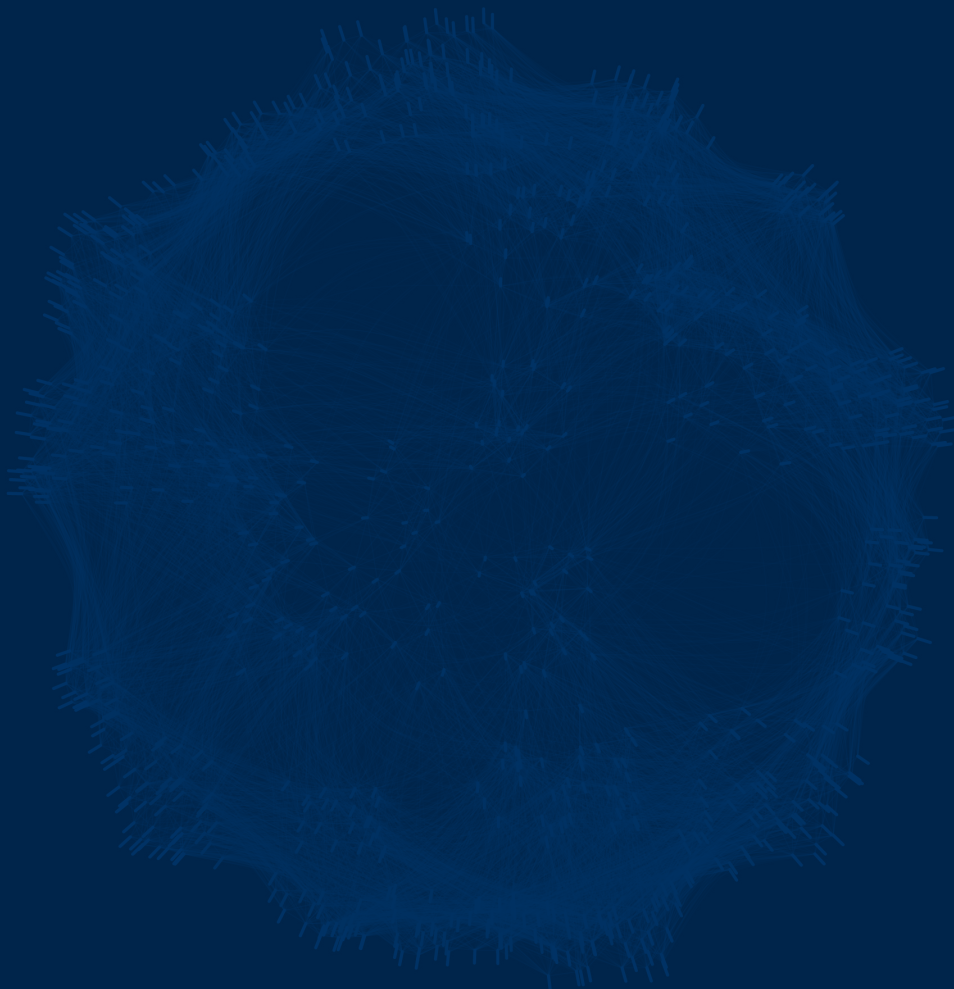


# Anatomy of a Disinformation Empire: Investigating NaturalNews



## About this paper

This report presents the findings of an extensive investigation into a network of domains connected to NaturalNews, a US-based commercial enterprise and website promoting conspiracy theories and disinformation. Using a combination of data analysis and open source intelligence (OSINT), this study examines the scale and nature of the NaturalNews network, including its reach on Facebook, its connections to and promotion of far-right and extremist ideology and its activities in relation to COVID-19 and the protests associated with the killing of George Floyd. This investigation shines a light on the endurance of coordinated disinformation networks on and off social media platforms, as well as the challenges for and remaining limitations of technological companies' responses to such threats.

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## Executive Summary

As the US has grappled with the emergence of massive social justice mobilisation around the killing of George Floyd and the simultaneous impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, disinformation has proven a constant hazard. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube played central roles in the hosting and amplifying disinformation and conspiracy theories surrounding both phenomena, with extremist groups, conspiracy movements, political entities and foreign states all playing their part to exploit the health crisis and political turmoil.<sup>1</sup>

Amid this swell of disinformation, the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) has explored a complex web of social media and website infrastructure used to create, promote, and target health and political disinformation. ISD's research analyses the nature and scale of the NaturalNews empire built by Mike Adams, a businessman connected to extremist figures including Alex Jones and the anti-government militia group known as the Oath Keepers. NaturalNews is widely acknowledged to be a prolific source of disinformation relating to both health and politics.<sup>2</sup> ISD's report examines its recent activities in relation to COVID-19 and the protests associated with the George Floyd killing, as well as its historic promotion of extremist material, conspiracy theories and health disinformation.

The complex web of infrastructure surrounding NaturalNews is vast. Its activities remain largely unchecked on social media sites, where it finds platforms to proselytise. Despite being banned from Facebook in 2019 and again in 2020, NaturalNews has continued to post on branded Facebook groups and appears linked to a network of over 400+ affiliated domains, including domains promoting extremist and violent material.<sup>3</sup> In May 2020, Facebook banned posts with links to NaturalNews.com, NewsTarget.com, and Brighteon.com, all of which appear to be owned and run by NaturalNews and its founders.

These sites were banned from the platform after using content from troll farms in Macedonia and the Philippines. But existing efforts from Twitter and Facebook to limit the presence of NaturalNews, and recent attempts to stem the spread of some of its affiliated sites, have failed to halt the ride of disinformation from the empire established by Adams over the last decade.

ISD's analysis identified over 18,000 links to NaturalNews affiliated websites that were shared in public Facebook groups and pages over a nearly three-month period at the start of 2020. These links engendered nearly 100,000 likes, over 327,000 shares, and over 33,000 comments.<sup>4</sup> The vast majority of the network's sites continue to spread unchecked on Facebook pages and groups, despite the efforts of companies to rein in NaturalNews. ISD's research demonstrates the significant infrastructure and perseverance of disinformation purveyors who seek to spread harmful and false information. It also shows the as yet unmet challenge that has been placed at the foot of social media companies to stop their platforms from providing these actors with a loudspeaker to reach hundreds of thousands of people. The reactive game of cat and mouse that companies currently rely upon to reduce the potency of such networks has proven inherently limited when dealing with vast networks of interconnected and long-established domains like NaturalNews. While the accounts, pages and groups used to host and promote the NaturalNews network have begun to disappear as researchers and companies have started to understand the scale of the NaturalNews operation online, the policies and actions of companies dealing with outbound links to known disinformation and extremist domains remain opaque and inadequate in stemming the tide. There are challenging but urgent decisions that companies must take on how to confront disinformation empires that stretch across but also far beyond their own platform borders.

<sup>1</sup> For a general discussion of health and coronavirus disinformation on these platforms, see Bellingcat's investigation: <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2020/04/03/how-coronavirus-disinformation-gets-past-social-media-moderators/>; See also NewsGuard's investigation into disinformation "super spreaders" on Twitter: <https://www.newsguardtech.com/twitter-superspreaders-europe/>; For a discussion of extremist mobilisation around coronavirus, see: <https://time.com/5810774/extremist-groups-coronavirus/>; For information about state-backed disinformation, see: <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/the-kremlin-and-disinformation-about-coronavirus/> As well as: <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/03/russia-iran-coronavirus-bioweapon/>

<sup>2</sup> Multiple reports in the last few years have documented NaturalNews' contribution to spreading health-related disinformation in the US, including the following: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/troll-farms-macedonia-philippines-pushed-coronavirus-disinformation-facebook-n1218376>; <https://www.thedailybeast.com/how-natural-news-became-a-conspiracy-hub-rivaling-infowars/>; <https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/quackery/mike-adams-building-alternate-reality-online>; and <https://www.forbes.com/sites/kavinsenapathy/2016/12/23/naturalnonsense-friends-dont-let-friends-read-natural-news/>.

<sup>3</sup> After Facebook's discovery of foreign platform manipulation, the company banned all users from posting links to NaturalNews "and its sister sites" across the entirety of the site on May 19. See also: <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/troll-farms-macedonia-philippines-pushed-coronavirus-disinformation-facebook-n1218376>

<sup>4</sup> For this research we used social media analytics tool CrowdTangle: <https://www.crowdtangle.com/>.

The platform queries all posts from Facebook that are "made by a public page, group, or (possibly) verified public person, who has ever (since 2014) had more than 110,000 likes, OR has ever been added to a CrowdTangle list by anyone, AND are posted without the poster aiming at a particular audience using Facebook targeting and gating tools (eg. age-gating for alcohol pages, geo-gating if the content has country rights restrictions, targeting to women, etc.). There are no explicit restrictions on language or country." More information is available at <https://help.crowdtangle.com/en/articles/3213537-crowdtangle-codebook>.

In this instance, we queried the CrowdTangle API for posts from public Facebook groups and pages containing links to NaturalNews.com or any of its 56 affiliated domains identified by NewsGuard. The search was limited to posts from January 1 – March 25, 2020.



