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Data Article

Data for understanding the risk perception of COVID-19 from Vietnamese sample

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ABSTRACT

This data article describes the risk perception of COVID-19 from 391 Vietnamese respondents aged from 15 to 47 years. These data have been used in Huynh (2020). These data include the socioeconomics, media attention, and risk perception of COVID-19 in Vietnam through a survey conducted on February 1, 2020. In addition, our data might serve as a reference source for further in-depth surveys to understand the risk perception and social media communication across countries.

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Specifications table

| Subject          | Infectious Diseases               |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Specific subject area | Econometric models applied to infectious diseases’ epidemiological data to understand the risk perception through socioeconomics and media attention. |
| Type of data     | Table                             |
| How data were acquired | Survey                           |
| Data format      | Data are in raw format and have been analyzed. An Excel file with data has been uploaded. |

(continued on next page)
Value of the data

1. Our data are important because this is the first data collection at the primary level to understand the risk perception in the world regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Researchers, educators, policymakers, and all institutions involved in public health can benefit from our data because by using these data, they can understand the risk perception in Vietnam for the COVID-19 epidemic.
3. These data can be reused for further insights and development of experiments by comparing the cross-country findings or contributing to meta-analysis in the future.
4. These data can be applied in short term and long term because the COVID-19 pandemic is a global emergency.
5. These data are collected carefully from the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in February 2020. Thus, it is timely data collection, which is considered as the additional value of our data.

1. Data description

Since COVID-19 was declared as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by World Health Organization (WHO), many research projects are being conducted to understand the different perspectives of this deadly virus. Therefore, this dataset offers an insightful information based on survey data on how Vietnamese citizens perceived the risks of coronavirus spread in the beginning period of outbreaks, particularly on February 1, 2020. In total, 391 Vietnamese people aged 15–47 years were surveyed for COVID-19-related risk perceptions. The platform for data collection is an Internet research tool provided by the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam). The total time duration for survey was 20 days, and the survey was conducted in Vietnamese.

Table 1
Data summary of continuous variables.

| Variable                  | Obs. | Mean  | Std. Dev. | Min  | Max  |
|---------------------------|------|-------|-----------|------|------|
| AGE (year)                | 371  | 24.48 | 6.07      | 15   | 47   |
| INCOME (million Vietnamdong) | 313  | 10.93 | 10.29     | 0.4  | 50   |
| FAMILYMEMBER (members)   | 379  | 4.42  | 1.87      | 0    | 10   |
| FREQUENCY (times)        | 373  | 4.98  | 6.34      | 0    | 24   |
| RISKPERCEPTION (level)   | 386  | 7.65  | 1.80      | 1    | 10   |
| FAKE NEWS (level)        | 385  | 7.89  | 1.91      | 1    | 10   |
| OFFICIAL NEWS (level)    | 386  | 5.87  | 1.90      | 1    | 10   |

Notes: The respondents could skip uncomfortable questions. Therefore, the number of observation varies for each question.
Table 2
Data summary of variables with interval answers.

| Variables       | Intervals                                      |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| GENDER          | Male (46.80%)                                 |
|                 | Female (43.73%)                               |
|                 | Others (9.47%)                                |
| RELIGION        | Non-religion (62.66%)                         |
|                 | Buddhism (29.67%)                             |
|                 | Christian and Protestant (4.35%)              |
| CAREER          | Student (46.80%)                              |
|                 | State officer (13.81%)                        |
| PROVINCE        | North (20.70%)                                |
|                 | Central (15.32%)                              |
| EDUCATION       | High school (10.91%)                          |
|                 | University (69.35%)                           |
| SOCIALMEDIA     | Less 1 h (4.65%)                              |
| nCOV-SOURCE     | Official information                          |
|                 | (24.55%)                                      |
|                 | From 1 to 3 h (46.77%)                        |
|                 | Social media and word-of-mouth                |
|                 | (62.40%)                                      |
|                 | More than 3 h (48.58%)                        |
|                 | Others (13.04%)                               |

Table 3
Codebook and the related question.

| Codebook         | Questions                                                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AGE              | How old are you?                                                          |
| GENDER           | Which gender do you identify with?                                        |
| RELIGION         | Which religion are you belonging to?                                      |
| INCOME           | What is your monthly household income?                                    |
| CAREER           | What is your current career?                                              |
| FAMILYMEMBER     | How many people are you living with in your household?                    |
| SOCIALMEDIA      | How frequently do you use social media applications? (Facebook/Instagram, etc.) |
| PROVINCE         | In which part have you mostly lived?                                      |
| EDUCATION        | What is your current educational background?                              |
| nCoV-SOURCE      | In which source are you looking for information about COVID-19?            |
| FREQUENCY        | How many times do you actively look for COVID-19 information per an hour? |
| RISKPERCEPTION   | From 1 to 10, to what extent do you concern/worry about COVID-19?          |
| FAKENEWS         | From 1 to 10, to what extent do you think that the number of fake news (not confirmed or verified by any official organizations such as WHO, Ministry of Health and so forth) is overwhelming? |
| OFFICIALNEWS     | From 1 to 10, to what extent do you think that the number of official news (confirmed or verified by any official organizations such as WHO, Ministry of Health and so forth) is overwhelming? |

Table 1 demonstrates the data characteristics for continuous variables that the questionnaire asked the respondents. The questionnaire used a 10-point Likert scale from 1 to 10 based on Dawes [1]. Table 2 represents the data summary of variables with intervals for answering.

In total, the questionnaire used in the 2020 survey included 14 questions. On average, it took approximately 10-15 minutes to complete this survey. The data covered COVID-19 risk perception, socioeconomic, and media attention. Our discussion of theoretical backgrounds and development in the further analysis of the survey variables can be found in the associated research article [2] (Table 3).

2. Experimental design, materials, and methods

The questionnaire consists of three parts. The first part includes basic information of respondents. The second part has several questions regarding the use of social media use. The last part includes detailed information about participants’ risk perception of COVID-19 outbreaks in Vietnam. Our research design is mainly based on the theoretical framework [3]. Social and mass media could influence the risk perception [4] because the information might refer to heuristics. Thus, our questionnaire includes social media use behavior, which might contribute to the perceived risk in each sample. The personal characteristics are the potential sources that have an
impact on risk perception [5]. These studies are our referred sources to design the questionnaire regarding the COVID-19 risk perception.

As mentioned earlier, the 10-point Likert scale was used to estimate the risk perception from 1 “totally disagree” and 10 “totally agree”. In addition, apart from risk perception, the respondents were asked to consider the level of fake news as well as the overwhelming news of governmental office about COVID-19 in the 10-point Likert scale. In fact, these questions focus on the respondents' perception of the number of (fake/official) news. Therefore, we asked the participant the level of overwhelming information on the online platform that they used to search for COVID-19 information. Survey data were collected through an anonymous self-administered questionnaire on the Internet platform. We randomly distributed the questionnaires to three regions in Vietnam (North, Central and South). Our data are the primary and first survey conducted about COVID-19 in Vietnam, a developing country. The analysis of our data could be done by STATA and other software to visualize and use for further econometric models. Therefore, follow-up studies might extend our work and enable to determine some helpful features to succeed in the containment of COVID-19.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The author declares that there are no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that have or could be perceived to have influenced the work reported in this article.

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Supplementary material

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi: 10.1016/j.dib.2020.105530.

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