

COVID Recovery: A Content Analysis of X (Twitter)

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Introduction

❖ Background

- COVID-19 was a virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic leading to a world wide quarantine
- Many people, especially adolescents, turned to using social media to express their feelings
- It is important to find information about COVID recovery to understand how the language in posts convey individuals' emotions while recovering from a deadly and highly contagious outbreak.

❖ The gap this poster will explore

- How language used in social media posts, specifically in X(Twitter) posts, conveys individuals' recovery from COVID during and after the pandemic.

❖ The purpose of this study

- To explore how language is used in posts with the hashtag #COVIDrecovery on social media to assess how people talk about their personal COVID recovery and whether there are differences from during versus after the pandemic.

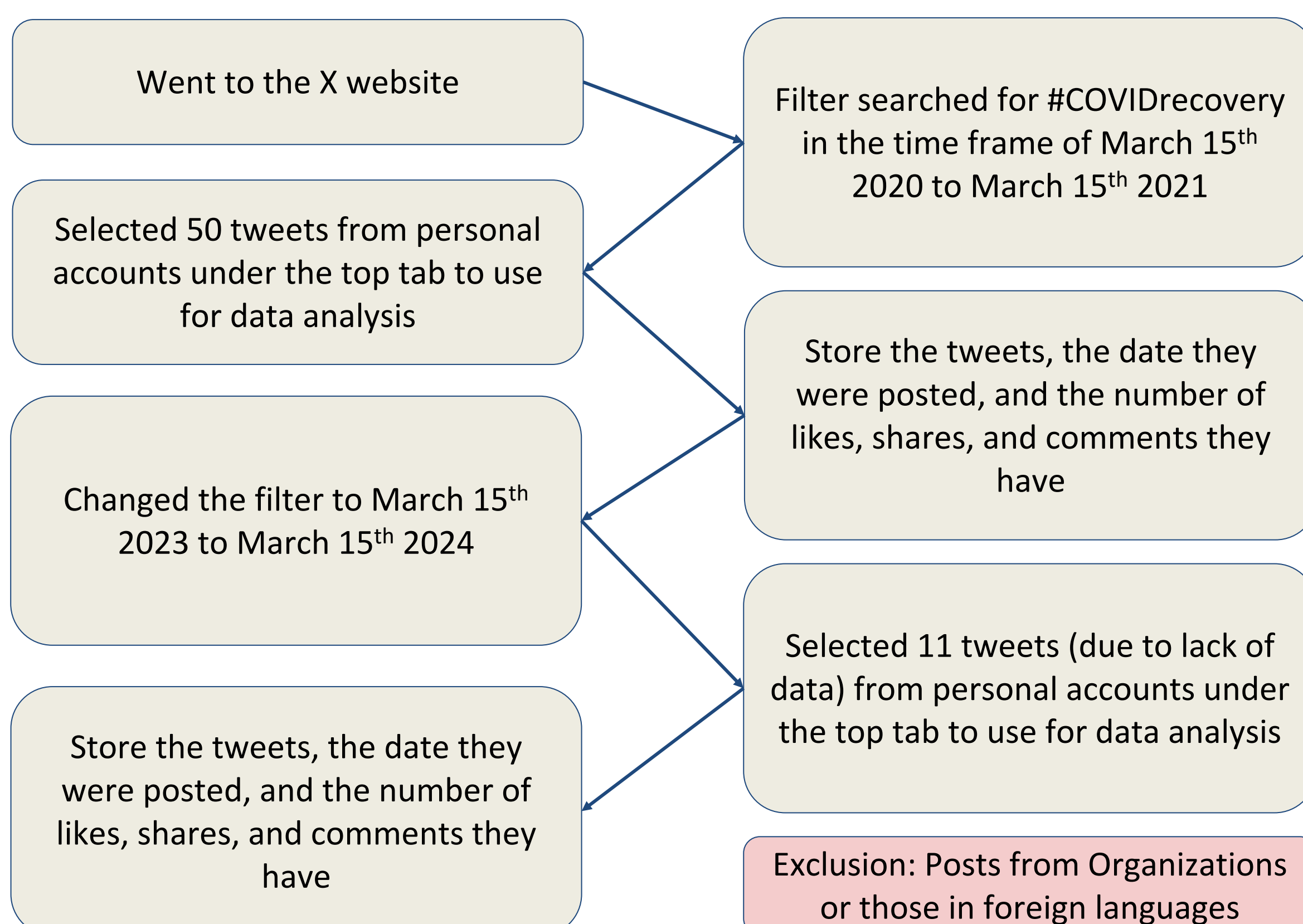
Methods

Design: This study is an observational content analysis study of X using LIWC analysis

Subjects: Posts from personal accounts on X regarding #COVIDrecovery.

