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Covid-19: Insights on face mask use

Global Review

Sarah P. Jones

@mhintelligence

Report June, 2020

Prepared for the World Health Organization by the Big Data and Analytical Unit (BDAU) and Sarah P. Jones of Imperial College London's Institute of Global Health Innovation

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The Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London is led by:

Professor the Lord Ara Darzi of Denham
Co-Director

Dr David Nabarro
Co-Director

The Imperial College London - YouGov 29 Country Survey and CovidDataHub.com Dashboard

Sarah P. Jones
Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery & Cancer Research Postgraduate
https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-jones-mhintelligence

Melanie Leis
Director - Big Data and Analytical Unit (BDAU)
https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/m.leis

Dr Roberto Fernandez Crespo
Analytics Fellow, BDAU
https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/roberto.fernandez-crespo13

Dr Manar Shafat
Contributor, BDAU
https://www.linkedin.com/in/manar-s-90584415/

Dr Hutan Ashrafian
Scientific Advisor
https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/h.ashrafian

Gianluca Fontana
Operations Director and Senior Policy Fellow
https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/g.fontana

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Covid Data Hub

CovidDataHub.com

https://github.com/YouGov-Data/covid-19-tracker

Survey Questions: *linkedin.com/in/sarah-jones-mhintelligence*

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Nationally Representative Weighted Sample Sizes

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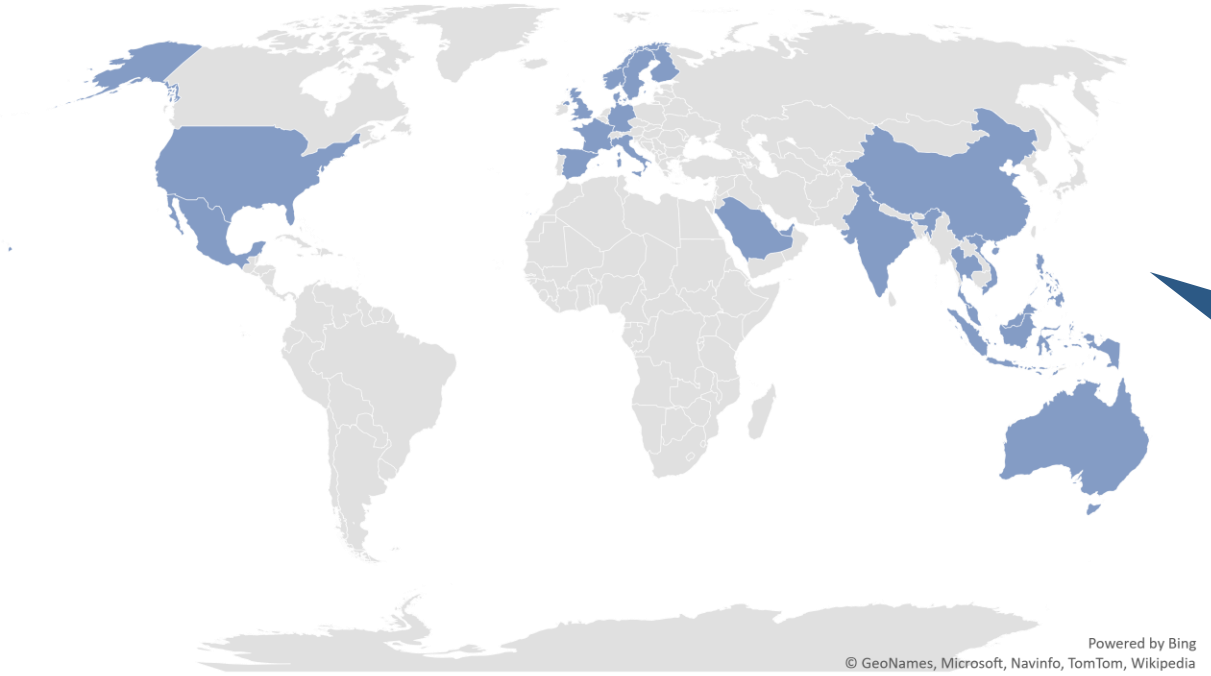
Total 22,251 ~ 1000 per Country

Last 2 weeks of May



Australia	Philippines
China*	Saudi Arabia
Denmark	Singapore
Finland	Spain
France	Sweden
Germany	Thailand
India**	United Arab Emirates
Indonesia	United Kingdom
Italy	United States
Malaysia	Vietnam
Mexico	
Norway	

Surveys conducted between May 14 and June 4. *China is representative of the online population. **India is representative of the urban online population. Report created by Imperial College London's Big Data and Analytical Unit. Full text of questions available at www.coviddatahub.com. YouGov is making the anonymised respondent level data freely available to researchers around the world through Github.

