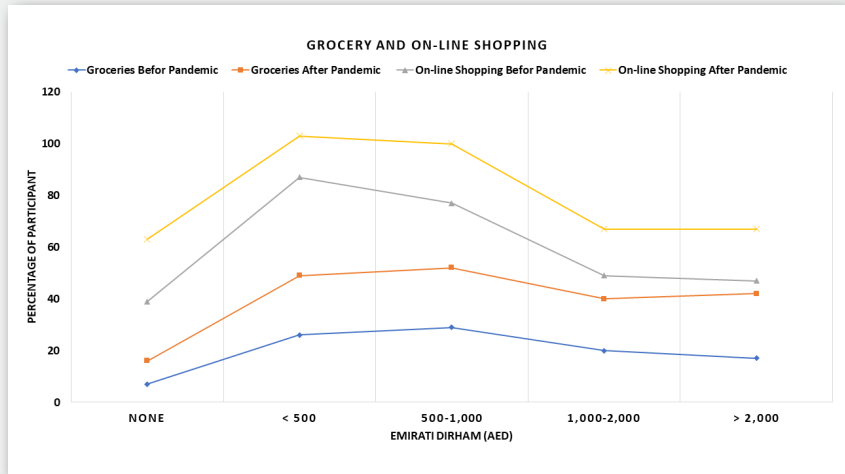


# COVID-19 RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

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## An assessment of human interaction and spending behavior amidst corona virus in the United Arab Emirates

Since its detection in Wuhan, China, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has proliferated all over the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has had unprecedented social and economic effects. We investigated the human interaction and spending behavior of individuals amidst the COVID-19 outbreak in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). An online survey was employed



to assess changes in social behavior (human interaction) and economic expenditure (spending behavior) among citizens and residents in the UAE. 49% of the participants were females and 51% were males representing the seven emirates. The sample included 86% Emiratis, 6% Asians, 4% Africans, and 4% GCC citizens. The findings indicate a significant decrease in spending on vehicle fuel, restaurants, hotels, and coffee shops as well as a significant increase in online and grocery spending. In terms of human interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic, 80% of respondents reduced the number of visits with family and friends, and more than 78% were apprehensive about going to a hospital when feeling ill. In addition, respondents indicated greater cooperation among family members in the household, with all members of the family, including children, participating in food preparation. In conclusion, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant changes in human interaction and spending behavior of individuals in the UAE.

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If you are interested in sharing your COVID-19 related research, please send your contribution to [research.office@uaeu.ac.ae](mailto:research.office@uaeu.ac.ae)