

Title: Descriptive statistics appendix for “Hide and seek: The connection between false beliefs and perceptions of government transparency”

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Note: The material contained herein is supplementary to the article named in the title and published in the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review.

Appendix A: Descriptive statistics

This Appendix presents the descriptive statistics of the variables included in our main models, as well as figures showing the distribution of our main dependent (perceptions of transparency) and independent (false beliefs) variables.

Table A1. Descriptive statistics.

	n	mean	sd	min	max
Lacks transparency	935	0.576	0.324	0.00	1.00
Hides information	976	0.503	0.303	0.00	1.00
Hides information (t-1)	592	0.504	0.293	0.00	1.00
Δ Hides information	574	-0.207	2.373	-8.00	10.00
False beliefs	1005	0.283	0.254	0.00	1.00
Vote federal	1005	0.277	0.448	0.00	1.00
Vote federal (t-1)	600	0.305	0.461	0.00	1.00
Δ Vote federal	600	-0.007	0.295	-1.00	1.00
Vote provincial	999	0.340	0.474	0.00	1.00
Vote provincial (t-1)	594	0.362	0.481	0.00	1.00
Δ Vote provincial	594	-0.013	0.394	-1.00	1.00
Trust federal	992	0.521	0.279	0.00	1.00
Trust federal (t-1)	597	0.531	0.288	0.00	1.00
Δ Trust federal	594	-0.010	0.215	-1.00	0.67
Trust provincial	986	0.539	0.280	0.00	1.00
Trust provincial (t-1)	598	0.543	0.252	0.00	1.00
Δ Trust provincial	591	-0.013	0.234	-1.00	1.00
Satisfaction democracy	978	0.614	0.267	0.00	1.00
Satisfaction democracy (t-1)	579	0.571	0.264	0.00	1.00
Δ Satisfaction democracy	575	0.044	0.246	-1.00	1.00
Handling federal	983	0.518	0.298	0.00	1.00
Handling federal (t-1)	592	0.594	0.305	0.00	1.00
Δ Handling federal	587	-0.079	0.206	-0.67	0.67
Handling provincial	992	0.505	0.308	0.00	1.00
Handling provincial (t-1)	587	0.644	0.242	0.00	1.00
Δ Handling provincial	583	-0.138	0.266	-1.00	1.00
Trust scientists	994	0.722	0.232	0.00	1.00
Trust scientists (t-1)	598	0.706	0.210	0.00	1.00
Federal PID	1005	0.233	0.423	0.00	1.00
Provincial PID	1005	0.280	0.449	0.00	1.00
Left-right ideology	915	0.498	0.209	0.00	1.00
Social media news consumption	1005	0.548	0.317	0.20	1.00
Television news consumption	1005	0.677	0.323	0.20	1.00

	n	mean	sd	min	max
Print news consumption	1005	0.359	0.259	0.20	1.00
Age	1005	0.522	0.278	0.00	1.00
Female	1005	0.483	0.500	0.00	1.00
Education	999	0.619	0.394	0.00	1.00

Notes: Statistics at t-1 (June 2020) are calculated on those who also answered the survey at t (January 2021).

Figures A1 and A2 show the perceived truthfulness of the six false statements in our false beliefs index. The statements were the following: (1) the government is exaggerating the risks of the coronavirus to be able to restrict people’s rights and freedoms; (2) the virus was created by China to increase its power in the world; (3) the virus was created by large corporations because some of them can directly profit from it; (4) the prolonged use of masks can lead to CO₂ intoxication or oxygen deficiency; (5) hydroxychloroquine is an effective treatment against COVID-19; and (6) coronavirus figures are inflated because a significant number of people who tested positive were not infected with the virus.

