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# COVID-19: PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION SOURCES AND PERCEIVED FEARS OF LITHUANIAN PEOPLE
## SURVEY RESULTS

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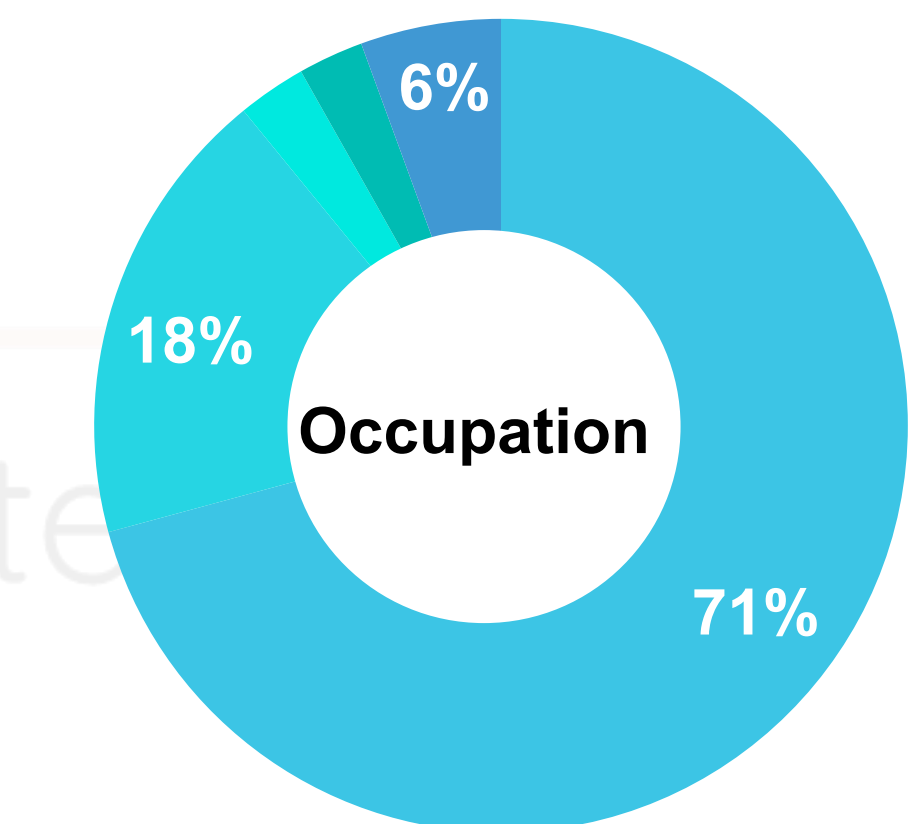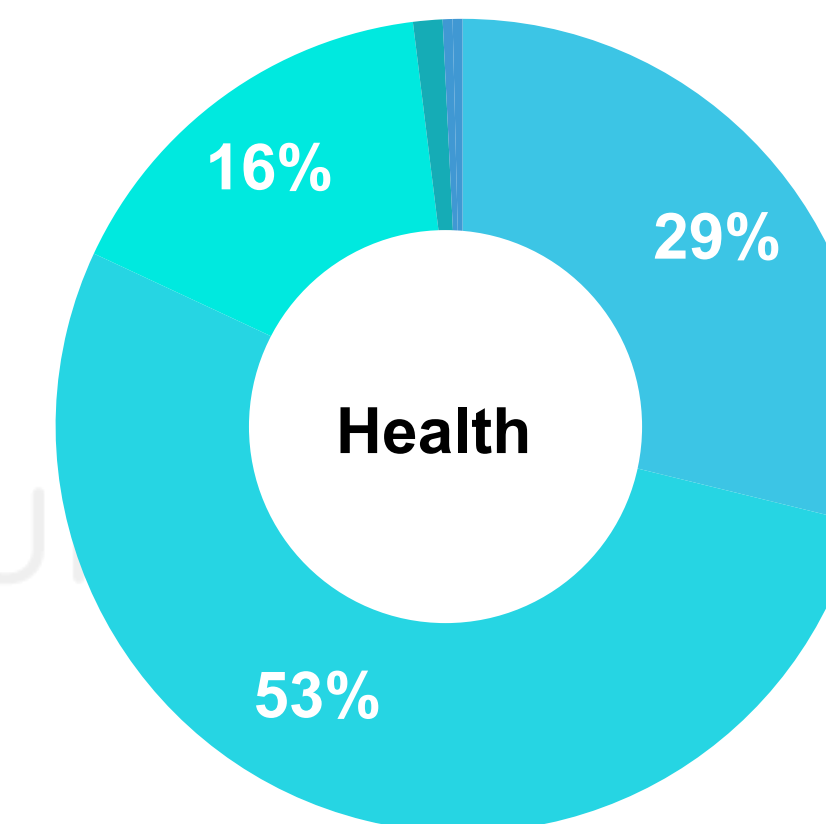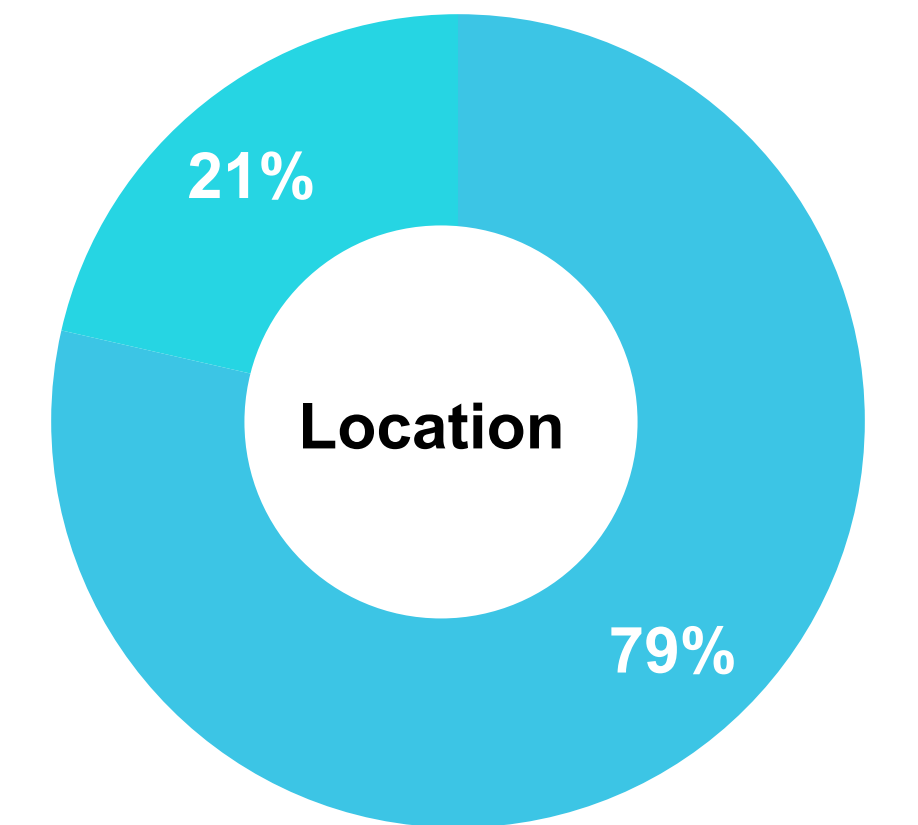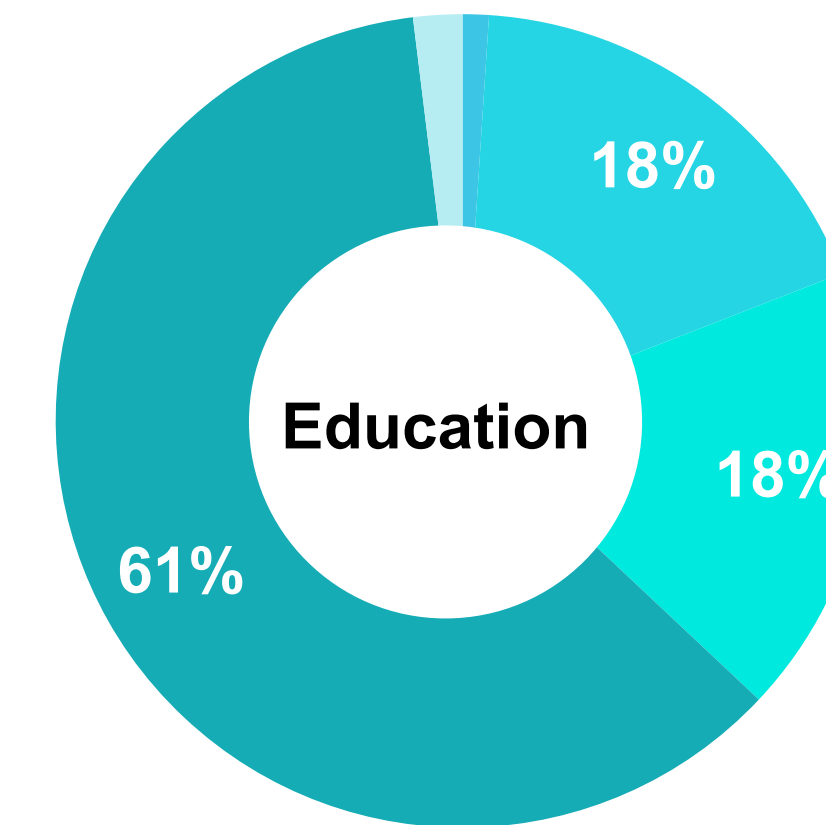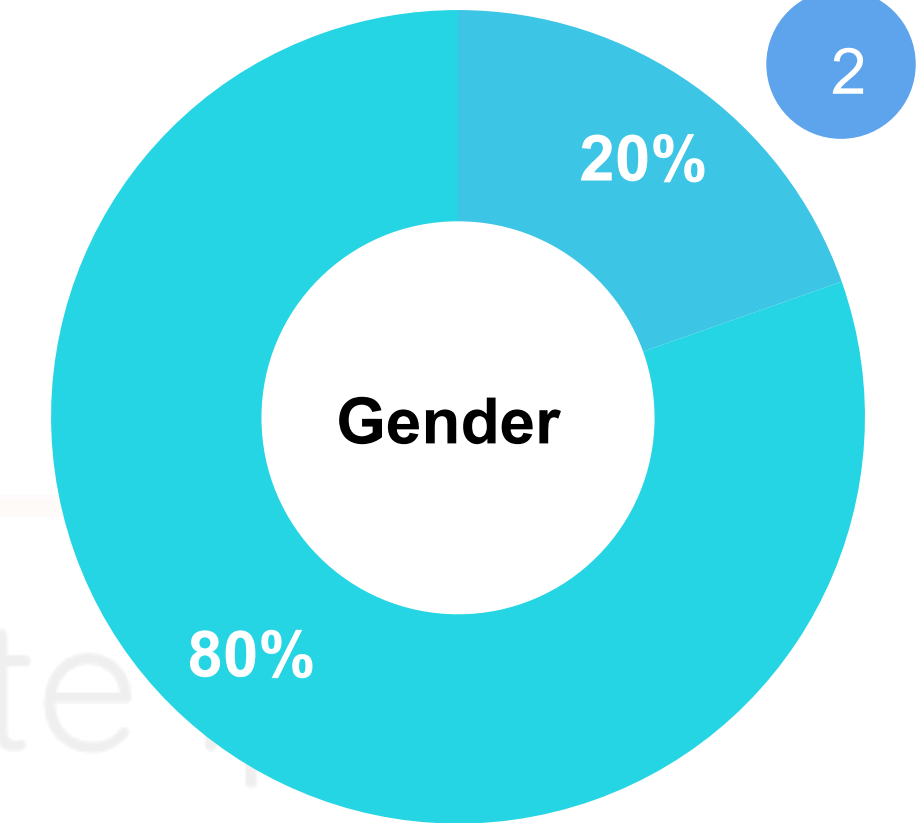**Research study partner:** non-profit organization *Cura te ipsum*

# DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

In total, 770 respondents filled in the online questionnaire.

The majority of participants were aged from 26 to 40 years (40%) and only 5% of survey participant identified themselves as being 61 years old or older.

Participants were predominantly women (80%), had college or some university degree (61%), were living in a city (79%) and were employed (71%).

Fifty-three percent of subjects identified their health as good and 1.6% noted that their health was poor or very bad.



**Age:** 5%, 26%, 40%, 28%

**Gender:** 20%, 80%

**Education:** 18%, 18%, 61%

**Location:** 21%, 79%

**Health:** 29%, 53%, 16%

**Occupation:** 6%, 71%, 18%
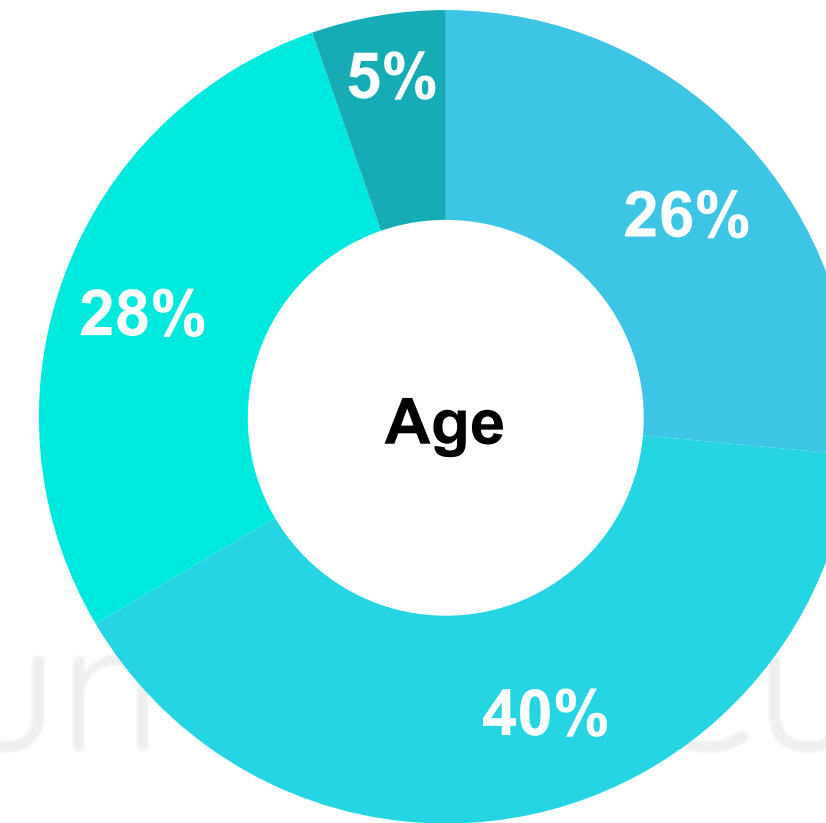
# KNOWLEDGE ABOUT COVID-19 VIRUS

**Vast majority of the respondents were well informed about the COVID-19 virus with the exception about the importance of face-mask wearing and the impact on young children's health.**

**97% knew that…**

Novel coronavirus is easily transmittable viral disease, especially dangerous to elderly and people with chronic diseases.

