

## Consent



University of Essex

### **Age differences in COVID-19 risk-taking, and the relationship with risk attitude and numerical ability.**

Date of approval: July 30th, 2020

#### **Invitation to our study**

We would like to invite you to participate in this research project. You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

#### **The Study**

This study aims to help understand individuals' behaviour and feelings related to the current COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. This online study consists of one session, lasting around 15 minutes. You will be asked to provide information about your feelings and behaviours concerning coronavirus, as well as given some questionnaires on personality and cognitive abilities. Lastly, you will also provide some basic information about yourself.

#### **Potential risks**

There are no known risks attached to participating in this experiment.

#### **Informed consent**

Should you agree to take part in this experiment, you will be asked to confirm your informed consent before the experiment commences.

#### **Withdrawal**

Your participation is voluntary, and you will be free to withdraw from the project at any time without giving any reason and without penalty. If you wish to withdraw, you can simply close the browser, but any data collected up until that point cannot be deleted as it cannot be identified.

#### **Data gathered**

- We will collect data about your feelings and behaviours concerning the materials related to the current COVID-19 outbreak, as well as your answers on questionnaires concerning personality and cognitive ability.
- Your experimental data will be fully anonymous so that it is not possible to identify you from our stored data.
- We are using your data to understand how people feel about coronavirus.
- Your data will be gathered by: Kelly Wolfe, Dr Miroslav Sirota and Dr Alasdair Clarke
- Your anonymous data may be published in scientific journal articles and shared in permanent, publicly accessible archives accessible from any country.

#### **Ethical approval**

This project has been reviewed on behalf of the University of Essex Ethics Committee and had been



approved with the following number: ETH1920-1494.

### **Questions, concerns and complaints**

If you have any questions about the study, you can email the principal investigator, or the co-investigators of the project (contact details below).

If you have any concerns or complaints about any aspect of the study, please contact the Principal Investigator of the project, Kelly Wolfe (see contact details below). If you are still concerned or you think your complaint has not been addressed to your satisfaction, please contact the Director of Research in the Principal Investigator's department (see below). If you are still not satisfied, please contact the University's Research Governance and Planning Manager (Sarah Manning-Press).

### **Contact details**

#### **Principal Investigator**

Kelly Wolfe

Email: k.wolfe@essex.ac.uk

#### **Co-investigators**

Dr Miroslav Sirota

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#### **Director of Research, Dept of Psychology**

Prof Silke Paulmann (paulmann@essex.ac.uk)

#### **University of Essex Research Governance and Planning Manager**

Sarah Manning-Press, Research & Enterprise Office, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, CO4 3SQ, Colchester. Email: sarahm@essex.ac.uk. Phone: 01206-873561



### **Title of the project: Age differences in COVID-19 risk-taking, and the relationship with risk attitude and numerical ability**

Research Team: Kelly Wolfe, Dr Miroslav Sirota, Dr Alasdair Clarke

1. I confirm that I have read and understood the Information Sheet dated July 30th 2020, for the above study. I have had an opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these questions answered satisfactorily.
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw from the project at any time without giving any reason and without penalty. I understand that any data collected up to the point of my withdrawal cannot be withdrawn because it cannot be identified.
3. I understand that the identifiable data provided will be securely stored and accessible only to the members of the research team directly involved in the project, and that confidentiality will be maintained.



4. I understand that my fully anonymised data will be used for the purpose of this study.
5. I understand that the data collected about me will be used to support other research in the future, and may be shared anonymously with other researchers.
6. I give permission for all the anonymised data and transcripts that I provide to be deposited in public repository (Open Science Framework) so that they will be available for future research and learning activities by other individuals.
7. I agree to take part in the above study.

**Please click the box below to indicate whether you agree or do not agree to give your consent to participate in the study**

**I consent**

☐

**I do not consent**

☐

## Introduction to survey

Before starting the survey, we want to say thank you for taking part. Your participation will further our understanding of people's approach to the current situation with coronavirus. For us to do this, we would like to ask you to answer the items as honestly as possible.

