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Reporting Summary

Nature Research 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 Research 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	
☐	☒	The exact sample size (*n*) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
☐	☒	A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
☐	☒	The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided *Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.*
☐	☒	A description of all covariates tested
☐	☒	A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
☐	☒	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)
☒	☐	For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. *F*, *t*, *r*) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and *P* value noted *Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.*
☒	☐	For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
☒	☐	For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
☒	☐	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	No software was used for data collection.
Data analysis	Authors used R.

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 Research 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 list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

All the data used in this analysis can be found at https://osf.io/kzq69/.

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

Behavioural & social sciences study design

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

Study description	Cross-sectional random sample general population survey of 13,426 individuals in 19 countries using quantitative methods.
Research sample	A representative sample of the general adult population in Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States according to each countries' age, gender, educational level, income level and regional distribution, as outlined in the sampling strategy below.
Sampling strategy	Strata were established by age (using the following age groups: 18–24, 25–54, 55–64 and 65 years and older); gender (male, female, transgender, and "other,"); and level of education (based on each country's educational system), which was calculated from data provided by UNESCO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and country data from Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Educational level was coded into three groups of low, medium and high. "Low" included people who reported not finishing a secondary education (high school); "medium" included those who had completed secondary, vocational, technical, professional associate or high school degree; the "high" group consisted of those who had completed a tertiary or bachelor's degree and postgraduate work. Each country was divided into regions based on city/town, province or state unit of analysis. The number of participants who could enrol in each of these strata was calculated to reflect the distribution in the general population based on census/survey estimates provided by the World Bank and CIA World Factbook. Data were weighted by strata with each stratum requiring a minimum of 50 participants.
Data collection	Participants were recruited through multiple international online panel providers for each country to avoid coverage bias. Respondents' identities were verified using IP addresses and their mobile phones were verified to ensure that each participant was real and unique upon initial registration. Participants were recruited for the panels via a variety of methods, including online, telephone and direct mail solicitation, and equtiably compensated regardless of country being polled in order to comply with ethical compensation standards. All data were collected via online, telpehone or mail-based survey. Participants were recruited for the panels via online, telephone or direct mail solicitation. Researchers were blinded to the experimental conditation and study hypothesis.
Timing	Survey data were collected from 16 to 20 June 2020.
Data exclusions	Based on sampling strategy if a strata was full or individual did not meet the age requirement
Non-participation	No participants declined participation.
Randomization	Strata were established by age (using the following age groups: 18–24, 25–54, 55–64 and 65 years and older); gender (male, female, transgender, and "other,"); and level of education (based on each country's educational system), which was calculated from data provided by UNESCO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and country data from Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Educational level was coded into three groups of low, medium and high. "Low" included people who reported not finishing a secondary education (high school); "medium" included those who had completed secondary, vocational, technical, professional associate or high school degree; the "high" group consisted of those who had completed a tertiary or bachelor's degree and postgraduate work. Each country was divided into regions based on city/town, province or state unit of analysis. The number of participants who could enrol in each of these strata was calculated to reflect the distribution in the general population based on census/survey estimates provided by the World Bank and CIA World Factbook. Data were weighted by strata with each stratum requiring a minimum of 50 participants.

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

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ Antibodies
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines
☒	☐ Palaeontology and archaeology
☒	☐ Animals and other organisms
☐	☒ Human research participants
☒	☐ Clinical data
☒	☐ Dual use research of concern

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging

Human research participants

Policy information about studies involving human research participants

Population characteristics	See above
Recruitment	See above
Ethics oversight	This study was approved by Emerson College, USA (IRB protocol number 20-023-F-E6/12).

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