

Figure 1. Respondents' familiarity in research organizations and health agencies.

Acronyms : WHO : World Health Organization ; CNRS : National Research Center ; ARS : Regional Health Agency ; SPF : Public Health Agency ; INSERM : National Biomedical Research Center ; DGS : Health Ministry administration ; HAS : Health Agency ; HCSP : Public Health Council ; ANSM : National Drug Safety Agency ; IHU : Institut of infectiology in Marseille RO: Reseach Organization ; HA : Health agency ; M : Ministry administration

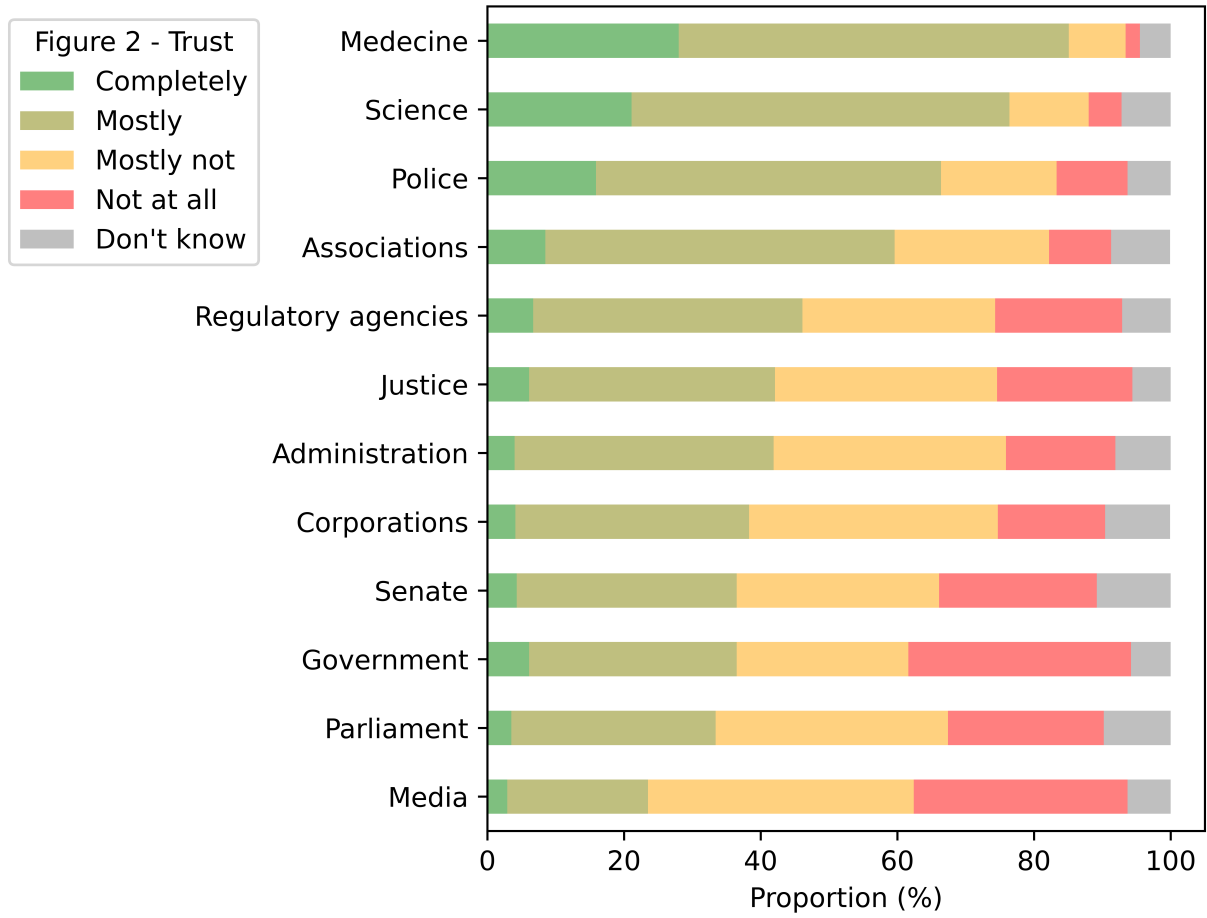


Figure 2. Institutional Trust.

