

## Perception of healthcare associated infections risk among the general population in France

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Full report



### Introduction

**Context:** healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) prevention mainly relies on technical and organizational measures

**Hypothesis:** public perception of HAI risk significantly influences adherence to preventive behavior

**Objectives:** to describe the perception of HAIs risk among the French general population to better tailor prevention messages

### Methods

Spring 2025

Cross-sectional anonymous survey

Two formats:

- online self-administered questionnaire
- Interviews in public areas and healthcare facilities

### Results

706 answers: 565 online, 141 interviewer-administered  
75% fear of acquiring HAIs < 3/5

Women, middle-aged adults greater confidence in preventive measures

Young adults and men lower concern and less confidence in institutional sources

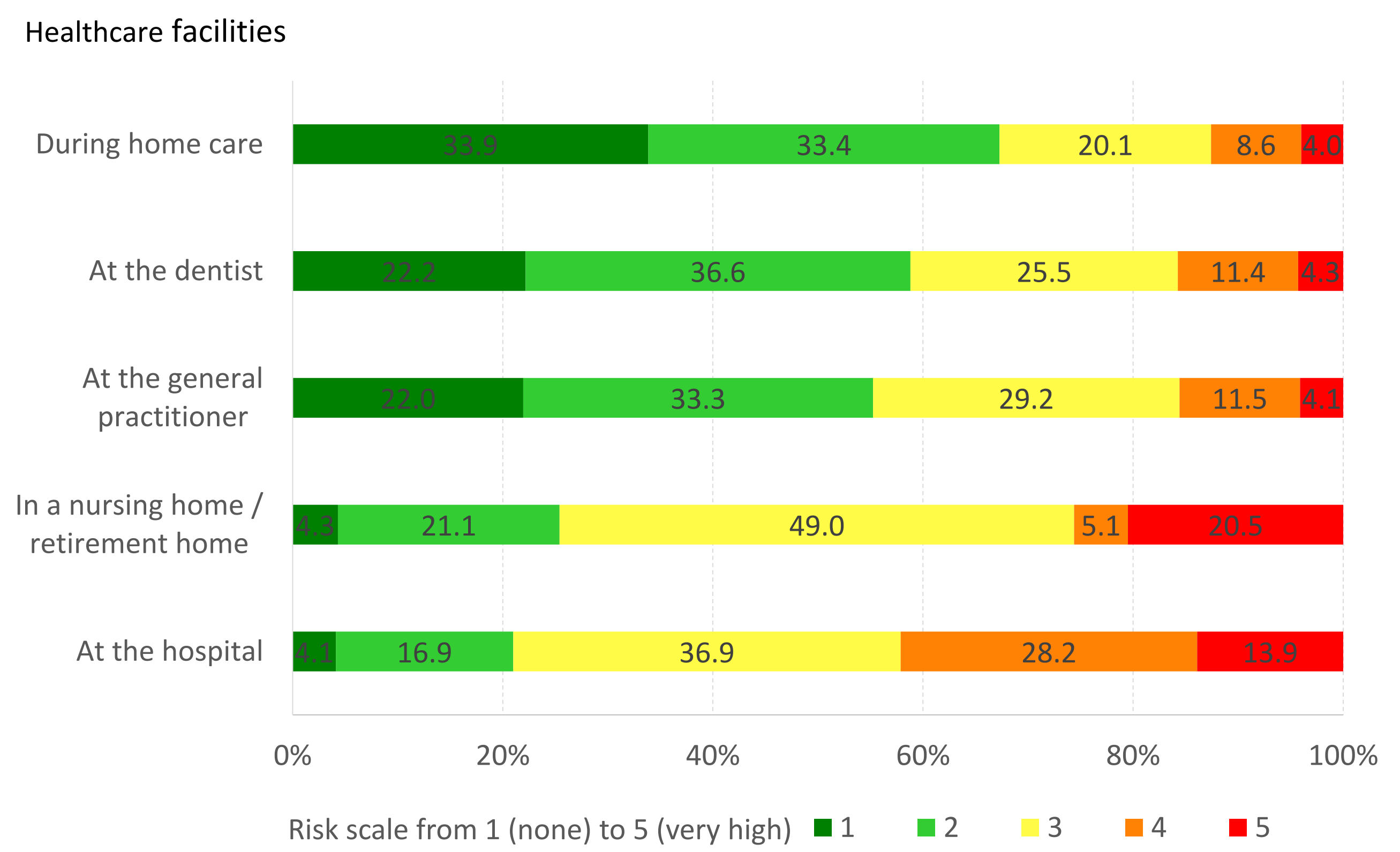
### Conclusion

**Perception of HAI risk:** moderate and varying according to sociodemographic factors

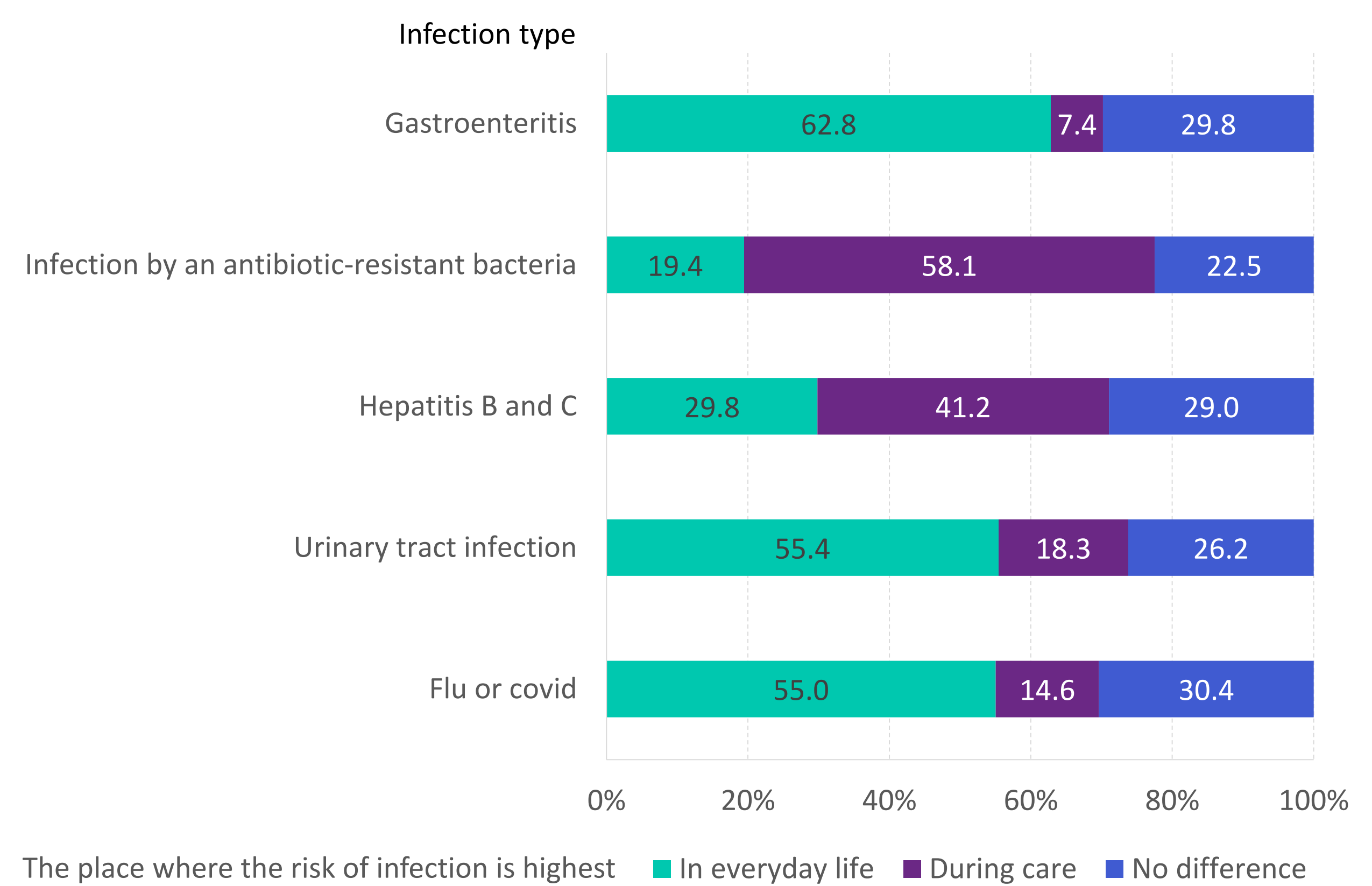
**Need:** targeted communication strategies to engage less aware groups (especially young adults and men) using adapted, generation-appropriate media such as social networks

**Importance:** integrating perception-based approaches into infection prevention programs to enhance public adherence and confidence

### Perceived risk of infection by healthcare settings



### Perceived risk of infection by type and by location where