

COVID-PCPR

COVID Pandemic childcare-policy response dataset - codebook

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Overview

COVID-PCPR captures rules on modes of pandemic early childhood education and care services (ECEC) and school closures and reopenings in 28 European countries in the first COVID-19 pandemic year (March 2020 to April 2021). It covers the European Economic Area (EEA) countries, except for Cyprus, Liechtenstein and Malta, for which no reliable data could be identified.

COVID-PCPR captures both the length of ‘closure episodes’ and the characteristics of these closures. The main focus is on the groups of children prioritised in the closure/reopening phases. ‘*Closure episode*’ refers to each period when ECEC/schools were ordered to close for all children or all children except for some specific target groups (e.g., children of ‘key workers’, children of parents without care option or not able to work from home, children with learning difficulties).

COVID-PCPR traces state-imposed statutory ‘closure episodes’ that covered all or most of the country’s territory. It does not trace occasional (partial) closures, which ECEC/schools could impose on their own due to a need for self-isolation (e.g., in case of accumulating COVID-19 infections in the facility). The same holds for ‘local closures’ in areas with COVID-19 outbreaks, typical for countries with, for example, a ‘traffic-light’ system foreseeing containment measures when a region switches from low to high numbers of COVID-19 infections. In the latter countries, ECEC/schools were typically foreseen to remain open even in the riskiest areas (e.g., Norway) and would eventually be closed when most of the country entered the ‘red zone’ (e.g., Italy, Germany), which is coded and included in the dataset. Only policy decisions are coded; that is, there is no data on the actual attendance of children – neither on attendance when the ECEC/schools were open, nor on the attendance of priority groups of children during ‘closure episodes’.

Data were collected through national sources (e.g., country government and ministry websites that announced the COVID measures on a daily basis), critical to fill the gaps in the broader comparative information (e.g. exact dates of closures/reopening and target groups being prioritised) produced by the International Network on Leave Policies & Research (Koslowski et al., 2020, 2021¹) or that is otherwise available (FRA, 2020;² UNESCO, 2022³).

Citation

In any work using COVID-PCPR data, please quote the dataset:

Dobrotić, I., Blum, S. (2022), *COVID-PCPR: COVID Pandemic childcare-policy response dataset 2020-2021*, available at: [10.6084/m9.figshare.22574533](https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.22574533)

¹ Koslowski, A., Blum, S., Dobrotić, I. et al. (2020) *International Review of Leave Policies and Related Research 2020*. DOI: [10.18445/20200915-131331-0](https://doi.org/10.18445/20200915-131331-0).

² FRA (2020) *Coronavirus pandemic in the EU - Fundamental Rights Implications – Bulletin 1-4*, https://fra.europa.eu/en/products/search?pub_type%5B%5D=1289&pub_by%5B%5D=81&lang%5B%5D=en&combine=coronavirus&sort_by=field_fra_published_at_value&sort_order=DESC

³ UNESCO Global Monitoring of School Closures Due to COVID-19, Database available at: <https://covid19.uis.unesco.org/global-monitoring-school-closures-covid19/country-dashboard/> (25 August 2022)

