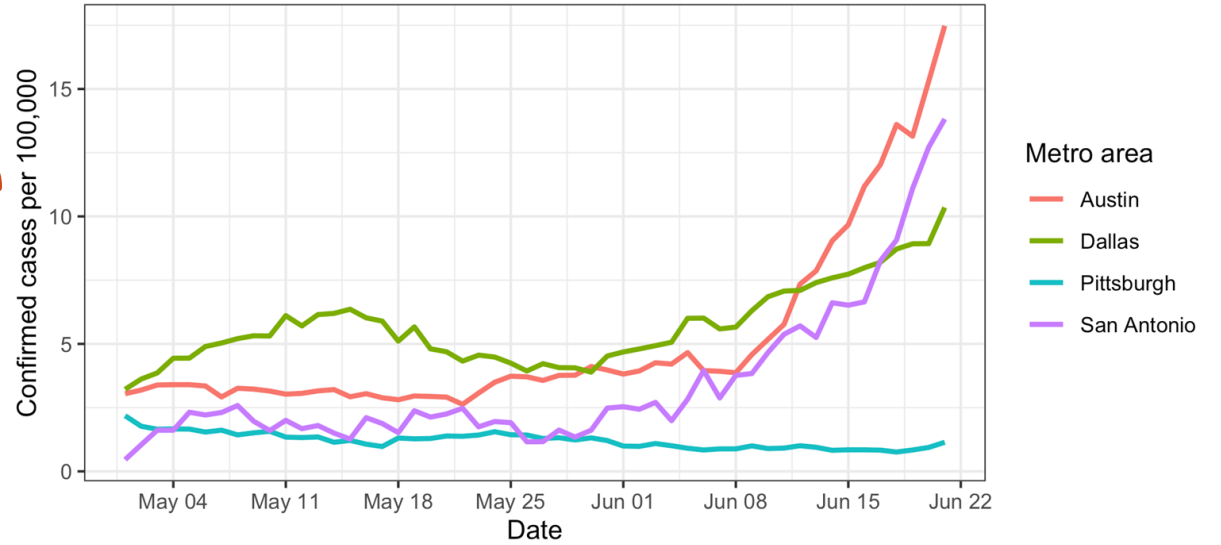


# Early Insights for Fore

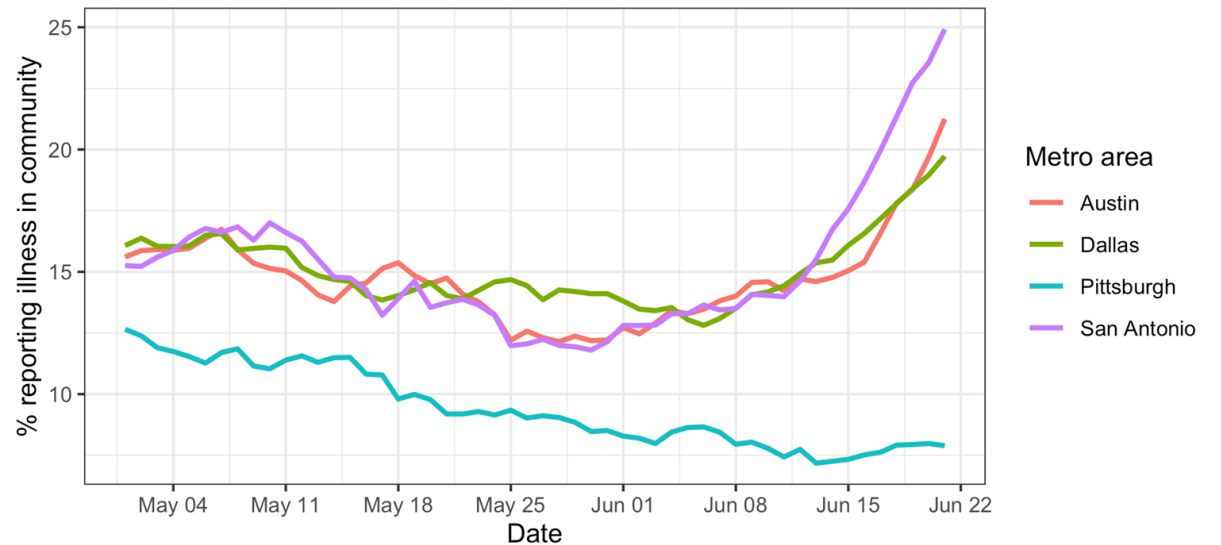
CMU Delphi Research Center is developing short term hospitalization forecasts in the US and deepening its partnerships with public health agencies.

The symptom survey also shows noticeable correlation with confirmed case numbers, though the correlation varies across geographies.

