

# Wellcome Global Monitor 2026

## Southern Africa factsheet

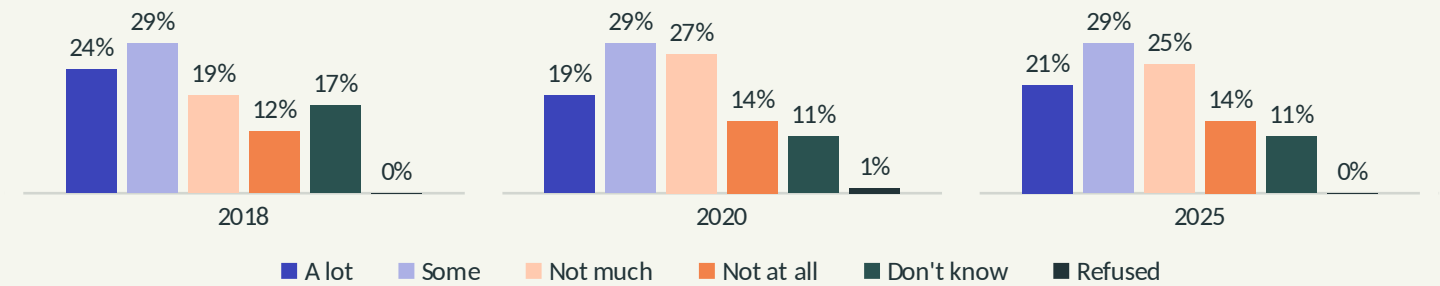


### Key Wellcome Global Monitor 2026 Results

The Wellcome Global Monitor is the world's largest study of public trust in science. We survey adults in 140 countries to understand how people think and feel about science and health. Below are key findings for Southern Africa from 2025. For the full report and more factsheets visit [Wellcome.org](https://www.wellcome.org).

### Trust in science: Trend over time

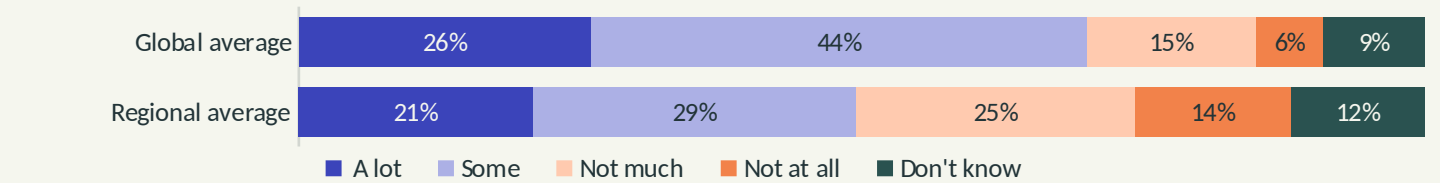
Q: In general, would you say that you trust science a lot, some, not much, or not at all?



Source: Wellcome Global Monitor 2026 | Base: Representative sample of adults aged 15 or older in Namibia and South Africa across 2018, 2020 and 2025 (n = 2,005, 2,011 and 2,003 respectively)

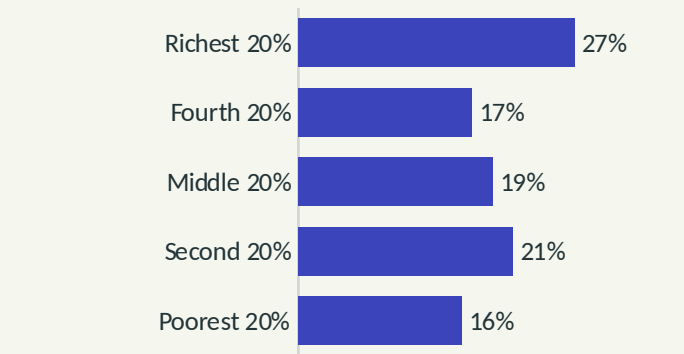
### Trust in science: 2025 results

Q: In general, would you say that you trust science a lot, some, not much, or not at all?



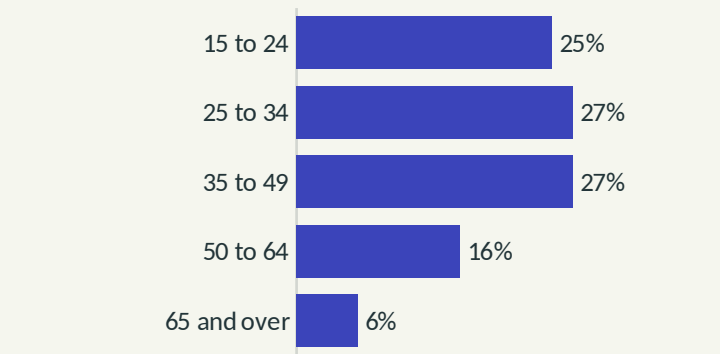
Source: Wellcome Global Monitor 2026 | Base: Global average: Representative sample of 143,620 adults aged 15 or older in 140 countries in 2025 | Base: Regional average: Representative sample of 4,008 adults aged 15 or older in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, 2025

### Who trusts science 'a lot': share by income quintile\*



Source: Wellcome Global Monitor 2026 | Base: Representative sample of 705 adults aged 15 or older in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa who trust science 'a lot', 2025

