



# The State of Open Data

2021

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# History of the State of Open Data

Been running for 6 years

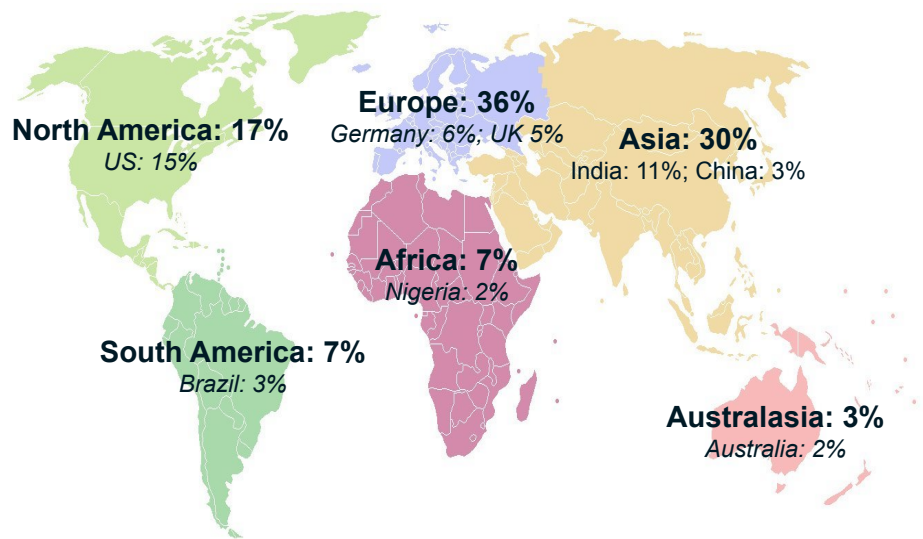
Had over 21,000 respondents from  
192 countries over that time

