

APPENDIX

Table S1. Correlation matrix between respondents' level of trust in experts and organisations (org.) variables

	Health experts	National health org	Global health org	Government	Politicians	News org.
Health experts	1					
National health org.	0.75	1				
Global health org.	0.71	0.81	1			
Government	0.52	0.68	0.61	1		
Politicians	0.43	0.58	0.55	0.83	1	
News org.	0.59	0.61	0.67	0.60	0.63	1.00

Table S2. Mean differences together with associated 95% confidence intervals (CIs) derived from crude and adjusted regression analyses relating participants' political orientation to their trust in health authorities, government/politicians, and the news media

	n (%)		Trust in health authorities		Trust in government/politicians		Trust in the news media	
			Crude*	Adjusted†	Crude*	Adjusted†	Crude*	Adjusted†
			mean (95% CI)	mean (95% CI)	mean (95% CI)	mean (95% CI)	mean (95% CI)	mean (95% CI)
Political orientation								
0 (Far left)	281	(3.5)	0.53 (0.25, 0.81)	0.66 (0.40, 0.93)	-0.38 (-0.73, -0.02)	-0.04 (-0.41, 0.33)	0.19 (-0.17, 0.55)	0.38 (0.02, 0.75)
1	511	(6.4)	0.75 (0.57, 0.93)	0.75 (0.57, 0.92)	0.07 (-0.16, 0.29)	0.12 (-0.12, 0.35)	0.52 (0.31, 0.74)	0.57 (0.36, 0.79)
2	966	(12.0)	0.52 (0.37, 0.66)	0.44 (0.30, 0.59)	0.08 (-0.10, 0.26)	0.05 (-0.12, 0.23)	0.40 (0.23, 0.57)	0.35 (0.18, 0.52)
3 (Moderate)	3,427	(42.7)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
4	1,386	(17.3)	-0.17 (-0.31, -0.02)	-0.18 (-0.31, -0.04)	0.10 (-0.08, 0.27)	0.05 (-0.12, 0.21)	-0.20 (-0.37, -0.02)	-0.20 (-0.37, -0.04)
5	902	(11.2)	-0.02 (-0.19, 0.14)	0.01 (-0.16, 0.17)	0.49 (0.28, 0.70)	0.45 (0.24, 0.67)	0.21 (0.01, 0.42)	0.23 (0.02, 0.44)
6 (Far right)	553	(6.9)	0.24 (-0.01, 0.49)	0.31 (0.05, 0.57)	0.88 (0.57, 1.19)	0.94 (0.62, 1.26)	0.23 (-0.08, 0.55)	0.25 (-0.07, 0.58)
Gender								
Females	4,117	(51.6)		0.03 (-0.07, 0.12)		0.09 (-0.04, 0.21)		-0.01 (-0.13, 0.10)

Males	3,867	(48.4)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
Age (years)					
18-24	900	(11.2)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
25-34	1,484	(18.5)	-0.02 (-0.21, 0.17)	0.11 (-0.13, 0.35)	0.13 (-0.09, 0.36)
35-44	1,287	(16.0)	0.05 (-0.15, 0.25)	0.12 (-0.13, 0.36)	0.28 (0.04, 0.52)
45-54	1,465	(18.3)	-0.16 (-0.36, 0.03)	-0.19 (-0.43, 0.06)	-0.02 (-0.26, 0.22)
55-64	1,290	(16.1)	0.10 (-0.10, 0.30)	0.08 (-0.17, 0.33)	0.27 (0.03, 0.52)
65-74	1,211	(15.1)	0.19 (-0.02, 0.40)	0.23 (-0.03, 0.49)	0.23 (-0.03, 0.48)
≥75	387	(4.8)	0.33 (0.06, 0.59)	0.27 (-0.04, 0.59)	0.29 (-0.02, 0.60)
Household composition					
Alone	1,459	(18.2)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
Partner only	2,500	(31.2)	0.15 (0.01, 0.29)	0.10 (-0.08, 0.27)	0.02 (-0.15, 0.19)
Partner & child(ren)	1,757	(21.9)	0.25 (0.09, 0.42)	0.36 (0.16, 0.56)	0.20 (0.01, 0.39)
Other family	2,053	(25.6)	0.13 (-0.04, 0.31)	0.20 (-0.01, 0.41)	0.23 (0.02, 0.43)
Non-family	255	(3.2)	0.04 (-0.30, 0.38)	-0.24 (-0.63, 0.14)	-0.52 (-0.92, -0.12)
Work-force					
Non-essential	5,841	(74.7)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
Essential work: health	692	(8.9)	0.37 (0.21, 0.53)	0.52 (0.30, 0.73)	0.50 (0.29, 0.71)
Essential work: other	1,283	(16.4)	-0.01 (-0.15, 0.14)	0.28 (0.11, 0.46)	0.03 (-0.14, 0.20)
Perceived threat to self					
Very low	947	(12.1)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
Low	1,663	(21.3)	0.45 (0.23, 0.68)	0.57 (0.31, 0.83)	0.59 (0.33, 0.86)
Moderate	2,955	(37.9)	0.53 (0.31, 0.75)	0.85 (0.59, 1.10)	0.88 (0.62, 1.13)
High	1,385	(17.8)	0.76 (0.52, 0.99)	1.07 (0.79, 1.36)	1.17 (0.89, 1.45)
Very high	844	(10.8)	0.90 (0.62, 1.17)	1.27 (0.94, 1.60)	1.41 (1.08, 1.73)
Perceived threat to country					
Very low	259	(3.3)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
Low	597	(7.7)	0.72 (0.25, 1.19)	0.49 (-0.06, 1.03)	0.42 (-0.11, 0.95)
Moderate	2,329	(30.0)	1.25 (0.80, 1.70)	0.86 (0.34, 1.38)	0.79 (0.28, 1.29)
High	2,856	(36.8)	1.48 (1.02, 1.93)	0.72 (0.20, 1.24)	0.87 (0.37, 1.38)
Very high	1,710	(22.1)	1.50 (1.03, 1.97)	0.22 (-0.32, 0.76)	0.78 (0.26, 1.30)
Financial losses					
None	2,317	(28.9)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
Insignificant	2,086	(26.0)	-0.10 (-0.23, 0.03)	0.02 (-0.14, 0.18)	0.05 (-0.11, 0.21)

