

#### How the 24/7 News Cycle Impacts Your Mental Health

Kevin Stewart









Kevin Stewart



### Olympics



#### 65% overwhelmed, 67% burnt out by the news

**Digital Third Coast** 

#### People who consume the most news have the most skewed perceptions of reality

**Journal of Health Communication** 

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#### Asia's 'murder hornet' will arrive on East Coast and is 'here to stay': experts



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#### "The deadly, meat-eating, murder hornet has been known to kill up to 50 people a year in Japan."

**New York Post** 

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### **2020 Edelman Trust Barometer**

#### The media is purposely trying to mislead people, saying things they know are false or a gross exaggeration.

Agree or Disagree?

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### **2020 Edelman Trust Barometer**

#### The media is purposely trying to mislead people, saying things they know are false or a gross exaggeration.

Agree or Disagree?

49% agree - 51% disagree

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New York Post

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#### "environment of information bankruptcy"

2020 Edelman Trust Barometer

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#### "Journalists process raw data for the public debate." **Knowlton Nash**

#### "In seeking truth, you have to get both sides of a story." Walter Cronkite

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#### Q. Does news leave me more focused on what's important or does it represent mental clutter?

# Q. Does news create a focus on progress or excuses?

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### Inflammatory Bias: a distinct lean toward controversy

### The New News Recipe: Negative topic + inflammatory framing = emotional reaction

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#### "A complicated scientific issue was allowed to be decided, not by officials charged with protecting the public on the basis of hard evidence but by a frightened public acting on incomplete and often erroneous news reports."

Washington Post

"Outrageous and completely alarmist" Los Angeles Times

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"News tends to produce sadness and anxiety which releases the stress hormone cortisol, which is linked to cardiovascular disease."

Graham Davey, Sussex University, UK

"News results in a fragmented sense of knowing what's real, which sets off feelings of hopelessness experiences known to worsen depression."

Psychology Today

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Media and My Mental Health

#### "Most neuroses and some psychoses can be traced to the unnecessary and unhealthy habit of daily wallowing in the troubles and sins of five billion strangers."

Robert A. Heinlein, Stranger in a Strange Land

# Q. Do I feel more depressed or anxious watching news?

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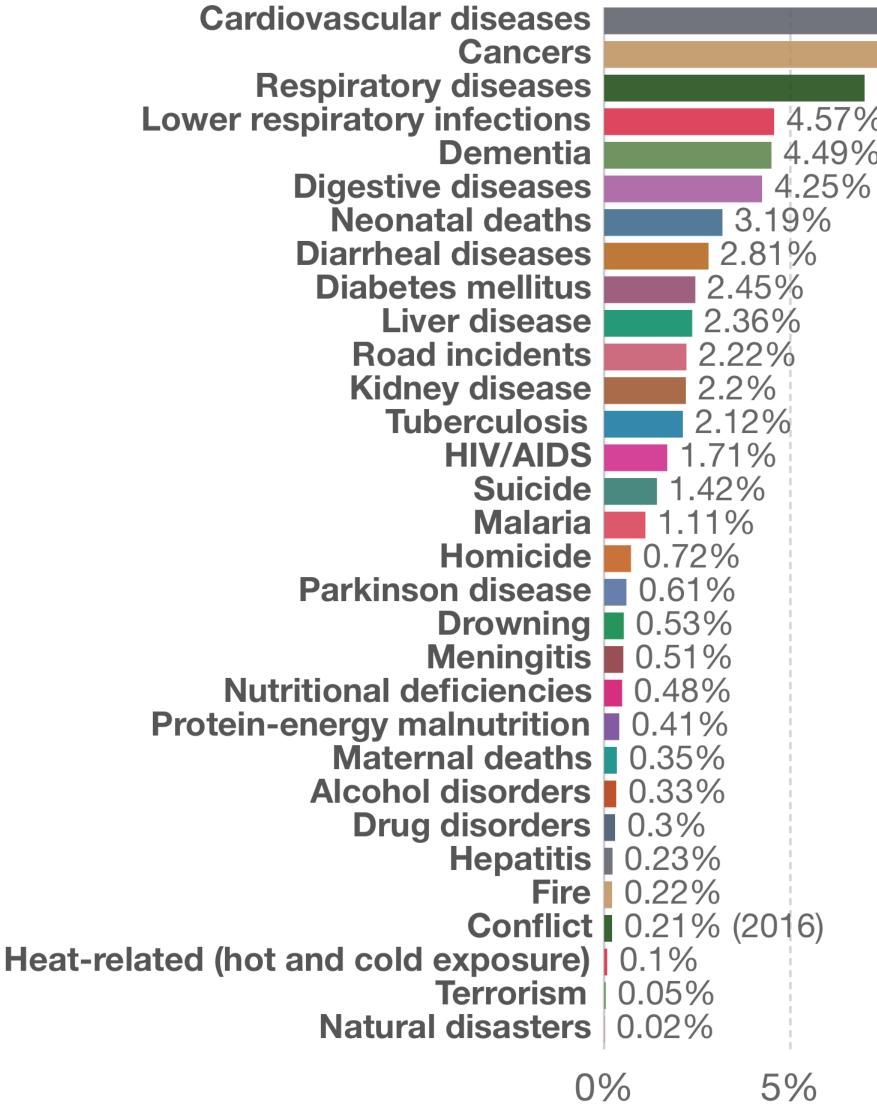






