Imperial College London

Covid-19:
Perceptions of Contact Tracing
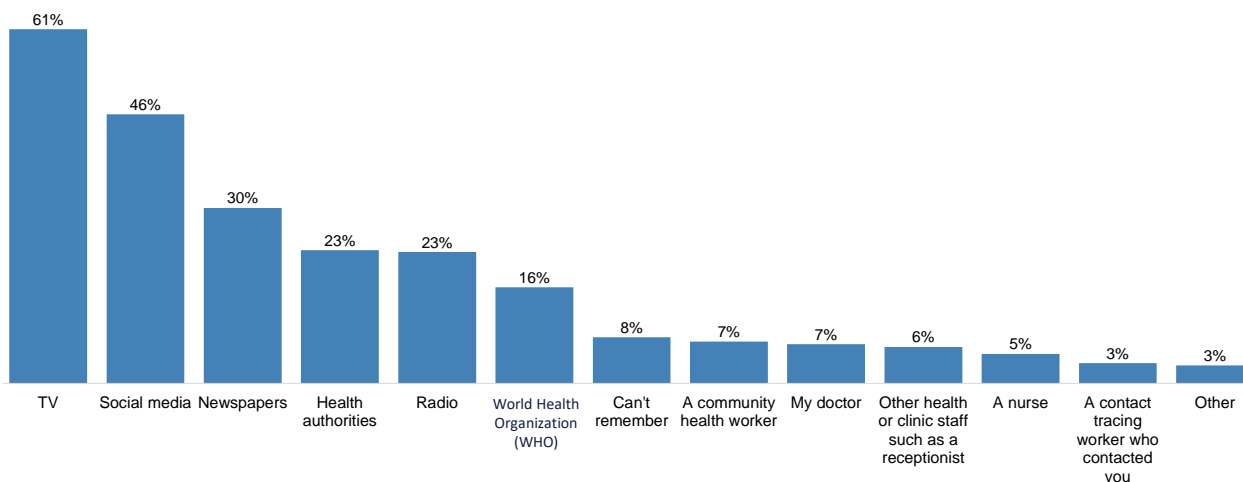# Global Report

◤ **Report**   August 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.

**Institute of
Global Health Innovation**

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What is the most common source of information on contact tracing?
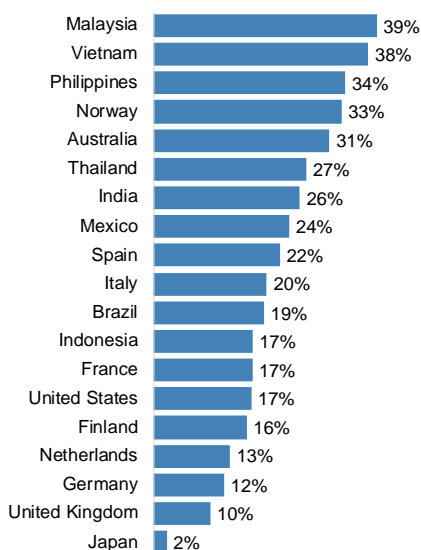
These graphs show the most popular sources of information on contact tracing and a country breakdown for select responses

61% of global respondents stated that they have heard about contact tracing on TV, making it the most popular source. Malaysia has the highest share of respondents who receive information on contact tracing from their health authorities while the Philippines has the highest share of respondents who heard about contact tracing from the World Health Organization (WHO).
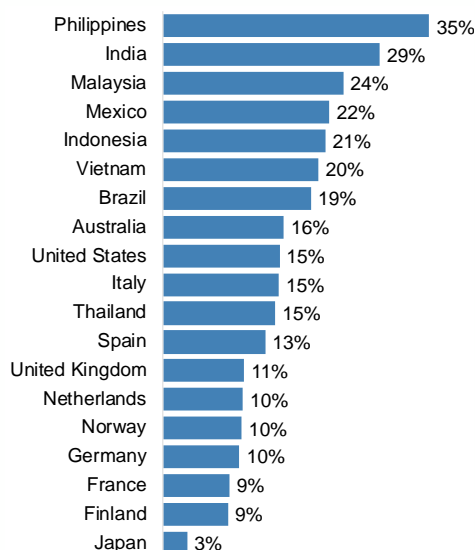
From where have you heard about contact tracing? (%)

Source	%
TV	61%
Social media	46%
Newspapers	30%
Health authorities	23%
Radio	23%
World Health Organization (WHO)	16%
Can't remember	8%
A community health worker	7%
My doctor	7%
Other health or clinic staff such as a receptionist	6%
A nurse	5%
A contact tracing worker who contacted you	3%
Other	3%

Share of those who answered 'Yes' to 'Health authorities' in each country (%)

Country	%
Malaysia	39%
Vietnam	38%
Philippines	34%
Norway	33%
Australia	31%
Thailand	27%
India	26%
Mexico	24%
Spain	22%
Italy	20%
Brazil	19%
Indonesia	17%
France	17%
United States	17%
Finland	16%
Netherlands	13%
Germany	12%
United Kingdom	10%
Japan	2%

