



# Preparation Plans and Experiences in Mode Switching in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Pei-shan Liao

Center for Survey Research  
RCHSS, Academia Sinica

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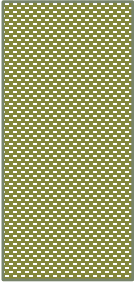
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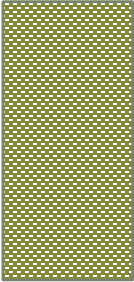
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# Surveys during the Early Stage of COVID-19 Pandemic

- COVID-19 has raised concerns in Taiwan since the late January 2020. Mask wearing and social distancing were soon enforced.
- The Panel Study of Family Dynamics, PSFD, started its wave-18 data collection on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> using CAPI, and was affected immediately.
- All in-person interviews have been suspended between late March and late April. Roughly 20% of the respondents had not been interviewed in person at that time. In the end, the fieldwork period was extended from two months to four.



# Surveys during the Early Stage of COVID-19 Pandemic

- While CAWI and virtual (face-to-face video) interviews for some respondents had originally been planned in order to reduce the cost, additional mode switching between CAPI and CAWI was also allowed.
- Virtual interviews were mostly conducted using communication applications for mobile devices.
- As a result, the questionnaires for PSFD were completed by about 78.5% of CAPI respondents (88.0% in the previous wave 2018) and 89.3% of CAWI respondents (69.0% in 2018), when calculating the number of completed questionnaires divided by the number of distributed ones.



# Surveys during the Early Stage of COVID-19 Pandemic

- Suggestions at that time:
  - Strategies should come out quickly corresponding to national anti-epidemic measures.
  - There are needs to allow extra time and personnel for fieldwork, to prepare for switching modes of data collection when available, and to expect lower response rates and more refusals.
- As all the scheduled surveys returned to normal since May, 2020, so did the ISSP 2020 Environment Module started in June. However, the impact of COVID-19 should be cautioned.



# The ISSP Environment Module 2010 vs. 2020

- Mode: PAPI for 2010 and CAPI for 2020.
- Sampling design for adults aged 18 or above:
  - 2010: Register-based sampling, using a stratified 3-stage probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling scheme: (1) urbanization level, (2) township and boroughs, (3) persons.
  - 2020: Address-based sampling, using a stratified 4-stage probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling scheme: (1) townships and boroughs, (2) level 1 dissemination areas (L1DA, N=77,019), (3) non-institutional or residential households, and (4) persons
- For data in both years, design weight and post-stratification weight are applied.

# The ISSP Environment Module 2010 vs. 2020

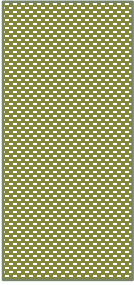
- A rough comparison of response rate, which is computed as:  
$$(\text{No. of completed interviews})/(\text{No. of issued sample})$$

Year	Fielding date	Issued Sample	Completed Interviews	Response Rate
2010 <sup>a</sup>	July-Sep., 2010	4,602	2,209	48.00%
2018 <sup>b</sup>	July, 2018 – Feb., 2019	4,096	1,842	44.97%
2019 <sup>b</sup>	June, 2019 – Feb., 2020	4,054	1,926	47.51%
2020 <sup>a</sup>	June-Dec., 2020	4,625	1,839	39.76%

<sup>a</sup>: Both 2010 and 2020 oversampled the Eastern region that has better environmental quality.

