

Covid-19: Global attitudes towards a COVID-19 vaccine

► **Report** November 2020

Insights and trends in people's behaviours related to COVID-19. Brought to you by a team of health and behavioural experts at the Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) at Imperial College London and YouGov. These reports are created on a regular basis, following new survey results.

Key insights from this report

This report looks at attitudes towards a COVID-19 vaccine in 15 countries between November 11th and November 24th, 2020. Countries included are Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The total sample is of ~13,500 people.

Key takeaways include the following:

- Only 51% of all respondents reported being willing to get vaccinated for COVID-19 in 2021 – this drops to 41% if asked about getting the vaccine the week they took the survey.
 - There is significant variation across countries. 65% of respondents in the UK reported being willing to get vaccinated in 2021, whereas this figure was only 35% for France.
- Over half of respondents (54%) reported being worried about possible side-effects from a COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Here, again, there is significant variation across countries. Spain and France reported the highest levels of concern, with 67% and 66% of respondents, respectively, agreeing that they are worried about potential side effects. The United Kingdom and Denmark reported the lowest levels of concern, with 31% and 29%, respectively, disagreeing with that statement.
- 43% of those surveyed stated they were worried about contracting COVID-19. 57% either do not worry or appear undecided about their level of worry.
- Large proportions of people do not appear to have firmly held attitudes about whether vaccines will provide complete protection (40%) or prevent transmission (40%). Significant proportions also do not appear to have firmly held attitudes about government health authority's ability to provide a vaccine (31%) or about whether or not they might regret receiving a vaccine (31%).

There is an opportunity for governments to work on communication and deployment strategies that can influence these attitudes, particularly those of the undecided groups, to increase the willingness of people to get the vaccine once it's available.

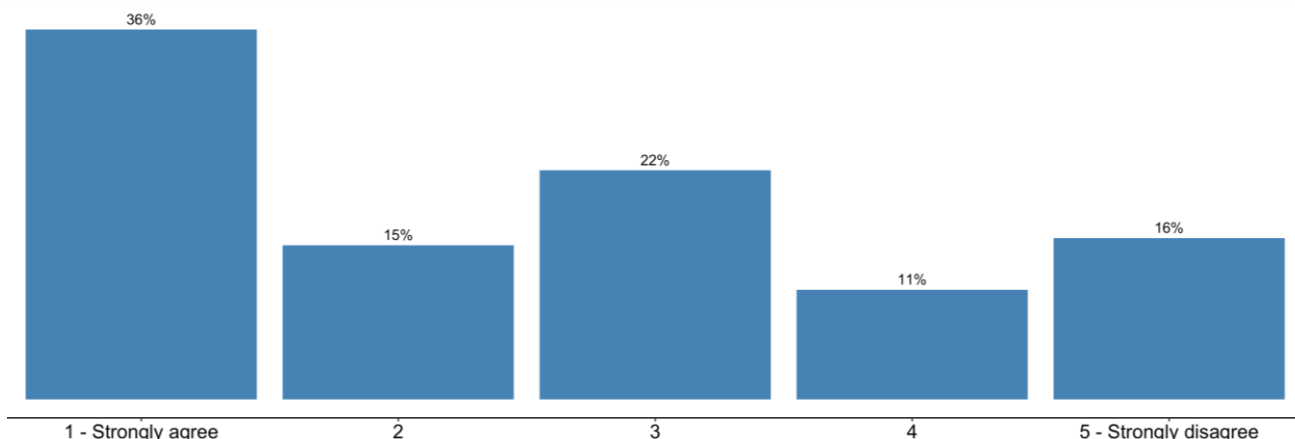
All of the survey responses were captured before countries started to approve the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. It will be important to look at how attitudes changed in light of this.

How willing are people to get the COVID-19 vaccine next year?

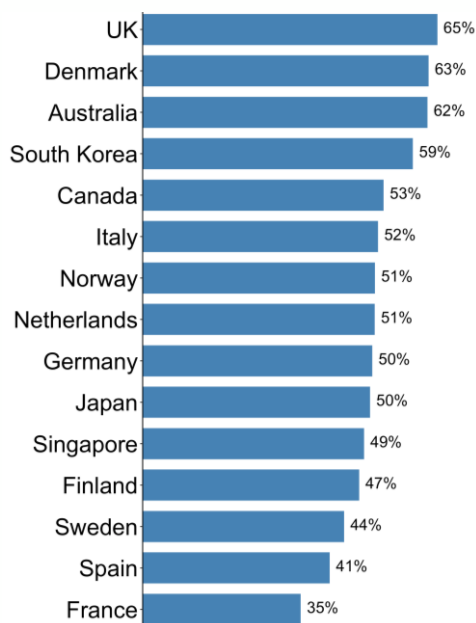
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

Respondents are more willing to get a COVID-19 vaccine if made available next year than this week. 51% of people reported they are strongly or somewhat willing to get the vaccine and 27% reported they are strongly or somewhat unwilling. The United Kingdom reported the highest levels of agreement (65%), whereas France reported the highest levels of disagreement (41%).

