Reputation penalty - study 1

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Study 1

Question wordings

Factual beliefs

fc_1_belief "To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?"Abortion pills are dangerous and '1 in 5 women will suffer a complication.' "

fc_2_belief To the best of your knowledge, how accurate is this statement? "More contraception availability increases abortion demand."

fc_3_belief To the best of your knowledge, how accurate is this statement? "If a 10-year-old became pregnant as a result of rape and terminated the pregnancy because it was threatening her life, then that's not an abortion."

Attitudinal beliefs

We would like to get your feelings toward some groups, leaders, and institutions who are in the news these days using something we call the feeling thermometer. Ratings between 50 degrees and 100 degrees mean that you feel favorable and warm toward the group, leader, or institution. Ratings between 0 degrees and 50 degrees mean that you don't feel favorable toward them and that you don't care too much for them. You would rate them at the 50 degree mark if you don't feel particularly warm or cold toward them. If we come to a group, leader, or institution whose name you don't recognize, you don't need to rate them.

thermometer_1 March by Alliance Defending Freedom

thermometer_2 Seth Gruber

thermometer_3 Americans United for Life

thermometer_5 Eric Swalwell

thermometer_6 PolitiFact

thermometer_7 Planned Parenthood

Regression tables: factual beliefs

H1: Exposure to factual, corrective information (fact-checks) about abortion will reduce false beliefs about abortion immediately after exposure.

Table 1: Effect of fact check on the belief that abortion pills are dangerous and that 1 in 5 women will suffer a complication (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	2.40 (0.04)***
Control	−0.37 (0.06)***
Fact check	−0.66 (0.06)***
R^2	0.07
Adj. R^2	0.07
Num. obs.	1566
RMSE	0.96

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 2: Effect of fact check on the belief that more contraception availability increases abortion demand (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	1.76 (0.04)***
Control	−0.01 (0.06)
Fact check	−0.32 (0.05)***
R^2	0.03
Adj. R^2	0.03
Num. obs.	1567
RMSE	0.84

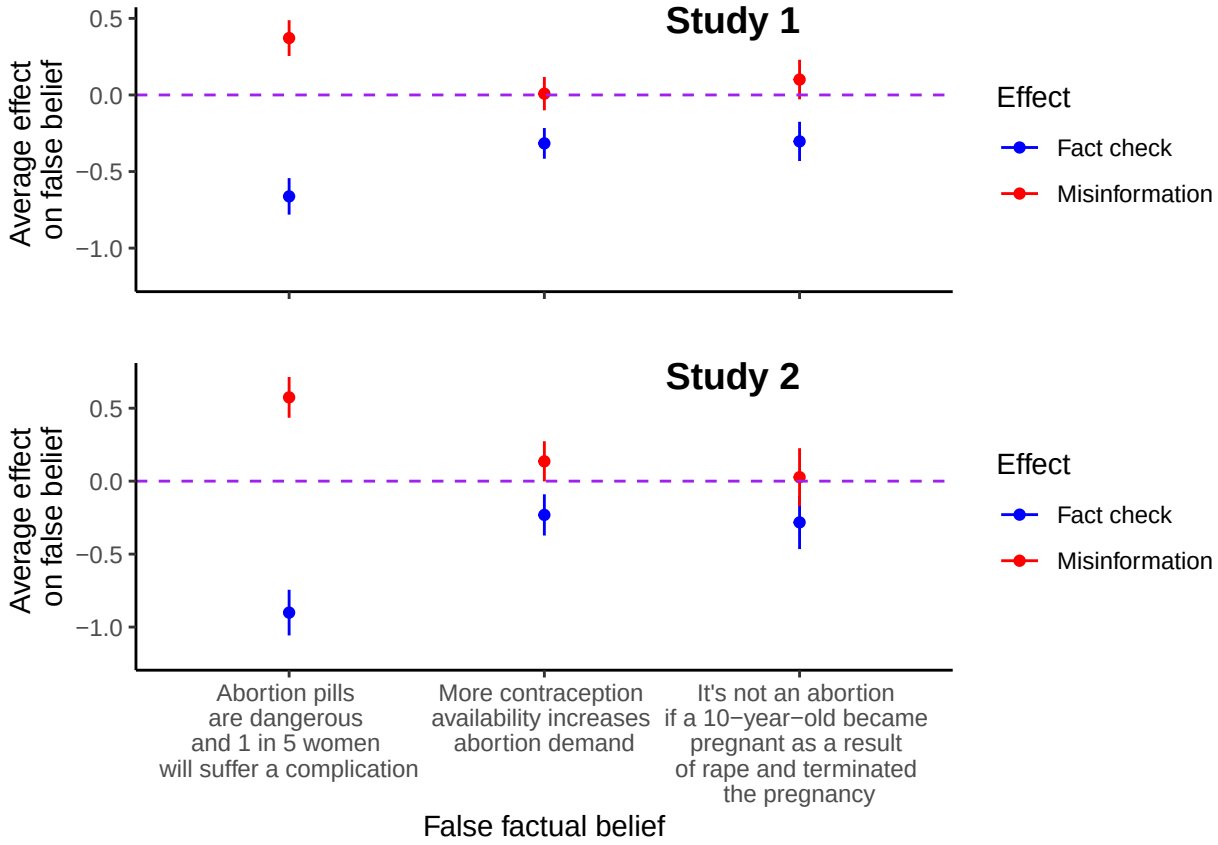
$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 3: Effect of fact check on the belief that it's not an abortion if a 10-year-old became pregnant as a result of rape and terminated the pregnancy (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	2.01 (0.05)***
Control	−0.10 (0.07)
Fact check	−0.30 (0.07)***
R^2	0.01
Adj. R^2	0.01
Num. obs.	1563
RMSE	1.04