Significant	1,887	(23.5)		-0.35 (-0.50, -0.21)		-0.31 (-0.48, -0.13)		-0.22 (-0.39, -0.05)
Very significant	695	(8.7)		-0.51 (-0.74, -0.27)		-0.43 (-0.72, -0.15)		-0.24 (-0.52, 0.04)
Unknown	1,041	(13.0)		-0.11 (-0.36, 0.13)		0.31 (0.02, 0.61)		0.38 (0.11, 0.65)
Stress								
None	764	(9.7)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)
Not very	1,743	(22.1)		-0.09 (-0.28, 0.10)		-0.19 (-0.43, 0.05)		-0.04 (-0.29, 0.20)
A bit	2,917	(37.0)		-0.19 (-0.38, -0.01)		-0.30 (-0.53, -0.06)		-0.13 (-0.37, 0.11)
Rather	1,669	(21.1)		-0.39 (-0.59, -0.18)		-0.51 (-0.77, -0.25)		-0.41 (-0.67, -0.15)
Extremely	797	(10.1)		-0.61 (-0.90, -0.33)		-0.76 (-1.09, -0.42)		-0.45 (-0.78, -0.11)
Country								
Canada	2,004	(25.0)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
USA	1,003	(12.5)	-0.44 (-0.63, -0.25)	-0.35 (-0.54, -0.15)	-1.47 (-1.69, -1.24)	-1.30 (-1.54, -1.07)	-0.52 (-0.76, -0.29)	-0.41 (-0.65, -0.17)
England	1,000	(12.5)	-0.19 (-0.36, -0.02)	-0.24 (-0.41, -0.08)	-0.73 (-0.95, -0.52)	-0.78 (-1.00, -0.56)	-0.10 (-0.30, 0.10)	-0.23 (-0.43, -0.02)
Belgium	1,014	(12.6)	-0.50 (-0.67, -0.33)	-0.58 (-0.80, -0.35)	-1.07 (-1.28, -0.86)	-1.39 (-1.68, -1.10)	-0.34 (-0.54, -0.15)	-0.69 (-0.95, -0.43)
Switzerland	1,000	(12.5)	-0.82 (-1.00, -0.64)	-0.86 (-1.03, -0.70)	-0.23 (-0.43, -0.02)	-0.26 (-0.46, -0.06)	-0.37 (-0.57, -0.16)	-0.40 (-0.60, -0.20)
Philippines	1,003	(12.5)	0.37 (0.18, 0.56)	0.53 (0.33, 0.73)	0.04 (-0.19, 0.27)	0.26 (0.01, 0.51)	0.93 (0.71, 1.14)	0.91 (0.67, 1.16)
New Zealand	1,001	(12.5)	-0.07 (-0.23, 0.10)	0.18 (0.01, 0.35)	0.55 (0.35, 0.76)	0.64 (0.42, 0.85)	0.02 (-0.18, 0.22)	0.19 (-0.02, 0.40)

Note: political orientation data unavailable from Hong Kong participants; *adjusted for country; †adjusted gender, age group, household composition, work-force status, perceived threat to self, perceived threat to country, financial losses, stress, and country.

