2019 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 45 FEBRUARY
FINAL TOPLINE
FEBRUARY 19–MARCH 4, 2019
TOTAL N=6,127

ASK ALL:
NATPROBS How much of a problem do you think each of the following are in the country today?
[RANDOMIZE]

	A very big problem	A moderately big problem	A small problem	Not a problem at all	No answer
ASK ALL:					
a. Made-up news and information					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	50	32	16	3	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]:					
b. The affordability of health care					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	67	26	5	2	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	70	23	5	2	*
c. Racism					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	40	37	19	3	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	46	32	18	4	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	39	38	19	3	1
d. The way the U.S. political system operates					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	52	35	11	3	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	55	30	11	3	1
e. Illegal immigration					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	38	28	28	6	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	42	26	25	6	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	44	30	21	5	1
f. The gap between the rich and poor					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	51	30	14	5	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	54	28	12	5	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	57	29	9	5	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]:					
g. Violent crime					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	49	37	13	1	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	52	33	13	1	*
h. Climate change					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	46	27	18	9	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	43	28	20	9	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	40	26	21	12	1
i. Drug addiction					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	70	26	4	1	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	68	25	6	1	*
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	56	32	9	2	1

NATPROBS CONTINUED...

		A very big problem	A moderately big problem	A small problem	Not a problem at all	No answer
j.	Terrorism					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	34	40	23	2	*
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	35	37	25	3	*
	Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	53	30	13	3	1
k.	Sexism					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	26	40	28	5	*
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	34	35	24	7	1
	Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	23	36	30	10	2

ASK ALL:
NEWS_PLATFORM   Thinking about news (by news we mean information about events and issues that involve more than just your friends and family), how often do you… **[RANDOMIZE]**

NO ITEMS A-F

		Often	Sometimes	Hardly ever	Never	No answer
g.	Get news from a social media site (such as Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat)					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	25	29	21	24	*
	Jul 30-Aug 12, 2018	20	27	21	32	0
	Aug 8-Aug 21, 2017	20	27	20	33	0
	Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016[1]	18	26	18	38	*
h.	Get news from a news website or app					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	43	33	16	8	*
	Jul 30-Aug 12, 2018	33	31	18	18	*
	Aug 8-Aug 21, 2017	33	31	19	17	*
	Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	28	28	18	26	*

ASK ALL:
NEWSPREFV2   Which of the following would you say you prefer for getting news? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4 2019	
8	A print newspaper
8	Radio
41	Television
12	A social media site (such as Facebook, YouTube or Snapchat)
30	A news website or app
*	No answer

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[1] In the Wave 14 January 2016 survey, this question item read "Get news from a social networking site (such as Facebook or Twitter)?".

ASK ALL:
SOURCESKEP   How much do you trust the accuracy of the news and information that you get from…
[RANDOMIZE]

	A great deal	Some	Not much	Not at all	No answer
a. Your main news outlets					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	36	49	10	4	*
b. News outlets you don't come across often					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	3	36	47	13	*
c. Political leaders and public officials					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	4	48	38	9	*
d. Friends and family					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	15	65	17	3	*
e. Social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat)					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	4	32	39	24	1

ASK ALL:
INFOCONFUSE How much do you think each type of news and information leaves Americans confused about the basic facts of current issues and events? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	A great deal	Some	Not much	Not at all	No answer
a. Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	67	24	5	3	*
b. Satire about an issue or event					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	24	48	22	5	1
c. Breaking information that is published before everything is verified					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	52	37	8	2	*
d. Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	48	41	9	2	*
e. A video or image that is altered or made up to mislead the public					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	63	27	6	3	*

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF INFOKNOW AND INFOOWN
ASK ALL:
INFOKNOW   How do you feel about the AVERAGE AMERICAN'S ability to recognize each type of news and information? **[SHOW IN SAME ORDER AS INFOCONFUSE]**

	The average American should be able to recognize it	It is too much to ask of the average American to be able to recognize it	No answer
a. Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	43	56	1
b. Satire about an issue or event			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	65	34	1
c. Breaking information that is published before everything is verified			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	46	53	1
d. Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	58	41	1
e. A video or image that is altered or made up to mislead the public			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	38	61	1

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF INFOKNOW AND INFOOWN
ASK ALL:
INFOOWN   How do you feel about YOUR OWN ability to recognize each type of news and information? **[SHOW IN SAME ORDER AS INFOCONFUSE]**