Confirmed cases



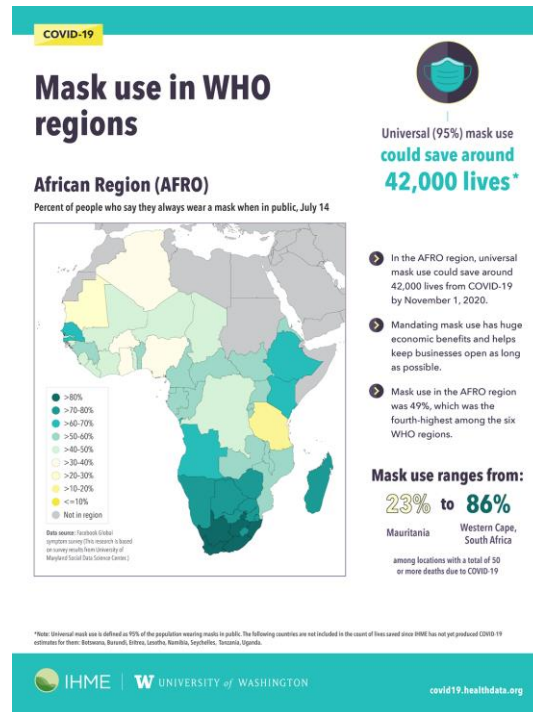
Symptom survey



# Early Research Insights

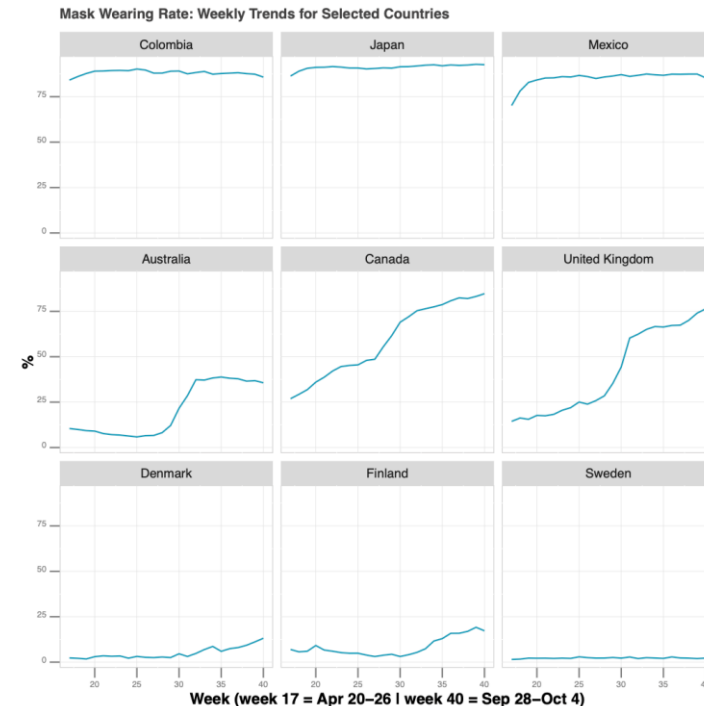
15 institutions are working with the non-aggregate data from at least one of the surveys.

**IHME** is mapping the prevalence of regular mask wearing, using the global Symptom Survey in conjunction with data from Premise.



**SoDa** has produced an interactive dashboard of mask-wearing behavior.

From April 2020 to present, we asked, “In the last 7 days, how often did you wear a mask when in public?”



# Publicly Available, Aggregate Data

Global Survey Data:

<https://covidmap.umd.edu/api.html>

US Survey Data:

<https://cmu-delphi.github.io/delphi-epidata/api/covidcast.html>

# Non-Aggregate Data for Research

Researchers from academic and non-profit institutions can request access.

Signed Data Use Agreements are required.

Central portal for project documentation and data access requests is on Facebook's Data for Good website: [dataforgood.fb.com](https://dataforgood.fb.com).

