

IUSSP Webinar on  
**The COVID-19 Pandemic and Sexual & Reproductive Health in Africa**

*Day 4 – 3 September 2020*

## **Q&As**

- 1 Dear Dr Eric Udjo, its possible to know if there is differential by race in the lethality of the virus in South Africa?  
Jackeline Romio ([jackeline.romio@gmail.com](mailto:jackeline.romio@gmail.com))
  - The official data on covid-19 provided to the public do not give a break down by race. So did not explore that. However, the model I presented can be applied by race (or any other sub-group) if the number of covid positive cases, no tested and fatalities are given by race. Thank you, here in Brazil we have that information and the data show there is a high incidence of death to afrodescendant population.
- 2 Thanks Prof. Udjo. Did you factor in other preventive measures that may mask the effect of the lockdown on the progression of Covid-19?  
George Odwe ([godwe@popcouncil.org](mailto:godwe@popcouncil.org))
  - No, I did not. However, the cumulative number of positive cases, incidence and fatalities are outcomes of all preventive measures.
  - Thanks Prof. It would also be interesting to look at gender differentials
- 3 Dr. Erick Udjo. Thanks for a great presentation. In your modelling, did you take into account age differences in COVID-19 risk? You talked repeatedly about population representativeness and I think an age-differentiated approach is necessary given the epidemiology of COVID-19.  
Willis Odek ([odek@unfpa.org](mailto:odek@unfpa.org))
  - No, the purpose of the study was not to look at sub-groups in the population but the overall progression of the virus nationally among all groups in the population. We do not know the characteristics of those who were tested and being tested for covid hence I raised the issue of representativeness. One may argue for example that those who were tested could be a higher risk group for covid than other people in the general population.
- 4 Thanks Eric for your presentation. Do you have statistics on the number of cases tested over the time. In many settings the number tested has been improved over the course of the pandemic and this can impact the number of confirmed cases.  
Jean-François Kobiané ([jfkobiane@issp.bf](mailto:jfkobiane@issp.bf))
  - Yes, part of the model I presented is based on the number of cases tested over time. I agree with you absolutely that the number of confirmed cases is influences by the number of tests over time. In the follow up study I am doing at the moment, I make this point very strongly and show statistics on the relationship between the number of tests and the number of confirmed cases.
- 5 Comment: A recent hypothesis that was noted from South African experts including Dr. Salim Abdool Kareem is that perhaps there is some immunity derived from exposure to other coronaviruses. See BBC article: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53998374>. Could Dr. Udjo comment on this hypothesis.  
Saumya RamaRao ([sramarao@popcouncil.org](mailto:sramarao@popcouncil.org))

- I am not able to comment on that because I do not know whether this is empirically proven. A number of claims have been made about the virus but without empirical evidence to back up some of the claims.
- 6 Dr Sunday Adedini, could you please suggest a theory that could handle a research on the spike in rape cases during the covid Nigeira and another that could be useful in online platforms as the last resort for teaching during the Covid 19 lockdown.  
Henrietta Okafor ([henriettaokafor@gmail.com](mailto:henriettaokafor@gmail.com))
- @Henrietta Okafor, rape is a form of gender-based violence which could be sexual inequality and gender imbalance. That is why women are mostly the victims. Combining both social disorganization and gender and power theories will be very relevant for studying this.
  - Thank you. Henrietta Okafor
- 8 Great presentation by an erudite Prof., Adedini.  
Olufemi ADETUTU ([femzhor2006@yahoo.com](mailto:femzhor2006@yahoo.com))
- Many thanks
- 9 Many thanks prof. Sunday Adedini, especially for the theoretical approaches. Can you share any book or article on the Social disorganization theory and social ecological theory  
José Katito ([jose.katito4studies@gmail.com](mailto:jose.katito4studies@gmail.com))
- @Jose Katito, send me your email address, and I can send you some relevant materials.
- 11 Thank you Eric for a great presentation. Can you kindly comment on any differences between confirmed deaths due to COVID-19 and excess all-cause mortality from the South African civil registration system over the period of your study.  
Maletela Tuoane-Nkhasi ([mtuoane@worldbank.org](mailto:mtuoane@worldbank.org))
- The issue of excess death has come to the fore in South Africa in recent times. I am unable to comment on the issue at the moment because the last causes of death data I looked at was for the year 2013 which was pre-covid. I was requested to look at this issue a few days ago. I declined the invitation for personal reasons.
- 13 Thanks a lot for your presentation Prof Udjo, what will you say of the association between preventive measures and case fatality rate if there is a data support. Does gender differential in adherence to preventive measures matter?  
Samson Olusina Bamiwuye ([bamiwuye2001@yahoo.com](mailto:bamiwuye2001@yahoo.com))
- Your question is one of the things I am looking at in an ongoing study at a global level. I would be able to provide some indication at the end of the September. However, sex differential is not included as an independent variable in the model I am using to look at case fatality due to covid globally.
- 14 @Prof. Garenne - If the data were true.... This is a very powerful statement since the expected 'correlates' were not observed.  
Caleb Ongong'a ([oumacaleb@gmail.com](mailto:oumacaleb@gmail.com))
- live answered
- 15 Thank you, mentor Adedini, for the valuable insights and setting agenda for advancing knowledge of the pandemic. In addition, more can be learned by adopting "intersectionality framework".
- 16 Thank you for the enlightening presentation, Dr Michel Garenne, could you share sources of these charts on the COVID incidences in Africa? You mentioned the roles of different factors including movements, I am particularly interested in the role of migration flows across Africa.  
Hassan Ogunwemimo ([HOgunwemimo@ahnigeria.org](mailto:HOgunwemimo@ahnigeria.org))

