

A Review of Smartphone Fact-Checking Apps and their (Non) Use Among Older Adults

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Problem

- In today's age, most people encounter falsehoods frequently on their smartphones.
- In 2021, 61% of adults over 65 owned a smartphone, and this global upward trend is expected to continue.
- Older adults are among the most vulnerable to the negative effects of fake news.
- One study found that, older adults shared about seven times as many fake news articles as their younger counterparts.
- Recent studies also show that older adults engage more frequently with misinformation than younger users.

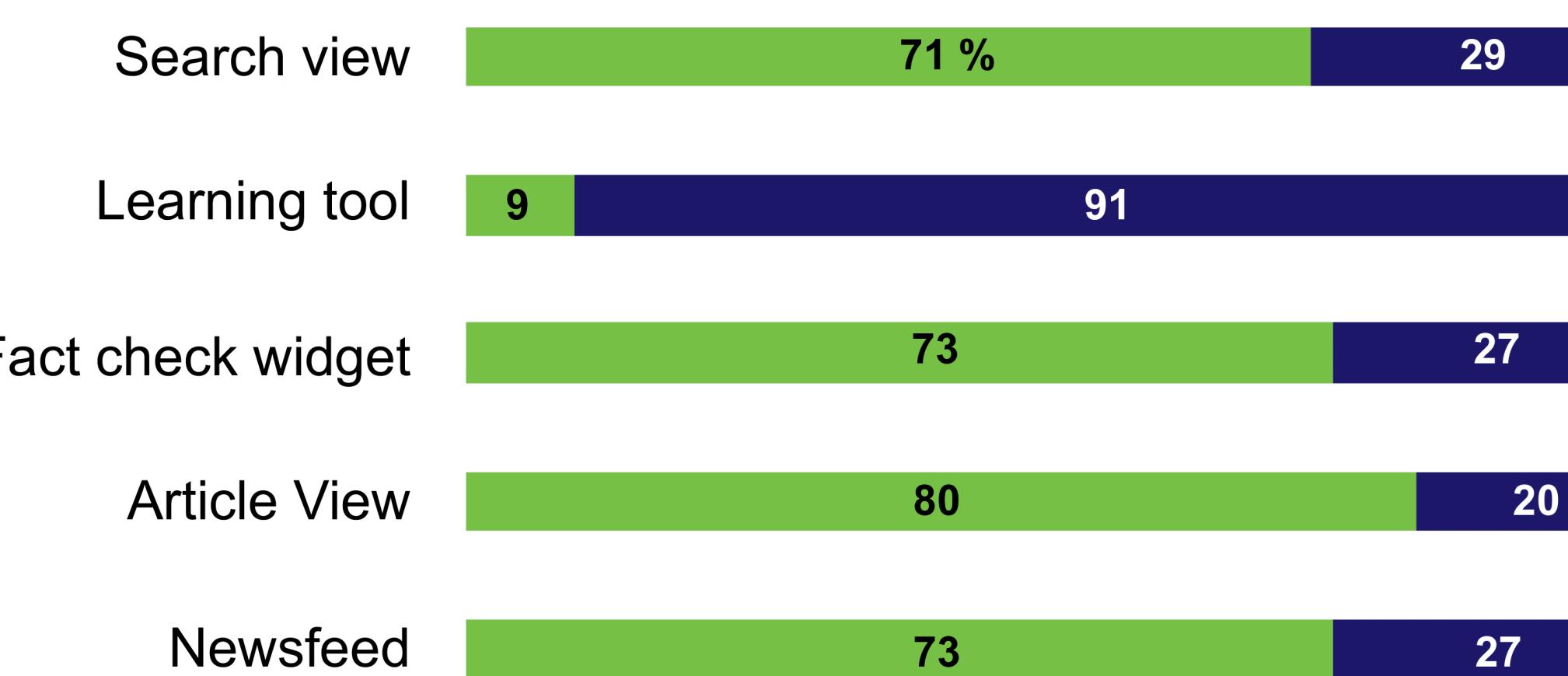
How are we fact-checking?

