

## Appendix Table of Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>A. Survey Question Wording .....</b>   | <b>2</b> |
| <b>B. Sampling, Weighting, and Margin of Sampling Error Details .....</b>                   | <b>5</b> |
| <b>C. Comparison Between Sample and National Benchmarks for Key Demographics.....</b>       | <b>6</b> |
| <b>D. Supplementary Exhibits on Public Trust in Federal, State, and Local Agencies.....</b> | <b>7</b> |

## A. Survey Question Wording

Q1. In terms of recommendations made to improve health in general, how much do you trust the recommendations of each of the following groups? A great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?

- a. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC
- b. Your state public health department
- c. Your local public health department, meaning your city, or regional health department
- d. Nurses
- e. Doctors
- f. Pharmacists
- g. The American Cancer Society
- h. The American Red Cross
- i. The Surgeon General
- j. Your friends and family
- k. U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- l. U.S. National Institutes of Health or NIH
- m. Your local elected officials like the mayor
- n. Your state elected officials like the governor
- o. Leaders in your church, synagogue, mosque, or other religious organizations
- p. Health researchers
- q. Scientists working on health issues

**SHOW/READ TO ALL:** Now I am/we are going to ask you questions specifically about [IF TRACK=1: "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC"; IF TRACK=2: "Your state public health department"; IF TRACK=3: "Your local public health department, meaning your city, county, or regional public health department"].

**READ/SHOW TO ALL:** These next questions are about the COVID-19, or coronavirus, outbreak specifically.

Q2. How much do you trust (TRACK) to provide accurate information about the coronavirus outbreak?

*(Asked of those who trust [TRACK] a great deal for accurate information about the coronavirus outbreak and asked item)*

Q3. What are the reasons you trust (TRACK TEXT) a great deal to provide accurate information about the coronavirus outbreak? Are each of the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all that you trust them a great deal for accurate information?

- a. They have done a good job controlling the spread of coronavirus
- b. They have made things like vaccines and testing widely available
- c. They have steered clear of a lot of politics
- d. They follow scientifically valid research
- e. They have given clear recommendations about what people can do to protect themselves
- f. They seem to care about people
- g. They provide good care at public health clinics
- h. The staff have worked hard under difficult circumstances
- i. They have the experts
- j. The information they put out matches other sources I trust
- k. I trust the government generally
- l. The information they put has a lot of detail
- m. They put out information frequently
- n. They have steered clear of the influence of the private sector, meaning corporations and companies

***(Asked of those who do not trust [TRACK] a great deal for accurate information about the coronavirus outbreak and asked item)***

Q4. Why don't you trust (TRACK) (a great deal) to provide accurate information about the coronavirus outbreak? Are each of the following a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason at all that you personally don't trust them a great deal for accurate information?

- a. They have not done enough to stop the spread of coronavirus
- b. They have gone too far with restrictive recommendations
- c. They have given too many conflicting recommendations to the public
- d. Their recommendations and policies have been influenced by politics
- e. Their recommendations and policies have been influenced by the private sector, meaning corporations and companies
- f. They have not treated racial and ethnic minority communities as fairly as possible
- g. They have not treated rural communities as fairly as possible
- h. They have not respected people's religious beliefs enough
- i. They have not followed scientifically valid research consistently
- j. I don't trust the government generally

## B. Sampling, Weighting, and Margin of Sampling Error Details

Respondents for this poll were reached through the SSRS Opinion Panel and the Ipsos Knowledge Panel;<sup>1</sup> nationally representative, probability-based web panels. Given that these are probability-based panels, findings are statistically projectable to the adult general population. To ensure representation of all U.S. adults, including those with no access to the internet, additional interviews beyond the web panels were completed via telephone, and respondents' status as non-internet users was confirmed at the start of their interview. In total 3,986 interviews were completed online and 222 by phone.

The survey sample was weighted in multiple stages. First, a base weight was calculated based on the method used to recruit respondents into the sample, and these weights were trimmed to produce a final base weight. The sample was then weighted to balance the demographic profile of respondents to target population parameters. Comparisons between the survey sample and national benchmarks for key demographics are shown on the next page.

The design effect for this survey was 1.55 overall, which for a sample of  $n=4,208$  means the maximum margin of sampling error (MoSE) is  $\pm 1.9$  percentage points.

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<sup>1</sup> SSRS and Ipsos are survey research firms. More information about the SSRS Opinion Panel can be found at: <https://ssrs.com/opinion-panel/>; more information about the Ipsos Knowledge Panel can be found at: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/solutions/public-affairs/knowledgepanel>.

## C. Comparison Between Sample and National Benchmarks for Key Demographics

Appendix Exhibit 1 below shows key demographics of the sample compared to benchmark data.

