Online Appendix for

Civic Capital and Social Distancing Compliance during the Covid-19 Pandemic

by

John Barrios, Efraim Benmelech, Yael V. Hochberg, Paola Sapienza, Luigi Zingales

This supporting Online Appendix provides additional analysis and robustness for our results, as described in the main text of the paper. We perform additional analysis using alternative measures of mobility and civic capital at the U.S. level. We also demonstrate additional robustness of our results at the international level.

Additional Analysis and Robustness for U.S. Social Distancing Results

Figure A1 illustrates the spatial distribution of mobility behavior in the U.S. The top two panels use Google data on the percentage change in retail and recreation visits (left) and staying in residential areas (right). The bottom two panels report percentage changes in distance traveled (left) and non-essential business visits (right) using Unacast data. The figure demonstrates the heterogeneity in mobility behavior across the country—with the largest declines in mobility and non-essential and retail visits in the North-East region and lowest declines in the South and Southwest areas of the U.S.

In Figure A2, we present the geographical variation in voter participation—one of our measures of civic capital across the U.S. Voter participation is calculated by taking the average voter participation in the 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016 presidential elections in a county. The figure demonstrates the heterogeneity in voter participation—with voter participation tending to be higher in the North East, Mid-West, and Mid-West and Northern Mountain and Pacific areas.

Next, we display the temporal variation in state-level social distancing mandates in Figure A3. Specifically, Figure A3 shows the timing of state-level social distancing guidance using increasingly darker shades for the states that issued “stay home” and “shelter-in-place” directives later.

Figures A4 presents binscatters of social distancing against the civic capital (the county average voter participation rate) using SDB measures derived from the Google mobility data. Each plot controls for log 1+ number of new confirmed cases that day, log 1+ number of COVID-19 deaths that day, population density, income per capita, population, and day of the week.

Figure A5 replicates Exhibit 1 Panel B from the main text, using the Google measures of mobility
rather than the Unacast mobility measures. The plotted estimates are obtained by regressing the Google mobility measures on the interaction between High Voter Participation county and the day indicator. The specification includes county fixed effects, state by day fixed effects, and controls for COVID-19 cases and deaths. The lower the coefficient, the higher the social distancing compliance in the counties in the bottom three quartiles of voter participation relative to the high vote participation counties (Q4). Each of the estimates includes 95 percent confidence intervals. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. The plot exhibits similar patterns to those obtained with Unacast data: counties with higher voter participation comply more with social distancing guidelines, reducing mobility relative to lower civic capital counties.

Table A1 conducts a similar analysis to Exhibit 2 Panel A using the google mobility measures of social distancing. Panel A reports results from a regression that uses the change in retail and recreation visits, and Panel B uses the change in time spent in residential areas as the dependent variable. Consistent with our prior results, we observe that areas with higher civic capital are associated with greater social distancing as reflected by lower daily visits to retail and recreational locations and higher amounts of time spent in the residence.

To demonstrate the robustness of our analysis, in Table A2, we replicate the analysis in Exhibit 2 Panel A and Table A1 using the alternative measure of civic capital: Social Capital Measure 1 (see definition above). The table presents an analysis using measures of social distancing from both Google and Unacast. Consistent with the analysis in Exhibit 2 Panel A in the main text, we observe greater social distancing compliance in areas with high social capital. The magnitude of the association is consistent across the various social distancing outcomes and statistically significant across specifications. Table A3 replicates the analysis in Tables A2 using Social Capital Measure 2 (see discussion above) as the alternative measure of civic capital. In line with our previous results, we continue to observe greater social distancing as reflected by lower daily distance traveled and fewer visits to non-essential businesses relative to the pre-COVID period in areas with higher social capital. These results are of similar magnitude to those observed in Table A2.

