

COVID-19 & HEALTH ISSUES

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

TOP STORY:


- ART helps HIV positive women live beyond 50 years.

TOP ISSUES:

- Crisis: Masvingo runs out of condoms.
- Spike in Malaria cases in Hwange jolts health authorities into action.
- Zim health sector in dire strait.
- Pumula South suburb under Zoonoses threat.

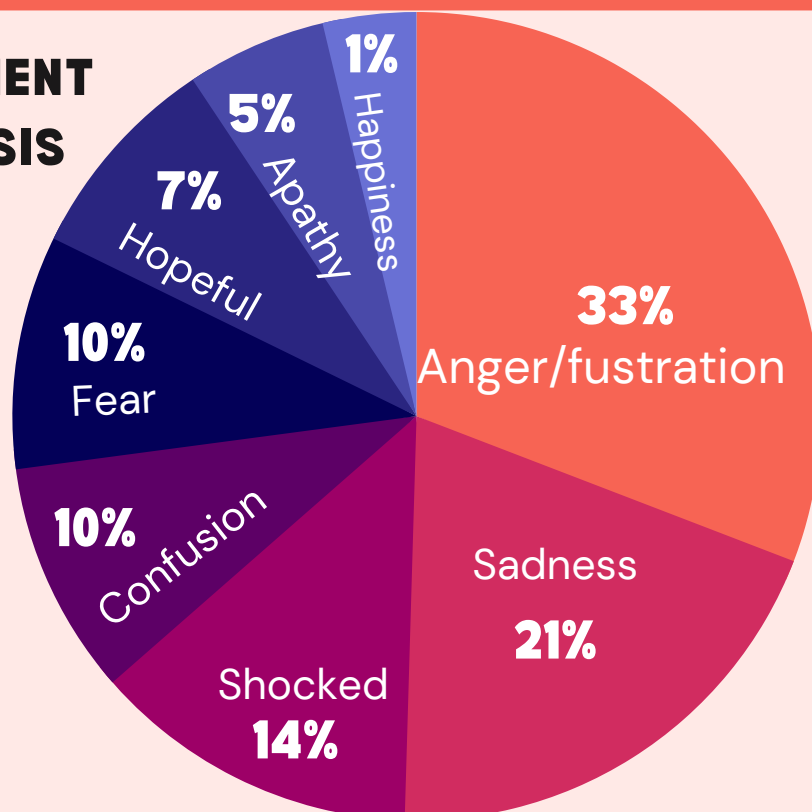
TOP TRENDING POST

The post with the highest reach this week:

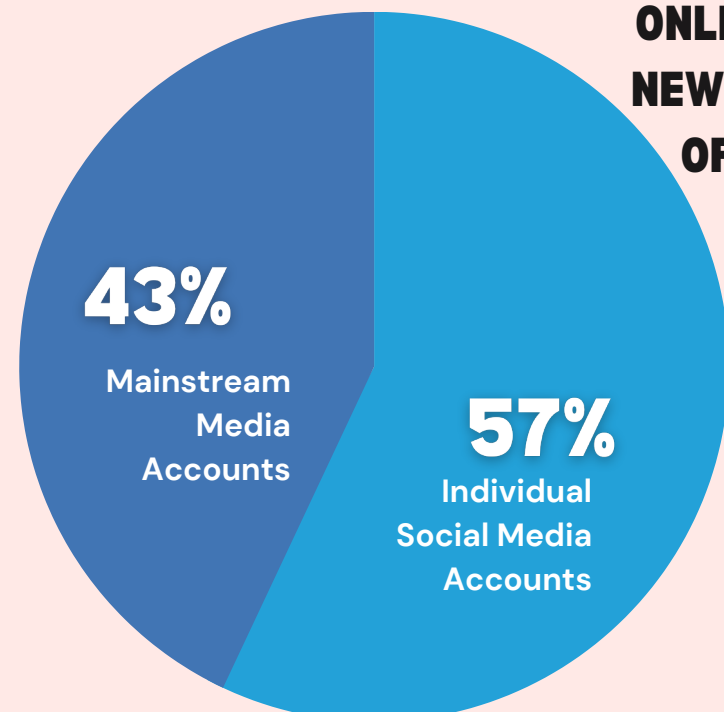
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- Potential Reach: 561.3K
 - Retweets: 291
 - Likes: 739
 - Comments: 97

"2,500 Zimbabwean women die every year giving birth. The biggest hospital in Zimbabwe only has 1 maternity theater built in 1977. As a result, 70% of women who give birth at South Africa's Musina hospital are Zimbabwean. It costs US\$37,000 to build a maternity theater. LOOTING!" (English: Twitter)

