



Federal Depository
Library Program

In the Midst of Mega Misinformation: Government Information is still reliable

Jane Canfield
Federal Government Information Coordinator
Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico
jcanfield@pucpr.edu
787-841-2000, ext 1806





Ninety-five percent of Americans identified misinformation as a problem when they're trying to access important information.

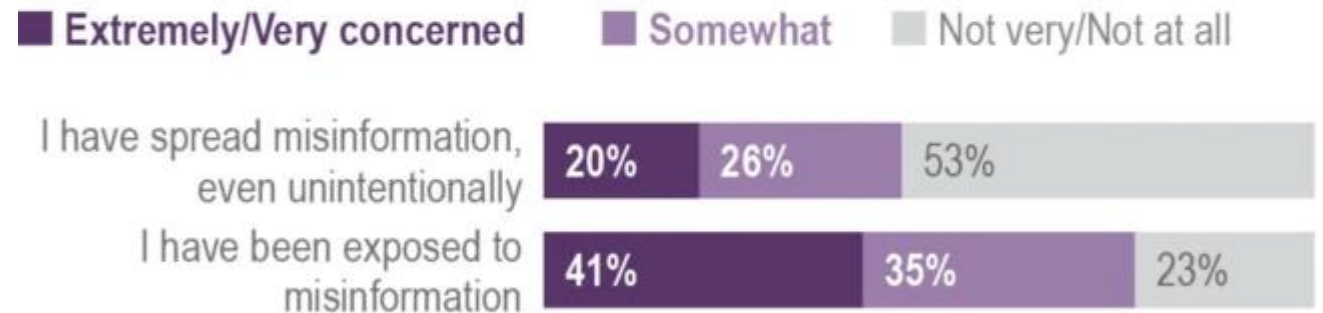
About half put a great deal of blame on the U.S. government, and about three-quarters point to social media users and tech companies. Yet only 2 in 10 Americans say they're very concerned that they have personally spread misinformation.

How Concerned are We?

Only 2 in 10 Americans are very worried that they have spread misinformation

A new Pearson Institute/AP-NORC poll finds about half of Americans are at least somewhat concerned that they have spread misinformation online. More are concerned that they have been exposed to it.

How concerned are you about each of the following?



Results based on interviews with 1,071 U.S. adults conducted Sept. 9–13. The margin of error is ± 3.9 percentage points for the full sample.

Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research



<https://www.cisa.gov/mdm>



What is MDM?

Misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation make up what CISA defines as “information activities”. Definitions for each are below.

- **Misinformation** is false, but not created or shared with the intention of causing harm.
- **Disinformation** is deliberately created to mislead, harm, or manipulate a person, social group, organization, or country.
- **Malinformation** is based on fact, but used out of context to mislead, harm, or manipulate.

Foreign and domestic threat actors use MDM campaigns to cause chaos, confusion, and division. These malign actors are seeking to interfere with and undermine our democratic institutions and national cohesiveness.

The **resources** provided at the bottom of this page provide examples and more information about MDM activities.

RESILIENCE SERIES GRAPHIC NOVELS

<https://www.cisa.gov/resilience-series-graphic-novels>



Disinformation is an existential threat to the United States, our democratic way of life, and the [critical infrastructure and functions](#) on which it relies. CISA's **Resilience Series** (of which Real Fake is its first graphic novel) communicates the dangers and risks associated with [dis- and misinformation](#) through fictional stories that are inspired by real-world events.

Second in the series, Bug Bytes demonstrates how threat actors use social media and other communication platforms to spread inaccurate information for the sole purpose of planting doubt in the minds of targeted audiences to steer their opinion.



CISA encourages everyone to use care when consuming information they receive or come across. Practicing media literacy—including verifying sources, seeking alternative viewpoints, and finding trusted sources of information—is the most effective strategy in limiting the effect of disinformation.

Social Media: Misinformation and Content Moderation Issues for Congress

January 27, 2021



This report explores the role that social media can play in the spread of misinformation—in addition to beneficial information—using the spread of incorrect or inaccurate COVID-19 information as an example.

Two features of social media platforms—the user networks and the algorithmic filtering used to manage content—can contribute to the spread of misinformation. Users can build their own social networks, which affect the content that they see, including the types of misinformation they may be exposed to.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R46662>

Social Media: Misinformation and Content Moderation Issues for Congress

January 27, 2021

Social media users are both the producers and consumers of content. They can post text, images, and videos and consume others' content by viewing, sharing, or reacting to it.



U.S. Social Media Use The Pew Research Center estimated that in 2019, 72% of U.S. adults, or about 184 million U.S. adults, used at least one social media site, based on the results of a series of surveys.

This was up from 5% in 2005. Use varied by age, with the highest percentages using social media being among the 18-29 year old and 30-49 year old cohorts.