Variables

Variable	Description	
(1) Policy type	Type of policy decision	1 ECEC/school open = ECEC/school was not ordered to close at all 2 ECEC/school closure = ECEC/school is ordered to (gradually) close 3 ECEC/school reopen = ECEC/school is ordered to (gradually) reopen
(2) Date start	Date when the decision to close/open the ECEC/school was implemented (not issued)	
(3) Date end	Date when the decision to close/open the ECEC/school was implemented (not issued)	
(4) Regional differences	Regional differences allowed, i.e., ECEC/schools can be closed only in some regions	0 = no 1 = yes 2 = yes, if outbreaks
(5) Closure episode	The sequence number of each closing episode, i.e., the period when ECEC or schools (primary and/or secondary) were ordered to close for all children or for all children except for some target groups of children; each episode ends when all children can attend ECEC/school	1 = 1 st wave (i.e. closure episode) 2 = 2 nd wave (i.e. closure episode) 3 = 3 rd wave (i.e. closure episode)
(6) Weeks closed per closure episode	Number of weeks ECEC/school was closed per closure episode	
(7) Weeks closed March 2020-April 2021	Number of weeks ECEC/school was closed for all children or for all children except for some target groups of children in the period between 10 March 2020 and 1 April 2021	
(8) Weeks closed for: key workers	Number of weeks ECEC/school was closed for <i>children of 'key workers'</i> in the period between 10 March 2020 and 1 April 2021 (coded 0 if there was an explicit statement that only children of 'key workers' can attend ECEC/school during the closure period; definitions of 'key workers' differ among countries but also across time within countries)	
(9) Weeks closed for: parents without care option	Number of weeks ECEC/school was closed for <i>children of parents without care option</i> in the period between 10 March 2020 and 1 April 2021 (coded 0 if there was an explicit statement that only children of parents without care option can attend ECEC/school during the closure period; some countries required proof that both parents (or a single parent) were employed or that they cannot telework, and some did not; for schools, it includes organised care for children younger than 8 to 12, depending on the age limit the country implemented)	
(10) Weeks closed for: children under 10	Number of weeks the school was closed for <i>children under 10</i> in the period between 10 March 2020 and 1 April 2021 (coded 0 if there was organised teaching, i.e. classes, in primary schools for children under 10)	
(11) Weeks closed for: children in critical years	Number of weeks the school was closed for <i>children in critical years</i> in the period between 10 March 2020 and 1 April 2021 (coded 0 if there was organised teaching, i.e. classes, in school for children in 'transitional' years: that is, in years at the beginning or end of primary or secondary school or in similar critical period); n/a= not applicable	

(12) Weeks closed for: children at risk	Number of weeks the ECEC/school was closed for <i>disadvantaged children</i> in the period between 10 March 2020 and 1 April 2021 (coded 0 if there was an explicit statement that disadvantaged children can attend ECEC/school during the closure period; different groups of children can fall into this category such as children with learning difficulties, children beneficiaries of social assistance, children with ‘problems at home’, children with lower grades, children migrants, etc.); np=not present	
(13) Weeks primary schools closed per closure episode	As (6), but data refer only to primary schools (i.e. secondary schools are excluded)	
(14) Weeks primary schools closed March 2020-April 2021	As (7), but data refer only to primary schools (i.e. secondary schools are excluded)	
(15) Weeks primary schools closed for: parents without care option	As (9), but data refer only to primary schools (i.e. secondary schools are excluded)	
(16) Weeks primary schools closed for: children under 10	As (10), but data refer only to primary schools (i.e. secondary schools are excluded)	
(17) Weeks primary schools closed for: children in critical years	As (11), but data refer only to primary schools (i.e. secondary schools are excluded)	
(18) Weeks primary schools closed for: children at risk	As (12), but data refer only to primary schools (i.e. secondary schools are excluded)	
(19) Closure/opening	ECEC/school was closed for all (<i>all children</i>) or all children except some target groups (<i>targeted</i>)	0 = all children 1 = targeted
(20) Open for key workers	ECEC/school was/was not open for children of key workers; coding: see (8)	0 = no 1 = yes
(21) Open for parents without care option	ECEC/school was/was not open for children of parents without care option; coding: see (9)	0 = no 1 = yes
(22) Open for children at risk	The school was/was not open for children at risk; coding: see (12) & here children such as migrants or social assistance beneficiaries are included while children with learning difficulties as an explicit group announced were coded under (23)	0 = no 1 = yes

(23) Open for children with learning difficulties	The school was/was not open for children with learning difficulties (coded if children with learning difficulties are explicitly targeted group)	0 = no 1 = yes
(24) Open for children aged 0-2	ECEC was/was not open for children aged 0 to 2	0 = no 1 = yes
(25) Open for children aged 3 to primary school	ECEC was/was not open for children aged 3 to primary school	0 = no 1 = yes
(26) Open for children aged 5 (0=no; 1=yes)	ECEC/school was/was not open for children aged 5	0 = no 1 = yes
(27) Open for children aged 6... (34) ... aged 12	The school was/was not open for children aged 6 ... 12	0 = no 1 = yes
(35) Open for children older than 12	The school was/was not open for children older than 12 (or high school children)	0 = no 1 = yes
(36) Open for transition years	The school was/was not open for children in transition years (e.g., first or final grades of primary or high school)	0 = no 1 = yes