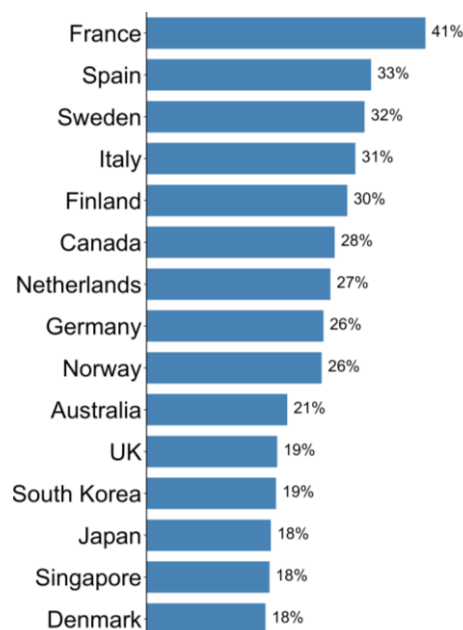
To what extent do you agree or disagree that if a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to you in 2021, you definitely intend to get it?



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat agree' (%)



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat disagree' (%)

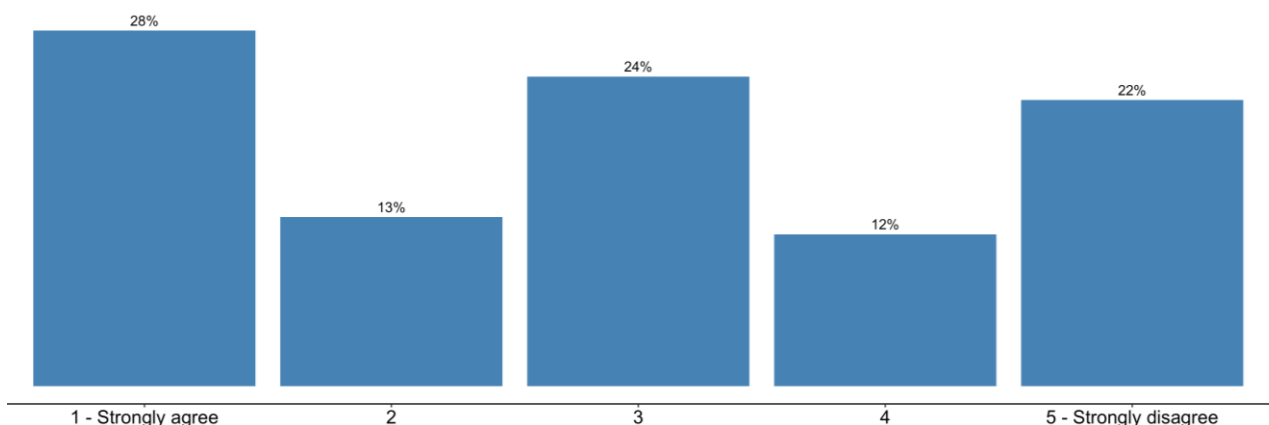


How willing are people to get the COVID-19 vaccine if made available the week of the survey?

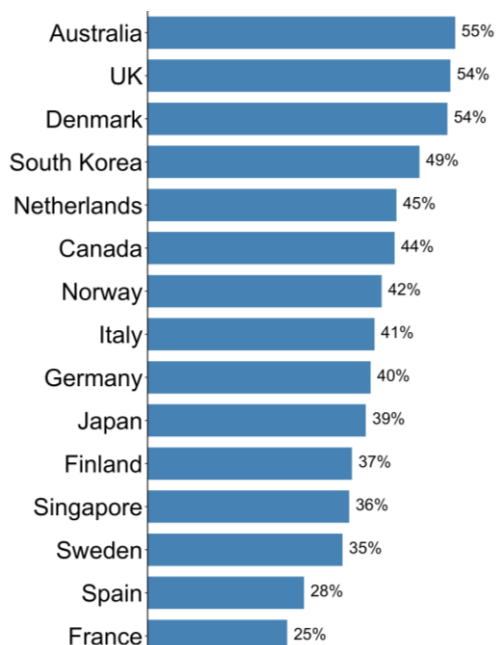
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

Across all countries surveyed, the willingness to get a COVID-19 vaccine if made available the week of the survey is lower than the willingness to get it in 2021 (41% vs 51%). The country with the highest rate of willingness to get the vaccine on the week of the survey is Australia at 55%. France reported the highest rate of unwillingness at 56%.

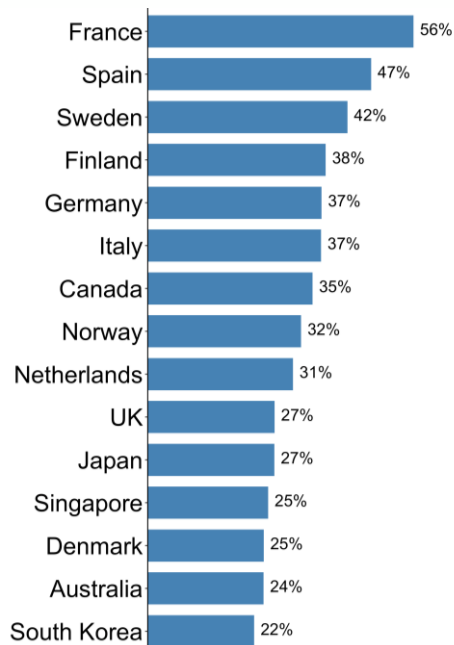
To what extent do you agree or disagree that if a COVID-19 vaccine were made available to you this week, you would definitely get it?