Only one in 4 reported not wearing a facemask

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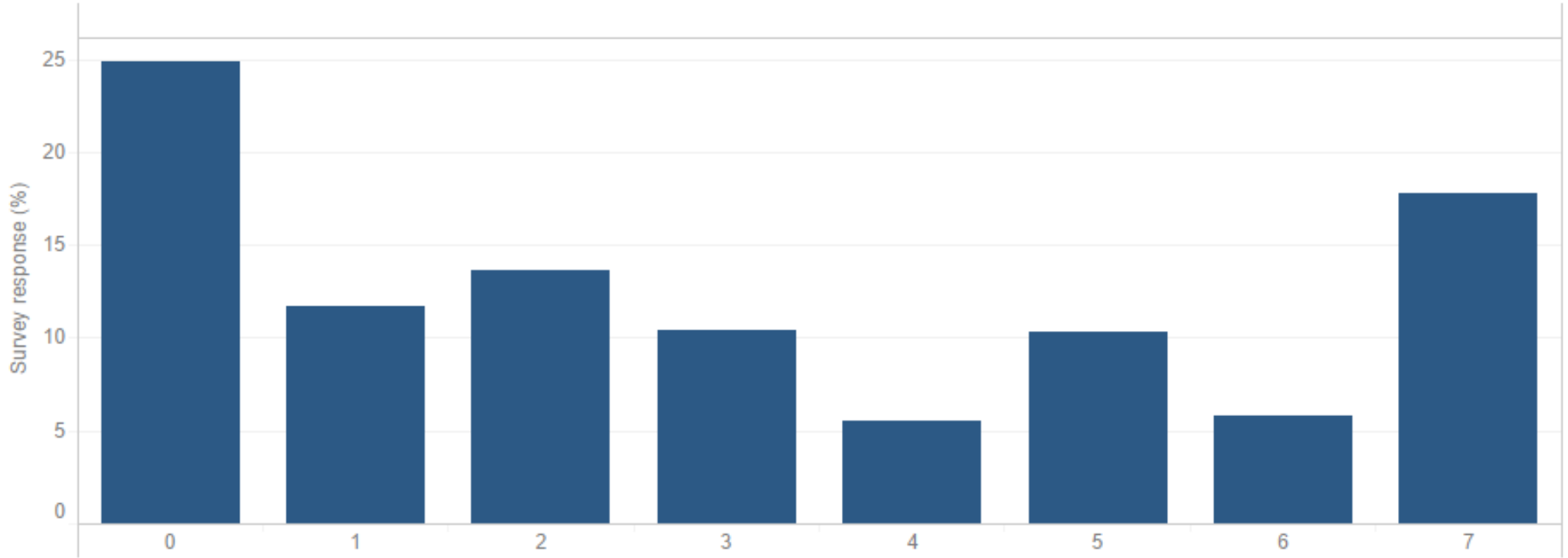
If you left your house last week, on how many of those days did you wear a face mask or covering? %



Only one in 4 reported not wearing a facemask at all when they left the house.

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Countries reported wearing / not wearing a facemask

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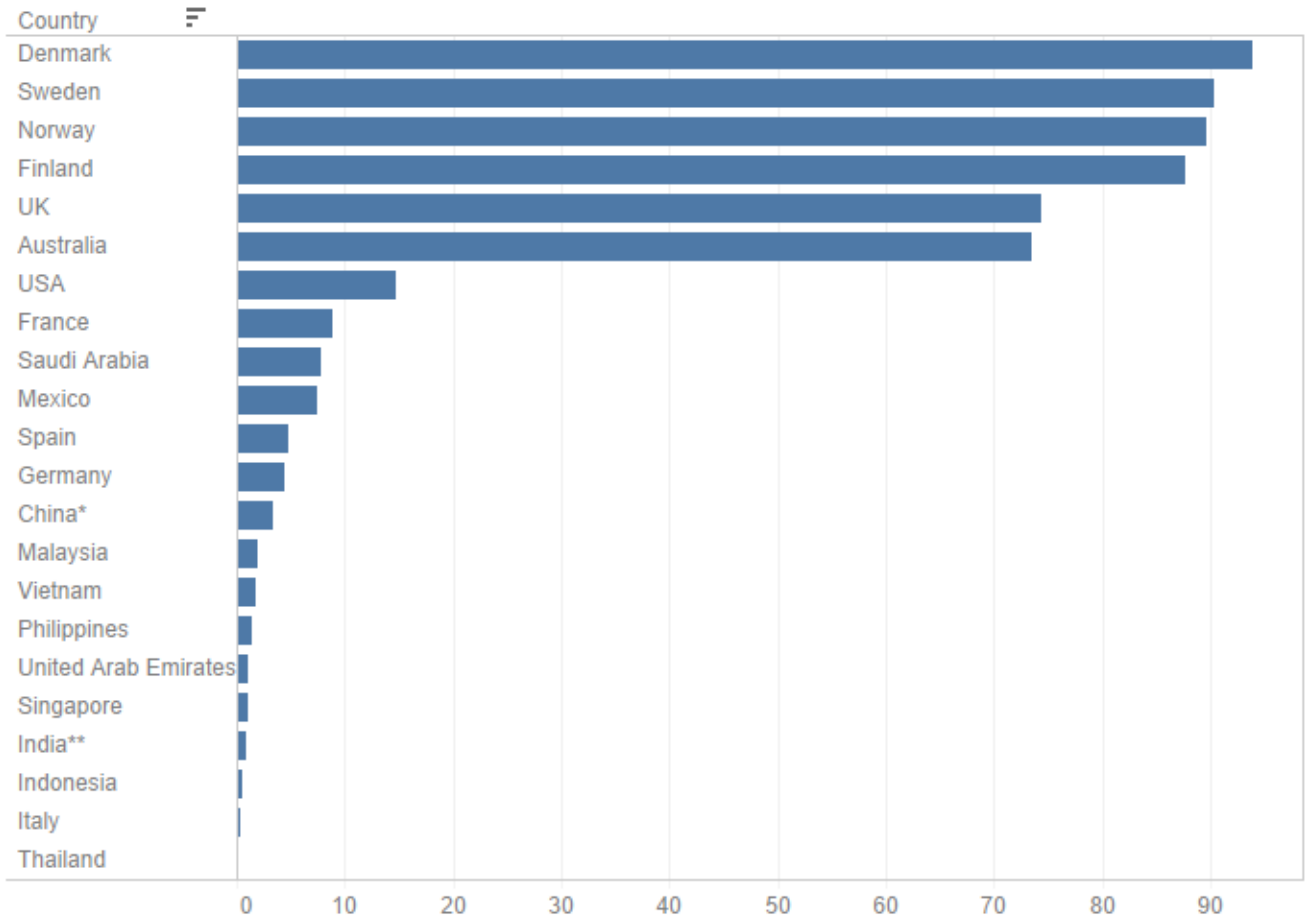
If you left your house last week, on how many of those days did you wear a face mask or covering? Respondents who answered "0" (%)



Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland reported wearing a facemask the least, with 88% or more respondents stating they wore a facemask 0 times when they left the house

Thailand, Italy and Indonesia had the lowest share of people leaving the house without a facemask, at less than 1%

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Over half of people who wore facemasks reported washing their hands more

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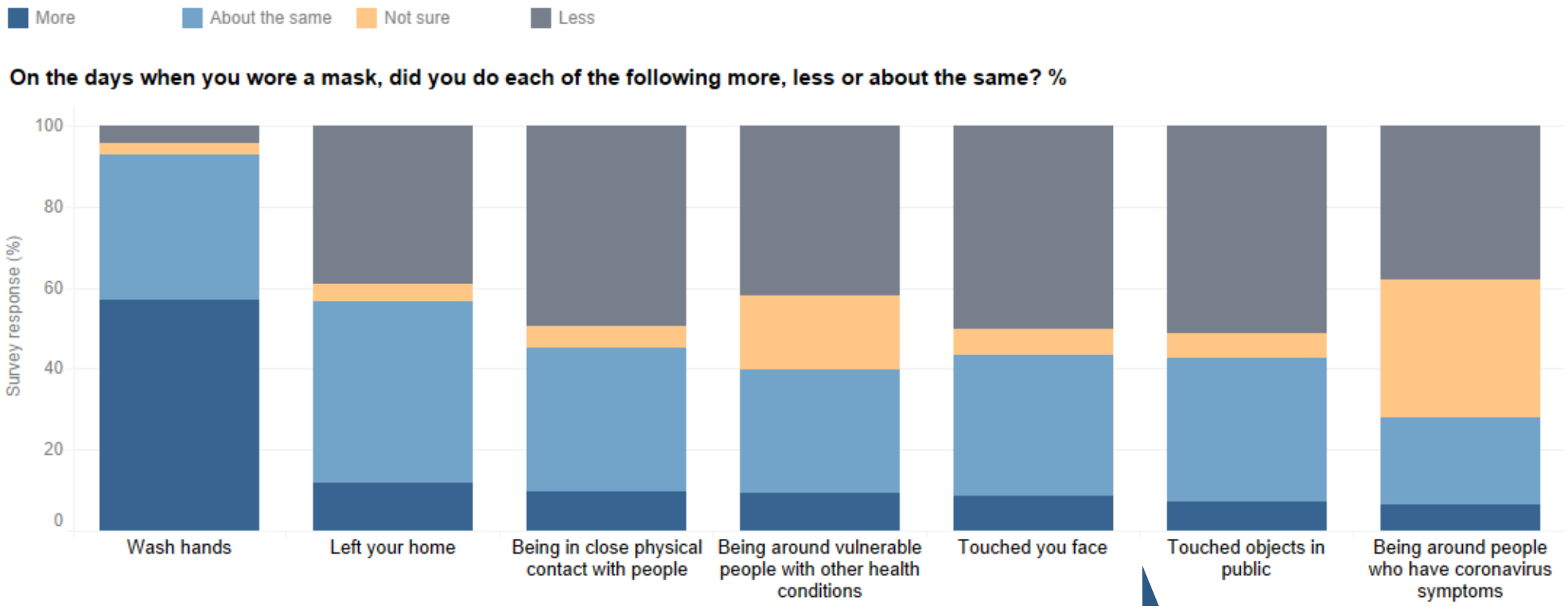

Over half of people who wore facemasks reported washing their hands more during those days. Half reported touching their face and objects in public less

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Countries wearing facemasks and reporting washing their hands more

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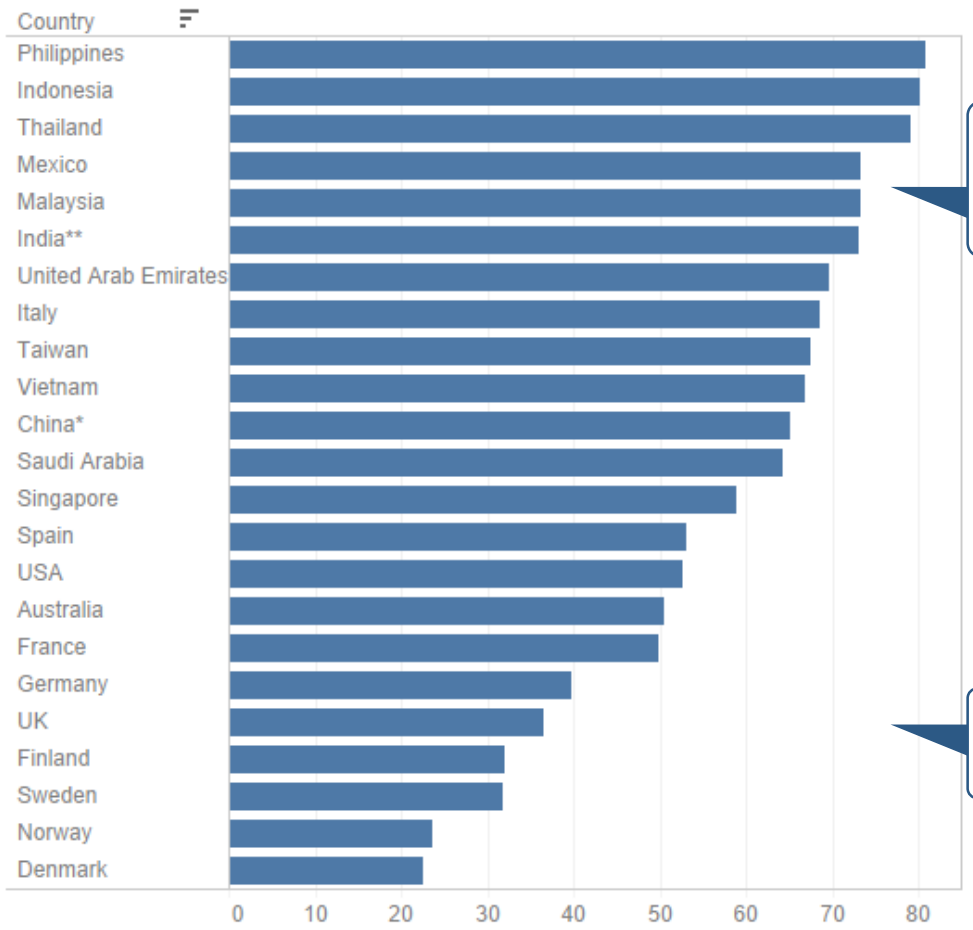
On the days when you wore a mask, did you wash your hands more, less or about the same? Respondents who answered "more" %



