

Taking the pulse of Covid-19 in Saskatchewan—in 10 charts (April 2021)

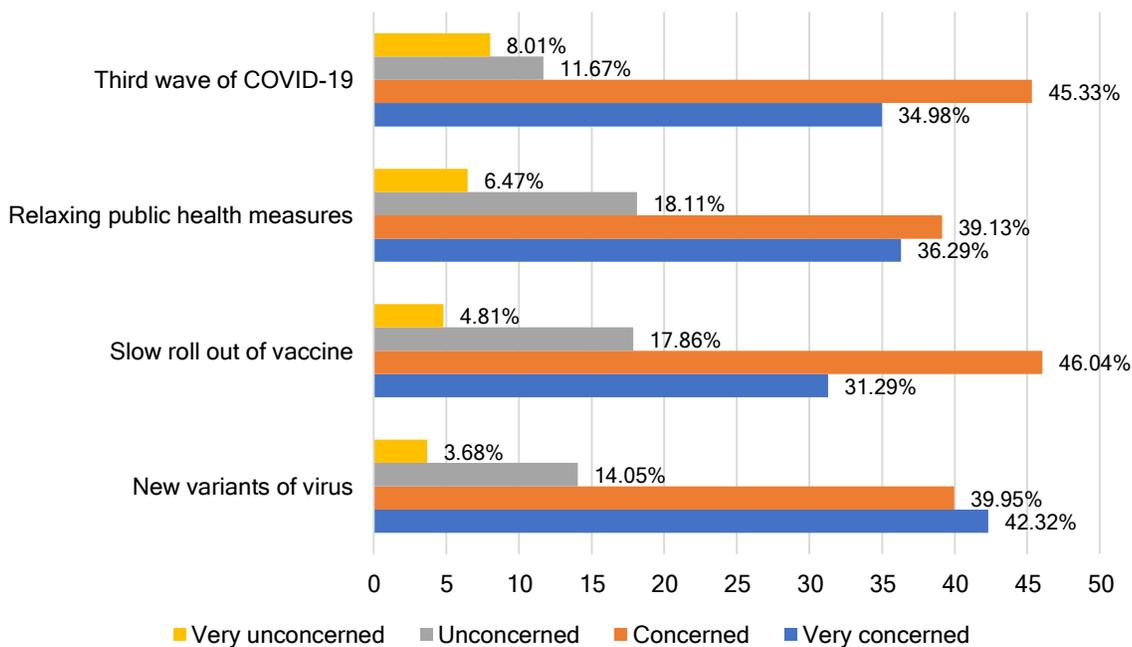
Results from the Social Contours and COVID-19 Survey

April 23, 2021

From May 4, 2020 (Phase 1 of the Re-open Saskatchewan Plan), SPHERU researchers have collected data about COVID-19 from Saskatchewan residents through our Social Contours and COVID-19 Survey. This survey has four objectives: 1) collect behavioural, perceptual, social, and place-based data (i.e. how we act, think, interact, and move); 2) assign a COVID-19 risk level to people and places, over time; 3) identify lower- and higher-risk places in our province; and 4) communicate this information to public health officials and the general public.