We next examine the robustness of our results from Exhibit 2 Panel B to alternative social distancing outcomes. Specifically, Table A4 replicates the analysis in the exhibit in the main text. It explores the differential response of High Civic Capital areas to state-level social distancing mandates and a national guideline. Here, we use data from Google mobility to construct our dependent variable instead of Unacast data. In line with our original inferences in Exhibit 2 Panel A, we obtain similar
results using the Google-based measures of social distancing. Finally, to conclude our analysis of the robustness of the results from Exhibit 2, in Table A5, we replicate that analysis above using two alternative measures of civic capital—Social Capital 1 and Social Capital 2 (see definitions above)—along with mobility measures from both Unacast and Google. We find results highly consistent with our main inferences in Exhibit 2 Panel B. Both measures of social capital are significantly associated with higher social distancing compliances around state distancing mandates across the various outcome measures. Overall, our robustness analysis of the U.S. data further reinforces the significant relations between civic capital and social distancing compliance.

**International Results**

In our principal analysis, we provided international evidence of the association between social distancing behavior and civicness, using NUTS1 regions. In Table A6, we replicate the results of Exhibit 4 Panel B in the main text utilizing NUTS2 areas. Because there are much fewer survey responses in the NUTS2 region, this potentially adds noise to our regressions. Consistent with this, the coefficients are lower than in Exhibit 4, but they retain the same sign, and they remain statistically significant.

**Additional Robustness**

Finally, Figure A6 presents robustness to the results presented in Exhibit 5 Panel A in the main text for state reopenings. Specifically, we examine the patterns of social distancing in high (Q4) and low (Q1) voter participation counties around the re-opening of states. Panel A replicates Exhibit 5 Panel A using the Google residential measure, while Panel B replicates the main exhibit using the two Unacast mobility measures. The patterns are similar to those in Exhibit 5 in the main text: in high civic capital counties, even with the re-opening of states, residents continue to exhibit high levels of social distancing and do not increase their mobility much, if at all. In contrast, residents of low civic capital counties begin to increase their mobility even prior to re-opening, and this increase continues to rise after re-opening steadily.
**Figure A1: Trends in Mobility Behavior**

**Panel A: Trends in Mobility Behavior – Unacast**

- Percentage Change In Avg. Distance Traveled
- Percentage Change in Visits to Non-Essential Business

We plot the average daily level of two mobility behavior measures based on Unacast data. In the left panel, we plot the daily average of the percentage change in distance traveled in the county (relative to the pre-COVID period). In contrast, in the right panel, we plot the daily average of the percentage change in visits to non-essential businesses in the county (relative to the pre-COVID period).

**Panel B: Trends in Mobility Behavior - Google**

- Percentage Change In Retail Visits
- Percentage Change Residential

We plot the average daily level of two mobility behavior measures based on Google data. In the left panel, we plot the daily average of the percentage change in visits to retail and recreation for the county (relative to the pre-COVID period). In contrast, in the right panel, we plot the average percentage change in time in the residence in the county (relative to the pre-COVID-period).
Figure A2: Civic Capital

This figure plots our measure of civic capital based on voter participation for each of the counties. Our measure is calculated by taking the average voter participation in the 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016 presidential elections in the county. The data is obtained from the MIT Election Data Science and Lab (MEDSL).

Figure A3: State-Level Social Distancing Guidance

Figure A3 plots the date when each state government issued “Stay Home” (shelter-in-place) directive. Data is through April 2, 2020. The dates are obtained from FINRA (https://www.finra.org/rules-guidance/key-topics/covid-19/shelter-in-place).
Figure A4: Bin-Scatter Plots of Social Distancing Behavior vs. Voter Participation - Google Mobility Measures

