

#FakeNews: Statistics and the Challenge of Misinformation

Claire Brittain

Director of Statistics, Novartis

NEWS

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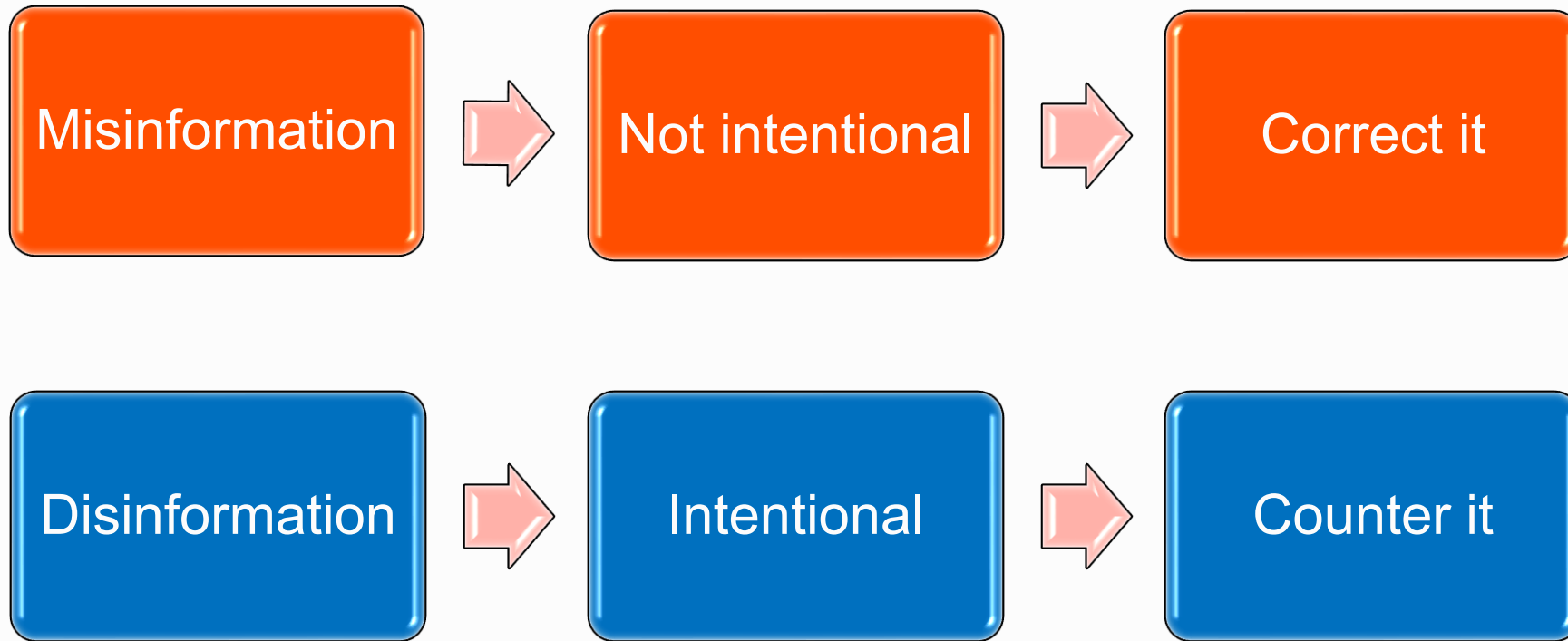
Claire Brittain meets with UK ministers to discuss MSc Apprenticeship pathways

🕒 2 May 2026 | [UK Politics](#)

Claire Brittain met with ministers in Westminster today to discuss expanding MSc Apprenticeship pathways and improving access to advanced skills and leadership opportunities across the UK.