N: 61; Post type: Top

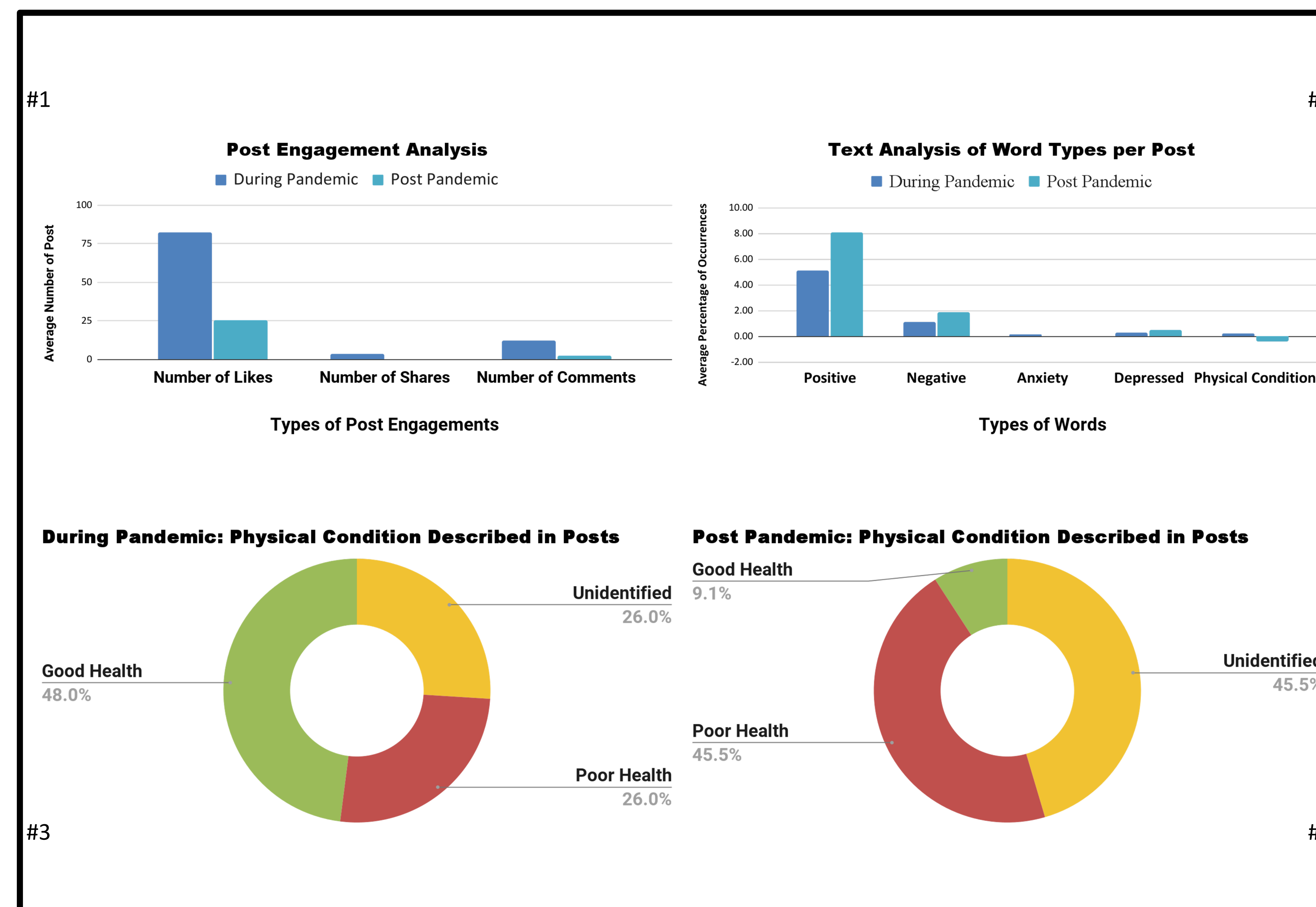
Data collection



Variables	Definitions
Positive emotion (LIWC)	Percentage of positive words in a post (E.g. Happy)
Negative emotion(LIWC)	Percentage of negative words in a post (E.g. Sad)
Anxiety emotion (LIWC)	Percentage of words related to anxiety in a post (E.g. Anxious)
Depressed	Whether or not the post shows signs of depression
Physical condition	Whether the post shows a positive, negative, or no state of physical condition
Likes	The number of likes a post has
Shares	The number of shares a post has
Comments	The number of comments a post has

Results

- About 5% of words in posts had a positive and about 1% had a negative emotion during the pandemic, while about 8% of words in posts had a positive and about 2% had a negative emotion after the pandemic, showing how posts were more positive than negative (graph 1)
- During the pandemic, posts had an average of about 82 likes, 4 shares, and 12 comments, while after the pandemic, posts had an average of about 25 likes, 0 shares, and 3 comments
- During the pandemic, 48% of posts described being in improving health conditions, while after the pandemic, only 9% of posts described being in improving health condition, showing that during the pandemic, people posted about their condition after recovery, while after the pandemic, people posted about their condition during recovery (Graph 3 & 4)



Sample Posts During Pandemic

This week is the first time since March 2020 I've felt properly healthy and strong. I've done Afrobeats Soca and Latin dance workouts, yoga and I've been for a run. I feel fantastic! My sense of smell and taste has finally returned too. I'm back! 🙌🙌🙌 #covidrecovery

This is hard to type but I need ALL of the prayers or good vibes you can muster

Saturday I was admitted to the hospital for respiratory failure & placed on a ventilator & put in ICU