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat agree' (%)



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat disagree' (%)

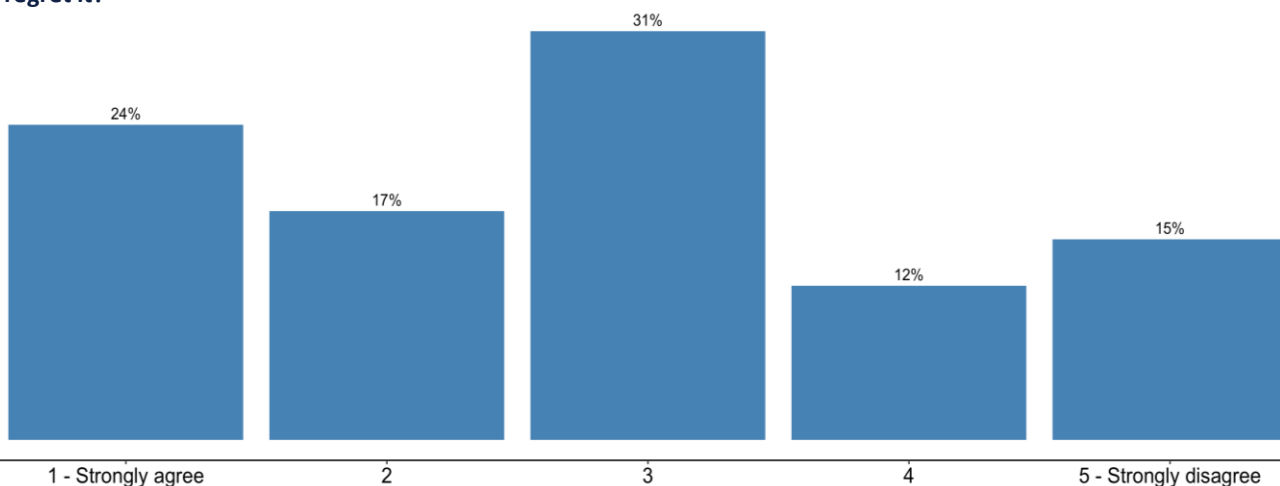


How much do people feel they will regret not getting a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available?

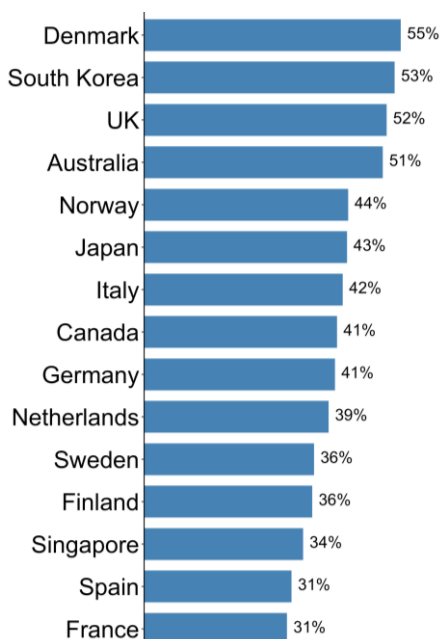
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

41% of people reported they would strongly or somewhat regret not getting a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available, compared to only 27% who reported strongly or somewhat not regret getting a vaccine. Denmark reported the highest share of respondents who said they would regret not getting it (55%), whereas France reported the highest share of respondents who said they would not regret it (40%).

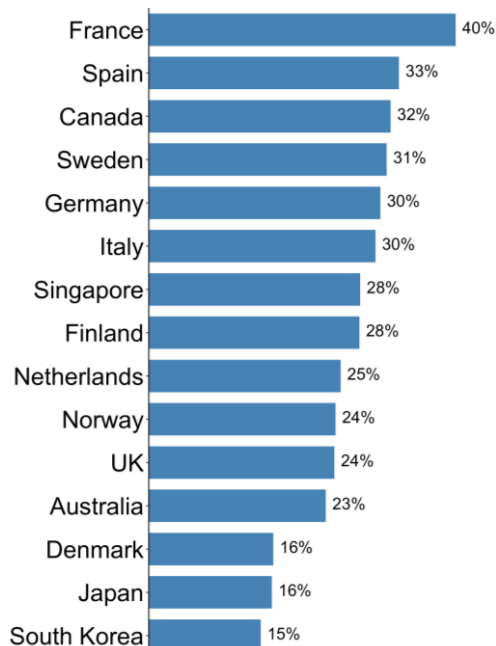
To what extent do you agree or disagree that if you do not get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available, you will regret it?



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat agree' (%)



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat disagree' (%)

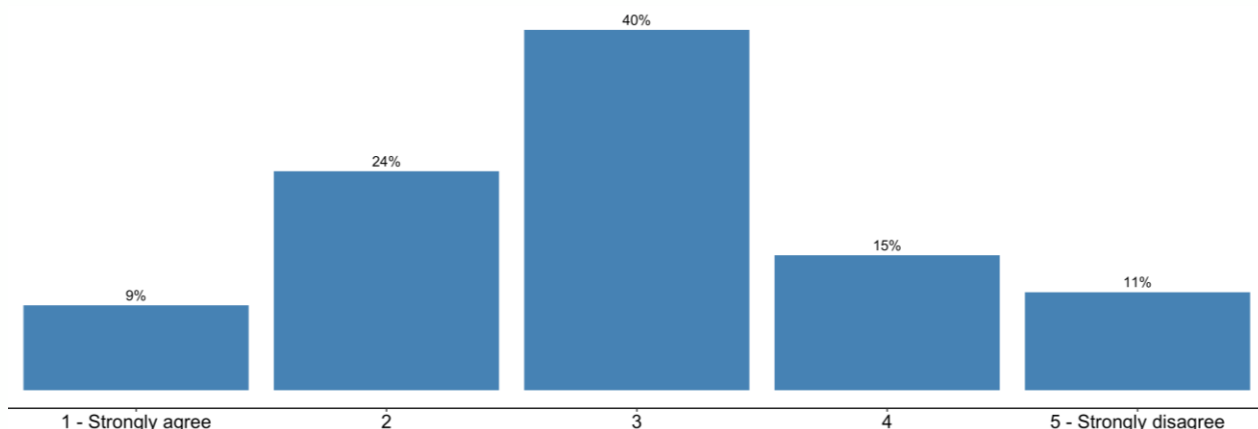


How strongly do people believe a COVID-19 vaccine will offer complete protection to those who receive it?