#### Share of deaths by cause, World, 2017

Data refers to the specific cause of death, which is distinguished from risk factors for death, such as air pollution, diet and other lifestyle factors. This is shown by cause of death as the percentage of total deaths.



31.8% 17.08% 7% 4.57% 4.49% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30%

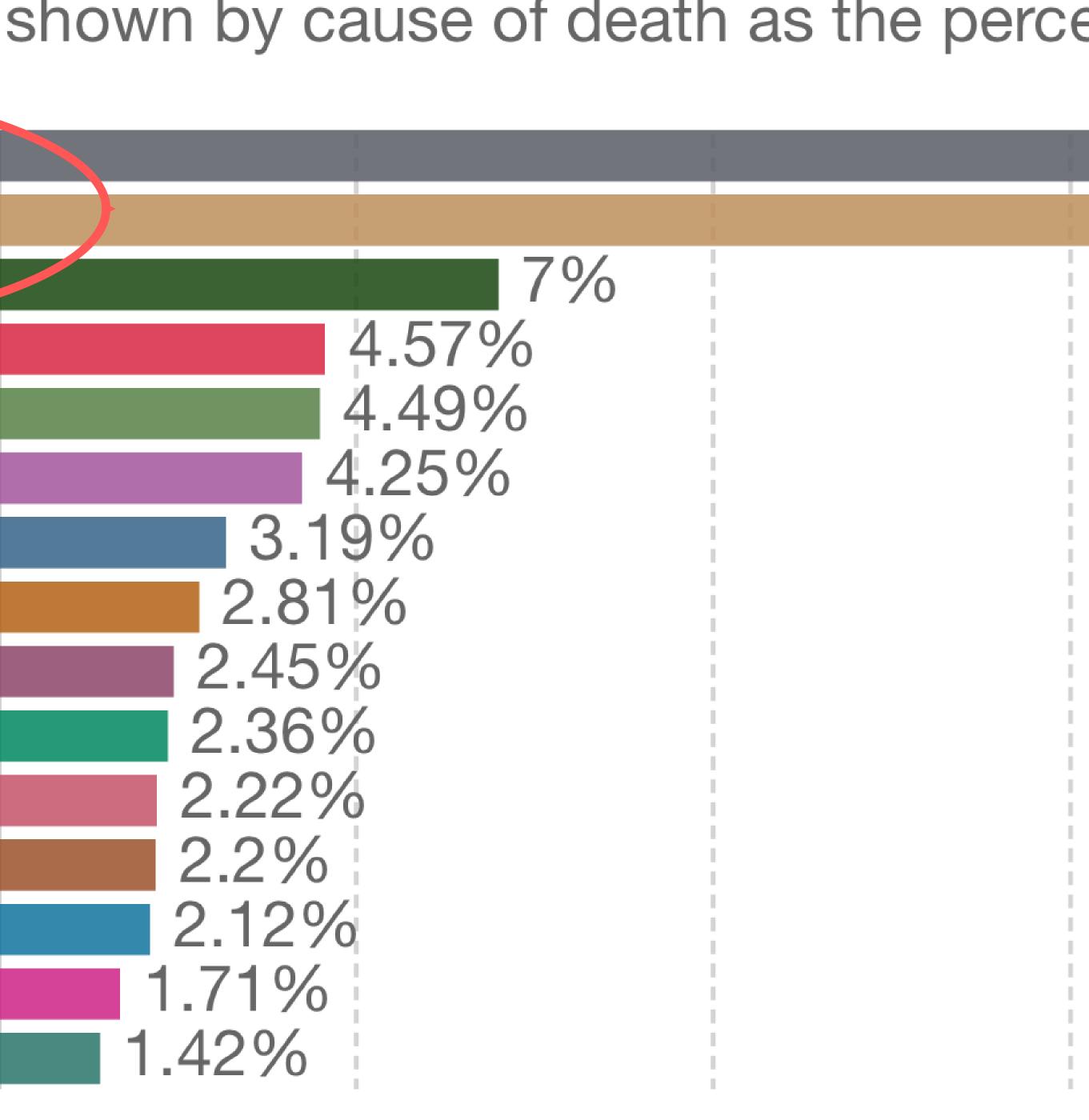
OurWorldInData.org/causes-of-death • CC BY

