

Wearing face masks in Public: Approach of different countries across the world

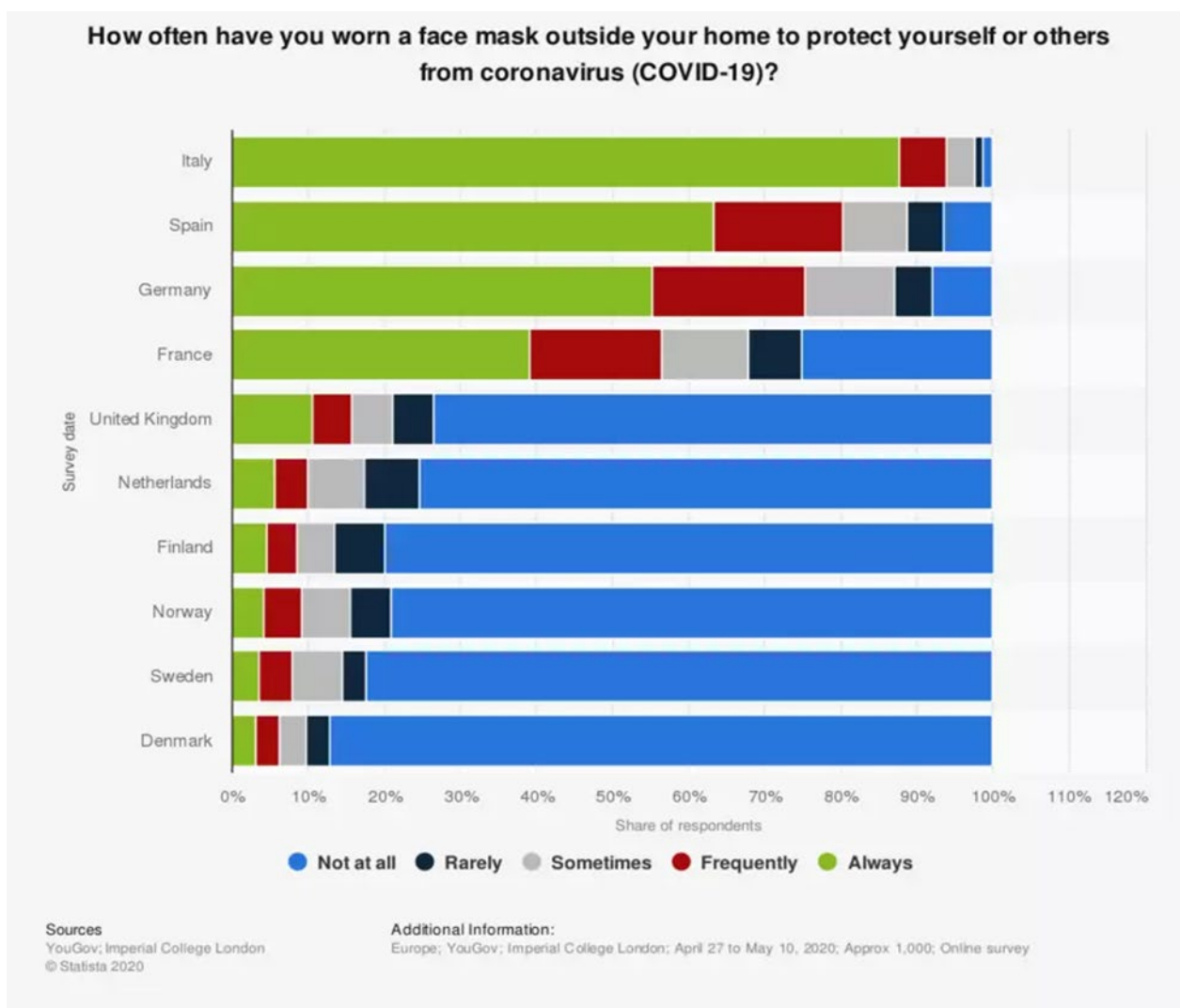
In an attempt to slow down the COVID-19 transmission, an increasing number of countries have made the use of face masks or coverings mandatory in public spaces.

Currently, more than 50 countries have made mask-wearing or face covering compulsory in public places, with some countries imposing a fine or even imprisonment if caught without one. The table below lists some of the countries in the European region. Details about other countries around the world can be found [here](#).

