

Analyzing the human rights impacts of national pandemic responses

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COVID-19 → HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Early responses characterized by:



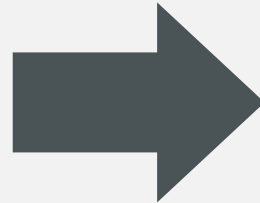
Travel bans



Lockdown/quarantine policies



Measures to ensure compliance
(e.g., consequences for failing to
adhere to lockdown measures)



Which violated:

- Right to freedom of movement
- Right to liberty and security of person
- Right to be free from cruel or degrading treatment
- Right to nondiscrimination
- Among others

Need to Monitor Violations

MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Early efforts to track human rights restrictions

BUT these have not been:

- Comparative
- Regularly updated
- Comprehensive

Failed to capture
state inaction

UNC Health and Human Rights Monitor

Compiling and categorizing media reports to document potential human rights harms in public health responses to COVID-19



SEARCHING AND SCREENING

Data source: NexisUni

11 search strings clustering key terms re:

- COVID-19
- Public health actions
- Human rights

Process:

- Searches run in 7-day increments
- First 1,000 results exported and screened
- Timeline: January 4th, 2020 → Present day (goal)

Inclusion Criteria

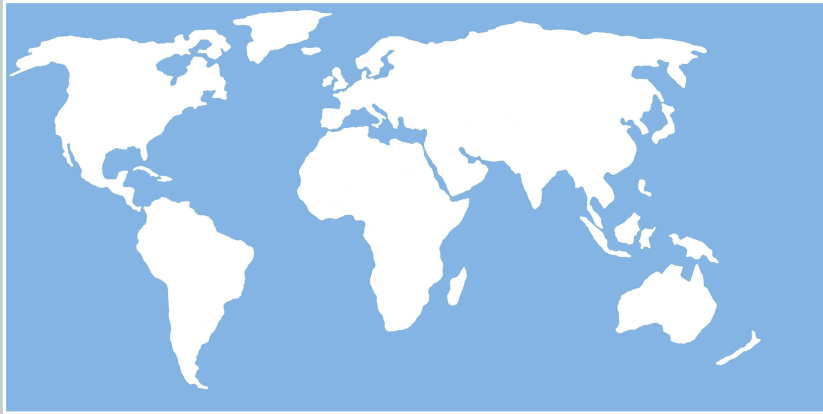
Discusses policies
(inaction) by a national or
subnational government in
response to COVID-19

AND

Describes active human
rights-related implications
of that action, which may
or may not be explicitly
labeled as such.