**Our World** 

in Data

**Cardiovascular diseases** Cancers **Respiratory diseases** Lower respiratory infections Dementia **Digestive diseases Neonatal deaths Diarrheal diseases Diabetes mellitus** Liver disease **Road incidents Kidney disease Tuberculosis HIV/AIDS** Suicide

#### nd other lifestyle factors. This is shown by cause of death as the perce



1.11% Malaria 0.72% Homicide Parkinson disease 0.61% 0.53% Drowning Meningitis 0.51% Nutritional deficiencies 0.48% Maternal deaths 0.35% Alcohol disorders 0.33% **Drug disorders** 0.3% Hepatitis | 0.23% **Fire** 0.22% **Conflict** 0.21% (2016) **Terrorism** | 0.05% Natural disasters 0.02%

**Protein-energy malnutrition** 0.41% Heat-related (hot and cold exposure) 0.1%

"People overestimate risks that are being talked about and remain an object of public scrutiny.

They are much more likely to fear personified dangers, than a statistic, like the number of people killed by cancer."

**Bruce Schneier**, **Beyond Fear** 

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### My Mental Risk Map

# Q. After watching news am I more rigid and opinionated in my views or more open and curious?

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#### **Fake News**

#### A deliberate act to fabricate information to inflame prejudice

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com





#### Food accounts for more than half (54%) of the fake news stories Fake News in Health

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### How to Identify and Manage Fake News

Incendiary language Algorithms Spelling & grammar Never trust one source Heard of the source

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- Selling something Odd URL Author Date
- About Us







## Q. Do I use multiple news sources or just one or two?

## Q. Do I only read news sources that I agree with?

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"The brain responds to stressful events and negative news information as a threat and our nervous system kicks into fight or flight mode. You overwhelmed your mental health with negative, stress filled information and it crumbled under the weight of it all."

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Never trust one source Use airplane mode **Turn off notifications** 

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### My Mental Health

# Q. After years of consuming news am I more: creative, inspired, content, happy, wealthy, successful, insightful, eager to learn?