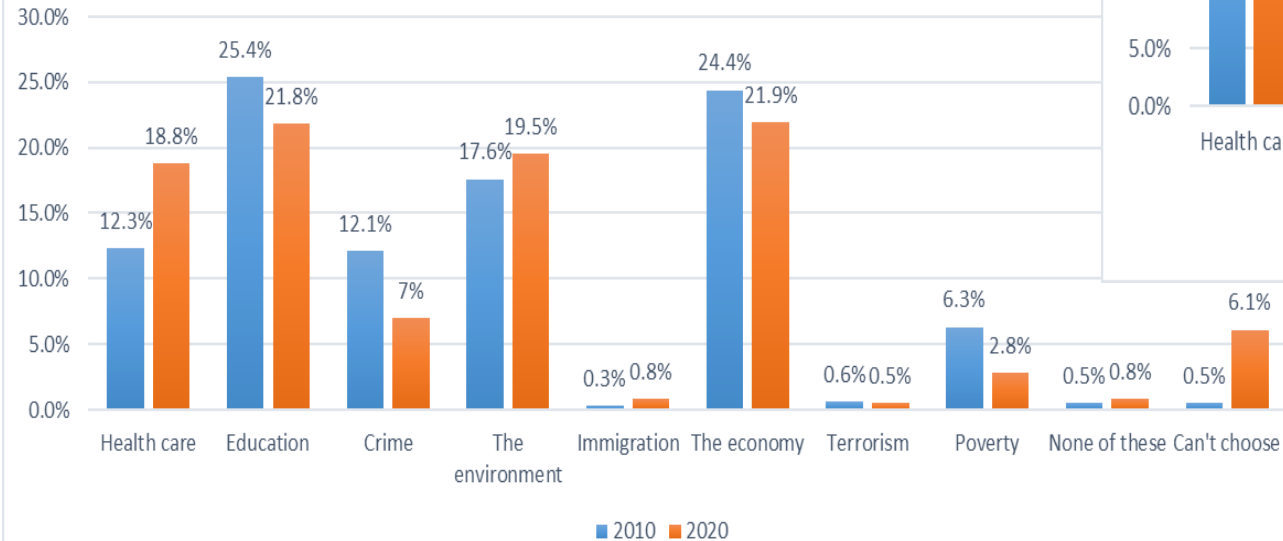
<sup>b</sup>: The ISSP 2018 Religion and 2019 Social Inequality used register-based sampling design.



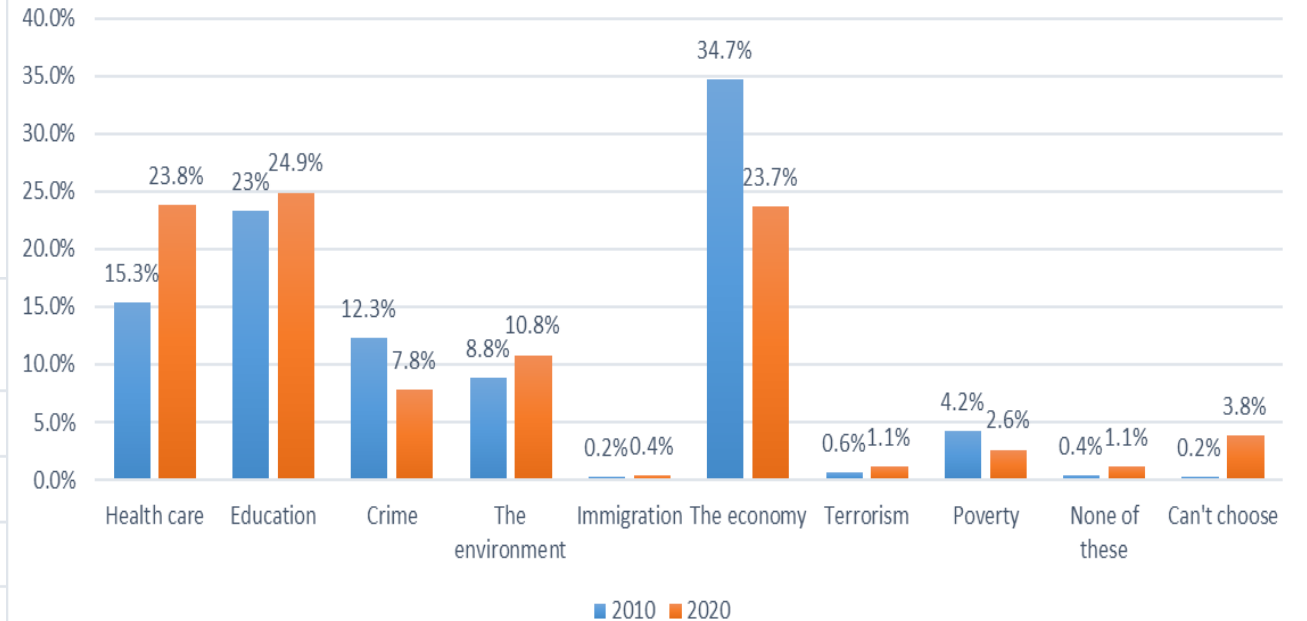


# The ISSP Environment Module 2010 vs. 2020

1b. Which is the next most important?