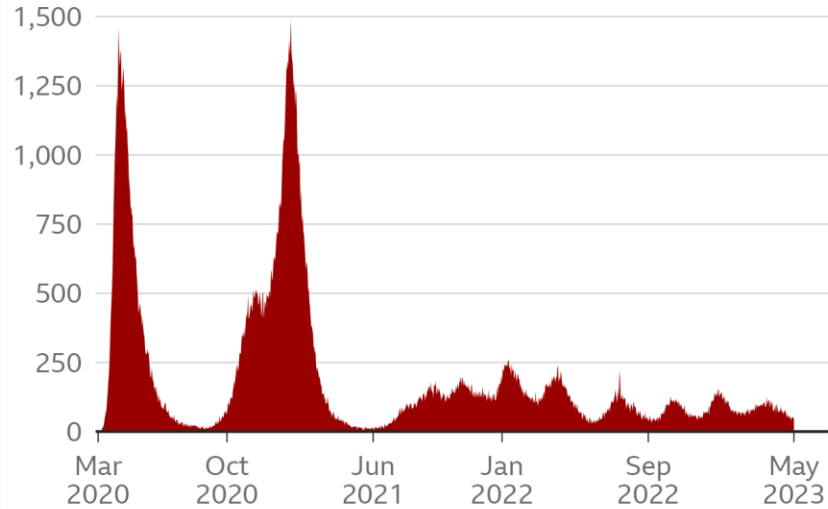






Deaths involving coronavirus

Daily UK deaths where Covid-19 mentioned as one of the causes on death certificate, 5 Mar 2020 to 5 May 2023

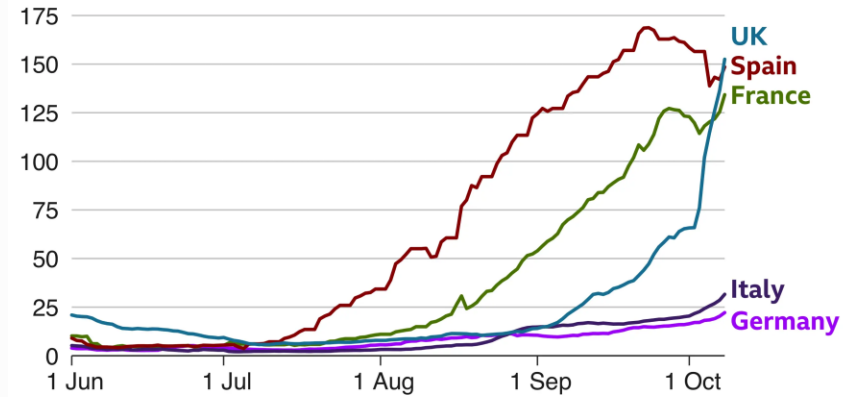


Source: Office for National Statistics



Coronavirus cases increasing in European countries in recent weeks

Total cases per 100,000 people by week up to 8 October



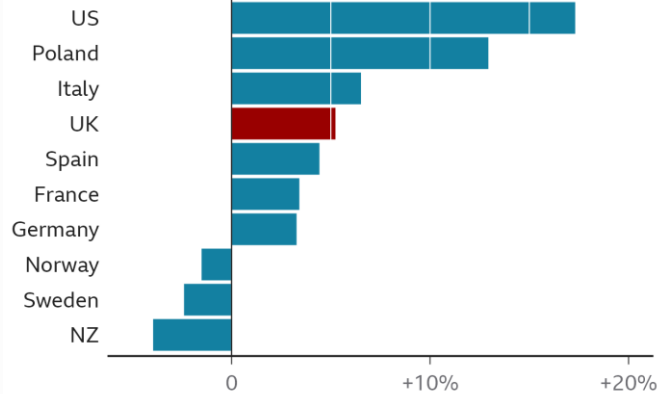
Note: Countries do not always release figures every day, which may explain some of the sharp changes in the trendlines

Source: ECDC, data to 8 Oct



Pandemic death rate rises

Average death rates from March 2020 to February 2023 compared with the five years before