- Benchmarks for sex/gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, nativity, and census region were derived from 2021 Current Population Survey<sup>2</sup> (CPS) data.
- The internet access benchmark was derived from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS)<sup>3</sup>.
- The urban status benchmark was derived from the 2020 Census Planning Database.
- The civic engagement benchmark was derived from September 2017 CPS Volunteering and Civic Life Supplement data<sup>4</sup>.

Differences between the weighted sample and the benchmarks are all less than 1 percentage point.

### Appendix Exhibit A1. Comparison Between Sample and National Benchmarks for Key Demographics

| Variable         |                    | Benchmark % | Weighted % |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|
| Sex <sup>5</sup> | Male               | 48.5%       | 48.1%      |
|                  | Female             | 51.5%       | 51.0%      |
| Age (in years)   | 18-29              | 20.3%       | 20.2%      |
|                  | 30-44              | 25.5%       | 25.6%      |
|                  | 45-54              | 15.7%       | 15.6%      |
|                  | 55-64              | 16.5%       | 16.4%      |
|                  | 65+                | 22.0%       | 22.1%      |
| Education        | HS Grad or less    | 37.9%       | 37.6%      |
|                  | Some college       | 27.1%       | 26.9%      |
|                  | College+           | 35.0%       | 35.2%      |
| Region           | North East         | 17.2%       | 17.2%      |
|                  | Midwest            | 20.6%       | 20.7%      |
|                  | South              | 38.3%       | 38.1%      |
|                  | West               | 23.9%       | 23.8%      |
| USR              | Urban              | 31.3%       | 31.0%      |
|                  | Suburban           | 45.4%       | 45.0%      |
|                  | Rural              | 23.3%       | 22.9%      |
| Civic Engagement | Engaged            | 34.4%       | 34.3%      |
|                  | Not engaged        | 65.6%       | 65.7%      |
| Race/Ethnicity   | Non-Hispanic White | 62.5%       | 62.8%      |
|                  | Hispanic           | 16.9%       | 16.6%      |
|                  | Non-Hispanic Black | 12.0%       | 11.9%      |

<sup>2</sup> Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Steven Ruggles, and J. Robert Warren. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 7.0. [dataset]. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V5.0>.

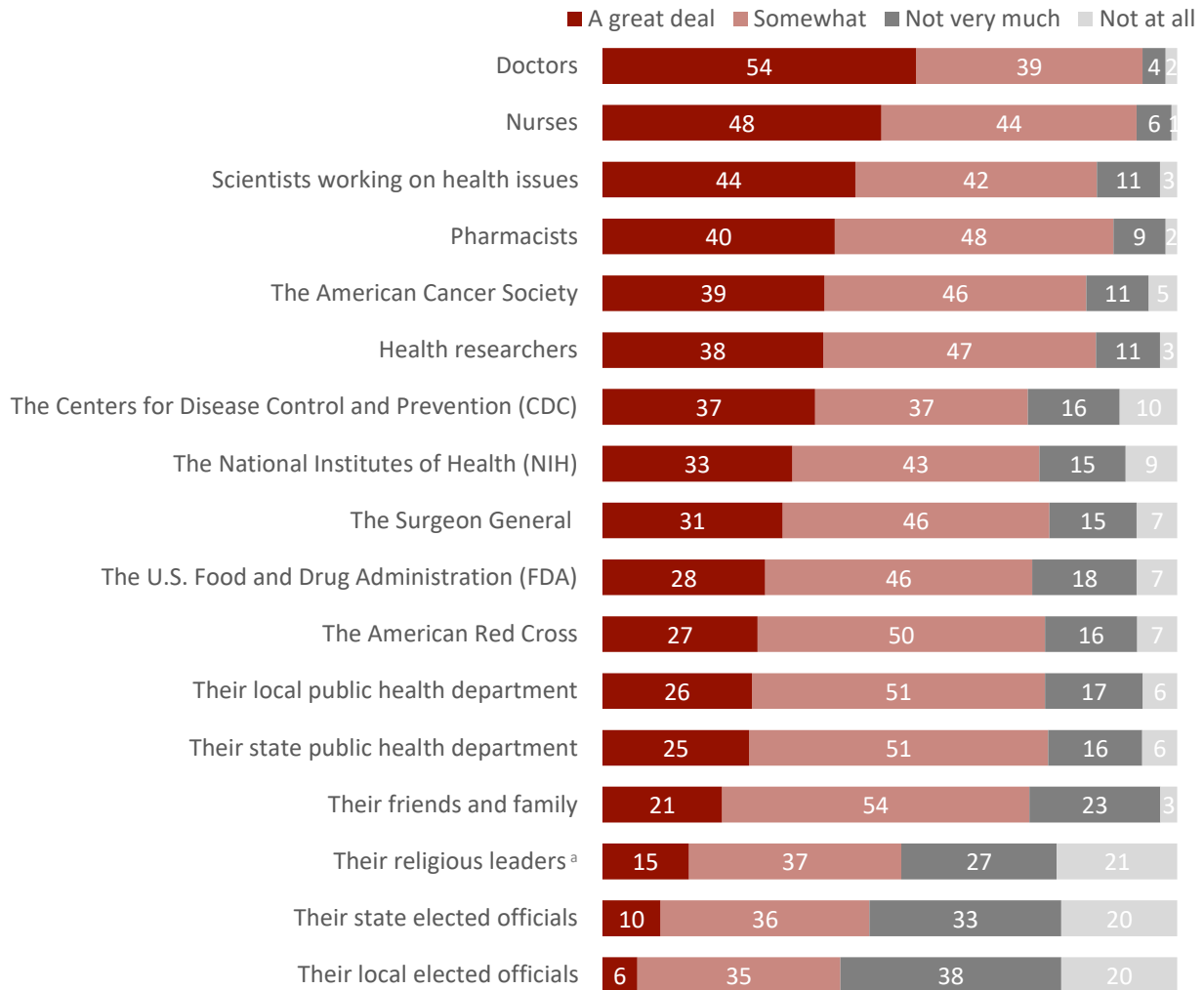
<sup>3</sup> Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, Erin Meyer, Jose Pacas and Matthew Sobek. IPUMS USA: Version 10.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V10.0>