Additional Resources

# Other Complimentary Data Sources Through Data for Good

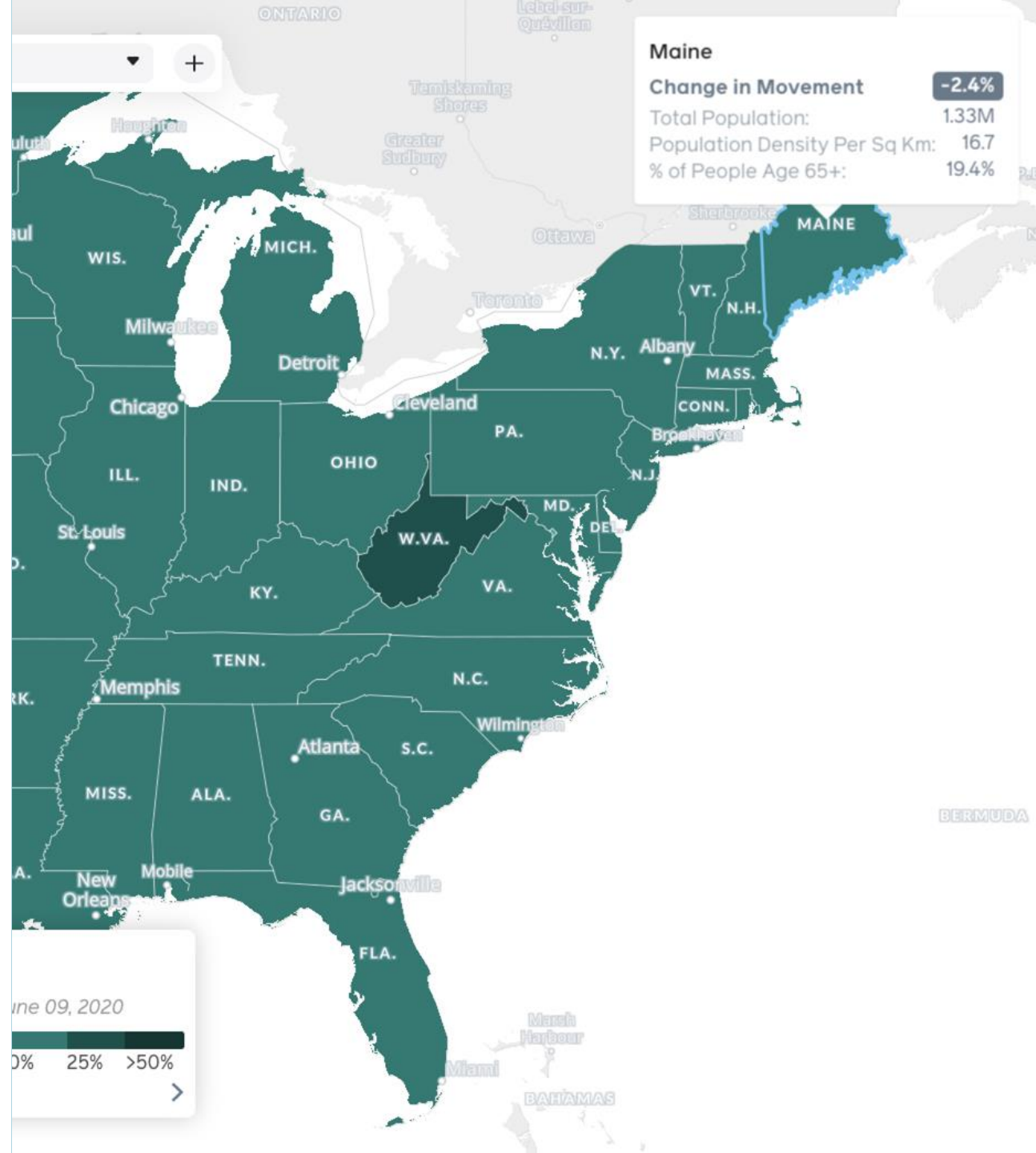
Population Density Maps

Social Connectedness Index

Movement Range Maps

More information on Facebook's Data for Good website: [dataforgood.fb.com](https://dataforgood.fb.com).

COVID-19 Symptom Data Challenge: [symptomchallenge.org/](https://symptomchallenge.org/).





# Privacy

1. We can quickly face **higher privacy risks**
2. Researchers need to value **appropriate flow**
3. **Infrastructure** needed to support privacy efforts