The majority of U.S. social media users report visiting the sites weekly and many report visiting the sites daily.

Social Media: Misinformation and Content Moderation Issues for Congress

January 27, 2021

Misinformation can spread on social media sites, even with content moderation techniques implemented by operators. Misinformation can spread before moderators discover, add further complication, users can share content across social media platforms, meaning content can spread on another platform even after the original content is removed.



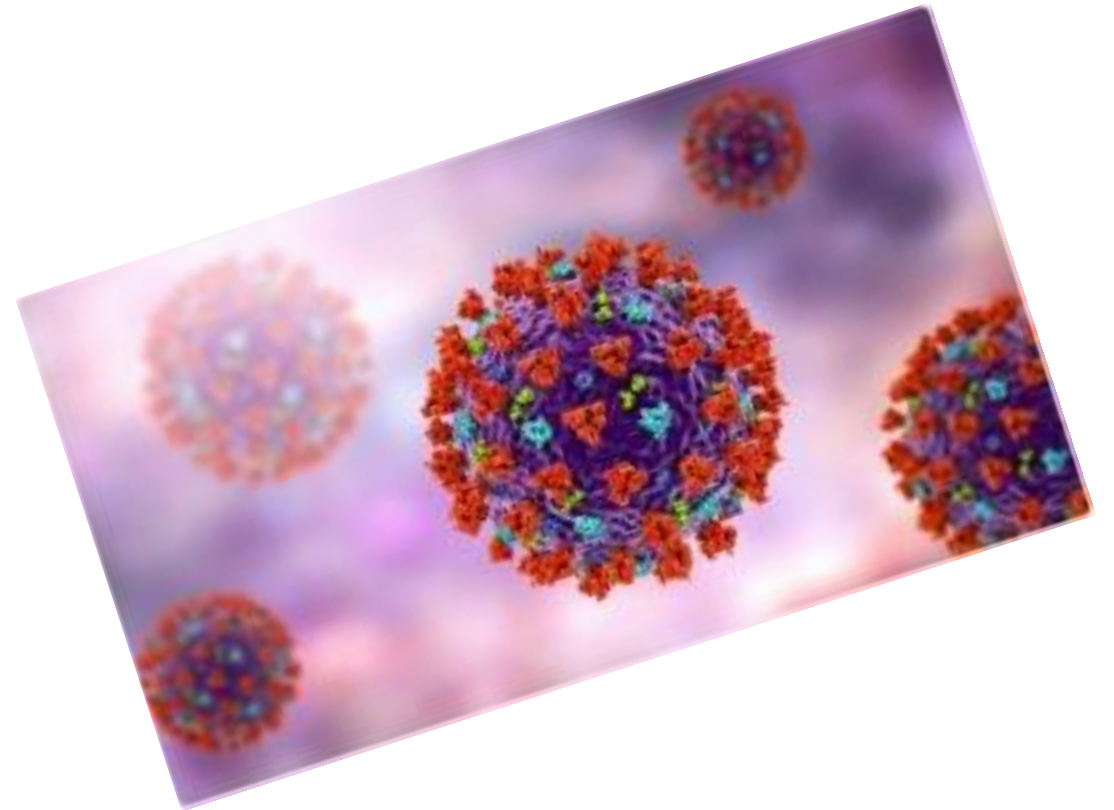
Social Media: Misinformation and Content Moderation Issues for Congress

January 27, 2021

In 2020, a range of information about COVID-19, its origin, means of transmission, treatments, and mitigation measures has been disseminated through social media.

Some of this information has been accurate based on the state of knowledge at the time of original publication, and some has been incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading.

Some information that was previously believed to be accurate was subsequently judged to be inaccurate, due to the evolution of scientific consensus of what is known about the pandemic as new evidence becomes available.



Social Media:
Misinformation and Content
Moderation Issues for
Congress
January 27, 2021



Should Congress or the Executive Branch take action to address misinformation or content regulation?

Is action necessary to reduce the spread of misinformation or to prevent censorship?

If action to address the spread of misinformation and prevent censorship is deemed necessary, which institutions, public and private, should bear responsibility for it?

Who defines misinformation, how, for what purpose, and under what authority?

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-avoid-misinformation-about-covid-19-180974615/>

In mid-February, World Health Organization director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [told](#) an international security conference: “We’re not just fighting an epidemic. We’re fighting an infodemic.”



So what’s the best way to separate the trustworthy from the fake? *Smithsonian* asked experts who study science communication and misinformation what readers should keep in mind while watching the news, reading an article or scanning Facebook.

Simply taking a moment to pause and assess the accuracy of the information you're spreading helps.

Don't just rely on one source

A three-step process:

check the source
check the author
check the content.



