

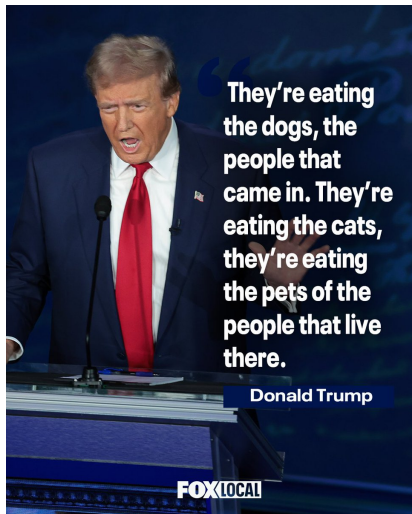
① Motivation

② Literature Review

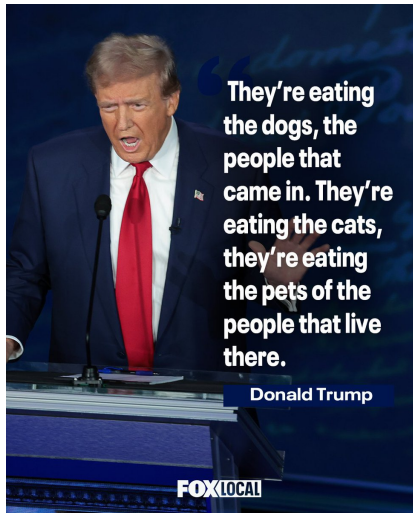
③ Data

④ Next Steps

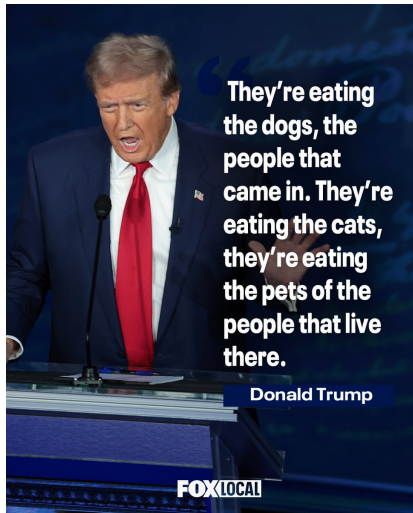
- Misinformation about immigrants dominated the 2024 election cycle



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- Yet we know comparatively little about misinformation beliefs **among** immigrants



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- Yet we know comparatively little about misinformation beliefs **among** immigrants
- We reframe immigrants as **consumers**, not just targets, of misinformation



Research Questions

Primary Questions

- 1 Do misinformation beliefs differ between voting-eligible immigrants and non-immigrants?
- 2 Does race moderate the relationship between immigrant status and misinformation belief?

Why It Matters

Understanding how misinformation and conspiracy theories influence immigrant voters has direct implications for democratic participation and electoral integrity.

What We Know: Conspiracy and Misinformation Beliefs

- Individuals learn about, evaluate, and adopt conspiracy theories through the lens of sociodemographic traits and political predispositions (Uscinski & Parent 2014; Uscinski, Klofstad, & Atkinson 2016; Enders et al. 2024)
- Partisanship, institutional distrust, and conservative ideology are among the strongest and most consistent predictors (Enders et al. 2022; Wright et al. 2025)
- Racial and ethnic minorities tend to exhibit *higher* levels of conspiracy belief than White Americans (Goertzel 1994; Crocker et al. 1999; Davis et al. 2018)
- Recent work extends this to Latino communities, finding religiosity, Spanish media consumption, and later generational status associated with higher belief (Wright et al. 2025; Cortina & Rottinghaus 2022)

The Gap

Nativity and immigrant status remain largely absent from this literature, and we do not yet know how the experience of being an immigrant shapes these beliefs.

Theoretical Framework

Two core expectations:

Information Hypothesis

Immigrants experience distinct information environments through co-ethnic media, cross-language news, political socialization, leading to different misinformation beliefs than non-immigrants

- Wright et al. (2025); Abrajano & Singh (2009)

Intergroup Hypothesis

Immigrants of color face social exclusion, stigma, and diminished institutional trust, conditions consistently linked to higher conspiracy beliefs

- Robertson et al. (2022); Soto-Vásquez & Sánchez-Santos (2022)

Data and Measures

Data: 2020 American National Election Studies (ANES)