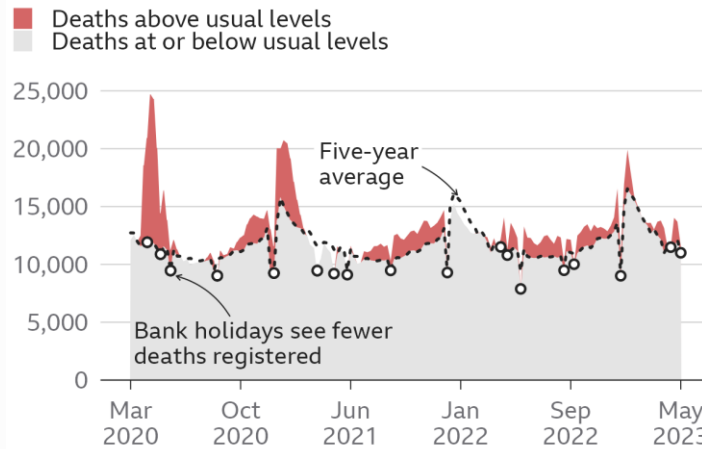
Rates of death (for any reason) adjusted for age

Source: BBC analysis, data from Eurostat and national agencies



Excess deaths

Weekly UK death registrations, 6 Mar 2020 to 5 May 2023

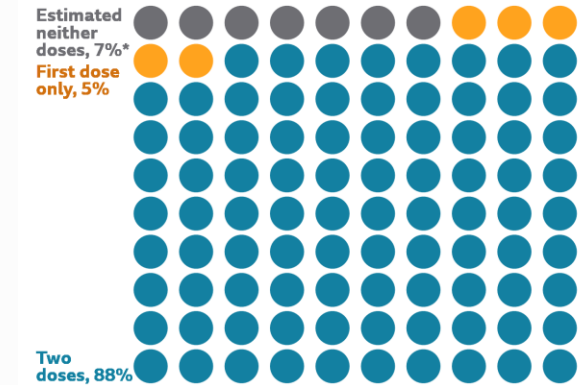


Source: ONS, NRS, Nisra



UK Coronavirus vaccine uptake

Percentage of population (aged 12+) which had neither doses* of a vaccine, first dose only or two doses

