

Topline questionnaire

**2019 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 45 FEBRUARY
FINAL MADE-UP NEWS TOPLINE
FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 4, 2019
TOTAL N=6,127**

ASK ALL:
NATPROBS

How much of a problem do you think each of the following are in the country today?
[RANDOMIZE]

	<u>A very big problem</u>	<u>A moderately big problem</u>	<u>A small problem</u>	<u>Not a problem at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK ALL:					
a. Made-up news and information Feb 19-March 4, 2019	50	32	16	3	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]:					
b. The affordability of health care Feb 19-March 4, 2019	67	26	5	2	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	70	23	5	2	*
c. Racism Feb 19-March 4, 2019	40	37	19	3	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	46	32	18	4	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	39	38	19	3	1
d. The way the U.S. political system operates Feb 19-March 4, 2019	52	35	11	3	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	55	30	11	3	1
e. Illegal immigration Feb 19-March 4, 2019	38	28	28	6	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	42	26	25	6	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	44	30	21	5	1
f. The gap between the rich and poor Feb 19-March 4, 2019	51	30	14	5	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	54	28	12	5	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	57	29	9	5	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]:					
g. Violent crime Feb 19-March 4, 2019	49	37	13	1	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	52	33	13	1	*
h. Climate change Feb 19-March 4, 2019	46	27	18	9	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	43	28	20	9	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	40	26	21	12	1
i. Drug addiction Feb 19-March 4, 2019	70	26	4	1	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	68	25	6	1	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	56	32	9	2	1

NATPROBS CONTINUED...

	A very big <u>problem</u>	A moderately <u>big problem</u>	A small <u>problem</u>	Not a problem <u>at all</u>	No <u>answer</u>
j. Terrorism					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	34	40	23	2	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	35	37	25	3	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	53	30	13	3	1
k. Sexism					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	26	40	28	5	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	34	35	24	7	1
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	23	36	30	10	2

ASK ALL:

NEWS_PLATFORM

Thinking about news (by news we mean information about events and issues that involve more than just your friends and family), how often do you... **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Hardly ever</u>	<u>Never</u>	No <u>answer</u>
NO ITEMS A-F					
g. Get news from a social media site (such as Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat)					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	25	29	21	24	*
Jul 30-Aug 12, 2018	20	27	21	32	0
Aug 8-Aug 21, 2017	20	27	20	33	0
Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016 ³	18	26	18	38	*
h. Get news from a news website or app					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	43	33	16	8	*
Jul 30-Aug 12, 2018	33	31	18	18	*
Aug 8-Aug 21, 2017	33	31	19	17	*
Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	28	28	18	26	*

ASK ALL:NEWSPREFV2 Which of the following would you say you prefer for getting news? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4

2019

8	A print newspaper
8	Radio
41	Television
12	A social media site (such as Facebook, YouTube or Snapchat)
30	A news website or app
*	No answer

³ In the Wave 14 January 2016 survey, this question item read "Get news from a social networking site (such as Facebook or Twitter)?".

ASK ALL:

SOURCESKEP How much do you trust the accuracy of the news and information that you get from...
[RANDOMIZE]

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Your main news outlets Feb 19-March 4, 2019	36	49	10	4	*
b. News outlets you don't come across often Feb 19-March 4, 2019	3	36	47	13	*
c. Political leaders and public officials Feb 19-March 4, 2019	4	48	38	9	*
d. Friends and family Feb 19-March 4, 2019	15	65	17	3	*
e. Social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat) Feb 19-March 4, 2019	4	32	39	24	1

ASK ALL:

INFOCONFUSE How much do you think each type of news and information leaves Americans confused about the basic facts of current issues and events? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public Feb 19-March 4, 2019	67	24	5	3	*
b. Satire about an issue or event Feb 19-March 4, 2019	24	48	22	5	1
c. Breaking information that is published before everything is verified Feb 19-March 4, 2019	52	37	8	2	*
d. Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue Feb 19-March 4, 2019	48	41	9	2	*
e. A video or image that is altered or made up to mislead the public Feb 19-March 4, 2019	63	27	6	3	*

