

Case Study: Fake News in Spain (2024)

Impact of misinformation during the DANA weather event

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Content of the Fake News

- - False claims during the DANA weather event:
 - • Water supplies in Valencia were contaminated.
 - • Major dams had ruptured.
 - • Emergency numbers were overwhelmed.
- - Spread rapidly via social media platforms.

Target Group

- - Residents of Valencia and surrounding regions.
- - Older individuals relying on traditional media.
- - Younger demographics active on social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook.

Impact on the Target Group

- - Panic and mistrust:
 - • Rush to buy bottled water caused supply shortages.
 - • Confusion over emergency guidelines.
- - Disruption of public services:
 - • Authorities diverted resources to counteract fake news.
- - Erosion of trust in government communications.

Conclusion

- - Fake news during emergencies can have significant societal impacts.
- - Spanish authorities are enhancing monitoring and public awareness campaigns to combat misinformation.
- - Importance of relying on official sources for accurate information.