- Fact-checking is either done automatically or via human intervention.
- Fact-checking tools come in a variety of shapes and sizes:
 - Dedicated websites (Snopes.com)
 - Browser plugins (WeVerify)
 - Informational tags on posts (YouTube)
 - Website feature (Pinocchio at WashingtonPost.com)
 - Mobile apps (Logically)

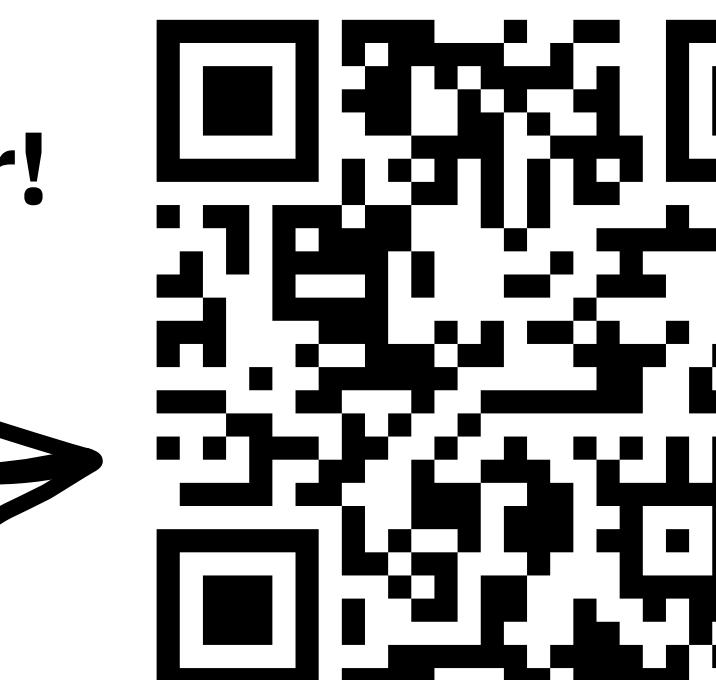
Methodology

- Systematic fact-checking apps review.
- Semi-structured interviews with older adults (N=11).

■ w UI element ■ w/o UI element



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App Exploration
45 Apps
Exploration Tasks: Explore the newsfeed, Filter the news feed, View an article, Save an article, Share an article, Sort articles in the news feed, Use the fact-checker.

App UI Elements
Newsfeed, Article View, Search Tool, Fact-checking Widget, Learning Tool.

App Reviews
5010 Reviews
66% 5-star reviews, 15% 3 and 4-star reviews, 19% 1 and 2-star reviews.

App Reviews Topics
Reviews discussing a UI issue, Reviews implying user impression of the app, Reviews discussing news content of the app.

Article overview with more details on demand
MIX it up
Newsfeed filters

Multimedia fact-checker
Verify News
Science
Title: Nurse dies from COVID-19 vaccine
Details: Nurse dies on camera just after receiving COVID-19 vaccine. The nurse from Alabama died immediately after receiving the vaccine. <https://celebritiesdeaths.com/20-joseph-on-twiter-epicwhisp-sounds-like-bs-covid/>

Fake news
Detect
Text-only fact-checker

Search view showing a search result
Fake News Check Datum
Gibt es ein Veröffentlichungsdatum?
JA NEIN
KARTE UMDREHEN

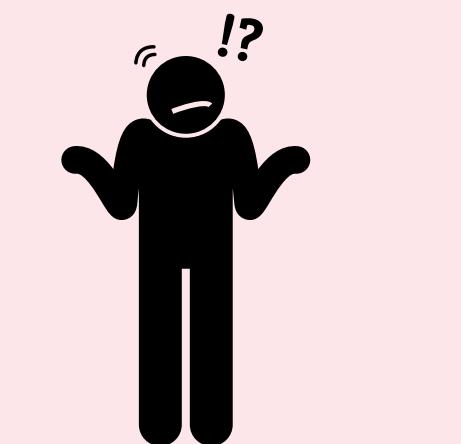
Learning Tool with quiz-like card asking about indication of false news articles such as having a date label

Older adults fact-checking behaviors

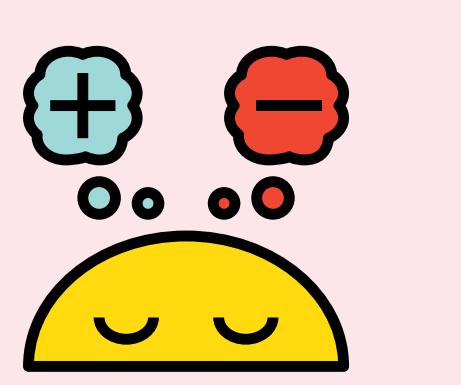
Older users prefer asking friends or acquaintances for fact-checking.



Older users use tools that are already familiar to them, like Google search or Snopes, that they have come to trust from prior use.



Older users may not consider fact-checking if the source conforms to their political point of view, or that of view of someone or a group they admire or socially belong to.



Older users are NOT using fact-checking apps on smartphones.



Older adults' interaction with fact-checks:

Older adults interacted with fake news and fact-checked claims majorly by sharing.

- Shared these in their circles
- Shared with someone they know would be interested in the topic
- Shared to prove a point in a discussion
- Shared as a sole act of altruism to help others

The participants majorly shared privately instead of posting on their personal pages. Their favorite sharing channels were posting to Facebook or sending the fact-checked article via email.

Our participants rarely interacted through comments or likes.