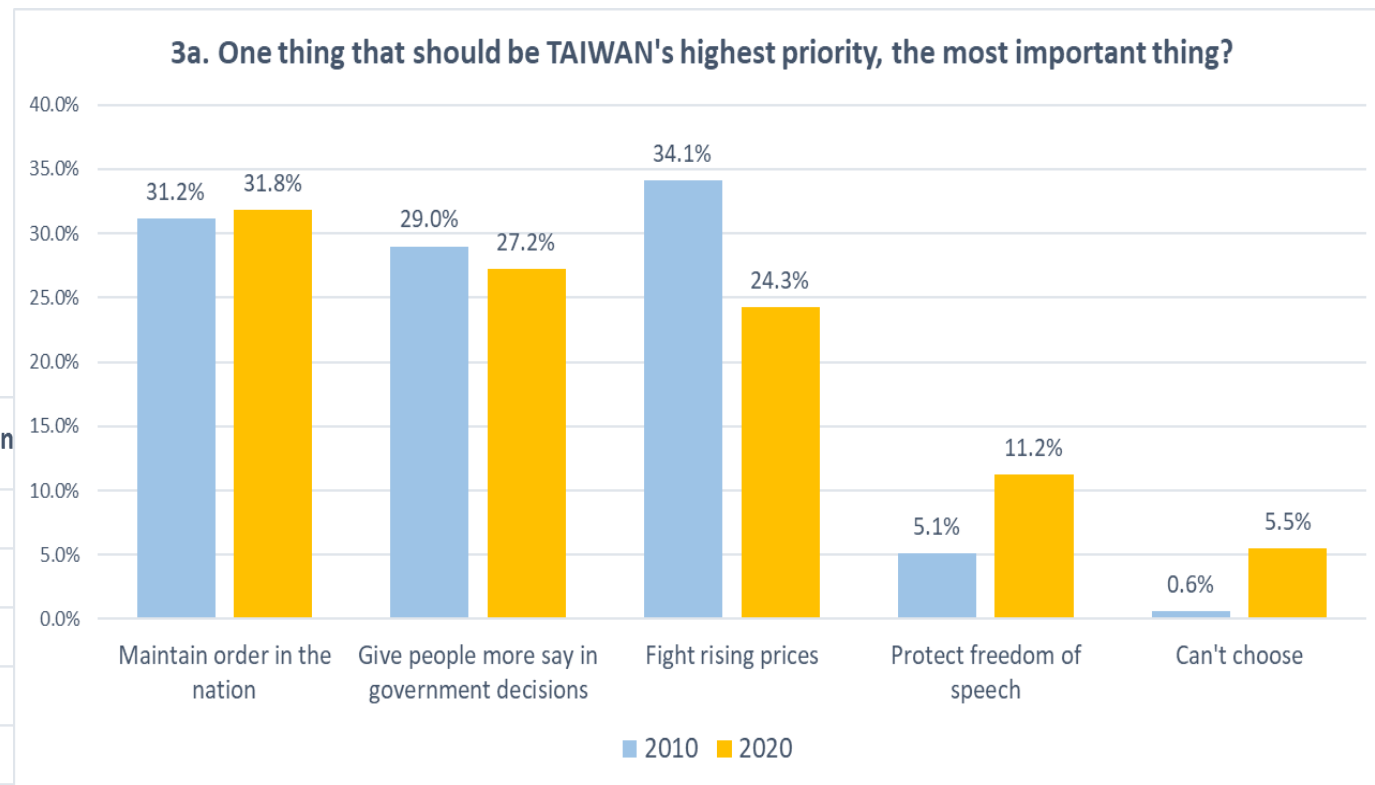
