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Appendix: Questions asked in the survey used for this research

Domain	Variable	Measures ^a
Socio-demographics	Date of birth	Numerical input
	Sex	Male Female
	Population group ^b	Black African Coloured White [Asian/other]
	Province residing in	Eastern Cape Free State Gauteng KwaZulu-Natal Mpumalanga Limpopo Northern Cape North West Western Cape
	Aged 70+, serious medical condition or immunocompromised	Yes No
	COVID-19 pandemic restrictions at the time of completing the survey ^c	1 - Total restriction 2 - Very restricted 3 - Moderate restriction 4 - Limited restriction 5 - Social distancing only 6 - No restriction
	What was your employment status before the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. before the COVID-19 restrictions)?	Working full-time Working part-time Self-employed / contractor [A student / A homemaker / Unemployed / Unable to work due to disability / Volunteer] Retired
	How has your work status currently been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions?	I am considered an essential worker Able to work remotely I am unable to transition to work my usual role remotely I have lost income Change of employer or position
Alcohol purchasing	During 2019, where did you purchase alcohol from? You can tick more than one option.	Supermarkets Convenience stores Alcohol shops (not online) Online / home delivery

Domain	Variable	Measures ^a
		On-licences e.g. bars, pubs Unlicensed/illegal outlets Friends Haven't bought any alcohol
	During the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, where did you purchase alcohol from? You can tick more than one option.	Supermarkets Convenience stores Alcohol shops (not online) Online / home delivery On-licences e.g., bars, pubs Unlicensed/illegal outlets Friends Haven't bought any alcohol
	Did you purchase alcohol illegally during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions?	Yes No
	What type of alcohol have you, or your household, purchased online in 2019? You can tick more than one.	[Beer / Low-alcohol beer / Home-brewed beer / Traditional beer / Stout] [Wine / Sparkling wine] [Spirits / Homemade vodka / cocktails / Liqueurs / Shooters / Sherry, port or vermouth] [Ciders / Ready-to drinks / Alco-pops / Pre-mixed drinks]
	What type of alcohol have you, or your household, purchased online during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions? You can tick more than one.	[Beer / Low-alcohol beer / Home-brewed beer / Traditional beer / Stout] [Wine / Sparkling wine] [Spirits / Homemade vodka / Cocktails / Liqueurs / Shooters / Sherry, port or vermouth] [Ciders / Ready-to drinks / Alco-pops / Pre-mixed drinks]
	How long on average did it take for your alcohol to be delivered during 2019?	Less than 15 minutes 15 minutes to an hour 1 hour to 24 hours Between 1 to 2 days More than 2 days
	How long on average has it taken for your alcohol to be delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions?	Less than 15 minutes 15 minutes to an hour 1 hour to 24 hours Between 1 to 2 days More than 2 days
	If you are under 25, have you been asked to show age ID when online alcohol has been delivered during 2019?	Often / Sometimes Never
	If you are under 25, have you been asked to show age ID when online alcohol has been delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions?	Often / Sometimes Never
	How many ads for online alcohol delivery did you notice during 2019?	A lot of ads per day Some ads per day A few ads per day No ads

Domain	Variable	Measures ^a
	How many ads for online alcohol delivery have you noticed during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions?	A lot of ads per day Some ads per day A few ads per day No ads
	If your alcohol has run out while you were in the middle of drinking, have you sometimes ordered more alcohol online to keep drinking during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions?	Often / Sometimes Never Not applicable
	Have the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions affected your, or your household's, alcohol purchasing behaviour in the following ways?	Switched to purchasing online Purchasing more alcohol than usual during the restrictions Less money to purchase alcohol Purchasing less alcohol than usual during the restrictions No longer purchasing alcohol
	During the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, was/is it easier to get alcohol delivered online than fresh food/groceries?	Easier Haven't noticed any difference More difficult
	How often during 2019 did you have a drink containing alcohol?	Once or more per day 1–6 times a week 1–4 times per month Less than once a month 1–3 times per year Didn't drink
	How often during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have you had a drink containing alcohol?	Once or more per day 1–6 times a week 1–4 times per month Less than once a month 1–3 times per year Didn't drink
	I would like you to think of one drinking occasion that would be most typical of your drinking during 2019. Can you tell me what you would be drinking on this typical occasion?	[Beer / Low-alcohol beer / Stout Home-brewed beer / Traditional beer] [Wine / Sparkling wine] [Spirits / Cocktails / Liqueurs / Shooters / Sherry / Port / Vermouth] Homemade vodka [Ciders / Ready-to drinks / Alco-pops / Pre-mixed drinks]
	I would like you to think of one drinking occasion that would be most typical of your drinking during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Can you tell me what you would be drinking on this typical occasion?	[Beer / Low-alcohol beer / Stout Home-brewed beer / Traditional beer] [Wine / Sparkling wine] [Spirits / Cocktails / Liqueurs / Shooters / Sherry / Port/ Vermouth] Homemade vodka [Ciders / Ready-to drinks / Alco-pops / Pre-mixed drinks]
	How often did you have 6 or more drinks of alcohol on a single occasion in 2019?	Daily Weekly Monthly Less than monthly Never

Domain	Variable	Measures ^a
	How often did you have 6 or more drinks of alcohol on a single occasion in during the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions?	Daily Weekly Monthly Less than monthly Never

^aSquare brackets [] indicate the variables that were combined into one variable.

^bThese terms originate from the apartheid era. They refer to demographic markers and do not signify inherent characteristics. They refer to people of European, African, Asian and mixed (African, European and/or Asian) ancestry, respectively. These markers were chosen for their historical significance. Their continued use in South Africa is important for monitoring improvements in health and socio-economic disparities, identifying vulnerable sections of the population, and planning effective prevention and intervention programs.

^c1 = Stay at home – cannot leave house (or only with permission for essentials). 2 = Stay at home – can leave for food/medical/exercise. Non-essential businesses/schools are closed. Public gatherings banned. Physical distancing required. 3 = Stay at home – can interact with a few people outside your household. Some businesses are open. School may/may not be open. Public gatherings banned. Physical distancing required. 4 = Most businesses, schools, workplaces open, gatherings of people allowed but size restricted, physical distancing required. 5 = Physical distancing only required. 6 = Life as normal.