## Key Findings

- ISD's investigation has identified a collection of 496 active and inactive domains which appear to be linked to NaturalNews and its founders. These are used to host violent and extremist material, as well as health disinformation and conspiracy theories:**  
 To our knowledge, this collection of domains has been registered as far back as 1996, with a peak in the volume of registrations occurring in 2015. This network appears to have been set up by four domain registrants with names matching those of NaturalNews' online assets or associated corporate entities – Webseed, Healthranger, Truth Publishing International Ltd., and Truthpublishing.
- Despite being banned from Facebook in 2019 and again in 2020, following research published by Avaaz, NaturalNews and its affiliated domains are used to share disinformation across the platform on a variety of topics including COVID-19 and the George Floyd protests:**  
 ISD found a total of 18,032 links to NaturalNews-affiliated websites that were shared in public Facebook groups and pages between 1 January-25 March 2020.
- The posts containing links to NaturalNews-affiliated domains generated a large number of interactions on Facebook:** From 1 January-25 March 2020, we measured a total of 562,193 interactions on posts containing links from NaturalNews-affiliated domains. This includes: 109,862 likes, 327,841 shares, and 33,725 comments. The websites connected to NaturalNews continue to receive hundreds of thousands of interactions on public Facebook pages and groups alone, despite Facebook's removal of the NaturalNews page in June 2019 and banning of outbound links to the NaturalNews site in May 2020.
- Mike Adams – the founder of NaturalNews – also owns websites promoting right-wing, hyper-partisan content and conspiracy theories:** Adams has expanded his network of websites to include domains promoting violent and extremist content, as well as conspiracy theories unrelated to health. This content appears to be aimed at individuals engaged with anti-government, militia, and "prepper" ideologies. NaturalNews content shared on Facebook may be acting as a gateway into this network of extremist websites and narratives.
- The groups and pages sharing the NaturalNews network content have varied ideological backgrounds and are not limited to right-wing extremism:** ISD found evidence that 27 Black Panther<sup>5</sup> affiliated pages from around the world shared the same link to a story hosted on dangerousmedicine.com, claiming to expose a governmental conspiracy to kidnap children for medical experiments. We found that the administrator of these pages used a posting app to share the same content with regional and specialist Facebook pages belonging to the Black Panthers. It is also important to note that the New Black Panther Party is recognised as an extremist organisation by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).
- The corporate assets of NaturalNews and its founders appear to be substantial:** ISD's research identified 21 current and historical entities linked to NaturalNews and its founders, incorporated back as far as January 1990 and as recently as February 2018. The majority of these companies are domiciled in domestic tax havens such as Wyoming, Delaware, Texas, and Nevada. None of the registered addresses listed on official corporate documentation for these 21 companies appears to link back to a brick-and-mortar office, retail location, or warehouse.

<sup>5</sup> The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense (BPP) was founded in 1966 in Oakland, California, by students Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. It was a revolutionary organization blending black nationalism, socialism, and armed self-defense. The New Black Panther Party (NBPP) is a black nationalist organization founded in 1989 in Dallas, Texas. It is not an official successor to the BPP.

## Glossary

**Conspiracy Theory:** US political scientist and academic Joseph Uscinski defines conspiracy theories as an: “explanation of past, ongoing, or future events or circumstances that cites as a main causal factor a small group of powerful persons [...] acting in secret for their own benefit and against the common good”.

**Disinformation:** In line with Wardle and Derakshan, ISD defines disinformation as false information that is deliberately created or disseminated with the express purpose to cause harm. Producers of disinformation typically have political, financial, psychological or social motivations.<sup>6</sup>

**Extremism:** ISD defines extremism as “the advocacy of a system of belief that posits the superiority and dominance of one ‘in-group’ over all ‘out-groups’, propagating a dehumanising ‘othering’ mindset that is antithetical to the universal application of human rights. Extremist groups advocate, through explicit and more subtle means, a systemic change in society that reflects their world view.”

**Fact-Checking:** Using non-profit tackling misinformation First Draft’s definition, ISD characterises fact-checking as: “the process of determining the truthfulness and accuracy of official, published information such as politicians’ statements and news reports”.<sup>7</sup>

**Far Right:** In line with Dutch political scientist and far-right expert Cas Mudde, ISD defines the far right as groups and individuals exhibiting at least three of the following five features: nationalism, racism, xenophobia, antidemocracy or strong state advocacy.

**Domestic Tax Havens:** In line with the Tax Justice Network’s Financial Secrecy Index 2020, ISD’s use of the term ‘domestic tax havens’ in this report refers to US states which are subject to low corporate income tax rates, high levels of financial secrecy, and/or lax regulations for setting up shell companies.

<sup>6</sup> Council of Europe, Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making (2017), <https://rm.coe.int/information-disorder-toward-an-interdisciplinary-framework-for-research/168076277c>

<sup>7</sup> Medium, Information disorder, part 1: the essential glossary (9 July 2018), <https://medium.com/1st-draft/information-disorder-part-1-the-essential-glossary-19953c544fe3>.

## Background

ISD's digital analysis unit researches to understand the nature, scale, and perpetrators behind the proliferation of disinformation and weaponised hate online using data analytics, open-source intelligence (OSINT), and ethnographic research. In the initial weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, ISD began an investigation into a network of websites hosting apparent health misinformation and extremist content, the focal point of which appears to be a prominent pseudoscience site, [naturalnews.com](https://www.naturalnews.com).<sup>8</sup> NaturalNews has generated a previous discussion among disinformation researchers, having recently been recognised as a prolific peddler of health disinformation and both medical and non-medical conspiracy theories.

A March 2020 investigation by website ranking tool NewsGuard<sup>9</sup> recognised NaturalNews and its affiliates as a central player in the promotion of health disinformation around COVID-19 in the US, listing 56 domains connected to the organisation. ISD used data analytics and OSINT to better understand the scale and level of engagement of this network of sites on social media and the wider web. During this initial investigation, ISD researchers noted links to domains sharing NaturalNews-affiliated content that was not included in the NewsGuard list. This has become a continuing thread of research both at ISD and elsewhere. Most recently, in May 2020, NBC News reported on new research done by Avaaz into the suspicious activity of the Facebook groups and pages most active in posing NaturalNews content.<sup>10</sup> ISD's investigations into the NaturalNews network have been constantly evolving to respond to these new developments.

NaturalNews claims to be a "science-based natural health advocacy organisation" that promotes alternative medicine and exposes "science gone

bad."<sup>11</sup> NaturalNews' primary website, [naturalnews.com](https://www.naturalnews.com), lists the following as examples of subjects the organisation covers: the Agent Orange and Thalidomide chemicals, and "the presence of hidden cancer viruses in polio vaccines."<sup>12</sup> Among the testimonials for NaturalNews and its founder are two quotes from radio show InfoWars host Jones.<sup>13</sup> The website was first created in 2003 under the name NewsTarget, a domain that still exists and appears to post articles identical to those shared on NaturalNews.<sup>14</sup>

In June 2019, Facebook reportedly removed NaturalNews' primary page from its platform.<sup>15</sup> NaturalNews had also been removed from Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Google News and Apple, before Facebook's decision.<sup>16</sup> At the time of its removal, NaturalNews' primary Facebook page had more than 3 million followers.<sup>17</sup> The takedown followed the publishing of a Daily Beast article outlining NaturalNews' transition from creating apparent health-related content to conspiracy theories that are commonly engaged with by far-right actors. Facebook officially cited "spam" as the reason for the page's removal.<sup>18</sup> This caused both Adams and Jones to liken Mark Zuckerberg and the other owners of large social media platforms to Hitler, Stalin, and other dictators.<sup>19</sup>

In late May 2020, Facebook banned posts with links to [NaturalNews.com](https://www.naturalnews.com), [NewsTarget.com](https://www.newstarget.com), and [Brighteon.com](https://www.brighteon.com), all of which appear to be owned and run by NaturalNews and its founders.<sup>20</sup> This second and more widespread ban of NaturalNews-related content came after Facebook found that pages posting links to these three websites were exhibiting "spammy and abusive behaviour" and "relied on content farms in Macedonia and the Philippines".<sup>21</sup>

8 ISD defines extremism as: "the advocacy of a system of belief that posits the superiority and dominance of one 'in-group' over all 'out-groups', propagating a dehumanising 'othering' mindset that is antithetical to the universal application of human rights". See Glossary for the full definition.

9 NewsGuard is a browser extension created by NewsGuard Technologies, which label online news sources according to their level of trustworthiness.

10 NBC News, Troll farms from North Macedonia and the Philippines pushed coronavirus disinformation on Facebook (29 May 2020), <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/troll-farms-macedonia-philippines-pushed-coronavirus-disinformation-facebook-n1218376>.

11 NaturalNews, <https://www.naturalnews.com/About.html>

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

14 NewsGuard, <https://www.newsguardtech.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NaturalNews.com-label.pdf>

15 The Daily Beast, Facebook removes conspiracy site NaturalNews (20 January 2020), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/facebook-removes-conspiracy-site-natural-news>.

16 Advance Local, Facebook removes health conspiracy site NaturalNews (10 June 2019), <https://www.al.com/news/2019/06/facebook-removes-health-conspiracy-site-natural-news.html>.

17 The Daily Beast, Facebook removes conspiracy site NaturalNews (20 January 2020), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/facebook-removes-conspiracy-site-natural-news>.