Table S3. Mean differences together with associated 95% confidence intervals (CIs) derived from crude and adjusted regression analyses relating participants' information source level to their trust in health authorities, government/politicians, and the news media.

		Trust in health authorities		Trust in Government/politicians		Trust in the news media		
		Crude*	Adjusted†	Crude*	Adjusted†	Crude*	Adjusted†	
		n (%)	mean (95% CI)	mean (95% CI)	mean (95% CI)	mean (95% CI)	mean (95% CI)	
Health information source								
Higher	4,664	(53.7)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	
Lower	4,024	(46.3)	-1.12 (-1.22, -1.02)	-1.04 (-1.14, -0.94)	-0.51 (-0.64, -0.39)	-0.50 (-0.63, -0.38)	-0.89 (-1.01, -0.77)	-0.82 (-0.94, -0.70)
Government information source								
Higher	3,448	(40.0)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	
Lower	5,180	(60.0)	-0.59 (-0.68, -0.50)	-0.58 (-0.68, -0.49)	-1.55 (-1.67, -1.43)	-1.52 (-1.64, -1.40)	-0.64 (-0.75, -0.52)	-0.61 (-0.73, -0.50)
News media information source								

Higher	3,791	(43.9)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
Lower	4,841	(56.1)	-0.41 (-0.50, -0.31)	-0.35 (-0.44, -0.26)	-0.54 (-0.66, -0.42)	-0.50 (-0.62, -0.38)	-1.17 (-1.28, -1.06)	-1.12 (-1.24, -1.01)
Social media information source								
Higher	2,694	(32.5)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
Lower	5,596	(67.5)	0.22 (0.11, 0.33)	0.06 (-0.05, 0.17)	-0.11 (-0.25, 0.03)	-0.25 (-0.39, -0.10)	-0.07 (-0.19, 0.06)	-0.17 (-0.30, -0.04)
Gender								
Females	4,667	(51.9)		0.03 (-0.06, 0.11)		0.08 (-0.03, 0.19)		0.03 (-0.07, 0.14)
Males	4,318	(48.1)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)
Age (years)								
18-24	995	(11.0)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)
25-34	1,657	(18.4)		-0.05 (-0.23, 0.12)		0.11 (-0.10, 0.33)		0.06 (-0.14, 0.27)
35-44	1,468	(16.3)		0.01 (-0.18, 0.20)		0.16 (-0.07, 0.39)		0.21 (-0.01, 0.43)
45-54	1,657	(18.4)		-0.06 (-0.24, 0.13)		0.06 (-0.17, 0.29)		0.01 (-0.21, 0.23)
55-64	1,467	(16.3)		0.10 (-0.09, 0.29)		0.16 (-0.07, 0.39)		0.20 (-0.03, 0.42)
65-74	1,382	(15.3)		0.02 (-0.18, 0.22)		0.23 (-0.02, 0.48)		0.03 (-0.21, 0.27)
≥75	401	(4.4)		0.18 (-0.07, 0.43)		0.38 (0.08, 0.68)		0.07 (-0.24, 0.38)
Household composition								
Alone	1,527	(16.9)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)
Partner only	2,680	(29.7)		0.04 (-0.09, 0.18)		0.02 (-0.15, 0.19)		-0.12 (-0.28, 0.04)
Partner & child(ren)	2,069	(22.9)		0.18 (0.02, 0.33)		0.32 (0.13, 0.51)		0.08 (-0.10, 0.26)
Other family	2,488	(27.6)		0.07 (-0.09, 0.23)		0.18 (-0.02, 0.37)		0.11 (-0.07, 0.30)
Non-family	264	(2.9)		0.09 (-0.24, 0.43)		-0.07 (-0.43, 0.29)		-0.49 (-0.89, -0.09)
Work-force								
Non-essential	6,450	(73.3)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)
Essential work: health	800	(9.1)		0.13 (-0.01, 0.27)		0.32 (0.12, 0.51)		0.23 (0.05, 0.42)
Essential work: other	1,544	(17.6)		-0.10 (-0.23, 0.02)		0.15 (-0.01, 0.31)		-0.08 (-0.22, 0.07)
Perceived threat to self								
Very low	1,024	(11.7)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)
Low	1,880	(21.4)		0.42 (0.20, 0.64)		0.52 (0.28, 0.76)		0.59 (0.35, 0.84)
Moderate	3,347	(38.1)		0.36 (0.14, 0.58)		0.64 (0.40, 0.88)		0.73 (0.49, 0.97)
High	1,567	(17.8)		0.49 (0.26, 0.73)		0.78 (0.51, 1.04)		0.85 (0.58, 1.11)
Very high	970	(11.0)		0.47 (0.21, 0.73)		0.80 (0.50, 1.10)		0.94 (0.65, 1.24)
Perceived threat to country								
Very low	296	(3.4)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)

