

Table 1. Demographic information, group differences of public's perceptions on the three most critical questions (n=2399)

variables	Category	N/%	Question 1				Question 2				Question 3			
			Mean	SD	χ^2/Z	P	Mean	SD	χ^2/Z	P	Mean	SD	χ^2/Z	P
Gender	Male	986 /41.10%	2.17	0.90	-0.815	0.415	4.60	0.72	-1.563	0.118	3.60	1.18	-2.361	0.018
	Female	1413/58.90%	2.18	0.81			4.58	0.71			3.49	1.15		
Age	15-25	1413/58.90%	2.30	0.86	48.187	0.000	4.65	0.68	22.164	0.000	3.50	1.15	16.299	0.006
	26-30	368/15.34%	2.12	0.80			4.60	0.71			3.38	1.22		
	31-40	561/23.38%	2.14	0.87			4.58	0.67			3.53	1.21		
	41-50	289/12.05%	2.06	0.80			4.54	0.73			3.62	1.11		
	51-60	230/9.59%	1.96	0.83			4.45	0.82			3.73	1.06		
	≥61	66/2.75%	2.20	0.88			4.44	0.88			3.77	1.08		
	Educational level	High school or below	168/7.00%	1.98	0.82	20.320	0.000	4.59	0.74	14.846	0.001	3.13	1.37	18.670
University or college		1644/68.53%	2.21	0.84			4.62	0.70			3.55	1.55		
Postgraduate or above		587/24.47%	2.12	0.86			4.51	0.74			3.62	1.13		
Occupation	Current student	776/32.35%	2.30	0.87	30.399	0.000	4.66	0.67	26.635	0.000	3.50	1.13	60.861	0.000
	Government functionary	399/16.63%	2.08	0.79			4.66	0.62			3.82	1.15		
	Professional staff b	660/27.51%	2.11	0.85			4.55	0.70			3.64	1.11		
	Other industries c	564/23.51%	2.13	0.84			4.48	0.82			3.26	1.22		
Lived in Hubei	Yes	39/1.63%	2.18	0.79	-0.180	0.857	4.51	0.85	-0.386	0.700	3.51	1.17	-0.136	0.892
	No	2360/98.37%	2.17	0.85			4.59	0.71			3.54	1.17		
high-risk group	Yes	106/4.42%	2.25	0.87	-0.924	0.355	4.47	0.80	-1.545	0.355	3.58	1.17	-0.366	0.714
	No	2293/95.58%	2.17	0.85			4.59	0.71			3.53	1.17		
Anti-epidemic actions	Yes	589/24.55%	2.17	0.86	-0.073	0.941	4.62	0.69	-1.569	0.117	3.75	1.12	-5.183	0.000
	No	1810/75.45%	2.17	0.84			4.58	0.72			3.46	1.17		
Work stress	Yes	1115/46.48%	2.20	0.88	-1.348	0.178	4.56	0.74	-1.612	0.107	3.50	1.15	-1.457	0.145
	No	1284/53.52%	2.15	0.82			4.61	0.69			3.57	1.18		
Economic pressure	Yes	801/33.39%	2.27	0.91	-3.441	0.001	4.54	0.75	-2.591	0.010	3.15	1.19	-11.127	0.000
	No	1598/66.61%	2.14	0.81			4.61	0.69			3.73	1.11		
Family-relationship stress	Yes	557/23.22%	2.32	0.91	-4.375	0.000	4.56	0.76	-0.595	0.552	3.38	1.14	-3.474	0.000
	No	1842/76.78%	2.13	0.82			4.60	0.70			3.58	1.17		
Children education stress	Yes	393/16.38%	2.18	0.90	-0.173	0.862	4.57	0.70	-1.037	0.300	3.51	1.17	-0.613	0.540
	No	2006/83.62%	2.17	0.84			4.59	0.72			3.54	1.16		
Social stress	Yes	911/37.97%	2.21	0.86	-1.756	0.079	4.55	0.74	-1.909	0.056	3.55	1.14	-0.280	0.780
	No	1488/62.03%	2.15	0.84			4.61	0.70			3.53	1.18		

Government

functionary: military/government worker/officer /civil servant; ^b Professional staff: doctor/lawyer/journalist/teacher; ^c Other industries: people who are not in the above three types of occupations.