The figure plots the various measures of social distancing from google against the county voter participation rate. In addition to examining the change in mobility in retail and recreation (excluding groceries and pharmacies) and residential, we also include visits to grocery stores, parks, transit stations, and the workplace. Each plot controls for log 1+ number of new confirmed cases that day, log 1+ number of COVID-19 deaths that day, population density, income per capita, population, and day of the week.
This figure replicates Exhibit 1, Panel B in the main text using social distancing measures from the Google Mobility Trends Report Data. The plotted estimates are obtained by regressing the percent change in mobility measures on the interaction between high voter participation county and the day indicator. The specification includes county fixed effects, state by day fixed effects, and controls for COVID-19 cases and deaths. Each of the estimates includes 95 percent confidence intervals. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. The plot captures the difference in social distance behavior between high civic capital counties and the rest of the counties on each day. The change in mobility in retail (excluding groceries and pharmacies) and recreation is plotted in blue. The percent changes in Retail and Recreation show a much higher decline in mobility in counties with higher civic capital. In red, we plot Residential mobility, which shows the opposite trend; the reference y-axis is on the right. When practicing social distancing, people tend to move more in the proximity of their residence. In areas with high civic capital, the percentage change in residential mobility is greater than in areas with low civic capital. The graph shows sharp differences on weekends.
This figure replicates the specification used in Exhibit 5, Panel A of the main text. In Panel A, we repeat the analysis using the google residential measure. Panel B is done using our two Unacast social distancing measures, the percentage change in the average distance traveled (left panel) and change in visits to non-essential businesses (right panel). The figures trace in event time the changes in mobility for high civic capital counties (top quartile of voter participation) in blue and the low civic capital counties (lowest quartile of voter participation) in red. The plotted estimates are obtained by regressing the percent change in mobility measures on event day dummies, and we set the base date as 14 days before the state opens. The specification includes calendar day fixed effects, and controls for COVID-19 cases, the population density, Trump voter share, and per capita income in the counties. Each of the estimates includes 95 percent confidence intervals. Standard errors are clustered at the county level. The graph shows sharp differences between the two groups with high compliance in high civic areas when the states open up. We provide various alternative specifications to the above figure in the supplemental material.
Table A1: Replication of Table A1 using Google Social Distancing Measures

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This provides a multivariate analysis of changes in social distancing behavior with respect to voter participation at the county level. The dependent variable is the percentage change in: visits to retail and recreational POI (Panel A) and residential time (Panel B). In each specification, we regress the SDB on average voter participation (average of voter participation from presidential elections 08-16). Each of the specifications includes Day X State fixed effects. The second column of each set begins to add controls for county characteristics that may affect SDB: log population, log population density, per capita income, and trump vote share. Additionally, we add COVID-19 risk-related controls: log one plus the number of new COVID-19 cases and log one plus the number of new COVID-19 deaths. Standard errors are reported in parenthesis and are clustered at the county level. *p<0.10. **p<0.05, ***p<0.01
Table A2: Replication of Exhibit 2 Panel A and Table A1 using Alternative Social Capital Measure 1

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<td>0.201*** (0.02)</td>
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This table provides a multivariate analysis of changes in social distancing behavior with respect to our Social Capital Measure 1 at the county level. The dependent variables in the top panel are the percentage change in: distance traveled in the county (column 1-7) and non-essential visits (columns 8-15) from google, while the bottom panel used the two measures from Unacast: the percentage change in distance traveled in the county (column 1-7) and non-essential visits (columns 8-15). In each specification, we regress the SDB the Social Capital Measure 1 (taken from the U.S. Joint Economic Committee). Each of the specifications includes Day X State fixed effects. The second column of each set begins to add controls for county characteristics that may affect SDB: log population, log population density, per capita income, and trump vote share. Additionally, we add COVID-19 risk-related controls: log one plus the number of new COVID-19 cases and log one plus the number of new COVID-19 deaths. Standard errors are reported in parenthesis and are clustered at the county level. *p<0.10. **p<0.05, ***p<0.01
This table provides a multivariate analysis of changes in social distancing behavior with respect to our Social Capital Measure 2 at the county level. The dependent variable is the percentage change in: distance traveled in the county (column 1-7) and non-essential visits (columns 8-15). In each specification, we regress the SDB on average voter participation (average of voter participation from presidential elections 2008-16). Each of the specifications includes Day X State fixed effects. The second column of each set begins to add controls for county characteristics that may affect SDB: log population, log population density, per capita income, and trump vote share. Additionally, we add COVID-19 risk-related controls: log one plus the number of new COVID-19 cases and log one plus the number of new COVID-19 deaths. Standard errors are reported in parenthesis and are clustered at the county level. *p<0.10. **p<0.05, ***p<0.01