4 in 5 respondents in Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand reported washing their hands more when they wore a facemask

Less than one in 3 reported doing so in Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark

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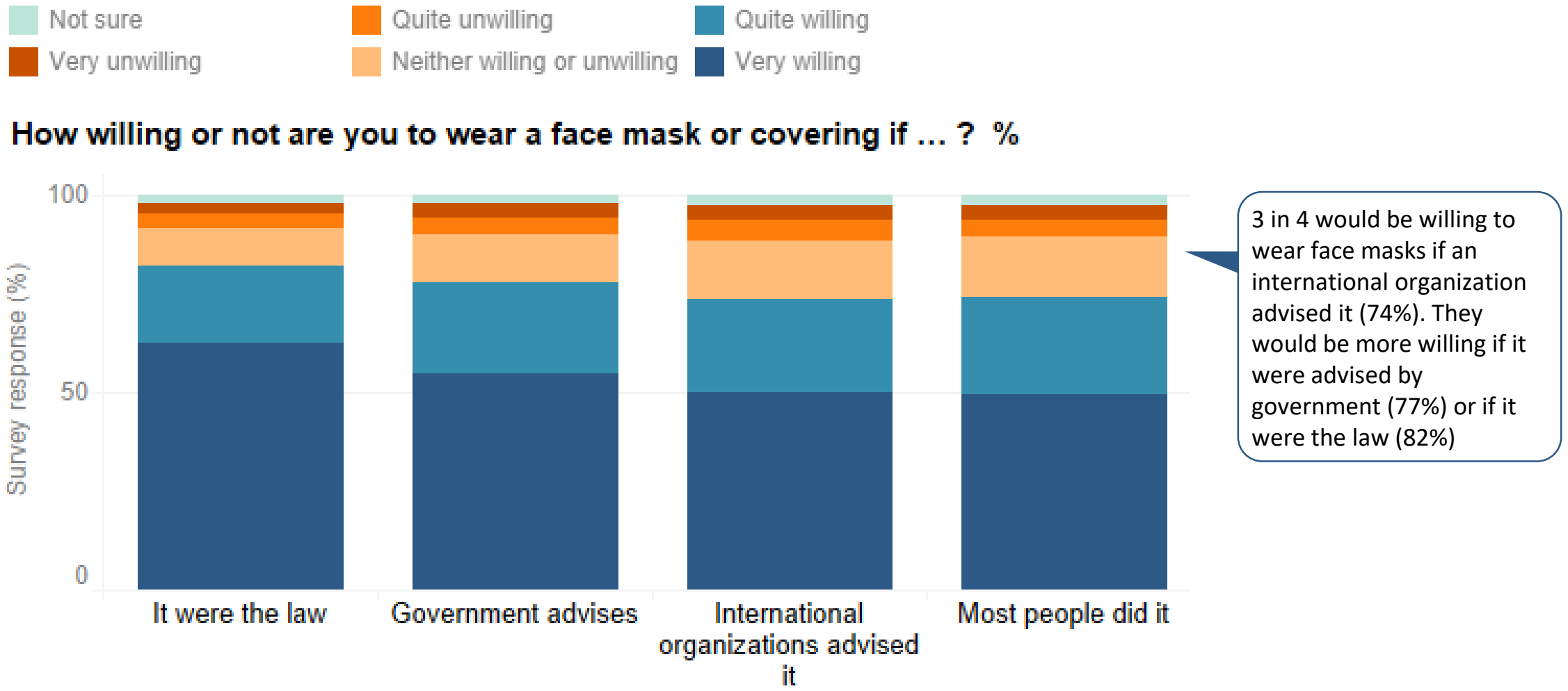
Acceptability

Most people are willing to wear masks, especially if it were required by law



3 in 4 would be willing to wear face masks if an international organization advised it (74%). They would be more willing if it were advised by government (77%) or if it were the law (82%)

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Acceptability of mask ‘If international organisations advised it’