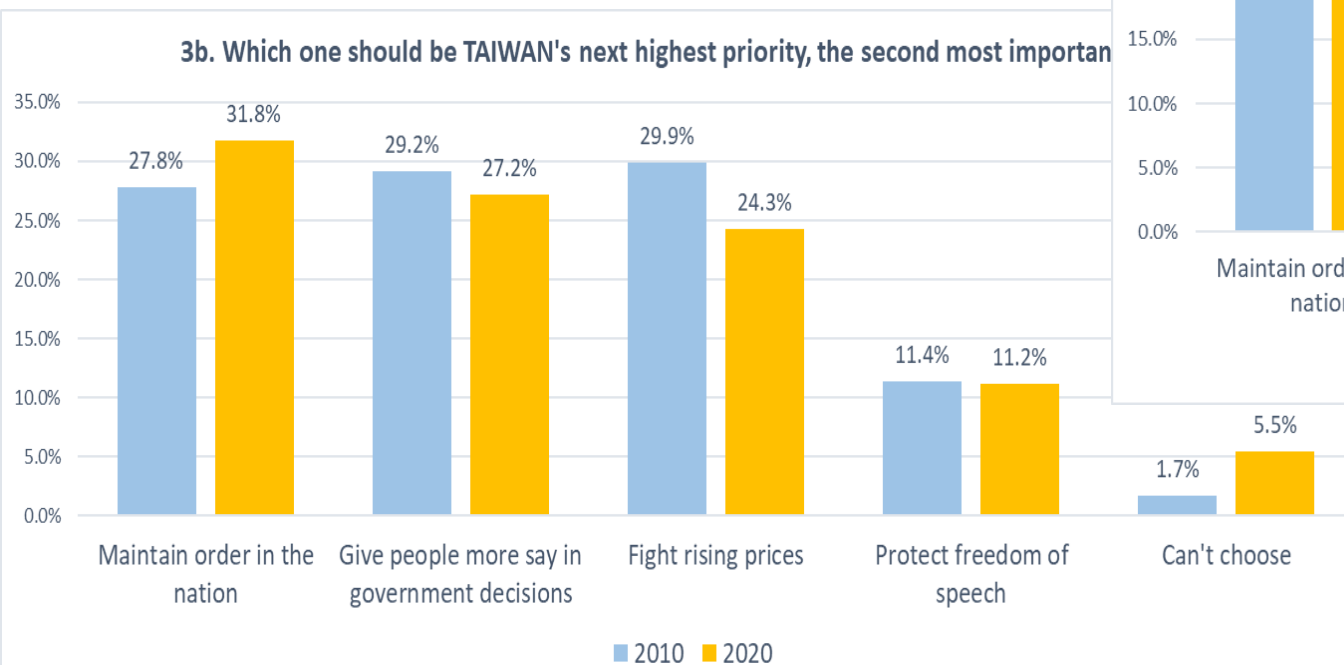