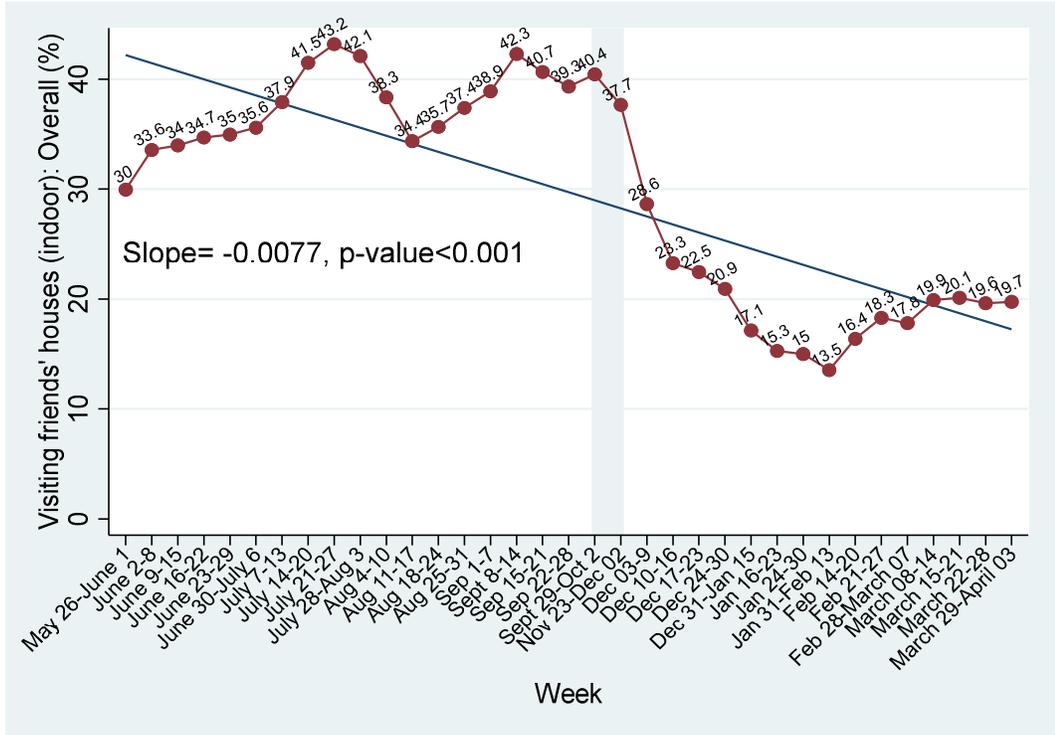
Data below are based on Social Contours and COVID-19 study; as of April 3, 2021, this includes n=9,347 (unless otherwise indicated). Results are age-gender-location of residence weighted (Census 2016, Saskatchewan adult population) and data are 4-week moving averages when time trends are presented.

1. “Looking ahead to the next three months (April to June) for each of issue below indicate your level of concern:”



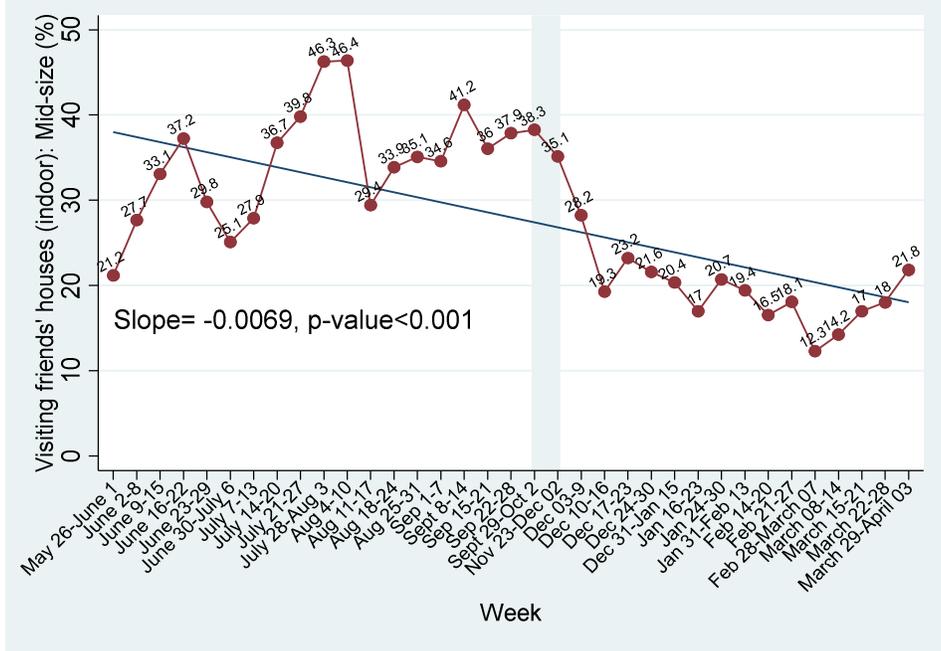
For the next three months, 82% of respondents were either very concerned or concerned about new variants of coronavirus. Next, 80% of respondents said the third wave was a concern. 75% and 77% respondents selected relaxing public health measures or the slow rollout as very concerning or concerning.

