

## Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

### Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

- | n/a                                 | Confirmed  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The exact sample size ( $n$ ) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided<br><i>Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A description of all covariates tested   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. $F$ , $t$ , $r$ ) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and $P$ value noted<br><i>Give <math>P</math> values as exact values whenever suitable.</i>                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's $d$ , Pearson's $r$ ), indicating how they were calculated   |

*Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.*

### Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Data collection | All data in this study was generated synthetically, meaning no software was used to collect data.   |
| Data analysis   | R was used for all data analyses. Version 4.4.0 was used for all analyses performed locally and version 4.0.4 was used for simulations on a high performance cluster. |

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

### Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

No empirical data were used in this manuscript.

## Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with [human participants or human data](#). See also policy information about [sex, gender \(identity/presentation\), and sexual orientation](#) and [race, ethnicity and racism](#).

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Reporting on sex and gender  | This information has not been collected or generated.        |
| Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings | This information has not been collected or generated.        |
| Population characteristics   | See above  |
| Recruitment  | See above  |
| Ethics oversight   | IRB was not required since no empirical data were collected. |

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Life sciences       Behavioural & social sciences       Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

## Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sample size     | A population size of 100,000 was chosen for our simulations to balance between a sizable enough population to generate severe disease but small enough to implement with our computing resources. We chose to do 1,000 simulations for each parameter set to balance providing a robust number of simulations for each parameter set and the amount of computing time necessary to complete each simulation. We chose to do 768 parameter sets to produce estimates for every possible combination of parameters. Each of these choices were subjective, but provide a comprehensive set of results. |
| Data exclusions | No simulated data were excluded.   |
| Replication     | Each parameter set was simulated 1,000 times in order to produce reasonable intervals around simulation estimates.   |
| Randomization   | Randomness is present through all aspects of the simulation design, including whether and when people experience an infection or severe disease event, whether people experience signs and symptoms, and whether and when people obtain a vaccination.   |
| Blinding        | Blinding was not relevant to this study since all data were generated via simulation.  |

## Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

| Materials & experimental systems    |  | Methods                             |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| n/a                                 | Included in the study                                  | n/a                                 | Included in the study                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Antibodies                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology and archaeology | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms   |                                     |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data                 |                                     |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Dual use research of concern  |                                     |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Plants                        |                                     |   |

## Plants

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Seed stocks

N/a

Novel plant genotypes

N/a

Authentication

N/a