SENTIMENT ANALYSIS



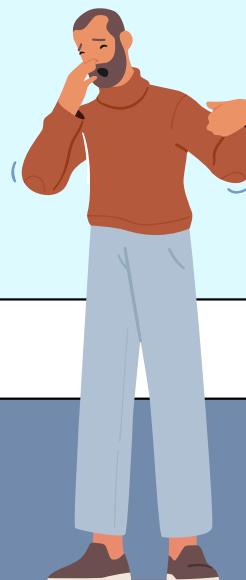
ONLINE HEALTH NEWS SOURCES OF THE WEEK



Source: Visualisation by Internews: Data by RiT 2.0 Global Rumours Dashboard

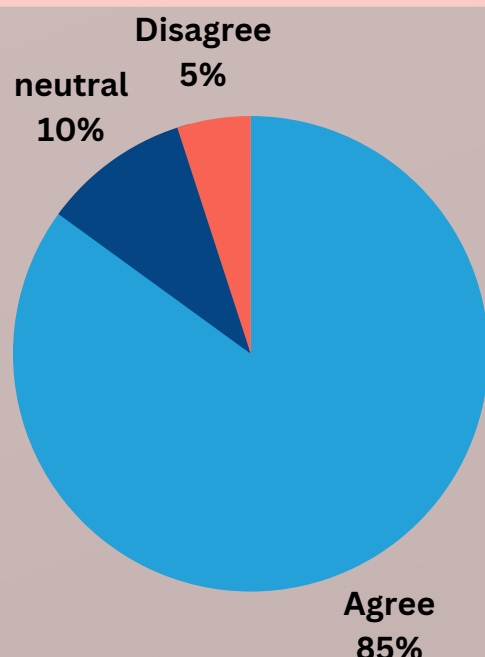
"You're right, the situation in hospitals is becoming unbearable if you wanna get help you should pay bribes starting from the ward cleaners, nurses to the doctors. The situation is tougher in the maternal wards pregnant women are giving birth without the assistance of doctors if they cannot pay the bribe."

Twitter, English

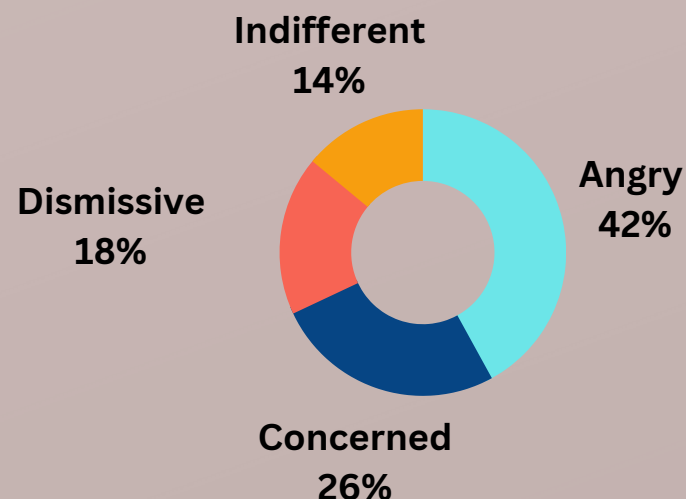


FACTS

- The Centre for Innovation and Technology (CITE) alongside Internews collaborated on a social media survey that sought to understand people's experiences when seeking health services in view of the rumour noted above. The survey, which was carried out through social media, attracted high engagement in the form of diverse reactions and comments. The post reached 29,300 people churning 3,500 engagements.
- Data collated by Internews revealed that 85% of the views expressed agreed with the assertion in the public health sector, 10 percent were neutral while five percent disagreed. Further sentiment analysis carried out on 65 comments pulled from the threads revealed mixed emotions. Of the total, 42% of the data expressed anger with the healthcare workers, 26% of the comments were dismissive of the notion, 18% expressed concern over the alleged corruption in the healthcare system and 14% revealed indifference.



Source: Visualisation by Internews: Data by CITE Social Media Engagement Statistics.



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- A study conducted by Transparency International Zimbabwe (TIZ) in 2021 exposed a rise in incidences of citizens being asked to pay bribes to access health care services at public hospitals. The study also revealed that in most public hospitals there are unnecessary delays and poor service delivery which have created opportunities for extorting patients or clients.
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- According to Section 41 of the Public Health Act, any person aggrieved by the conduct of health care personnel has the right to complain and have the matter investigated and redressed by an appropriate authority or body within that health establishment.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO JOURNALISTS

- Journalists can produce investigative stories verifying allegations of corruption in public health centres. Such stories can share experiences of citizens who have witnessed or are victims of bribery in hospitals, and the measures that relevant authorities have in place to stop the trend.
- Journalists can produce stories, podcasts, and explainer videos sharable on WhatsApp and Facebook that discuss information on what citizens can do in the face of corruption in public health centres.

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](#)