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF INFOKNOW AND INFOOWN**ASK ALL:**

INFOKNOW How do you feel about the AVERAGE AMERICAN'S ability to recognize each type of news and information? **[SHOW IN SAME ORDER AS INFOCONFUSE]**

	The average American should be able to recognize it	It is too much to ask of the average American to be able to recognize it	No answer
a. Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public Feb 19-March 4, 2019	43	56	1
b. Satire about an issue or event Feb 19-March 4, 2019	65	34	1
c. Breaking information that is published before everything is verified Feb 19-March 4, 2019	46	53	1
d. Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue Feb 19-March 4, 2019	58	41	1
e. A video or image that is altered or made up to mislead the public Feb 19-March 4, 2019	38	61	1

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF INFOKNOW AND INFOOWN**ASK ALL:**

INFOOWN How do you feel about YOUR OWN ability to recognize each type of news and information? **[SHOW IN SAME ORDER AS INFOCONFUSE]**

	I find it easy to recognize it	I find it hard to recognize it	No answer
a. Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public Feb 19-March 4, 2019	63	36	1
b. Satire about an issue or event Feb 19-March 4, 2019	78	20	2
c. Breaking information that is published before everything is verified Feb 19-March 4, 2019	58	40	1
d. Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue Feb 19-March 4, 2019	77	22	1
e. A video or image that is altered or made up to mislead the public Feb 19-March 4, 2019	53	46	1

ASK ALL:

MEDIALOYAL3 Which of the following statements comes closer to your view? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4 <u>2019</u>		Jan 12-Feb 8 <u>2016</u>
39	I consider myself to be loyal to the news source(s) I get my news from	51
60	I am not particularly loyal to the news source(s) I get my news from	48
1	No answer	1

ASK ALL:

LEAD When you talk with friends and family about the news, do you tend to... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4 <u>2019</u>	
69	Listen to the conversation more than lead
29	Lead the conversation more than listen
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

SEEK Which statement best describes how you get news? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4 <u>2019</u>	
60	I mostly get news because I'm looking for it
39	I mostly get news because I happen to come across it
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

INFORESTRICT Which comes closer to your view about each type of news and information?
[SHOW IN SAME ORDER AS INFOCONFUSE]

	<u>The freedom to publish and access it should be protected</u>	<u>Steps should be taken to restrict it</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public Feb 19-March 4, 2019	20	79	1
b. Satire about an issue or event Feb 19-March 4, 2019	69	30	2
c. Breaking information that is published before everything is verified Feb 19-March 4, 2019	45	54	1
d. Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue Feb 19-March 4, 2019	62	37	1
e. A video or image that is altered or made up to mislead the public Feb 19-March 4, 2019	22	77	1

1 QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

INFOWHY How much do you think each of the following is a reason why made-up news and information
is created? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. To make money Feb 19-March 4, 2019	71	22	6	1
b. To push an agenda or viewpoint Feb 19-March 4, 2019	86	10	3	1
c. For fame Feb 19-March 4, 2019	49	39	11	1
d. To be funny Feb 19-March 4, 2019	12	41	46	1

ASK ALL:INFOCREATE How much made-up news and information do you think is created by... **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Journalists Feb 19-March 4, 2019	36	39	20	4	1
b. Political leaders and their staff Feb 19-March 4, 2019	57	35	5	2	1
c. Members of the public Feb 19-March 4, 2019	26	53	18	2	1
d. Foreign-based individuals or groups Feb 19-March 4, 2019	35	48	13	2	1
e. Activist groups Feb 19-March 4, 2019	53	38	7	2	1

ASK ALL:

MADEUPOFT How often do you come across made-up news and information that is intended to mislead the public?

Feb 19-March 4 <u>2019</u>	
38	Often
51	Sometimes
9	Hardly ever
2	Never
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

MADEUPSHARE1 Have you ever shared news and information that you LATER FOUND OUT was made-up?

Feb 19-March 4 <u>2019</u>	
49	Yes
50	No
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

MADEUPSHARE2 Have you ever shared news and information that you KNEW AT THE TIME was made-up?

