

Young Scientist Survey

*Finding the balance: Public Health and
Social Measures for COVID19*

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS FROM AFRICA

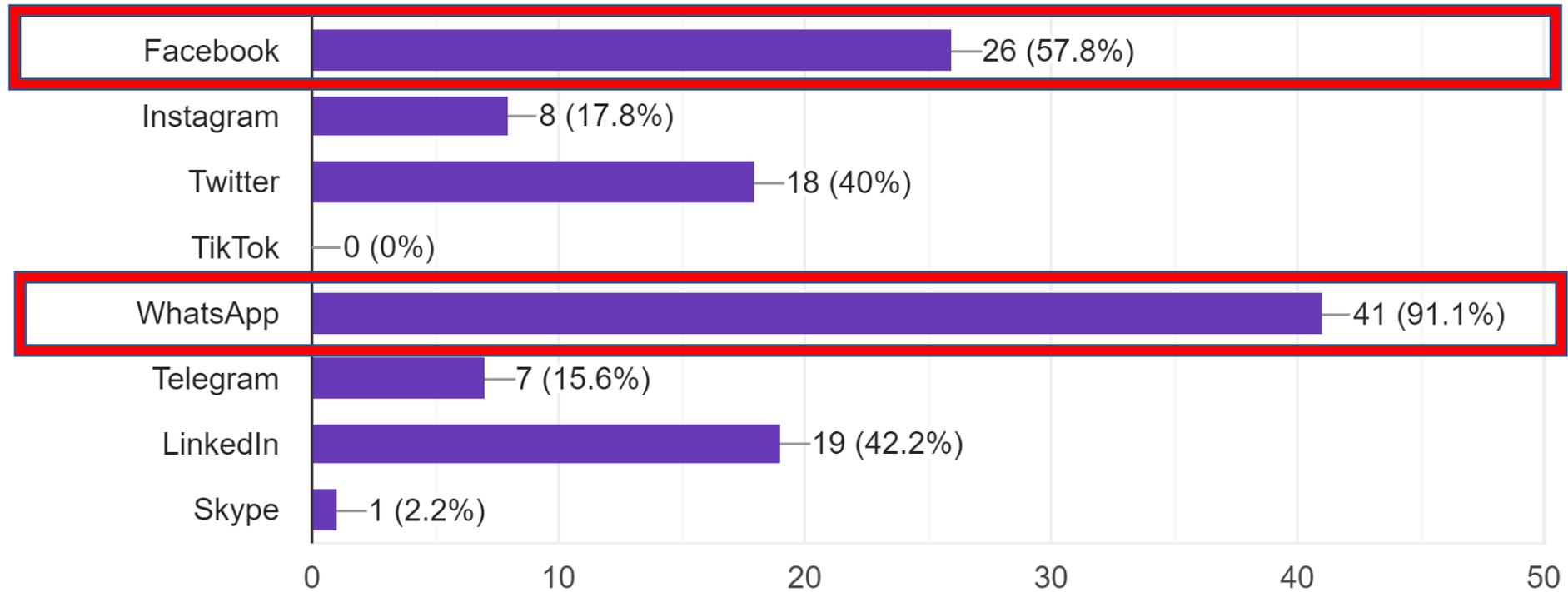


SURVEY PARTICIPANTS FROM ABROAD

**USA, Norway
and Canada**

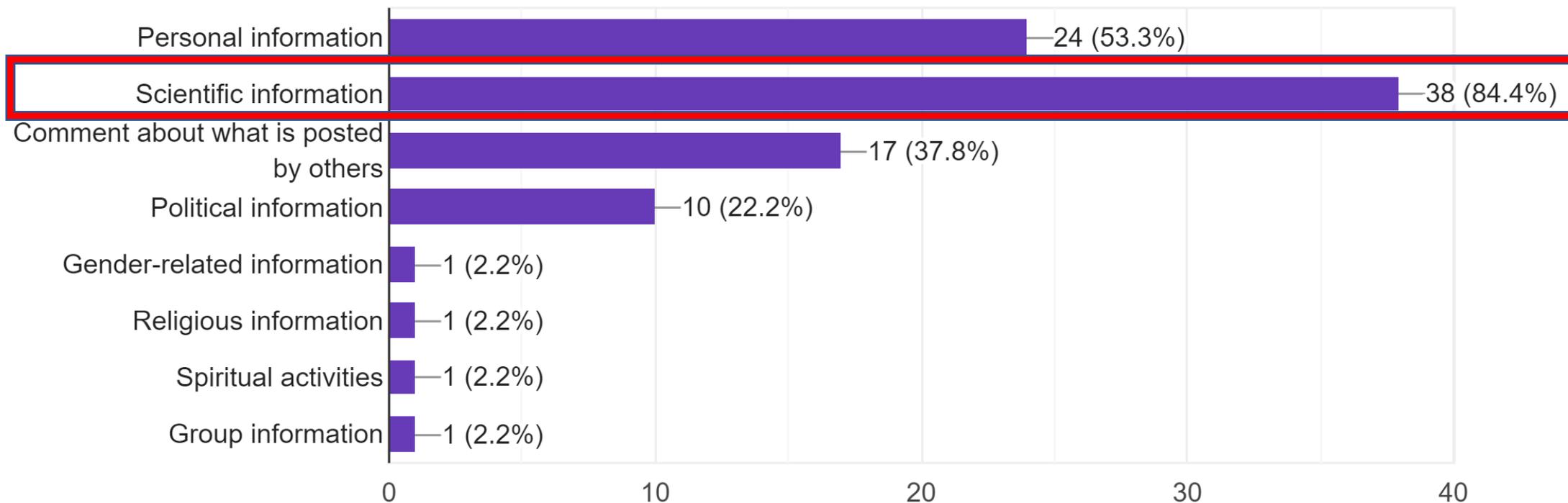
1. Which social media platforms do you use regularly?