1a. Which of these issues is the most important for TAIWAN today?

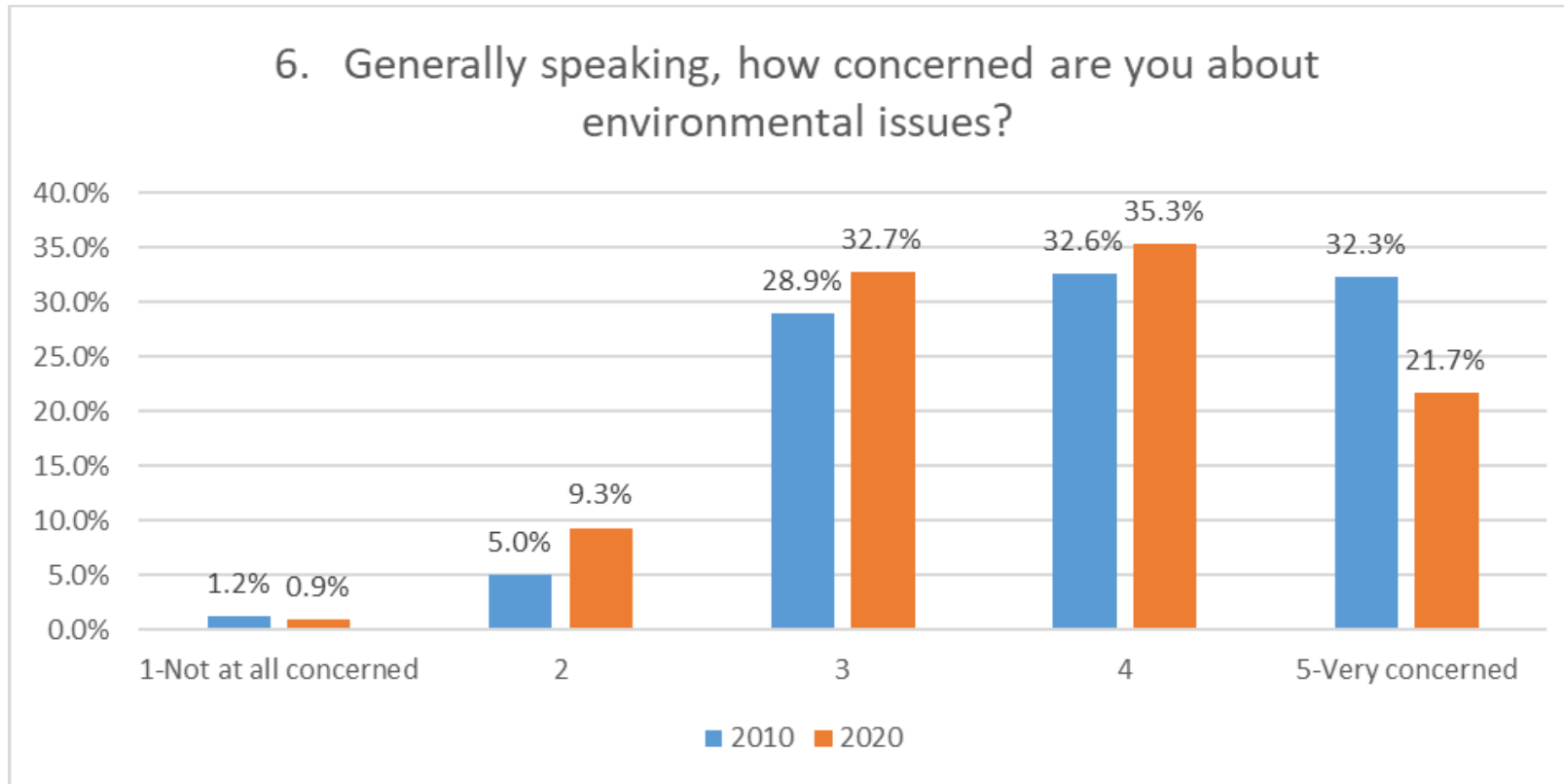


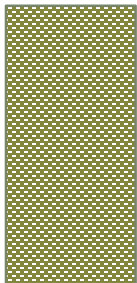


# The ISSP Environment Module 2010 vs. 2020



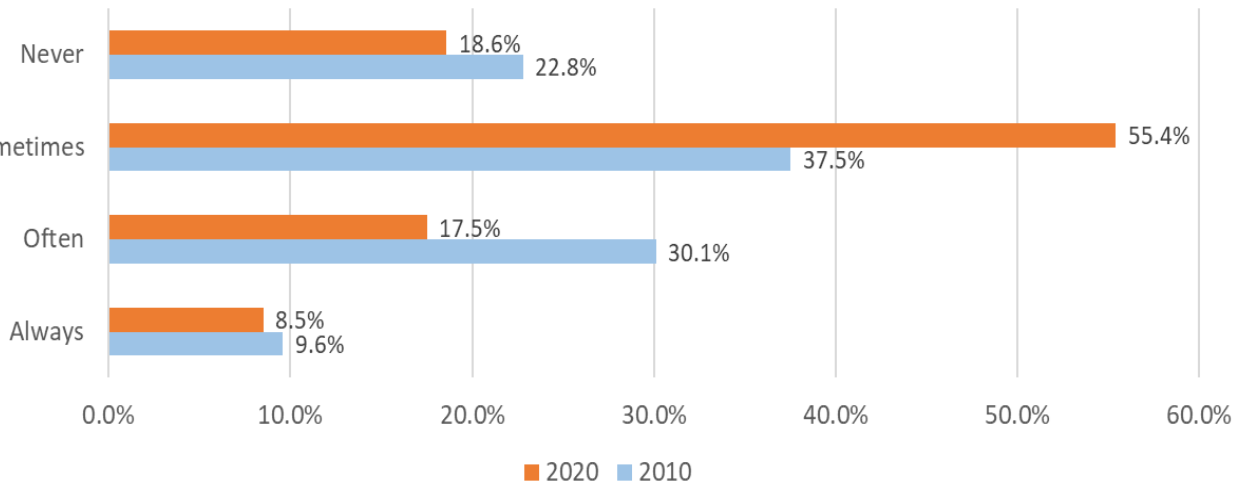
# The ISSP Environment Module 2010 vs. 2020