2. Visited friend’s house, last 7 days, overall, Saskatchewan



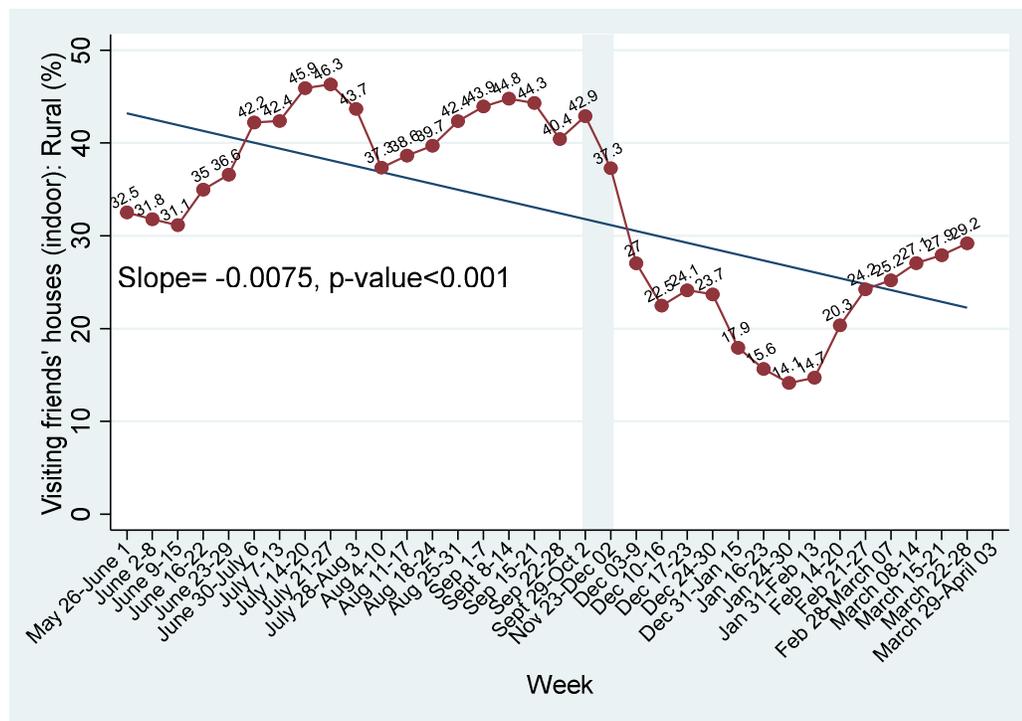
Between May 26, 2020 and April 3, 2021 in Saskatchewan, there has been a declining trend in the number of people who visited other household indoors in the last 7 days. In the beginning of June 2020, about 30% of respondents reported visiting friends’ houses; this percentage steadily increased to 43.2% in late July 2020. However, the trend consistently declined between September 2020 and mid-February 2021. The rates were constant from March 2021 to first week of April 2021, ranging from 19.6% to 20.1%.

