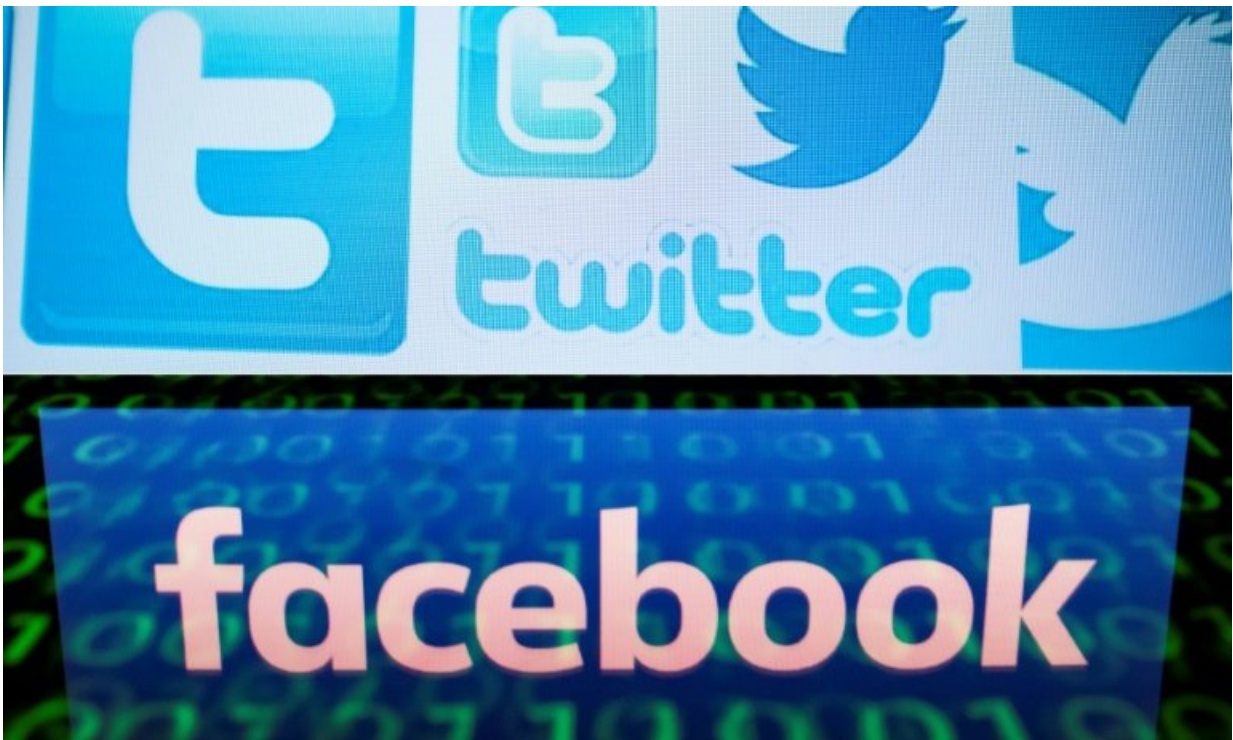


Most Americans get news from social media, despite doubts: survey

September 10 2018



A new survey showing that most American adults get at least some news from social media comes with the social networks under higher scrutiny over misinformation and manipulation

Two-thirds of American adults get at least some of their news from social media, even though many are skeptical about the accuracy of that information, a survey showed Monday.

The Pew Research Center report found 68 percent said they used social networks for [news](#), with 20 percent saying they got information "often" from those services including Facebook and Twitter.

The percentages were largely unchanged from a year ago despite heightened scrutiny over misinformation and manipulation of online platforms, including by foreign actors.

More than half of those surveyed—57 percent—said they expect the news they see on [social media](#) to be "largely inaccurate," according to Pew.

Still, most respondents said getting news this way has made little difference in their understanding of current events—36 percent said it helped their understanding of current events while 15 percent said it made them "more confused."

The survey comes with social networks under intense scrutiny as they become more important "gatekeepers" of news, with President Donald Trump and his allies recently accusing tech firms of political bias.

In the Pew survey, only 11 percent of respondents said news on social media was "too biased" while 10 percent said the information was "low quality."

Concerns about accuracy were more prevalent among Republicans, with 72 percent expressing this concern, compared with 46 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of independents.

An estimated 67 percent of Facebook's users get news there, as do 71 percent of Twitter users and 73 percent of Reddit users. But because Facebook's overall user base is much larger, far more Americans overall get news on Facebook than on other sites.

Smaller percentages get news from other online platforms such as YouTube, Tumblr, Instagram, LinkedIn, Snapchat and WhatsApp, according to the report.

Pew surveyed 4,581 US adults between July 30 and August 12, with an estimated margin of error for the full sample of 2.5 percentage points.

© 2018 AFP

Citation: Most Americans get news from social media, despite doubts: survey (2018, September 10) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-09-americans-news-social-media-survey.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.