

Controversial Narratives 2020
Wave VII (N = 643)
June 6-14, 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	87 (34.5%)	80 (31.7%)	65 (25.8%)	20 (7.9%)
	Ind	37 (28.7%)	43 (33.3%)	34 (26.4%)	15 (11.6%)
	Rep	32 (13.9%)	55 (23.9%)	92 (40%)	51 (22.2%)
	Total	151 (25.1%)	184 (28.7%)	205 (32%)	91 (14.2%)
COVID and infertility	Dem	114 (45.1%)	88 (34.8%)	34 (13.4%)	17 (6.7%)
	Ind	46 (35.9%)	57 (44.5%)	21 (16.4%)	4 (3.1%)
	Rep	62 (27%)	105 (45.7%)	56 (24.3%)	7 (3.0%)
	Total	229 (35.8%)	265 (41.4%)	117 (18.3%)	29 (4.5%)

Demographics

“What is your year of birth?”

Age (Aggregated by decade)	Counts
18-29	135 (21%)
30-39	128 (19.9%)
40-49	98 (15.2%)
50-59	98 (15.2%)
60-69	118 (18.4%)
70-79	56 (8.7%)
80-89	10 (1.6%)
Total	643

“What is your gender?”

Gender	Counts
Male	327 (48.4%)
Female	311 (50.9%)
Prefer not to answer/Other	5 (0.7%)
Total	643

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

Party Identification 1	Counts
Democrat	253 (39.3%)
Republican	231 (35.9%)
Independent	129 (20.1%)
Don't know	7 (1.1%)
No preference	18 (2.8%)
Other	5 (0.8%)
Total	643

“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	61 (38.4%)
Republican Party	52 (32.7%%)
Neither	42 (26.4%)
Don't know	4 (2.5%)
Total	159

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

Race/ethnicity	Counts
White	398 (61.9%)
Black or African American	80 (12.4%)
Latino	34 (5.3%)
Asian	110 (17.1%)
Other	21 (3.3%)
Total	643

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

Education Level	Counts
Less than high school degree	9 (1.4%)
High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent including GED)	163 (25.3%)
Some college but no degree	224 (34.8%)
Associate degree in college (2-year)	45 (7%)
Bachelor's degree in college (4-year)	128 (19.9%)
Master's degree	63 (9.8%)
Professional degree	5 (0.8%)
Doctoral degree	6 (0.9%)
Total	643

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 6 to 14 June 2021. The sample size was 643 (margin of error \approx 4%). Fifty one percent of participants were female. The average age was 46.27 (SD = 17.33), with a range of 18 to 89. The sample was 61.9% white, 12.4% Black, and 5.3% Latino.