<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-avoid-misinformation-about-covid-19-180974615/>



Questions to Ask Before Trusting a Website

As you search online, you are likely to find websites for many health agencies and organizations that are not well-known. By answering the following questions, you should be able to find more information about these websites. A lot of these details might be found in the website's "About Us" section.

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/online-health-information-it-reliable#ask>

Questions to Ask Before Trusting a Website

1. Who sponsors/hosts the website? Is that information easy to find?

2. Who wrote the information? Who reviewed it?

Be careful about testimonials

3. When was the information written?

4. What is the purpose of the site?

5. Is your privacy protected? Does the website clearly state a privacy policy?

BE CAREFUL about sharing your [Social Security number](#).

6. How can I protect my health information?

7. Does the website offer quick and easy solutions to your health problems? Are miracle cures promised?





COVID-19 Public Education Campaign

An initiative to increase confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and reinforce basic prevention measures

[Español](#)

[Shareable Resources](#) ▾

[Outreach Tools](#) ▾

[About the Campaign](#) ▾

[Get Involved](#) ▾

[Home](#) » [How to Address COVID-19 Vaccine Misconceptions](#)

 [Print or Download](#)

How to Address COVID-19 Vaccine Misconceptions

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have been exposed to information that is false, inaccurate, or misleading. Misconceptions about the COVID-19 vaccines have caused confusion and led people to decline vaccines, reject public health measures such as masking and physical distancing, and use unproven treatments.

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has issued an advisory, *Confronting Health Misinformation*, about the urgent threat of health misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines.

The Advisory and its contents can provide valuable background to use in your vaccination outreach.

Some specific articles which address misinformation

Social Media COVID-19 Misinformation Interventions Viewed Positively, But Have Limited Impact

https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/public_events/1582978/social_media_covid-19_misinformation_interventions_viewed_positively_but_have_limited_impact.pdf

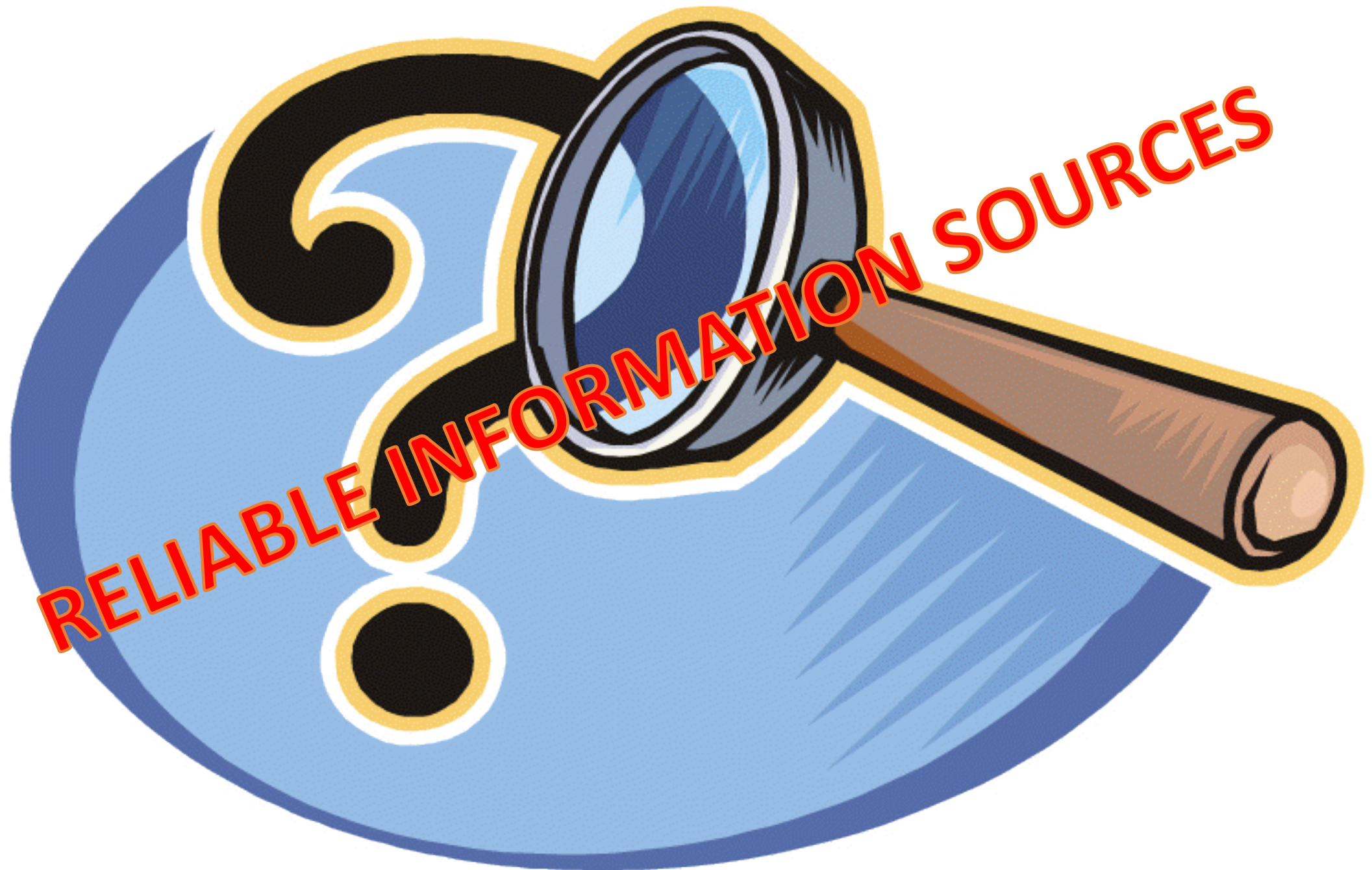
Addressing COVID-19 Misinformation on Social Media Preemptively and Responsively