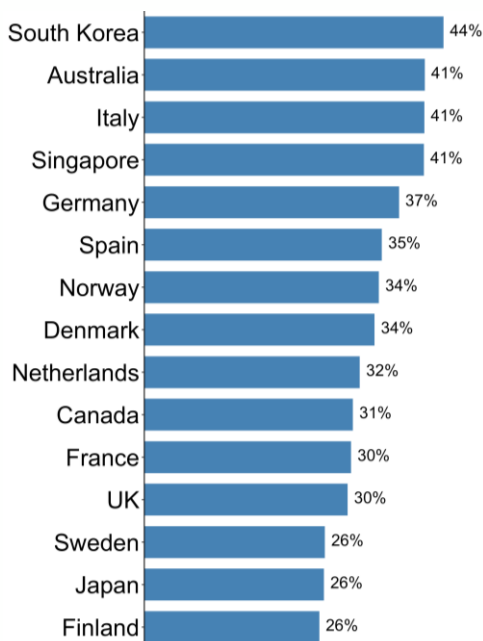
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

Attitudes towards the protection offered by the vaccine are less polarizing than people's willingness to get it; 40% of people report they neither agree nor disagree that the COVID-19 vaccine will offer complete protection to those who receive it. South Korea reported the highest levels of agreement with 44%, whereas Finland reported the highest levels of disagreement with 32%.

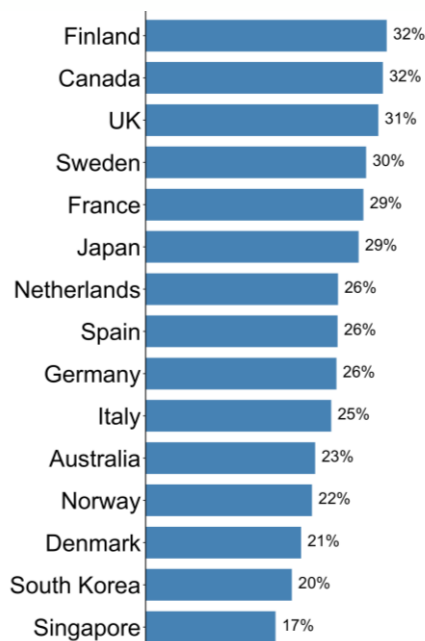
To what extent do you agree or disagree that a vaccine will completely protect those who receive it from possible health effects of COVID-19?



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat agree' (%)



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat disagree' (%)

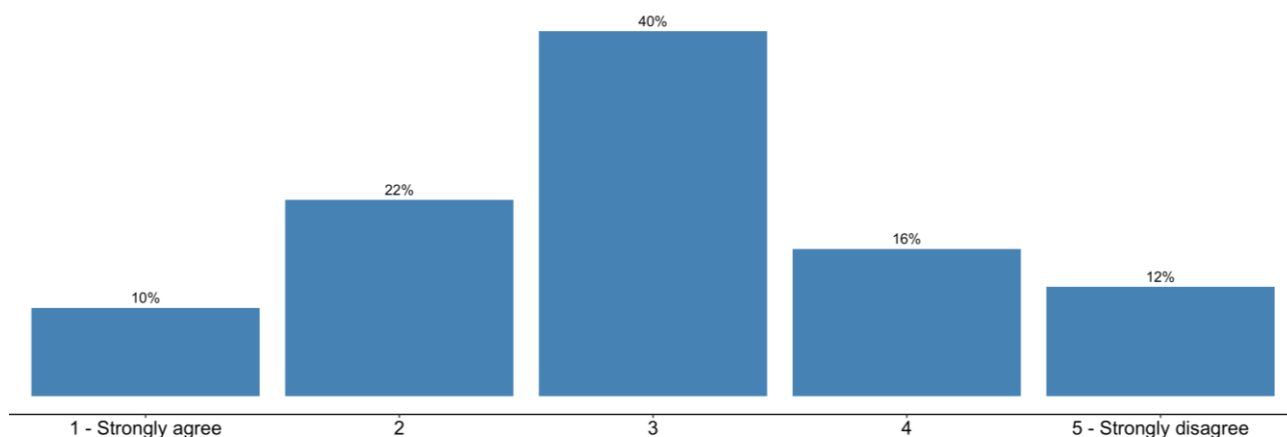


How strongly do people believe a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent transmission of COVID-19 by those who receive it?