CODING

Geographic information



Public health responses



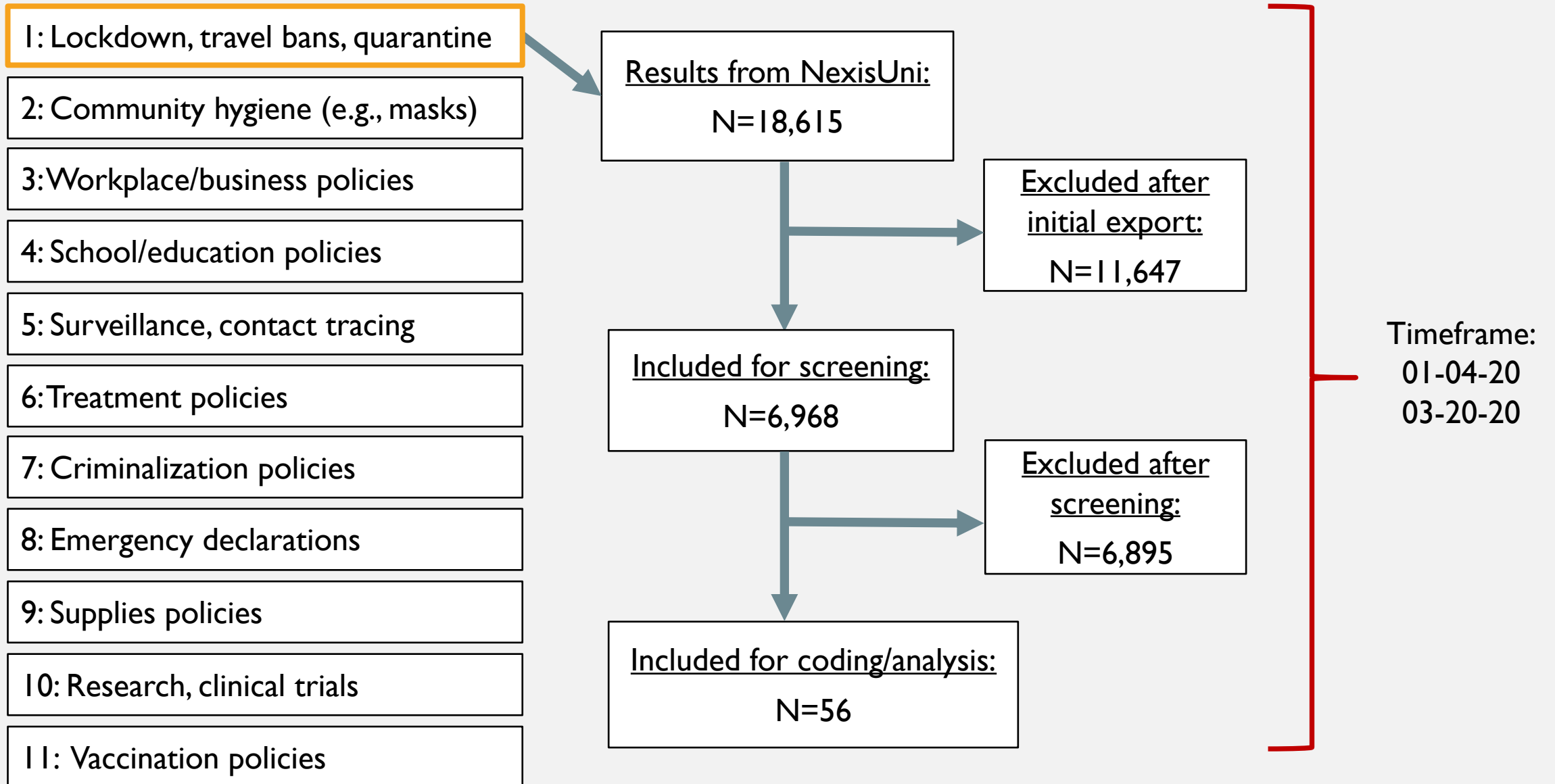
Human rights implicated



Populations impacted

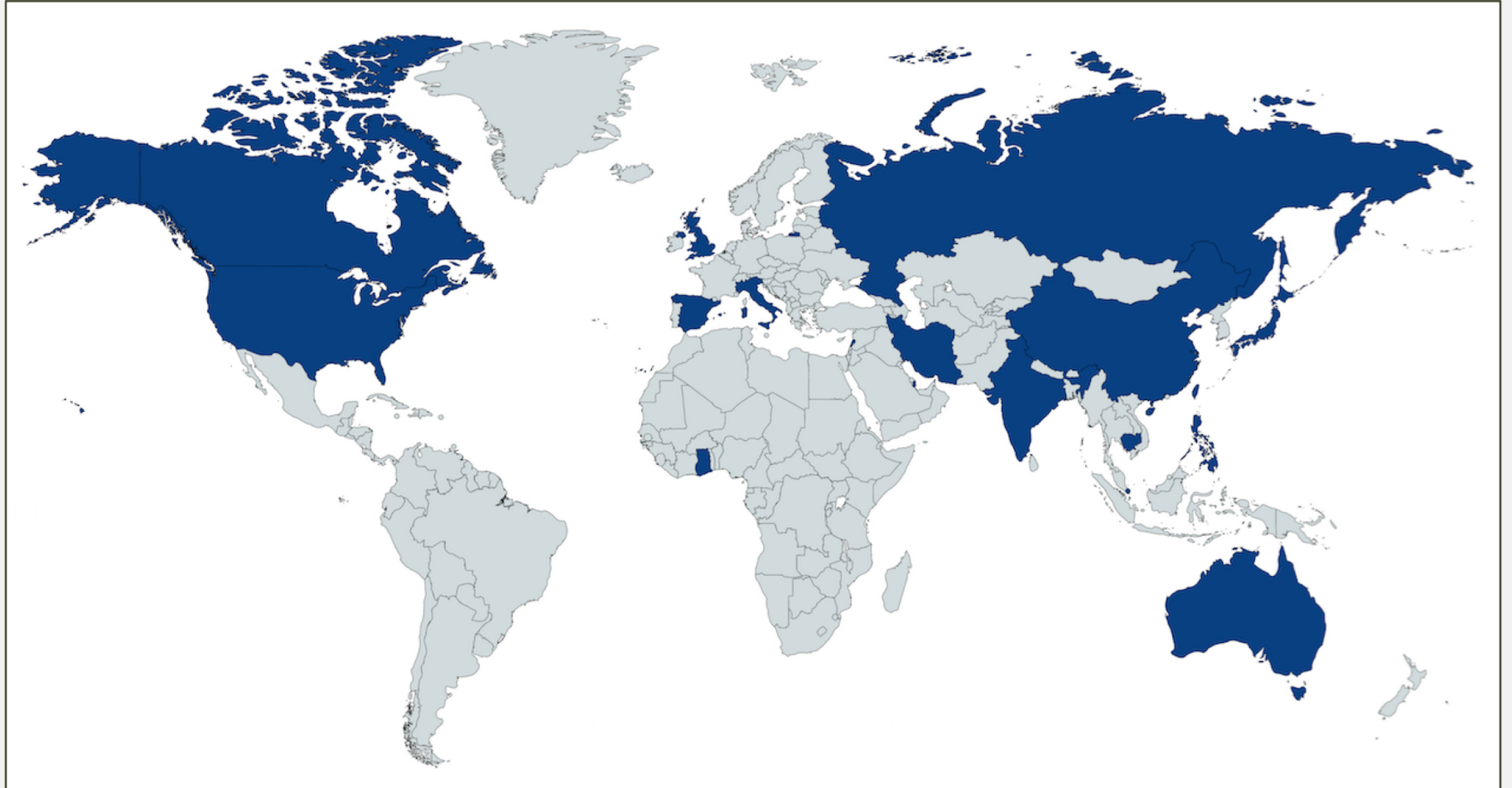


PRELIMINARY RESULTS: SEARCH STRING I

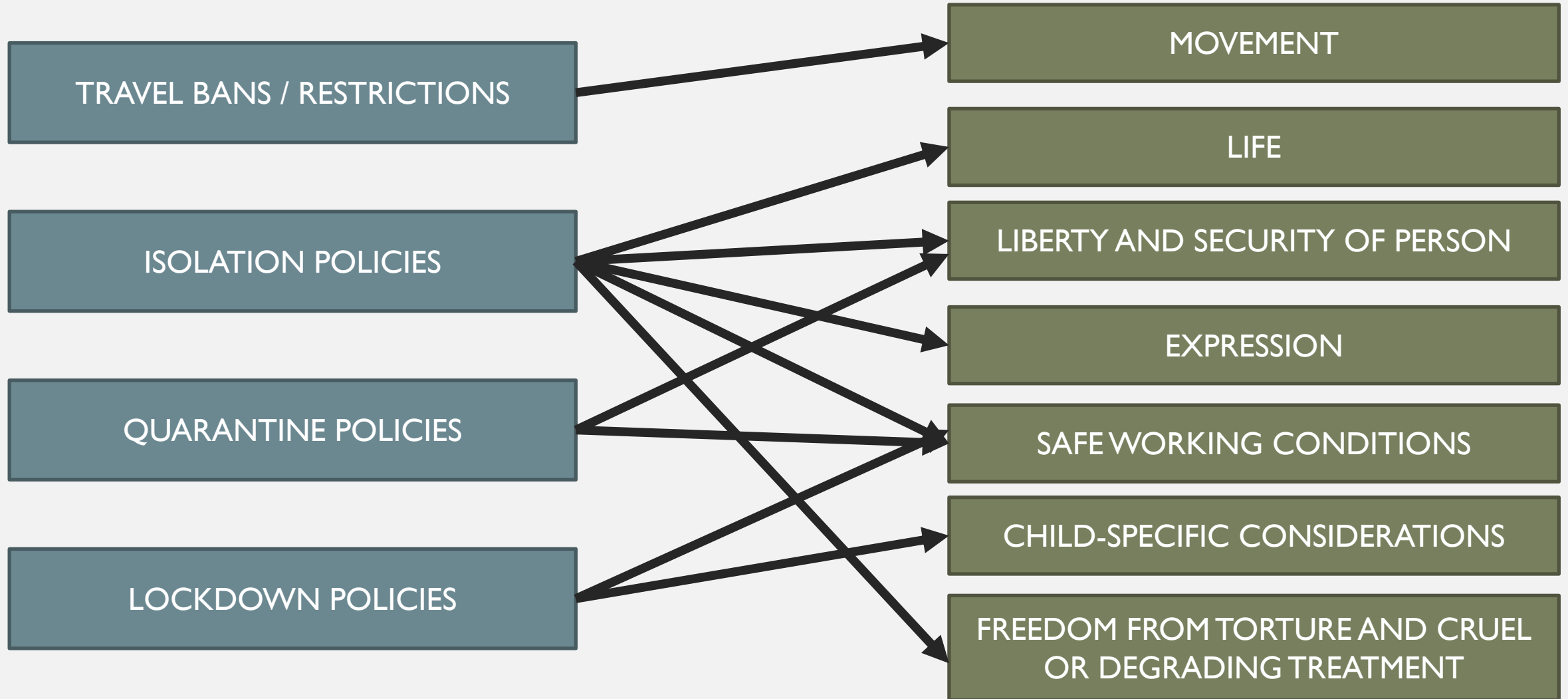


LOCKDOWN: GEOGRAPHY

Country	N
China	14
United Kingdom	10
Hong Kong	6
United States	5
Philippines	4
Canada	3
Australia	2
Cambodia	1
Ghana	1
India	1
Iran	1
Italy	1
Japan	1
Lebanon	1
Qatar	1
Russian Federation	1
Singapore	1
Spain	1
Taiwan	1