Share of those who answered 'Yes' to 'World Health Organization (WHO)' in each country (%)

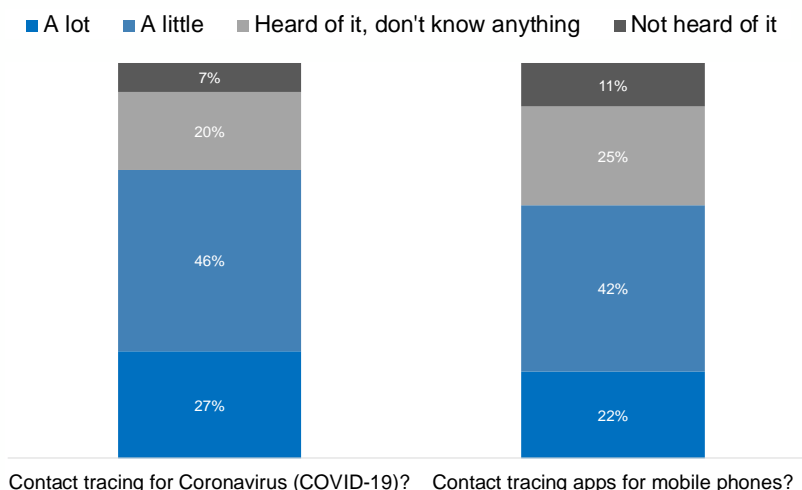| Country	%
Philippines	35%
India	29%
Malaysia	24%
Mexico	22%
Indonesia	21%
Vietnam	20%
Brazil	19%
Australia	16%
United States	15%
Italy	15%
Thailand	15%
Spain	13%
United Kingdom	11%
Netherlands	10%
Norway	10%
Germany	10%
France	9%
Finland	9%
Japan	3%

India is representative of the 'urban online population'. All other countries, areas or territories are representative of the national population

Compare your data with that of 19 other countries, areas or territories on coviddatahub.com

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How much do people know about contact tracing and how likely would they be to participate?
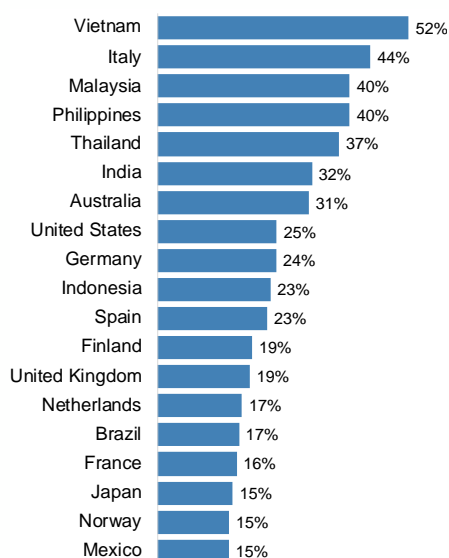
These graphs show awareness of contact tracing globally and by country

Over 70% of global respondents stated they know about contact tracing, with only 7% stating they had not heard of it. 22% of respondents stated they knew a lot about mobile phone contact tracing apps and 11% stated they had not heard of it. Vietnam has the highest share of respondents who have heard a lot about contact tracing while Indonesia has the highest share of those who have not heard about it at all.
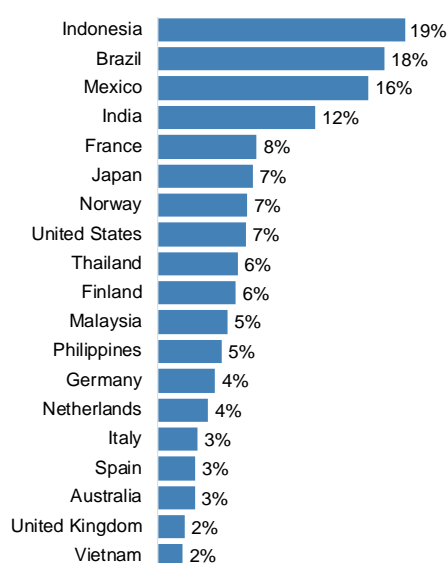
How much do you know about…? (%)

- A lot
- A little
- Heard of it, don't know anything
- Not heard of it

Contact tracing for Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

	Contact tracing for Coronavirus (COVID-19)?	Contact tracing apps for mobile phones?
Not heard of it	7%	11%
Heard of it, don't know anything	20%	25%
A little	46%	42%
A lot	27%	22%

Contact tracing apps for mobile phones?