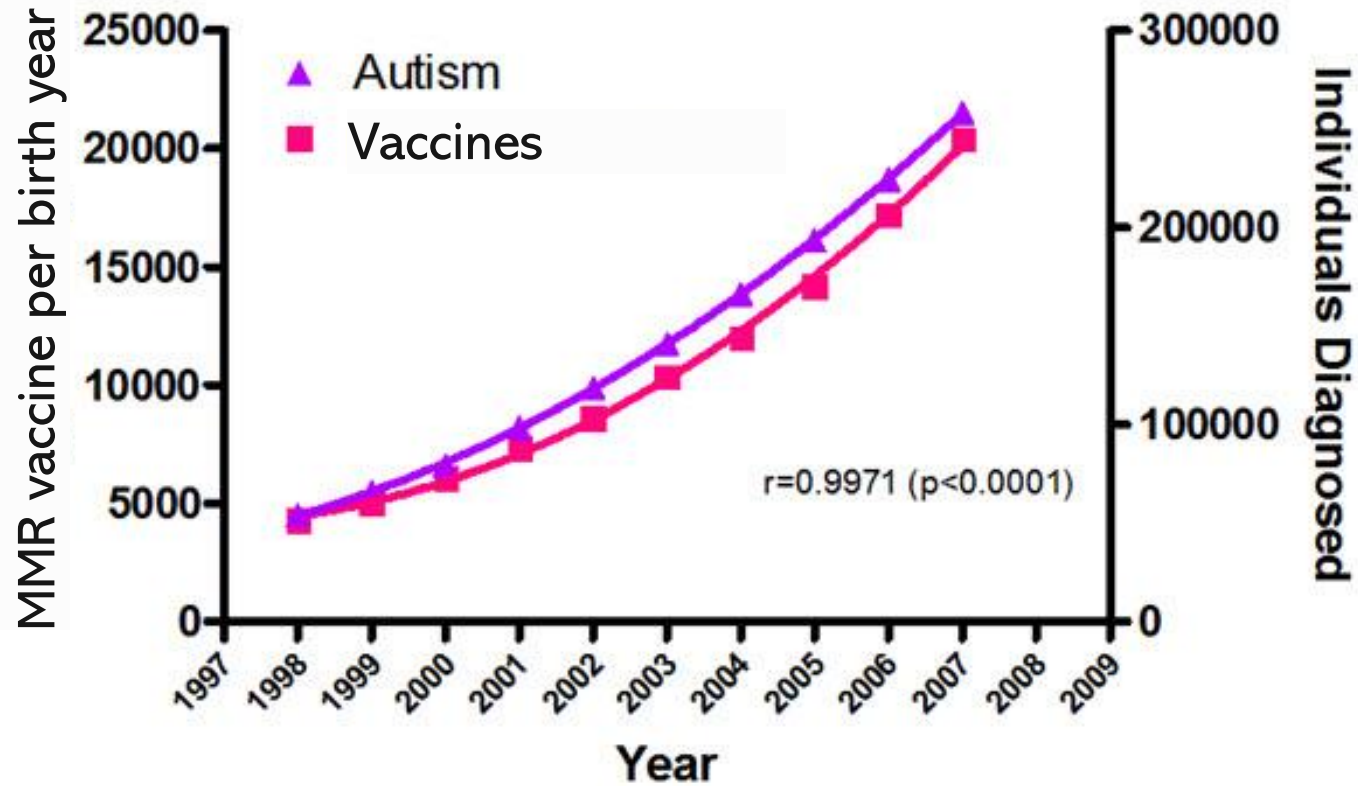


Note: Population from the 2021 Office for National Statistics mid-year estimates. Data to 7 May 2023 for Scotland and 5 May for other nations. *Estimates include some uncertainty due to population changes and other factors

