Pearson Institute/AP-NORC Poll

**Conducted by the Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
With funding from NORC at the University of Chicago**

Interviews: 09/09-09/13/21
1,071 adults
Margin of error: +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

PA1. When it comes to getting information about current events and important issues in the U.S. and around the world, do you think the spread of misinformation is a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 09/09-09/13/21
Major problem	82
Minor problem	13
Not a problem at all	5
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*
N=	*1,071*

PA2. How much responsibility do you think each of the following has for *spreading* misinformation about current events and important issues in the U.S. and around the world?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 09/09-09/13/21	A great deal/quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/ none at all NET	Only a little	None at all	DK	SKP/ REF
Social media users	**77**	52	24	**16**	**6**	3	3	*	1
Social media companies such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube	**73**	50	23	**18**	**7**	4	3	1	1
Politicians in the U.S.	**72**	44	28	**21**	**6**	4	2	*	1
The U.S. government	**48**	28	21	**31**	**20**	13	6	*	1
The Chinese government	**53**	31	23	**27**	**18**	12	6	1	1
The Iranian government	**39**	22	18	**30**	**28**	16	13	1	2
The Russian government	**54**	30	25	**27**	**18**	11	7	1	1
Other foreign governments	**41**	20	21	**34**	**23**	17	6	1	1

N= 1,071

PA3. How much responsibility do you think each of the following has for *addressing* the spread of misinformation in the U.S.?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 09/09-09/13/21	A great deal/quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/ none at all NET	Only a little	None at all	DK	SKP/ REF
Social media users	**62**	40	23	**23**	**13**	7	7	*	1
Social media companies such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube	**67**	45	22	**18**	**14**	8	6	*	1
Politicians in the U.S.	**70**	47	24	**17**	**11**	6	5	*	1
The U.S. government	**62**	42	20	**19**	**17**	11	6	*	1

N= 1,071

PA4. How concerned are you about each of the following?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 09/09-09/13/21	Extremely/ very concerned NET	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very/not at all concerned NET	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	DK	SKP/ REF
I have spread misinformation, even unintentionally	**20**	8	11	**26**	**53**	22	31	*	1
I have been exposed to misinformation	**41**	16	25	**35**	**23**	15	8	-	1
My *friends* have spread misinformation, even unintentionally	**25**	9	16	**39**	**34**	21	14	-	1
My *friends* have been exposed to misinformation	**44**	18	26	**35**	**20**	11	9	-	1
My *family* have spread misinformation, even unintentionally	**27**	11	16	**33**	**39**	23	15	1	*
My *family* have been exposed to misinformation	**44**	21	23	**31**	**24**	13	10	1	*

N= 1,071

PA5. How concerned are you about cyber-attacks on U.S. computer systems affecting each of the following?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 09/09-09/13/21	**Extremely/ very concerned NET**	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	**Somewhat concerned**	**Not very/not at all concerned NET**	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	DK	SKP/ REF
National security and defense systems	**67**	40	26	**23**	**10**	8	2	*	1
Government services like social security or unemployment benefits	**62**	33	29	**27**	**10**	7	3	-	1
Your personal information, identity, finances, or health records	**62**	36	27	**28**	**9**	6	2	-	1
Electricity, gas, and energy generation and distribution	**64**	34	30	**25**	**10**	7	3	-	1
Transportation networks	**54**	26	28	**31**	**14**	11	3	-	1
Healthcare systems	**63**	33	30	**27**	**9**	6	3	-	1
Agricultural production	**52**	24	28	**30**	**17**	14	4	*	1
Financial institutions and their data	**68**	35	32	**24**	**8**	5	3	-	1

N= 1,071

PA6. How big of a threat are each of the following to the cybersecurity of the U.S. government?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 09/09-09/13/21	A big threat	A small threat	Not a threat	DK	SKP/ REF
The Chinese government	73	20	5	*	2
The Russian government	72	22	5	*	1
The Iranian government	55	36	8	*	1
Other foreign governments	40	49	9	*	1
Groups not affiliated with any government	53	39	7	*	1
Individuals not affiliated with any group or government	44	47	8	*	1

N=1,071

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?

If Democrat in PID1
PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

If Republican in PID1
PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

If independent, none of these, or Don't Know/SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED in PID1
PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDA, PIDB, and PIDI.

	AP-NORC 09/09-09/13/21
Democrat NET	**45**
Strong Democrat	22
Moderate Democrat	12
Lean Democrat	11
Independent/None – Don't lean	**19**
Republican NET	**35**
Lean Republican	9
Moderate Republican	12
Strong Republican	14
N=	*1,071*

AGE

	NORC 09/09-09/13/21
18-29	20
30-39	17
40-59	32
60-64	8
65+	22
N=	*1,071*

GENDER

	NORC 09/09-09/13/21
Male	48
Female	52
N=	*1,071*

RACE/ETHNICITY

	NORC 09/09-09/13/21
White	62
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9
N=	*1,071*

MARITAL STATUS

	NORC 09/09-09/13/21
Married	49
Widowed	3
Divorced	11
Separated	6
Never married	25
Living with partner	6
N=	*1,071*

EDUCATION

	NORC 09/09-09/13/21
Some college or less	65
Bachelor's or advanced degree	35
N=	*1,071*

INCOME

	AP-NORC 09/09-09/13/21
Under $10,000	6
$10,000 to under $20,000	8
$20,000 to under $30,000	13
$30,000 to under $40,000	10
$40,000 to under $50,000	8
$50,000 to under $75,000	19
$75,000 to under $100,000	12
$100,000 to under $150,000	13
$150,000 or more	11
N=	*1,071*

Study Methodology
This survey was conducted by the Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago. Staff from Pearson Institute and The AP-NORC Center collaborated on all aspects of the study.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between September 9 and September 13, 2021, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,071 completed the survey — 986 via the web and 85 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. The final stage completion rate is 19.3 percent, the weighted household panel recruitment rate is 19.0 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 75.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 2.8 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2020 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world's population sees AP journalism every day. www.ap.org
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. www.norc.org

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals. In its 10 years, The AP-NORC Center has conducted more than 250 studies exploring the critical issues facing the public, covering topics like health care, the economy, COVID-19, trust in media, and more.

Learn more at www.apnorc.org.

About the Pearson Institute

The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago promotes the ongoing discussion, understanding and resolution of global conflicts, and contributes to the advancement of a global society more at peace. Established through a grant from The Thomas L. Pearson and The Pearson Family Members Foundation, and led by Institute Director James Robinson, co-author of Why Nations Fail and The Narrow Corridor, the Institute achieves this by employing an analytically rigorous, data-driven approach and global perspective to understanding violent conflict. It is global in its scope, activities and footprint. Attracting students and scholars from around the world, its faculty is in the field studying conflicts – and approaches to conflict resolution – in Nigeria, Colombia and Afghanistan, to name just a few.

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