3. Visited friend’s house, last 7 days, mid-size city/town



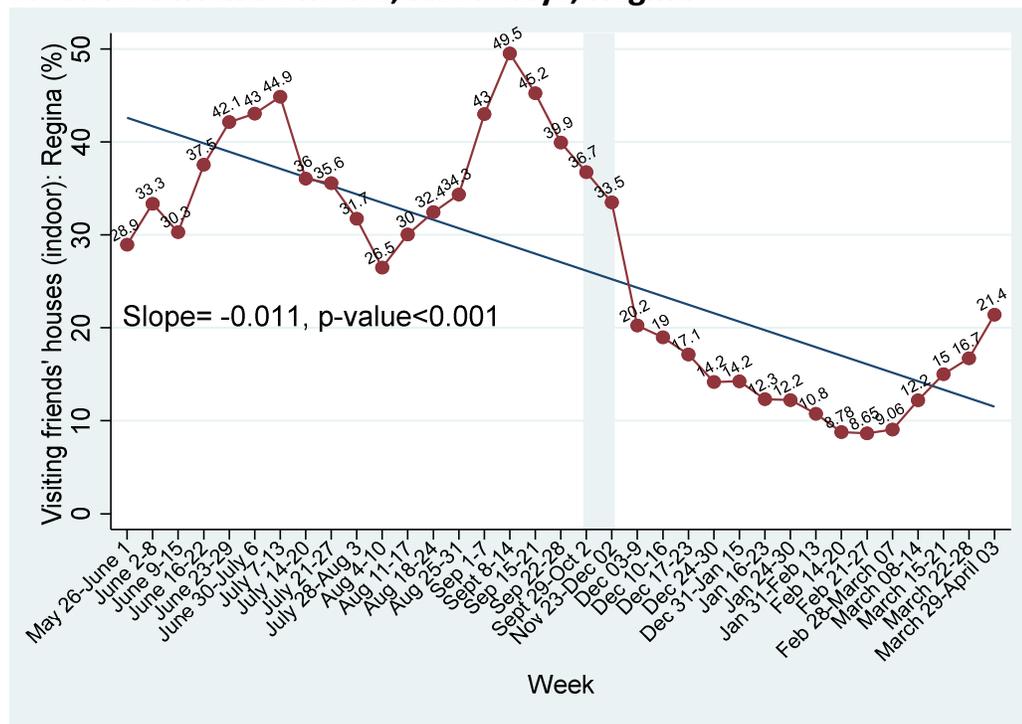
In the mid-size cities/towns, the percentage of people who visited friends’ houses steadily increased from 12.3% in the first week of March 2021 to 21.8% in April 3 2021.

4. Visited friend’s house, last 7 days, Rural



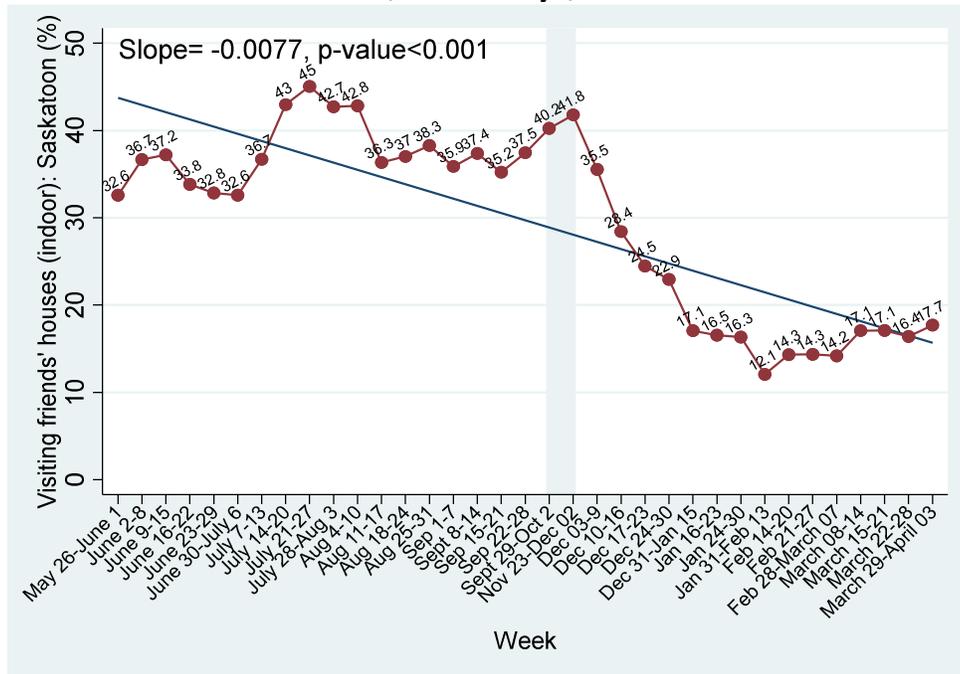
The weekly trend of residents in rural communities who reported visiting friends’ houses in the last 7 days shows an overall declining trend between June 2020 and first week of April 2021. The rate progressively rose from 14.1% in the last week of Jan 2021 to 29.2% in April 2021.