**89% said that…**

Good hand washing habits and avoidance of big public gatherings can help to prevent the spread of the virus.

**97% agreed that…**

You can contract get the coronavirus COVID-19 after a contact with a contaminated person.

**31% did not know if…**

Face masks help to prevent the transmition of COVID-19.

**30% could not tell if…**

Novel coronavirus is especially dangerous to children.

# Information sources

The most commonly (often or very often) used COVID-19 information sources among our respondents were online news portals (94%), social networks (87%), government (82%) and TV (80%).

The least used sources: 35% of respondents said that they never turn to influencers for COVID-19 information. Newspapers (22%), radio (21%), healthcare workers (21%) and politicians (22%) were among those sources respondents reported to use least frequently.



Legend: Never, Sometimes, Often, Very often
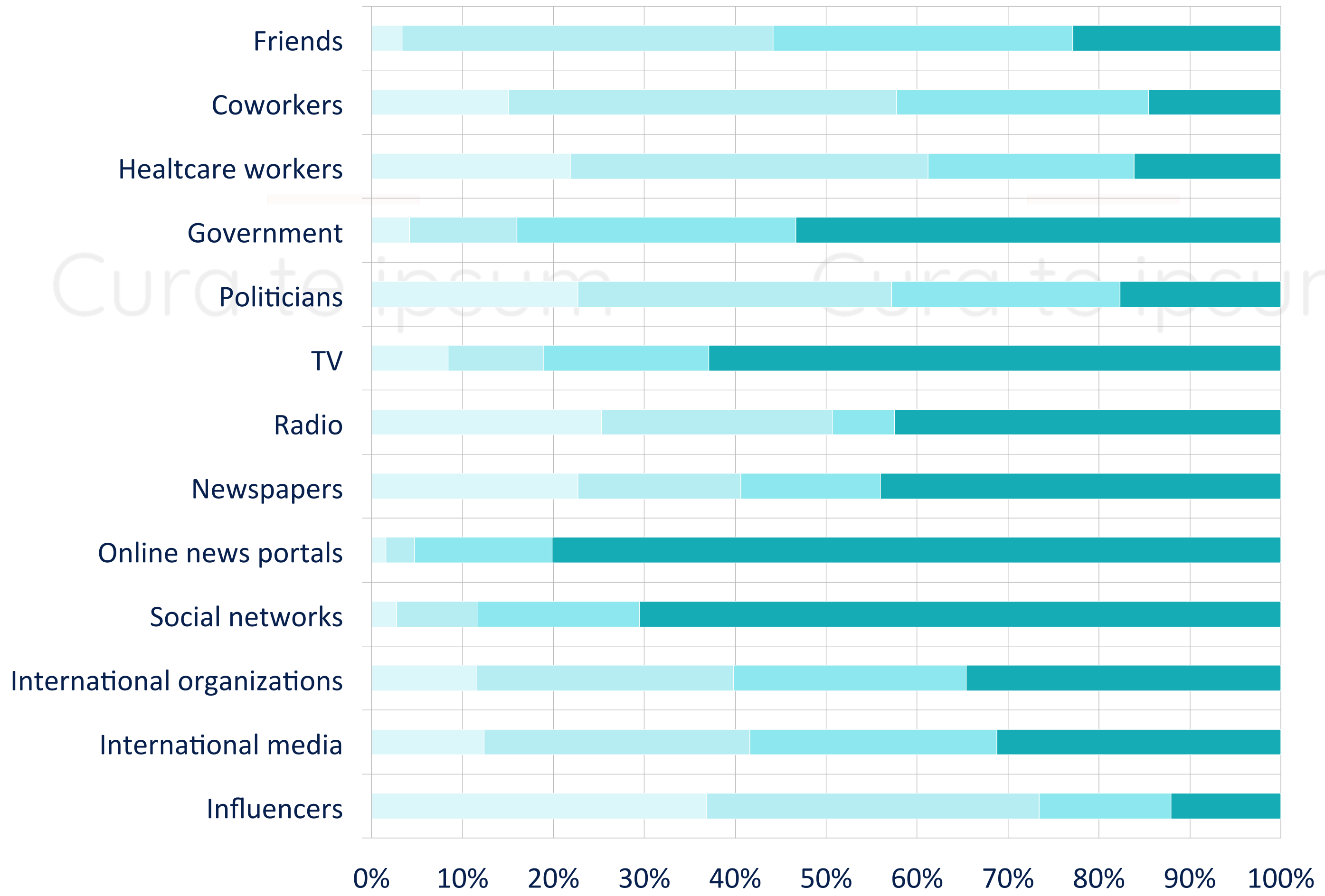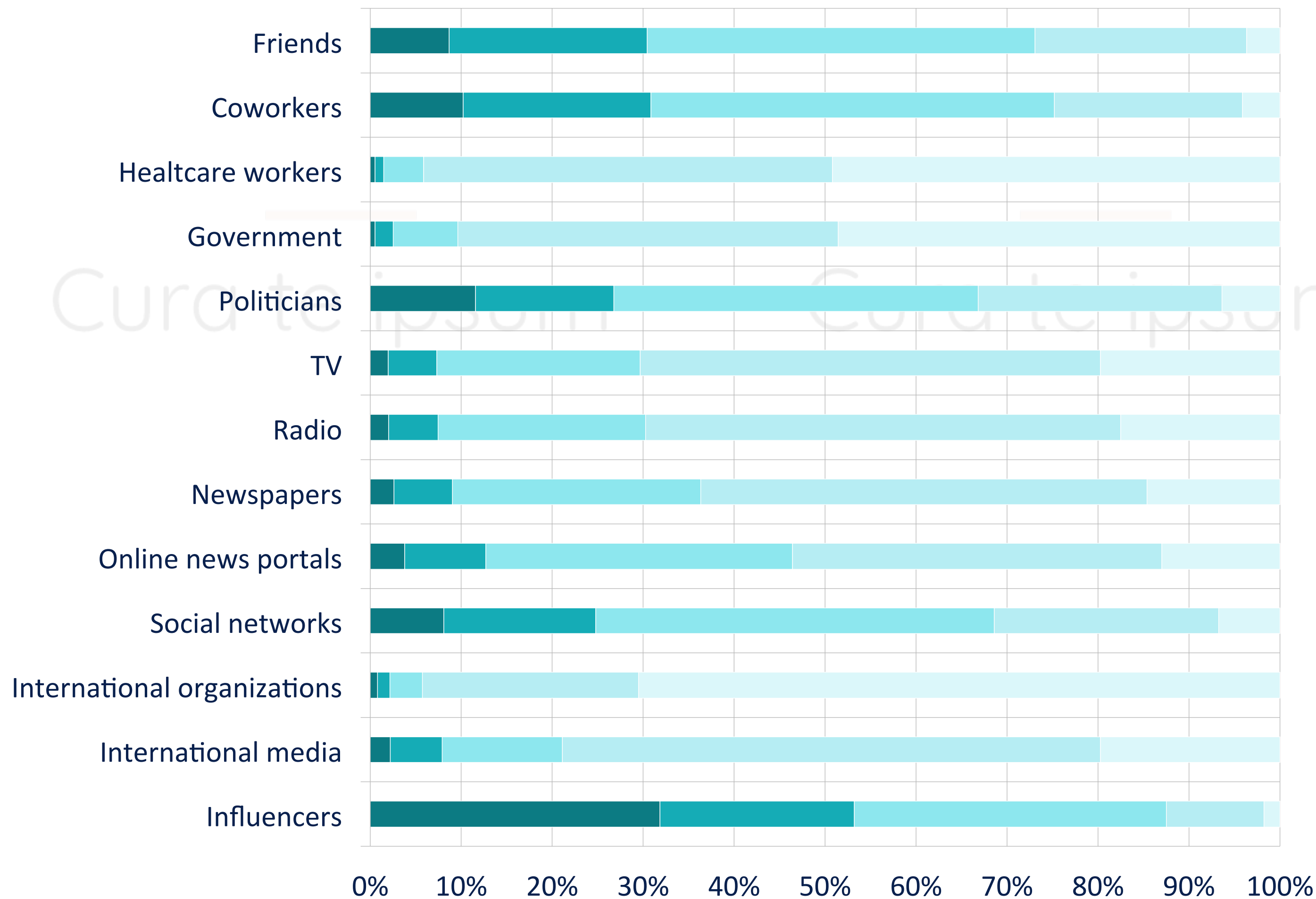
**COVID-19 Information sources**