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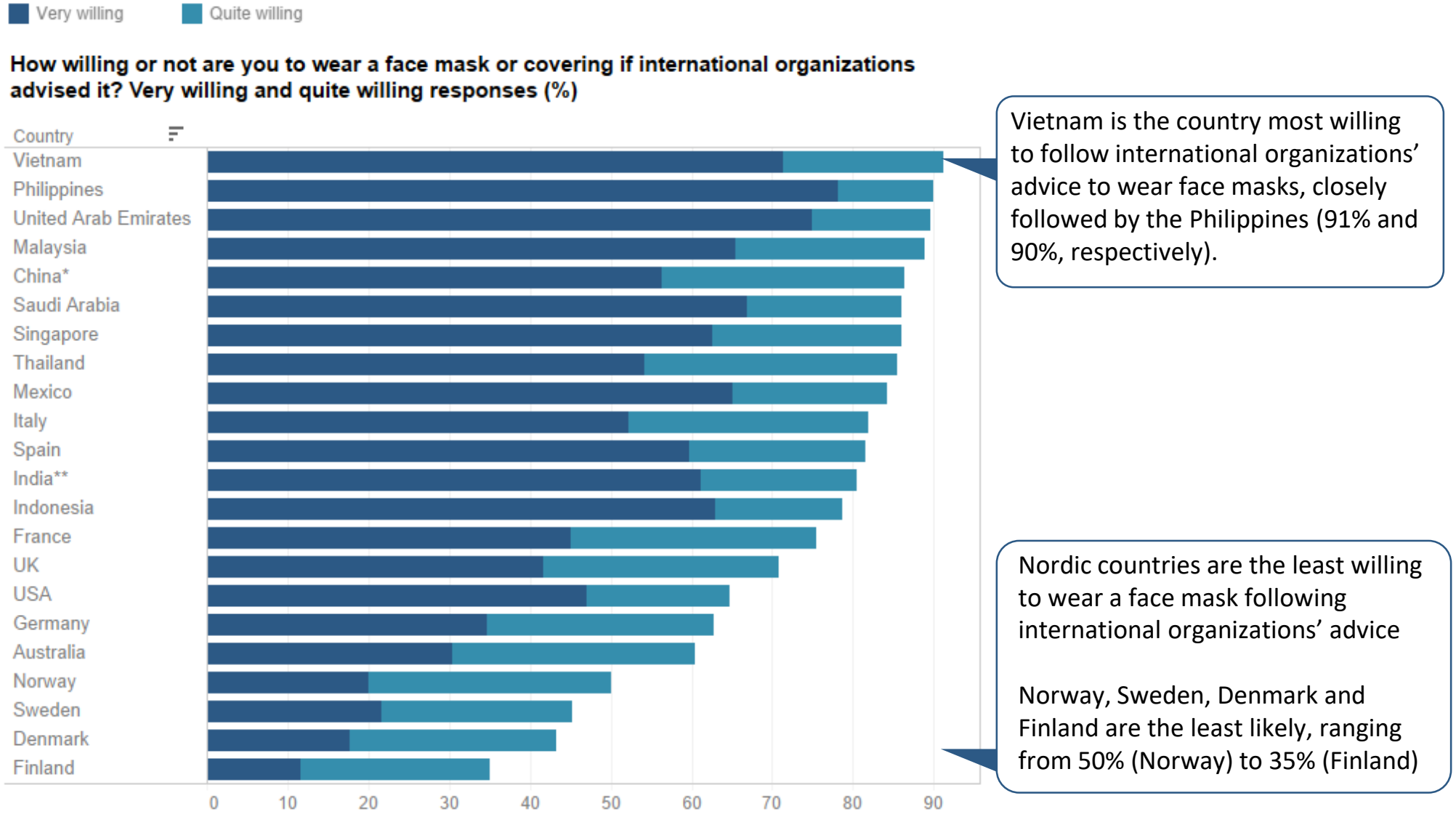

Vietnam is the country most willing to follow international organizations’ advice to wear face masks, closely followed by the Philippines (91% and 90%, respectively).

Nordic countries are the least willing to wear a face mask following international organizations’ advice

Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland are the least likely, ranging from 50% (Norway) to 35% (Finland)

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Acceptability - Safety and responsibility when wearing a mask

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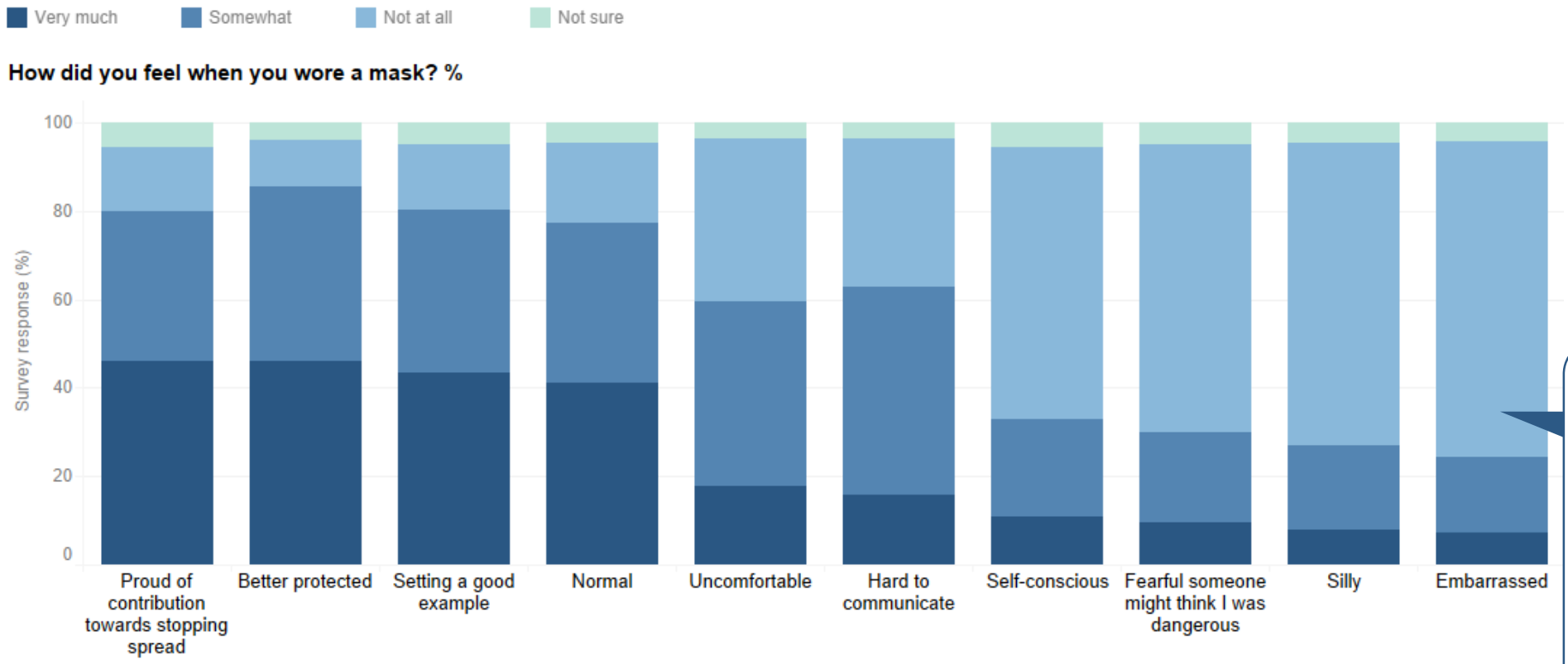