Feb 19-March 4 <u>2019</u>	
10	Yes
89	No
1	No answer

ASK IF SHARES NEWS THEY KNEW WAS MADE-UP (MADEUPSHARE2=1) [N=529]:

MADEUPSHAREWHY What is the main reason why you shared news and information that you knew at the time was made-up? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4

2019

27	I thought it was surprising or entertaining
8	I liked what it said
18	I wanted to create a discussion about it
46	I wanted to tell others it was inaccurate
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

MADEUPTOPIC How much made-up news and information do you think is created about each of the following topics? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]:					
a. Politics and elections Feb 19-March 4, 2019	73	22	3	2	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]:					
b. Entertainment and celebrities Feb 19-March 4, 2019	61	32	5	1	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]:					
c. Science and technology Feb 19-March 4, 2019	17	49	29	4	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]:					
d. Health and medicine Feb 19-March 4, 2019	27	51	18	2	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]:					
e. Emergencies, such as shootings or natural disasters Feb 19-March 4, 2019	17	40	34	8	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]:					
f. Business and finance Feb 19-March 4, 2019	26	57	15	2	1

ASK ALL:

MADEUPELEVEL And, how much do you think is created in each of the following areas? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. National issues, events and public figures Feb 19-March 4, 2019	58	36	5	1	1
b. Local issues, events and public figures Feb 19-March 4, 2019	18	52	28	2	1

ASK ALL:

MADEUPRES Has the issue of made-up news and information led you to do any of the following?
[RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Yes, have done this</u>	<u>No, have not done this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Stop getting news from a specific outlet Feb 19-March 4, 2019	63	36	1
b. Reduce the amount of news you get overall Feb 19-March 4, 2019	43	56	1
c. Check the facts of news stories yourself Feb 19-March 4, 2019	78	22	1
d. Report or flag a story that you think is made-up Feb 19-March 4, 2019	32	67	1
e. Change the way you use social media Feb 19-March 4, 2019	52	46	1

ASK ALL:

MADEUPIMP Overall, how much of an impact do you think made-up news and information has on each of
the following? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Big impact</u>	<u>Moderate impact</u>	<u>Small impact</u>	<u>No impact at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Americans' confidence in government institutions Feb 19-March 4, 2019	68	24	5	2	*
b. Americans' confidence in each other Feb 19-March 4, 2019	54	34	9	2	1
c. Political leaders' ability to get work done Feb 19-March 4, 2019	51	34	11	4	1
d. Journalists' ability to get the information they need for their stories Feb 19-March 4, 2019	35	42	17	5	1
e. The public's ability to solve community problems Feb 19-March 4, 2019	36	42	18	4	1

ASK ALL:

MADEUPDIS How often do you discuss the topic of made-up news and information with others?

Feb 19-March 4

2019

16	Often
46	Sometimes
30	Hardly ever
9	Never
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

DISAVOID Have you ever avoided talking with someone because you thought they might bring made-up news and information into the conversation?

Feb 19-March 4

2019

50	Yes
50	No
*	No answer

1 QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:**

Now, thinking about the news you come across on social media...

SMSHARER On social media, do you think of yourself more as a... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4

2019

12	Sharer of news
87	Receiver of news
1	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3):

SMLIKES How much is each of the following a reason why you click on links to news stories on social media? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,253]:				
a. The story was something I had been following in the news Feb 19-March 4, 2019	56	31	11	1
b. A friend recommended the story Feb 19-March 4, 2019	26	47	26	1
c. The story was published by a news organization I prefer Feb 19-March 4, 2019	35	40	24	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,327]:				
d. The story had a lot of shares, comments or likes Feb 19-March 4, 2019	13	34	52	*
e. I was interested in the topic Feb 19-March 4, 2019	78	17	5	*
f. The story was surprising or entertaining Feb 19-March 4, 2019	49	41	10	*

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:

SMSHARE When you share a news story on social media, how much do you think it impacts the story's overall reach to the public?

Feb 19-March 4
2019

8	A lot
28	Some
22	Not much
4	Not at all
37	I don't share news stories on social media
*	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:

MADEUPSMCLICK When you see a news story on social media that you think is made-up, how often do you click on the link to that story?

