Review of: "Identifying Psychological Distress Patterns during the COVID-19 Pandemic using an Intersectional Lens"

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Interesting study, doing feature engineering to determine the significant factors that produce a significant impact on the several emotional health repercussions observed during two non-consecutive weeks immediately following the initial mandatory lock-down caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the US. The data was taken in March 19-24, 2020 and April 20-26, 2020 from waves of the American Trends Panel, resulting in an analytic sample size of 4,560, which is small considering machine learning was utilized for the analysis, specifically decision trees. However, no discriminating factors were included for deciding on that algorithm. No additional validation was performed on the results reported by the decision trees, but the p-values of the individual trees are very low.

Besides the small sample size, and the somewhat limited analysis, the authors tie the importance of the features found with other studies previously made. This is a good step forward into sustaining the claims of those previous studies while providing an excellent starting point for taking further feature engineering steps as this initial analysis show promising results.

In terms of form, only one mistake caught my eye. On page 3, first paragraph after the intersectionality sub-section, a reference is missing.

> Instead of race, it is racism that shapes mental health (Williams, Lawrence, and Davis 2019) and both gender and race intersect to create intricate differences in experiences and health ().