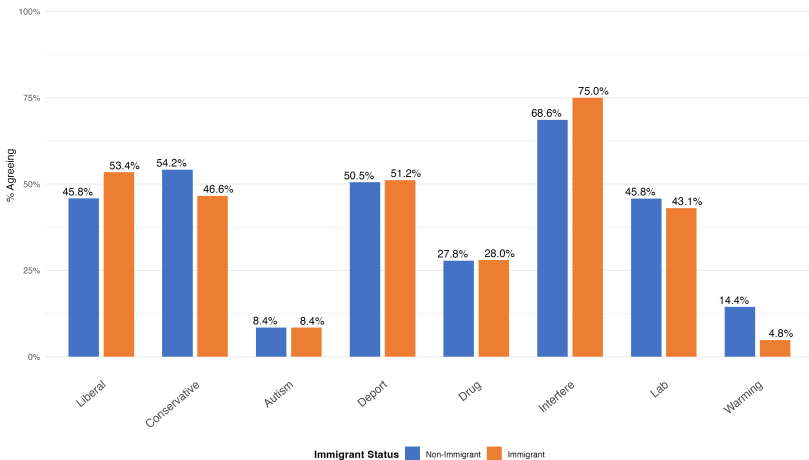
Nationally representative survey of voting-eligible U.S. population

Key variables:

- **Immigrant status:** Born outside the U.S. (binary)
- **Race:** White, Black, Latino, Asian
- **Misinformation DVs** (binary agree/disagree):
 - Global warming
 - Vaccines cause autism
 - Drug treatment
 - Coronavirus origins
 - Election interference
 - Deportation misinformation
- **Controls:** Age, education, income, partisanship, ideology, institutional trust

Figure 1: Misinformation and Political Beliefs by Immigrant Status

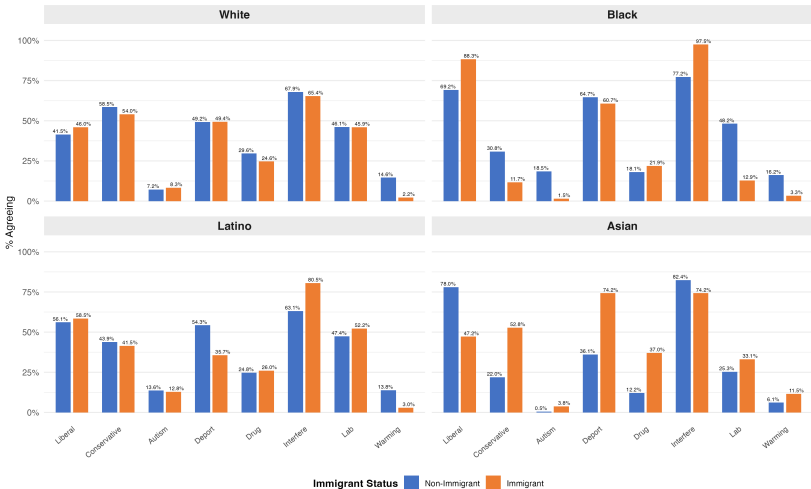
Weighted row percentages; bars show % agreeing with each statement



Source: ANES; weighted estimates

Figure 2: Misinformation and Political Beliefs by Race and Immigrant Status

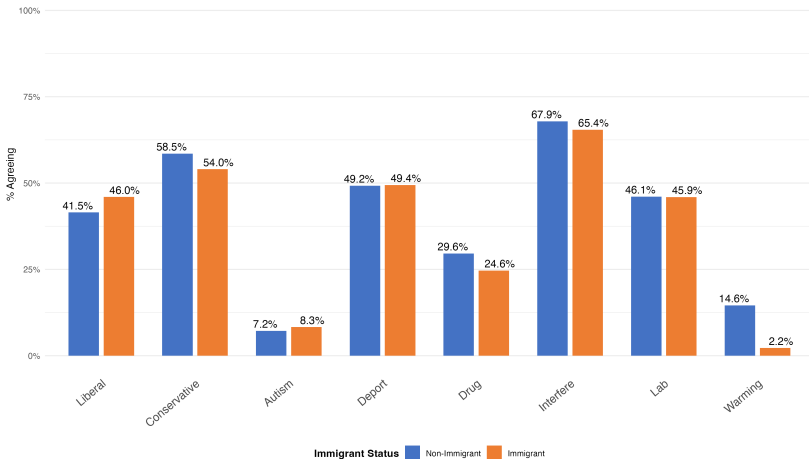
Weighted row percentages; bars show % agreeing with each statement



Source: ANES; weighted estimates

White Misinformation and Political Beliefs by Immigrant Status

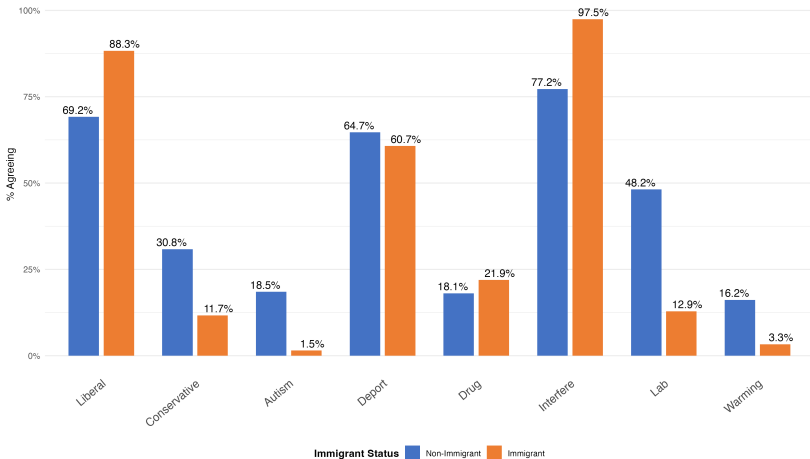
Weighted row percentages; bars show % agreeing with each statement