Feb 19-March 4

2019

5	Often
26	Sometimes
35	Hardly ever
23	Never
10	I don't see these types of stories on social media
1	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:

MADEUPSMFOL1 Have you ever hidden, blocked or stopped following A NEWS SOURCE OR ORGANIZATION on social media because you thought they were posting made-up news and information?

Feb 19-March 4

2019

50	Yes, have done this
49	No, have not done this
1	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:

MADEUPSMFOL2 Have you ever hidden, blocked or stopped following SOMEONE YOU KNOW on social media because you thought they were posting made-up news and information?

Feb 19-March 4

2019

50	Yes, have done this
49	No, have not done this
1	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ONLINE (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3 OR NEWS_PLATFORMh=1-3) [N=5,849]:

ONLINESOURCE In general, does most of the news you see online come from...
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

Feb 19-March 4

2019

67	Sources you are familiar with
12	Sources you are not familiar with
20	Not sure
1	No answer

1 QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

NEWSPROB How much of a problem is each of the following when it comes to how the public stays informed about the basic facts of current issues and events? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	A very big <u>problem</u>	A moderately <u>big problem</u>	A small <u>problem</u>	Not a problem <u>at all</u>	No <u>answer</u>
ASK ALL:					
a. The amount of made-up news and information Feb 19-March 4, 2019	49	35	12	3	1
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]:					
b. The public's difficulty distinguishing facts from opinions Feb 19-March 4, 2019	51	35	10	3	1
c. Too many different sources to choose from Feb 19-March 4, 2019	17	33	29	20	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]:					
d. Too much news to keep up with Feb 19-March 4, 2019	19	42	28	11	1
e. Journalists inserting their own views Feb 19-March 4, 2019	37	32	25	6	1

ASK ALL:

VIDOFT How often do you come across videos or images that have been altered or made-up to mislead the public?

Feb 19-March 4 <u>2019</u>	
15	Often
51	Sometimes
26	Hardly ever
6	Never
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

MADEUPSOLVE Within the next five years, do you think the issue of made-up news and information will...
[REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]

Feb 19-March 4

2019

10	Get better
32	Stay the same
56	Get worse
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

INFOCHAL How much of a challenge do you think each of the following is in addressing made-up news and information? **[RANDOMIZE]**

		<u>A very big challenge</u>	<u>A moderately big challenge</u>	<u>A small challenge</u>	<u>Not a challenge at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Political divides					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	64	26	6	2	2
b.	The public's lack of effort					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	42	40	13	3	2
c.	Low awareness of current events					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	41	41	14	3	2
d.	Digital technology					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	43	35	14	5	2
e.	The ability to make money from it					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	44	33	15	6	2

ASK ALL:

RESTRICTWHO Who do you think has the most responsibility to reduce the amount of made-up news and information? **[RANDOMIZE WITH "NONE OF THESE" ALWAYS LAST]**

Feb 19-March 4

2019

12	The government
9	Technology companies
20	The public
53	The news media
5	None of these
1	No answer

5 QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

RANDOMIZE KNOW1 – HOUCONTR

Here are a few questions about people and things that you may have seen in the news. Please answer the questions as best as you can.

ASK ALL:

KNOW1 How many justices are there on the Supreme Court of the United States?

Feb 19-March 4

2019

2	Three
3	Five
11	Seven
63	Nine
20	Not sure
1	No answer

RANDOMIZE KNOW1 – HOUCONTR**ASK ALL:**

KNOW2 Who is Mike Pompeo? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4

2019

2	Vice President of the U.S.
57	U.S. Secretary of State
3	A U.S. Senator from Minnesota
1	Chairman of General Motors
35	Not sure
1	No answer

RANDOMIZE KNOW1 – HOUCONTR**ASK ALL:**

HOUCONTR Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

Feb 19-March 4

2019

15	The Republican Party
70	The Democratic Party
15	Not sure
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

SNSUSE Do you ever use social media (such as Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat)?

Feb 19-March 4

2019

75	Yes
25	No
*	No answer