- 17 Thanks Sunday. One of the issue is the representation of the disease and its severity. The fact that populations no longer respect barrier measures is believed to be due to the low lethality of the pandemic in several African countries. What are your thoughts on this?  
Jean-François Kobiané ([jfkobiane@issp.bf](mailto:jfkobiane@issp.bf))
- I think we might not be able to know that gravity of Covid-19 on SRH now until we are able to get to the end of the pandemic, when vaccines are available, we then start to interrogate the impact.
  - Though health infrastructure might not be available for other health issues because every health providers are concentrating on covid-19 palaver."
  - @Kobiane, yes I do agree with you. Theorizing the issue of low lethality, you raised, health belief model could explain people's behaviour and attitude to the disease across many African countries.
- 18 Prof Garenne, are there available country specific free access databases that demographic/population researchers can use to further study the associations of COVID 19 population characteristics?  
Henry Nsobya ([lhenuga@yahoo.com](mailto:lhenuga@yahoo.com))
- Prof Garenne, are there available country specific free access databases that demographic/population researchers can use to further study the associations of COVID 19 population characteristics?
  - All data that I have been using are in free access. (Michel Garenne)
- 19 Thanks Michel for your presentation. If I got it well, one of your finding is a lower incidence of cases for older population?  
Jean-François Kobiané ([jfkobiane@issp.bf](mailto:jfkobiane@issp.bf))
- live answered
- 20 Many thanks Prof. Eric for that insightful and rigorous modelling technique. Did you compare the performance of your model with some other popular and applicable epidemiological models? Could you share your findings if you did? Thanks.  
David Okunlola ([okunloladavid4@gmail.com](mailto:okunloladavid4@gmail.com))
- The first graph of in my result is consistent with what is known about epidemiological curve of a pandemic. I am doing a follow up study whereby I have modelled the progress of the virus in South Africa up till yesterday and again the results are consistent with epidemiological curve of a pandemic. This results of this follow up study will however only be available in the public domain at the end of September. You would be able to also download the report from my website. I urge you to visit my website my website for full technical report of what I presented. The web address is [www.ericudjoconsulting.co.za](http://www.ericudjoconsulting.co.za)  
Great! I look forward to reading your subsequent works.
- 21 To all presenters: Are there any research/grant funding opportunities and mentorship fellowships on COVID 19 data analysis to support SSA researchers to fully explore any data that may be accessible?  
Henry Nsobya ([lhenuga@yahoo.com](mailto:lhenuga@yahoo.com))
- 22 Given that Primary Healthcare (PHC) centres are points of entry for largely most healthcare needs including family planning and other SRH components. Would it not make sense to strengthen the PHC's capacities to manage the disease reduce the spread particularly in health institutions and improve safety for those patronizing those points? Anyone?  
Hassan Ogunwemimo ([HOgunwemimo@ahnigeria.org](mailto:HOgunwemimo@ahnigeria.org))

- 23 Well done Dr Michel. I would like to know if the large standard errors and marginal effects (in your multivariate analysis result) really bother you much even though some of them were (statistically) significant but unreliable, and should have affected your conclusions/recommendations. Thank you.  
David Okunlola ([okunloladavid4@gmail.com](mailto:okunloladavid4@gmail.com))
- I guess that data are reliable and make sense. But this could always be questioned.
  - Well noted. Many thanks.
- 24 Will the presentations be accessible to the public on IUSSP website or via a dedicated link?  
Elhakim Ibrahim ([elhakim.ibrahim@yahoo.com](mailto:elhakim.ibrahim@yahoo.com))
- yes we will make them available on the IUSSP website
- 25 Thank you panelists for the informative presentations. Are you going to publish your work in a journal or you will put your research output on the IUSSP website?  
Josphine Hapazari ([jbhiri.hapazari@gmail.com](mailto:jbhiri.hapazari@gmail.com))
- 26 Agree with Chi-Chi and Caroline's comments. It will also be useful to triangulate information from different data sources to make sense of patterns that emerge and to validate the information. We should also pay attention to how stigma affects reporting of Covid-19 but also sensitive SRH areas such as GBV, abortion.  
Saumya RamaRao ([sramarao@popcouncil.org](mailto:sramarao@popcouncil.org))
- 27 Thank you so much for this. My second question is this, do you know of any theory that can actually handle the new normal which is virtual teaching and learning during the covid 19 lockdown  
Henrietta Okafor ([henriettaokafor@gmail.com](mailto:henriettaokafor@gmail.com))
- 28 Thank you so much for this. Please do you know of any theory that could handle the new normal which is digital teaching and learning during the covid 19 era  
Henrietta Okafor ([henriettaokafor@gmail.com](mailto:henriettaokafor@gmail.com))