Share of respondents who answered they know 'a lot' about contact tracing for COVID-19 by country (%)

Vietnam	52%
Italy	44%
Malaysia	40%
Philippines	40%
Thailand	37%
India	32%
Australia	31%
United States	25%
Germany	24%
Indonesia	23%
Spain	23%
Finland	19%
United Kingdom	19%
Netherlands	17%
Brazil	17%
France	16%
Japan	15%
Norway	15%
Mexico	15%

Share of respondents who answered they have not heard of contact tracing for COVID-19 by country (%)

Indonesia	19%
Brazil	18%
Mexico	16%
India	12%
France	8%
Japan	7%
Norway	7%
United States	7%
Thailand	6%
Finland	6%
Malaysia	5%
Philippines	5%
Germany	4%
Netherlands	4%
Italy	3%
Spain	3%
Australia	3%
United Kingdom	2%
Vietnam	2%

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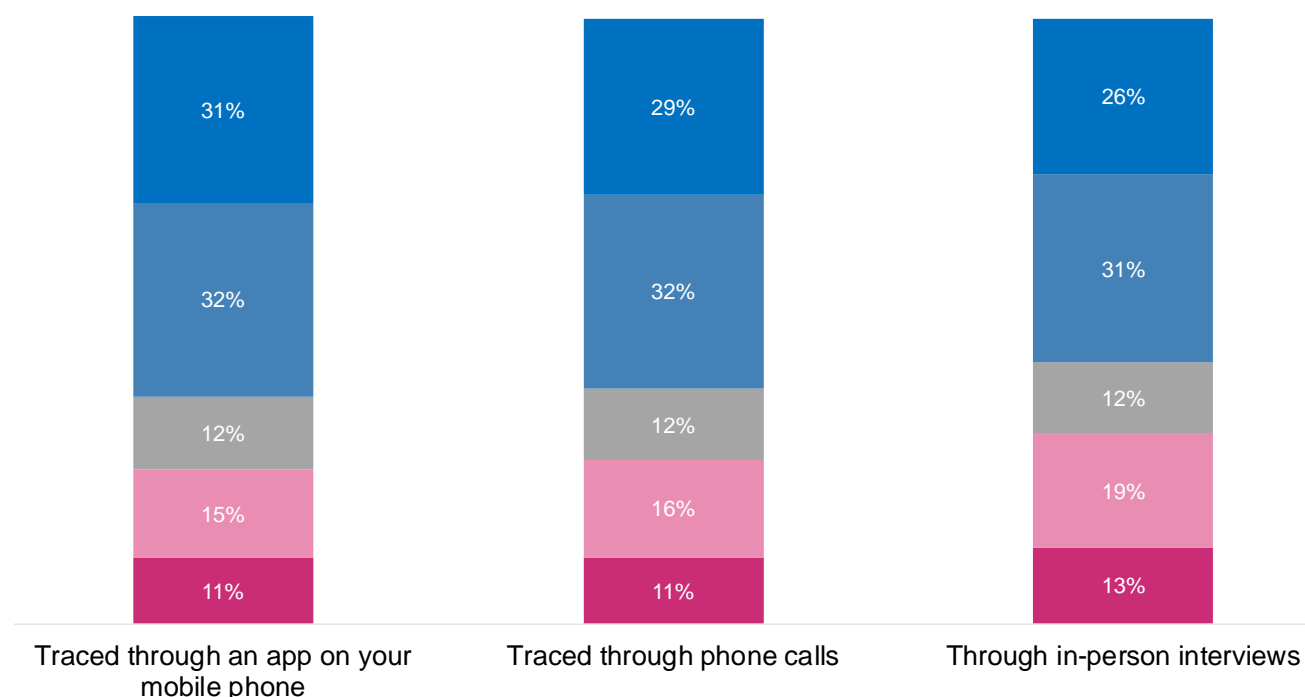
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What method of contact tracing are people likely to participate in?

These graphs show the likelihood of people to participate in contact tracing if contacted through phone calls, mobile phone apps or in-person interviews

Close to 60% of global respondents stated they are very or quite likely to participate in contact tracing if they were contacted through phone calls, using a mobile app or in-person interviews. 32% or fewer of the respondents were not very likely or not at all likely to participate in contact tracing regardless of the method used.

How likely or not would you be to participate in contact tracing if contacts were…? (%)

■ Not at all likely   ■ Not very likely   ■ Not sure   ■ Quite likely   ■ Very likely

|	Traced through an app on your mobile phone	Traced through phone calls	Through in-person interviews
Very likely	31%	29%	26%
Quite likely	32%	32%	31%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%
Not very likely	15%	16%	19%
Not at all likely	11%	11%	13%

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How willing are people to share information on their contacts?

These graphs shows how willing people are to share their contact information if they are contacted or if they test positive for COVID-19

Nearly 3 in 4 respondents (73%) are willing to provide contact information for contact tracing. 83% of respondents reported willingness to share the names of people they had been in contact with if they test positive for COVID-19. France has the highest share of respondents who are not willing to provide contact information and Brazil has the highest share of respondents who are not willing provide names of contacts if they test positive for COVID-19.
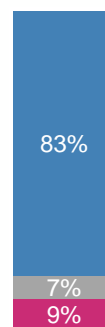
If you were contacted, would you be willing to provide contact information? (%)

