



MI Diaries

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

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and Yongqing Ye

Roadmap



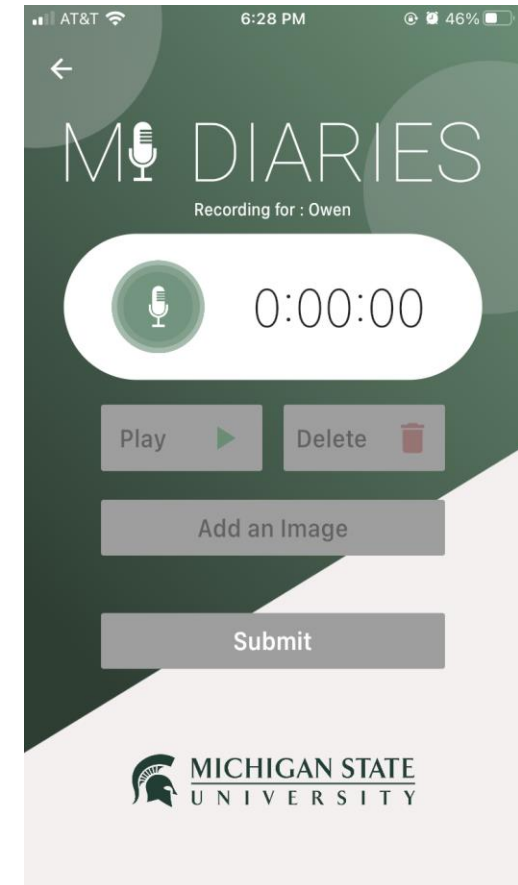
- MI Diaries project overview
- Some research questions
- Data collection
- Challenges
- Reflection and opportunities



MI Diaries

Below are some prompts to get you started this week. Feel free to answer as many as you want - or to tell us about something else that we haven't asked about. **Please start each Audio Diary with your name and the date that you are recording.** Your personal information will never be shared outside the research group.

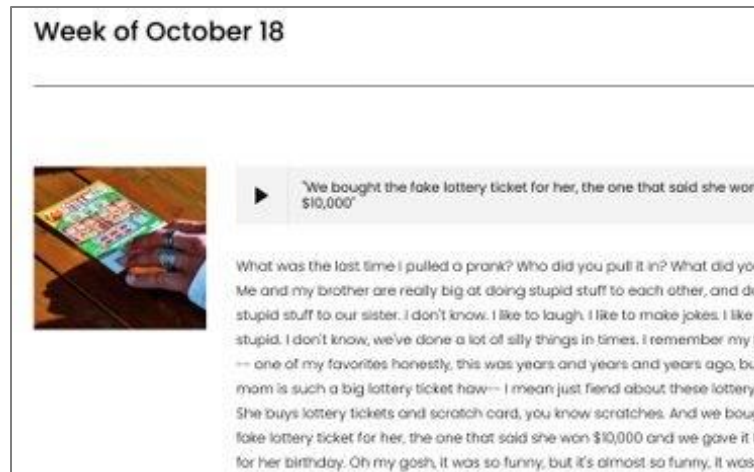
- What are you grateful for this week?
- Has anything been particularly difficult this week?
- Is there a news headline that has stuck out to you recently?
- Have you or anyone that you're close to tested positive for COVID? How are you or they doing? If you live with other people, do you have a game plan in place in case someone in your household gets exposed?
- Have you voted yet? Do you have a plan for how you are voting this year?
- What was the first election you voted in? What was it like to go vote? Where did you fill out your ballot?