45 responses



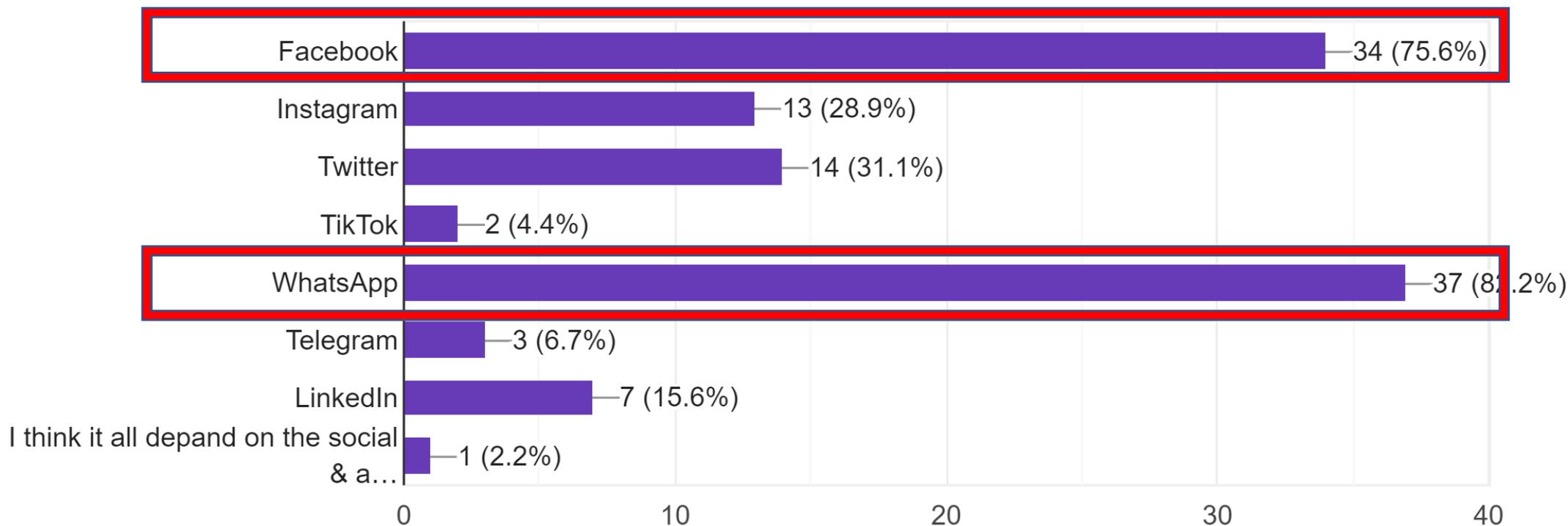
2. What is the key information that you share in those platforms?

45 responses



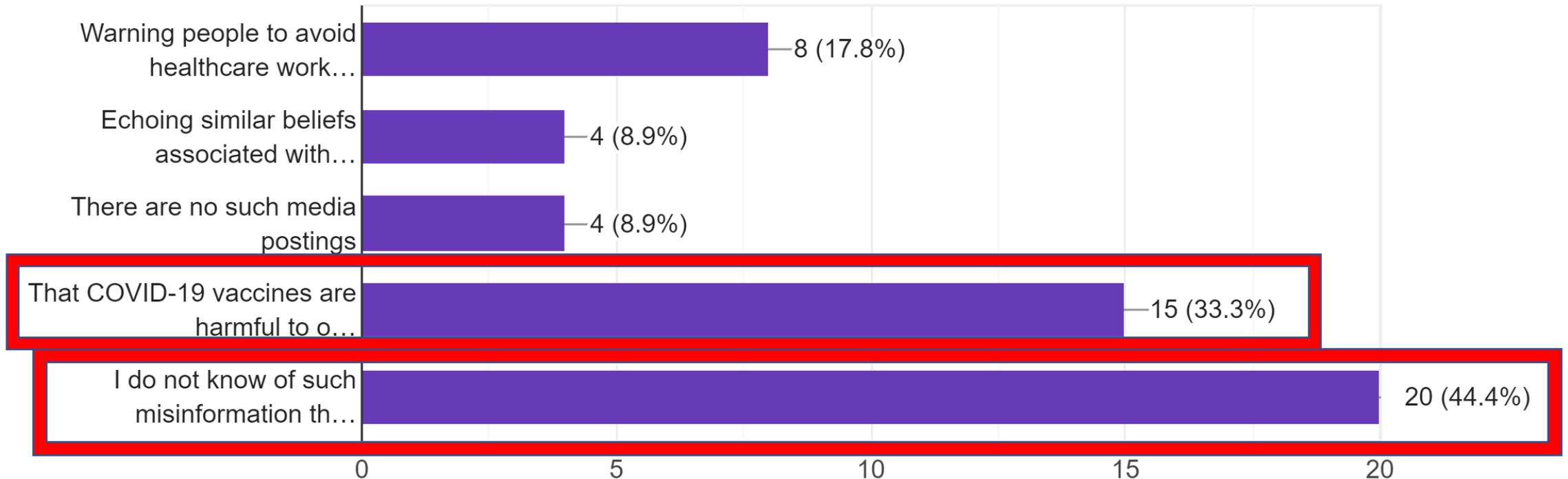
3. Which is the most common social media platform in your country?

45 responses



4. What misinformation related to COVID-19 is currently being circulated on social media in your country?

45 responses



Misinformation...

There is a believe that COVID is not actually there in the country

THE ONLY INFORMATION ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENTLY IS TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM TAKING THE COVID 19 VACINE AS IT IS REGARDED AS UNSAFE

Questions not specific enough

Vaccine are an issue

The seriousness and accelerated rate of expansion of the Pandemic in Ethiopia.

Vaccines are not safe because they were produced too quickly

people have bad information think covid-19 was created to kill black people They say all the same that vaccination is a method of determining populations.

Vaccine hesitancy; mask opposition; covid isn't a real thing; government conspiracy; you hear it all - but slightly different to the ones listed above so I didn't agree with any so checked the no such media postings - but there are misinformed postings, just not really the ones listed.

imported vaccines believed to be contaminated

We should avoid the vaccines, because its a means to affect Africans and we shouldn't buy the medical mask for it has been infected

People say authorities want to use covid vaccines to inject us nanoparticles and to use us as 5G antenna.

