

COVID-19 Conspiracist Ideation Scale

Directions

Indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements using the following rating scale.

- 5 = strongly agree
- 4 = agree
- 3 = neither agree nor disagree
- 2 = disagree
- 1 = strongly disagree

1. COVID-19 is a biological weapon that was developed under laboratory conditions.
2. The government had foreknowledge of COVID-19 but allowed its release to further its own goals.
3. Prominent scientists are suppressing the truth about COVID-19.
4. A secret organization instructed the media to downplay the risks of COVID-19.
5. A COVID-19 vaccine exists but is only available to elite members of society.

Scoring Directions

To create an index of COVID-19 conspiracist ideation, responses to the first four items should be summed or averaged together. The fifth item is likely not as representative of COVID-19 conspiracist ideation as it was when the scale was first introduced (i.e., item 5 was created before vaccines were approved for emergency use).

Citation

Kay, C. S. (2020). Predicting COVID-19 conspiracist ideation from the Dark Tetrad traits. *PsyArXiv Preprint*.

Kay, C. S. (2021). The targets of all treachery: Delusional ideation, paranoia, and the need for uniqueness as mediators between two forms of narcissism and conspiracy beliefs. *Journal of Research in Personality, 93*.