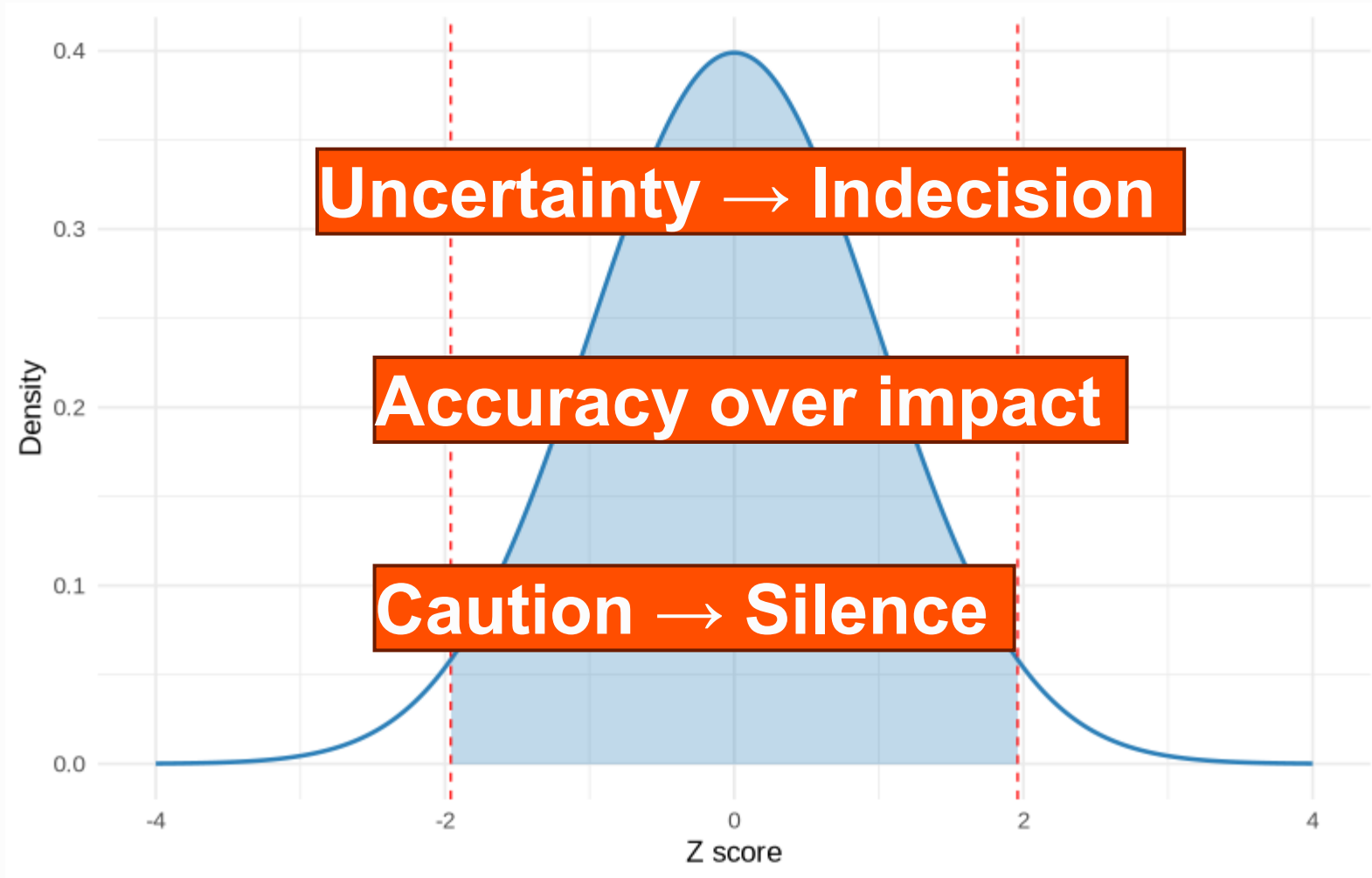
Source: UKHSA, PHS, PHW



The real cause of increasing autism prevalence?



Sources: Organic Trade Association, 2011 Organic Industry Survey; U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), OMB# 1820-0043: "Children with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act"