18 Gizmodo, Facebook says NaturalNews got banned for spam, not for spreading health misinformation and hate (6 November 2019), <https://gizmodo.com/facebook-says-natural-news-got-banned-for-spam-not-for-1835404239>.

19 InfoWars, Facebook bans NaturalNews — health ranger responds with message for humanity (9 June 2019), <https://www.infowars.com/facebook-bans-natural-news-health-ranger-responds-with-message-for-humanity/>.

20 NBC News, Troll farms from North Macedonia and the Philippines pushed coronavirus disinformation on Facebook (29 May 2020), <https://www.nbcnews.com/tech/tech-news/troll-farms-macedonia-philippines-pushed-coronavirus-disinformation-facebook-n1218376>.

21 Ibid.

ISD investigated these international links while analysing how NaturalNews content is shared on Facebook by public groups and pages hosted around the world (see page 16 of this report). Researchers at Avaaz, quoted in a recent NBC article referencing the ban, explained NaturalNews had navigated the initial June 2019 ban “by utilising an entire universe of pages... pushing disinformation”.<sup>22</sup> Facebook has since removed what ISD assesses were the most active pages posting links to NaturalNews, all of which used official NaturalNews-branded cover photos (see Fig. 5 on page 9 of this report).

The removal of the pages associated with NaturalNews will help to diminish the number of links shared on the platform, however, Facebook has only responded to the tip of the iceberg. ISD researchers performed a sense check on the ban of the sharing of NaturalNews links by attempting to post various articles from NaturalNews on a proxy Facebook account’s newsfeed. While links directly from the three banned sites are blocked, it is still possible to post links to NaturalNews content through third-party news applications like newsbreak.com. Moreover, many of what appear to be the most active Facebook public groups and pages sharing links to NaturalNews content and related domains remain active. The findings below suggest the existence of a vast network of NaturalNews-affiliated domains. This sizeable online empire makes it possible for the voice of NaturalNews and its founder to continue to be present on the platform.

ISD’s investigation is comprised of two parts: the first is an initial analysis of 56 NaturalNews-affiliated domains, which were publicly identified by the internet trust tool NewsGuard for spreading disinformation about COVID-19 on public Facebook pages. This work was undertaken to analyse the extent of NaturalNews’ impact on and infiltration into Facebook audiences despite its page being banned from the platform in June 2019. ISD intended to explore the scale and nature of NaturalNews’ presence on Facebook, as well as how it has avoided its ban on the platform over the past year.

Relying on OSINT collection and analysis, the second part of ISD’s investigation sought to understand the scale of NaturalNews’ online presence and its business assets. This included identifying and analysing what appears to be a network of more than 400 domains linked to NaturalNews and its founders, some of which appear to promote extremist content and disinformation. Concurrently, ISD conducted business intelligence research focused on mapping out US-based corporate entities which appear to be linked to NaturalNews and its founders. This research identified 21 current and historical entities linked to NaturalNews and Mike and Sheh Adams, incorporated as back as far as January 1990 and as recently as February 2018.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

# Scope, Methodology, and Limitations

## Part 1: Analysis of NaturalNews' presence on Facebook

For our initial investigation, ISD conducted the following English-language research procedures and analyses:

1. We queried the CrowdTangle API for posts from public Facebook groups and pages containing links to naturalnews.com or any of its 56 affiliated domains identified by NewsGuard (see Appendix). The search was limited to posts from 1 January-25 March 2020.
2. Any additional, publicly available information from Facebook – page/group creation date, location of page/group administrators etc – was collected through manual, ethnographic research.
3. Using the data collected in steps 1 and 2 above, ISD analysts calculated the sharing patterns of NaturalNews links on Facebook throughout our period of analysis, including the volume of posts over time, the most frequently shared links, the most active Facebook groups/pages sharing NaturalNews sources and the interactions data for each post. This was done by aggregating the number of likes, shares, comments and reactions (“love”, “favourite”, “haha”, “wow”, “angry”, “sad”, “thankful”) received by each post.
4. Once the most frequently shared links had been identified, we assessed the validity of claims made in each article. This was done to gain a detailed understanding of the content shared by NaturalNews-affiliated domains, as well as to fact-check these links. Fact-checking of claims made in NaturalNews articles relied on a review of research produced by professional fact-checking organisations including Full Fact, Snopes, and AFP (Agence France-Presse).

5. After the completion of the below-detailed OSINT procedures, during the week of 1-7 June 2020, ISD researchers assessed Facebook sharing patterns of links related to a broader network of 496 domains which appear to be linked to NaturalNews. For consistency, ISD used CrowdTangle to search for Facebook posts containing the additional 496 domains over the same period as the original investigation, 1 January-25 March 2020. The objective of this exercise was to develop a clearer understanding of the extent to which potential NaturalNews-affiliated domains are shared on Facebook, highlighting lesser-known and less active domains which may be assisting NaturalNews in evading moderator detection following Facebook's 2019 and 2020 bans of NaturalNews content.

Our initial investigation was subject to the following limitations:

6. While data collected from CrowdTangle enabled ISD to analyse engagement as noted above, it should also be noted that our analysis may not constitute the totality of user engagement on the platform with a given piece of content. CrowdTangle only includes data from public pages and groups, and only for posts made by their administrators. Any accounts, pages or groups that have privacy settings enabled or any type of gating (i.e. age-gating or geo-gating) cannot be added to the database, nor is any individual user-level data included in this analysis.



## Part 2 – OSINT Investigation into the NaturalNews network

For the second part of our investigation, which took place from 27 April-29 May 2020, ISD conducted the following English-language research procedures and analyses:

1. We conducted an open-source review of online media to identify historical articles and existing research referencing NaturalNews and its founder Adams. Searches were conducted using major search engines.<sup>23</sup>
2. We conducted searches of third-party domain registries and WHOIS lookups using the names of NaturalNews-related entities as registrant name search terms.<sup>24</sup> The registrant names ISD searched included: Webseed, Healthranger, Truth Publishing International Ltd., and Truthpublishing. These registrant names were selected based on previous research conducted by the Genetic Literacy Project (GLP) in NaturalNews.<sup>25</sup> GLP is a US-based non-profit organisation focused on promoting scientific literacy and advocating for transparency in scientific research.<sup>26</sup>
3. We conducted open-source business intelligence research using the same major search engines noted in step 1, as well as searches of third-party companies' databases.<sup>27</sup> Based on results from the search engines and databases, entity name searches were then conducted in the official corporate registries of the US states of Wyoming, Texas, Nevada, Arizona, New York, and Delaware.<sup>28</sup>
4. Reverse address searches via the aforementioned major search engines were conducted using the addresses of entities identified in the above official corporate registries. The focus of these searches was

to identify additional entities domiciled at the same locations which may be related to NaturalNews. Google Earth Pro and Google Streetview were then used (where possible) to determine if the addresses searched were linked to brick-and-mortar offices, retail locations, or warehouses.<sup>29 30</sup>

5. Business intelligence findings were then visualised using Maltego CE/CaseFile, a free version of the link analysis software Maltego.<sup>31</sup> This visualisation allowed ISD analysts to more efficiently search for overlap between apparent NaturalNews-affiliated corporate entities' officers, directors, registered agents, shareholders, and addresses.<sup>32</sup>

The second part of our investigation was subject to the following limitations:

6. ISD's OSINT research relied only on publicly available information. Access to information is limited by the privacy settings of each page, site, domain, network, or database. For example, paywalled search engines, news media sources, domain registries, WHOIS lookups, or corporate databases were not accessible to ISD except where otherwise explicitly noted.
7. ISD's research was conducted on a point-in-time basis and based on identifying information developed by ISD. As such, the results should not be considered comprehensive.
8. For content in languages other than English, ISD's review and analysis depended on machine translation provided by each of the tools used (e.g. Google Translate). We assume no responsibility for the accuracy of such translations.

23 <https://www.google.com>; <https://www.bing.com>; <https://search.yahoo.com/web/advanced>; <https://yandex.com>; and <https://duckduckgo.com>.

24 <https://viewdns.info/>; <http://whois.domaintools.com/>; <https://dnslytics.com/>; and <https://builtwith.com/>.

25 Genetic Literacy Project, <https://geneticliteracyproject.org/glp-facts/mike-adams-natural-news-everyones-favorite-uber-quack-1-anti-science-website/>.

26 Ibid, <https://geneticliteracyproject.org/mission-financials-governorship/>.

27 <https://opencorporates.com>; <https://aleph.occrp.org>; <https://www.corporationwiki.com>; and <https://www.zoominfo.com/companies-search/location-usa>.

28 <https://wyobiz.wyo.gov/Business/FilingSearch.aspx>; <https://mycpa.cpa.state.tx.us/coa/>; <https://esos.nv.gov/EntitySearch/OnlineEntitySearch>; <https://ecorp.azcc.gov/EntitySearch/Index>; [https://www.dos.ny.gov/corps/bus\\_entity\\_search.html](https://www.dos.ny.gov/corps/bus_entity_search.html); and <https://icis.corp.delaware.gov/ecorp/entitysearch/namesearch.aspx>.

