

# A VISUAL STUDY OF MISINFORMATION AS A THREAT TO HUMAN SECURITY

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## • Introduction

The rise of misinformation in the past decade have caused major concerns in popular discourse over the security of democratic elections but has led individuals in a different route.

## ▪ Literature Review

Studies regarding a psychological phenomenon called the Backfire Effect indicate that when presented with contradictory information, an individual is more likely to reinforce their own beliefs, making it difficult to convince someone that they're wrong.

## • Objective:

To examine the effects of misinformation and determine how it might become a threat to human security along political and health dimensions.

## • Methodology:

The examination of photos and articles to investigate the impact of misinformation on politics and psychology.

## • Results:

Misinformation leads many people to believe that the providers of information are either extremely unreliable or malicious, increasing feelings of paranoia and reducing faith in democratic processes.

## • Conclusion:

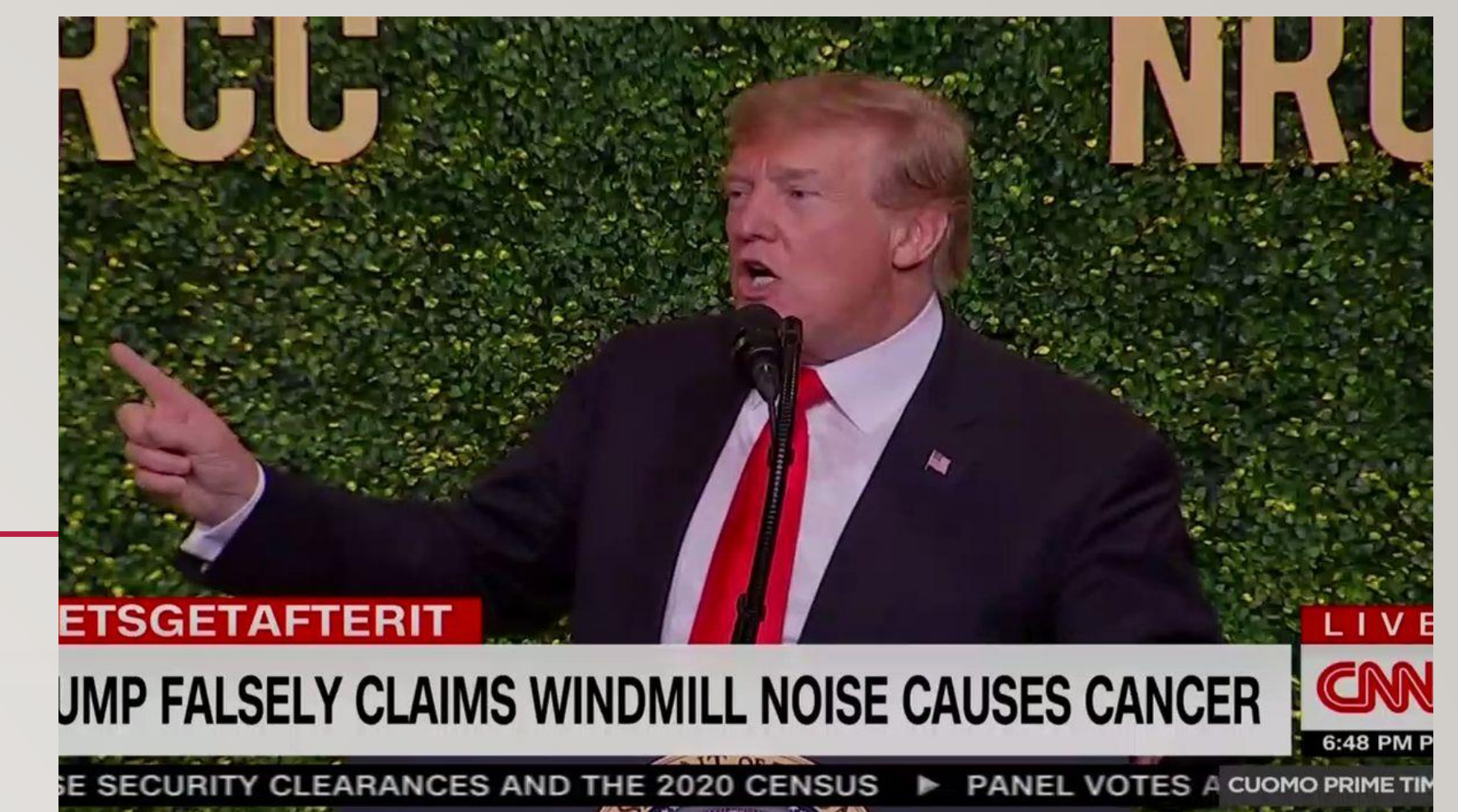
Given the Backfire Effect, and the prevalence of misinformation in popular sources of information on sites like Facebook, MSNBC, and CNN, the presence of misinformation in the electoral process and elsewhere has led people to target others over outlandish claims by popular personalities.



