

Title: Survey information appendix for “Partisan reasoning in a high stakes environment: Assessing partisan informational gaps on COVID-19”

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Date: March 30th, 2022

Note: The material contained herein is supplementary to the article named in the title and published in the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Misinformation Review.

Appendix A: Survey information

Tables A1 and A2 display the wording and coding responses for the COVID-19 and other political misinformation items used in the study.

Table A1. COVID-19 misinformation items.

Topic	Item	Incorrect Response	Party Valence (Incorrect Response)
CDC Mortality	The statistics reported by the Centers for Disease Control overstate the number of Americans who have died from COVID-19.	True	Republican
International Comp.	Adjusting for population size, several countries in Western Europe, Italy, Spain, France and the United Kingdom, have more deaths from COVID-19 (per 100,000 people) than the United States.	False	Democratic
Risk by Age	Those 65 and older account for over 70% of the U.S. deaths from COVID-19	False	Democratic
Source	The coronavirus [was/was not] developed intentionally in a Chinese lab.	was developed	Republican
Treatment	There is general scientific agreement that chloroquine, a drug used to treat or prevent malaria can effectively treat COVID-19	True	Republican

Table A2. Political misinformation items.

Topic	Item	Incorrect Response	Party Valence (Incorrect Response)
Climate Change	The vast majority (over 90%) of climate scientists believe that global warming is an established fact and that it is most likely caused by man-made emissions	False	Republican
Firearm Sales	40% of firearm sales in the US occur without a background check	True	Democratic
Immigrant Crime	Illegal immigrants commit violent crime at a significantly higher rate than legal American citizens	True	Republican
Voter Fraud	Millions of illegal votes were cast in the 2016 presidential election.	True	Republican
Unemployment	Compared to January 2017, has the level of unemployment in the country increased, stayed the same, or decreased?	Decreased OR Remained the same	Republican

Table A3 contains the information sources that were available prior to each information question. Subjects saw the source and headline for each article as they made a selection.

Table A3. News sources by topic.

	Left Partisan	Mainstream 1	Mainstream 2	Health Expert	Right Partisan
CDC Mortality	HuffPo	CNN	NY Times	Dr. Anthony Fauci	Fox
International Comp	HuffPo	Washington Post	NY Times	Johns Hopkins	Fox
Risk By Age	HuffPo	Washington Post	NY Times	CDC	Fox
Source	HuffPo	CNN	NY Times	Dr. Anthony Fauci	Fox
Treatment	HuffPo	CNN	NY Times	FDA	Breitbart

After making their information selection, respondents read a real news article that had appeared on the topic from the source they chose. This means there is variation in whether respondents could encounter the correct answer to the subsequent question while browsing the article, though most articles would at least briefly mention it. Across the studies, the lone source that would not contain the correct answer would be the partisan media source for which the information was uncongenial.

Below we indicate whether the article contained this information with a 1 for articles that contained the relevant information for respondents and 0 otherwise. We also note that, when it came to partisan media sources, some articles did report uncongenial information but often undercut this by providing more extensive treatment of inaccurate claims from other actors on the topic.

Table A4. Information availability by topic.

	Left Partisan	Mainstream 1	Mainstream 2	Health Expert	Right Partisan
CDC Mortality	1	1	1	1	0
International Comp	0	1	1	1	1
Risk By Age	1	1	1	1	1
Source	1	1	1	1	0
Treatment	1	1	1	1	0