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A ship doesn't sink because of the water that surrounds it it sinks because of the water that gets inside

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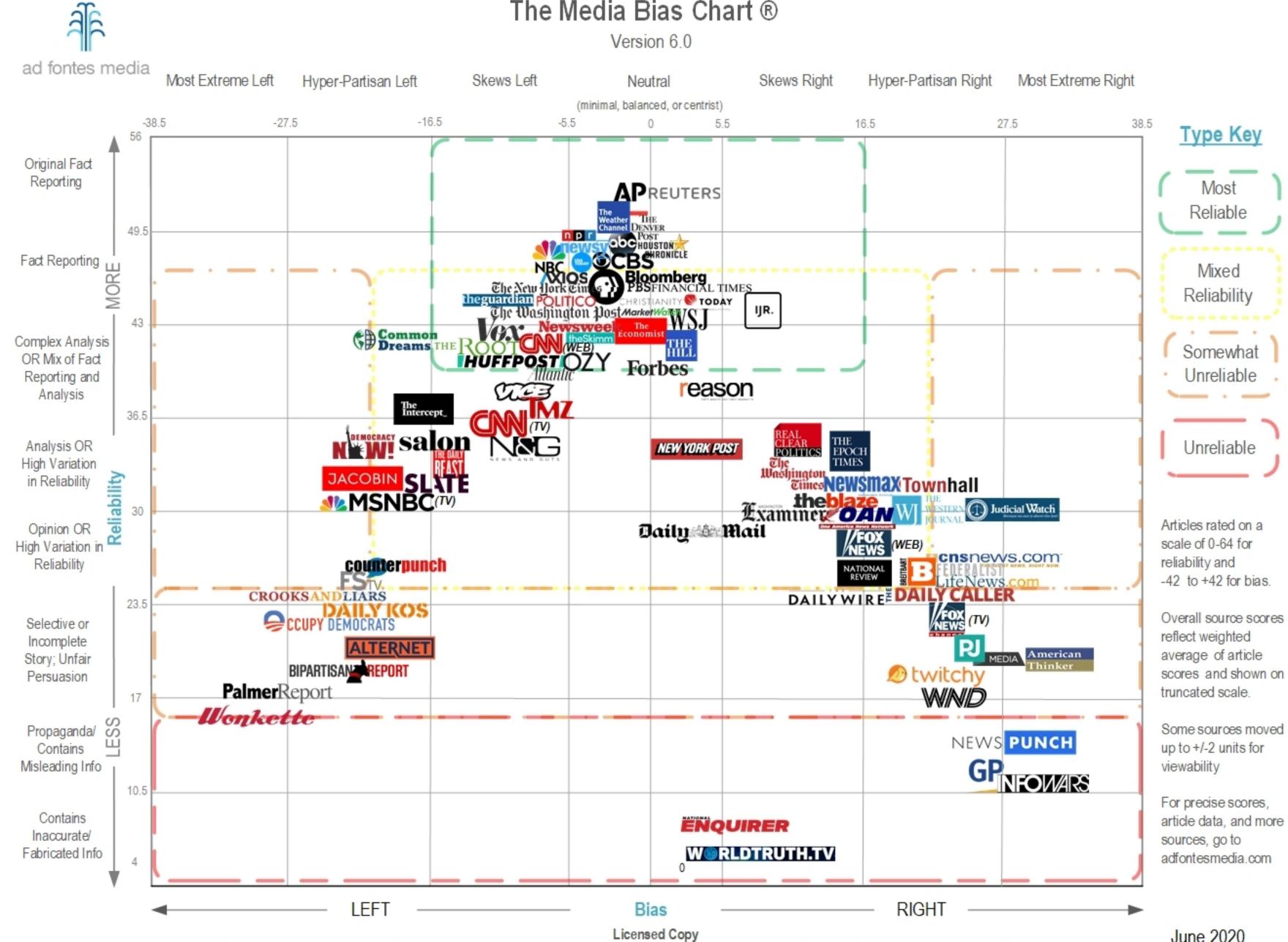
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#### AllSides Media Bias Chart

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#### The Media Bias Chart ®



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