



Wellcome Global Monitor

The world's largest study into attitudes towards science & health.

What is the Wellcome Global Monitor?

- Wellcome is funding the largest global study into how people around the world think and feel about science and health.
- The survey asks how much science interests people and how much they trust it. It also asks about specific areas of science that are important to improving global health, for example, vaccinations.
- The final questionnaire is about 30 questions on a variety of attitudes towards science including knowledge of and engagement with science, trust in science and scientists, science & society and the intersection of science with religion and vaccine confidence.
- The Wellcome Global Monitor is part of the Gallup World Poll survey, which has been running since 2005.
- More than 140,000 people from 144 countries were surveyed during 2018 in 145 languages. The scale of this international study enabled us to include a variety of cultures, languages, and people of varied literacy to ensure the questions could be understood by everyone.

How can I benefit?

- Currently scientists, funders and policy makers have limited evidence about global attitudes to science and health.
- Better understanding of these attitudes will help scientists, funders and policy makers to promote debate and frame proposals for action on how to improve engagement and trust in science and health programmes.
- This evidence can help to improve policies and funding provided to help countries around the world engage in science, and help researchers consider the social and cultural context of their work.
- The evidence should also help to stimulate further conversations and research, often deeper and more localised.

What are the key findings?

What we know about science – and how we think it benefits society.

- Overall, 72% of people globally trust scientists.
- Over half (57%) of the world's population don't think they know much – if anything – about science.

More than three-quarters of the world's population agree that vaccines are safe and effective.

- Worldwide, 79% of people agree that vaccines are safe and 84% agree that they are effective.
- Bangladesh and Rwanda have the strongest confidence in vaccines – with almost all people in both countries agreeing that vaccines are safe, effective and that it is important for children to be vaccinated.

Doctors and nurses are most trusted for health advice.

- 73% of people worldwide would trust a doctor or nurse more than any other source of health advice, including family, friends, religious leaders or famous people.
- Across the world, people with the lowest household income have less confidence in hospitals and healthcare systems.

Significant gap in what men and women say they know about science.

- Men are more likely to claim greater knowledge of science than women. This gender gap exists even when men and women report equal levels of science attainment.
- Globally, 49% of men worldwide say they know 'some' or 'a lot' about science, compared with 38% of women.

How can I get involved?

- To access the full dataset and findings, visit wellcome.ac.uk/monitor
- We'd like to collaborate with scientists, funders and policy makers to stimulate further research and local discussions of the Global Monitor. Please share this with interested parties and let us know if they'd like to connect.
- We are conducting another Global Monitor in 2020. For updates on the Global Monitor visit wellcome.ac.uk/monitor, follow @WellcomeTrust and #wmonitor or email w.globalmonitor@wellcome.ac.uk

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