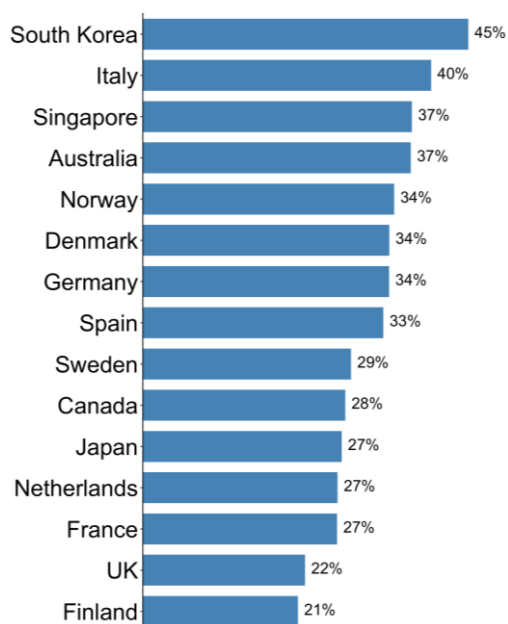
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

40% of people report they neither agree nor disagree that the COVID-19 vaccine will prevent transmission of COVID-19 by those who receive it. South Korea and Italy reported the highest levels of agreement (45% and 40%, respectively), whereas the United Kingdom and Finland reported the highest levels of disagreement (38% and 37%, respectively).

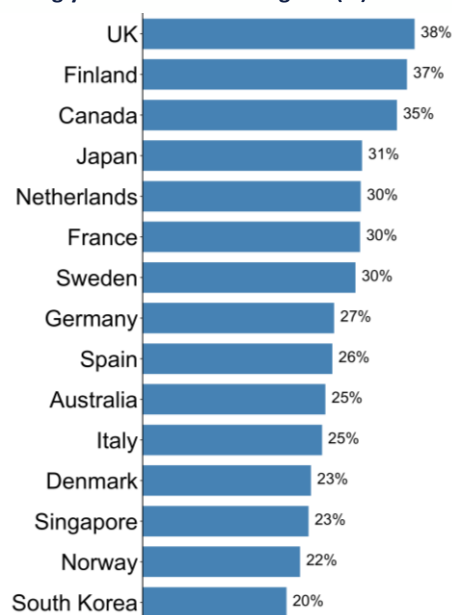
To what extent do you agree or disagree that a vaccine will completely prevent those who receive it from transmitting COVID-19 to others?



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat agree' (%)



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat disagree' (%)

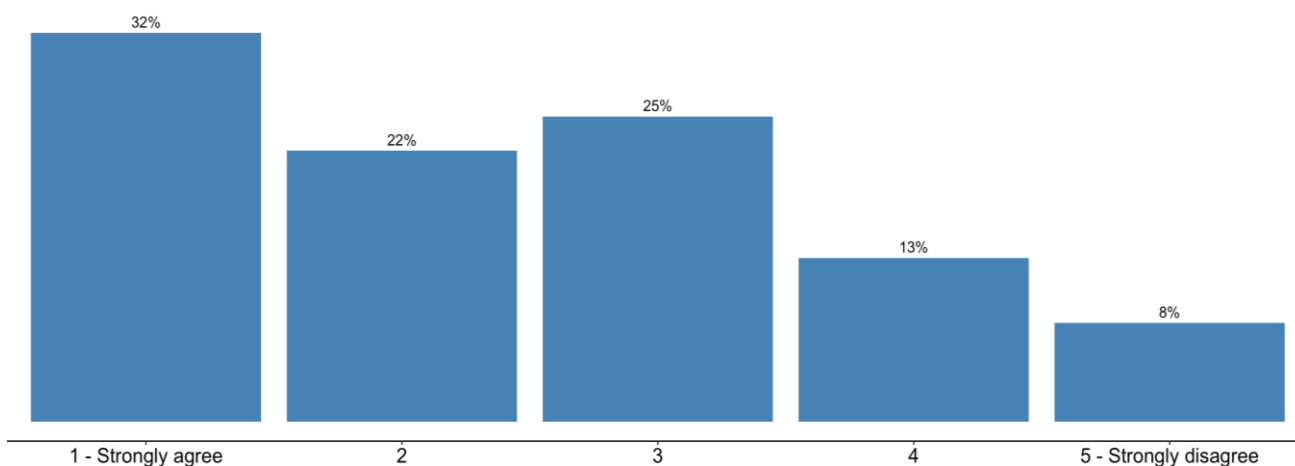


How concerned are people about possible side-effects from a COVID-19 vaccine?

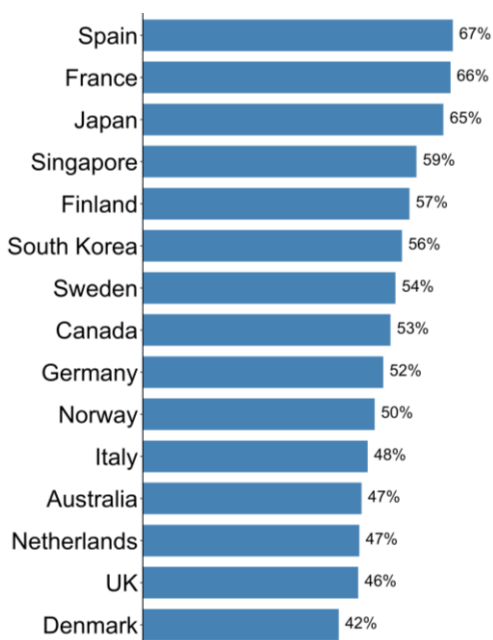
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

Over half of respondents (54%) reported being worried about possible side-effects from a COVID-19 vaccine. Spain and France reported the highest levels of concern, with 67% and 66% of respondents agreeing that they are worried about potential side effects. The United Kingdom and Denmark reported the lowest levels of concern, with 31% and 29% disagreeing that they are worried about potential side effects.