Question #12: What are the main sources you get coronavirus related information from? Please evaluate each listed source of information according to how often you use it to get the information about COVID-19. Please select one answer: never/sometimes/often/very often.

# Trust in sources



The most trusted COVID-19 information sources (identified as very reliable) were international health organizations (67%), healthcare workers (48%) and governmental institutions (48%).

Least trusted sources (completely not reliable) in our sample were influencers (30%),

**Respondents' expressed trust in COVID-19 information sources**

Question #13: Based on your opinion, what are the most reliable sources of the information about the coronavirus (COVID-19)? Please, evaluate each source and select one answer for each source.

- Completely not reliable
- Not reliable
- Neither reliable nor not reliable
- Somewhat Reliable
- Very reliable

Chart categories (top to bottom): Friends, Coworkers, Healtcare workers, Government, Politicians, TV, Radio, Newspapers, Online news portals, Social networks, International organizations, International media, Influencers

X-axis: 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

# Self perceived level of threat and fear

\* Half of the the respondents perceive COVID-19 risk as real, while 28% report that the threat is of lower level and 22% share understanding that the COVID-19 threat is high or very high.

\* Majority of the respondents reported moderate level of fear related to COVID-19, while only 4% said they were totally calm and 17% reported high level of fear.

**11%**
High

**2%**
Low

**11%**
Very high

**26%**
Low, but real

**Threat**

**50%**
Real

**4%**
I am totally calm. It's just another virus. There are so much more serious things in the world happening right now.
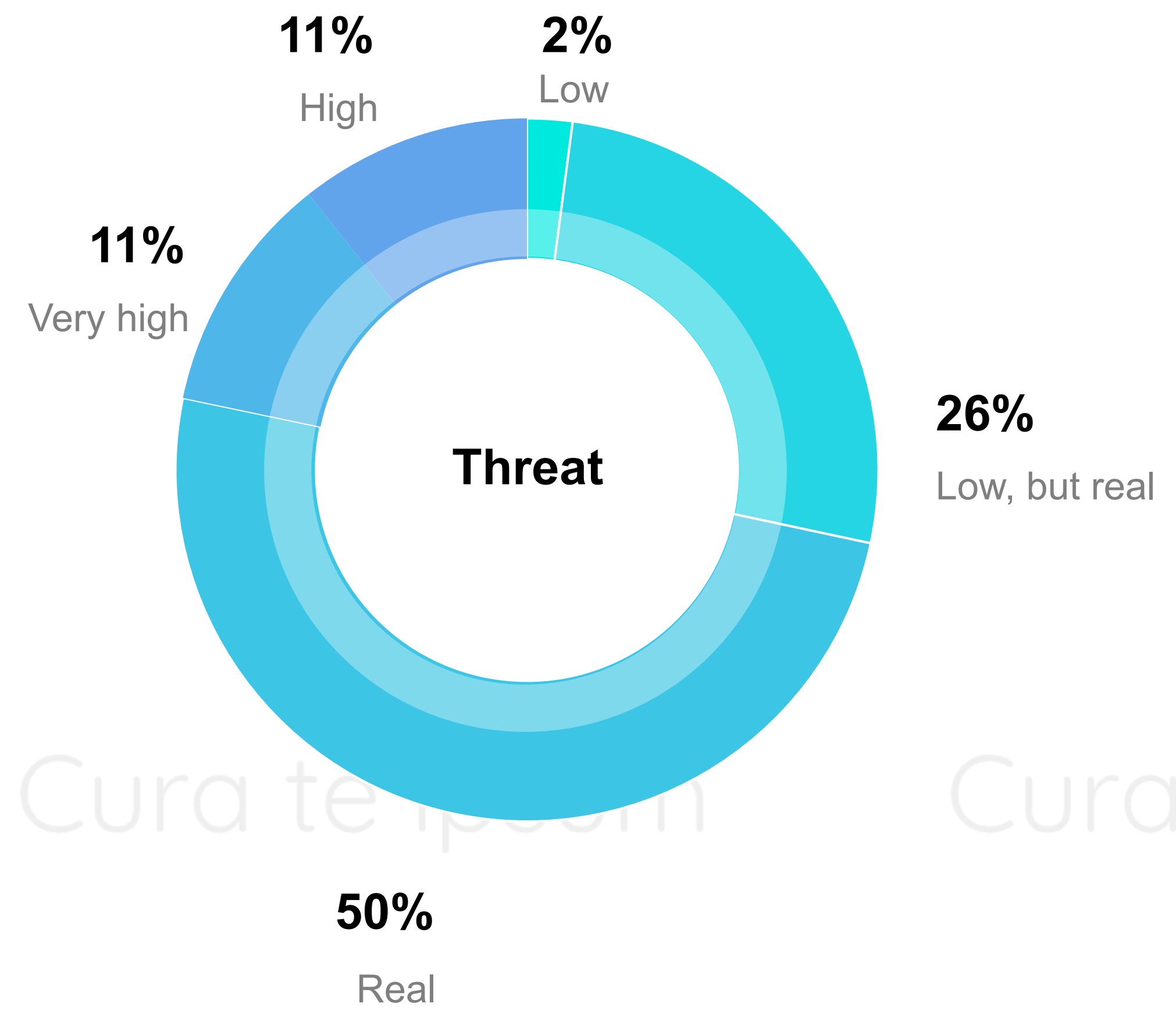
**17%**
I am freaking out – we are not safe in this world today.

**Fear**

**79%**
Of course I am concerned about what is happening with this virus all around the world and in Lithuania, but it is very important to stay calm and rational.