They are no such misinformation and disinformation , People are we versed about the existing threat, the pandemic COVID-19 .

Misinformation...

People are just afraid of the AstraZeneca vaccine and prefer the use of local herbal medicine.

I would say this was happening two months or so ago. Now most rumors have been put to rest. The fear left is about "vaccines have not been tested enough yet".

COVID vaccine is made to kill Africans

They don't believe there's covid19

That the vaccine is intended to spread the virus instead of curing it

In my personal circle I do not encounter misinformation very regularly, but there is a common trend towards being afraid of the vaccine - since its contents are unknown. The majority of people in the United States are vaccinated or have plans to be soon.

The observed vaccine hesitancy is most likely due to beliefs that the covid vaccine is harmful and we do not need to be vaccinated because most Zimbabweans/Africans are immune to the coronavirus.

People here are not willing to receive Covid-19 vaccine. That fear hampers the other vaccines that are given routinely.

5g causes Covid -19

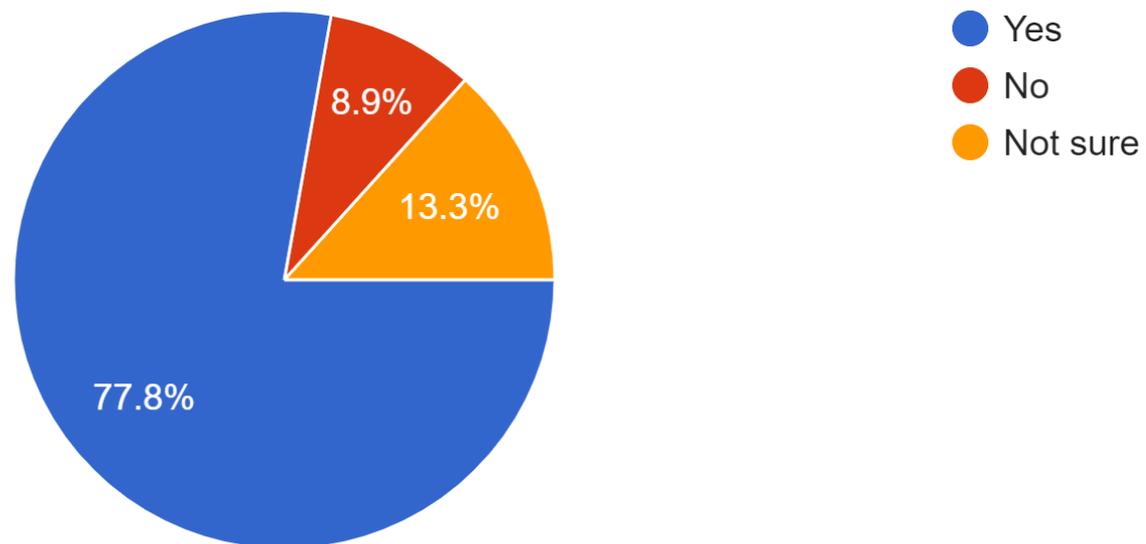
Misinformation associated with Christian beliefs and the evils of Europeans and Americans against Africans are common

Conspiracy theories of black race biological extermination

The misinformation is the vaccine is not health but for business.

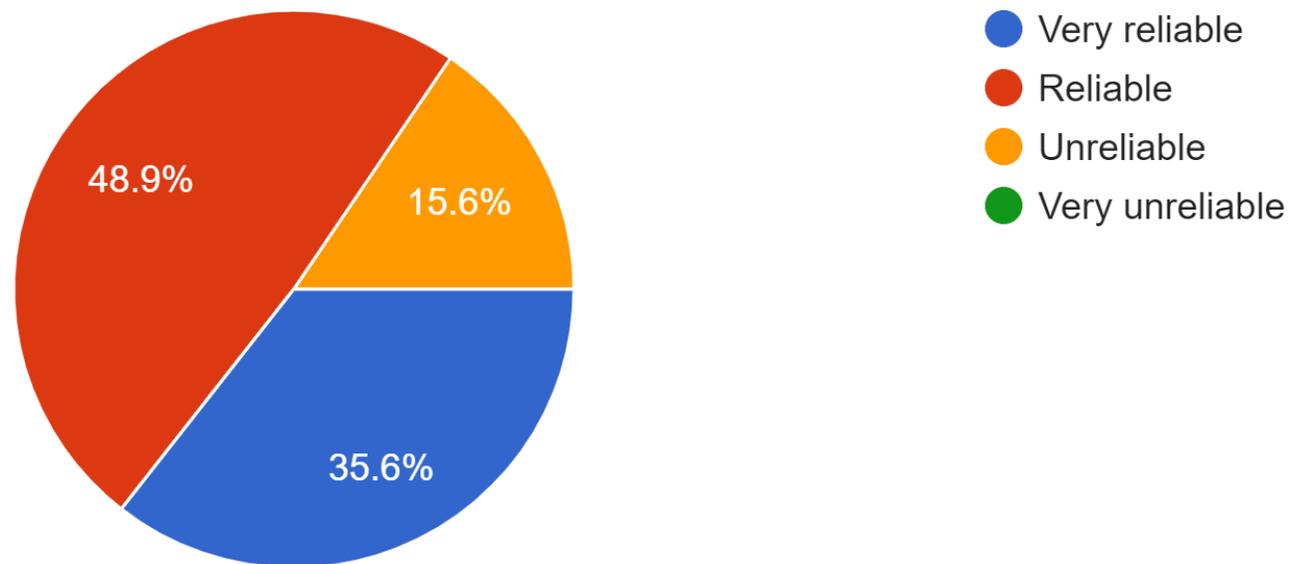
5. Did some of the social media users in your country question the existence of the Corona virus?

