

Information Avoidance I - Cornell, Fall 2019, Qualtrics Survey (#29138)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?

No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?

Hypothesis 1: Intentional information avoidance increases with chronological age.

Question 1: To what extent do expected affective responses (positive/negative) and expected implications for decision preferences (current/future) explain age differences in information avoidance?

Question 2: To what extent do demographic, cognitive, and socioemotional covariates explain age differences in information avoidance?

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.

Participants will respond to three scenarios, the order of which will be randomized and counter-balanced across participants. In the beach scenario, participants decide between visiting a beach with sun damage information and a beach without sun damage information. In the water bottle scenario, participants decide between buying a bottle with a water crisis information label and a bottle without such a label. In the café scenario, participants decide between ordering food at a café that offers calorie information and a café without such information.

Information avoidance:

"Which beach would you prefer to go to? / Which water bottle would you prefer to buy? / Which café would you prefer to go to?"

Assessed with slider (0-100) anchored at mid-point (50 = "No preference") with no-information option on left end (e.g., 0 = "Definitely the beach without the sun damage display") and information-option on right end (e.g., 100 = "Definitely the beach with the sun damage display").

Affective responses:

Feel Bad = "The possibility that the sun damage display/the water crisis label/the calorie information would make me feel bad about going to the beach/drinking bottled water/eating out."; 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = "Not important at all" to 7 = "Very important"

Limit Enjoyment = "The possibility that the sun damage display/the water crisis label/the calorie information would limit my enjoyment of going to the beach/drinking bottled water/eating out."; 7-point Likert scale ranging from 1 = "Not important at all" to 7 = "Very important"

Implications for decision preferences:

Today's Decision = "The possibility that the sun damage display/the water crisis label/the calorie information would make me change my mind about today's decision to go to the beach/drink bottled water/eat out."

Future Habits = "The possibility that the sun damage display/the water crisis label/the calorie information would influence my future habits of going to the beach/drinking bottled water/eating out."

Age: A continuous variable

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?

Age = treated as a continuous variable.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.

Information avoidance will be pooled across scenarios if correlations across scenarios exceed .6.

The two items assessing affective responses and the two items assessing implications for decision preferences will be averaged if intercorrelations exceed .6.

Hypothesis 1: We will regress information avoidance on participants' age.

Questions 1 and 2: We will regress information avoidance on participants' age and examine if effects remain significant after adding the following predictors:

Block 1: Affective responses and implications for decision preferences

Block 2: Demographic, cognitive, and socioemotional covariates (covariates are only included if they show significant correlations with age or information avoidance in the present sample)

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.

We winsorize all univariate outliers to values equaling z-scores of +/- 3.30, 3.31, etc. Multivariate outliers are cases where Mahalanobis Distance = $X^2 < .001$.

We rely on Qualtrics XM's default criteria for handling method-based outliers (e.g., time to complete the survey).

Participants are excluded if age is missing, below 18, over 120, or does not match birth year (1 year error margin). Participants must pass attention and cheating checks.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.

225 participants recruited through the Qualtrics Recruitment Services (75n 18-35, 75n 36-65, 75n 66+ years). Selective recruitment to yield comparable gender and race/ethnicity composition across groups.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)

We will also collect data on demographic, cognitive, and socioemotional covariates (listed below). We will run exploratory analyses involving these variables as specified in Questions 1 & 2.

Demographics

- Gender (1 dummy-coded variable: 0 = Male, 1 = Female)
- Race/Ethnicity (1 dummy-coded : 0 = Non-Hispanic White, 1 = Other)
- Income (1 variable rated on a 1-7 scale)
- Education (1 variable rated on a 1-5 scale)

Cognition

- Cognitive reflection ability (3 items summed up into 1 variable, with 0-3 correct responses)
- Information processing preference (6 items scored according to a scoring key, to form 1 continuous variable, 0-100)
- Crystallized intelligence (12 items; 0-12 correct answers)
- Numeracy (3 items summed up into 1 variable, with 0-3 correct responses)

Socioemotional

- Subjective Health (4 variables rated on a 5-point Likert scale)
- Incidental Affect (2 variables rated on a 7-point Likert scale)
- Personality (10 items; 2 each assessing Neuroticism, Agreeableness, Openness, Extraversion, Conscientiousness rated on a 5-point Likert scale)
- Life position (1 continuous variable, 0-100)
- Self-reported preference for facts and details over feelings and intuition (1 continuous variable, 0-100)*
- Self-reported preference for growth versus maintenance goals (1 continuous variable, 0-100)