

Controversial Narratives 2021
Wave VII (N = 693)
July 20-August 2, 2021

Belief in controversial narratives

“To what extent do you believe the following statement is true?”

Statements:

- a) The CDC is hiding negative effects of COVID vaccines.
- b) COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility among women.

Narratives	Party affiliation	Definitely false	Likely false	Likely true	Definitely true
CDC hiding side effects	Dem	92 (34.5%)	119 (44.6%)	42 (25.3%)	14 (5.2%)
	Ind	9 (19.1%)	16 (34.0%)	12 (36.2%)	4 (9.5%)
	Rep	35 (3.4%)	58 (6.0%)	99 (5.6%)	74 (27.8%)
	Total	136 (23.7%)	193 (33.6%)	153 (26.7%)	92 (16.0%)
COVID and infertility	Dem	121 (45.3%)	112 (41.9%)	30 (11.2%)	4 (1.4%)
	Ind	16 (34.0%)	20 (42.6%)	5 (11.9%)	0 (0.0%)
	Rep	61 (6.0%)	122 (7.5%)	64 (24.1%)	18 (6.7%)
	Total	198 (34.5%)	254 (44.3%)	99 (17.25%)	22 (3.8%)

Awareness of controversial narratives through social media:

“Have you encountered this, or similar stories about this issue, on social media or the internet?”

Example of stimuli:

COVID-19 'warp speed' vaccines likely not safe and not needed, medical expert says



Narratives	Party affiliation	Definitely not	Probably not	Probably yes	Definitely yes
CDC hiding side effects	Dem	121 (45.3%)	54 (20.2%)	66 (24.7%)	26 (9.7%)
	Ind	19 (40.4%)	11 (23.4%)	10 (23.8%)	1 (2.4%)
	Rep	93 (7.1%)	67 (4.1%)	80 (30.1%)	26 (9.8%)
	Total	233 (40.6%)	132 (23.0%)	156 (27.2%)	94 (13.6%)
COVID and infertility	Dem	147 (55.1%)	52 (19.5%)	50 (18.7%)	18 (6.8%)
	Ind	24 (51.1%)	14 (29.8%)	3 (7.1%)	0 (0.0%)
	Rep	127 (9.0%)	73 (5.3%)	53 (19.9%)	13 (4.9%)
	Total	298 (51.9%)	139 (24.2%)	106 (18.5%)	31 (5.4%)

Vaccine History and Intention

“Have you already received or made an appointment to get a COVID-19 vaccine?”

Vaccine history	Counts
Yes	382 (66.6%)
No	192 (33.4%)
Total	574

“Do you plan to get a COVID-19 vaccine (If you do, when)?”

Vaccine Intention	Counts
As soon as possible	127 (22.1%)
Within the next month	23 (4.0%)
Within the next 6 months	22 (3.8%)
Within the next 2 years	13 (2.3%)
Never	7 (1.2%)
Total	192

Demographics

“What is your year of birth?”

Age (Aggregated by decade)	Counts
18-29	114 (19.9%)
30-39	111 (19.3%)
40-49	91 (15.9%)
50-59	98 (17.1%)
60-69	85 (14.8%)
70-79	68 (11.8%)
80-89	7 (1.2%)
Total	574

“What is your gender?”

Gender	Counts
Female	300 (52.3%)
Male	269 (46.9%)
Prefer not to answer/Other	5 (0.8%)
Total	574

“Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?”

Party Identification 1	Counts
Republican	241 (42.0%)
Democrat	229 (39.9%)
Independent	77 (13.4%)
No preference	18 (3.1%)
Don't know	6 (1.0%)
Other	3 (0.5%)
Total	574

“Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democratic Party?”
(Ask only Independent/No preference/Other participants in Party Identification 1)

Party Identification 2	Counts
Democratic Party	38 (6.6%)
Republican Party	25 (4.4%)
Neither	37 (6.4%)
Don't know	4 (0.7%)
Total	104

“What is your racial or ethnic background? (Check all that apply)”

Race/ethnicity	Counts
White	359 (62.5%)
Asian	102 (17.8%)
Black or African American	80 (11.5%)
Hispanic or Lationo/a	32 (3.0%)
Other	30 (5.2%)
Total	574

“What is the highest level of education you have completed?”

Education Level	Counts
Less than high school degree	15 (2.6%)
High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent including GED)	161 (28.0%)
Some college but no degree	181 (31.5%)
Associate degree in college (2-year)	53 (9.2%)
Bachelor's degree in college (4-year)	106 (18.5%)
Master's degree	35 (6.1%)
Professional degree	11 (1.9%)
Doctoral degree	12 (2.1%)
Total	574

Methodology

This is the seventh of a series of reports tracking the diffusion of misinformation. Data in this wave were collected from an online panel of American adults, recruited by Qualtrics. Data were collected from 20 July to 02 August 2021. The sample size was 574 (margin of error \approx 4%). Fifty one percent of participants were female. The average age was 44.19 (SD = 17.40), with a range of 18 to 91. The sample was 62.5% white, 11.5% Black, and 3.0% Latino.