45 responses



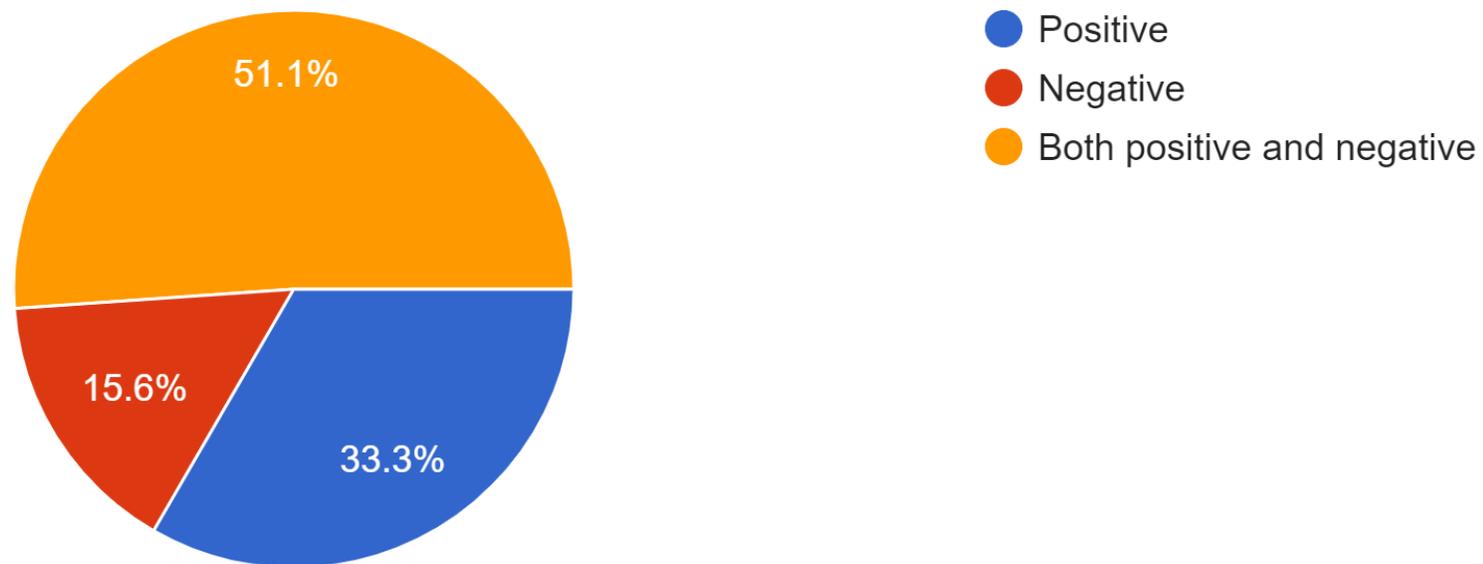
5.1. How reliable is the information on COVID-19 and Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) in your country?

45 responses



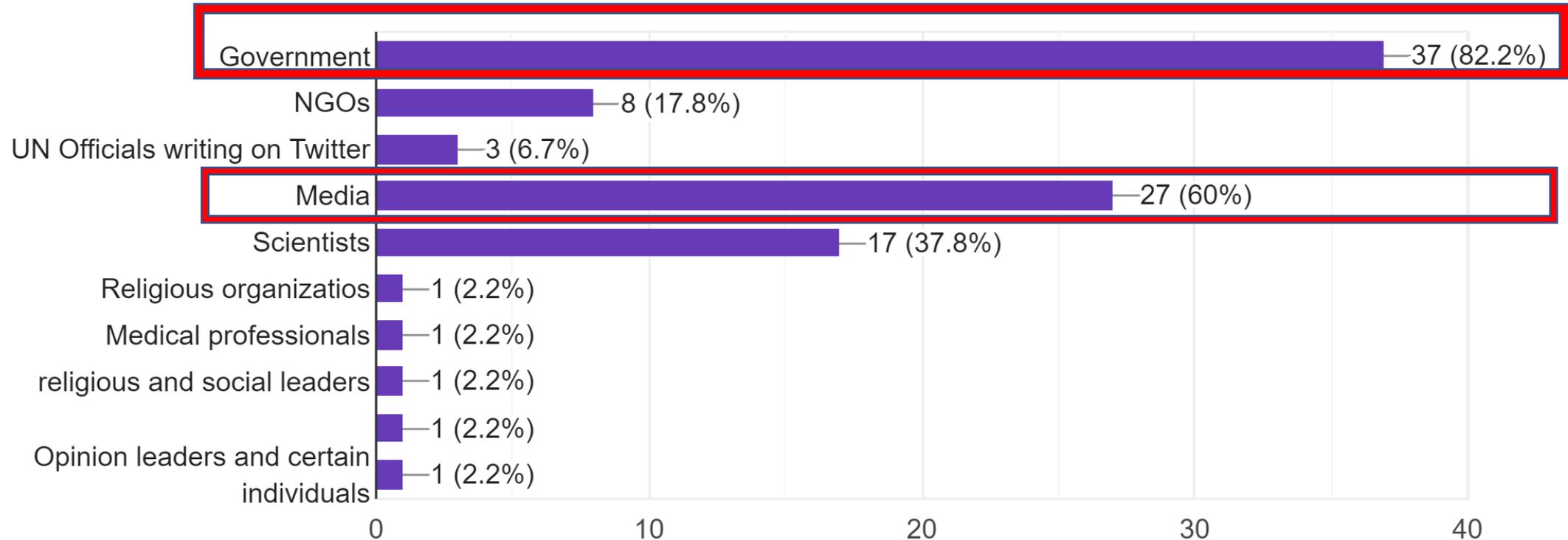
6. Public narratives around Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) in your country are generally:

45 responses



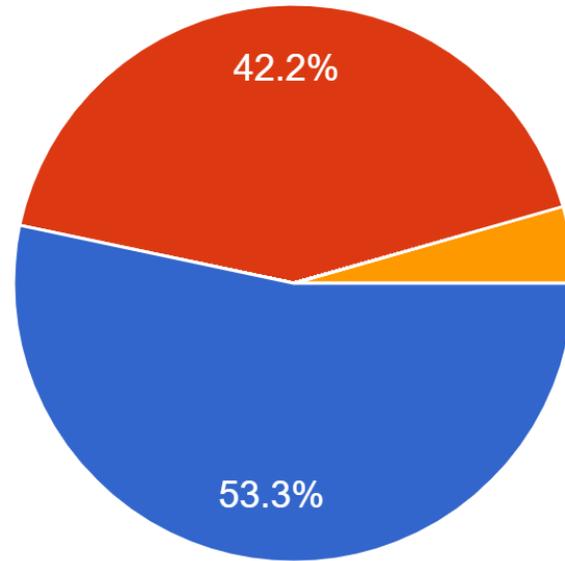
7. Who are the key drivers of public narratives about COVID 19 in your country?