# Highest level of fear respondents expressed about…

* When asked to share their personal reactions to provided statements related to COVID-19 situation, respondents were mostly concerned with the statements bellow. Highest level of fear was demonstrated towards the statement 8 "Coronavirus spread across the Europe" – 78% of respondents said they are very scared or scared. Respondents also demonstrated higher level of fear about following: global outbreak of the virus (Statement 13 – 72%); COVID-19 impact on Lithuania's and world's economy (Statement 4 – 70%); uncertainty related to this virus (Statement 1 – 64%); there is now a vaccine for this disease (Statement 12 – 61%); Lithuanian health-care institutions are ill-prepared to fight the virus (Statement 7 – 60%); and unpreparedness of Lithuanian institutions to manage this situation (Statement 6 – 55%).
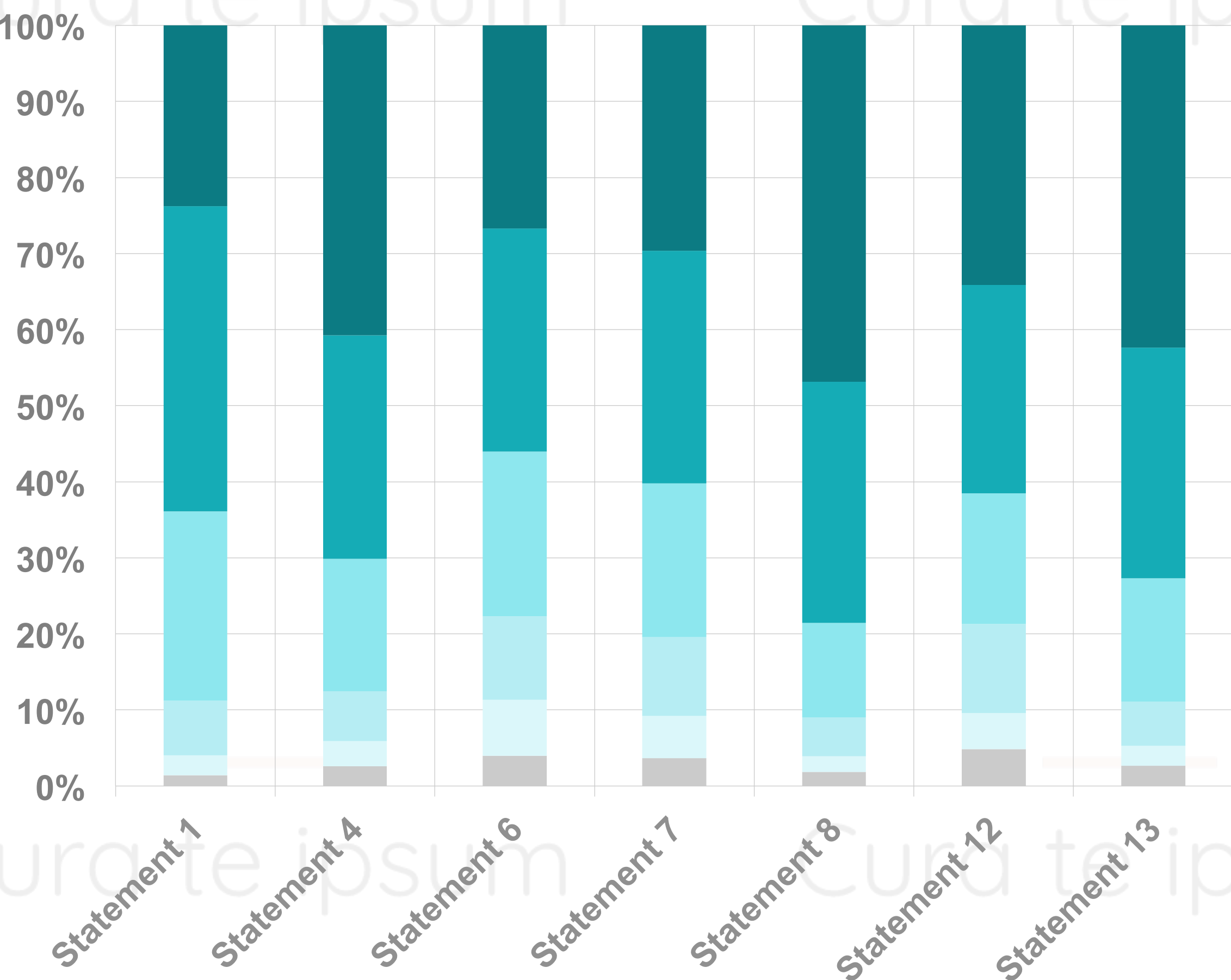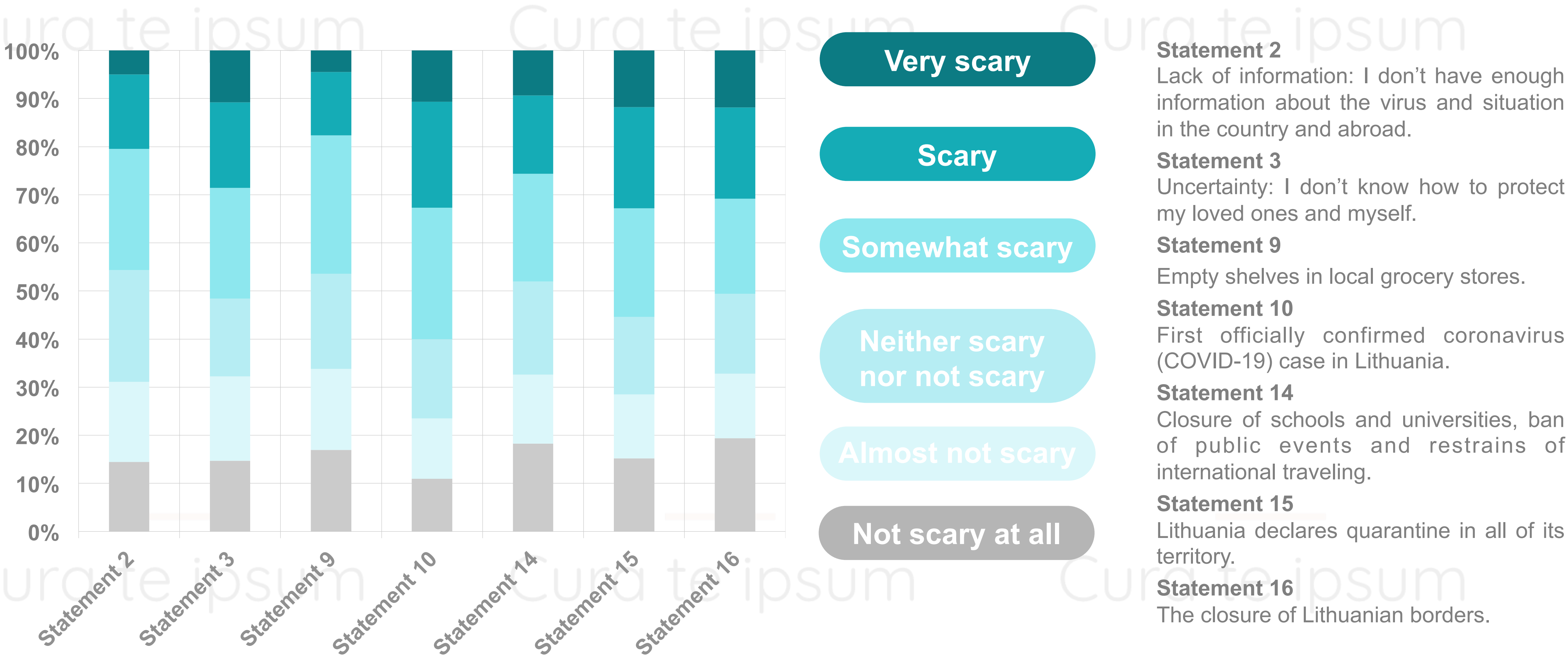