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Factual beliefs graph



Does receptivity to fact-checks (that is, the correction - misinformation contrast) differ by prior exposure to fact-checks?

Table 4: Interaction between frequently/never (vs. sometimes) encountering fact checks and fact check of claim that abortion pills are dangerous (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	2.39 (0.05)***
Control	−0.38 (0.07)***
Fact check	−0.67 (0.07)***
Frequently encounter fact checks	−0.06 (0.14)
Never encounter fact checks	0.15 (0.14)
Control*Frequently encounter fact checks	0.15 (0.19)
Fact-check*Frequently encounter fact checks	0.10 (0.19)
Control*Never encounter fact checks	−0.10 (0.18)
Fact-check*Never encounter fact checks	−0.01 (0.19)
R^2	0.08
Adj. R^2	0.07
Num. obs.	1566
RMSE	0.96

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 5: Interaction between frequently/never (vs. sometimes) encountering fact checks and fact check of claim that more contraception availability increases abortion demand (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	1.78 (0.05)***
Control	−0.01 (0.06)
Fact check	−0.34 (0.06)***
Frequently encounter fact checks	0.01 (0.12)
Never encounter fact checks	−0.17 (0.13)
Control*Frequently encounter fact checks	−0.07 (0.17)
Fact-check*Frequently encounter fact checks	−0.01 (0.17)
Control*Never encounter fact checks	0.11 (0.17)
Fact-check*Never encounter fact checks	0.25 (0.16)
R^2	0.03
Adj. R^2	0.03
Num. obs.	1567
RMSE	0.85

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 6: Interaction between frequently/never (vs. sometimes) encountering fact checks and fact check of claim about 10-year-old terminating pregnancy (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	2.04 (0.05)***
Control	−0.12 (0.07)
Fact check	−0.29 (0.08)***
Frequently encounter fact checks	−0.39 (0.15)**
Never encounter fact checks	0.16 (0.15)
Control*Frequently encounter fact checks	0.43 (0.20)*
Fact-check*Frequently encounter fact checks	0.21 (0.19)
Control*Never encounter fact checks	−0.25 (0.21)
Fact-check*Never encounter fact checks	−0.24 (0.19)
R^2	0.02
Adj. R^2	0.02
Num. obs.	1563
RMSE	1.04

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Does receptivity to fact-checks (that is, the correction - misinformation contrast) differ by Party ID?

Table 7: Interaction between being a Republican/Independent (vs. being a Democrat) and fact check of claim that abortion pills are dangerous (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	2.07 (0.06)***
Control	−0.33 (0.08)***
Fact-check	−0.62 (0.08)***
Independent/Other	0.44 (0.09)***
Republican	0.95 (0.11)***
Control*Independent/Other	−0.16 (0.13)
Fact-check*Independent/Other	−0.01 (0.14)
Control*Republican	−0.02 (0.14)
Fact-check*Republican	−0.17 (0.15)
R^2	0.20
Adj. R^2	0.19
Num. obs.	1566
RMSE	0.90