45 responses



7.1. Do you think the public comprehend the communicated messages and public narratives around Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs)?

45 responses



- Yes
- No
- I am not concerned about policy issues

7.2. How can the Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) in your country be best re-packaged for better public engagement, specifically from the youth?

Involve more youthful icons

Messages have to be communicated by leaders at community level

Use relatable language and not scientific jargon.

THROUGH MORE PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENTS AND CREDIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT

Highlight the implication health and economic consequences

Scientists from different background should be involved instead of only public health scientists

Creating awareness

Youth participation in making advocacy and awareness works in the public.

Engage in dialogue and decision-making process

Use of the media strategically; engaging more young scientists to explain

The information should be shared via video done by reputed youth scientists and influencers

Use community members for awareness, use scientists for health decisions

It's difficult to say - COVID fatigue is setting in, people are tired of listening. People are also scared. Young people feel attacked for gathering.

Simpler, clearer language that is less punitive and authoritarian.

Teachers and lecturers moving in to reinforce covid issues, the education system to take over

7.2. How can the Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) in your country be best re-packaged for better public engagement, specifically from the youth?

Sanctions should be applied for the non violation of laws

By involving them at every steps

By getting more youths involved

The government should make sure that the intense sensitizations of people about the current situation regarding public health issues as well as social measures are carried out. all people of the country must comprehend the importance of the government measures about how to prevent diseases. digitalizing the services in order to better re-package for public purposes , information delivery and to better the health sector.

By involving more scientists and organizing public debates on different levels

I have no suggestion for improvement. The youth was involved in helping their community adhere to COVID19 measure, in various ways. None of the answers for Q7.3 are applicable. Our young academy is getting its official registration now. So as an organization it could not be involved as yet. Some individuals within the organization were more involved.

By raising awareness in schools, churches, markets, the media and the public

7.2. How can the Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) in your country be best re-packaged for better public engagement, specifically from the youth?

Needs to be taught at school or at least advocated from early ages

Educating them on how to be safe especially at young age

Population in drinking spots should be strictly controlled as much as it's done in other gatherings

To educate the public more on the covid-19 virus

They have been sent via social media which I think is more engaging for youth, but I think that encouraging people to share their vaccine cards encourages others to be vaccinated as well.

Exposes and role plays in classroom settings organized by teachers

More scientists and medical personnel should be involved in the decision-making and information dissemination to instill confidence from the public otherwise PHSMs may be viewed as political agenda.

I think they should be as fast as the fake news spread through social media.

Better communication

7.2. How can the Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) in your country be best re-packaged for better public engagement, specifically from the youth?

Social drivers on covid -19 to the communities

Transparency and collaborating with experts and non-political individuals

Public Health and Social Measures could be packaged with an understanding of the context. In my country, there is a challenge of using a blanket approach in implementing the PHSMs

Maybe to engage the specialists in youth/social communication

It should give information using local languages and local examples to make people properly understand messages.

Rulers must be consistent in their decisions and actions

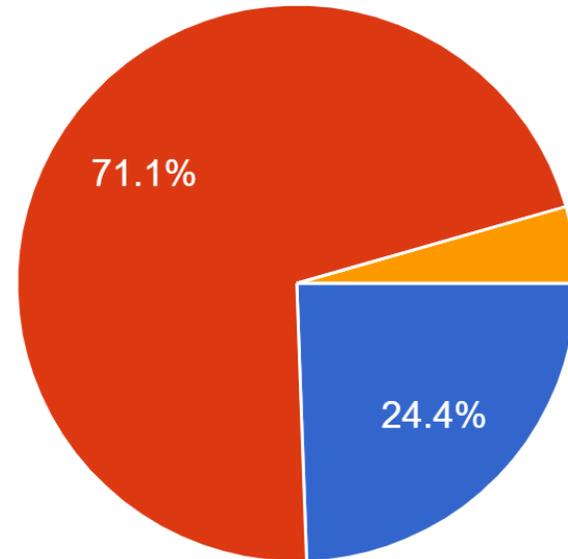
It should be oriented at the local level

By using social media message such short video.

to engage the youth

7.3. Is the young scientists' voice in your country considered during policy formulation and implementation processes?

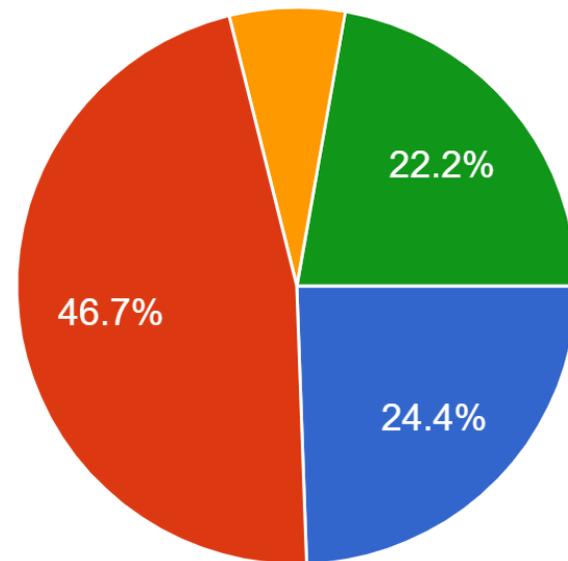
45 responses



- Yes
- No
- I am not concerned about policy issues

8. What are the sentiments over government-imposed lockdowns and curfews?

45 responses



- Good intentioned
- Lacking logic
- In one way or the other serving as some form of punishment
- Generally accepted

8.1. Please explain your answer to the question above:

Many understand that it is a necessary evil

People think lockdowns are not necessary, they just bring about economic hardships

I think the sentiments depend on the different sectors of society

The Majority accepted the curfews with an understanding that the measures were for protecting the people. However, numerous people questioned their logic.

