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Various actors, including state and non-state entities, attempt to spread disinformation in order to sow discord within New Jersey and elsewhere. Disinformation has the potential to exhaust resources, incite panic, create distrust between the government and people, increase polarization in groups, influence governmental actions or law enforcement responses, or cause undue harm, among other concerns.

**dis·in·for·ma·tion**  
 manufactured information that is deliberately created or disseminated with the intent to cause harm, obscure the truth, or influence public opinion

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## WHAT IS DISINFORMATION?

Disinformation: manufactured information that is deliberately created or disseminated with the intent to cause harm, obscure the truth or influence public opinion



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## DISINFORMATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What distinguishes disinformation and misinformation on social media?

What groups employ disinformation campaigns?

What are the consequences of various groups spreading disinformation and misinformation?

How is disinformation identified?

What is a deepfake?

How can I identify an altered video?

## INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS ON DISINFORMATION



(/analysis/domestic-extremists-promote-violence-to-oppose-elections)

Domestic Extremists Promote Violence To Oppose Elections (/Analysis/Domestic-Extremists-Promote-Violence-To-Oppose-Elections)

*Domestic extremists, predominately white racially motivated extremists (WRMEs), will likely criticize the electoral process in an attempt to incite supporters to conduct attacks, threaten election officials, and target racial and ethnic minorities who they believe are causing the genocide of the white race.* Since 2020, domestic extremists have posted threats online claiming poll workers and election officials have stolen votes and conducted election fraud during gubernatorial and primary elections.

Nov 4, 2022 ·

Anti-Government Extremist (/analysis?tag=Anti-Government+Extremist), White Racially Motivated Extremist (/analysis?tag=White+Racially+Motivated+Extremist), Disinformation (/analysis?tag=Disinformation)



(/analysis/anti-government-

Anti-Government Extremist Disinformation Targets Law Enforcement (/Analysis/Anti-Government-Extremist-Disinformation-Targets-Law-Enforcement)

*Anti-government extremists will likely spread online disinformation that fabricates law enforcement capabilities and government legislation as well as falsifies attacks against federal law enforcement officials.* On August 12, federal law enforcement agencies warned of an increase in threats to law enforcement and government officials. We use cookies to improve your experience and to help our website run effectively.

Aug 26, 2022 ·

Disinformation (/analysis?tag=Disinformation), Anti-Government Extremist (/analysis?tag=Anti-Government+Extremist)

extremist-  
disinformation-  
targets-law-  
enforcement)

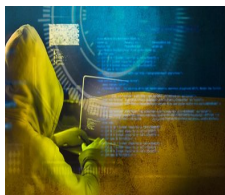


Disinformation Hampers Efforts To Curb Spread Of Monkeypox (HMPXV) (/Analysis/Disinformation-Hampers-Efforts-To-Curb-Spread-Of-Monkeypox-Hmpxv)

**Monkeypox (hMPXV) disinformation has spread online through misleading videos, falsely attributed information, and recycling of conspiracies from COVID-19, causing confusion among the public.** On August 4, President Joe Biden issued a public health emergency declaration on monkeypox (hMPXV) to allow for improved government resource allocations. As of August 11, the total confirmed cases of monkeypox (hMPXV) stood at 11,177 nationwide, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Aug 16, 2022 · Disinformation (/analysis?tag=Disinformation)

(/analysis/disinformation  
hampers-efforts-to-  
curb-spread-of-  
monkeypox-hmpxv)



Domestic Extremists Exploit War In Ukraine (/Analysis/Domestic-Extremists-Exploit-War-In-Ukraine)

**Domestic extremists will likely continue to spread disinformation online regarding the war in Ukraine to disparage Jewish people and minority refugees, support racially motivated extremist groups, and sow distrust of US government officials and institutions.** Extremists regularly alter online propaganda to capitalize on global events and spread disinformation that perpetuates their violent ideologies.

Apr 14, 2022 · Disinformation (/analysis?tag=Disinformation), Foreign Threat Actors (/analysis?tag=Foreign+Threat+Actors)

(/analysis/domestic-  
extremists-exploit-  
war-in-ukraine)



Disinformation Spread Via Deepfake Technology (/Analysis/Disinformation-Spread-Via-Deepfake-Technology)

**Nefarious actors will likely exploit deepfake technology to spread misleading news from politicians, impersonate established institutions, and commit crimes.** Deepfakes are synthetic media generated with artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create believable and realistic videos, pictures, audio, and text of events that never happened. According to an Italian-based research organization, deepfake videos identified online doubled in six months since January 2020, with the United States being the most targeted country of this content (50.1%).

Mar 31, 2022 · Foreign Threat Actors (/analysis?tag=Foreign+Threat+Actors), Disinformation (/analysis?tag=Disinformation)

(/analysis/disinformation-  
spread-via-deepfake-  
technology)



Social Media Used As A Vehicle For Disinformation (/Analysis/Social-Media-Used-As-A-Vehicle-For-Disinformation)

**State and non-state actors will likely continue to circulate disinformation and misinformation on social media to alter public perspectives, influence global affairs, and spread falsehoods.** In January 2021, a U.S.-based think tank released a report that found social media engagements with deceptive sites reached record highs in 2020. In the fourth quarter of 2020, this content received 1.2 billion interactions on Facebook and 47 million retweets from verified accounts on Twitter.

Mar 30, 2022 · Disinformation (/analysis?tag=Disinformation)

(/analysis/social-  
media-used-as-a-  
vehicle-for-  
disinformation)



Foreign Disinformation Prevalent Amid War In Ukraine (/Analysis/Foreign-Disinformation-Prevalent-Amid-War-In-Ukraine)

**Foreign actors are conducting disinformation campaigns, creating false narratives, and recycling conspiracy theories to sow distrust among the public and other targeted audiences amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.** In March, a Western research institution found that Russia's war in Ukraine saw closer coordination between China and Russia in their respective disinformation campaigns against the West. In January, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, "We see a significant effort to push propaganda against Ukraine, NATO, and the United States... [including] malign social media operations."

Mar 30, 2022 · Disinformation (/analysis?tag=Disinformation), Foreign Threat Actors (/analysis?tag=Foreign+Threat+Actors)

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## EXTERNAL DISINFORMATION RESOURCES

- U.S. State Department - Fact vs. Fiction: Russian Disinformation on Ukraine (<https://www.state.gov/fact-vs-fiction-russian-disinformation-on-ukraine/>)
- Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency - Rumor Control (<https://www.cisa.gov/rumorcontrol>)
- FBI - Combating Foreign Influence (<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/counterintelligence/foreign-influence>)

## DISCLAIMER

It is highly recommended that the public reports any posts containing threats, calls to action or potential violence to local law enforcement as soon as possible. Suspicious activity with a possible nexus to terrorism should be reported immediately to NJOHSP's Counterterrorism Watch at 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ or [tips@njohsp.gov](mailto:tips@njohsp.gov) (<mailto:tips@njohsp.gov>).

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