Provided us with a sustained look at  
the state of open data over time

# Demographics

## 2021 survey population

### Region



Total of 4,491 responses analyzed

### Field of interest



**Biomedical sciences:**  
20%



**Biological sciences:**  
18%



**Applied sciences:**  
15%



**HSS:**  
12%



**Physical sciences:**  
8%



**Earth & environmental sciences:**  
7%



**Other:**  
19%

### Inferred career stage\*



**Late-career researcher:**  
58%

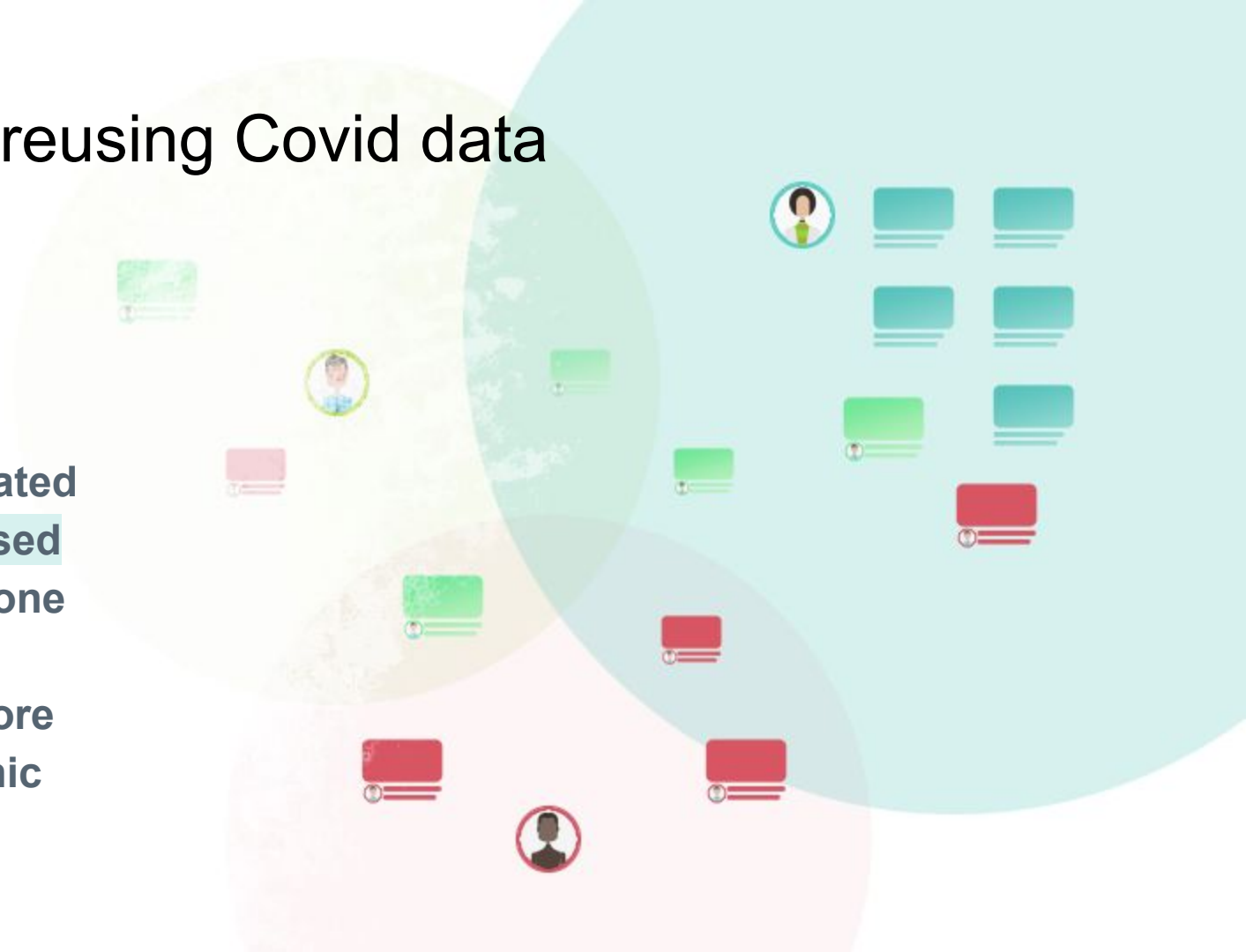
**Mid-career researcher:**  
13%

**Early-career researcher:**  
29%

\*Career staged inferred from year that the respondent first published a peer review article (LCR - >10 years ago; ECR - < 5 years ago) and tenure status where available

# Sharing and reusing Covid data

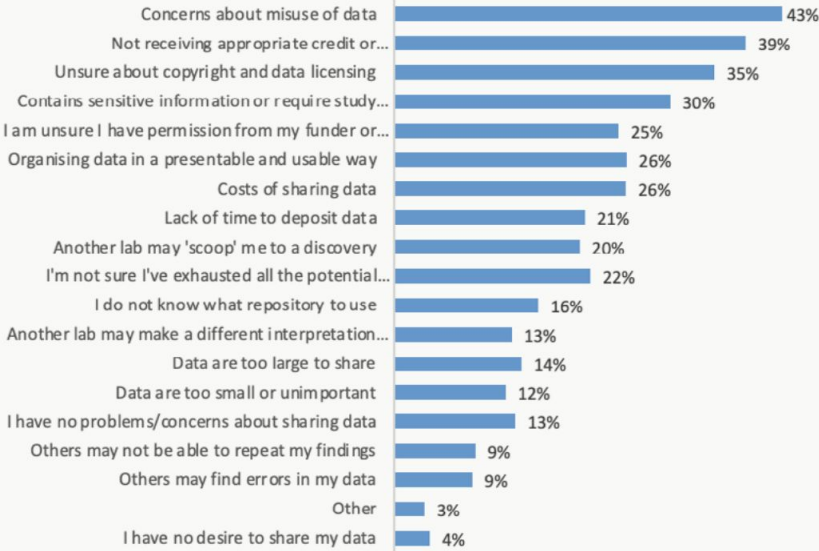
About a **third** of respondents indicated that they have **reused** their own or someone else's **openly accessible data** more during the pandemic than before