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 8: Interaction between being a Republican/Independent (vs. being a Democrat) and fact check of claim that more contraception availability increases abortion demand (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	1.54 (0.05)***
Control	0.04 (0.07)
Fact-check	−0.30 (0.06)***
Independent/Other	0.23 (0.09)*
Republican	0.71 (0.10)***
Control*Independent/Other	−0.04 (0.13)
Fact-check*Independent/Other	0.07 (0.11)
Control*Republican	−0.13 (0.14)
Fact-check*Republican	−0.17 (0.14)
R^2	0.11
Adj. R^2	0.10
Num. obs.	1567
RMSE	0.81

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 9: Interaction between being a Republican/Independent (vs. being a Democrat) and fact check of claim about 10-year-old terminating pregnancy (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	1.99 (0.07)***
Control	−0.11 (0.09)
Fact-check	−0.36 (0.09)***
Independent/Other	−0.02 (0.11)
Republican	0.15 (0.14)
Control*Independent/Other	0.13 (0.15)
Fact-check*Independent/Other	0.05 (0.15)
Control*Republican	−0.13 (0.18)
Fact-check*Republican	0.17 (0.18)
R^2	0.02
Adj. R^2	0.02
Num. obs.	1563
RMSE	1.04

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Does receptivity to fact-checks (that is, the correction - misinformation contrast) differ by political knowledge?

Table 10: Interaction between having high/low (vs. medium) political knowledge and fact check of claim that abortion pills are dangerous (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	2.57 (0.07)***
Control	−0.52 (0.10)***
Fact-check	−0.84 (0.10)***
High political knowledge	−0.31 (0.10)**
Low political knowledge	−0.19 (0.11)
Control*High political knowledge	0.13 (0.14)
Fact-check*High political knowledge	0.22 (0.14)
Control*Low political knowledge	0.36 (0.16)*
Fact-check*Low political knowledge	0.36 (0.16)*
R^2	0.09
Adj. R^2	0.09
Num. obs.	1566
RMSE	0.95

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 11: Interaction between having high/low (vs. medium) political knowledge and fact check of claim that more contraception availability increases abortion demand (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	1.79 (0.07)***
Control	−0.09 (0.10)
Fact-check	−0.30 (0.09)***
High political knowledge	−0.11 (0.09)
Low political knowledge	0.04 (0.11)
Control*High political knowledge	0.13 (0.13)
Fact-check*High political knowledge	0.03 (0.12)
Control*Low political knowledge	0.11 (0.15)
Fact-check*Low political knowledge	−0.09 (0.14)
R^2	0.03
Adj. R^2	0.03
Num. obs.	1567
RMSE	0.84

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 12: Interaction between having high/low (vs. medium) political knowledge and fact check of claim about 10-year-old terminating pregnancy (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	2.13 (0.09)***
Control	−0.22 (0.11)
Fact-check	−0.42 (0.12)***
High political knowledge	−0.27 (0.11)*
Low political knowledge	−0.01 (0.13)
Control*High political knowledge	0.16 (0.15)
Fact-check*High political knowledge	0.15 (0.15)
Control*Low political knowledge	0.22 (0.18)
Fact-check*Low political knowledge	0.17 (0.18)
R^2	0.03
Adj. R^2	0.02
Num. obs.	1563
RMSE	1.04

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Does receptivity to fact-checks (that is, the correction - misinformation contrast) differ by religiosity?

Table 13: Interaction between high/low (vs. medium) religious attendance and fact check of claim that abortion pills are dangerous (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	2.63 (0.11)***
Control	−0.59 (0.15)***
Fact check	−0.74 (0.16)***
High attendance	0.27 (0.16)
Low attendance	−0.39 (0.12)**
Control*High attendance	0.42 (0.21)*
Fact check*High attendance	0.11 (0.22)
Control*Low attendance	0.22 (0.16)
Fact check*Low attendance	0.07 (0.17)
R^2	0.15
Adj. R^2	0.15
Num. obs.	1566
RMSE	0.92

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 14: Interaction between high/low (vs. medium) religious attendance and fact check of claim that more contraception availability increases abortion demand (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	1.87 (0.10)***
Control	0.09 (0.14)
Fact check	−0.21 (0.14)
High attendance	0.61 (0.14)***
Low attendance	−0.31 (0.10)**
Control*High attendance	−0.23 (0.21)
Fact check*High attendance	−0.46 (0.21)*
Control*Low attendance	−0.09 (0.15)
Fact check*Low attendance	−0.02 (0.15)
R^2	0.14
Adj. R^2	0.13
Num. obs.	1567
RMSE	0.80