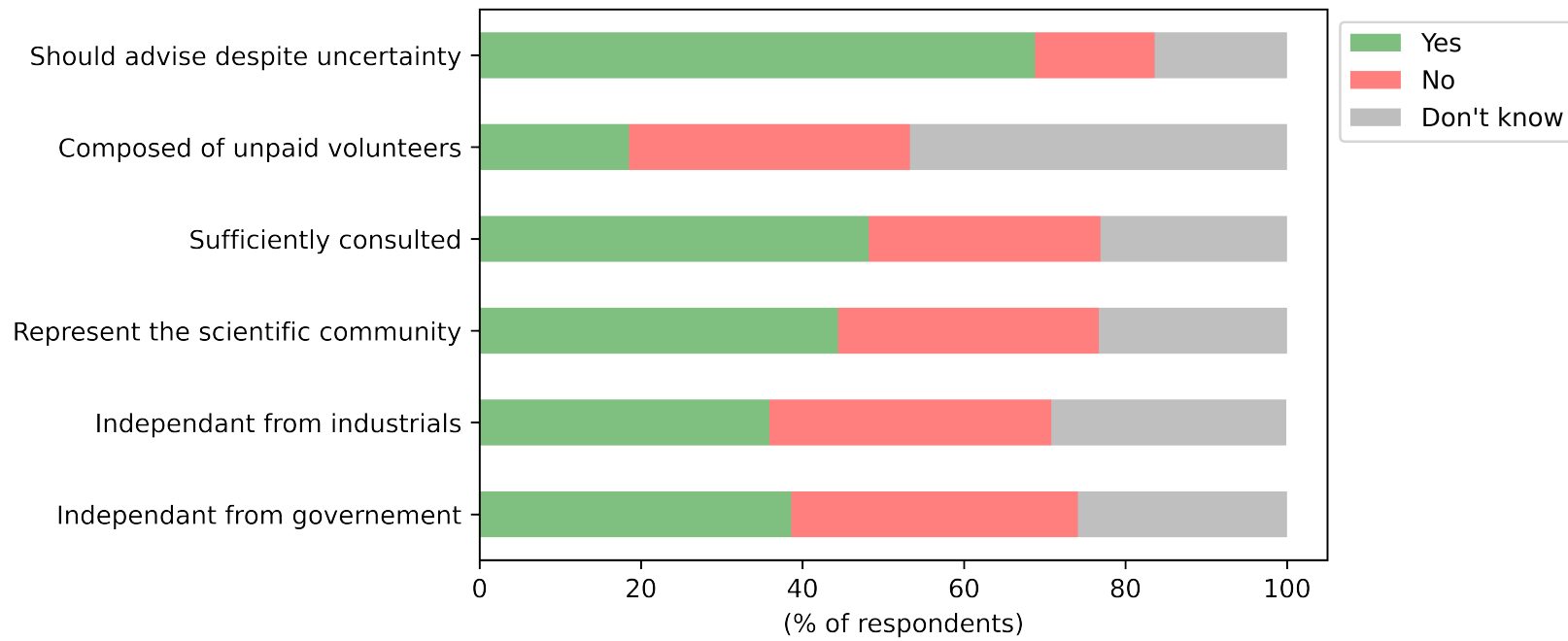


Figure 2. Respondents' attitudes towards the French Scientific Council COVID-19.