### 3 key takeaways

1 There is more concern about sharing data than ever before

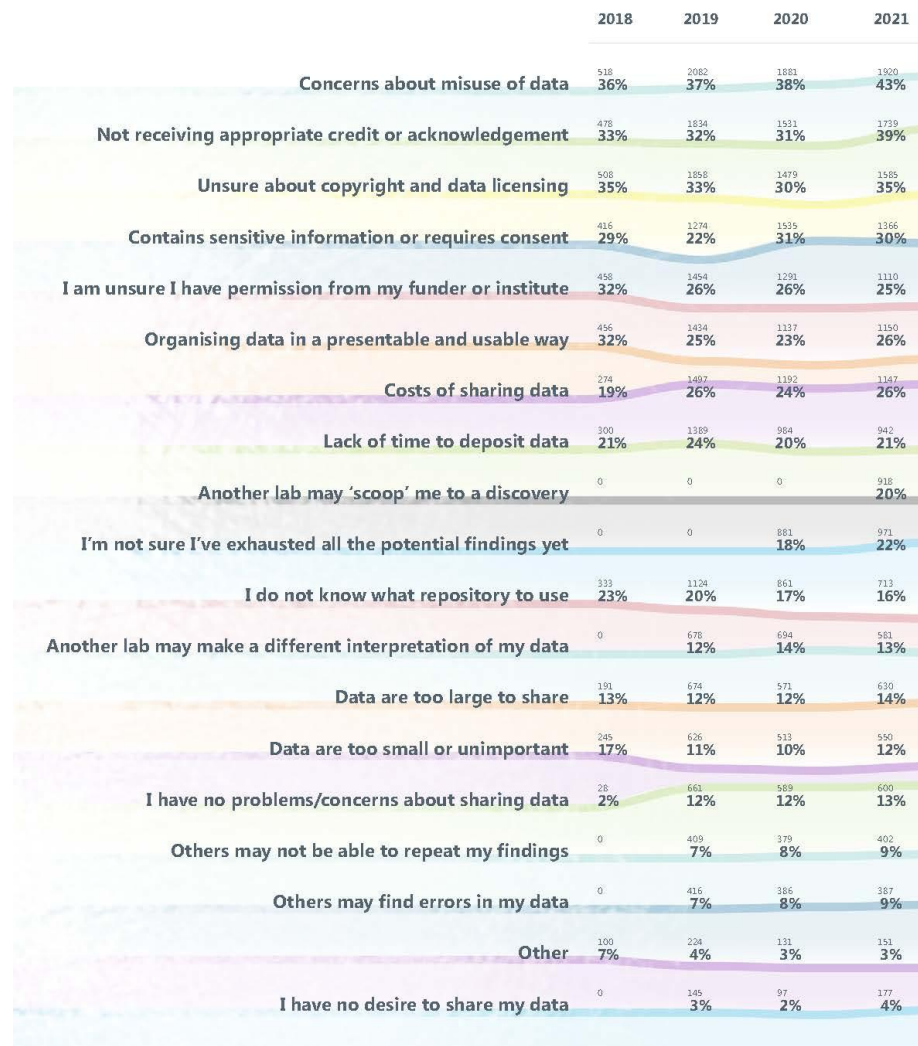
What problems/concerns, if any, do you have with sharing datasets?



# Problems/concerns with sharing data

over the last 4 years

*“ The urgent need to better understand and treat the virus in 2020 brought unprecedented collective and collaborative action. ”*



### 3 key takeaways

- 2 There is more familiarity and compliance with the FAIR data principles than ever before



### 3 key takeaways

- 3 Repositories, publishers, and institutional libraries have a key role to play in helping make data openly available

**35%**  
relied upon  
repositories

**34%** upon  
publishers

**30%** upon  
institutional  
libraries





# Key takeaways for institutions

**30%** of survey respondents said they would **rely upon their institutional library** for help making their research data openly available

Almost **half** of respondents share their research data in an **institutional repository** for a public audience

**58%** of respondents would like greater **guidance from their institution** on how to comply with their data sharing policies

# Key takeaways for publishers

**47%** of survey respondents said they would be **motivated** to share their data if there was a **journal or publisher requirement** to do so

**53%** of survey respondents obtained research data **collected by other research groups** from within a published research article

**53%** of respondents said it was extremely important that data are available from a **publicly available repository**

# Key takeaways for funders/government agencies

**52%** of survey respondents said funders should make the sharing of research data part of their **requirements for awarding grants**

**48%** of respondents said that **funding should be withheld** (or a penalty incurred) if researchers do not share their data when the funder has mandated that they do so at the grant application stage

**73%** of survey respondents strongly or somewhat support the idea of **a national mandate** for making research data openly available

**33%** would like more **guidance** on how to comply with government policies on making research data openly available



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Read the full State of Open Data 2021

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