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<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.341***</td>
<td>0.176***</td>
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<td>Pop Density</td>
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<td>-0.021***</td>
<td>-0.021***</td>
<td>-0.021***</td>
<td>-0.021***</td>
<td>-0.016***</td>
<td>-0.015***</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-0.026***</td>
<td>0.004</td>
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Observations: 101,771, 101,252, 97,994, 97,994, 97,994, 97,918, 97,907, 64,856, 64,722, 62,033, 62,033, 62,033, 61,967, 61,956
Adjusted R-squared: 0.634, 0.647, 0.654, 0.655, 0.657, 0.662, 0.662, 0.709, 0.739, 0.759, 0.761, 0.762, 0.766, 0.766
DayXState FE: Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes
Soc-Econ Controls: No, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes
Health Controls: No, No, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes

This table presents the replication of Table A1 using Alternative Social Capital Measure 2 (2014 Measure).
Table A4: Replication of Exhibit 2 Panel B using Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Report Measures

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<td>High Civic Capital X Post National Guideline</td>
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<td>-0.062***</td>
<td>0.019***</td>
<td>0.018***</td>
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<td>0.006</td>
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<td>0.003***</td>
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<td>0.034***</td>
<td>-0.014***</td>
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<td>High Trump X Post Stay Home</td>
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<td>Day FE</td>
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<tr>
<td>County FE</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Controls</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

This table presents estimates from multi-variable regression, where we regress our two google mobility measures on indicators for state stay at home orders. To examine the differential social distancing behavior, we interact Post Stay Home Order and Post National Guidelines with an indicator for high voter participation (county being in the top quartile of voter participation). Post National Guidelines is an indicator variable for days after March 16th, when the White House issued a national stay at home recommendation (Coronavirus Guideline for America). We also control for the interaction between the share of Trump voters and Post Stay Home Order and Post National Guidelines to separate the potential confounding effect of civics and political leaning. Each specification includes controls for the log number of confirmed cases, county fixed effects, and day fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered by county. *p<0.10. **p<0.05, ***p<0.01.
Table A5: Replication of Exhibit 2 Panel B for Alternative Social Capital Measures and Outcomes

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<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>Variance Components</th>
<th>Google Outcomes</th>
<th>Unacast Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>(1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Stay Home Order</td>
<td>-0.034***</td>
<td>0.013***</td>
<td>-0.018***</td>
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<td>High Social Capital 1 X Post National Guideline</td>
<td>-0.050***</td>
<td>0.022***</td>
<td>-0.014***</td>
</tr>
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<td>High Social Capital 1 X Post Stay Home</td>
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<td>0.003***</td>
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<td>High Trump X Post National Guideline</td>
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<td>Observations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Controls</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

Table A6 presents estimates from multi-variable regressions, where we examine the relation between our two alternative social capital measures and social distancing behavior around the state stay at home orders. In the top panel, we examine Social Capital Measure 1 where the bottom panel examines the Social Capital Measure 2. The dependent variables on the left panels are the percentage change in: distance traveled in the county (cols. 1-2) and non-essential visits (cols. 3-4) from google, while the right panels use the two measures from Unacast: the percentage change in distance traveled in the county (cols. 1-2) and in non-essential visits (cols. 3-4). To examine the differential social distancing behavior, we interact Post Stay Home Order and Post National Guidelines with an indicator for high Social Capital Measure 1 (2) (county being in the top quartile of social capital 1 (2)). Post National Guidelines is an indicator variable for days after March 16th, when the White House issued a national stay at home recommendation (Coronavirus Guideline for America). We also control for the interaction between the share of Trump voters and Post Stay Home Order and Post National Guidelines to separate the potential confounding effect of social capital and political leaning. Each specification includes controls for the log number of confirmed cases, county fixed effects, and day fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered by county. *p<0.10. **p<0.05. ***p<0.01
Table A6: Alternative International Specification using NUTS 2 Region Variation

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<tr>
<td>Lag Num of Death per milli</td>
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<td>-0.012***</td>
<td>-0.012***</td>
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<td>Avg. Political Leaning</td>
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</table>

This table presents estimates from multi-variable regression where we regress international mobility measures on indicators for the level of trust in the NUTS 2 regions. To measure trust, we averaged ESS data over eight waves, including France only in the last survey, because NUTS classifications have changed over time in France. We control for the lag number of deaths in the region, population density, the average voting preferences in the NUTS region, country fixed effects, and day fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered by country. *p<0.10, **p<0.05, ***p<0.01