	I find it easy to recognize it	I find it hard to recognize it	No answer
a. Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	63	36	1
b. Satire about an issue or event			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	78	20	2
c. Breaking information that is published before everything is verified			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	58	40	1
d. Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	77	22	1
e. A video or image that is altered or made up to mislead the public			
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	53	46	1

ASK ALL:
MEDIALOYAL3   Which of the following statements comes closer to your view? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4 2019		Jan 12-Feb 8 2016
39	I consider myself to be loyal to the news source(s) I get my news from	51
60	I am not particularly loyal to the news source(s) I get my news from	48
1	No answer	1

ASK ALL:
LEAD   When you talk with friends and family about the news, do you tend to… **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4 2019	
69	Listen to the conversation more than lead
29	Lead the conversation more than listen
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
SEEK   Which statement best describes how you get news? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4 2019	
60	I mostly get news because I'm looking for it
39	I mostly get news because I happen to come across it
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
INFORESTRICT   Which comes closer to your view about each type of news and information?
[SHOW IN SAME ORDER AS INFOCONFUSE]

		The freedom to publish and access it should be protected	Steps should be taken to restrict it	No answer
a.	Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	20	79	1
b.	Satire about an issue or event			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	69	30	2
c.	Breaking information that is published before everything is verified			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	45	54	1
d.	Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	62	37	1
e.	A video or image that is altered or made up to mislead the public			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	22	77	1

ASK ALL:

MADEUPWORD   Now, in just a few words, what comes to mind when you think of made-up news and information that is intended to mislead the public? **[OPEN-END; CODED UP TO TWO RESPONSES]**

Feb. 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>

20	A negative feeling/impact
18	News media NET
10	*News media generally as a source of made-up news*
8	*Specific news outlet NET[2]*
4	*Fox News*
3	*CNN*
1	*MSNBC*
1	*InfoWars*
2	*Other news outlets*
12	Trump/administration NET
10	*Trump/administration as a source of made-up news*
2	*Trump is treated unfairly*
9	Politics
7	Specific news topics
7	Call to action
4	The public
3	Social media/technology
10	Other response
22	Don't know/no answer

ASK ALL:

INFOWHY   How much do you think each of the following is a reason why made-up news and information is created? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Major <u>reason</u>	Minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. To make money				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	71	22	6	1
b. To push an agenda or viewpoint				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	86	10	3	1
c. For fame				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	49	39	11	1
d. To be funny				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	12	41	46	1

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[2] If respondents named specific news outlets in their first two responses, up to three outlets were accepted. News outlets shown are those that were named by at least 1% of respondents.

ASK ALL:
INFOCREATE   How much made-up news and information do you think is created by… **[RANDOMIZE]**

	A lot	Some	Not much	None	No answer
a. Journalists					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	36	39	20	4	1
b. Political leaders and their staff					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	57	35	5	2	1
c. Members of the public					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	26	53	18	2	1
d. Foreign-based individuals or groups					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	35	48	13	2	1
e. Activist groups					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	53	38	7	2	1

ASK ALL:
MADEUPOFT   How often do you come across made-up news and information that is intended to mislead the public?

Feb 19-March 4
2019
38   Often
51   Sometimes
9   Hardly ever
2   Never
1   No answer

ASK ALL:
MADEUPSHARE1   Have you ever shared news and information that you LATER FOUND OUT was made-up?

Feb 19-March 4
2019
49   Yes
50   No
1   No answer

ASK ALL:
MADEUPSHARE2   Have you ever shared news and information that you KNEW AT THE TIME was made-up?

Feb 19-March 4
2019
10   Yes
89   No
1   No answer

ASK IF SHARES NEWS THEY KNEW WAS MADE-UP (MADEUPSHARE2=1) [N=529]:
MADEUPSHAREWHY   What is the main reason why you shared news and information that you knew at the
time was made-up? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
27	I thought it was surprising or entertaining
8	I liked what it said
18	I wanted to create a discussion about it
46	I wanted to tell others it was inaccurate
*	No answer

ASK ALL:
MADEUPTOPIC How much made-up news and information do you think is created about each of the following
topics? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	A lot	Some	Not much	None	No answer
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]: a. Politics and elections Feb 19-March 4, 2019	73	22	3	2	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]: b. Entertainment and celebrities Feb 19-March 4, 2019	61	32	5	1	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]: c. Science and technology Feb 19-March 4, 2019	17	49	29	4	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]: d. Health and medicine Feb 19-March 4, 2019	27	51	18	2	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]: e. Emergencies, such as shootings or natural disasters Feb 19-March 4, 2019	17	40	34	8	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]: f. Business and finance Feb 19-March 4, 2019	26	57	15	2	1