5. Visited friend’s house, last 7 days, Regina



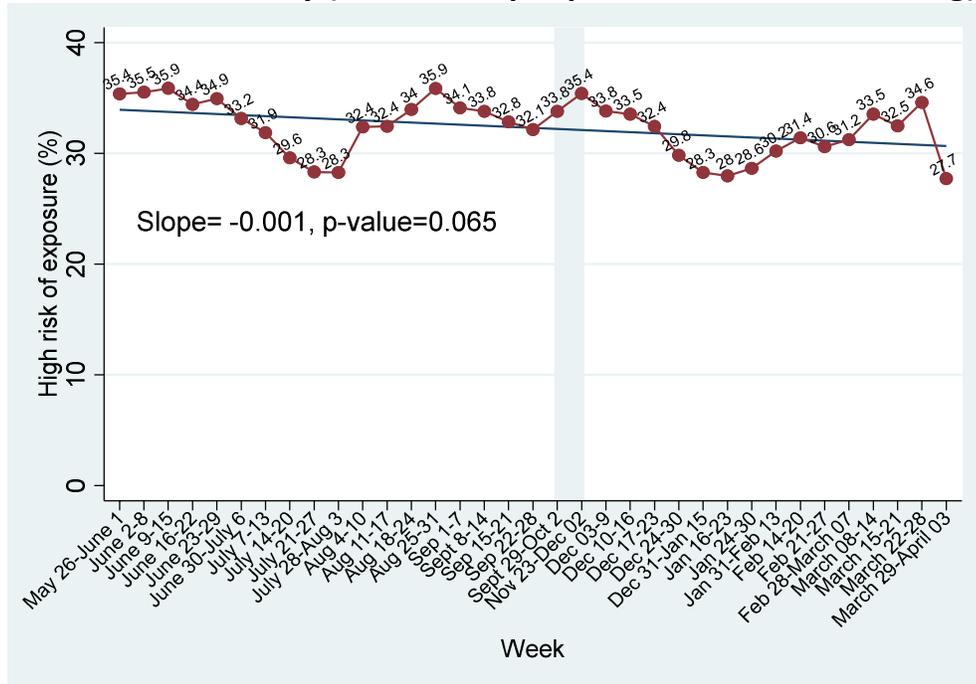
The chart in Fig 5 shows trend of visiting friends’ houses for Regina. There was a sharp increase in the percentage of respondents who visited friends’ houses (in last 7 days) between middle of Feb 2021 and first week of April 2021, from 8.65% to 21.4%.

6. Visited friend’s house, last 7 days, Saskatoon



The percentage of people who reported visiting friends’ houses in Saskatoon was constant between the second week of March 2021 and first week of April 2021. As of April 3, 2021, 17 out of 100 people reported visiting friends’ houses in the last 7 days.

7. Contact intensity (number of people seen and for how long), last 7 days.



This chart shows percentage of those deemed high risk for exposure due to contact intensity with people outside their household in the last 7 days. Over the months, the trend line has held steady around 33%. In March, the high-risk percentage shows a noticeable jump to around 34.6%. Respondents had close contact with an average of 2 people outside their household for 46 minutes. Between Feb 28, 2021 and April 3, 2021, 5.7% of respondents reported having close contact with more than 5 people and 52.1% had close contact with 1-5 people.