We would like to state again that your participation in this study is fully anonymous, and we will not know who answered what. For our study, the perfect response is a genuine response, as that helps us understand how people really feel.

## Demographic

Please enter the county in which you reside

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

What is your employment status?

What is your annual household income?



Do you believe that you have, or have had, the corona virus?

Have you been officially diagnosed with cognitive impairment by a physician?

\* Cognitive impairment can occur as a result from a transient ischaemic attack (TIA) or stroke, Alzheimer or other kinds of dementia, or other causes. An official diagnosis would be given to you by a health professional.

Yes

☐

No

☐

## Objective Risk

What is your age in years?

What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other

What is your ethnicity?

Do you have Diabetes (either type 1 or 2)?

*\* Diabetes complications: High blood sugar levels can cause acute or chronic health problems, such as eye, foot and kidney problems, nerve damage or gum disease.*

- ☐ Yes, I have diabetes, with complications \*
- ☐ Yes, I have diabetes, without complications \*





☐ No

To be able to calculate your BMI, we will need to know your weight. If you are not sure what your exact weight is, a close estimation will also suffice.

Please select whether you would prefer metric (kg) or imperial measurement (lbs).

Stone (st)

Pounds (lbs)

Kilograms (kg)

To be able to calculate your BMI, we will need to know your height. If you are not sure what your exact height is, a close estimation will also suffice.

Please select whether you would prefer metric (kg) or imperial measurement (lbs).

Height in centimetres

Feet (ft)

Inches (ins)



Have you had any of the cardiovascular diseases listed below?

- ☐ Angina, previous MI (heart attack), stroke or cardiac intervention
- ☐ Heart failure
- ☐ No

Do you have any of the pulmonary diseases listed below?

- ☐ Asthma
- ☐ Non-Asthma chronic pulmonary disease
- ☐ No

If you have Asthma or Non-Asthma chronic pulmonary disease, have you needed oral corticosteroids in the previous year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you have a malignant neoplasm\*?

*(A malignant neoplasm is a cancerous tumor, that can spread into, or invade, nearby tissues.)*

- ☐ Yes, I have active malignancy
- ☐ Yes, but I am in remission
- ☐ No

Do you have any Rheumatological conditions that are being actively treated?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are you currently undergoing immunosuppressant therapy?

*(Immunosuppressive therapy is a drug regimen that is being used to lower the body's immune response.)*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



## Risk Taking - COVID measures

The next set of questions will present a number of activities and behaviours. You will be asked to report **how often you have engaged in these behaviours in the last 2 weeks**.

Your answers will be fully anonymous, so please answer honestly.

Thoroughly cleaning my hands with hand sanitizer.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

Touching my face with unwashed hands.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

Regularly washing my hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

Practising social distancing by avoiding crowds in confined and poorly ventilated spaces.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐



Mostly not

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

Please select the option "mostly not" to show that you are reading the questions.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

Regularly cleaning common surfaces with disinfectant.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

Wearing a face mask when I am inside shops.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

Wearing a facemask when I am on public transport.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable





Meeting in groups larger than 6 people.

*(This does not apply to support groups, weddings, or funerals).*

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

Keeping at least a 1 metre distance from others when outside my home.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

Relying solely on contact-free deliveries for essentials and other shopping.

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Mostly yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly not
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable

## COVID Risk Perception

**How worried are you about the following issues at present?**

- Coronavirus / COVID-19

Not at all  
worried

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Very worried

☐



**How likely do you think it is that you will be directly and personally affected by the following in the next 6 months?**

- Catching the coronavirus / COVID-19

Not at all likely

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Very likely

☐

**How likely do you think it is that your friends and family in the country you are currently living in will be directly affected by the following in the next 6 months?**

- Catching the coronavirus / COVID-19

Not at all likely

☐☐☐☐☐☐

Very likely

☐

**How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

- The coronavirus/COVID-19 will NOT affect very many people in the country I'm currently living in.

