

COVID-19 & HEALTH ISSUES

A weekly snapshot of COVID-19 and other health topics in Zimbabwe

TOP STORY:

72K children in Zimbabwe living with HIV.

TOP ISSUES:

- Concern over paediatric cancer cases.
- Childhood TB: A cause for concern.
- Gutu women bemoan lack of maternity facilities.



TOP TRENDING POST

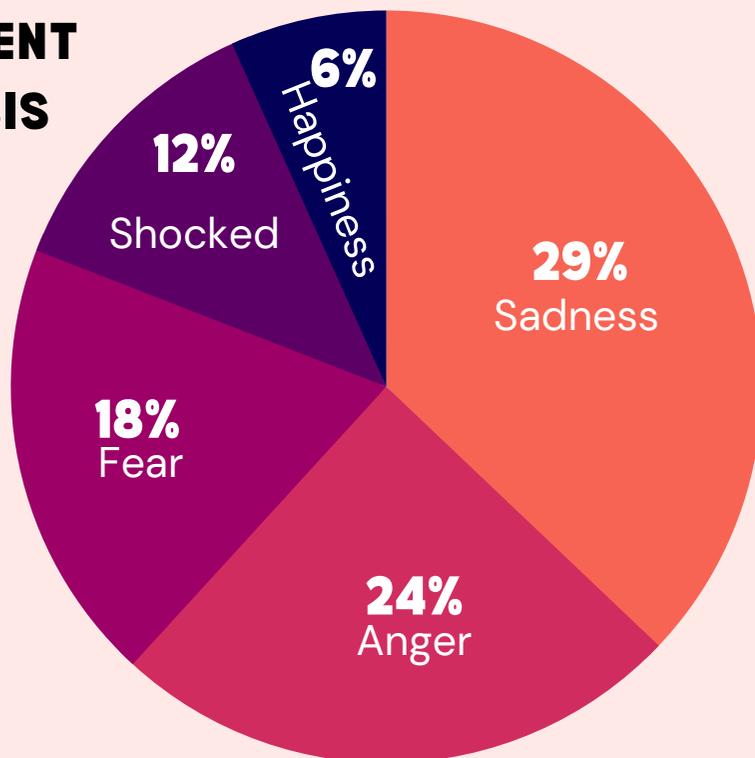
The post with the highest reach this week:



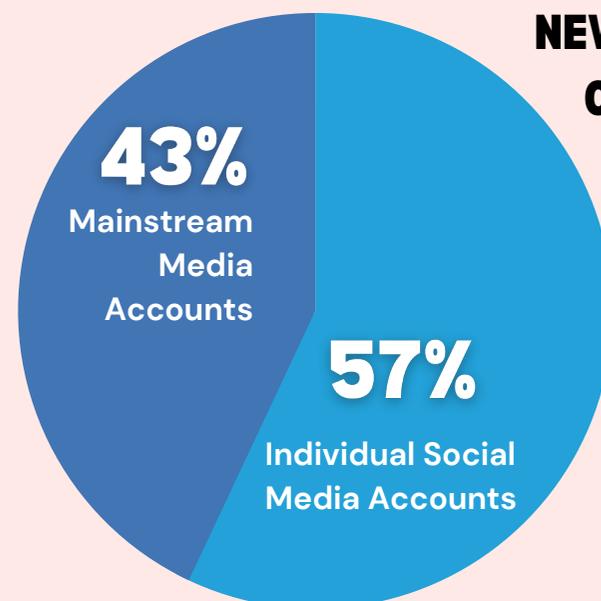
- Potential Reach: 128.4K
- Retweets: 159
- Likes: 608
- Comments 44

“Dear soldiers. There is no economy for soldiers only. The covid death rate amongst civilians was 1/3000. For every 200 soldiers 1 died of covid. There is a better Zimbabwe that will work for you. During this valentine’s day, you could have been bathing in a tub with roses but, look now you are at a borehole.” (Shona: Twitter)

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS



ONLINE HEALTH NEWS SOURCES OF THE WEEK



RUMOR

"Because you don't think they would put Mercury or aluminum in the covid vax? Why wouldn't they put it in all the other vaccines and it's clearly on the ingredient label. why is there no ingredient list on the covid 19 shot?"



FACTS

- According to Professor Kudakwashe Chitindingu, a Microbiologist and Executive Dean for the School of Health Sciences and Technology at Chinhoyi University of Technology (CUT), Sinopharm and Sinovac contain inactivated virus particles, aluminium hydroxide adjuvant and excipients (sodium salts) and the active ingredients are written on the bottles.
- Reuters Fact Check notes that aluminium is not an ingredient in COVID-19 vaccines. However, vaccines that contain an aluminium supplement have shown to be safe over six decades of use according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Also, thimerosal, a preservative that contains mercury has a record of being very safe with the most common side effect being minor reactions such as redness and swelling at the injection site.
- Associated Press Fact Check also notes that ingredients for some vaccines such as the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, are not included on the vaccine packaging as the up-to-date list of ingredients is available on the manufacturer's website.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO JOURNALISTS

- Journalists can produce radio programmes, documentaries and stories describing and explaining the ingredients of COVID-19 vaccines, how the ingredients affect their efficacy and measures that have been put in place to ensure that vaccine ingredients are safe for the human body.
- Journalists can host talk shows and discussions with health experts debunking myths about the use of mercury and aluminium in COVID-19 vaccines.

Rooted in Trust is collecting, analysing and responding to rumours in 13 countries with generous support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). We focus on equipping journalists and humanitarian communicators with tools they need, in languages they prefer, to combat rumours and misinformation in COVID-19 and other health issues of concern.



For more information on the project, visit: [here](#)