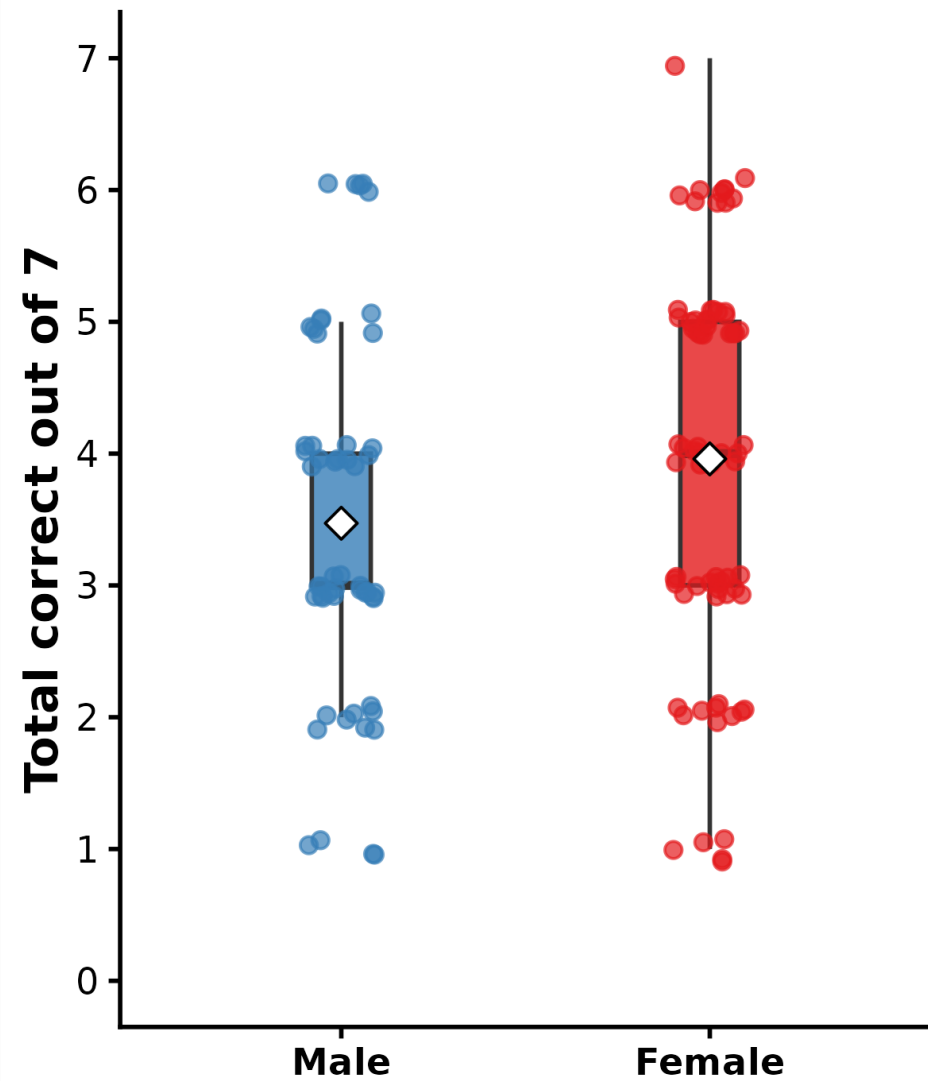


Study for PSI Conference

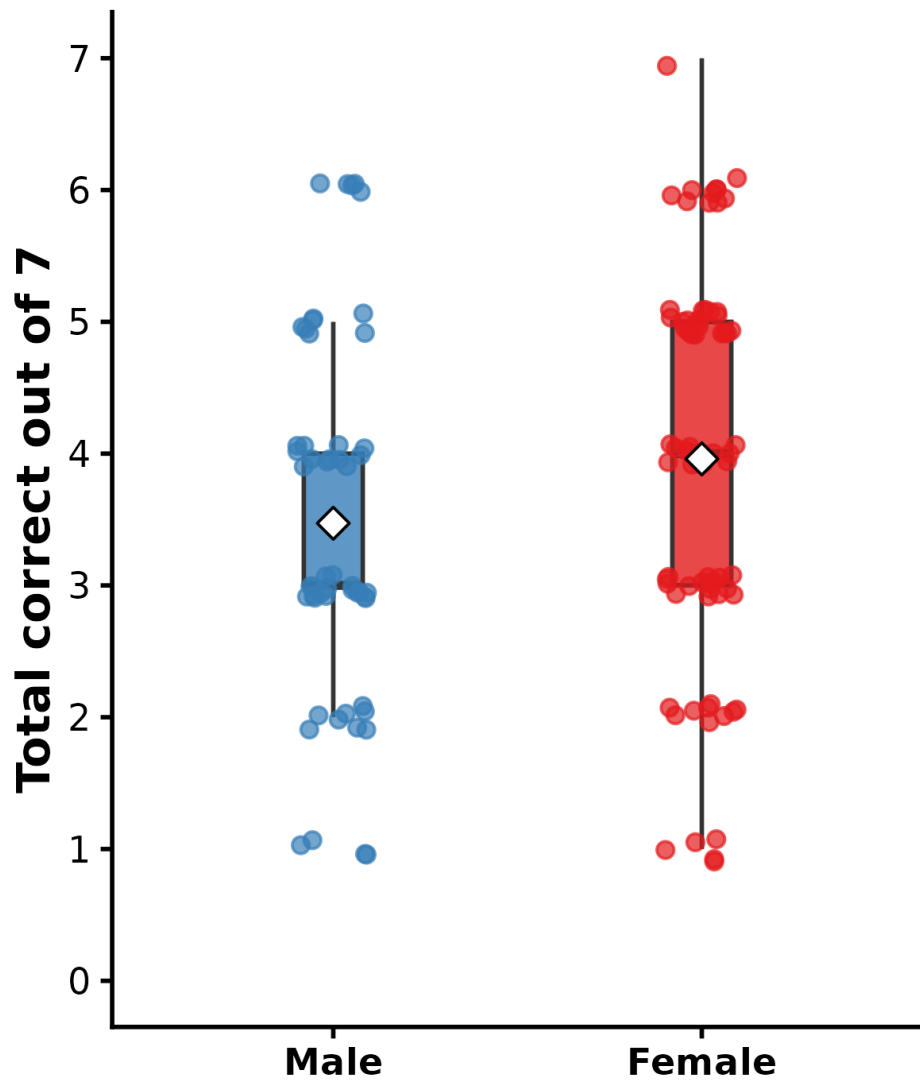
Objective: Investigate the relationship between accuracy and uncertainty in scientific/epidemiology knowledge