Compensation and confidentiality



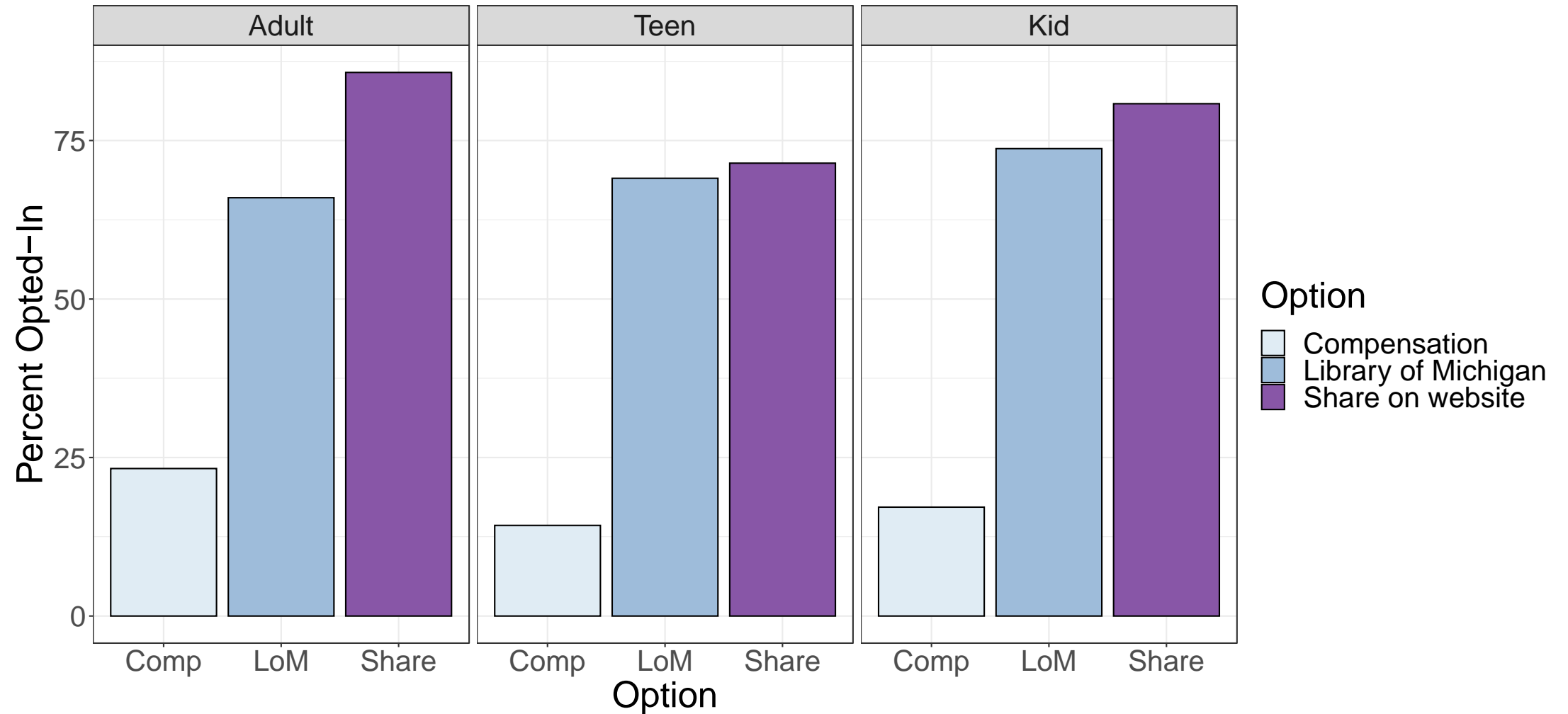
For at least 15 minutes
of audio within
a 2 week period



