

APPENDIX

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For the survey study of Norwegian populations confidence in the child protection system

The present study is funded by the Norwegian Research Council, *grant no. 262773*. Data has been collected amongst a representative sample of the population from Norway (N=1018 respondents) in January 2020 by the data collection company Respons Analyse. A weekly omnibus ran where a representative panel participated, and quotas and weighting controlled for a sample reflecting the general population, based on demographic questions such as age, gender, county, education, household income and urbanization. If a demographic is underrepresented in the sample, more respondents are asked to ensure representativeness. The sample is weighted so that the representativeness is completely accurate.

The panels were asked the following questions regarding confidence in their country's child welfare system: Please tell us how much confidence you, personally, have in: 'The child welfare agencies that shall protect children', 'The child welfare workers that are working at these agencies', and, 'The judges in court that make decisions about care orders'. The answer alternatives were on a four-point scale: 'a great deal' (coded as 4), 'quite a lot' (coded as 3), 'some' (coded as 2), 'very little' (coded as 1), with an additional category of 'unsure' (coded as 5), which was omitted in the correlations analysis.¹ Upon analysis values were merged: the values 'very little' and 'some' (coded as 1), and 'quite a lot' and 'a great deal' (coded as 2).

For the background questions, standard formulations provided by the data collection company Respons Analyse were used. In addition, it was asked about political orientation.

The statistical program Stata was used, and a Pearson's correlation analyses was undertaken. It is reported on significance the following way: *= $p < 0.10$, **= $p < 0.05$, ***= $p < 0.01$, with the awareness that both the $p < 0.05$ and particular $p < 0.10$ is on the margin of what is relevant to report as statistically significant.

¹ In Norwegian, the wording is: "Vennligst beskriv hvor mye tillit du har (som deg selv) til:

Barnevernstjenesten som skal beskytte barn

Barnevernsarbeidere som jobber i disse barneverntjenestene

Dommere i retten som fatter beslutninger om omsorgsovertagelser av barn

(svaralternativer: 1 veldig lite; 2 noe; 3 ganske mye; 4 svært mye; 5 usikker)»

For the correlation analysis, a scale (Cronbach's alpha) was constructed after removing 'unsure' measuring total system trust, the mean score of each of the three variables, excluding those who answered unsure, making the total N=876 for this scale. Average score is rounded up to the closest whole number. The alpha score of .8477 show us that the three confidence variables measure to a high extent the same thing. It has not been done pairwise deletion of missing data, so the N varies on a couple of the variables. The Cronbach's alpha of 0.8477 draws on the scale variable with combined mean scores and this variable is labeled the child welfare system. Otherwise, the three variables is specified as child welfare agency, child welfare workers or judges.

The analysis also examines whether the following demographic variables have an impact on the degree of trust; gender (dummy coded with male coded as 0, female coded 1), education has three groups with "no higher education (1); BA degree (2); MA degree or higher (3). The respondents are divided into three age groups; younger (16–34), mid-age (35–54) and older (54+). Political orientation is coded as left-wing (Rødt, SV, Ap) (1); centrist (SP, MDG, KrF, Venstre) (2); and right-wing (Høyre, FrP) (3). Those answering other (10); did not want to vote (11); do not know (12); do not wish to answer (13); would have voted blank(?) (14); do not possess voting rights (15), are omitted.

Personal brut income is coded in five groups: Income (1) 400 000 NOK, (2) 400-599 000 NOK, (3) 600-799 000 NOK, (4) 800-1000 000 NOK, (5) more than 1000 000 NOK. The size of the place of residence is coded in three groups: living in a (1) city populated with more than 100 000 persons, (2) city populated with 25-100 000 persons, (3) place with less than 25 000 persons.