Standard Social Distancing Score
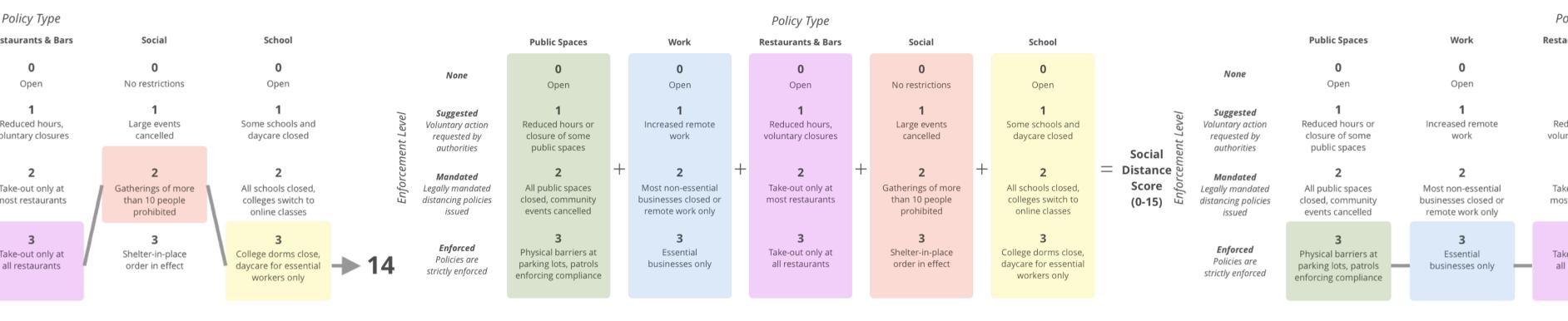
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socialdistancescore

The Social Distancing Score (SDS) was developed to standardize scoring of social distancing behaviors within a local community or region (e.g. a city or county) during an infectious disease epidemic (panel a). The score ranges from 0 (no social distancing) to 15 (extreme social distancing).

The SDS focuses on government policies that close places of social interaction - parks, restaurants, schools, areas of congregation, events and shelter in place orders. Scores range from 0 to 15 and are computed by summing the score for each location type. The score for the most restrictive policy in effect should be used when considering multiple jurisdictions (i.e. state, county, city levels).

Consideration should also be taken to adjust the scoring based on compliance to policies. Points may be deducted if poor compliance yields behavior more consistent with a weaker policy type. For example, if a government has given a shelter in place order, but there is evidence that residents are continuing to meet and congregate in small groups for non-essential activities, the 'Social' category should be scored as a '2.' Alternatively, an overall compliance measure (0-100%) may be applied to the final score to weight it.

An example score is calculated in *panel b* for San Diego. The city has closed public parks and beaches and is enforcing those measures with patrol cars. Non-essential business have closed, and restaurants are only allowing takeout. Schools are closed, and daycare is only allowed for essential workers. The city is currently under a state-wide shelter-in-place order. However, observations of local residents reveals that there is only moderate compliance with the shelter in place order, and small groups of people are coming into contact while jogging, socializing, and shopping. For this reason, a score of 2 was given for the 'Social' category.

We hope the SDS provides a simple but effective standard by which infectious disease outbreak research can rigorously incorporate social distancing factors.

References:

1) https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0995_article

2) https://www.unacast.com/post/the-unacast-social-distancing-scoreboard

a

Social Distancing Scoring Rubric

Policy Type

Enforcement Level	Public Spaces	Work	Restaurants & Bars	Social	School	
None	**0** Open	**0** Open	**0** Open	**0** No restrictions	**0** Open	
Suggested *Voluntary action requested by authorities*	**1** Reduced hours or closure of some public spaces	**1** Increased remote work	**1** Reduced hours, voluntary closures	**1** Large events cancelled	**1** Some schools and daycare closed	
Mandated *Legally mandated distancing policies issued*	**2** All public spaces closed, community events cancelled	**2** Most non-essential businesses closed or remote work only	**2** Take-out only at most restaurants	**2** Gatherings of more than 10 people prohibited	**2** All schools closed, colleges switch to online classes	
Enforced *Policies are strictly enforced*	**3** Physical barriers at parking lots, patrols enforcing compliance	**3** Essential businesses only	**3** Take-out only at all restaurants	**3** Shelter-in-place order in effect	**3** College dorms close, daycare for essential workers only	

Public Spaces + Work + Restaurants & Bars + Social + School = **Social Distance Score (0-15)**

b

Social Distancing Scoring Example

Policy Type

	Public Spaces	Work	Restaurants & Bars	Social	School
None	**0** Open	**0** Open	**0** Open	**0** No restrictions	**0** Open
Suggested *Voluntary action requested by authorities*	**1** Reduced hours or closure of some public spaces	**1** Increased remote work	**1** Reduced hours, voluntary closures	**1** Large events cancelled	**1** Some schools and daycare closed
Mandated *Legally mandated distancing policies issued*	**2** All public spaces closed, community events cancelled	**2** Most non-essential businesses closed or remote work only	**2** Take-out only at most restaurants	**2** Gatherings of more than 10 people prohibited	**2** All schools closed, colleges switch to online classes
Enforced *Policies are strictly enforced*	**3** Physical barriers at parking lots, patrols enforcing compliance	**3** Essential businesses only	**3** Take-out only at all restaurants	**3** Shelter-in-place order in effect	**3** College dorms close, daycare for essential workers only

Enforcement Level

→ **14**