Europe	Wearing face masks in public places
England	On June 15, face coverings became compulsory on public transport. The country advocates simple cloth face coverings and says surgical masks should be reserved for health workers.
Czech Republic	On March 18, the Czech Republic was the first country in Europe to make wearing masks mandatory in public places such as pharmacies, supermarkets, and public transport.
Germany	On April 22, the wearing of face masks became compulsory when using public transport and while shopping.
France	On May 11, the use of face masks became mandatory in public places and when using public transport.
Austria	On April 6, wearing face masks became mandatory in public spaces such as supermarkets, grocery stores, drug stores or when using public transportation.
Poland	On April 16, covering the face with either a mask or homemade piece of fabric such as a scarf became compulsory in Poland. This applies to green areas such as parks and beaches as well as public places such as marketplaces, religious facilities, commercial facilities, squares, and roads.
Luxembourg	On April 20, the use of face masks became mandatory in public places where social distancing is not feasible, such as public transport and supermarkets.
Italy	In early April, wearing face masks was made mandatory before going out in regions of Lombardy and Tuscany.
Ukraine	On April 6, wearing a face mask was imposed by the government in public places, such as parks and streets.
Spain	On May 20, the use of face masks became mandatory for everyone older than 6 in indoor public spaces, and outdoor ones when it is impossible to maintain social distancing (keep more than two metres apart). Ten million masks were distributed on public transport on April 13, when many people returned to work.
Lithuania	On April 10, the use of face masks or coverings became compulsory in public places.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	On March 29, Bosnia and Herzegovina made it compulsory for citizens to wear a face mask or a cloth covering their mouth and nose while walking in the streets or outside their homes.
Slovakia	On March 15, the use of face masks became mandatory in shops and public transport. On March 25, it became mandatory to wear a face mask or covering

	when going outside. Since May 20, face masks are no longer obligatory when the distance between people is at least 5 meters
Slovenia	On March 31, wearing a face mask or covering became mandatory in indoor public places such as shops and public transport.

In Europe, a high proportion of people have reported wearing a face mask outside to protect themselves and others from the coronavirus (COVID-19) in countries like Italy, Spain, and Germany.



Data collection method: Online survey
Survey time period: April 27 to May 10
Number of respondents: nearly 1000.

The difference in the usage of face masks in Europe is mirrored in the usage of facemasks globally.

We can see this in the data below, what is notable is the change in attitudes of the public in some countries as the pandemic progress.

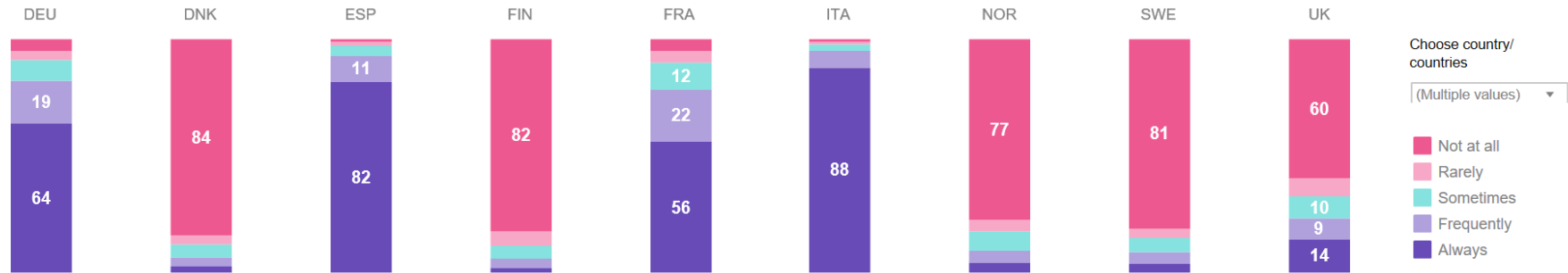
How are behaviours changing in response to COVID-19?

Thinking about the last 7 days... how often have you taken the following measures to protect yourself or others from coronavirus (COVID-19)? As a reminder, please exclude any measures that you have already taken for reasons other than coronavirus (COVID-19). %

Choose behaviour

Survey date

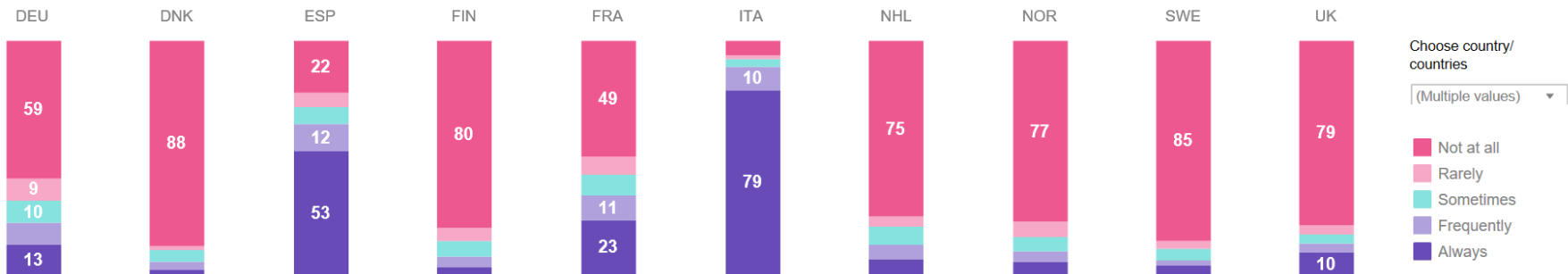
I have... **Worn a face mask outside my home**



Choose behaviour

Survey date

I have... **Worn a face mask outside my home**



Regarding YouGov surveys: *China is representative of the 'online population'. **India is representative of the 'urban online population'. All other countries are representative of the national population

Dashboard created by IGHl's Big Data and Analytical Unit and YouGov. Survey responses are provided by YouGov.