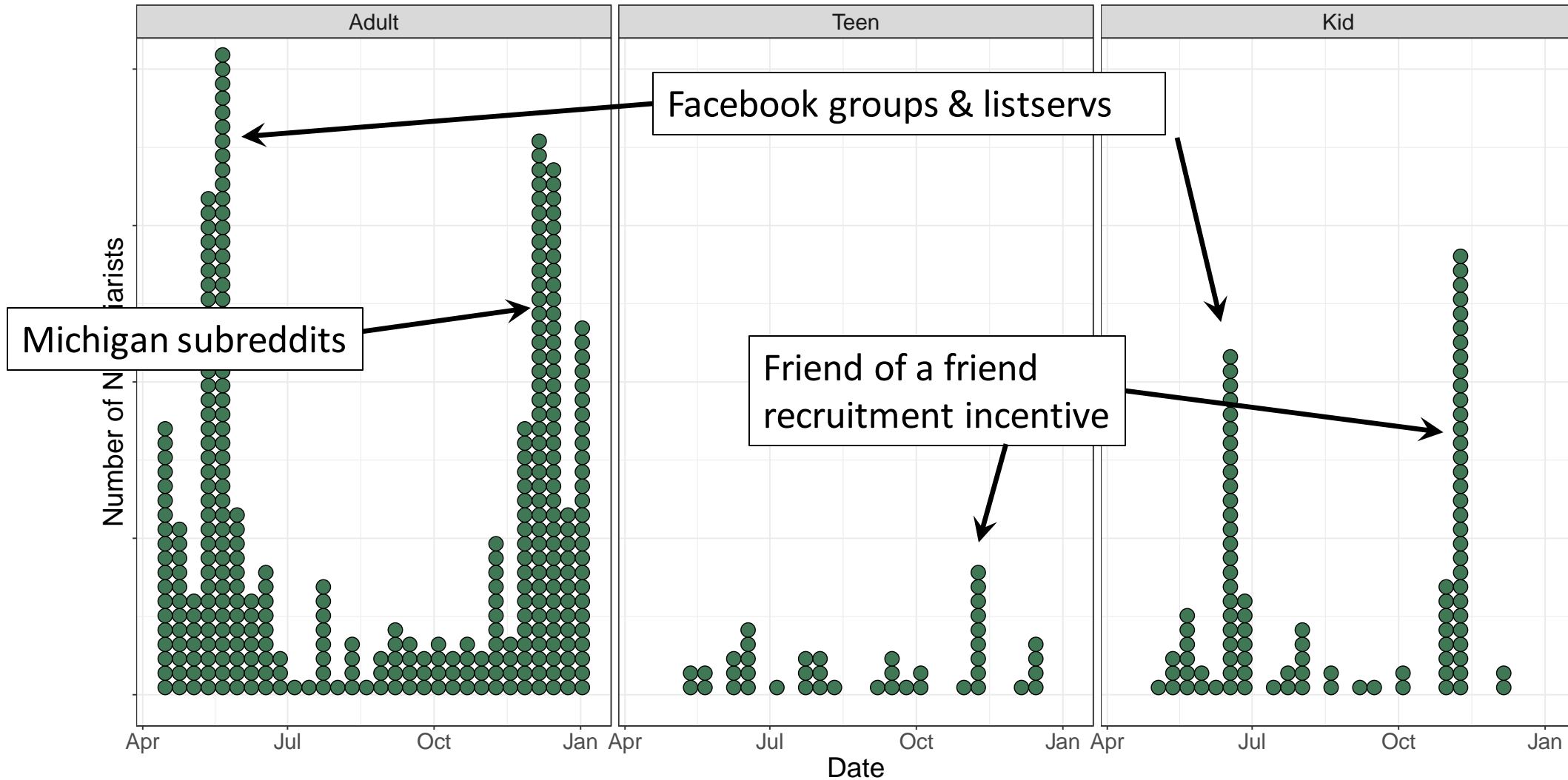
COVID-19: Save Your Story



Compensation and confidentiality




Diarist signups since April




Data processing





 MI DIARIES


RECENT DIARIES


YY

Hi, Yongqing 


 Sections

 Quick Add: Diary

 Diaries

 Reports

Transcripts

 REGENERATE

#1 - Processed

Download:

TSV:TIMESTAMPS

TEXT

CSV:TIMESTAMPS

CSV:TEXT

Actions:

MARK AS CORRECTED

COPY TO SNIPPET

DELETE THIS TRANSCRIPT

Start

Stop

Sentence

Loaded 55 Sentences...

1.9

2.6

Good morning.

2.6

6.1

It's Sunday, October 11th.





Project team



Some research questions



Is the Northern Cities Shift receding across Michigan?

Wagner et al 2016; Nesbitt et al 2019; Nesbitt 2020

Does regular contact with teens facilitate
adult participation in sound change?

Buchstaller 2016; Sankoff & Wagner 2020

Does isolation from the peer cohort delay
preteen participation in sound change?

Eckert 2011; Holmes-Elliott 2020

Project
management

Transcription
editing

Social
media

Story
selection

Teen prompt
creation

Brand
management





App design



Students
in
WRA 491
iOS Lab:
Foundations
of
App Design

Speech processing



Video creation

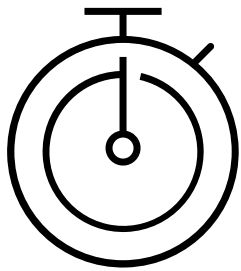


Friends and
family

IRB-approved
info video
for children

MSU College of
Arts & Letters
faculty research
video

Challenges: Recruitment



Pandemic time crunch:

Individuals and organizations don't have capacity to take on new activities (weekly diaries) or to help out (recruiting members, sharing electronic flyers).

Solution: Persistence. And a large team. (Recruitment is continuous and very, very time-consuming!)

Challenges: Recruitment



Informed assent for minors:

Can't obtain parents' signatures, can't sit with individual children and brief them in person.

Solution: IRB-approved script for an informational video on project website.

Challenges: Recruitment



Minoritized communities:

Participant diversity is desirable, but minoritized individuals are also experiencing the worst of the pandemic. MI Diaries research isn't obviously related to pandemic alleviation.

