

**The Coronavirus Victimization Distress Scale (CVDS)**  
*Fordham University Pathways to Health Study*

**Study PIs**

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The Pathways to Health Study was conducted in April 2020 to understand the biosocial, psychological, and social impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on young adults (age 18 – 25; N = 600) from diverse racial/ethnic groups, socioeconomic and employment status and geographic regions of the U.S. The anonymous survey conducted through Qualtrics examined participants' self-reported sleep patterns, somatic symptoms, feelings of anxiety and depression, substance use, social isolation, racial/ethnic discrimination, Coronavirus stigmatization and Coronavirus racial bias. The study was conducted by [Celia B. Fisher](#) and [Tiffany Yip](#) and funded by the [Fordham University Center for Ethics Education](#), Director, Celia B. Fisher.

**The Coronavirus Victimization Distress Scale (CVDS)**

The Coronavirus Victimization Distress Scale (CVDS) is a brief self-report questionnaire developed by Fordham University's Center for Ethics Education and Applied Developmental Psychology Program as part of the Pathways to Health Study. The CVDS assesses bully and cyberbully victimization distress results from being viewed as having coronavirus. Questions include distress about being verbally and physically bullied, treated rudely or unfairly, verbally taunted in public, and cyberbullied because of coronavirus.

**Psychometric Properties**

Each item on the CVDS is rated on a 5-point scale, from 1 (It never happened) to 5 (It happened and upset me quite a bit). The CVDS score is based on the mean score for the 5 items. The CVDS was developed on a large sample of Asian, Black, Indigenous, Latinx and non-Hispanic white young adults (n = 581; 18 – 25 year) living in the United States. The CVDS has high inter-item reliability (alpha = .92) and construct validity: (1) Employed participants score significantly higher on the CVDS than unemployed young adults; (2) Participants who have been mistreated by healthcare providers because of coronavirus score significantly higher on the CVDS than those who have not been mistreated; (3) CVDS scores are significantly correlated with anxiety, depression, substance use, sleep disturbance, and somatic symptoms.

**THE CORONAVIRUS VICTIMIZATION DISTRESS SCALE**

Hello and thank you for your interest in our research study. Right now all of us are experiencing new life challenges as we individually and together face the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We would like to learn more about your experiences to better understand how people across the country are meeting these challenges so that we can better inform current and future policies to prevent and to help address these health, mental health and social challenges.

Please indicate if you have had any of these experiences during the past month...

	It never happened (1)	It happened and did not upset me (2)	It happened and upset me a little (3)	It happened and upset me moderately (4)	It happened and upset me quite a bit (5)
1. I have been teased or bullied because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. I have been physically threatened, hit or beaten up because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. I have been treated rudely or unfairly because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. I have been verbally taunted or called bad names in public because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. I have been cyberbullied because someone thought I was infected with the Coronavirus (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>