Very scary

Scary

Somewhat scary

Neither scary nor not scary

Almost not scary

Not scary at all

**Statement 1**
Uncertainty related to this virus: how to stop it, how many people will get it, when everything will be over?

**Statement 4**
The impact on Lithuania's and world economy.

**Statement 6**
Unpreparedness of Lithuanian institutions to manage this situation.

**Statement 7**
Lithuanian health-care institutions are ill-prepared to fight the virus.

**Statement 8**
Coronavirus spread across the Europe.

**Statement 12**
There is now a vaccine for this disease.

**Statement 13**
Global outbreak of the virus.

# Lowest level of fear respondents expressed about...

\* Respondents reported lowest levels of fear about the closure of Lithuanian borders (Statement 16 – 32%); the closure of schools and universities, ban of public events and restrains of international traveling (Statement 14 – 32%); empty shelves in local grocery stores (Statement 9 – 33%); lack of information (Statement 2 – 31%); uncertainty about personal behavior: I don't know how to protect my loved ones and myself (Statement 3 – 32%); first officially confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) case in Lithuania (Statement 10 – 23%); and the nationwide quarantine (Statement 15 – 28%).

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**Very scary**

**Scary**

**Somewhat scary**

**Neither scary nor not scary**

**Almost not scary**

**Not scary at all**

**Statement 2**
Lack of information: I don't have enough information about the virus and situation in the country and abroad.

**Statement 3**
Uncertainty: I don't know how to protect my loved ones and myself.

**Statement 9**
Empty shelves in local grocery stores.

**Statement 10**
First officially confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) case in Lithuania.

**Statement 14**
Closure of schools and universities, ban of public events and restrains of international traveling.

**Statement 15**
Lithuania declares quarantine in all of its territory.

**Statement 16**
The closure of Lithuanian borders.

# To conclude…

**#1 People are well informed about the COVID-19 pandemics:** vast majority of our respondents knew main facts about the COVID-19 with the exception of face-mask wearing, where respondents demonstrated confusion and lack of understanding.

**#2 Governmental organizations are frequently used and trusted source for COVID-19 information:** the most commonly used COVID-19 information sources among our respondents were online news portals, social networks, governmental organizations and TV. While respondents reported lower level of trust in media channels, governmental organizations were seen as trustworthy source of information for COVID-19.

**#3 Health-workers and governmental organizations were equally trusted by public:** however, data indicated that health-workers was one of the least used source among our respondents.

**#4 Thread of COVID-19 was seen as real and people were concerned about it:** vast majority of respondents reported moderate level of fear related to COVID-19 and only small group were not concerned at all or reported very high level of fear.

**#5 Thread of COVID-19 was seen as real and people were concerned about it:** vast majority of respondents reported moderate level of fear related to COVID-19 and only small group were not concerned at all or reported very high level of fear.

**#6 People were more concerned about global issues related to the virus (spreading globally and in Europe, impact on economy, vaccination, etc.) and less about personal, local and national issues (closure of Lithuanian borders, closure of schools and universities, uncertainty about how to protect themselves, lack of information, etc.)**

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