Variable	Modality	Distribution	Don't know it (%)	Don't understand it (%)	No opinion about it (%)	Useless (%)	Useful (%)
Age (p = 0.001)	17-34	274.8 (27.1%)	36.0	25.0	2.6	11.5	24.9
	35-64	501.2 (49.4%)	27.1	28.0	2.0	15.0	28.0
	65+	238.0 (23.5%)	18.3	38.1	1.7	13.4	28.5
Gender (p = 0.013)	1-Man	482.7 (47.6%)	25.2	32.5	0.7	13.8	27.8
	Woman	531.3 (52.4%)	29.5	26.9	3.3	13.5	26.8
Level of education (p = 0.003)	below HS	513.5 (50.6%)	31.0	31.9	2.7	10.7	23.7
	HS	188.8 (18.6%)	25.9	29.9	1.7	15.2	27.4
	above HS	311.7 (30.7%)	22.5	25.4	1.3	17.6	33.1
Income (p = 0.003)	1000-2000€	324.2 (32.0%)	28.5	28.7	3.1	14.3	25.4
	0-1000€	85.7 (8.5%)	39.1	32.6	2.8	7.1	18.4
	2000-4000€	390.5 (38.5%)	28.7	28.2	1.5	12.3	29.2
	4000€ and more	99.6 (9.8%)	15.4	24.2	1.7	19.2	39.6
Covid-19 experience (p = 0.321)	NA	113.9 (11.2%)	21.9	38.9	1.0	16.4	21.8
	Covid	160.3 (15.8%)	22.3	32.3	1.5	17.5	26.5
	No covid	853.7 (84.2%)	28.4	29.0	2.2	12.9	27.4
General trust (p = 0.000)	QLow	291.6 (28.8%)	32.9	42.4	2.2	15.0	7.6
	Q2	309.6 (30.5%)	30.8	29.9	2.0	18.4	18.9
	Q3	209.5 (20.7%)	23.8	25.9	2.9	10.9	36.5
	QHigh	203.3 (20.0%)	18.3	14.2	1.3	7.3	58.9
Interest in science (p = 0.001)	Yes	546.7 (53.9%)	25.3	26.5	1.9	13.3	33.0
	No	467.3 (46.1%)	30.0	33.0	2.3	14.1	20.7
Usefulness of science (p = 0.000)	As much harm as good	420.6 (41.5%)	32.2	30.2	2.0	13.6	22.0
	More good than harm	347.6 (34.3%)	18.5	24.3	1.1	13.9	42.2
	More harm than good	131.7 (13.0%)	29.1	35.1	0.0	20.1	15.7
	Don't know	114.1 (11.3%)	35.3	36.6	8.0	5.6	14.6
Understanding of COVID-19 science (p = 0.000)	Yes	479.5 (47.3%)	19.4	21.0	1.3	17.7	40.6
	No	534.5 (52.7%)	34.7	37.2	2.8	10.0	15.3
	Center	124.5 (12.3%)	14.0	18.2	1.7	10.0	56.2
Policial orientation (p = 0.000)	None	384.7 (37.9%)	32.9	35.0	4.2	8.7	19.3
	Left	128.5 (12.7%)	15.9	20.6	1.2	16.0	46.2
	Right	107.3 (10.6%)	22.2	31.4	0.5	19.5	26.5
	Far left	101.5 (10.0%)	41.8	27.3	0.4	14.8	15.8
	Far right	151.4 (14.9%)	27.7	35.1	0.4	21.8	14.9
	Other	16.1 (1.6%)	36.0	7.5	0.0	18.0	38.5
	Low	393.1 (38.8%)	36.4	31.5	3.2	8.1	20.7
Political engagement (p = 0.000)	Average	200.0 (19.7%)	28.8	30.2	1.1	14.2	25.8
	High	420.8 (41.5%)	18.4	27.4	1.6	18.5	34.1
	Satisfied	368.6 (36.4%)	23.7	16.1	2.7	9.3	48.1
Satisfaction towards government handling of the pandemic (p = 0.000)	Not satisfied	590.0 (58.2%)	29.8	36.0	1.1	17.3	15.8
	Don't know	55.4 (5.5%)	27.6	49.5	7.9	3.4	11.5
	Total	1014.0 (100.1%)	27.4	29.5	2.1	13.6	27.3

Table 1. Familiarity and perception of the French Scientific Council COVID-19.  
(p-value  $\chi^2$  ; the total of the row is 100%)

Variable	Modality	Familiarity OR [CI (95%)]	p	Positive judgement OR [CI (95%)]	p
Intercept		2.31 [1.01-5.28]	0.047*	0.93 [0.44-1.96]	0.84
Age	17-34				
	35-64	1.82 [1.28-2.59]	0.001**		
	65+	2.78 [1.70-4.56]	0.0***		
Covid-19 experience	Covid				
	No covid	0.65 [0.42-1.02]	0.061		
Institutional trust	QLow				
	Q2			2.07 [1.16-3.69]	0.014*
	Q3			3.40 [1.85-6.26]	0.0***
	QHigh			8.65 [4.50-16.65]	0.0***
Level of education	below HS				
	HS	1.65 [1.08-2.51]	0.019*		
	above HS	1.34 [0.91-1.97]	0.136		
Policial orientation	Center				
	None	0.67 [0.37-1.21]	0.185	0.69 [0.38-1.25]	0.216
	Left	1.34 [0.65-2.78]	0.425	2.05 [1.05-4.01]	0.036*
	Right	0.73 [0.36-1.48]	0.384	0.62 [0.30-1.26]	0.186
	Far left	0.36 [0.18-0.72]	0.004**	0.55 [0.24-1.25]	0.154
	Far right	0.70 [0.36-1.36]	0.298	0.48 [0.23-0.99]	0.048*
	Other	0.40 [0.12-1.31]	0.129	1.84 [0.32-10.71]	0.499
Political engagement	Low				
	Average	1.31 [0.88-1.95]	0.182		
	High	1.71 [1.18-2.49]	0.005**		
Satisfaction towards government handling of the pandemic	Satisfied				
	Not satisfied			0.31 [0.20-0.47]	0.0***
	Don't know			0.47 [0.16-1.36]	0.165
Understanding of COVID-19 science	Yes				
	No	0.50 [0.36-0.69]	0.0***	0.30 [0.21-0.45]	0.0***
Usefulness of science	As much harm as good				
	More good than harm	1.92 [1.32-2.79]	0.001**	1.07 [0.70-1.63]	0.763
	More harm than good	1.48 [0.94-2.34]	0.094	0.58 [0.30-1.13]	0.107
	Don't know	1.64 [1.02-2.66]	0.042*	0.51 [0.24-1.10]	0.087

