Executive summary

The impact social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, have on distribution of articles from news outlets is significant. About half of the United States adults (53%) say they get news from social media “often” or “sometimes” and this use is spread out across a number of different sites, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020. Among 11 social media sites asked about as a regular source of news, Facebook sits at the top, with about a third (36%) of Americans getting news there regularly [1].

The impact social media platforms have had on the distribution of articles from news outlets has been significant. About half of U.S. adults (53%) say they get news from social media “often” or “sometimes,” and this use is spread out across a number of different sites, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted Aug. 31-Sept. 7, 2020. Among 11 social media sites asked about as a regular source of news, Facebook sits at the top, with about a third (36%) of Americans getting news there regularly. But what articles a shown to which users?[1]