Feelings of safety and responsibility are associated with wearing masks. This was consistent when people were asked how they thought they might feel, as well as how they actually felt. Self-consciousness, embarrassment and fear are the least prevalent feelings

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Acceptability – Medical, Purchased Cloth, Homemade

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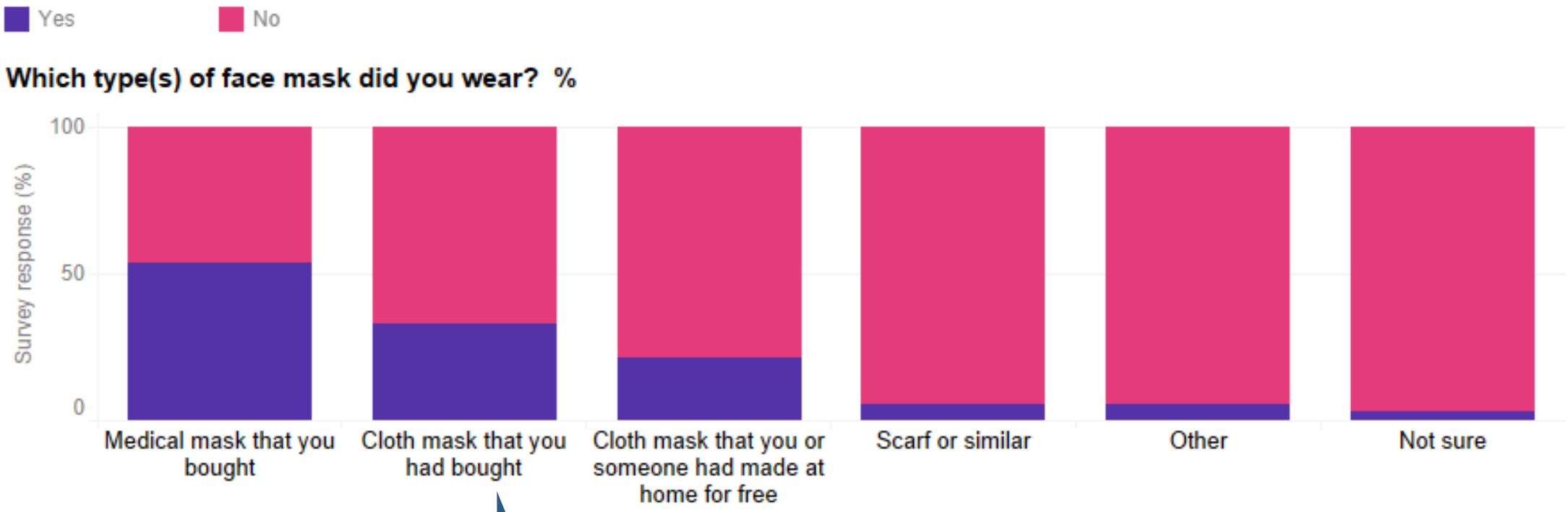

Although medical masks were the most commonly used by respondents, their availability varied greatly across countries

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Acceptability / Accessibility - More Willing Than Able to Make Own Masks

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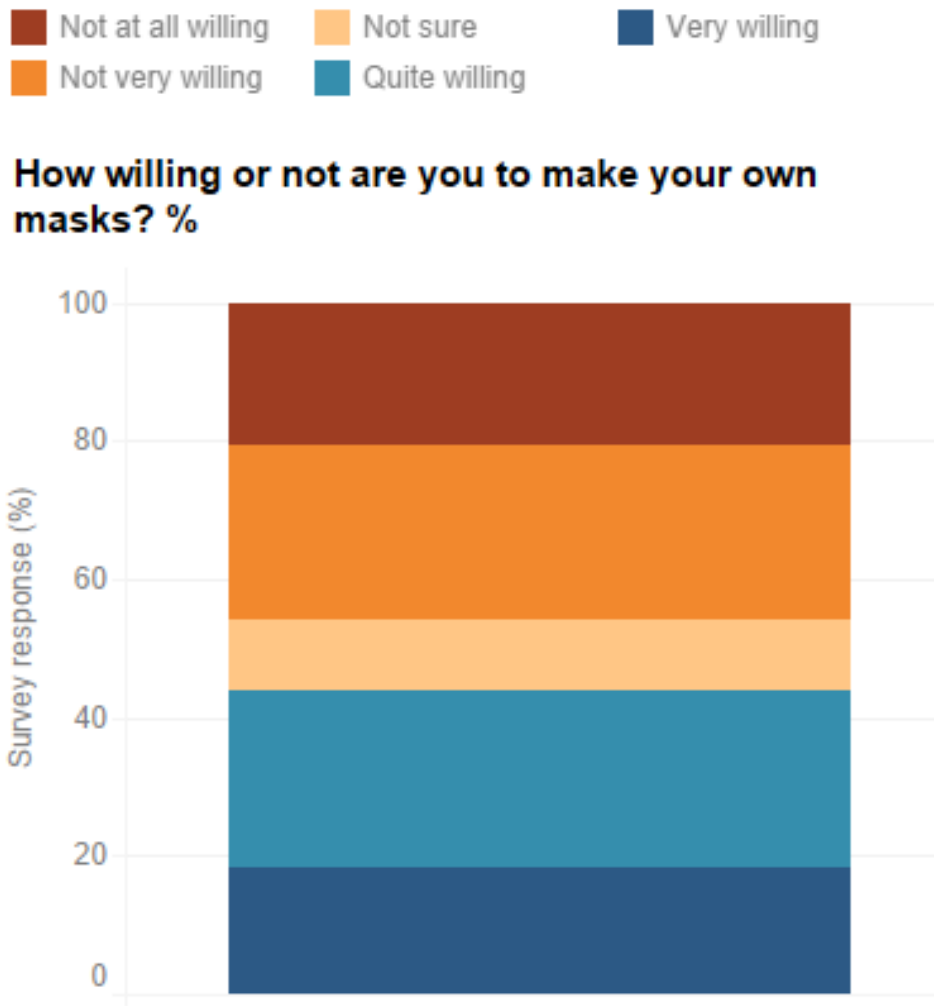