### Who trusts science 'a lot': share by age group

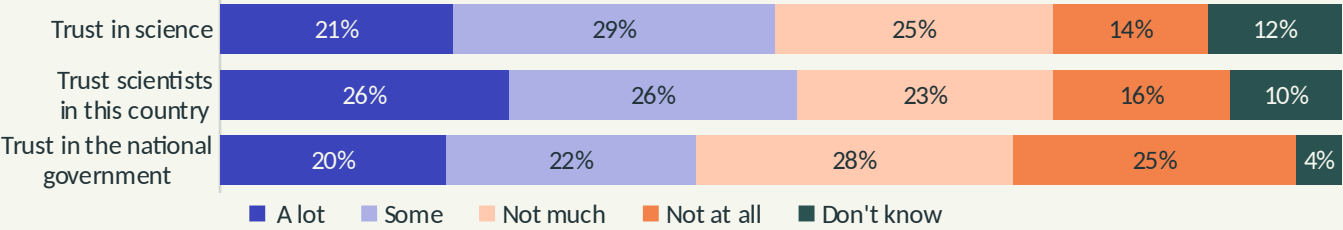


Source: Wellcome Global Monitor 2026 | Base: Representative sample of 705 adults aged 15 or older in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa who trust science 'a lot', 2025

\* Income quintiles are a statistical tool used to analyse income inequality and distribution. By ranking a population from poorest to richest based on survey data, the population is divided into five equal groups, each representing exactly 20% of the population.

Trust in science, scientists and the national government

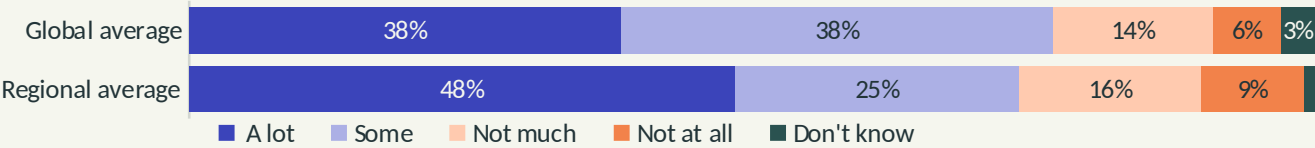
Q: In general, would you say that you trust science a lot, some, not much, or not at all?  
Q: How much do you trust each of the following “Scientists in this country” / “The national government in this country”? Do you trust them a lot, some, not much, or not at all?



Source: Wellcome Global Monitor 2026 | Base: Representative sample of 4,008 adults aged 15 or older in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, 2025

Trust in doctors and nurses

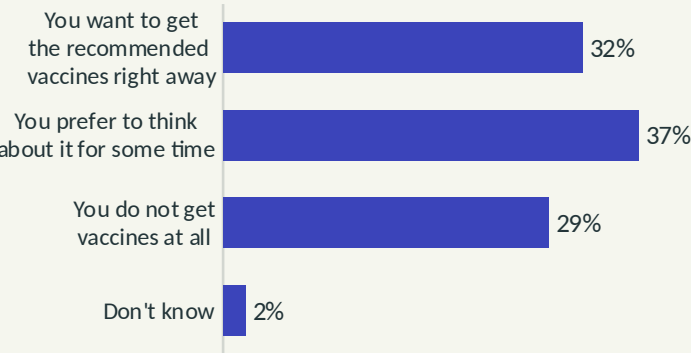
Q: How much do you trust each of the following “Doctors and nurses in this country”? Do you trust them a lot, some, not much, or not at all?



Source: Wellcome Global Monitor 2026 | Base: Global average: Representative sample of 143,620 adults aged 15 or older in 140 countries in 2025 | Base: Regional average: Representative sample of 4,008 adults aged 15 or older in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, 2025

Views on vaccines

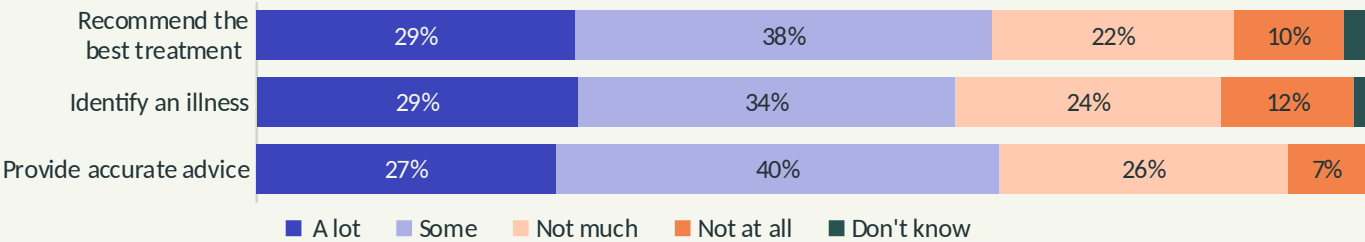
Q: Which of the following best describes your views on vaccines that are recommended by doctors or nurses?



Source: Wellcome Global Monitor 2026 | Base: Representative sample of 4,008 adults aged 15 or older in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, 2025

Trust in digital health information

Q: How much do you trust the health information you see from the Internet or an app to do each of the following? Do you trust it a lot, some, not much, or not at all to...?



Source: Wellcome Global Monitor 2026 | Base: All respondents who use the internet or an app to find health information n = 2,306 adults aged 15 or older in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, 2025

Wellcome Trust has worked with two partners, Gallup and Ipsos, to deliver the Wellcome Global Monitor 2026. Gallup was responsible for the survey design and data collection, and Ipsos was responsible for the data analysis and reporting of the Wellcome Global Monitor 2026.

Data is weighted by the aged 15+ population size of the countries included in the analysis. For readability, labels for values below 3% are omitted where space is limited.