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 15: Interaction between high/low (vs. medium) religious attendance and fact check of claim about 10-year-old terminating pregnancy (1-to-4 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	2.46 (0.14)***
Control	−0.15 (0.18)
Fact check	−0.44 (0.18)*
High attendance	−0.49 (0.19)*
Low attendance	−0.51 (0.15)***
Control*High attendance	0.12 (0.25)
Fact check*High attendance	0.37 (0.26)
Control*Low attendance	−0.02 (0.19)
Fact check*Low attendance	0.07 (0.20)
R^2	0.05
Adj. R^2	0.04
Num. obs.	1563
RMSE	1.03

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Regression tables: attitudinal beliefs

FC1 (Belief that abortion pills are dangerous and that 1 in 5 women will suffer a complication): Alliance Defending Freedom

FC2 (Belief that more contraception availability increases abortion demand): Planned Parenthood, Seth Gruber

FC3 (Belief that it's not an abortion if a 10-year-old became pregnant as a result of rape and terminated the pregnancy): Americans United For Life, Eric Swalwell

All three: PolitiFact

Alliance Defending Freedom

Table 16: Fact-checking the claim that abortion pills are dangerous lowers opinions of Alliance Defending Freedom (0-to-100 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	42.26 (1.16)***
Control	4.09 (1.62)*
Fact check	−6.25 (1.73)***
R^2	0.03
Adj. R^2	0.02
Num. obs.	1371
RMSE	25.79

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Seth Gruber

Table 17: Fact-checking the claim that contraception availability increases abortion demand lowers opinions of Seth Gruber (0-to-100 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	42.10 (1.06)***
Control	−1.08 (1.48)
Fact check	−5.37 (1.52)***
R^2	0.01
Adj. R^2	0.01
Num. obs.	1286
RMSE	21.92

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Americans United For Life

Table 18: Fact-checking the claim about a 10-year-old terminating a pregnancy has no effect on attitudes toward Americans United For Life (0-to-100 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	41.48 (1.39)***
Control	−1.66 (1.94)
Fact check	−2.71 (1.94)
R^2	0.00
Adj. R^2	−0.00
Num. obs.	1371
RMSE	29.13

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Eric Swalwell

Table 19: Fact-checking the claim about a 10-year-old terminating a pregnancy has no effect on attitudes toward Eric Swalwell (0-to-100 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	47.08 (1.29)***
Control	−0.91 (1.73)
Fact check	−1.16 (1.78)
R^2	0.00
Adj. R^2	−0.00
Num. obs.	1294
RMSE	25.40

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

PolitiFact

Table 20: Fact-checking the claim that abortion pills are dangerous improves attitudes toward PolitiFact (0-to-100 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	54.17 (1.13)***
Control	0.33 (1.68)
Fact check	3.85 (1.64)*
R^2	0.00
Adj. R^2	0.00
Num. obs.	1375
RMSE	25.41

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 21: Fact-checking the claim that contraception availability increases abortion demand has no effect on attitudes toward PolitiFact (0-to-100 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	55.58 (1.17)***
Control	−2.19 (1.68)
Fact check	2.20 (1.66)
R^2	0.01
Adj. R^2	0.00
Num. obs.	1375
RMSE	25.40

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 22: Fact-checking the claim about a 10-year-old terminating a pregnancy has no effect on attitudes toward PolitiFact (0-to-100 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	55.32 (1.22)***
Control	1.15 (1.70)
Fact check	−0.31 (1.69)
R^2	0.00
Adj. R^2	−0.00
Num. obs.	1375
RMSE	25.46

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Planned Parenthood

Table 23: Fact-checking that contraception availability increases abortion demand has no effect on attitudes toward Planned Parenthood (0-to-100 scale)

	Model 1
Intercept	64.83 (1.47)***
Control	1.68 (2.09)
Fact check	0.24 (2.05)
R^2	0.00
Adj. R^2	−0.00
Num. obs.	1540
RMSE	33.13

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

By partisanship

Table 24: Fact-checking the claim that abortion pills are dangerous lowers Democrats' opinions of Alliance Defending Freedom (0-to-100 scale)

	Democrats	Republicans	Other
Intercept	37.87 (1.74)***	53.00 (2.05)***	41.57 (2.01)***
Control	4.42 (2.49)	0.74 (3.05)	5.05 (2.65)
Fact check	−9.15 (2.55)***	−3.85 (3.17)	−2.70 (2.94)
R^2	0.04	0.01	0.02
Adj. R^2	0.04	0.00	0.01
Num. obs.	672	313	386
RMSE	27.14	23.04	22.53