BELIEVING THAT ITS JUST A WAY FOR THOSE IN GOVERNMENT TO SYPHON PUBLIC FUNDS

Perception is linked to political motives and pretext for not addressing youth employment problems

We were periodically updated about Clovis (COVID19) and it was consistent

All factors were not considered

There are millions living on a hand-to-mouth daily works.

far too little regional differentiation

It depends on what sector of the society you are in. Some belief that they are a punishment, for some its a concern around economics.

Majority of the public understand the rationale behind lockdowns and curfews

People thinks in Africa we don't need lockdowns and curfews

8.1. Please explain your answer to the question above:

People are becoming really tired and since Canada is such a large country with 10 provinces and 3 territories, each one having jurisdiction over its own healthcare, there is a lot of diversity. Sometimes, people get confused about what's going on. They understand governments are trying to manage a bad situation but they sometimes disagree that the management is adequate or correct. Sometimes, too late to make a difference.

It is very variable, many have thought it is without logic, but generally people have gone along with it.

Really and I accept

somehow the covid impact diminished

for covid19 prevention

Non logical cause they say there is a lock down, no schools no churches yet we have bars aren't shut down. So what's the point?

The measures are not followed, and people live their lives ignoring them. People think the government just mimics what is done outside the country but doesn't give specific answers to local issues.

Due to the current sociopolitical crisis in the town, it is seen as a form of general punishment

The sentiments of people over the government-imposed lockdowns and curfews are merely accepted by the people, however this is due the general understanding of people about the pandemic, and it is definitely clear on the other hand because the citizens understand well that the decisions of the government were good intentioned for the common best.

People does not understand how virus will stop to circulate during lockdowns when the use of face mask is very limited and distanciation not respected. Some other think that they are "political" lockdowns and not related to Covid...

Though some people suffer, there is a general feeling that imposed measures are necessary. In most cases. The biggest issue is on the punishment given to those that break the rule... How should they be punished since these are guidelines/measures and not "laws"?

Lack of logic because the population does not respect the barrier measures on all the plan then the curfew and closing of party halls and nightclubs would serve no purpose at all.

The population tends to abide by governmental imposed lockdown as there is police enforcement with regards to fines and penalties

ITs for the safe health of citizens

It is for the safety of the country's citizens

8.1. Please explain your answer to the question above:

For the welfare of the citizens

In the state of Iowa there is no state-wide mask mandate or capacity regulations limiting the number of people that can be in a public space. They removed the restrictions a few weeks ago. However, local communities are still enforcing mask, capacity, and social distancing precautions.

In our country we have daily communiques on the current status of COVID and also an app (BeSafeMoris) that provides regular updates. People are thus well informed and aware of the situation and understand clearly why the Govt is acting in a particular way.

The large informal sector is not well catered for in the lockdown decision.

Last year the lockdown was decided in the whole country, including the provinces where no case of Covid was confirmed. Until now, there are areas where no suspected cases have been reported. End of December, schools were closed + curfew starting at 9 pm, leaving public transports, churches, restaurants and bars free to work, which for me lacks logic. Schools have resumed but the curfew persist, leading in horrible traffic jam in the evenings and over crowd public transport, which has no sense when the aim is preventing the transmission of Covid-19.

8.1. Please explain your answer to the question above:

Lockdowns did not function on the prevalence or incidence.

The public understands that lockdown is for the safety of each individual and to "flatten the curve" of infections

There is general suspicion on government lockdown directives as they often correspond with political persecution of people considered associated with opposition parties.

There has been a lot of debate around the lockdown measures as at times there was a need to balance poverty and controlling COVID-19 infections.

People are wondering how COVID-19 could select daytime or nighttime for spreading among them

Lockdowns have been maintained from 9 pm to 5 am. So, during the day, is covid-19 sleeping?

In view of the Seriousness of the situation around the world and to avoid a health crisis People sometimes accept these measures

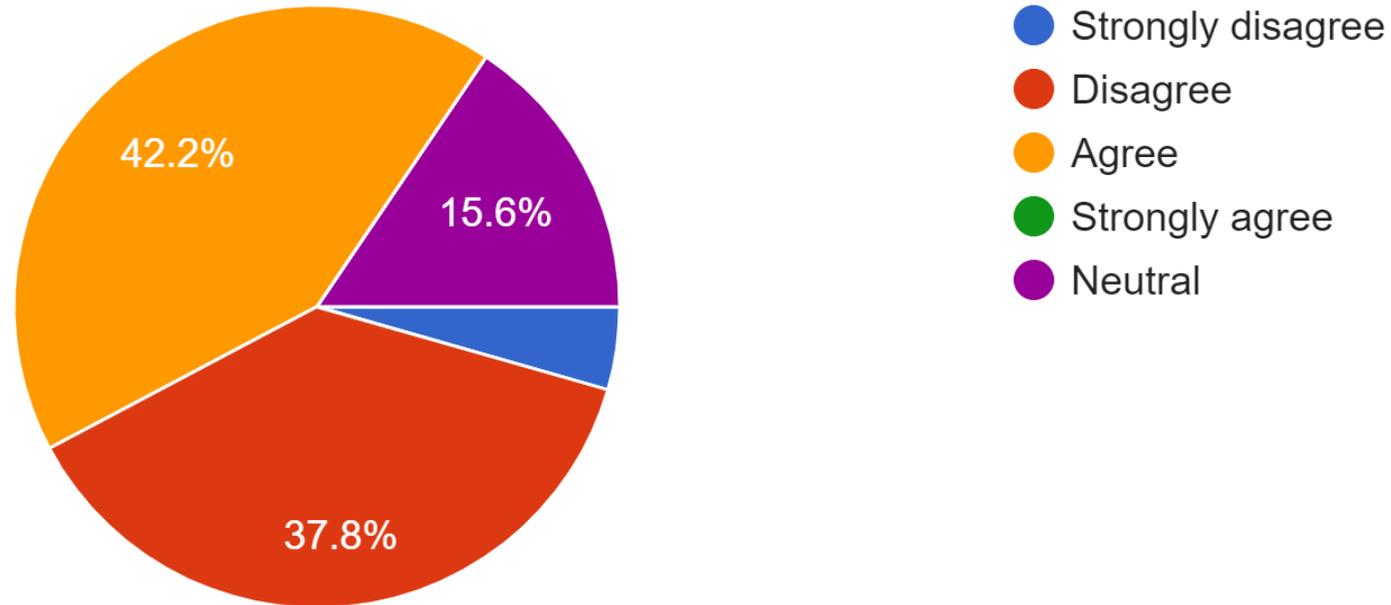
It sounds that the government is doing copy past...