SEARCH STRING I: PUBLIC HEALTH AND RIGHTS



IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Future plans:

- Catch up to the present day
- Create publically-available, searchable database



Database that can be used to:

- Foundation for legal epidemiology research
- Facilitate accountability for human rights violations
- Plan for future public health emergencies

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our amazing coding team (past and present):

- (Present) Nikharika Soni, Nicholas Batman, Jose Guevara, Ashley Huff, Meredith Dockery, Olivia Curran, Claudia Oppen, Carter McCormick, MPH, Kate Huth, MA, Mallory Happ, BA, Megan Happ, BA, Tyler Fox, BA
- (Previous) Lenore Hango, BSPH, Victoria Matus, BA, Sonam J. Shah, Sonam K. Shah, BA, Hannah Rice, BA, Tamira Daniely, Anisha Khanna

Experts who reviewed our codebook and protocol:

- Jocelyn Getgen, JD, MPH, Roojin Habbibi, JD, MSc, Lisa Forman, SJD, MA, LLB, Sharifa Sekalala, PhD, LLM, LLB, Stéphanie Dagron, PhD

UNC HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS DATABASE

Learn more:

<https://www.researchgate.net/project/UNC-COVID-19-Health-Human-Rights-Monitor>

Contact us!

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2. Sekalala S, Forman L, Habibi R, Meier BM. Health and human rights are inextricably linked in the COVID-19 response. *BMJ Global Health* 2020;5:e003359
3. UNAIDS. Rights in a Pandemic: Lockdowns, rights and lessons from HIV in the early response to COVID-19. *UNAIDS* 2020. Retrieved: https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/rights-in-a-pandemic_en.pdf
4. Rasmussen SA, Goodman RA. The CDC Field Epidemiology Manual. Oxford University Press, 2018.
5. World Health Organization. Advancing the Right to Health: The Vital Role of Law. *World Health Organization* 2017. Retrieved: https://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/health-law/health_law-report/en/
6. The human rights section of the codebook pulls from the nine core international human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT); Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICMW); International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED); Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

KEY TERM STRATEGY

COVID-19		Public health action		Human rights
Coronavirus COVID* SARS-CoV* “Pneumonia of unknown”	AND	Lockdown	AND	Policy Right to* Freedom* Libert* Entitle*
		Quarantine		
		Isolation		
		Travel restriction*		
		Travel ban*		
		Cordon sanitaire		
		Social distanc*		
		Mask*		
		Face cover*		
		Workplace		
		Business		
		School		
		Educat*		
		Screen*		
		Test*		
		Surveillance		
		Contact trac*		
		Treat*		
		Medicine		
		Drug		
		Ventilator		
		Respirator		
		Pharma*		
		Jail		
		Fine		
		State of emergency		
		Special power*		
		Suppl*		
		Essential medicine*		
		Patent*		
		NOT trial		
		Clinical trial*		
		Experiment*		
		Licens*		
		Regulat*		
		Vaccin*		
		Immuni*		

SEARCH STRINGS

- **SEARCH 1:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (lockdown OR quarantine OR isolation OR travel restriction OR travel ban OR containment OR cordon sanitaire) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 2:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (social distanc* OR mask OR face cover) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 3:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (workplace OR business) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 4:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (school OR educat*) AND (policy OR "right to" OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 5:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (screen* OR test* OR surveillance OR contact trac*) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 6:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (treat* OR medicine OR drug OR ventilat* OR respirator OR pharma*) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 7:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (jail OR fine) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 8:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (state of emergency OR special power OR emergency power OR emergency resolution OR emergency declaration) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 9:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (suppl* OR equipm* OR essential medicine OR patent ANDNOT trial) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 10:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (trial OR experiment* OR licens* OR regulat*) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)
- **SEARCH 11:** (coronavirus OR covid* OR sars-cov* OR "pneumonia of unknown") AND (vaccin* OR immuniz*) AND (policy OR right to OR liberty OR freedom OR entitle*)