Table 2. Binomial logistic regression on familiarity and perception of usefulness of the French Scientific Council COVID-19  
Independent variable at the threshold of  $p = 0.2$  were kept in the model.  
(Acronyms : OR : Odd Ratio ; CI : Confidence Interval ; p : p-value ; DK : Don't know ; HS : High School)

Description	% (N=736)	Example of verbatim
No answer / Expressing the difficulty to answer	23	“Difficult, I feel there are too many organisations”
Political evaluation (negative or positive)	27	“Useless, dictated by the state and powerful lobbies” ; “Essential to the progress of the fight against covid”
Direct action on the decision	9	”Managing the health crisis and proposing decisions to the government to contain the pandemic”
Advice to politicians	25	”it is an advisory role, it only studies the infection, its spread, its impact on the population etc. but does not make any decisions, they give advice to the government which makes the decisions”
Purely informative	13	”it is in charge of giving a whole set of data and information to the French authorities about Covid-19”
Other/Not interpretable	3	“a group of scientific”

Table 3. Categories of answers recorded for the open question “describe the French Scientific Council COVID-19”.

Variable	Modality	1 - Don't know	2 - Don't understand	3 - No opinion	4 - Useless	5 - Useful	Total	Distribution
political decision should be based on science (p = 0.000)	1 - Yes	221.0 (26.7%)	240.9 (29.2%)	9.9 (1.2%)	107.6 (13.0%)	247.0 (29.9%)	826.4 (100%)	81.5%
	2 - No	26.4 (28.7%)	24.3 (26.4%)	1.4 (1.5%)	25.1 (27.3%)	14.7 (16.0%)	91.8 (100%)	9.1%
	3 - DK	30.9 (32.2%)	34.3 (35.8%)	9.9 (10.3%)	5.8 (6.0%)	15.0 (15.6%)	95.8 (100%)	9.4%
	Total	278.3 (27.4%)	299.4 (29.5%)	21.2 (2.1%)	138.4 (13.6%)	276.7 (27.3%)	1014.0 (100%)	100.0%
decisions regarding Covid-19 took sufficient account of scientific knowledge (p = 0.000)	1 - Yes	60.0 (18.9%)	53.3 (16.8%)	5.6 (1.8%)	48.2 (15.2%)	149.6 (47.2%)	316.8 (100%)	31.2%
	2 - No	180.2 (31.8%)	193.6 (34.2%)	3.0 (0.5%)	83.9 (14.8%)	105.5 (18.6%)	566.1 (100%)	55.8%
	3 - DK	38.1 (29.1%)	52.6 (40.1%)	12.6 (9.6%)	6.3 (4.8%)	21.5 (16.4%)	131.1 (100%)	12.9%
	Total	278.3 (27.4%)	299.4 (29.5%)	21.2 (2.1%)	138.4 (13.6%)	276.7 (27.3%)	1014.0 (100%)	99.9%
who is legally responsible of the decisions (p = 0.000)	1 - Decision-makers	54.5 (24.3%)	59.7 (26.7%)	1.8 (0.8%)	35.1 (15.7%)	72.9 (32.5%)	224.0 (100%)	22.1%
	2 - Scientific advisers	29.0 (22.3%)	48.8 (37.6%)	2.9 (2.2%)	14.4 (11.1%)	34.7 (26.7%)	129.8 (100%)	12.8%
	3 - Both	150.1 (28.4%)	138.3 (26.1%)	7.8 (1.5%)	82.5 (15.6%)	150.3 (28.4%)	529.0 (100%)	52.2%
	4 - DK	44.7 (34.0%)	52.7 (40.1%)	8.8 (6.7%)	6.3 (4.8%)	18.8 (14.3%)	131.2 (100%)	12.9%
	Total	278.3 (27.4%)	299.4 (29.5%)	21.2 (2.1%)	138.4 (13.6%)	276.7 (27.3%)	1014.0 (100%)	100.0%

Table Supplementary. Attitude towards the French Scientific Council COVID-19.  
(p-value  $\chi^2$  ; the total of the row is 100%)