

Social Studies: Social distancing by political party, social skills in the Internet age, and the power of food stamps

By Kevin Lewis Updated April 23, 2020, 5:00 a.m.



Research shows children born in counties that offer food stamps fare better than children born in counties that do not. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY

Political distancing

Analysis of anonymized smartphone tracking data reveals that fewer residents of Republican-

Analysis of anonymized smartphone tracking data reveals that fewer residents of Republican-leaning, compared to Democrat-leaning, counties appeared to be staying home after their state issued a stay-at-home order — a difference that did not appear to be explained by other county, date, or policy factors. Residents of Democrat-leaning counties in states with Republican governors were an exception — showing similar patterns of defiance.

Painter, M. & Qiu, T., “Political Beliefs Affect Compliance with COVID-19 Social Distancing Orders,” Saint Louis University (April 2020).

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