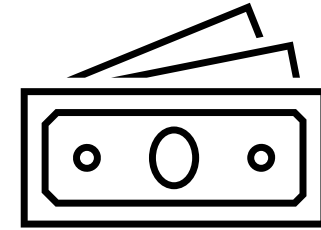
Solution: We welcome your thoughts!



Challenges: Compensation

Delay:

Grant applications are slow. Covid-specific rapid grants (understandably) reserved for health, education etc. projects.



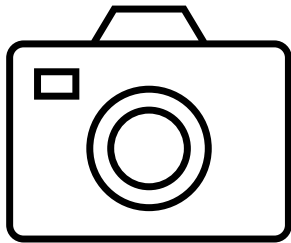
Solution: Lean on all institutional resources at MSU, allow participants to "pay it forward"

No lottery or cash:

Can't maximize limited \$ by lottery: Under MI law, diarists can enter only once (no good for longitudinal research). No simple mechanism for paying electronic cash.

Solution: \$5 Amazon card per 15 mins audio per 2 weeks. (But: ethics of Amazon?!)

Challenges: Ethics



Confidentiality:

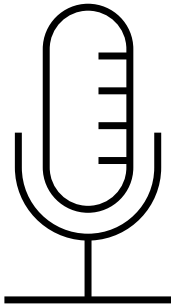
Diarists who consent to be in 'featured stories'. If they mention medical procedures (e.g. covid test), do we violate HIPAA? Great to include their photos, but some are selfies!

Solution: Team discussion. Consult appropriate experts, IRB.

Challenges: Ethics



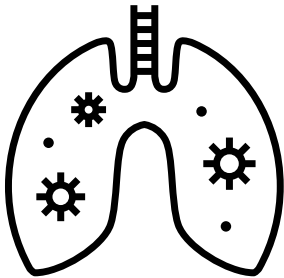
Featured stories:



Diarists consented to have stories featured on our website. But... social media? Reporters who request audio for radio piece?

Solution: Team discussion. Consult appropriate experts, IRB.

Challenges: Ethics



Prompt questions:

We want to ask about pandemic life. However, some questions could be triggering. But, also it would be weird for MI Diaries not to ever mention sickness, or even death.

Solution: Team discussion. Very careful phrasing.

Challenges: Ethics



Mental health:

Some diarists have told us in emails or their recordings that they find it "therapeutic" to share their thoughts. But we can't "sell" the project as a pandemic mental health panacea.

Solution: Clear mission statement.



MI Diaries mission statement

To document changes in the lives and language of Michiganders,
while fostering an inclusive community and a sense of connection
in a time where neither are easy to experience.

We aim to provide a place for diarists to share their authentic selves,
while also contributing their stories to a larger historical archive
of life during and after the pandemic.

<https://www.mi-diaries.org/about-the-project>



Reflection

- We are benefiting as researchers from a time of pain.
- What are we giving back?
- We've been lucky to have institutional, financial and personal support.
- How can we help other researchers without those privileges?
- This project was conceived very rapidly. What will be the lasting legacy of MI Diaries in the years to come?

Opportunities in 'remote' sociolx



App infrastructure

Apps work! Audio is okay.
Great for kids and teens.
Our infrastructure will be shareable.

Interdisciplinarity

App designers, user experience
specialists, brand managers,
videographers....

Accessibility

Diarists participate statewide.
Students and youth interns can work
from anywhere.

Longitudinal

Keep diarists engaged.
Track sociolinguistic development in youth,
lifespan change in adults.



MI Diaries is sponsored by
MSU College of Arts and Letters and MSU Linguistics funds to the MSU Sociolinguistics Lab;
MSU CAL Undergraduate Research Initiative grants to Betsy Sneller and Suzanne Wagner;
and Google Cloud Platform grant to Betsy Sneller.

- **Video and app development:** Russell Werner, Daniel Trego, Hemkesh Agrawal, MSU iOS Design Lab, MSU Hatch Lab, Matt Churgin
- **Media outreach and promotion:** Alexis Furkioti, Ryan Kilcoyne, Christine Radtke, Kim Popiolek
- **Community outreach:** MSU Outreach & Extension, Miles McNall, Laurie Van Egeren, Sandhya Shankar
- **Community partners:** MSU Extension 4H, Library of Michigan, Pioneer Middle School (Plymouth, MI)
- **Contacts, idea generation:** Danielle De Voss, Ben Lauren, Casey McArdle, Maya Abtahian, Laura Yares, Sharon Avni
- **Grants:** Barb Miller, Bill Hart-Davidson
- **IRB:** Bailey McMillan, Kimberley Hess
- **Modeling:** Toby Wagner, Owen Wagner, Lola Klakoski, Gus Machin, Ollie Machin, Kensleigh Huffman, Addie Wiers, Mimi Wiers, Ainsleigh Wiers
- *...and comments from the audience at GLEAMS 2020, University of Michigan Linguistics Colloquium, CAL Conversations with Alumni, and CAL Pivoting Your Research.*