the risk of infection is highest



### Perception of the effectiveness of prevention measures and the reliability of information sources

	Professionals and students in the medical and social care sector		Non-healthcare professionals		Total population		p-value <sup>‡</sup>
	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Perception of the effectiveness of prevention measures from 1 (not effective) to 5 (very effective)</b>							
Hand hygiene with an alcohol-based solution	1	1	1.0 %	12	2.0 %	13	1.8 %
	2	0	0.0 %	13	2.2 %	13	1.8 %
	3	6	5.8 %	66	11.0 %	72	10.2 %
	4	16	15.4 %	182	30.2 %	198	28.0 %
	5	81	77.9 %	328	54.5 %	409	57.9 %
Wearing a surgical mask	1	2	1.9 %	21	3.5 %	23	3.3 %
	2	2	1.9 %	29	4.8 %	31	4.4 %
	3	11	10.6 %	113	18.8 %	124	17.6 %
	4	31	31.0 %	201	33.4 %	232	32.9 %
	5	58	55.8 %	236	39.2 %	294	41.6 %
Environmental maintenance	1	1	1.0 %	9	1.5 %	10	1.4 %
	2	1	1.0 %	15	2.5 %	16	2.3 %
	3	6	5.8 %	47	7.8 %	53	7.5 %
	4	14	13.5 %	161	26.7 %	175	24.8 %
	5	82	78.8 %	370	61.5 %	452	64.0 %
<b>Perception of the reliability of information sources (3 max)</b>							
Healthcare professionals	86	82.7 %	485	80.6 %	571	80.9 %	
Documents/websites of health authorities	80	76.9 %	365	60.6 %	445	63.0 %	**
Television	22	21.2 %	186	30.9 %	208	29.5 %	*
Print media	16	15.4 %	140	23.3 %	156	22.1 %	*
Radio	11	10.6 %	96	15.9 %	107	15.2 %	*
Other websites	21	20.2 %	76	12.6 %	97	13.7 %	*
Social media	8	7.7 %	59	9.8 %	67	9.5 %	
Online press	4	3.8 %	40	6.6 %	44	6.2 %	
Others	5	4.8 %	28	4.7 %	33	4.7 %	

<sup>‡</sup> Fisher's test was used for sample sizes smaller than 5

\* p<0.05

\*\*p<0.001