ASK ALL:
MADEUPLEVEL   And, how much do you think is created in each of the following areas? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	A lot	Some	Not much	None	No answer
a. National issues, events and public figures Feb 19-March 4, 2019	58	36	5	1	1
b. Local issues, events and public figures Feb 19-March 4, 2019	18	52	28	2	1

ASK ALL:
MADEUPRES   Has the issue of made-up news and information led you to do any of the following?
[RANDOMIZE]

		Yes, have done this	No, have not done this	No answer
a.	Stop getting news from a specific outlet			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	63	36	1
b.	Reduce the amount of news you get overall			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	43	56	1
c.	Check the facts of news stories yourself			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	78	22	1
d.	Report or flag a story that you think is made-up			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	32	67	1
e.	Change the way you use social media			
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	52	46	1

ASK ALL:
MADEUPIMP   Overall, how much of an impact do you think made-up news and information has on each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE]**

		Big impact	Moderate impact	Small impact	No impact at all	No answer
a.	Americans' confidence in government institutions					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	68	24	5	2	*
b.	Americans' confidence in each other					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	54	34	9	2	1
c.	Political leaders' ability to get work done					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	51	34	11	4	1
d.	Journalists' ability to get the information they need for their stories					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	35	42	17	5	1
e.	The public's ability to solve community problems					
	Feb 19-March 4, 2019	36	42	18	4	1

ASK ALL:
MADEUPDIS   How often do you discuss the topic of made-up news and information with others?

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
16   Often
46   Sometimes
30   Hardly ever
9   Never
*   No answer

ASK ALL:
DISAVOID   Have you ever avoided talking with someone because you thought they might bring made-up news and information into the conversation?

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
50   Yes
50   No
*   No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:
Now, thinking about the news you come across on social media…

SMSHARER   On social media, do you think of yourself more as a… **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
12   Sharer of news
87   Receiver of news
1   No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3):
SMLIKES   How much is each of the following a reason why you click on links to news stories on social media? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason	No answer
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,253]:				
a. The story was something I had been following in the news				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	56	31	11	1
b. A friend recommended the story				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	26	47	26	1
c. The story was published by a news organization I prefer				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	35	40	24	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,327]:				
d. The story had a lot of shares, comments or likes				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	13	34	52	*
e. I was interested in the topic				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	78	17	5	*
f. The story was surprising or entertaining				
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	49	41	10	*

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:
SMSHARE   When you share a news story on social media, how much do you think it impacts the story's overall reach to the public?

Feb 19-March 4 2019	
8	A lot
28	Some
22	Not much
4	Not at all
37	I don't share news stories on social media
*	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:
MADEUPSMCLICK   When you see a news story on social media that you think is made-up, how often do you click on the link to that story?

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
5	Often
26	Sometimes
35	Hardly ever
23	Never
10	I don't see these types of stories on social media
1	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:
MADEUPSMFOL1   Have you ever hidden, blocked or stopped following A NEWS SOURCE OR ORGANIZATION on social media because you thought they were posting made-up news and information?

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
50	Yes, have done this
49	No, have not done this
1	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3) [N=4,580]:
MADEUPSMFOL2   Have you ever hidden, blocked or stopped following SOMEONE YOU KNOW on social media because you thought they were posting made-up news and information?

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
50	Yes, have done this
49	No, have not done this
1	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ONLINE (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3 OR NEWS_PLATFORMh=1-3) [N=5,849]:
ONLINESOURCE   In general, does most of the news you see online come from…
                      [RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
67	Sources you are familiar with
12	Sources you are not familiar with
20	Not sure
1	No answer

ASK IF GETS NEWS ONLINE (NEWS_PLATFORMg=1-3 OR NEWS_PLATFORMh=1-3) [N=5,849]:
DIGWDOG_3   Thinking about the news that your friends, family and acquaintances post or send you online about political and social issues, overall, do you think the mix of news you get from them…
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

Feb 19-March 4
2019
31	Represents just one side
32	Represents more than one side
36	They don't send me news about political and social issues
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
NEWSPROB   How much of a problem is each of the following when it comes to how the public stays informed about the basic facts of current issues and events? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	A very big problem	A moderately big problem	A small problem	Not a problem at all	No answer
ASK ALL:					
a. The amount of made-up news and information					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	49	35	12	3	1
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=3,033]:					
b. The public's difficulty distinguishing facts from opinions					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	51	35	10	3	1
c. Too many different sources to choose from					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	17	33	29	20	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=3,094]:					
d. Too much news to keep up with					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	19	42	28	11	1
e. Journalists inserting their own views					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	37	32	25	6	1

ASK ALL:
VIDOFT   How often do you come across videos or images that have been altered or made-up to mislead the public?