8. Exposure risk at workplace, last 7 days.

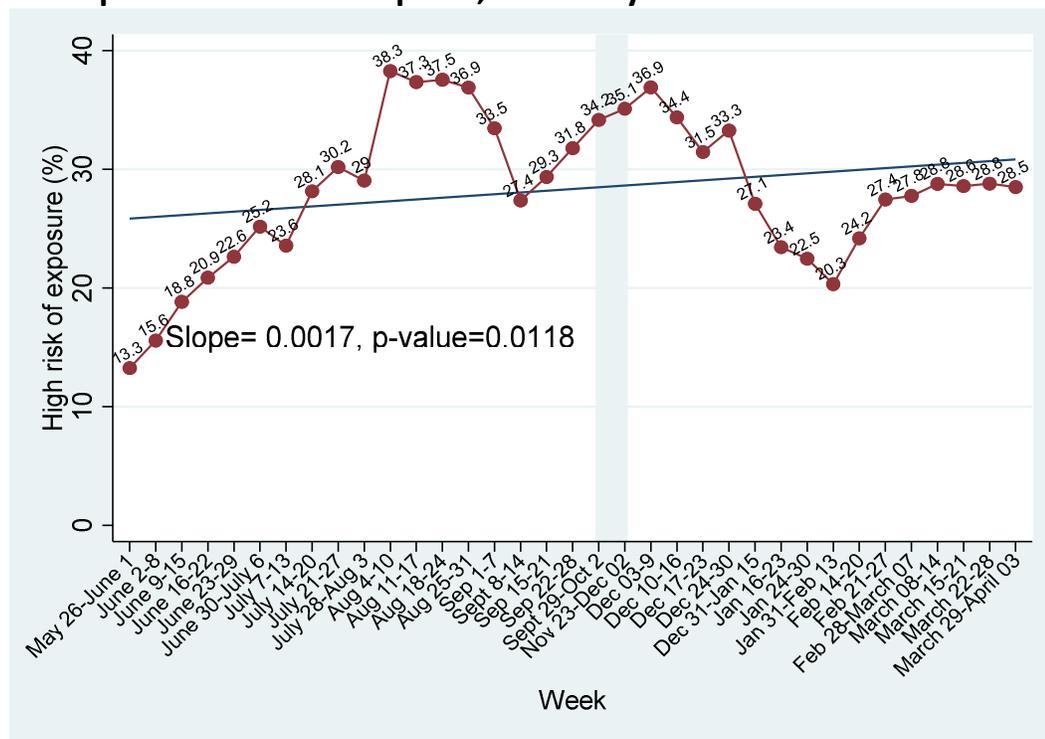
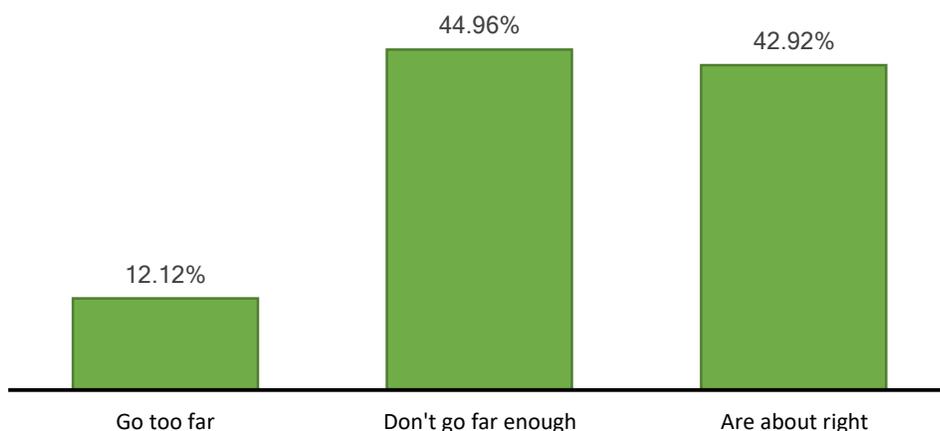


Fig 8 shows self-reported risk of contracting the virus due to exposure at work. From mid-February to April 3, 2021, approximately 3 out of 10 respondents reported high risk of exposure.