People accept health government measures

they copy the western countries

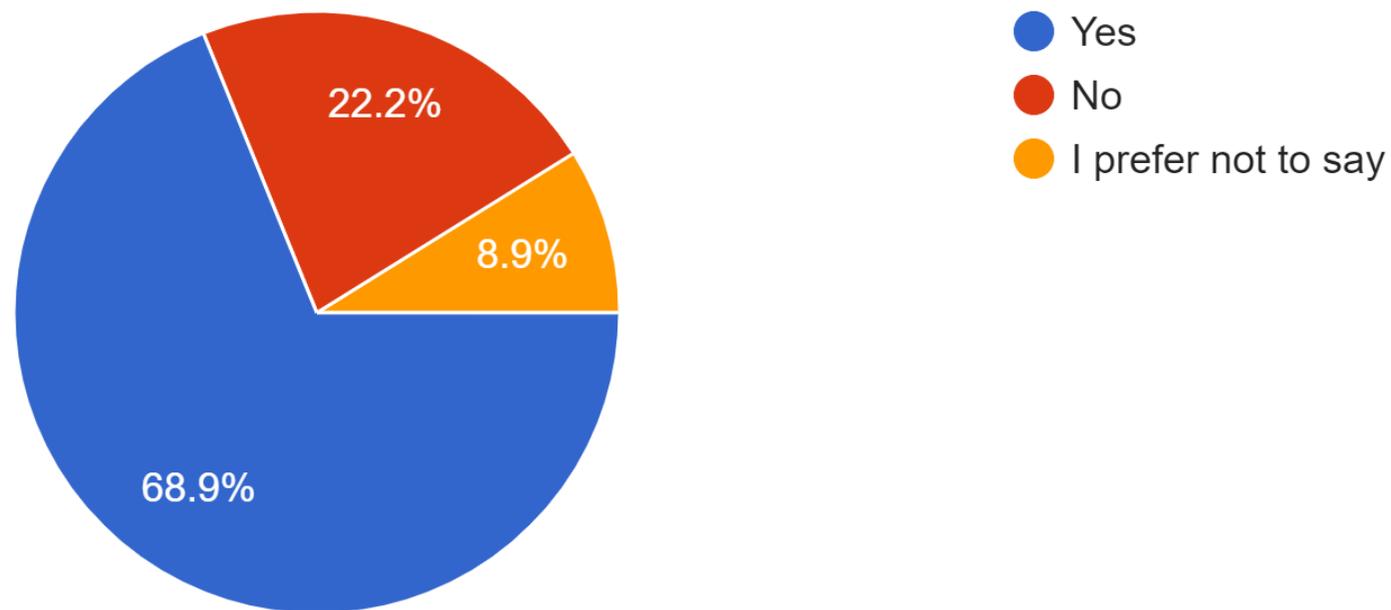
9. Police enforcement of Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) was generally accepted by most social media users:

45 responses



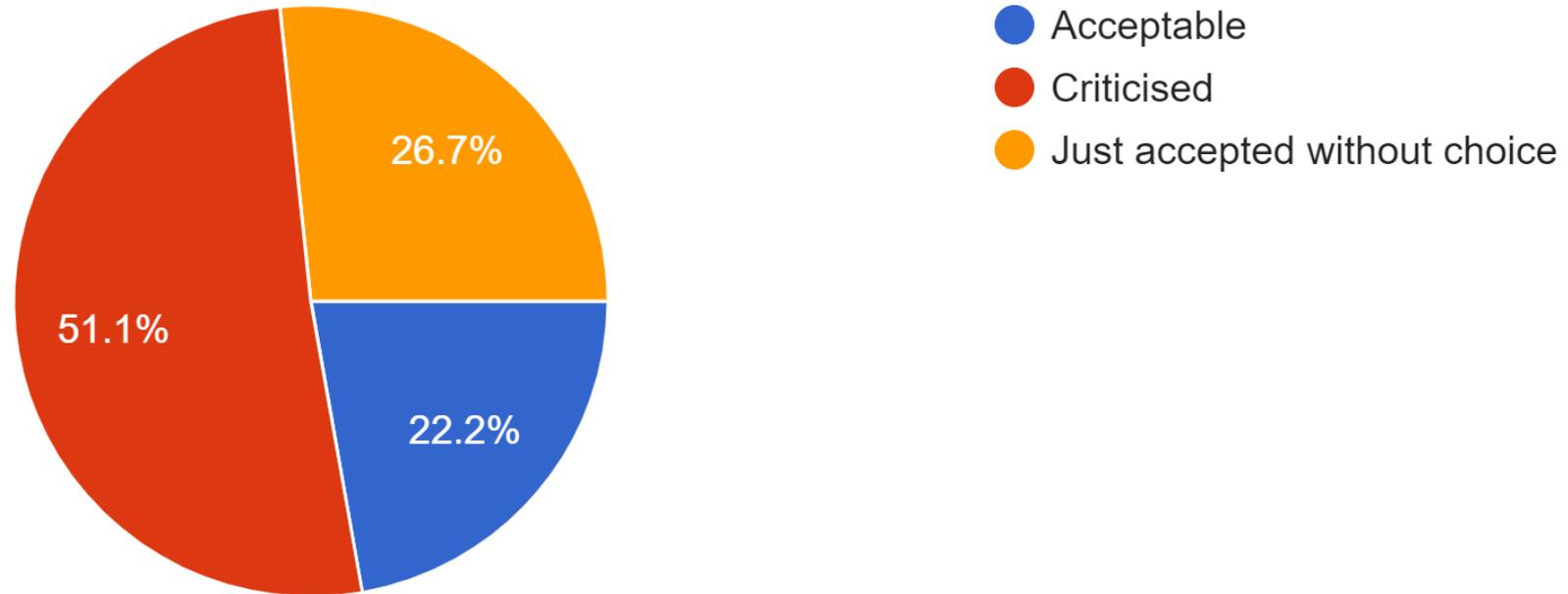
9.1. Is information about Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) easily accessible in your country?