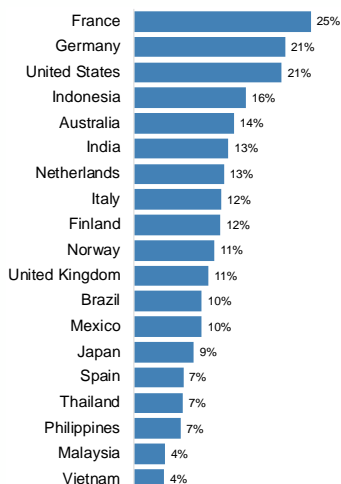■ **Don't know** ■ **No** ■ **Yes**
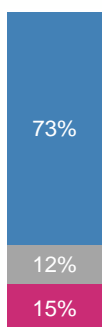
73%

12%

15%

If you tested positive for COVID-19 and are asked to share with health authorities the names of people you had been in contact with, would you share the names of all the people? (%)

■ **Not sure** ■ **No** ■ **Yes**

83%

7%

9%

Share of 'No' responses to 'If you were contacted, would you be willing to provide contact information' by country (%)

Country	%
France	25%
Germany	21%
United States	21%
Indonesia	16%
Australia	14%
India	13%
Netherlands	13%
Italy	12%
Finland	12%
Norway	11%
United Kingdom	11%
Brazil	10%
Mexico	10%
Japan	9%
Spain	7%
Thailand	7%
Philippines	7%
Malaysia	4%
Vietnam	4%

Share of 'No' responses to 'If you tested positive for COVID-19 and are asked to share with health authorities the names of people you had been in contact with, would you share the names of all the people?' by country (%)
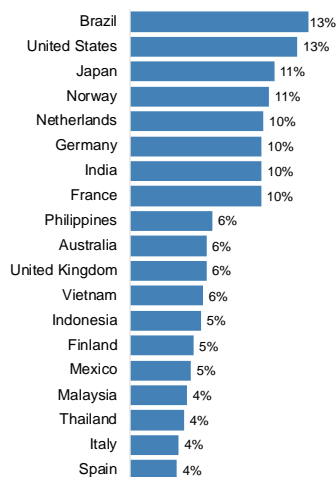
Country	%
Brazil	13%
United States	13%
Japan	11%
Norway	11%
Netherlands	10%
Germany	10%
India	10%
France	10%
Philippines	6%
Australia	6%
United Kingdom	6%
Vietnam	6%
Indonesia	5%
Finland	5%
Mexico	5%
Malaysia	4%
Thailand	4%
Italy	4%
Spain	4%

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Why are people unwilling to share their contact information?
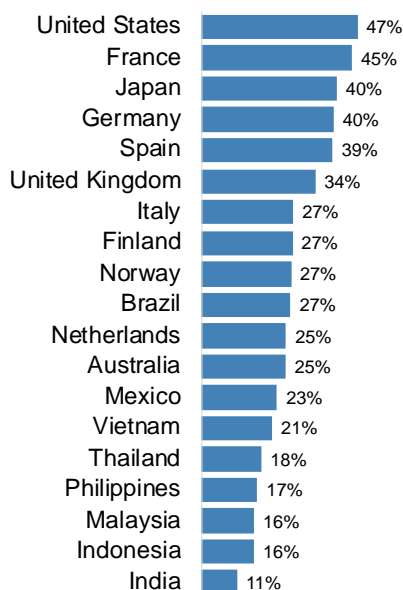
These graphs show reasons why respondents do not want to share their contact information and the country breakdown of the most common reasons