Low	721	(8.2)		0.67 (0.27, 1.08)		0.33 (-0.12, 0.77)		0.37 (-0.05, 0.78)
Moderate	2,676	(30.6)		1.00 (0.61, 1.39)		0.57 (0.15, 1.00)		0.69 (0.29, 1.09)
High	3,195	(36.5)		1.10 (0.71, 1.50)		0.33 (-0.10, 0.76)		0.71 (0.31, 1.11)
Very high	1,860	(21.3)		1.17 (0.77, 1.57)		-0.13 (-0.57, 0.32)		0.57 (0.16, 0.99)
Financial losses								
None	2,494	(27.6)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)
Insignificant	2,485	(27.5)		-0.20 (-0.32, -0.08)		-0.05 (-0.20, 0.10)		-0.07 (-0.21, 0.07)
Significant	2,175	(24.1)		-0.33 (-0.46, -0.19)		-0.25 (-0.42, -0.09)		-0.23 (-0.38, -0.07)
Very significant	804	(8.9)		-0.43 (-0.63, -0.23)		-0.29 (-0.55, -0.04)		-0.20 (-0.43, 0.03)
Unknown	1,069	(11.8)		-0.16 (-0.41, 0.09)		0.22 (-0.07, 0.51)		0.27 (0.01, 0.53)
Stress								
None	805	(9.1)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)		0 (reference)
Not very	1,903	(21.4)		0.05 (-0.14, 0.23)		-0.05 (-0.28, 0.17)		0.02 (-0.20, 0.24)
A bit	3,379	(38.0)		-0.12 (-0.30, 0.07)		-0.21 (-0.43, 0.01)		-0.15 (-0.37, 0.07)
Rather	1,874	(21.1)		-0.23 (-0.44, -0.03)		-0.40 (-0.65, -0.16)		-0.28 (-0.52, -0.05)
Extremely	922	(10.4)		-0.39 (-0.64, -0.13)		-0.65 (-0.96, -0.35)		-0.28 (-0.58, 0.02)
Country								
Canada	2,004	(22.2)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)	0 (reference)
USA	1,003	(11.1)	-0.26 (-0.44, -0.08)	-0.19 (-0.37, -0.01)	-1.10 (-1.31, -0.88)	-0.94 (-1.16, -0.72)	-0.35 (-0.57, -0.12)	-0.25 (-0.48, -0.02)
England	1,000	(11.1)	-0.12 (-0.29, 0.04)	-0.16 (-0.32, 0.01)	-0.60 (-0.81, -0.38)	-0.60 (-0.82, -0.39)	-0.10 (-0.30, 0.10)	-0.20 (-0.40, -0.01)
Belgium	1,014	(11.2)	-0.53 (-0.70, -0.36)	-0.50 (-0.74, -0.26)	-1.02 (-1.23, -0.81)	-1.21 (-1.50, -0.92)	-0.49 (-0.69, -0.30)	-0.74 (-1.00, -0.48)
Switzerland	1,000	(11.1)	-0.81 (-0.98, -0.64)	-0.82 (-0.98, -0.65)	-0.27 (-0.46, -0.07)	-0.27 (-0.47, -0.07)	-0.49 (-0.68, -0.29)	-0.50 (-0.69, -0.30)
Hong Kong	1,002	(11.1)	-0.71 (-0.88, -0.55)	-0.64 (-0.81, -0.46)	-0.75 (-0.96, -0.53)	-0.84 (-1.06, -0.61)	0.16 (-0.03, 0.35)	0.12 (-0.08, 0.32)
Philippines	1,003	(11.1)	-0.02 (-0.20, 0.16)	0.10 (-0.09, 0.29)	-0.27 (-0.48, -0.05)	-0.08 (-0.31, 0.16)	0.24 (0.03, 0.45)	0.23 (-0.01, 0.46)
New Zealand	1,001	(11.1)	-0.08 (-0.24, 0.07)	0.07 (-0.09, 0.23)	0.57 (0.38, 0.76)	0.57 (0.37, 0.77)	-0.05 (-0.24, 0.14)	0.07 (-0.13, 0.27)

Note: *adjusted for country; †adjusted for gender, age group, household composition, work-force status, perceived threat to self, perceived threat to country, financial losses, stress, and country.