Strongly disagree

☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

**How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

- I will probably get sick with the coronavirus/COVID-19.

Strongly disagree

☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

**How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

- Getting sick with the coronavirus/COVID-19 can be serious.

Strongly disagree

☐☐☐☐

Strongly agree

☐

## Dospert Likelihood

**For each of the following statements, please indicate the benefits you would obtain from each situation. Provide a rating from 1 to 7, using the following scale:**



**1**  
**Extremely**  
**unlikely**

**2**  
**Moderately**  
**unlikely**

**3**  
**Somewhat**  
**unlikely**

**4**  
**Not**  
**sure**

**5**  
**Somewhat**  
**likely**

**6**  
**Moderately**  
**likely**

**7**  
**Extremely**  
**likely**

Engaging in unprotected sex.

**1**  
**Extremely**  
**unlikely**  
**risky**  
☐

**2**  
**Moderately**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**3**  
**Somewhat**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**4**  
**Not**  
**sure**  
☐

**5**  
**Somewhat**  
**likely**  
☐

**6**  
**Moderately**  
**likely**  
☐

**7**  
**Extremely**  
**likely**  
☐

Drinking heavily at a social function.

**1**  
**Extremely**  
**unlikely**  
**risky**  
☐

**2**  
**Moderately**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**3**  
**Somewhat**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**4**  
**Not**  
**sure**  
☐

**5**  
**Somewhat**  
**likely**  
☐

**6**  
**Moderately**  
**likely**  
☐

**7**  
**Extremely**  
**likely**  
☐

Driving a car without wearing a seat belt.

**1**  
**Extremely**  
**unlikely**  
**risky**  
☐

**2**  
**Moderately**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**3**  
**Somewhat**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**4**  
**Not**  
**sure**  
☐

**5**  
**Somewhat**  
**likely**  
☐

**6**  
**Moderately**  
**likely**  
☐

**7**  
**Extremely**  
**likely**  
☐

Riding a motorcycle without a helmet.

**1**  
**Extremely**  
**unlikely**  
**risky**  
☐

**2**  
**Moderately**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**3**  
**Somewhat**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**4**  
**Not**  
**sure**  
☐

**5**  
**Somewhat**  
**likely**  
☐

**6**  
**Moderately**  
**likely**  
☐

**7**  
**Extremely**  
**likely**  
☐

Sunbathing without sunscreen.

**1**  
**Extremely**  
**unlikely**  
**risky**  
☐

**2**  
**Moderately**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**3**  
**Somewhat**  
**unlikely**  
☐

**4**  
**Not**  
**sure**  
☐

**5**  
**Somewhat**  
**likely**  
☐

**6**  
**Moderately**  
**likely**  
☐

**7**  
**Extremely**  
**likely**  
☐



Walking home alone at night in an unsafe area of town.

1 Extremely unlikely risky	2 Moderately unlikely	3 Somewhat unlikely	4 Not sure	5 Somewhat likely	6 Moderately likely	7 Extremely likely
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Dospert Risk Perception.

People often see some risk in situations that contain uncertainty about what the outcome or consequences will be and for which there is the possibility of negative consequences. However, riskiness is a very personal and intuitive notion, and we are interested in your gut level assessment of how risky each situation or behavior is. For each of the following statements, please indicate how risky you perceive each situation. Provide a rating from Not at all Risky to Extremely Risky, using the following scale:

1 Not at all risky	2 Slightly risky	3 Somewhat risky	4 Moderately risky	5 Risky	6 Very risky	7 Extremely risky
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Engaging in unprotected sex.

1 Not at all risky	2 Slightly risky	3 Somewhat risky	4 Moderately risky	5 Risky	6 Very risky	7 Extremely risky
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Drinking heavily at a social function.

1 Not at all risky	2 Slightly risky	3 Somewhat risky	4 Moderately risky	5 Risky	6 Very risky	7 Extremely risky
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Driving a car without driving a seat belt.