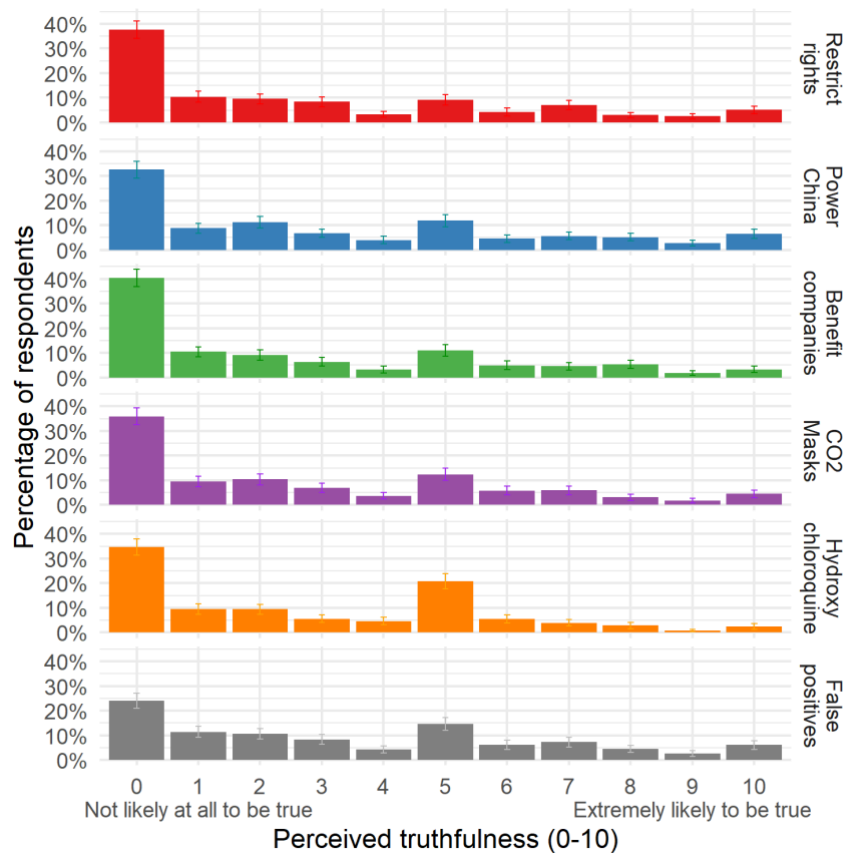


Figure A1. Distribution of the perceived truthfulness of each false statement. Weighted percentages of responses falling into each category are shown with 95% confidence intervals.

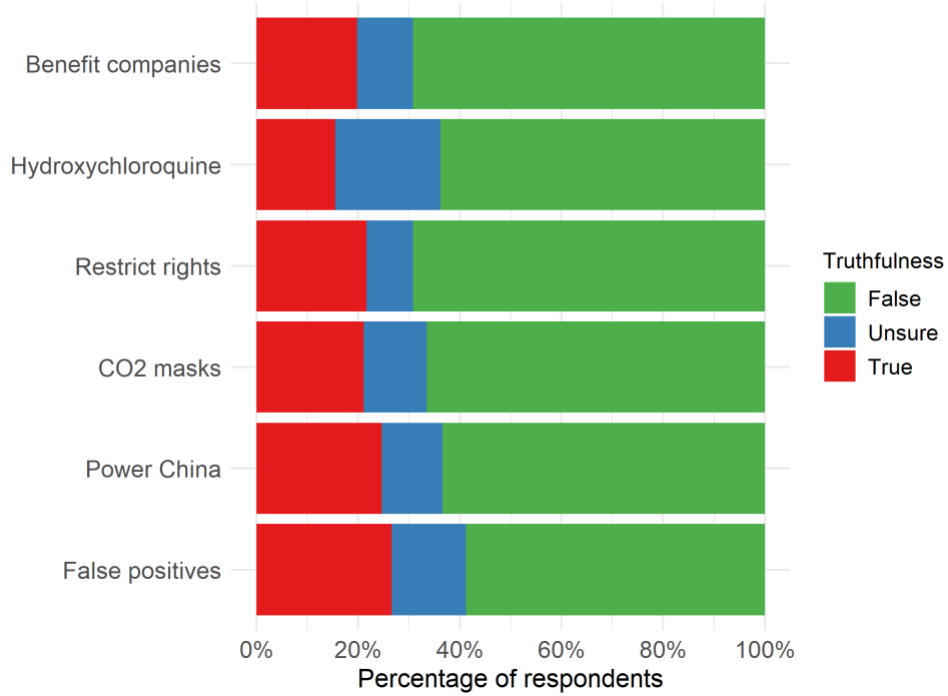


Figure A2. Weighted percentage of respondents endorsing each false statement. False statements are coded as true when the perceived truthfulness is greater than 5/10, false when it is lower than 5/10, and unsure when it is exactly 5/10.

