Spotlight on Health Misinformation

Brazil was certified measles-free in 2016, at a time when the country's vaccination rate was around 95%. But as fewer people got vaccinated in following years, they lost that status in 2019, and had reported 40,000 new cases by 2021 (Pinheiro, 2023).

There are many reasons for why some people don't get vaccinated, including pre-existing health conditions and barriers to vaccine access and affordability. One issue is misinformation about vaccines and the risks associated with them. Learn more about how vaccine misinformation has spread and affected people around the world in the stories below.
Image by Irina Werning. Argentina.

Share Your Voice

Read a story below, or another story on the Pulitzer Center website. While you explore, use the space at right to record phrases that stand out to you. Then, use those phrases as a starting point to write a poem in response to the story. Enter your poem into the Fighting Words Poetry Contest for the chance to win a cash prize and publication.

Read a Story
pulitzercenter.org/stories/battle-vaccines
pulitzercenter.org/stories/world-away-warning-ignored

Explore the Fighting Words Poetry Contest
pulitzercenter.org/poetrycontest

Spotlight on Healthy Food Access

The United Nations recognizes access to healthy food as a fundamental human right. How can science contribute to building a healthy food future?

Scientists in Uganda have grown a “super banana” that has 30 times the amount of provitamin A found in other local bananas. Vitamin A deficiency affects about 190 million preschool-age children, and this banana could save many lives.
Image by Agostino Petroni. Uganda, 2022.

Share Your Voice

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Read the Story
pulitzercenter.org/stories/super-banana-was-designed-save-lives-will-it-matter-its-orange

Explore the Fighting Words Poetry Contest
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Spotlight on Chronic and Invisible Illnesses

Illnesses that have many symptoms, some of which are hard to see and measure, can be difficult to diagnose. Long COVID is one such illness. Without a formal diagnosis, people with long COVID struggle to access treatment and disability benefits.

In this photo, Mayra Mora looks at photos from before her COVID-19 infection three years ago. Now, she can't leave home to hang out with her friends on the weekends without feeling exhausted the next day.
Image by Quetzalli Blanco. Mexico, 2023.

Share Your Voice

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Read the Story
pulitzercenter.org/stories/those-who-dont-exist

Explore the Fighting Words Poetry Contest
pulitzercenter.org/poetrycontest

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Spotlight on Gender and Income Equality in Health Care

According to the World Bank, at least 500 million people globally suffer from period poverty, meaning they lack adequate resources for menstrual hygiene.

The people in this photo are young women in Kashmir, who burst into laughter when the conversation turns to menstruation. As in many parts of the world, people in Kashmir have their own beliefs and taboos when it comes to menstruation. *Image by Shefali Rafiq. India, 2022.*

Share Your Voice

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Read the Story
pulitzercenter.org/stories/kashmirs-tribal-women-suffer-very-poor-menstrual-health-whats-blame

Explore the Fighting Words Poetry Contest
pulitzercenter.org/poetrycontest

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