The purpose of this analysis is to show the extent to which Harris County and regional residents reduced average daily travel during COVID-19 pandemic. The change in average distance is compared to a baseline (average distance traveled for same day of week during non-COVID-19 time period for a specific county). This information helps establish relationships between implementation of social distancing measures and public response.

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this analysis is to show the extent to which Harris County and regional residents reduced average daily travel during COVID-19 pandemic. The change in average distance is compared to a baseline (average distance traveled for same day of week during non-COVID-19 time period for a specific county). This information helps establish relationships between implementation of social distancing measures and public response.

**METHODOLOGY**

Data is derived from the Unacast COVID-19 Location Data Toolkit, which uses location intelligence from data collected through mobile applications, GPS, mobile device Bluetooth connections, and Wi-Fi connections to understand customer movement patterns. Data was provided free of charge by Unacast through the Data for Good program.
COVID-19: Comparative Analysis by County
Governor Abbott Closes Schools and Non-essential Services (March 20)

COVID-19: Percent Change in Average Distance Traveled Since March 20, 2020

Time period averaged: March 20-28th, 2020

Greater Houston Region:
- Montgomery: -38%
- Liberty: -37%
- Chambers: -36%
- Fort Bend: -35%
- Harris: -34%
- Galveston: -33%
- Brazoria: -32%

1st “Spring Break” period
Stay at Home Orders
NON-ESSENTIAL MOBILITY

The change in visits to non-essential retail and services is compared to a baseline (avg. visits for same day of week during non-COVID-19 time period for a specific county). Non-essential venues include: Restaurants, department and clothing stores, jewelers, consumer electronics stores, cinemas and theaters, office supply stores, spas and hair salons, gyms, car dealerships, hotels, and hobby shops.

COVID-19: Comparative Mobility Analysis
Reduction in Trips to Non-Essential Retail and Services

RESEARCH STAFF

Gavin Dillingham, PhD
Program Director, Clean Energy Policy

Meredith Jennings, PhD
Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Community and Climate Resilience

Learn more about HARC and review the ongoing COVID-19 research at HARCresearch.org/work/covid19.

Research study released April 7, 2020.

HARC is an independent research hub helping people thrive and nature flourish.