- N = 134 participants
- 7 multiple choice questions
 - E.g. What is the leading cause of global deaths? (a) Cancer (b) Infectious diseases (c) Cardiovascular disease
- Self reported confidence rating for each answer
- Age group, sex, profession

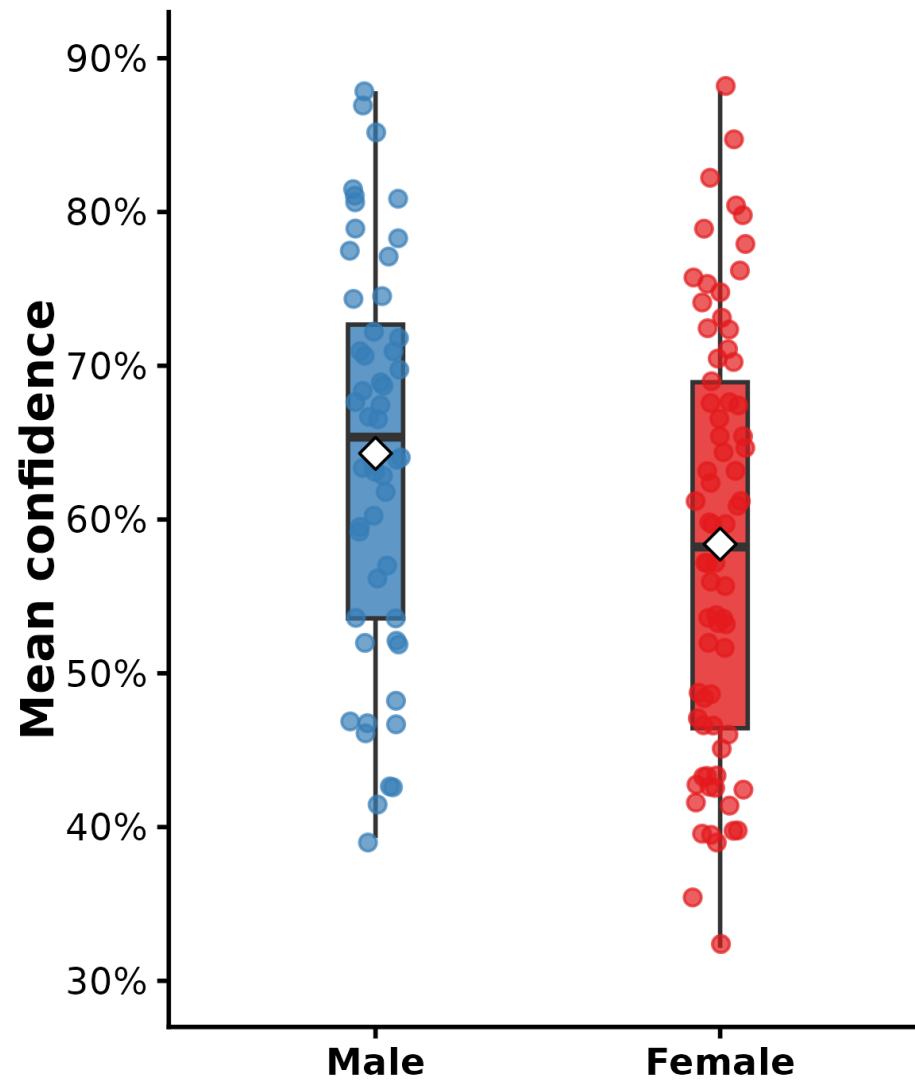