The main reason for not wanting to provide contact information is due to fears of government tracking. The United States has the highest share of respondents stating this reason (47%). The second most common reason is due to fears of technology companies tracking them. Mexico has the highest share of respondents stating this reason. The third most common reason is that respondents believe contact tracing does not help with the fight against COVID-19, with the Netherlands having the highest share of this response (25%).
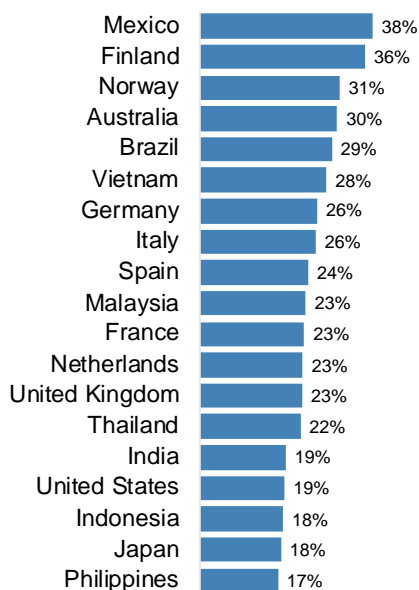
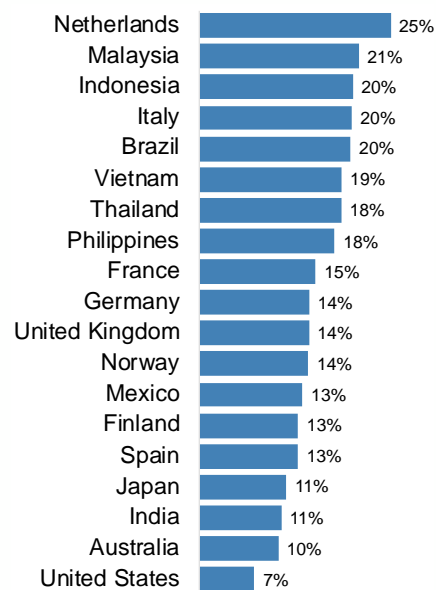**What is the main reason for NOT wanting to provide contact information? (%)**
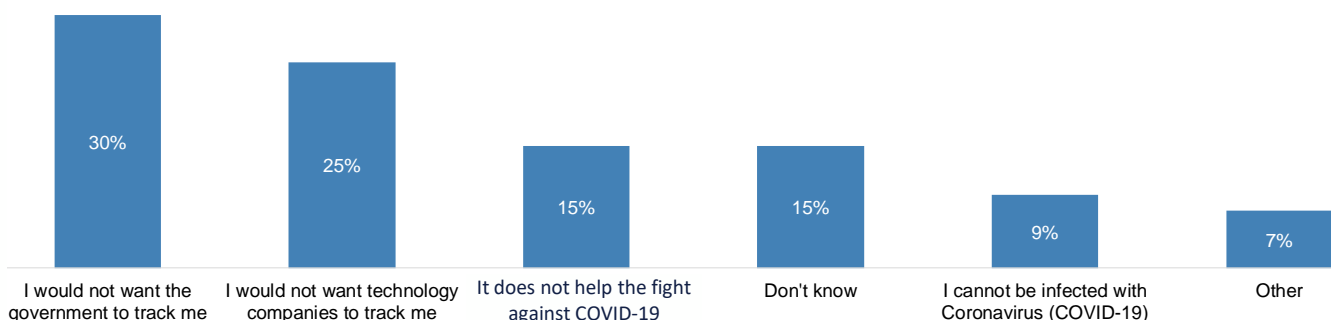
Reason	%
I would not want the government to track me	30%
I would not want technology companies to track me	25%
It does not help the fight against COVID-19	15%
Don't know	15%
I cannot be infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19)	9%
Other	7%

Share of respondents who answered, 'I would not want the government to track me' (%)

Country	%
United States	47%
France	45%
Japan	40%
Germany	40%
Spain	39%
United Kingdom	34%
Italy	27%
Finland	27%
Norway	27%
Brazil	27%
Netherlands	25%
Australia	25%
Mexico	23%
Vietnam	21%
Thailand	18%
Philippines	17%
Malaysia	16%
Indonesia	16%
India	11%

Share of respondents who answered, 'I would not want the technology companies to track me' (%)

Country	%
Mexico	38%
Finland	36%
Norway	31%
Australia	30%
Brazil	29%
Vietnam	28%
Germany	26%
Italy	26%
Spain	24%
Malaysia	23%
France	23%
Netherlands	23%
United Kingdom	23%
Thailand	22%
India	19%
United States	19%
Indonesia	18%
Japan	18%
Philippines	17%

Share of respondents who answered, 'It does not help the fight against COVID-19' (%)

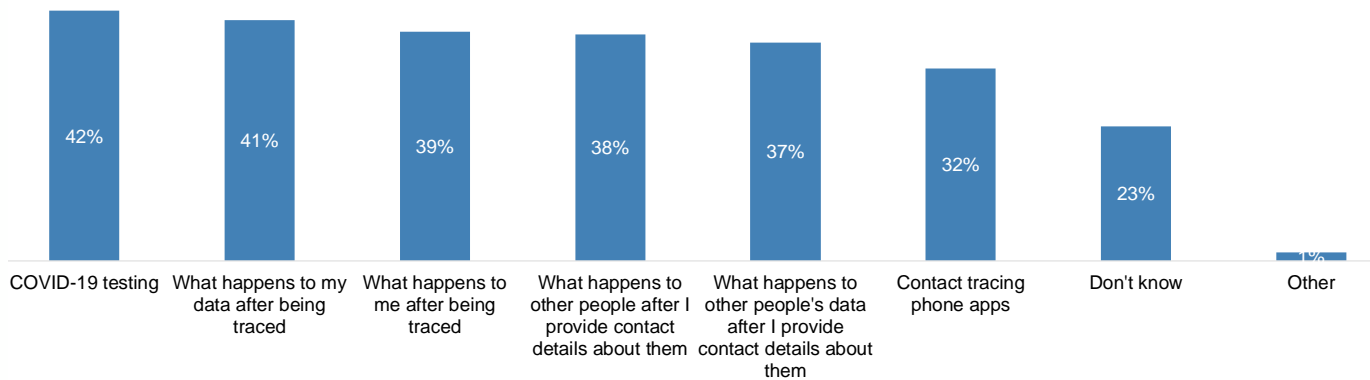| Country	%
Netherlands	25%
Malaysia	21%
Indonesia	20%
Italy	20%
Brazil	20%
Vietnam	19%
Thailand	18%
Philippines	18%
France	15%
Germany	14%
United Kingdom	14%
Norway	14%
Mexico	13%
Finland	13%
Spain	13%
Japan	11%
India	11%
Australia	10%
United States	7%