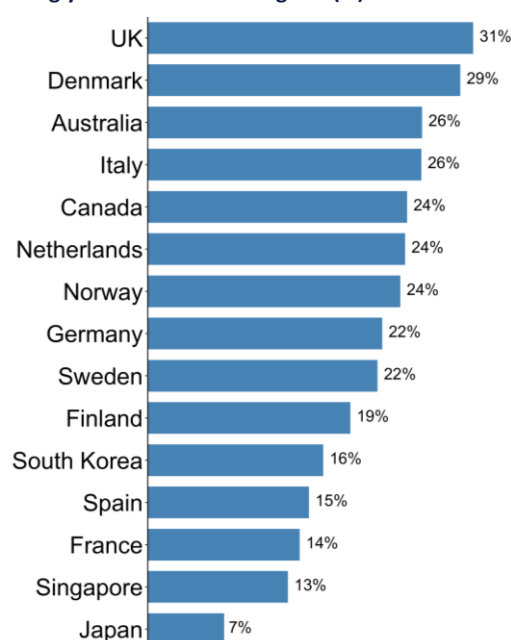
To what extent do you agree or disagree that you are worried about potential side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine?



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat agree' (%)



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat disagree' (%)

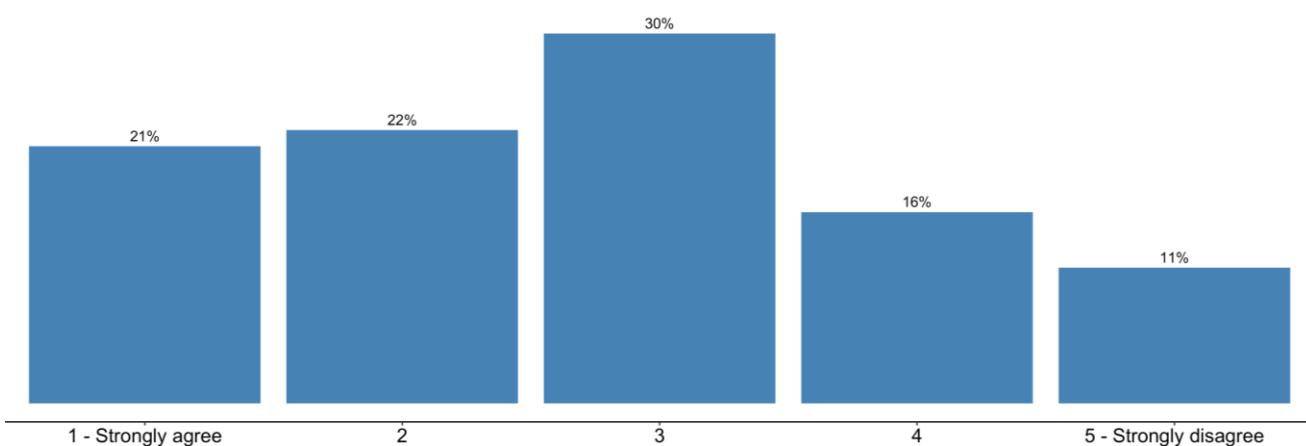


How worried are people about contracting COVID-19?

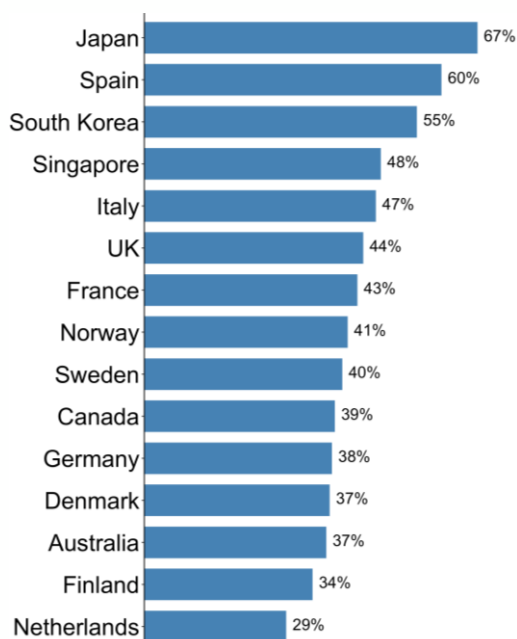
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

43% of people responded they are strongly or somewhat worried about contracting COVID-19, compared to 27% who stated they are strongly or somewhat not worried. Japan reported the largest percentage of respondents worried (67%) while Australia reported the largest percentage with little to no worry (36%).

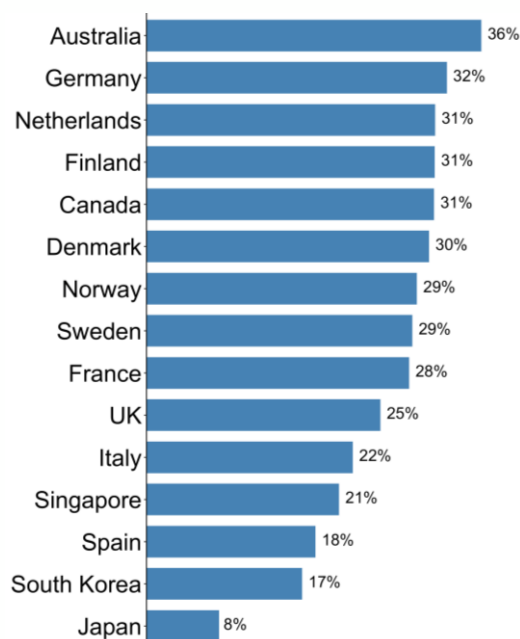
To what extent do you agree or disagree that you are worried about getting COVID-19?