The doctors aren't sure what's caused everything to go downhill #covidrecovery

Sample Posts After Pandemic

When not well... just how wonderful is toast... #CovidRecovery #ToastRocks

I guess I am feeling a bit better. At least I was being productive this morning;) #sourdough #covidrecovery

Conclusions

Key Findings:

- Posts tend to be positive during and after the pandemic. This is consistent with the COVID recovery hashtag as it shows how people want to show how they are happy to be recovering. Looking back, this hashtag may be what had influenced this increase in positive posts.
- There also tended to be more engagement during the pandemic than after. This may be because of two reasons. One possible reason is that people had to be quarantined, leaving these people stranded from the rest of the world with social media as one of the few tools for communication, leading to more discussion on these platforms. Another possible reason is that COVID was a worldwide disease that was known to everyone, making it a popular topic for discussions during the pandemic, while its popularity diminished after the pandemic. This can also be evidenced by the limited number of posts available on this topic after the pandemic.

Limitations:

- There was a lack of data in the post pandemic period, which made it less than ideal to contrast it with data from during the pandemic period.

Implications:

- It is unclear whether this is because of a general positive outlook on the population, or if it is influenced by the specific hashtag used in the analysis, requiring further study of the topic to fully understand.
- Further studies could also explore how exposure to these posts can affect adolescents' views of the pandemic and their mental state.

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