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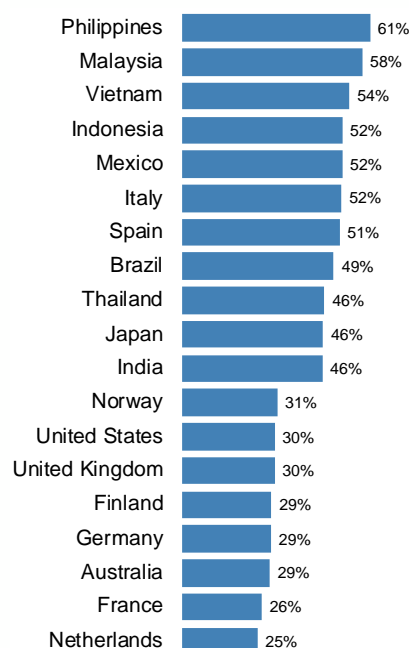# What contact tracing-related topic do people want more information on?

These graphs show contact tracing-related topics that people would want more information on and the country breakdown of the most popular response

42% of global respondents would like more information on COVID-19 testing, followed closely by information on the individual's data after being traced. The Philippines has the highest share of respondents who reported wanting more information on the topics of COVID-19 testing and their data once they have been traced.
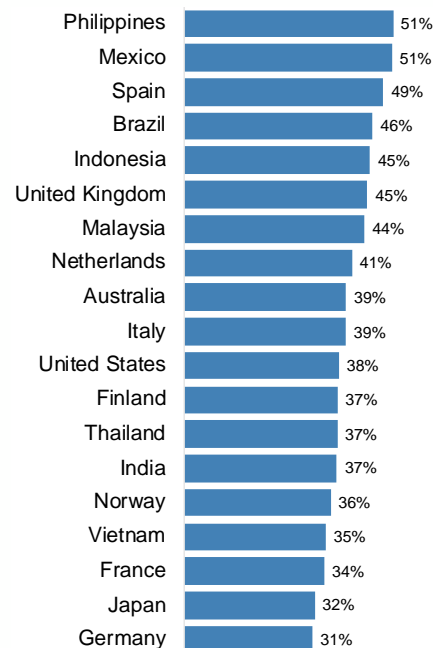
Which, if any, of the following topics related to contact tracing would you like to receive more information about? (%)

Topic	%
COVID-19 testing	42%
What happens to my data after being traced	41%
What happens to me after being traced	39%
What happens to other people after I provide contact details about them	38%
What happens to other people's data after I provide contact details about them	37%
Contact tracing phone apps	32%
Don't know	23%
Other	1%

Share of respondents who answered 'Yes' to 'COVID-19 testing' by country (%)

Country	%
Philippines	61%
Malaysia	58%
Vietnam	54%
Indonesia	52%
Mexico	52%
Italy	52%
Spain	51%
Brazil	49%
Thailand	46%
Japan	46%
India	46%
Norway	31%
United States	30%
United Kingdom	30%
Finland	29%
Germany	29%
Australia	29%
France	26%
Netherlands	25%

Share of respondents who answered 'Yes' to 'What happens to my data after being traced' by country (%)

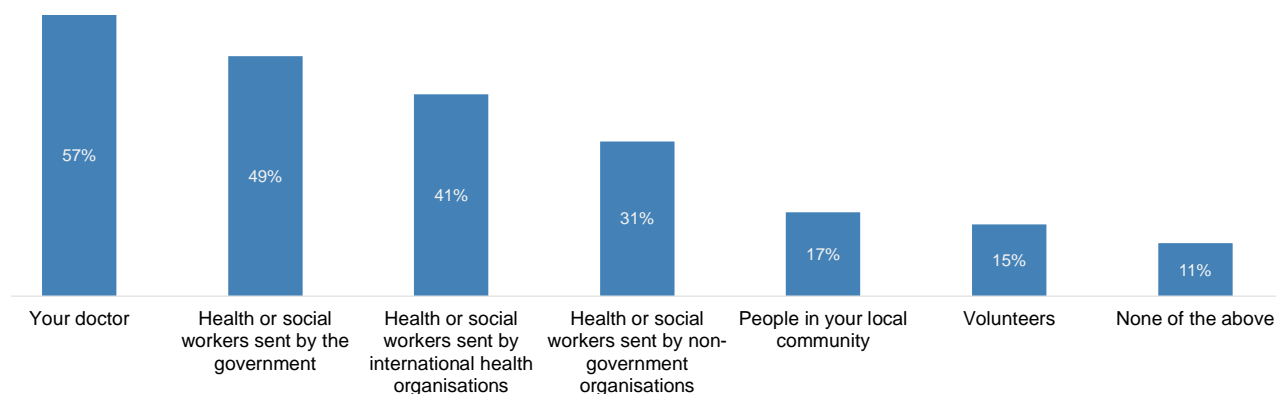| Country	%
Philippines	51%
Mexico	51%
Spain	49%
Brazil	46%
Indonesia	45%
United Kingdom	45%
Malaysia	44%
Netherlands	41%
Australia	39%
Italy	39%
United States	38%
Finland	37%
Thailand	37%
India	37%
Norway	36%
Vietnam	35%
France	34%
Japan	32%
Germany	31%

