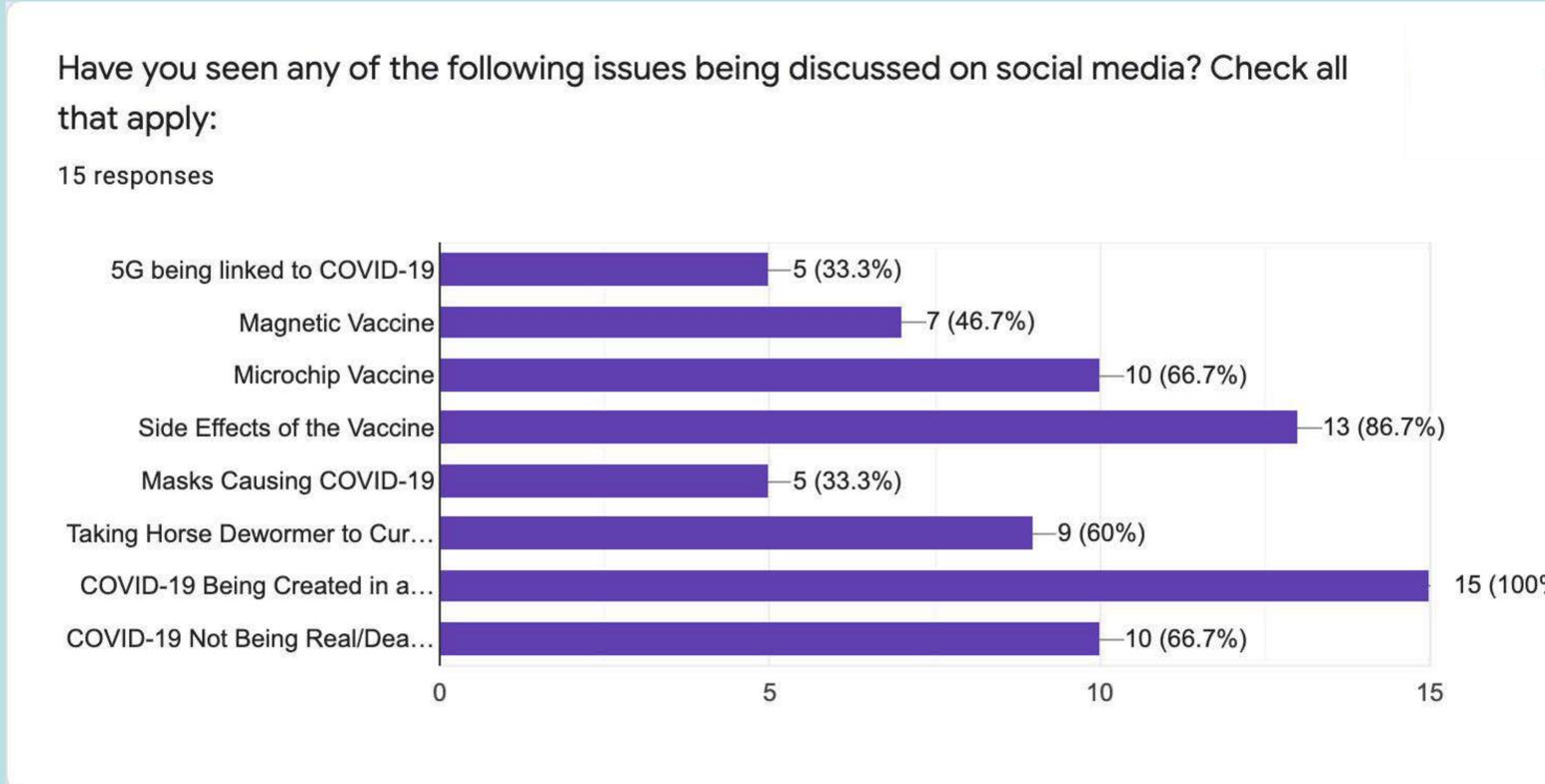


## Methods

To gauge the dissemination of misinformation and viewer responses, I analyzed social media posts made by journalists, actors, and musicians: *@tuckercarlson*, *@woodyharrelson*, *@NICKIMINAJ*, *@rihanna*. To understand the spread of misinformation through social media a 12-question survey was sent out to college students through email, text, and social media. 15 participants took part in the survey. 6 of the participants identified themselves as male, 8 female, and one preferred not to identify themselves. The participants varied in age from 19-24. More than half of the participants, 8, answered they were 21.

## Introduction

On January 9<sup>th</sup> 2020, the World Health Organization first announced that a mysterious coronavirus related illness was spreading in Wuhan, China. Less than a month later, on February 3<sup>rd</sup> President Trump declared a public health emergency and a month later declared a national emergency. By March 26<sup>th</sup> 2020, the United States led the world in confirmed coronavirus cases with more than 81,000 infections and more than 1,000 deaths. Soon after the virus hit the United States faux cures began to be discussed, such as hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. The country simultaneously witnessed an increasing distrust towards vaccinations.



## Objective

The intention of this research is to understand if the presence and circulation of misinformation on social media impacted college students' perceptions about the pandemic.

## Analysis/Conclusion

Through the literature review, audience survey, and digital ethnography it can be argued that social media has affected how college students view the pandemic. In the survey respondents admitted to being privy to misinformation about the pandemic through social media, and some responded that they believe such misinformation. While it cannot be guaranteed that such beliefs came solely from social media, it can be stated that due to the considerable amount of time college students spend on social media a link can be made. As well the abundance of misinformation being spread by multiple sources, family members, journalists, politicians, actors, musicians, etc., can lead to the assumption that such false information can be linked to the continuation of the spread of the virus and the rise of anti-vaccination supporters.

Who do you trust getting information from about the pandemic through social media?

Check all that apply:

14 responses