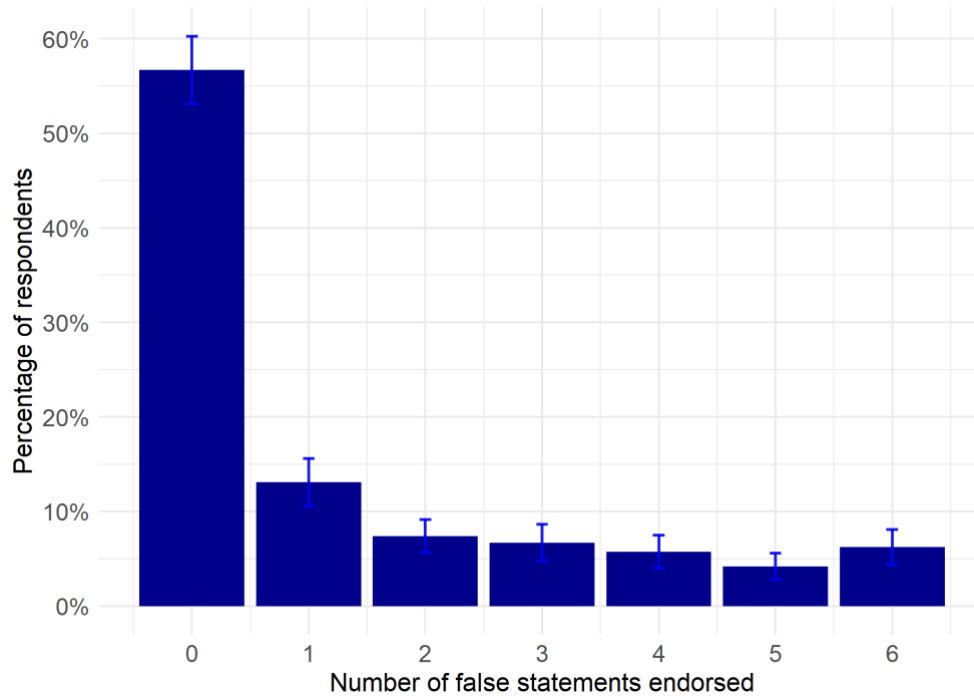


Figure A3. Number of false statements endorsed. Weighted percentages of respondents by number of false statements endorsed are reported with 95% confidence intervals. The number of false statements endorsed represents the number of false statements to which a respondent assigned a perceived level of truthfulness of 6 or more on a 0 (not likely at all to be true) to 10 (extremely likely to be true) scale.

Table A2. Correlation between false beliefs.

	Restrict rights	Power China	Benefit companies	CO ₂ intoxication	Hydroxychloroquine	False positives
Restrict rights	1					
Power China	0.61	1				
Benefit companies	0.68	0.72	1			
CO ₂ intoxication	0.70	0.62	0.67	1		
Hydroxychloroquine	0.60	0.54	0.59	0.57	1	
False positives	0.78	0.58	0.64	0.69	0.58	1