Accuracy by sex

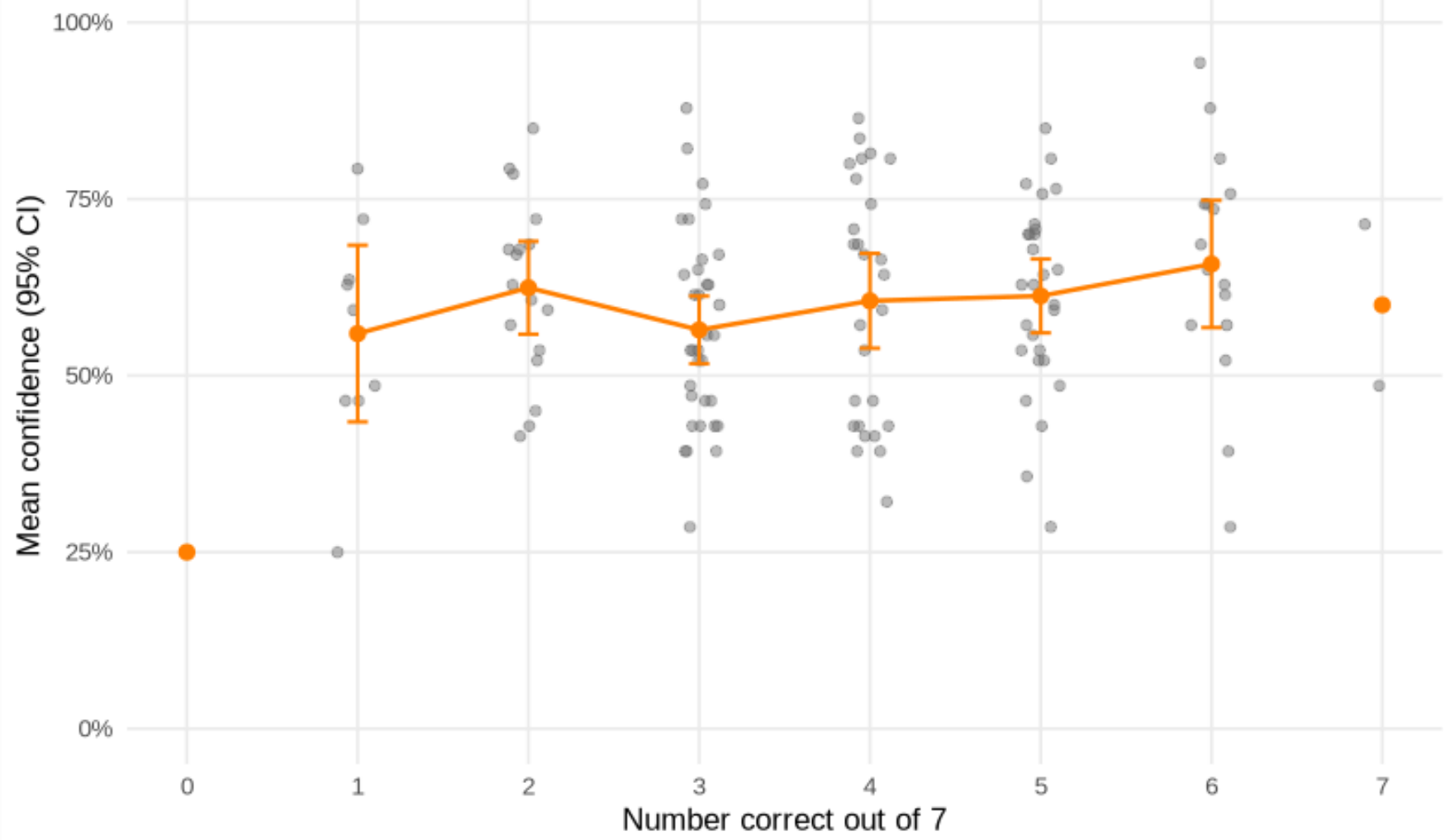


Accuracy by sex



Confidence by sex





Communication is part of the science

Match the response to the problem

Teach judgement early

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