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat agree' (%)



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat disagree' (%)

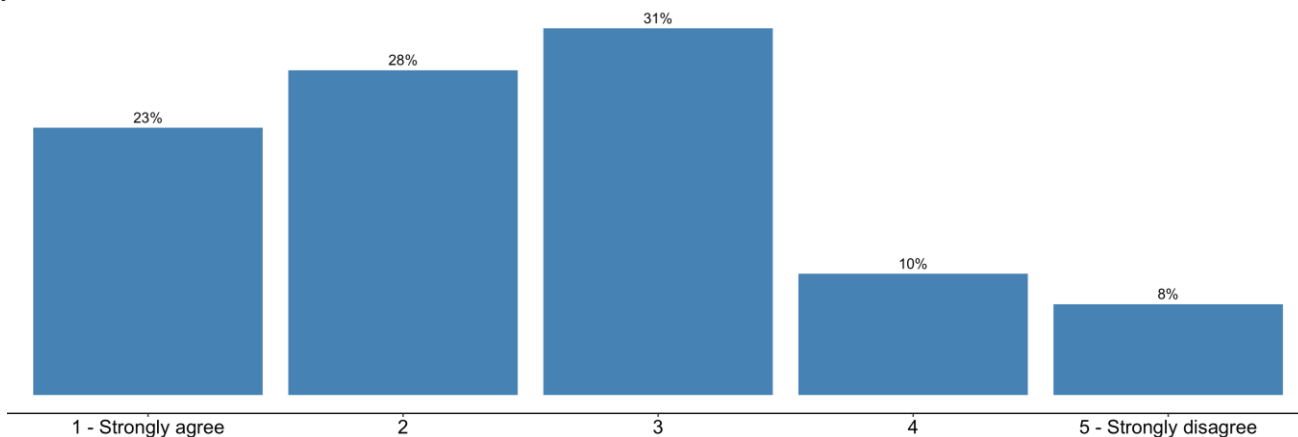


How much do people believe in government health authorities' ability to provide an effective COVID-19 vaccine?

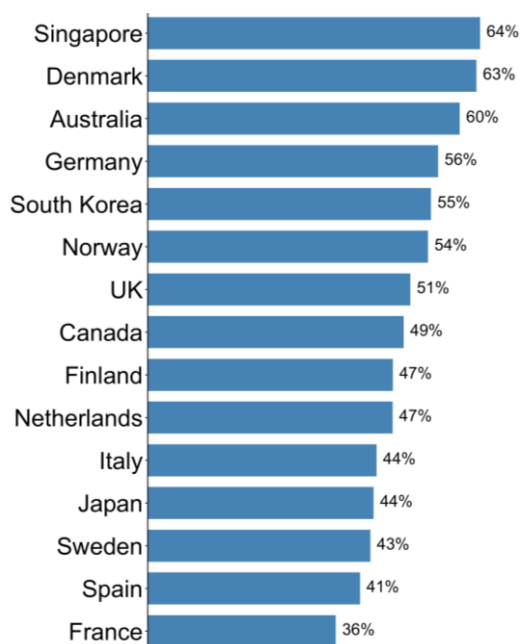
These graphs show the extent to which people agree and a country breakdown of responses

There are signs of overall positive sentiment towards the government health authorities' ability to provide an effective COVID-19 vaccine: 51% of people strongly or somewhat agree they will provide one, and 18% strongly or somewhat disagree. Singapore and Denmark report the highest levels of agreement with 64% and 63% respectively, whereas France and Spain report the highest levels of disagreement with 27% each.

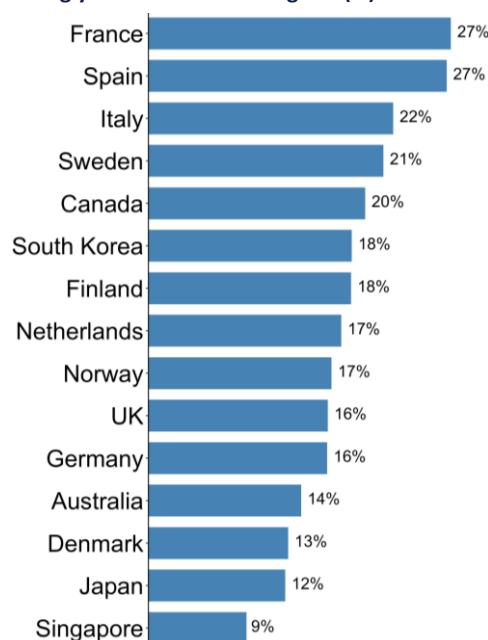
To what extent do you agree or disagree that you believe government health authorities in your country will provide you with an effective COVID-19 vaccine?



Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat agree' (%)



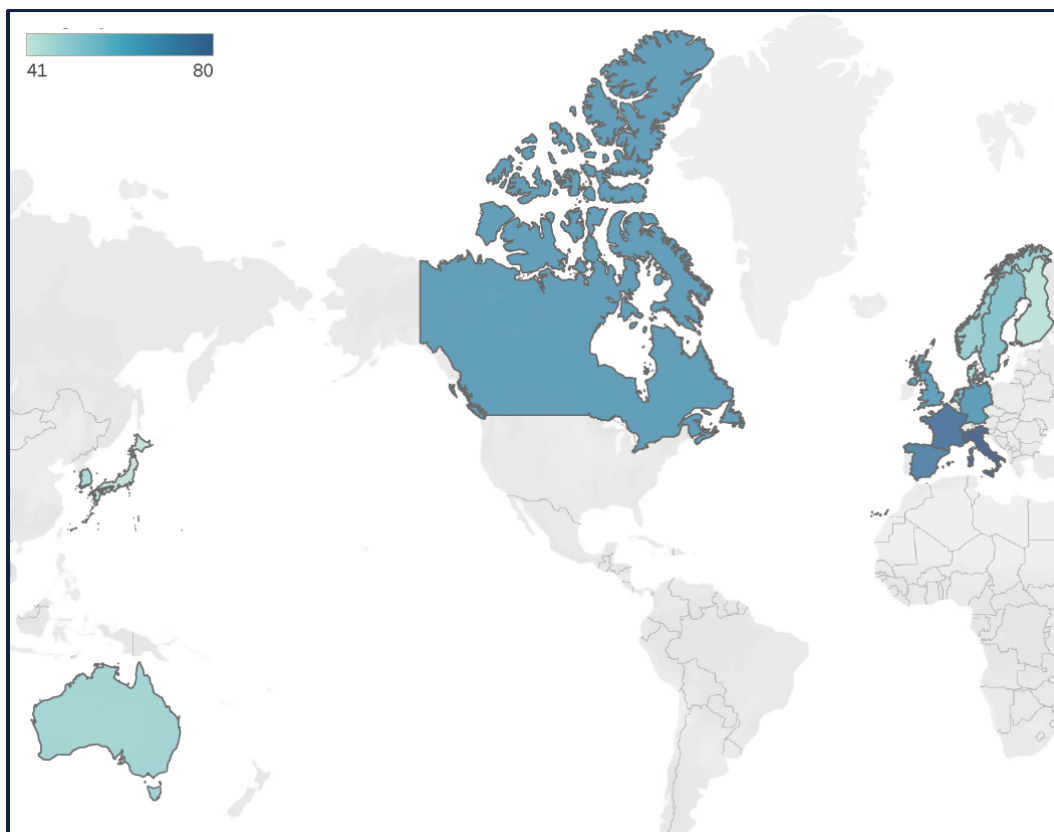
Country breakdown of respondents who answered 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat disagree' (%)



How do government responses compare between countries surveyed?

This map highlights the government stringency score across all countries surveyed.

As of November 30th, Italy had the most stringent government, while Japan had the least stringent. The University of Oxford's Government Stringency Index is a measure of the number and severity of measures put in place by the governments to address the COVID-19 pandemic.



<i>Italy</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Canada</i>
80	75	71	65	64
<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Singapore</i>	<i>Norway</i>
64	56	54	53	49
<i>Australia</i>	<i>South Korea</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Finland</i>	<i>Japan</i>
47	46	45	42	41

Countries included in this report

This table shows the countries included in this report, dates of the survey and the number of participants

This report looks at all countries surveyed mid-November, 2020. The table below indicates the survey dates and the number of respondents per country.

Country	Survey date	Number of Participants
Australia	11 th November – 17 th November	1001
Canada	11 th November – 24 th November	1003
Denmark	11 th November – 16 th November	1006
Finland	11 th November – 17 th November	1001
France	11 th November – 14 th November	1000
Germany	11 th November – 17 th November	1000
Italy	11 th November – 17 th November	1005
Japan	11 th November – 16 th November	505
Netherlands	11 th November – 18 th November	509
Norway	11 th November – 18 th November	1001
Singapore	11 th November – 18 th November	1000
South Korea	11 th November – 20 th November	499
Spain	11 th November – 16 th November	1009
Sweden	11 th November – 16 th November	1001
United Kingdom	11 th November – 16 th November	1005

About this report

Led by Imperial College London's Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) and YouGov

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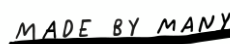
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Realised by



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The Imperial College London - YouGov team wishes to express their grateful support to Stephan Shakespeare, Marcus Roberts, Alex MacIntosh, Chris Curtis, Eir Nolsoe, Sharon Paculor, Lenny Naar, Alice Blencowe, Steve Adams from Visual DJ Ltd. and volunteers from Made by Many: Rebecca Foy, Anna Pagan, Gareth Cozens, Callum Jefferies, Neethu Mathew, Micha Nicheva, Kristof Goossens

Supporters



This research is made possible by generous support for the public good from YouGov Plc.

The Imperial College London - YouGov team gratefully acknowledges the kind support of Edelman Intelligence for their global social listening contribution

Question for the research team? Get in touch [here](#)

Press enquiry? Contact Dr. Justine Alford at j.alford@imperial.ac.uk

For more behavioural data on a global level, visit coviddatahub.com to explore our interactive charts

The [CovidDataHub.com](https://coviddatahub.com) project is a joint collaboration between the Institute of Global Health Innovation (IGHI) at Imperial College London and YouGov Plc to gather global insights on people's behaviours and life satisfaction in response to COVID-19. The research covers 29 countries, areas or territories and surveys are conducted on a regular basis since the first week of April.

This report is designed to provide insights on how different populations are responding to the pandemic, helping public health bodies in their efforts to limit the impact of the disease. Anonymized respondent level data is generously made available for all public health and academic institutions globally by YouGov Plc at our [GitHub site](#).

In collaboration with