45 responses



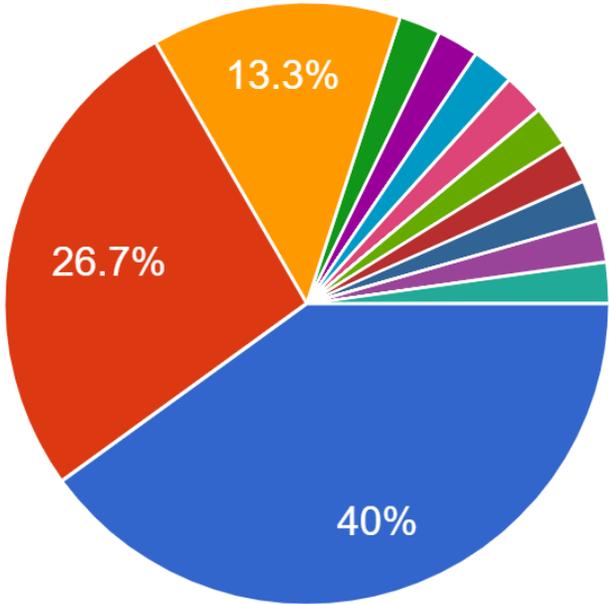
10. Police presence in social and mass gatherings to enforce Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) is generally:

45 responses



11. Concerns on social media platforms are that police would:

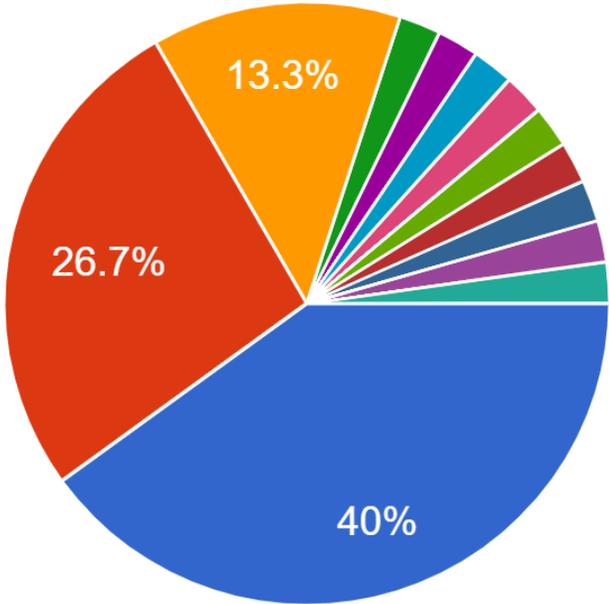
45 responses



- Unfairly brutalise citizens or extort...
- Close social gatherings indefinitely...
- Spread conspiracy theories around...
- we have had unnecessary police b...
- Police involvement was accepted
- none
- They may brutalise people who do...
- target disadvantaged groups (the...

11. Concerns on social media platforms are that police would:

45 responses



- no
- give punishments that may seem harsher than the offense
- none of the above
- None

12. What should young scientists do in order to change such perceptions in future pandemics?



12. What should young scientists do in order to change such perceptions in future pandemics?

Help to produce a message that can make people feel involved

Get themselves fully involved in the various works and do not relent their efforts

The young scientists should be good ambassador in order to be able to sensitize others about the pandemic and how to fight them . helping the country to avoid myths and hoaxes about the pandemics, The application of artificial Intelligence for future pandemics management by using drones. The use of automation for accelerating service delivery and minimize movement and frequency of meeting with others, remote working, Online banking, online learning. The government should invest in scientific researches as well.

They need to be more active in the national debates and they need to develop more local researches and promote the results on covid but with a good scientific base evidence.

Provide evidence-based solutions

Awareness raising on all media to convince the population of the knowledge and acceptability of the said pandemics

be involved in the decision-making process pertaining to covid

Educate the public more about their health issues to overcome diseases

Keep sensitizing the public and the law enforcement agency to take the matter with such seriousness as the scientists

To study more about certain diseases and how to prevent them

I think encouraging younger students to become active and engaged in science from a young age is critical for them to begin to build a relationship with it. With a relationship would come trust. Together, humans will be able to achieve more.

12. What should young scientists do in order to change such perceptions in future pandemics?

Young academics and young scientists should be given full support and infrastructure by their universities and academies to conduct research and given leeway to translate these findings to the layman audience.

They should be more visible and have a voice in PHMSs as well as information dissemination.

Young scientist should play a role in fighting against fake news, by providing true information.

Be more involved in communicating and spreading positive information than old government officials

young scientist should be at the center of finding solutions as they are the most affected by a pandemic. Young people should come with youth orientated solutions so that they can adhere to any PHSMs

They need to understand the key drivers of the social dynamics through qualitative research, and address where applicable

They must be objectively and rationally involved in priority public health issues

To work with the government

Young scientist must participate to communication actions for explaining to public the importance of police health measures against covid-19.

be more engaged



Thank you!