

What Factors Drive the Satisfaction of Citizens on Governments' Responses to COVID-19?

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Abstract

This research scrutinizes the important factors influencing the satisfaction of citizens on their governments' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in 14 advanced economies. To collect information as to the public sentiment for governments' reactions to the COVID-19 crisis, five factors are considered including the number of confirmed cases per million population, the number of deaths per million population, governments' containment and health policies, their stringency policies, and their economic support policies. The first two factors serve as "surrogate variables" to measure the effectiveness of government policies toward the pandemic. Using the wild bootstrap method for regression analysis, our results show that people place stronger attention on the results of governments' battle against COVID-19 (number of confirmed cases and deaths per million population) rather than what policies they initiate. When looking at the latter, health policy and economic support do influence the approval of any national response to COVID-19. We also find that public satisfaction in Japan and South Korea toward the two governments' responses to the pandemic varies greatly versus that of other countries' citizens to their governments' responses. The results herein offer some suggestions to governments when initiating policies to balance public health, livelihood, and economic support.

Keyword: Number of confirmed cases per million population, number of deaths per million population, containment and health policy, stringency policy, economic support policy