

News Item

COVID-19 disinformation and political engagement among communities of color: The role of media literacy | HKS Misinformation Review

By Erica Wientraub Austin, Porismita Borah, and Shawn Domgaard March 8, 2021

Communities of color, suffering equity gaps and disproportionate COVID-19 effects, also must resist ongoing disinformation campaigns designed to impede their political influence. A representative, national survey (N=1264) of adults conducted June-July 2020 found that nonwhite respondents tended to report less COVID-19 knowledge, media literacy, and voting intent than white respondents, but more acceptance of COVID-19 disinformation and for risks associated with protesting for social justice. General media literacy skills are associated with COVID-19 knowledge and political engagement, while science media literacy is associated with less acceptance of COVID-19 disinformation. Media literacy skills appear important for empowering and informing communities of color.

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Source: COVID-19 disinformation and political engagement among communities of color: The role of media literacy | HKS Misinformation Review