Feb 19-March 4
2019
15	Often
51	Sometimes
26	Hardly ever
6	Never
2	No answer

ASK ALL:
MADEUPSOLVE   Within the next five years, do you think the issue of made-up news and information will…
[REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
10	Get better
32	Stay the same
56	Get worse
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
INFOCHAL   How much of a challenge do you think each of the following is in addressing made-up news and information? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	A very big <u>challenge</u>	A moderately <u>big challenge</u>	A small <u>challenge</u>	Not a challenge <u>at all</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Political divides					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	64	26	6	2	2
b. The public's lack of effort					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	42	40	13	3	2
c. Low awareness of current events					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	41	41	14	3	2
d. Digital technology					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	43	35	14	5	2
e. The ability to make money from it					
Feb 19-March 4, 2019	44	33	15	6	2

ASK ALL:
RESTRICTWHO   Who do you think has the most responsibility to reduce the amount of made-up news and information? **[RANDOMIZE WITH "NONE OF THESE" ALWAYS LAST]**

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
12	The government
9	Technology companies
20	The public
53	The news media
5	None of these
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
ACCCHECK   If you wanted to check the accuracy of a news story, how confident are you that you would know what steps to take?

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
29	Very confident
46	Somewhat confident
17	Not too confident
6	Not at all confident
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
FCFAIR   Different organizations and news outlets have taken on fact-checking efforts. Do you think that those who do the fact-checking… **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4
<u>2019</u>
50	Deal fairly with all sides
48	Tend to favor one side
2	No answer

RANDOMIZE WATCHDOG_1 & WATCHDOG_3
ASK ALL:
WATCHDOG_1   Some people think that by criticizing leaders, news organizations keep political leaders from doing their job. Others think that such criticism is worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done. Which position is closer to your opinion? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4 <u>2019[3]</u>		Feb 22-March 4 <u>2018</u>	Mar 13-Mar 27 <u>2017</u>	Jan 12-Feb 8 <u>2016</u>
29	Keep political leaders from doing their job	31	28	21
68	Keep political leaders from doing things that shouldn't be done	65	70	75
3	No answer	4	2	4

RANDOMIZE WATCHDOG_1 & WATCHDOG_3
ASK ALL:
WATCHDOG_3   In presenting the news dealing with political and social issues, do you think that news organizations… **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 19-March 4 <u>2019[4]</u>		Feb 22-March 4 <u>2018</u>	Mar 13-Mar 27 <u>2017</u>	Jan 12-Feb 8 <u>2016</u>
26	Deal fairly with all sides	30	28	24
72	Tend to favor one side	68	72	74
2	No answer	2	*	3

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[3] For the comparable phone trends from before 2016 for WATCHDOG_1, see here.
[4] For the comparable phone trends from before 2016 for WATCHDOG_3, see here.

RANDOMIZE KNOW1 – HOUCONTR
Here are a few questions about people and things that you may have seen in the news. Please answer the questions as best as you can.

ASK ALL:
KNOW1   How many justices are there on the Supreme Court of the United States?

       Feb 19-March 4
          <u>2019</u>
          2   Three
          3   Five
        11   Seven
        63   Nine
        20   Not sure
          1   No answer

RANDOMIZE KNOW1 – HOUCONTR
ASK ALL:
KNOW2   Who is Mike Pompeo? **[RANDOMIZE]**

       Feb 19-March 4
          <u>2019</u>
          2   Vice President of the U.S.
        57   U.S. Secretary of State
          3   A U.S. Senator from Minnesota
          1   Chairman of General Motors
        35   Not sure
          1   No answer

RANDOMIZE KNOW1 – HOUCONTR
ASK ALL:
HOUCONTR   Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

       Feb 19-March 4
          <u>2019</u>
        15   The Republican Party
        70   The Democratic Party
        15   Not sure
          1   No answer

ASK ALL:
SNSUSE   Do you ever use social media (such as Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat)?

       Feb 19-March 4
          <u>2019</u>
        75   Yes
        25   No
         *   No answer