29 Google Earth, <https://www.google.com/earth/versions>.

30 Google Maps, <https://www.google.ca/streetview/>.

31 Maltego, <https://www.maltego.com/products/>.

32 It should be noted that in many US states corporate entities are not required to disclose details related to shareholder structure, including but not limited to the date of share purchases/sales/transfers, the names or other personally identifiable details of shareholders, shareholding percentages, or total number of shares.



## Part 1: Analysis of NaturalNews' presence on Facebook

### Scale of the NaturalNews network on Facebook

From 1 January-25 March 2020, there were a total of 17,344 links to the 56 NaturalNews-affiliated sites identified by NewsGuard, shared on public Facebook groups and pages.

### Post volume over time

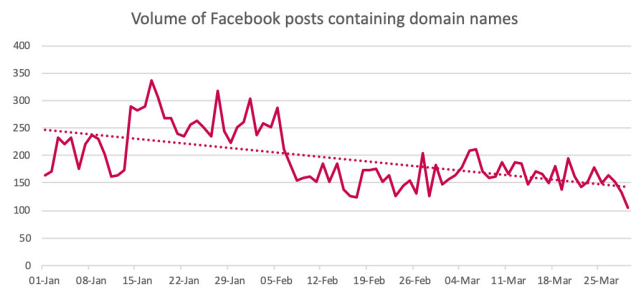
Facebook posts with links to these NaturalNews sites have decreased slightly since mid-January, the month with the most links – 7,399. February saw the second-highest amount – 5,177, followed by March – 4,768.

The day with the single most posts containing NaturalNews-affiliated links was 17 January, totalling 337. The most shared link on this day was a story from naturalnews.com entitled, "BREAKING: Democrats conspiring to stage false flag bloodshed on January 2020 in Virginia – 'Charlottesville 2.0' – in order to ignite a civil war and mass chaos".<sup>33</sup> Despite having nothing to do with natural or alternative health, the author of the story is "Health Ranger" (aka Adams). The content of this article and its false claims are discussed in detail in the appendices, under fact-checking. The story was shared 90 times on 17 January by 81 different Facebook groups and pages.

### Interactions over time

ISD measured the volume of interaction for the domains in our dataset (see Appendix), including the number of likes, shares, and comments, as well as reactions like sad, angry, and love, generated by each. These numbers help us to understand how Facebook users engaged with the content produced by the domains in the NaturalNews network. A high number of likes, shares, and comments suggests that users were not only exposed to these links, but also that they were interested enough to react, comment on, or share these with their network of Facebook friends. The intent of that sharing or reaction cannot be determined through quantitative research.

The links to the 56 NaturalNews-affiliated domains in our data received a combined total of 109,862 likes, 327,841 shares, and 33,725 comments. naturalnews.com and newstarget.com, the two most linked to domains in the NewsGuard list, received 65,836 and 42,328 likes respectively.



**Fig. 1.** Mentions of naturalnews.com and the 56 affiliate domain names by public Facebook pages or groups.

<sup>33</sup> NaturalNews, BREAKING: Democrats conspiring to stage false flag bloodshed on Jan. 20th in Virginia – "Charlottesville 2.0" – in order to ignite a civil war and mass chaos (16 January 2020), <https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-01-16-democrats-conspiring-to-stage-false-flag-bloodshed-charlottesville-2-virginia.html>.

Domain	Likes	Shares	Comments	Reactions	Total Interactions
naturalnews.com	65,836	203,113	20,612	38,535	328,096
newstarget.com	42,328	122,038	12,524	29,616	206,506
science.news	673	1,116	273	120	2,182
vaccines.news	256	587	92	311	1,246
herbs.news	455	497	9	49	1,010
pandemic.news	109	117	74	96	396
outbreak.news	56	84	29	46	215
medicine.news	47	71	30	44	203
eugenics.news	49	92	21	40	202
vaccinedamage.news	19	55	37	90	201
vaccineinjurynews.com	20	64	10	19	113
tyranny.news	0	0	11	5	16
factcheck.news	1	6	2	2	11
cdc.news	7	0	1	0	8
extinction.news	2	0	0	1	3
shtf.news	3	0	0	0	3
naturalcures.news	1	1	0	0	2
depopulation.news	0	0	0	0	0
health.news	0	0	0	0	0
scienceclowns.com	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,862</b>	<b>327,841</b>	<b>33,725</b>	<b>68,974</b>	<b>540,413</b>

\*Reactions include: sad, favourite, haha, love, wow, angry.

**Table 1.** Interactions with NaturalNews-affiliated domains.

## Content of NaturalNews network on Facebook

Throughout the monitoring period, the most linked to domain in the NaturalNews network with 10,931 posts was naturalnews.com itself, followed by newstarget.com with 4,256. Each of the 10 most shared articles come from these two domains (see Table 2). The following section discusses the general themes found in the 10 most-shared articles from NaturalNews domains; also ISD researchers performed a fact-check on each source, using independent fact-checking sites (see Appendix).

Posts	Domain	Date Published	Article Headline	Interactions
241	NaturalNews	12/07/2019	Climate change hoax COLLAPSES as new science finds human activity has virtually zero impact on global temperatures	100,558
154	News Target	28/11/2016	The disturbing history of George Soros that every American should know	31,293
120	NaturalNews	16/01/2020	BREAKING: Democrats conspiring to stage false flag bloodshed on Jan. 20th in Virginia – “Charlottesville 2.0” – in order to ignite a civil war and mass chaos	2,526
115	News Target	06/05/2018	Homeschooling skyrockets as more parents get fed up with Left-wing social engineering and violence in public schools	52,830
75	NaturalNews	02/13/2019	VACCINE BOMBSHELL as U.N. health experts admit toxic vaccine ingredients are harming children worldwide – see video, transcript	2,819
69	NaturalNews	03/12/2019	5G radiation causes BEHAVIOR changes in humans, causes ion potentiation poisoning of brain cells, leading to mass insanity	3,689
66	NaturalNews	03/01/2020	Brighteon Films posts new 5G mini-documentary that warns humanity about the imminent danger of 5G cell towers	563
65	NaturalNews	02/02/2020	New evidence emerges: Coronavirus “bioweapon” might have been a Chinese vaccine experiment gone wrong... genes contain “pShuttle-SN” sequences, proving laboratory origin	480
65	NaturalNews	02/01/2020	UN hiring “disarmament officers” to conduct “field missions” in New York as UN occupation plan for America goes LIVE	2,365
64	NaturalNews	24/01/2020	New science proves that vaccines SPREAD infectious disease, causing up to 15 times MORE infections among fully vaccinated children	4

**Table 2.** Most shared stories from NaturalNews-affiliated domains.

According to the headlines, five of the top 10 stories from the 56 NaturalNews-affiliated domains are related to health. This includes the only story about COVID-19, which was the eight most shared link in our data. The article, from NaturalNews, suggests that the novel coronavirus originated from a Chinese “vaccine experiment” (see Fig. 2). Here, NaturalNews alleges COVID-19 is the result of human experimentation with viruses and vaccines and that this fact is being silenced by a larger conspiracy within the scientific community, which “murders” individuals who deviate from their established narratives. According to NaturalNews, this conspiracy also includes big tech companies that ban sources claiming to expose these so-called “truths”. The article also references a common anti-vaccine conspiracy trope, indicating: “being vaccinated with this particular strain of coronavirus causes individuals to be more easily killed by the common cold and other non-pandemic coronavirus strains that are circulating in the wild”.<sup>34</sup>

<sup>34</sup> NaturalNews, Irrefutable: The coronavirus was engineered by scientists in a lab using well documented genetic engineering vectors that leave behind a “fingerprint” (3 February 2020), <https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-02-03-the-coronavirus-was-engineered-by-scientists-in-a-lab.html>.

**Tech giants now working over time to cover it all up, censor all dissenting views, and reinforce communist China's official lies**

As expected, the [evil tech giants](#) are working overtime to squelch any dissenting views and protect the vaccine industry as well as the bioweapons industry. No blame can be allowed to fall on either one. Instead, Mother Nature must be blamed for all this. And that means **the truth must be silenced**... a strategy that is, of course, routine for the vaccine industry.

**Fig. 2.** Exert from NaturalNews article published 02/02/2020 containing Coronavirus origin conspiracy theories

The remaining health-focused articles include two that claim to prove the harm caused by vaccines and two others that discuss the impacts of 5G wireless technology on human physical and mental health. While half of the most-shared articles engage with health-related disinformation and conspiracy theories, the five remaining stories – including the four most shared articles – go beyond this, speaking to narratives commonly shared by far-right actors.

The most-shared story in our data is about climate change, arguing that “human activity has virtually zero impact on global temperatures.”<sup>35</sup> The second most-shared story focuses on demonising the billionaire philanthropist George Soros, speaking to a common trope in far-right conspiracy theories across Europe and the US.<sup>36</sup> The story claims that Soros invested in the development of a Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-patented strain of Ebola.<sup>37</sup> Similarly, the third and fourth most popular stories highlight a series of alleged plots orchestrated by “the Left” or the US Democratic Party, claiming that it provokes violence to achieve its goals. For example, the third most-shared story engages with many far-right tropes, including Antifa (US anti-fascist political movement) violence and the idea that the left-controlled “mainstream media” promotes “fake news”. The final paragraph of the article declares that “the time has come to stand up against tyranny and defeat it,” while reminding Americans of their rights as laid out in the Second Amendment (See Fig. 3. and 4.).