9. Overall, thinking about restrictions that have been put in place in your area to prevent the coronavirus from spreading, do you think these restrictions go too far, don't go far enough, or are about right? (Overall, Saskatchewan)

Public health restrictions



As shown in Fig 9, between Feb 2021 and April 2021, 45% of respondents reported that provincial government measures in curtailing the virus did not go far enough, while 43% reported they were about right. Only 12% said public health restrictions “go too far.”

10. Overall, thinking about restrictions that have been put in place in your area to prevent the coronavirus from spreading, do you think these restrictions go too far, don't go far enough, or are about right? (By Region)

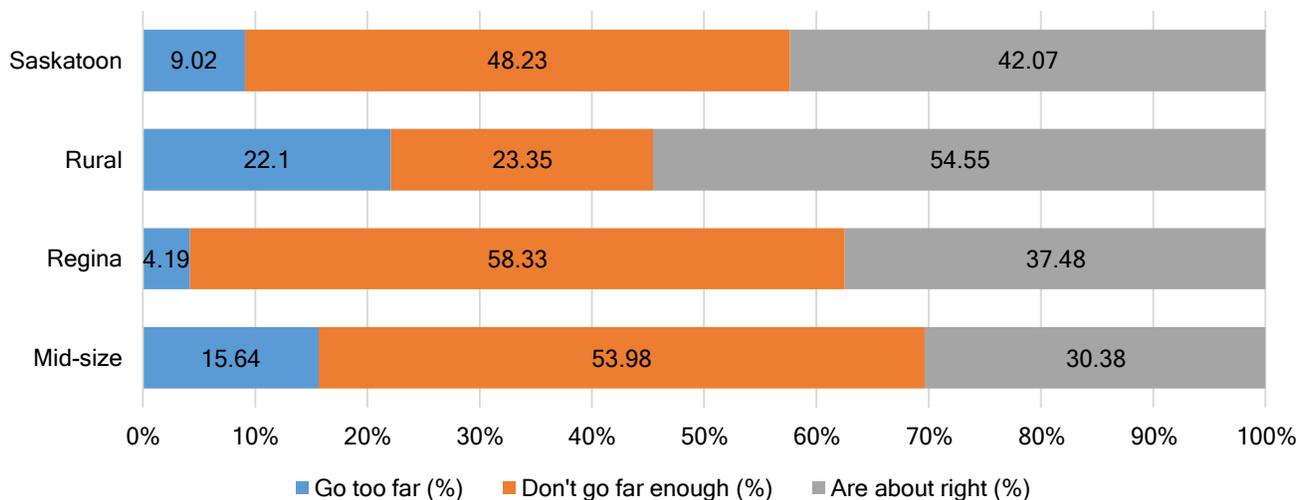


Fig 10 shows that respondents who reported the provincial government COVID-19 restrictions did not go far enough mostly resided in Regina (58.3%), Mid-size cities/towns (54%) and Saskatoon (48.2%), compared to Rural communities (23.4%). However, most respondents who reported measures were “about right” resided in Rural Saskatchewan (54.5%) and Saskatoon (42.1%).

For more Social Contours and COVID-19 Saskatchewan survey results:

<https://spheru.ca/covid-19/socialcontours/covid-19-results.php>

Social Contours and COVID-19

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For more information on the project, visit <https://spheru.ca/covid-19/socialcontours/covid-19.php> or email social.contouring@usask.ca.