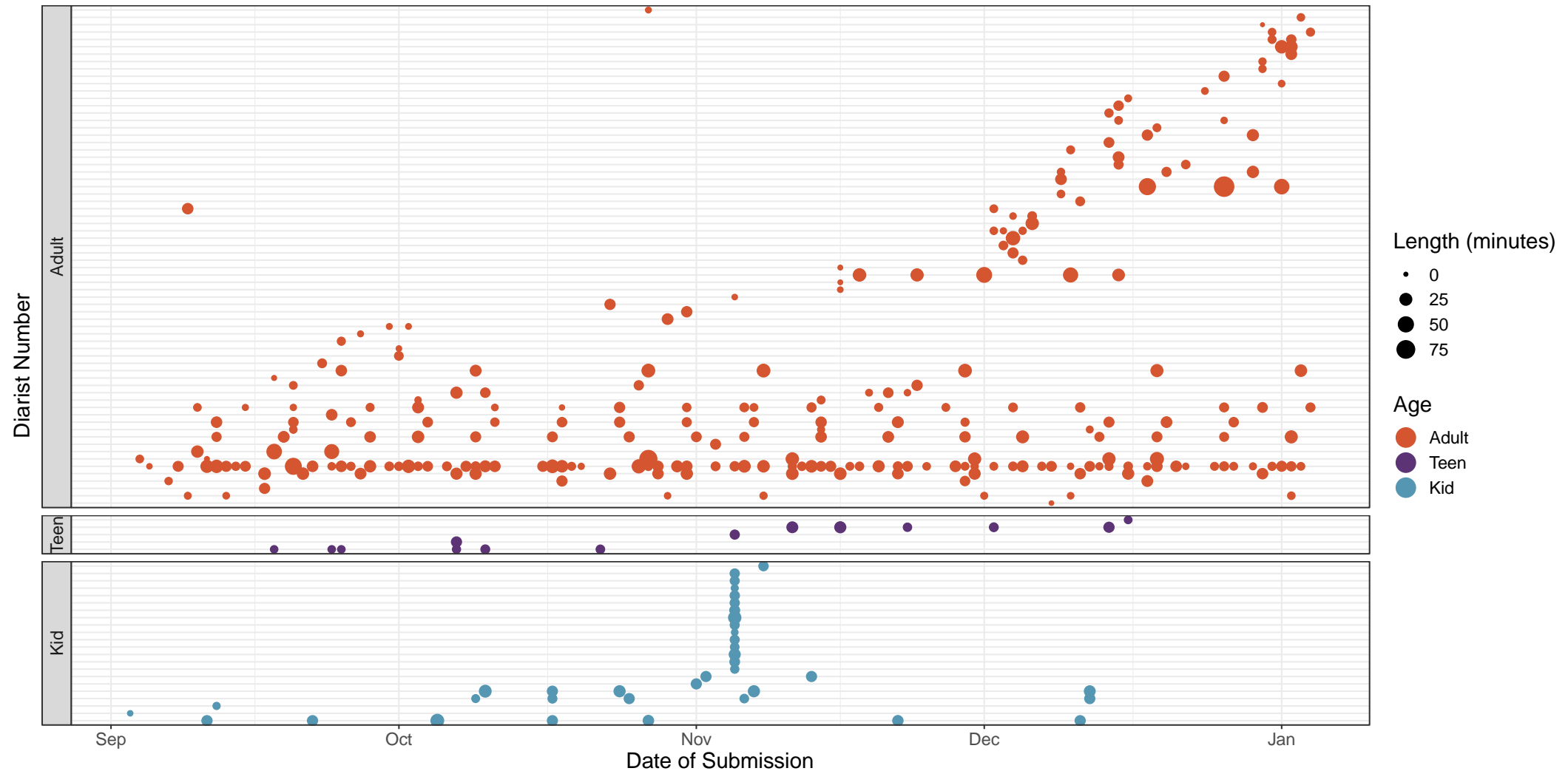
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MI Diaries

Regular diary entries from 95 diarists



Participant demographics