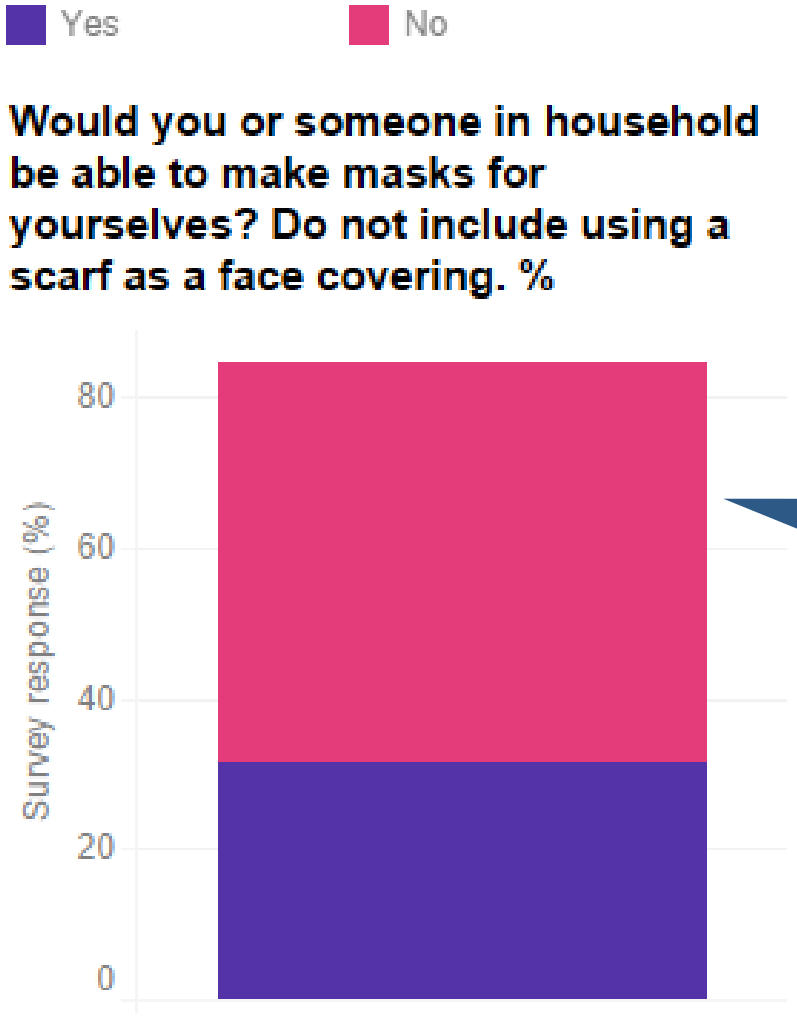

Nearly equal shares of the population are willing and not willing to make their own face masks.

Only a third of respondents stating that they would be able to make their own masks at home

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Homemade Masks: Easier to Wash, Cheap and More Comfortable

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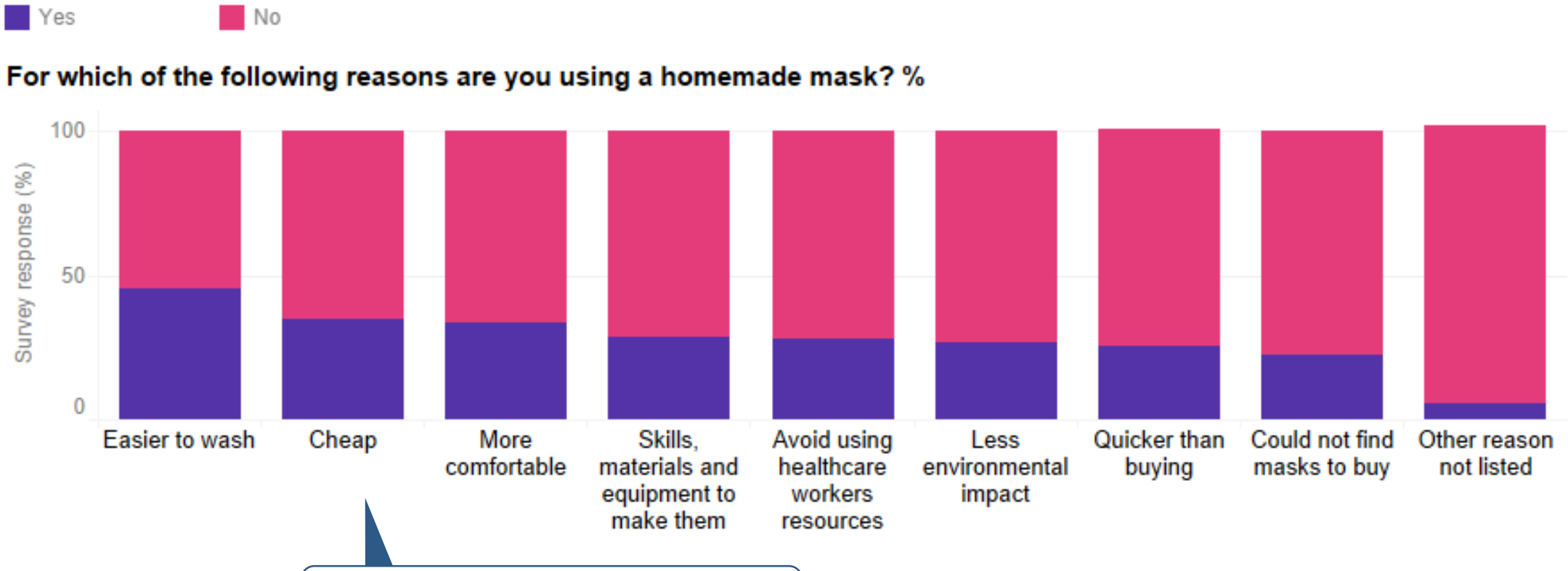