**Prepare for WAR: The Democrats are launching all-out attacks on America and all those who try to defend her**

Prepare for Democrats to initiate WAR! The Democrats have already declared their intentions against America and its citizens. Democrats are lawless, dangerous, criminal-minded lunatics and terrorists who abuse their power to destroy the liberties and civil rights upon which America was founded.

**Fig. 3.** Exert from NaturalNews article published 16/01/2020 containing allegations against the US Democrats

**The time has come to stand up against tyranny and defeat it.** No wonder Northam is demanding a ban on firearms, since the citizens of Virginia have every right to invoke the Second Amendment to defend their lives, their families and their state against the lawless tyranny that Northam is attempting to bring down upon innocent people who have violated no law.

**Fig. 4.** Second exert from NaturalNews article published 16/01/2020, calling for action against the Democrats and their supporters

35 NaturalNews, Climate change hoax collapses as new science finds human activity has virtually zero impact on global temperatures (12 July 2019), <https://www.naturalnews.com/2019-07-12-climate-change-hoax-collapses-new-science-cloud-cover.html>.

36 See ISD' investigation George Soros conspiracy theories for BuzzFeed: <https://www.isdglobal.org/isd-contributes-george-soros-conspiracy-theories-research-for-buzzfeed-news/>.

37 News Target, The disturbing history of George Soros that every American should know (28 November 2016), [https://www.newstarget.com/2016-11-28-the-disturbing-history-of-george-soros-that-every-american-should-know.html?fbclid=IwAR0ND8rcGPU65NCTypDVXmh5mLqAC\\_HtizvKsDmb94\\_AH6TDTQISKfjYVka](https://www.newstarget.com/2016-11-28-the-disturbing-history-of-george-soros-that-every-american-should-know.html?fbclid=IwAR0ND8rcGPU65NCTypDVXmh5mLqAC_HtizvKsDmb94_AH6TDTQISKfjYVka).

## Sharing Patterns of the NaturalNews network on Facebook

We identified 15 Facebook groups and pages – seven public pages and eight public groups – which shared links to NaturalNews-affiliated domains more than 50 times in the period of the study. These 15 groups and pages shared a combined total of 9,097 links and account for 52% of the links shared during our period of analysis. Similar to the content of the most-shared stories, the top 15 active groups/pages include both health-focused and those dedicated to the discussion of broader and far-right conspiracy theories. Eight of the top 15 groups/pages identify as being health-related, with a specific focus on alternative health. The remaining most active groups/pages are associated with various conspiracy theories pushed by the conservative radio personality Rush Limbaugh, the Manila Central University and other internationally-based groups outside of the US (see Table 3).

# of shares	Group/ Page	Name
2,167	Page	No Fluoride **
2,014	Page	GMO Dangers **
1,668	Page	newstarget.com **
1,567	Page	Manila Central University Graduates **
903	Page	Amazing Cures **
128	Page	Toxic Food
94	Public Group	Agenda 21: Depopulation, Monsanto, Chemtrails and Vaccines (by N.T.O)
93	Public Group	DR. MEHMET OZ
76	Public Group	HQ Healing
75	Public Group	Orgiva Massive
67	Page	Health Liberty
66	Public Group	Lopunajat toteutuu
65	Public Group	You Cant Handle These Truths
61	Public Group	CORONA VIRUS COVID19 News Group <sup>+</sup>
53	Public Group	The Official Rush Limbaugh Facebook Group

\*\* these pages were unable to be accessed by ISD as of 27/05/2020 <sup>+</sup>as of 09/05/2020 this group changed from public to private and was renamed "C the OVID SEE SHEEP"

**Table 3.** 15 most active sharers of NaturalNews-affiliated links.

The page that recorded the highest number of shares of NaturalNews-affiliated domains was No Fluoride with 2,167 links, followed by GMO Dangers with 2,014. Three of the top five most active pages – No Fluoride, GMO Dangers, and Amazing Cures – appear to be associated with NaturalNews, as suggested by their use of a NaturalNews banner photo, (see Fig. 5. below). All of these pages remained active for 10 months after the NaturalNews page was banned from Facebook's platform, but they began to be removed as of 21 May 2020. ISD's research into these pages was conducted from 1 January-25 March 2020, before their removal.



**Fig. 5.** Facebook pages using NaturalNews banners.

A detailed review of these pages indicates further connections to the website and its founder. All three contain links to the website [consumerwellness.org](https://consumerwellness.org), a non-profit organisation run by Adams.<sup>38</sup> Similarly, the “Shop Now” button on each page links to [healthrangerstore.com](https://www.healthrangerstore.com). While [healthrangerstore.com](https://www.healthrangerstore.com) does not explicitly mention Adams, the website’s “About Us” page indicates NaturalNews opened the Health Ranger Store in 2012 and Adams commonly goes by the name of Health Ranger.<sup>39</sup>

While they were active, the three Facebook pages using NaturalNews banner photos had a high volume of likes and followers, meaning content posted on these pages had the potential to reach a large audience.

Page	Followers	Likes
GMO Dangers	344,425	349,717
No Fluoride	93,694	93,694
Amazing Cures	291,965	288,088

**Table 4.** Numbers taken from publicly available information before pages are removed.

38 Consumer Wellness Center, <https://consumerwellness.org/Board.html>.  
39 Health Ranger Store, <https://www.healthrangerstore.com/>.



## International networks around NaturalNews on Facebook

Four of the most active groups/pages list their location as being outside the US and in countries where English is not an official language. We reviewed these groups/pages to find out their connection to the English-language content produced by NaturalNews and its affiliated domains.

### Manila Central University Graduates

As noted on page 13, the fourth most active page linking to NaturalNews content was a page set up in May 2015, titled “Manila Central University Graduates.” This page appears to have been removed within the same time as the above-mentioned pages (Table 4). The research was conducted into this page during April 2020. At the time of writing, this page has 326 likes and no page administrators or moderators listed. However, our review of the page identified a pair of Facebook accounts tagged in the page’s profile picture.<sup>40</sup> Both accounts feature a series of blurry, unfocused photos, with one having posted the Manila Central University logo multiple times. One of the two accounts claim to work at a Tokyo-based veterinary clinic specialising in felines. While the page does include a link to Manila Central University’s official website, before its removal from Facebook many of its recent posts appeared to be linked to stories by NaturalNews and do not discuss the university or its students.<sup>41</sup>



**Fig. 6.** Screenshot of Manila Central University Graduates Facebook page.



**Fig. 7 (left) and Fig. 8 (right)** Screenshots of post about COVID-19 by the Manila Central University page

<sup>40</sup> We have not included the usernames of either of these accounts in the interest of preserving user privacy.

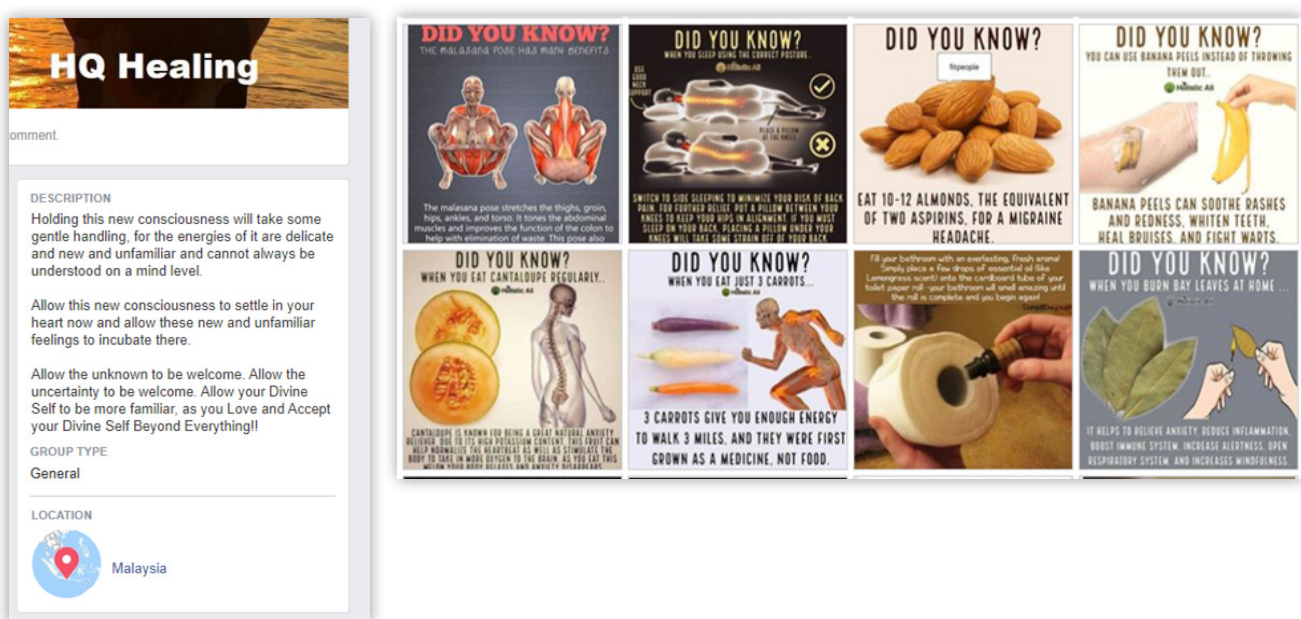
<sup>41</sup> We have not been able to determine the exact date of this page’s removal. However, it appears to have occurred before this part of our investigation, which took place between 1 January-25 March 2020.