<file:///C:/Users/books/Downloads/20-3139.pdf>

COVID-19 and misinformation: how an infodemic fuelled the prominence of vitamin D

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7443564/>





RELIABLE INFORMATION SOURCES



Search All Government



All Topics and Services

About the U.S.



Benefits, Grants, Loans



Government Agencies and Elected Officials



Jobs and Unemployment



Money and Taxes



Travel and Immigration



Español

< Features

Partner with Us

USAGov: Your Guide to Reliable and Official Government Information

Date: May 26, 2020

Finding reliable and official government information can be a challenge, especially if you don't know where to start. USAGov works as a helpful guide on federal government resources, that can help you answer questions, work through personal and professional issues, or simply find more information.

Get to Know USAGov, Your Official Guide to Government Information

Follow us on social media



Facebook



Twitter



Instagram

@USAGov

Join our email list



connect.usa.gov/subscribe

[Office of Information Practices | COMBAT MISINFORMATION](#)

oip.hawaii.gov/whats-new/combat-misinformation/

COMBAT MISINFORMATION. With so much **misinformation**, as well as deliberate disinformation campaigns by foreign agents and special interest groups, in ..

[COVID-19 Misinformation](#)

wmc.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/COVID-19/COVID-19%20Misinformation%20Position%20Statement.pdf

applies this standard to all **misinformation** regarding COVID-19 treatments and preventive measures such as masking. Physicians and Physician ..



Search



COVID-19

X

Get the latest public health information from CDC » Get the latest research information from NIH | Español » NIH staff guidance on coronavirus (NIH Only) »

HEALTH INFORMATION

RESEARCH & FUNDING

NEWS & EVENTS

ABOUT NIA

Home / Health Information / Online Health Information: Is It Reliable?

Online Health Information: Is It Reliable?

On this page:

- [Where Can I Find Reliable Health Information Online?](#)
- [Questions to Ask Before Trusting a Website](#)



Check out our free publications. Order here!



Science.gov

Your Gateway to U.S. Federal Science

[Home](#)

[About](#)

[STEM Opportunities](#)

[Translate](#)

Science.gov [searches](#) over 60 databases and over 2,200 scientific websites to provide users with access to more than 200 million pages of authoritative federal science information including research and development results.

New:

Find federal research on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Find out how the COVID-19 search works >](#)

[For the latest public health information about COVID-19, visit the CDC >](#)

[For information about the U.S. Government's response, visit USA.gov >](#)



[Advanced Search](#)



[Home](#) / [About Us](#)

About Us

Nutrition.gov is a USDA-sponsored website that offers credible information to help you make healthful eating choices. It serves as a gateway to reliable information on nutrition, healthy eating, physical activity, and food safety for consumers. The site is updated on an ongoing basis by a staff of Registered Dietitians at the Food and Nutrition Information Center (FNIC) located at the National Agricultural Library (NAL), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The website receives content guidance from a working group that consists of scientific experts in food and nutrition within USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Nutrition.gov was launched in 2004 as part of the USDA's Obesity Intervention Plan. It is funded by the Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area of USDA.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

[A-Z Index](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

[Diseases & Conditions](#) ▾

[Healthy Living](#) ▾

[Travelers' Health](#) ▾

[Emergency Preparedness](#) ▾

[More](#) ▾



Coronavirus Disease 2019

CDC is responding to the coronavirus outbreak.

[Learn More](#)

COVID-19 Information

[Public health information \(CDC\)](#) | [Research information \(NIH\)](#) | [SARS-CoV-2 data \(NCBI\)](#) | [Prevention and treatment information \(HHS\)](#) | [Español](#)



Log in

PubMed.gov

Search

Advanced

PubMed® comprises more than 33 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.



Collection

Thesaurus

Search education resources

Search

[Advanced Search Tips](#)

Peer reviewed only Full text available on ERIC



*Thank
You!*