<sup>4</sup> Civically engaged respondents are defined as those who have volunteered in the past 12 months or who talk to their neighbors daily. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/about/supplemental-surveys.html>

<sup>5</sup> For weighting purposes, survey data was weighted to the CPS variable A\_SEX, which used a dichotomous response option of male or female. Beyond weighting, this survey used respondents' current, self-reported gender and allowed multiple response categories.

## D. Supplementary Exhibits on Public Trust in Federal, State, and Local Agencies

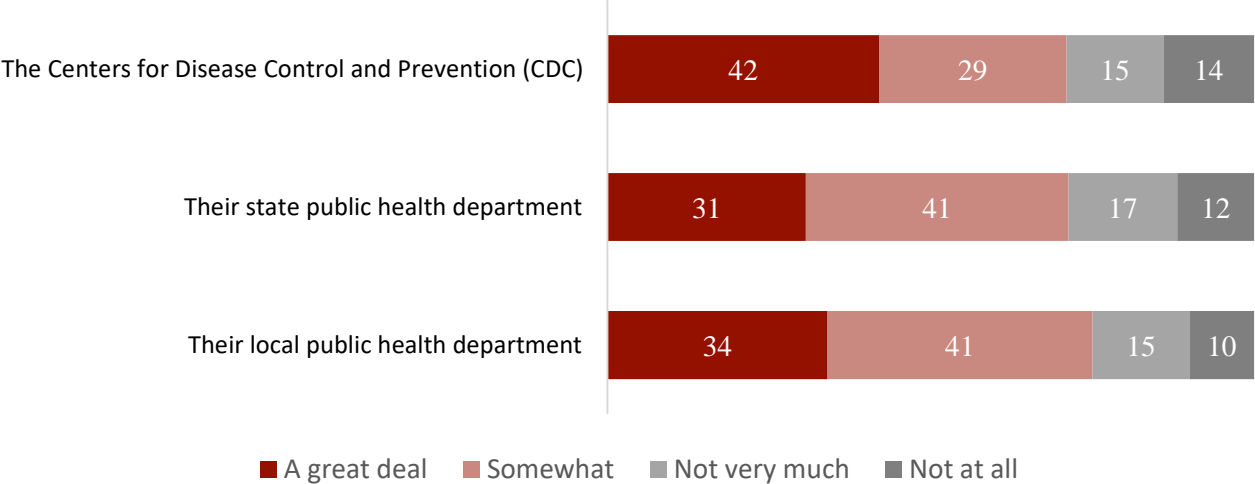
**Appendix Exhibit A2. Supplement to Exhibit 1 in the Main Article File:  
Public Trust in Sources of Health Information Among US Adults (in Percent),  
By Degree of Trust, 2022**



Source: Authors' analysis of data from a February 2022 nationally representative online and telephone survey of 4,208 adults. Notes: Weighted percentages are displayed. Survey question: "In terms of recommendations made to improve health in general, how much do you trust the recommendations of each of the following groups? A great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all" All respondents were asked about trust in the CDC and in their state and local health departments. In addition, respondents were asked about trust in 10 additional groups, selected randomly from a list of 14 (n = 2,026 – 2,168). <sup>a</sup>n = 1,606, excluding respondents who reported that religious leaders are not relevant to them.

**Appendix Exhibit A3. Public Trust in Federal, State, and Local Agencies on Covid-19**

*How much do you trust \_\_\_\_ to provide accurate information about the coronavirus outbreak?  
A great deal, somewhat, not very much, or not at all?*



Source notes: Authors’ analysis of a nationally representative online and telephone survey of 4,208 U.S. adults (n=1,405 respondents asked about the CDC, n=1,402 asked about their state public health department, n=1401 asked about their local public health department). Weighted percentages are displayed.