Source: ANES; weighted estimates

Black Misinformation and Political Beliefs by Immigrant Status

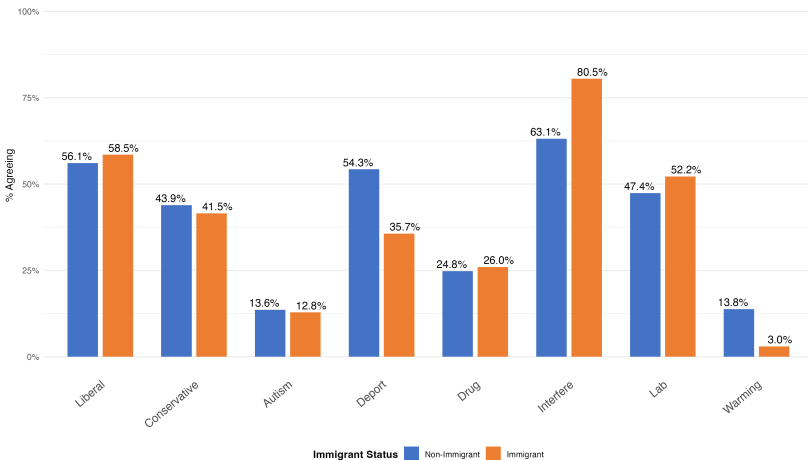
Weighted row percentages; bars show % agreeing with each statement



Source: ANES; weighted estimates

Latino Misinformation and Political Beliefs by Immigrant Status

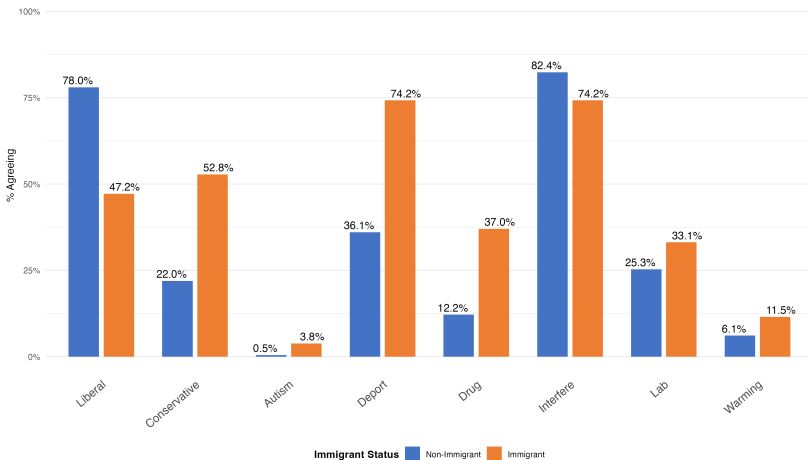
Weighted row percentages; bars show % agreeing with each statement



Source: ANES; weighted estimates

Asian Misinformation and Political Beliefs by Immigrant Status

Weighted row percentages; bars show % agreeing with each statement



Source: ANES; weighted estimates

Takeaways and Next Steps

What We Find So Far

- Immigrant status alone is not a sufficient lens for misinformation items
- Race intersects the immigrant misinformation relationship
- Results are not uniform

Planned Analyses

- OLS and logistic regression models with full covariate controls

Thank you!

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ANES Misinformation Beliefs Survey Questions

| Variable | Survey Question | Responses |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Autism | Which of these two statements do you think is most likely to be true? | *1. Most scientific evidence shows childhood vaccines cause autism 2. Most scientific evidence shows childhood vaccines do not cause autism |
| Deport | Whose administration deported more unauthorized immigrants during the first three years? | *1 - Trump 2 - Obama |
| Drug | Which of these two statements do you think is most likely to be true? | *1. Scientific evidence that hydroxy-chloroquine is a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19 2. No scientific evidence that hydroxy-chloroquine is a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19 |
| Interfere | Which of these two statements do you think is most likely to be true? | * 1. Russia tried to interfere in the 2016 presidential election 2. Russia did not try to interfere in the 2016 presidential election |
| Lab | Which of these two statements do you think is most likely to be true? | *1. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was developed intentionally in a lab 2. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was not developed intentionally in a lab |
| Warming | Which of these two statements do you think is most likely to be true? | 1. World temperatures have risen on average over the last 100 years *2. World temperatures have not risen on average over the last 100 years |

*Note: * = item coded as 1; item identified as misinformation belief*