The page hosts a variety of content, some of which is being pulled in automatically using the freeware program If This Then That (IFTT) from sites such as Reddit. Alongside its promotion of NaturalNews content, the page frequently promotes clickbait and content from mercola.com, which describes itself as a “natural health website”. The website is led by alternative medicine proponent Joseph Mercola, who has been profiled by The Washington Post as a leading figure of the anti-vaccine movement in the US.<sup>42</sup> Also there are posts relating to politics in the Philippines, including links to YouTube channels and Facebook pages promoting President Rodrigo Duterte.

Another page, Mapua Institute of Technology Graduates, may also be operated by the same group or individual.<sup>43</sup> There is some evidence of automation, for example through the use of IFFT.<sup>44 45 46</sup> The page appears to have started posting NaturalNews content in August 2018, and likewise appears to have been removed along with the pages in table 4.<sup>47</sup> In the examples above, there are multiple posts which conclude with the text “Read More.”<sup>48 49 50</sup> This may indicate the post text was copied from another source in which “Read More” functioned as a hyperlink to external content. In addition to NaturalNews, the page also shares health-related links from mercola.com, and links to YouTube music clips.<sup>51 52</sup>

## HQ Healing

The ninth most active public group was HQ Healing, which lists its location as Malaysia. The group has 6,325 members and was created in August 2017. Group members post pictures and messages about natural and alternative medicine, as well as content related to conspiracy theories.



**Fig. 9. (left)** Screenshot of HQ Healing’s group description

**Fig. 10. (right)** Screenshot of alternative health and natural remedy infographics shared on HQ Healing

42 The Washington Post, A major funder of the anti-vaccine movement has made millions selling natural health products (20 December 2019), [https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2019/10/15/fdc01078-c29c-11e9-b5e4-54aa56d5b7ce\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/2019/10/15/fdc01078-c29c-11e9-b5e4-54aa56d5b7ce_story.html).

43 Facebook, [https://www.facebook.com/mapua.institute.university/?hc\\_ref=ART87cPFSu5iYkhW5pHGutcf49dPFG56M255aBmHEXoCKwR8\\_L8WcKgq2894wlc\\_Mds&fref=nf&\\_tn\\_=\\_kCH-R](https://www.facebook.com/mapua.institute.university/?hc_ref=ART87cPFSu5iYkhW5pHGutcf49dPFG56M255aBmHEXoCKwR8_L8WcKgq2894wlc_Mds&fref=nf&_tn_=_kCH-R).

44 This may be a pay-per-post page, wherein a group or person in the Philippines is paid for boosting content, and when the page is not being used to generate revenue the operators manually or automatically pull content from other sources in an attempt to build an audience.

45 Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/manilacentraluniversitygraduates/photos/a.917938981562028/2938316436190929/?type=3>

46 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/manilacentraluniversitygraduates/photos/a.917938981562028/2507533902602520/?type=3>

47 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/search/posts/?q=naturalnews&epa=FILTER>

48 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/manilacentraluniversitygraduates/posts/3000757746613464>.

49 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/manilacentraluniversitygraduates/posts/3000757523280153>.

50 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/manilacentraluniversitygraduates/posts/3000757389946833>.

51 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/manilacentraluniversitygraduates/posts/2992462617442977>.

52 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/manilacentraluniversitygraduates/posts/2992488140773758>.

### Orgiva Massive

The tenth most active international group was Orgiva Massive, created in August 2016, with more than 1,242 members.<sup>53</sup> The group had only one moderator, an individual listing their location as Umeå, Sweden, and educational background as a UK-based boarding school.<sup>54</sup> As of ISD's review, the moderator's profile included posts linking to right-wing hyperpartisan content and conspiracy theories, including content from Jones' InfoWars website.



**Fig. 11.** Post from InfoWars on Nick Williams' Facebook page.

In addition to sharing articles from alternative news sites favoured by far-right actors such as Jones, the group's moderator appears to maintain other connections to right-wing extremism. For example, they appear to be friends with Kevin Mugur Galalae, a German-born Canadian citizen, author of a 2004 book entitled *Killing Us Softly*, which claims to expose a conspiracy by global elites to control global population numbers and conduct a "depopulation" policy.<sup>55</sup>

### Lopunajat toteutuu

Another internationally-based group linking to NaturalNews content and domains, Lopunajat toteutuu (Finnish for "end times come true"), has 612 members and was created in September 2018.<sup>56</sup> Both of the group administrators share content related to a variety of conspiracy theories: 5G, depopulation, and the belief that well-known progressive figures are members of a satanic cult. Many of the NaturalNews articles shared in this group appear to be posted by one of the group's two admins. As recently as 24 April, the group shared anti-Muslim and anti-lockdown content (see Fig. 12. and 13. below).

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1737136199885853/>.

<sup>54</sup> We have not included the username of this account in the interest of preserving user privacy.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., [https://www.facebook.com/kgalalae/?\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=%2CdK\\*F-R&eid=ARC7vS7LNW2EqGIFP-x7xxjGWvr9\\_EM01H8sGAUvLLaBPLh7shvcHLju-3RG9L54ONloVyD3fzWCdXUP](https://www.facebook.com/kgalalae/?__tn__=%2CdK*F-R&eid=ARC7vS7LNW2EqGIFP-x7xxjGWvr9_EM01H8sGAUvLLaBPLh7shvcHLju-3RG9L54ONloVyD3fzWCdXUP).

<sup>56</sup> Lopunajat toteutuu, <http://archive.vn/2i98F>.



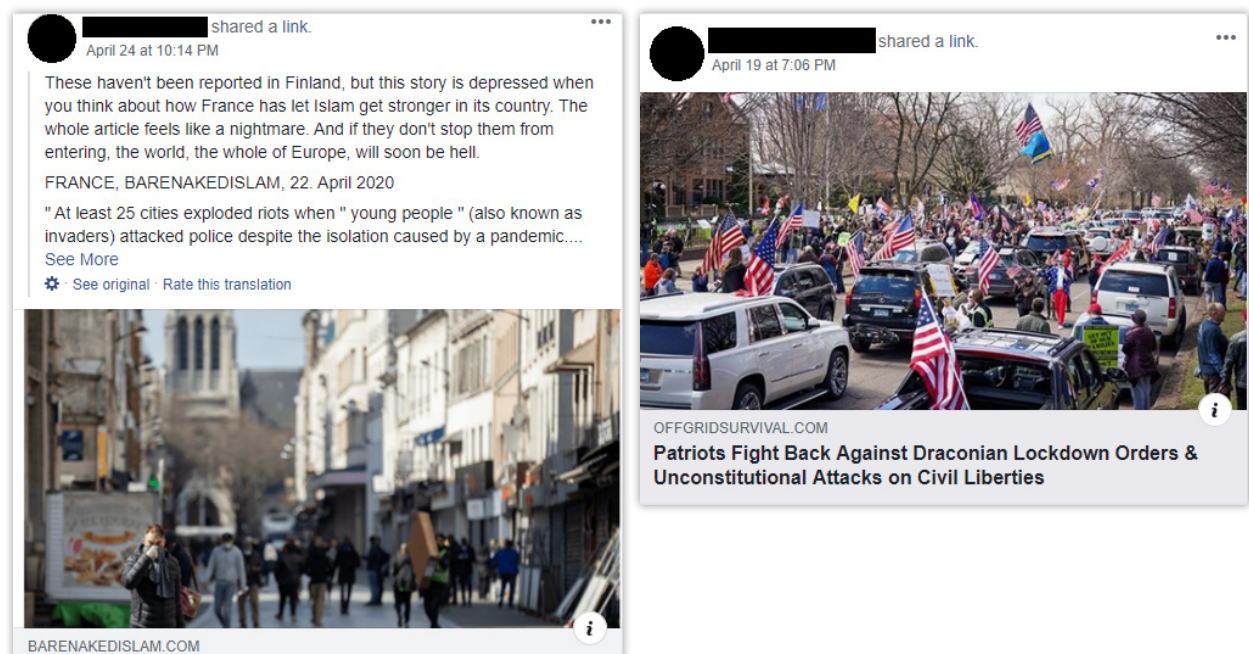


Fig. 12. and 13. Anti-Muslim and anti-lockdown content in Lopunajat Toteutuu Facebook group.

## Facebook page promotion – avoiding NaturalNews bans on Facebook

Despite Facebook's removal of NaturalNews-affiliated pages and blocking the sharing of links from naturalnews.com and newstarget.com, these domains continue to have a presence on Facebook. Following the takedown, ISD was able to identify a private group for NaturalNews supporters.

### NaturalNews supporters group

This group was identified via the Amazing Cures Facebook page. The group had 390 members as of 17 April 2020 and shares both NaturalNews content and conspiracy content from other sources.<sup>57</sup>

The GMO Dangers page became an admin of the group on 27 June 2019. The Amazing Cures page was made an admin later on the same day. The creation of this group appears to have been a response to the banning of NaturalNews from Facebook.