Respondents used homemade masks because they were easier to wash, cheap and more comfortable. Ease to wash was the most popular reason across countries

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Barriers – Hot and Difficulty Breathing

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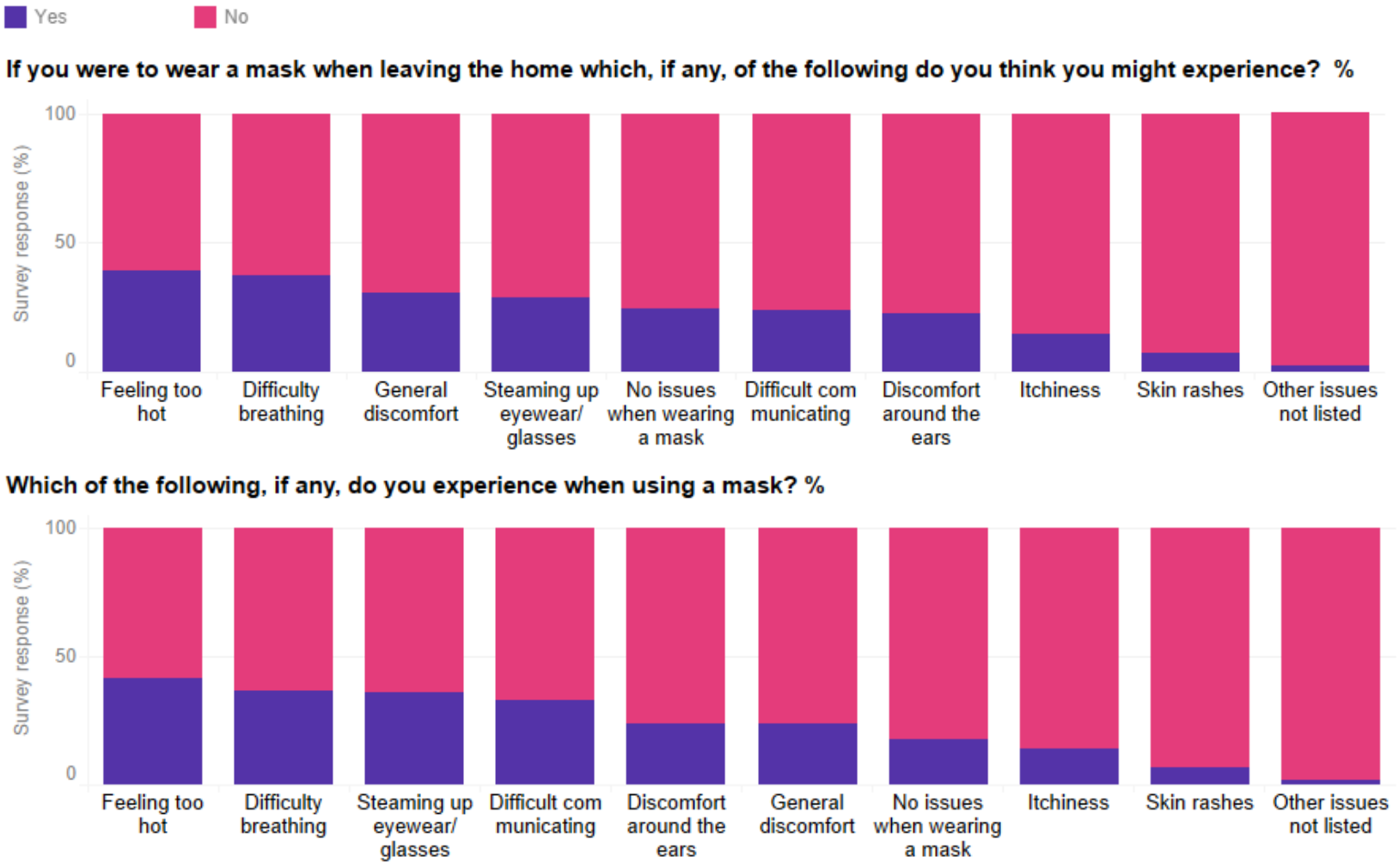

Feeling too hot and difficulty breathing is associated with wearing facemasks. This was consistent when people were asked what they thought they might experience, as well as what they actually experienced

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Our research collaboration includes the great minds at:

Professor John F. Helliwell
Co-editor, World Happiness Report
Vancouver School of Economics at the University of British Columbia, Research Associate of the NBER and Distinguished Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research

Professor the Lord Richard Layard
Co-editor, World Happiness Report
Founder-Director of the Centre for Economics Performance at the London School of Economics, and co-founder of Action for Happiness

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs
Co-editor, World Happiness Report
Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and SDG Advocate under Secretary-General António Guterres

Professor Jan-Emmanuel De Neve
Co-editor, World Happiness Report
University of Oxford where he is the director of the Wellbeing Research Centre. De Neve is also a KSI Fellow and Vice-Principal of Harris Manchester College

Contributors to the Imperial College London - YouGov survey include:
Professor Helen Ward, Dr Christina J. Atchinson, Dr Benjamin C. Lambert, and Gavin Ellison

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Communication with the research team can be made using this link: *https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dj03OSFnLkf9Jw9*
Press enquiries can be directed to Dr Justine Alford, j.alford@imperial.ac.uk

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Survey Questions: *linkedin.com/in/sarah-jones-mhintelligence*

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