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TRUST IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

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Trust in Government Agencies in the Time of COVID-19

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Abstract: As the United States faced its lowest levels of reported trust in government, the COVID-19 crisis revealed the essential service that various federal agencies provide as sources of information. This Element explores variations in trust across various levels of government and government agencies based on a nationally representative survey Started in March 2020. First, it examines trust in agencies including the Department of Health and Human Services, state health departments, and local health care providers. This includes variation across key characteristics including party identification, age, and race. Second, the Element explores the evolution of trust in health-related organizations throughout 2020 as the pandemic continued. The Element concludes with a discussion of the implications for agency-specific assessments of trust and their importance as we address historically low levels of trust in government. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: emergency management, public health, COVID-19, trust in government, survey methodology

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