

Overview

This open-access web database contains bibliographic records of primary studies (study reports) included in our [rapid review of research evidence](#) for the effects of communications messages aimed at debunking vaccine-related misinformation on beliefs, attitudes, intentions and/or uptake, coded according to their key features and characteristics. The final report of our rapid evidence review can be downloaded [here](#).

The database is designed to enable interactive exploration of our rapid review 'data set'. It contains bibliographic records of the 47 randomised controlled trials included in our rapid review, coded by their key characteristics, including the study design, participants, and type(s) of misinformation, debunking message(s) (interventions), comparators, outcomes and differential effects investigated. Please see 'How to use the database' (below).

We have also pre-configured six example evidence and gap maps to highlight selected key characteristics and research gaps in this body of research evidence (see the 'Evidence and Gap Maps' pane, below). Users can also configure their own evidence and gap maps - please see 'How to use the database' (below).

This web database has been produced by the [EPPI Centre](#) as part of our role in the [ESRC International Public Policy Observatory \(IPPO\)](#) on COVID-19. It has been configured using [EPPI-Visualiser](#) (EPPI-Vis) tools, hosted in [EPPI-Reviewer](#) software.

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Suggested citation

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How to use the database

There are various ways to view the database content. Please take a brief moment to familiarise yourself with the various options.

1) Quick Start:

Each pane in the central panel of the screen ('Information', 'Evidence and Gap Maps', and 'Frequencies') can be minimised using the '-' (minus) symbol and expanded using the '+' (plus) symbol - located to the right of each pane.

All 47 records in the database - one for each study included in our rapid evidence review - have been tagged with applicable codes selected from the expandable list on the left: '**Characteristics of Included Studies**'. The various codes assigned to each record are grouped into sets under the following 'parent' headings (based on a 'PICO' structure – Population(s), Intervention(s), Comparison(s) and Outcome(s)):

- Study Design
- Sample Size
- Population(s) / Participants / Receivers
- Misinformation Type(s)
- Intervention(s)
- Comparison(s)
- Outcome(s)
- Differential Effects

There are up to three levels of 'child codes' under each of these 'parent' headings. You can search and analyse database contents using the various 'child codes'. For example:

- To list all the included studies involving participants in the USA, expand the 'Population(s) / Participants / Receivers' heading ('parent'), then expand the 'Country / Region' (level 1) 'child' code, then click on the 'United States of America'(level 2) 'child' code, and then click on the 'List records' button above.
- To see how many records each category under the 'Country / Region' heading has, select the 'Population(s)' heading, and click on the 'Frequencies' button above it. This will open a table in the 'Frequencies' pane – located in the central panel of the screen – that tells you how many studies have each (level 2) child code. You can then list the records of those studies by clicking on the corresponding number.

2) Downloading data and exploring individual records

The search features described above (and below) will result in a list of references being displayed. This list can be downloaded as a plain text file, in Excel format, or as a RIS file for importing into reference manager software (such as Zotero or Endnote).

Clicking an individual title in the list will result in detailed information about that study being displayed (record view). This defaults to standard bibliographic information plus the abstract but can be expanded to include all bibliographic fields available in the database, including DOI and full text links when available).

This screen also contains a 'show coding' button, which opens up a display showing all the various codes that have been assigned to each specific study. This feature is especially useful for investigating the specific, multiple 'child' codes assigned to each individual study (when more than one 'child' code can apply).

3) Other features for searching and analysing database content

In addition to the above searches by frequency and individual code, the application has three other search and analysis features: 'Search Records', 'Get Crosstab' and 'Get Map'.

The 'Search Records' feature is located at the top of the 'home' screen. It defaults to searching both the 'title and abstract' fields, but other fields can be selected using the adjacent drop-down menu.

The 'Get Crosstab' feature operates using the grouped headings of 'parent' or 'child' codes. For example, to look at the intersections between the misinformation 'claim type(s)' and the 'vaccine(s) / virus(es)' investigated among all 47 included studies: expand the 'parent' heading 'Misinformation

Types(s)'; then click on the 'Claim Type(s)' (level 1) 'child' code and then on the 'Set X axis' button at the bottom right of the screen; then click on the Vaccine(s) / Virus(es)' (level 1) 'child' code and then on the 'Set Y axis' button; and finally click on the 'Full Crosstab' button. The resulting page will display a crosstabulation matrix showing the intersections of the child codes under these two headings. The matrix view can be changed from a table to displaying a bubble map, with the sizes of the bubbles indicating the relative number of studies in each cell. The numbers (or bubbles) in the cells are clickable, and clicking them will display a list of the studies (records) in that cell below the table.

The 'Get Map' feature can be used to create evidence and gap maps. See the pre-configured evidence and gap maps for examples. This feature operates in exactly the same way as the 'Get Crosstab' feature for setting the X-axis and the Y-axis (see above). However, in the 'Get Map' feature you also need to choose which codes to display as map 'segments' using the 'Set segments' button, also at the bottom right of the screen, before finally clicking on the 'Get Map' button. Only codes with six or fewer child codes can be set as map 'segments' (i.e. the maximum number of 'segments' is six).

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To find out more about IPPO, please visit the IPPO Website: <https://covidandsociety.com>

Conflicts of interest

None.

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