1 Not at all risky	2 Slightly risky	3 Somewhat risky	4 Moderately risky	5 Risky	6 Very risky	7 Extremely risky
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Riding a motorcycle without a helmet.





1 Not at all risky <input type="radio"/>	2 Slightly risky <input type="radio"/>	3 Somewhat risky <input type="radio"/>	4 Moderately risky <input type="radio"/>	5 Risky <input type="radio"/>	6 Very risky <input type="radio"/>	7 Extremely risky <input type="radio"/>
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Sunbathing without sunscreen.

1 Not at all risky <input type="radio"/>	2 Slightly risky <input type="radio"/>	3 Somewhat risky <input type="radio"/>	4 Moderately risky <input type="radio"/>	5 Risky <input type="radio"/>	6 Very risky <input type="radio"/>	7 Extremely risky <input type="radio"/>
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Walking home alone at night in an unsafe area of town.

1 Not at all risky <input type="radio"/>	2 Slightly risky <input type="radio"/>	3 Somewhat risky <input type="radio"/>	4 Moderately risky <input type="radio"/>	5 Risky <input type="radio"/>	6 Very risky <input type="radio"/>	7 Extremely risky <input type="radio"/>
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## DOSPERT Benefit

For each of the following statements, please indicate the benefits you would obtain from each situation. Provide a rating from 1 to 7, using the following scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No benefits at all			Moderate benefits			Great benefits

Engaging in unprotected sex.

1 No benefits at all <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 Moderate benefits <input type="radio"/>	5 <input type="radio"/>	6 <input type="radio"/>	7 Great benefits <input type="radio"/>
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Drinking heavily at a social function.







## Lipkus Numeracy Scale

You will be shown 15 numerical questions. Each question will require you to calculate your answer. Each question has a few words behind the answer line to indicate what type of answer is required. You cannot use a calculator or any other means of help, but you can use paper and pen for calculations.

Imagine that we rolled a fair, six-sided die 1,000 times. Out of 1,000 rolls, how many times do you think the die would come up even (2, 4, or 6)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Rolls out of 1,000

In the BIG BUCKS LOTTERY, the chance of winning a \$10 prize is 1%. What is your best guess about how many people would win a \$10 prize if 1,000 people each buy a single ticket to BIG BUCKS?

\_\_\_\_\_ Persons out of 1,000

In the ACME PUBLISHING SWEEPSTAKES, the chance of winning a car is 1 in 1,000. What percent of tickets to ACME PUBLISHING SWEEPSTAKES win a car?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

Which of the following numbers represents the biggest risk of getting a disease?

- ☐ 1 in 100
- ☐ 1 in 1,000
- ☐ 1 in 10

Which of the following numbers represents the biggest risk of getting a disease?

- ☐ 1 %
- ☐ 10 %
- ☐ 5 %



If person A's risk of getting a disease is 1 % in ten years, and person B's risk is double that of A's, what is B's risk?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

If Person A's chance of getting a disease is 1 in 100 in ten years, and Person B's risk is double that of A's, what is B's risk?

\_\_\_\_\_ %

If the chance of getting a disease is 10%, how many people would be expected to get the disease out of 100 people?

\_\_\_\_\_ Persons out of 100

If the chance of getting a disease is 10%, how many people would be expected to get the disease out of 1,000 people?

\_\_\_\_\_ Persons out of 1,000

If the chance of getting a disease is 20 out of 100, this would be the same as having what chance of getting the disease:

\_\_\_\_\_ %

The chance of getting a viral infection is .0005. Out of 10,000 people, how many of them are expected to get infected?

\_\_\_\_\_ Persons out of 10,000

## Descriptive items

How satisfied are you with the policies of the UK government to slow the spread of corona virus?

☐ Extremely satisfied

☐ Very satisfied





- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied`
- ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied
- ☐ Very dissatisfied
- ☐ Extremely dissatisfied

I regularly check the numbers of infection, hospitalisation and deaths relating to corona virus.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Moderately agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Moderately disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