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Who do people trust to carry out their contact tracing interview?
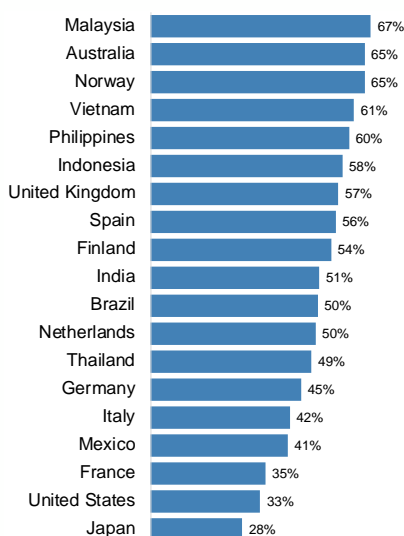
These graphs show who people would trust to conduct their contact tracing interviews and the country breakdown of the most popular responses

57% of respondents would trust their doctor to conduct their contact tracing interview; 49% would trust a health or social worker sent by an international health organization. 11% of respondents do not trust anyone to conduct their contact tracing interview. Malaysia has the highest share of respondents who trust their government to conduct contact tracing interviews, while the Philippines has the highest share of those who trust international organizations to conduct the same interviews.
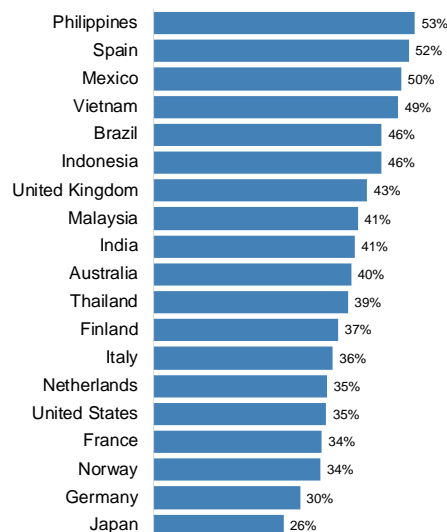
Which, if any, of the following would you trust to conduct contact tracing interviews? (%)

Your doctor	Health or social workers sent by the government	Health or social workers sent by international health organisations	Health or social workers sent by non-government organisations	People in your local community	Volunteers	None of the above
57%	49%	41%	31%	17%	15%	11%

Share of respondents who answered, 'Yes' to 'Health or social worker sent by the government' by country (%)

Country	%
Malaysia	67%
Australia	65%
Norway	65%
Vietnam	61%
Philippines	60%
Indonesia	58%
United Kingdom	57%
Spain	56%
Finland	54%
India	51%
Brazil	50%
Netherlands	50%
Thailand	49%
Germany	45%
Italy	42%
Mexico	41%
France	35%
United States	33%
Japan	28%

Share of respondents who answered, 'Yes' to 'Health or social worker sent by international organizations' by country (%)

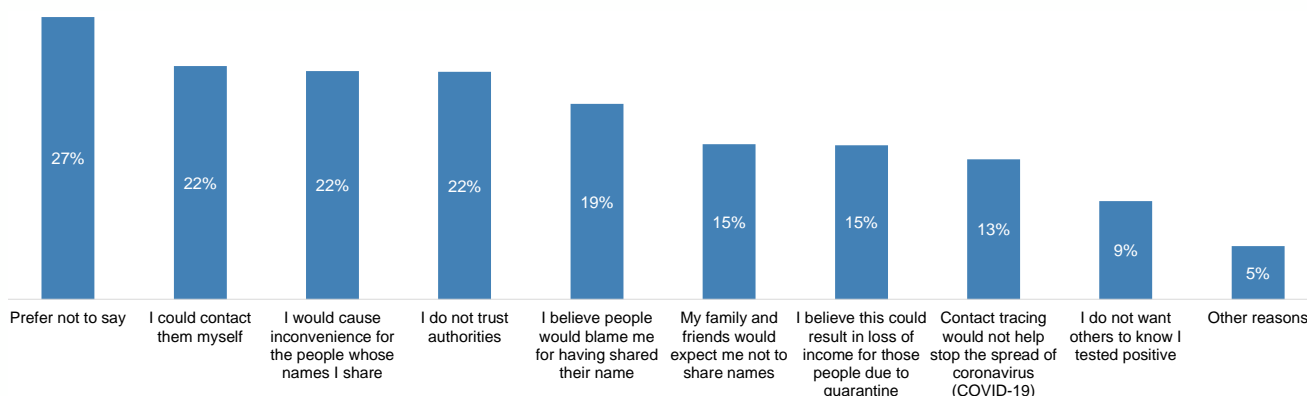| Country	%
Philippines	53%
Spain	52%
Mexico	50%
Vietnam	49%
Brazil	46%
Indonesia	46%
United Kingdom	43%
Malaysia	41%
India	41%
Australia	40%
Thailand	39%
Finland	37%
Italy	36%
Netherlands	35%
United States	35%
France	34%
Norway	34%
Germany	30%
Japan	26%