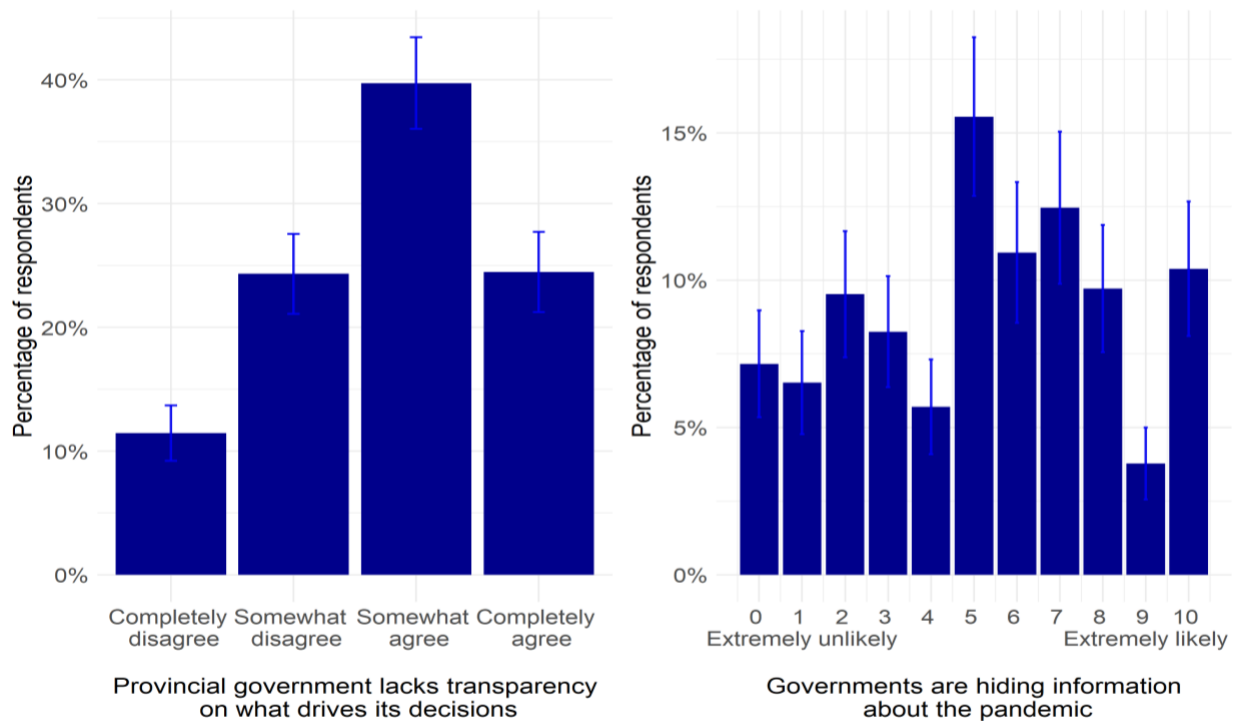


Figure A4. Distribution of the variables measuring perceptions of government transparency in the third wave (January 2021). Weighted percentages of respondents falling into each response category are reported with 95% confidence intervals.

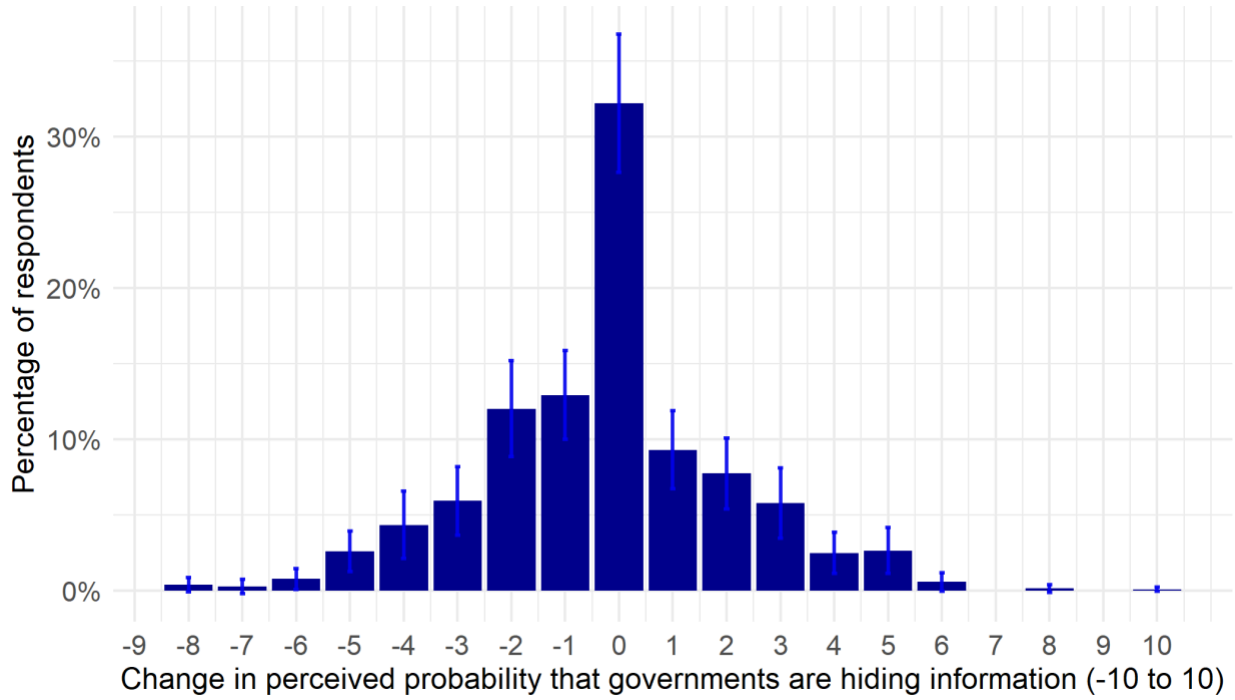


Figure A5. Distribution of the variable measuring the difference in the perceived likelihood (0-10) that governments are hiding information about the pandemic between the second wave (June 2020) and the third wave (January 2021). For example, a respondent reporting that the perceived likelihood that governments are hiding information is 8/10 in June 2020 and 5/10 in January 2021 would be coded as -3. Weighted percentages are reported with 95% confidence intervals.