The group administrators are Adams and another account going under a female name (the Amazing Cures Facebook page was also an administrator until it was deleted by Facebook in May 2020).<sup>58 59</sup> The other account has made two direct posts into the group. One was to share a naturalnews.com link in September 2019. The second post was made on 21 May 2020, in response to the increased crackdown by Facebook on both NaturalNews and Brighteon links.

<sup>57</sup> Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1739082573056887/>.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/NaturalNews>.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/chaosandorder1989>.



Fig. 14. Screenshot of administrator account post in NaturalNews supporters Facebook group.

Fig. 15. and 16. Screenshots from GMO Dangers and Amazing Cures.

Fig. 17. Post by Amazing Cures account administrator.

The most active member of the group is a Facebook account that routinely shares content from the Amazing Cures Facebook page into the group.<sup>60</sup> This account appears to have been created in May 2016 and is linked to a Twitter account also created in May 2016. Both accounts share little or no personal content (at least for public posts in the case of Facebook) but share many conspiracy links, in particular, Russia Today and End Times headlines.<sup>61</sup>

The webpages listed below (all of which had one administrator in Macedonia, in addition to US-based and unknown location administrators according to Facebook's transparency data) were taken down between 21-29 May 2020:

- **GMO Dangers:** <https://www.facebook.com/GMO.Dangers/> – posted naturalnews.com links, 344k+ followers, no longer active as of 29/05/2020
- **Amazing Cures:** <https://www.facebook.com/Amazing.Cures> – posted naturalnews.com links, 292k+ followers, no longer active as of 29/05/2020
- **Food Freedom:** <https://www.facebook.com/Food.Freedom> – posted naturalnews.com links, 21k+ followers, no longer active as of 29/05/2020
- **No Fluoride:** <https://www.facebook.com/No.Fluoride> – posted naturalnews.com links, 92k+ followers, no longer active as of 29/05/2020
- **Coordinated posting across all four pages:** Similar but not the same time, suggests being posted by a human rather than automated cross-posting.

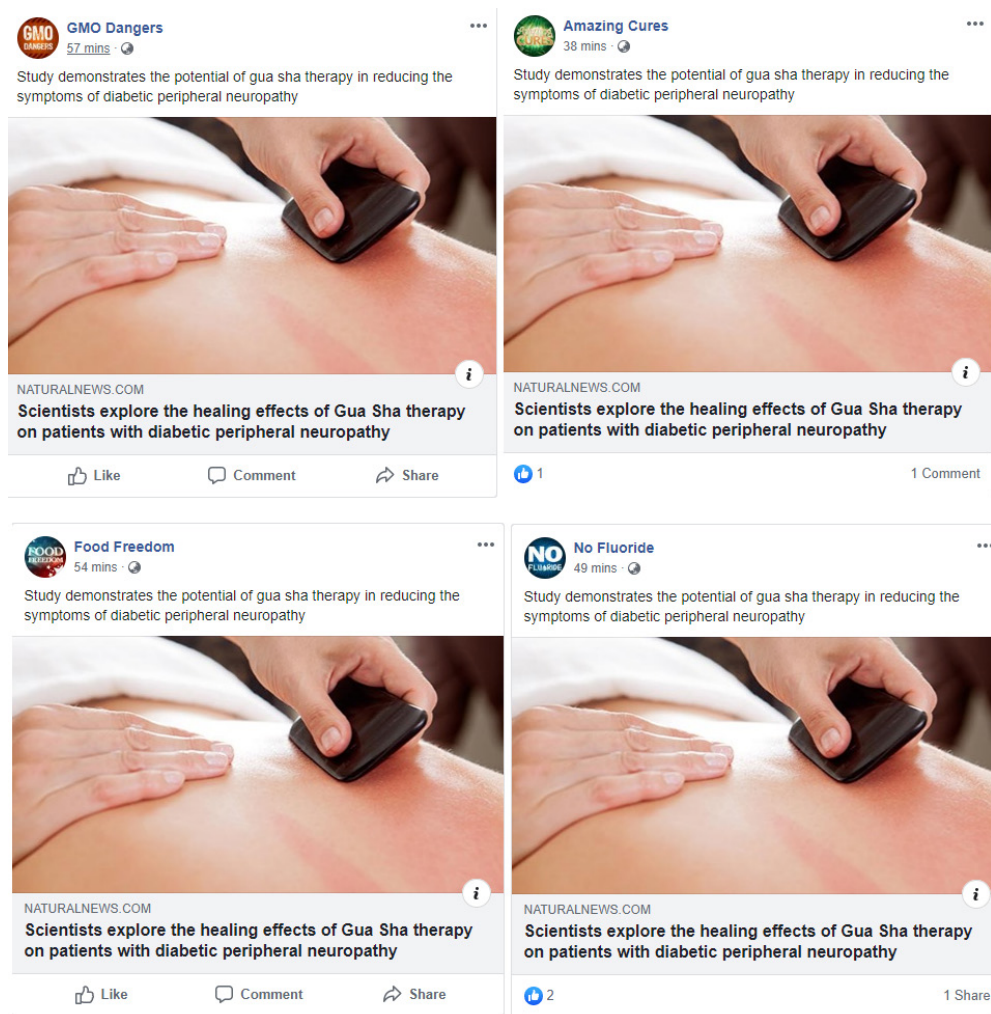


Fig. 18. Example of content shared across Facebook pages linked to NaturalNews.



Facebook's enforcement actions in May 2020 appear to have missed many other NaturalNews related pages. Unlike the other pages, which were detected and banned, these pages do not link directly to the NaturalNews domain. Instead, they link to many masking domains which promote and repost NaturalNews content (as will be discussed in more detail below).

While these pages, created in 2015, are all currently inactive and have low numbers of followers, the fact that they have survived so far suggests that this tactic of using masking domains may be useful for avoiding enforcement of bans.

**These pages include:**

- Homesteading News<sup>62</sup>
- Collapse News<sup>63</sup>
- Bugout News<sup>64</sup>
- Big Government News<sup>65</sup>
- National Security News<sup>66</sup>
- Cyberwar News<sup>67</sup>
- Prophecy News<sup>68</sup>
- Collapse News<sup>69</sup>

62 <https://www.facebook.com/thehomesteadingnews/>

63 <https://www.facebook.com/collapsenews>

64 <https://www.facebook.com/bugoutDOTnews/>

65 <https://www.facebook.com/Big-Government-News-919392114822669>

66 <https://www.facebook.com/nationalsecnews/>

67 <https://www.facebook.com/Cyberwar-News-844562505664727>

68 <https://www.facebook.com/Prophecy-News-615523561920110/>

69 <https://www.facebook.com/collapsenews/>

## Part 2: OSINT Investigation into the NaturalNews network

### How big is the network and who is behind it?

The significance of the coordinated promotion of the NaturalNews network via Facebook suggests a level of resource and organisation behind the site and its affiliated websites, prompting ISD's OSINT team to further investigate the links between NaturalNews and other online assets under the same ownership. This revealed a large network of seemingly connected websites hosting extremist content, conspiracy theories and health disinformation, as well as systems to cross-promote such sites and content.

### The Owner: Mike Adams

NaturalNews is "led by activist-turned-scientist" Adams, who, along with his business partner (and possible wife), Sheh Lio Adams (aka Horng Lio Sheh and Sherhorn Kio Adams), has built an extensive online network over the past three decades.<sup>70</sup> While Sheh Adams does not have the same level of public profile as her partner, ISD found that she is a registered practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine and a former co-director of the Consumer Wellness Centre.<sup>71 72</sup>

### Recent links to radical anti-government groups: Adams and the Oath Keepers

On 13 March 2020, Adams posted a link to [brighteon.com](https://www.brighteon.com) (a site created and owned by Adams) on his personal Facebook page (Fig. 19).<sup>73</sup> The link in question leads to a video of Adams' interview with Oath Keepers' founder Stewart Rhodes.<sup>74</sup> The video opens with Adams discussing the Globalists' use of numerology to allude to the connection between 9/11, the Fukushima nuclear disaster and the WHO. According to Adams, this is evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic has been orchestrated by the same globalists. As Rhodes begins his interview, the two discuss the US government's response to the pandemic, which in their view has been an overreaction. Instead of domestic lockdown, Rhodes suggests focusing on border control and limiting the number of international travellers coming into the US. According to Rhodes, it would be better for the military to be placed on the Mexican border than to be building COVID-19 hospitals.



**Fig. 19.** Facebook post by Mike Adams linking to [brighteon.com](https://www.brighteon.com)

70 NaturalNews, <https://www.naturalnews.com/About.html>.

71 Consumer Wellness, <https://www.consumerwellness.org/>.

72 The Wyoming Secretary of State, <https://wyobiz.wyo.gov/Business/FilingDetails.aspx?eFNum=122038094053107062209093116048240203053032236106>.

73 Soundcloud, <https://soundcloud.com/healthranger/brighteon-new-features-announced-by-founder-mike-adams>.

74 Brighteon, [https://www.brighteon.com/37c606ce-969a-4ed1-8218-c774f4b12c2f?fbclid=IwAR0Z3HYvEJIIUE0TZist7Ph5\\_DSQVjoEPH-RRudZAXyFB75v8x7x7hYJSZM](https://www.brighteon.com/37c606ce-969a-4ed1-8218-c774f4b12c2f?fbclid=IwAR0Z3HYvEJIIUE0TZist7Ph5_DSQVjoEPH-RRudZAXyFB75v8x7x7hYJSZM).