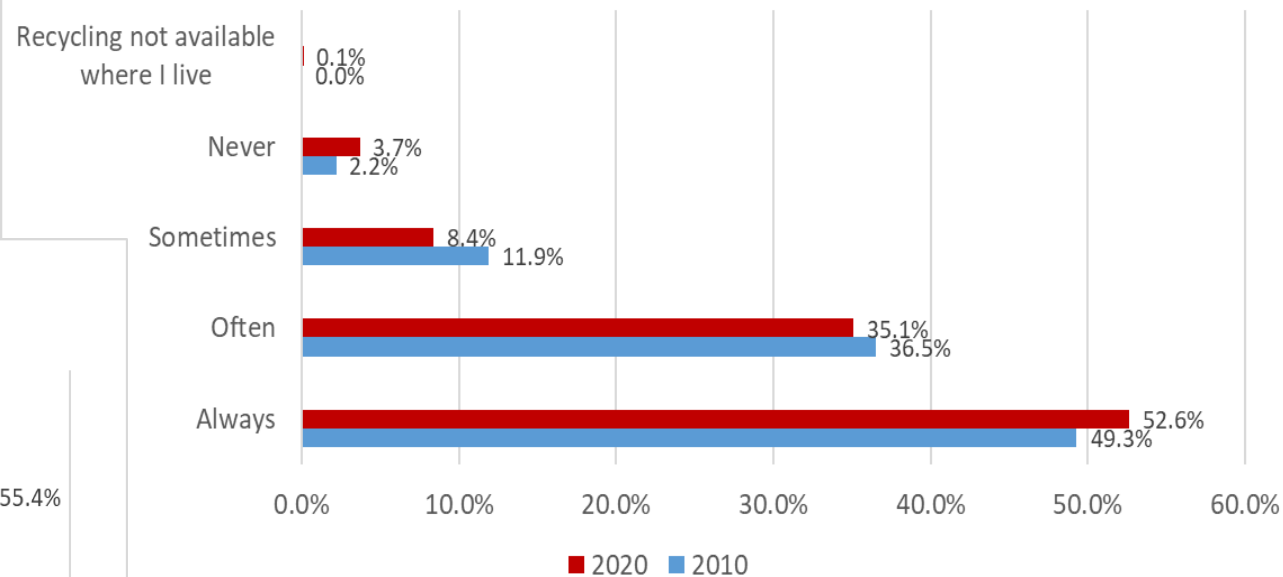


# The ISSP Environment Module 2010 vs. 2020

19b. And how often do you avoid buying certain products for environmental reasons?



19a. How often do you make a special effort to sort glass or tins or plastic or newspapers and so on for recycling?





# The ISSP 2020 Environment Module

Q. Compared to the situation before the COVID-19, has the following changed?	Increased a lot	Increased a little	About the same	Decreased a little	Decreased a lot
1. Personal monthly income	0.6%	1.8%	74.3%	12.6%	10.7%
2. Family monthly income	0.5%	1.2%	69.0%	16.4%	12.9%
3. Family monthly spending	1.1%	5.9%	72.9%	17.3%	2.8%



# Surveys Facing the “Real” COVID-19 Outbreak

- A real outbreak happened in the middle of May, a semi-lockdown is enforced when another panel survey, Taiwan Institute for Governance and Communication Research (TIGCR), has been collecting CAPI data.
- Lessons have been learned from the previous year:
  - Suspension from 20-28 May.
  - Preparation for virtual mode and web survey; telephone interview was given the lowest priority.
  - Contact respondents for mode switch. Link for web survey is provided in emails or mobile phone texts.
- The fieldwork took two and a half more weeks than originally planned.



# Surveys Facing the “Real” COVID-19 Outbreak

- Until June 30<sup>th</sup>, about 83% of the issued sample were completed.
- The questionnaire was completed by 78% of CAPI respondents, 16.2% of virtual interviews, 1.1% of telephone interviews, and 4.6% of CAWI respondents.
- The CSR is capable of mode-switching strategy due to the use of an integrated, multi-mode computer-assisted interviewing system (multi-mode CAI system) developed by the center.



## Concluding Remark

- For surveys during outbreaks or pandemic:
  - *Push-to-web* as a choice, if all conditions are suitable.
  - *Virtual mode* as an alternative for in-person interviews, although it has all the pros and cons of CAPI interviews.
  - *Push-to-APP* as another alternative for panel surveys, but technical issues need to be considered.
- Various designs of mixed-mode and mode switching bring challenges to cross-national research.



Thanks and Stay Safe

Dr. Pei-shan Liao



[psliao@gate.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:psliao@gate.sinica.edu.tw)



<http://survey.sinica.edu.tw>