Experts tracked and addressed COVID-19 rumors and misinformation in Puerto Rico

Submitted by Mónica Ivelisse Feliú-Mójer on 6 August 2021 - 8:04pm

"Infórmate. Protégete. Vacúnate" was the rumor tracking project by Mercy Corps Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico Public Health Trust, CienciaPR, Ciencia en Tus Manos and Internews.

Mercy Corps Puerto Rico, together with Puerto Rico Public Health Trust (PRPHT), Ciencia Puerto Rico (CienciaPR), Ciencia en Tus Manos (CETM) and Internews developed a Rumor Tracking Program "Infórmate, Protégete, Vacunate" on news related to vaccines and COVID-19 in Puerto Rico. The effort ran from March to June and collected more than 1,000 rumors that were categorized by risk levels (high, medium and low). Much of the misinformation and rumors collected revolved around the safety of the coronavirus vaccine.

During the program, the organization's worked collaboratively with 14 communities in different
parts of the archipelago to understand common narratives and provide objective, needs-based
information in real time. In addition, Mercy Corps Puerto Rico conducted continuous social media
monitoring (with the support of Internews), which consisted of collecting rumors or perceptions
through the most used social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). In total, 173
rumors were collected through community networks and 907 rumors were collected through
social networks.

Mercy Corps, with support from PRPHT, CienciaPR and CETM, developed easy-to-understand,
engaging and simple educational content on a weekly basis. This content was shared through
the social networks of Mercy Corps Puerto Rico and its collaborators. Likewise, community
leaders distributed the messages to their communities through personal interactions with
community members.

To date, the program has reached more than 118,000 participants through:

- 2 trainings for community leaders on identifying rumors and misinformation;
- 10 educational materials (including videos, publications, infographics) shared on social
  media about vaccine efficacy, the reason to receive the vaccine, and more (you can view
  and download them here [3]); and;
- 1 virtual workshop on "Infodemic Management" to journalists, journalism students and
  media professionals (access the resources here [4]; watch the workshop recordings: Part 1
  [5] and Part 2 [6]).

You can read a full report on "Infórmate, Protegete, Vacunate" here [7]. Here [8] you will find a
ACERCAMIENTO DE MERCY CORPS PUERTO RICO:

-Asociaciones estratégicas con organizaciones contextualmente relevantes: Puerto Rico Public Health Trust, Ciencia Puerto Rico, Ciencia en tus Manos e Internews

-Educación sobre la infodemia a 14 líderes y lideresas comunitarios(as)

-Implementación de campaña educativa, “Infórmate, Protégete, Vacúnate”, a través de redes sociales y redes comunitarias

-Facilitación de Taller sobre “Manejo de la Infodemia” para expertos(as) en medios de comunicación

MAPA CON MUNICIPIOS PARTICIPANTES IDENTIFICADOS:

Aguadilla, Añasco, Culebra, Guayama, Lajas, Las Piedras, Ponce, San Juan y Yauco

Cantidad de rumores recolectados: 1,080

Cantidad de rumores recolectados a través del monitoreo a nivel comunitario: 173

VOLUMEN DE RUMORES POR PLATAFORMAS DE RED

Facebook - 751
Instagram - 77
Twitter - 72
Whatsapp - 15
Otros - 29

CINCO TEMAS MÁS FRECUENTES

Seguridad (19.6%) Agenda Política (19.2%) Eficacia (15%) Distribución (10%) Muerte (9.8%)
Infographic summarizing the impact of "Infórmate. Protégete. Vacúnate".

Tags:  
- covid19-cienciaboricua [10]  
- Featured [12]

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