Mark Zuckerberg at a Congressional hearing on Facebook's role in the 2016 election as it relates to false information and the selling of personal data: <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/mark-zuckerberg-chief-executive-officer-and-founder-of-news-photo/944357756?adppopup=true>



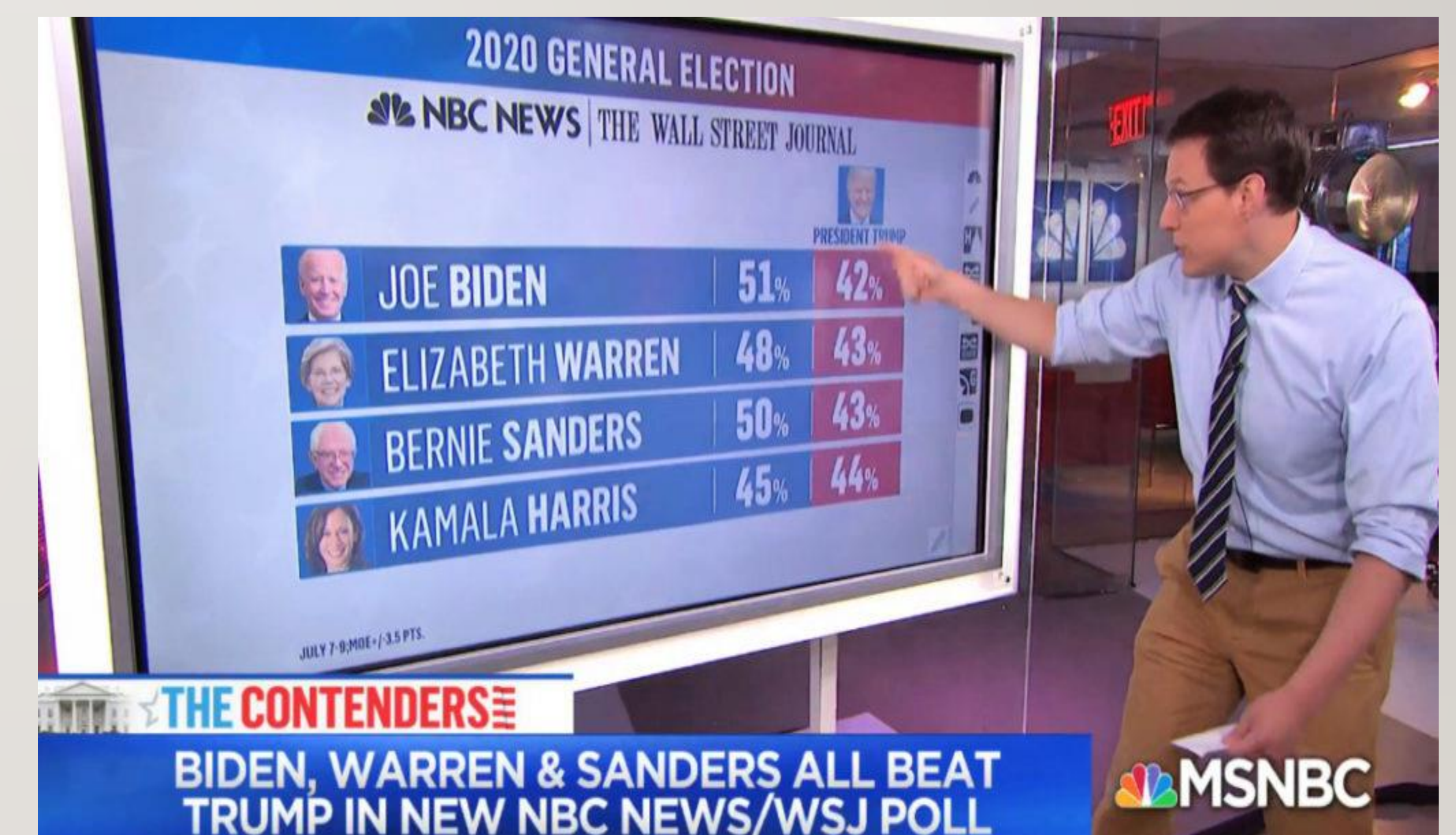
Pete Buttigieg after declaring victory in the Iowa caucus 2020 despite results being delayed for two days: <https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/481502-buttigieg-again-claims-victory-after-partial-iowa-results-show-him-leading>



Donald Trump on windmills causing cancer: <https://www.vox.com/2019/4/3/18293552/trump-windmills-cancer-nrcc-speech>



CNN article on conspiracy theorists attacking survivors of the Parkland shooting, which was made popular by conspiracy theorist Alex Jones: <https://www.cnn.com/videos/media/2018/12/16/2018-a-year-consumed-by-misinformation-rs.cnn>



News coverage of Iowa Caucus 2020 displaying less popular candidates before the most popular one, creating the impression that a certain candidate is doing better than they are: <https://fair.org/home/msnbcs-anti-sanders-bias-makes-it-forget-how-to-do-math/>

• **References:** Silverman, Craig, 2011. "The Backfire Effect", *Columbia Journalism Review*. [https://archives.cjr.org/behind\\_the\\_news/the\\_backfire\\_effect.php](https://archives.cjr.org/behind_the_news/the_backfire_effect.php)