# Microdata Releases

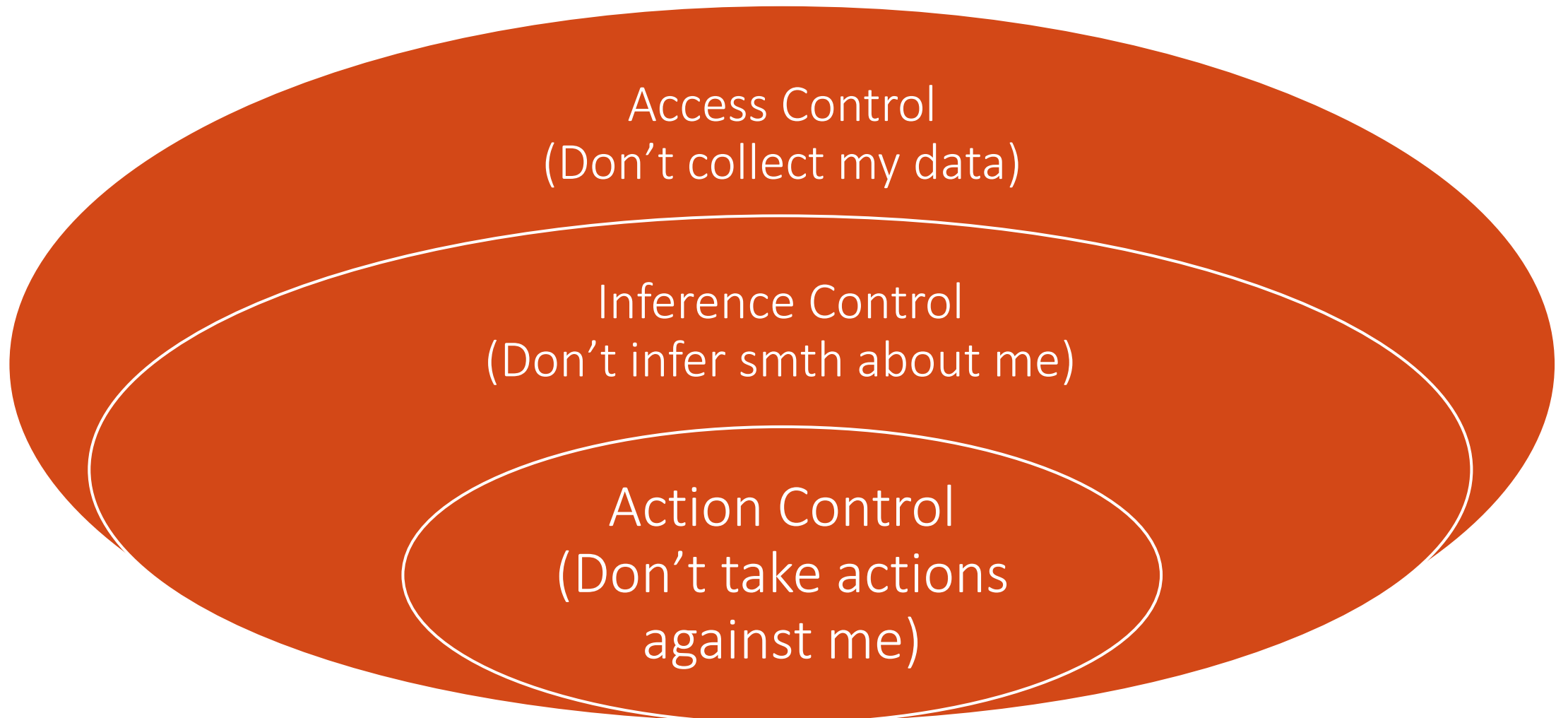
Netflix

Those fears were highlighted in December, when an in-the-closet lesbian mother sued Netflix for privacy invasion, alleging the movie-rental company made it possible for her to be outed when it disclosed insufficiently anonymous information about nearly half-a-million customers as part of its \$1 million contest.

The federal suit claimed Netflix violated fair-trade laws and a federal privacy law designed to protect video rental records when the Los Gatos, California, company launched the popular contest in 2006. The FTC also contacted Netflix about the first contest, which lasted three years, according to a Netflix blog post Friday.



# Consent to give up control



The data you already provided to us would be *much more (gain frame) / much less (loss frame)* valuable if you would allow us to link them with .... Do you agree?

Web	Back	Total
% agree: gain	62.4	520
% agree: loss	75.4	489
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>1009</b>

Phone	Front	Back	Total n
% agree	90.8	78.7	598

Web	Front	Back	Total
% agree	82.6	62.4	520

The data you are *about to provide (front) / already provided (back)* to us would be *much more* valuable if you would allow us to link them with .... Do you agree?



# Summary

1. Great potential: **New questions** can be asked
2. **Inference issues** and **data quality** questions do not go away
3. **Privacy** needs to be considered at the design stage
4. It is important to **empower** oneself and those around us



A screenshot of a website for the International Program in Survey and Data Science. The top navigation bar is dark blue with white text for 'Home', 'Program', 'Project', 'Contact', 'FAQs', 'Imprint', 'Search', and an 'APPLY NOW' button. The main header features a photograph of three people (two men and one woman) in conversation. Overlaid on the photo is the text 'INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM IN SURVEY AND DATA SCIENCE' in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below this, smaller text reads 'offered through the University of Mannheim and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (Universities of Maryland and Michigan, Westaf)'. A dark blue button with white text says 'BE PART OF IT'. Below the button are three small circles, with the first one filled. The main body of the page has a white background with a paragraph of text: 'We are pleased to announce the launch of the International Program in Survey and Data Science (IPSDS). Fundamental changes in the nature of data, their availability, the way in which they are collected, integrated, and disseminated are a big challenge for all those working with designed data from surveys as well as organic data. IPSDS was developed in response to the increasing demand from researchers and practitioners for the appropriate methods and right tools to face these changes. We offer a multidisciplinary curriculum, world-class faculty, and a web-based learning environment that allows you to take courses from anywhere in the world.'

# THANK YOU!

[fkreuter@umd.edu](mailto:fkreuter@umd.edu)

<https://survey-data-science.net/>

<http://socialdatascience.umd.edu/>