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 25: Fact-checking the claim that contraception availability increases abortion demand lowers Democrats' opinions of Seth Gruber (0-to-100 scale)

	Democrats	Republicans	Other
Intercept	38.56 (1.66)***	50.69 (1.79)***	40.34 (1.84)***
Control	−0.68 (2.31)	−4.46 (2.50)	1.58 (2.58)
Fact check	−7.60 (2.32)**	−3.43 (2.59)	−1.48 (2.58)
R^2	0.02	0.01	0.00
Adj. R^2	0.02	0.01	−0.00
Num. obs.	621	301	364
RMSE	23.45	18.03	20.13

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 26: Fact-checking the claim about the pregnant 10-year-old has a statistically insignificant effect on Democrats' attitudes toward Americans United For Life (0-to-100 scale)

	Democrats	Republicans	Other
Intercept	32.86 (2.07)***	61.71 (2.19)***	41.42 (2.20)***
Control	−3.75 (2.70)	−2.52 (3.37)	1.69 (3.18)
Fact check	−4.57 (2.76)	−2.13 (3.17)	−2.21 (3.20)
R^2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Adj. R^2	0.00	−0.00	−0.00
Num. obs.	676	313	382
RMSE	28.09	24.37	25.64

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

By religiosity

Table 27: Fact-checking the claim that abortion pills are dangerous reduces the low religiosity group's opinions of Alliance Defending Freedom (0-to-100 scale)

	Low religiosity	Medium religiosity	High religiosity
Intercept	37.60 (1.33)***	51.61 (2.68)***	52.88 (3.13)***
Control	4.96 (1.93)*	−1.96 (3.48)	5.62 (4.17)
Fact check	−6.62 (2.02)**	−9.22 (4.16)*	−2.76 (4.30)
R^2	0.03	0.03	0.02
Adj. R^2	0.03	0.02	0.01
Num. obs.	921	231	219
RMSE	24.98	24.23	25.39

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 28: Fact-checking the claim that contraception availability increases abortion demand reduces the low religiosity group's opinions of Seth Gruber (0-to-100 scale)

	Low religiosity	Medium religiosity	High religiosity
Intercept	38.32 (1.27)***	44.77 (2.43)***	54.07 (2.54)***
Control	−1.07 (1.76)	2.93 (3.26)	−5.47 (3.69)
Fact check	−5.24 (1.81)**	−3.55 (3.55)	−4.12 (3.47)
R^2	0.01	0.02	0.01
Adj. R^2	0.01	0.01	0.00
Num. obs.	864	215	207
RMSE	21.42	20.30	21.18