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Why might people not want to share the names of their contacts?
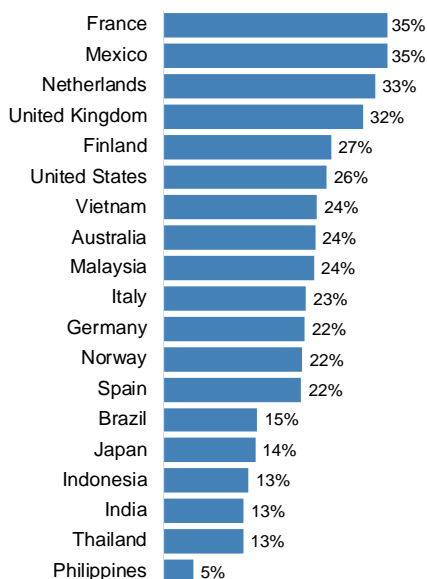
These graphs show main reasons why people do not want to share the names of their contacts and the country breakdown of the most common reason

27% of people do not want to share information on their contacts for reasons they prefer not to disclose. 22% of respondents would prefer to make the contact themselves, with France and Mexico having the highest share of these respondents. 22% stated that they do not trust the authorities.
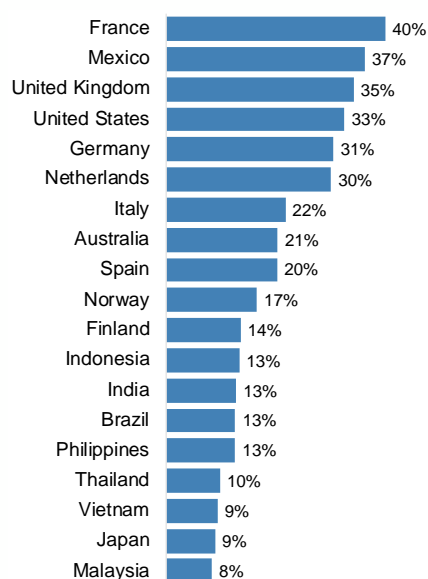
Why might you not share the names of all people you have been in contact with? (%)

Category	%
Prefer not to say	27%
I could contact them myself	22%
I would cause inconvenience for the people whose names I share	22%
I do not trust authorities	22%
I believe people would blame me for having shared their name	19%
My family and friends would expect me not to share names	15%
I believe this could result in loss of income for those people due to quarantine	15%
Contact tracing would not help stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)	13%
I do not want others to know I tested positive	9%
Other reasons	5%

Share of respondents who answered 'I could contact them myself' by country (%)

Country	%
France	35%
Mexico	35%
Netherlands	33%
United Kingdom	32%
Finland	27%
United States	26%
Vietnam	24%
Australia	24%
Malaysia	24%
Italy	23%
Germany	22%
Norway	22%
Spain	22%
Brazil	15%
Japan	14%
Indonesia	13%
India	13%
Thailand	13%
Philippines	5%

Share of respondents who answered 'I do not trust the authorities' by country (%)

Country	%
France	40%
Mexico	37%
United Kingdom	35%
United States	33%
Germany	31%
Netherlands	30%
Italy	22%
Australia	21%
Spain	20%
Norway	17%
Finland	14%
Indonesia	13%
India	13%
Brazil	13%
Philippines	13%
Thailand	10%
Vietnam	9%
Japan	9%
Malaysia	8%

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Countries included in this report

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

This report looks at globally aggregated data from the most recent survey for each country. The table below indicates these dates and the number of respondents per country

Country	Survey date	Number of Participants
Australia	6th August – 10th August	1003
Brazil	6th August – 10th August	1003
Finland	6th August – 11th August	1008
France	5th August – 10th August	1128
Germany	6th August – 9th August	1005
India	6th August – 10th August	1033
Indonesia	6th August – 10th August	1015
Italy	6th August – 9th August	1000
Japan	7th August – 8th August	509
Malaysia	6th August – 10th August	1018
Mexico	6th August – 11th August	1002
Netherlands	7th August – 10th August	507
Norway	6th August – 11th August	1000
Philippines	6th August – 11th August	1005
Spain	6th August – 9th August	1001
Thailand	6th August – 11th August	1003
United Kingdom	5th August – 10th August	1056
United States	6th August – 10th August	1070
Vietnam	6th August – 10th August	1002

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About this **report**

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

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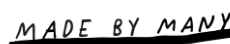
Contributors to the Imperial College London - YouGov survey include: Professor Helen Ward, Dr. Christina J. Atchinson, Dr. Benjamin C. Lambert, and Gavin Ellison

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Supporters

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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

Imperial College London

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

The 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 behaviors 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.

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WHR World Happiness Report