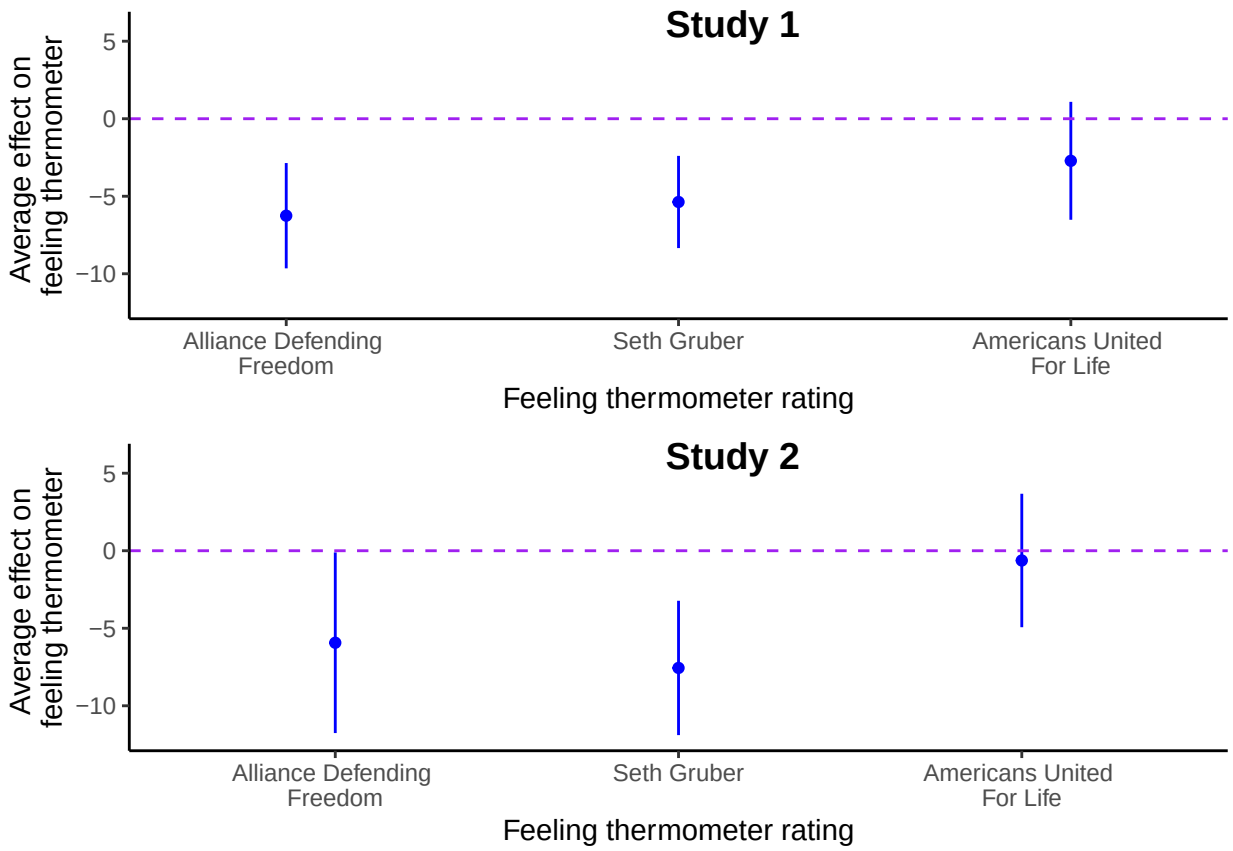
$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Table 29: Fact-checking the claim about the pregnant 10-year-old has a statistically insignificant effect on the low religiosity group's attitudes toward Americans United For Life (0-to-100 scale)

	Low religiosity	Medium religiosity	High religiosity
Intercept	34.74 (1.53)***	51.07 (3.69)***	66.92 (2.85)***
Control	−2.77 (2.18)	−6.70 (4.69)	−6.16 (4.07)
Fact check	−2.78 (2.16)	−3.85 (4.70)	−8.54 (4.67)
R^2	0.00	0.01	0.02
Adj. R^2	0.00	0.00	0.01
Num. obs.	917	233	221
RMSE	26.85	27.37	27.38

$^{***}p < 0.001$; $^{**}p < 0.01$; $^{*}p < 0.05$

Attitudes graph



Balance tables

First fact-check (abortion pills):

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	Variable	Control	Fact check	Misinfo	p-value (c vs fc)	p-value (c vs mis)
1	Age	39.46	40.37	40.87	0.22	0.06
2	Partisanship (7-point scale)	3.26	3.22	3.19	0.71	0.56
3	Share who are college graduates	0.59	0.57	0.58	0.58	0.85
4	Share who are male	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.76	0.89
5	Share who are non-Hispanic White	0.74	0.77	0.75	0.30	0.55
6	Share who have household incomes of $90,000+	0.37	0.30	0.31	0.01	0.03

Second fact-check (contraception):

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	Variable	Control	Fact check	Misinfo	p-value (c vs fc)	p-value (c vs mis)
1	Age	39.72	40.48	40.55	0.31	0.26
2	Partisanship (7-point scale)	3.17	3.26	3.24	0.50	0.59
3	Share who are college graduates	0.57	0.59	0.58	0.51	0.66
4	Share who are male	0.48	0.47	0.47	0.80	0.61
5	Share who are non-Hispanic White	0.74	0.75	0.77	0.64	0.14
6	Share who have household incomes of $90,000+	0.31	0.32	0.34	0.83	0.34

Third fact-check (10-year-old):

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	Variable	Control	Fact check	Misinfo	p-value (c vs fc)	p-value (c vs mis)
1	Age	40.30	40.01	40.45	0.69	0.84
2	Partisanship (7-point scale)	3.24	3.27	3.16	0.83	0.54
3	Share who are college graduates	0.61	0.54	0.60	0.02	0.73
4	Share who are male	0.46	0.48	0.48	0.43	0.41
5	Share who are non-Hispanic White	0.75	0.77	0.73	0.49	0.46
6	Share who have household incomes of $90,000+	0.34	0.32	0.31	0.46	0.22