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) describes the Oath Keepers as “one of the largest radical [anti-government] groups in the U.S.”<sup>75</sup> The group is made up of current and former law enforcement and military personnel who seek to uphold and protect the Constitution. At its core, the Oath Keepers ideology “is based on a set of baseless conspiracy theories about the federal government working to destroy the liberties of Americans”.<sup>76</sup> Rhodes is himself a former member of the armed forces, a paratrooper who was honourably discharged following an injury. After his military service, Rhodes attended law school at Yale, graduating in 2004. He founded the Oath Keepers five years later in 2009.<sup>77</sup>

As purveyors of anti-government conspiracies, Adams and Rhodes belong to the same community of far-right conspiracy theorists, which also includes the likes of Jones. Both men have been featured on Jones’ InfoWars since as early as 2012.<sup>78</sup> In 2013, Adams reached out to anti-government protestors – including the Oath Keepers – to warn them of an Obama-led crackdown on the movement, which would include “a mass of kill orders.”<sup>79</sup> Similarly, in 2017, a video made by Adams claimed that together, the Women’s March on Washington and the Refuse Fascism protests were a coup that aimed to disrupt Donald Trump’s inauguration, incite a popular uprising, and take over the White House.<sup>80</sup> This video was promoted by the Oath Keepers online, but the group’s official website mentions Adams as early as 2015.<sup>81</sup>

### The NaturalNews website network – size and scope

ISD’s investigation identified a collection of 496 domains (in addition to the 56 domains identified by NewsGuard) which may be linked to NaturalNews and its founders. Many of the domains are now expired or parked. This collection of domains appears to have been registered as far back as 1996, with a peak in the volume of registrations occurring in 2015 (see Fig. 20.). This network appears to have been set up by four domain registrants with names matching those of NaturalNews online assets or associated corporate entities: Webseed, Healthranger, Truth Publishing International Ltd., and simply Truthpublishing.<sup>82 83</sup> Analysis shows:

- 52 domains were registered using the registrant name Healthranger
- 72 domains were registered using the registrant name Truthpublishing
- 92 domains were registered using the registrant name Truth Publishing International Ltd.
- 420 domains were registered using the registrant name Webseed.

Specific days appear to have featured higher volumes of domain registrations:

- 50 of the 52 domains set up by Healthranger and 220 of the 420 domains set up by Webseed appear to have been registered on 15 July 2015.
- 60 of the 72 domains set up by Truthpublishing appear to have been registered on 23 March 2014.

75 Southern Poverty Law Center, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/oath-keepers>.

76 The Daily Beast, The Oath Keepers providing volunteer security at Trump’s Minneapolis rally are itching for a civil war (11 October 2019), <https://www.thedailybeast.com/the-oath-keepers-providing-volunteer-security-at-trumps-minneapolis-rally-are-itching-for-a-civil-war?ref=scroll>.

77 Ibid.

78 Soundcloud, <https://soundcloud.com/naturalnews/mike-adams-health-ranger-infowars-nightly-news?in=naturalnews/sets/info-wars> and <https://www.infowars.com/the-injustice-system-in-america-with-stewart-rhodes/>.

79 Pg. 339, Neiwert. “Alt-America: the rise of the radical right in the age of Trump”.

80 Ibid.

81 Oath Keepers, Prepping our bodies for winter with Mike Adams of NaturalNews (30 November 2015), <https://oathkeepers.org/2015/11/prepping-our-bodies-for-winter-with-mike-adams-of-natural-news/>.

82 See below: Business intelligence research into corporate entities linked to NaturalNews for additional details.

83 Viewdnsinfo, <https://viewdns.info/reversewhois/?q=Truth+Publishing+International+Ltd.>; <https://viewdns.info/reversewhois/?q=Healthranger>; <https://viewdns.info/reversewhois/?q=Truthpublishing>; and <https://viewdns.info/reversewhois/?q=Webseed>.

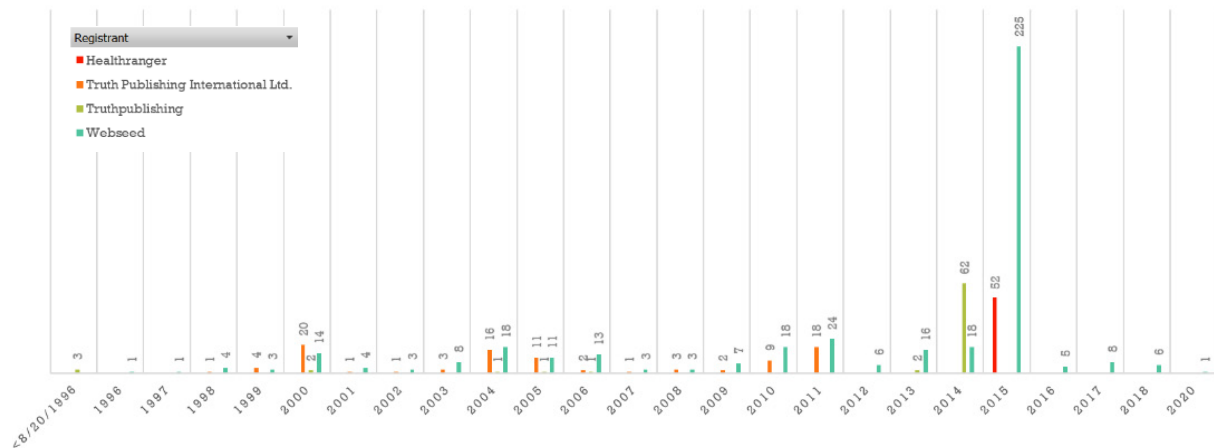


Fig. 20. Domains registered between 1996–2020

Around 2015, NaturalNews appears to have begun registering domains on the top-level domain (TLD) “.news” (for example collapse.news, biggovernment.news). Some of these domains appear to have been accompanied by associated Facebook pages, a practice which appears to have since fallen off. These Facebook pages, which are also noted above, were how these news domains were initially identified:

- Homesteading News<sup>84</sup>
- Collapse News<sup>85</sup>
- Bugout News<sup>86</sup>
- Big Government News<sup>87</sup>
- National Security News<sup>88</sup>
- Cyberwar News<sup>89</sup>
- Prophecy News<sup>90</sup>.

The .news domains re-post NaturalNews articles, which in some cases is hosted on the domain itself and in others simply redirects readers to naturalnews.com, and run advertisements for NaturalNews products. The evidence that these domains are part of the NaturalNews operation is further supported by their use of webseed.com and alternativenews.com scripts.

84 <https://www.facebook.com/thehomesteadingnews/>

85 <https://www.facebook.com/collapsenews>

86 <https://www.facebook.com/bugoutDOTnews/>

87 <https://www.facebook.com/Big-Government-News-919392114822669>

88 <https://www.facebook.com/nationalsecnews/>

89 <https://www.facebook.com/Cyberwar-News-844562505664727>

90 <https://www.facebook.com/Prophecy-News-615523561920110/>

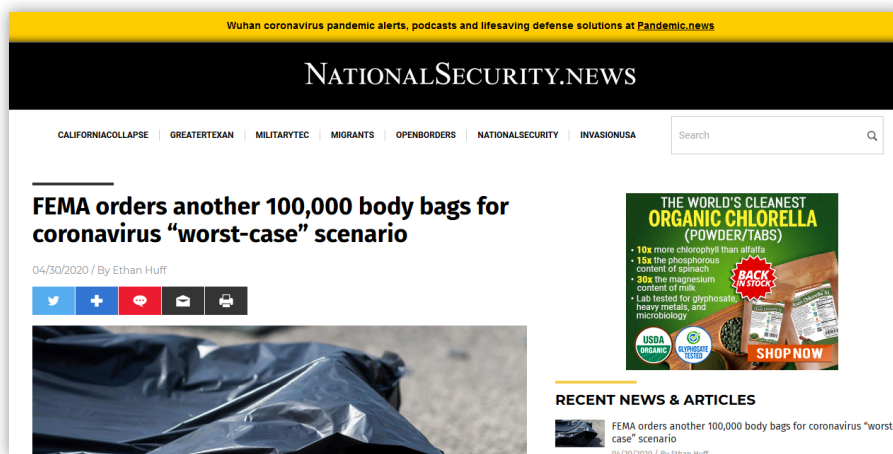


Fig. 21. and Fig. 22. Banner on .news domain directing readers towards pandemic.news.

The .news domains are very simple and almost identical to one another. Many link to one another in groups which appear to be themed to appeal to the same audiences. For example, [nationalsecurity.news](#) links to [californiacollapse.news](#), [greatertexan.com](#), [militarytech.news](#), [migrants.news](#), [openborders.news](#) and [invasionusa.news](#).<sup>91</sup>

From a marketing perspective, using domains in this way kills two birds with one stone: it directs readers towards content they may find engaging, and siloes them from content which may drive them away from NaturalNews' domains. It is possible that, for example, a reader interested in NaturalNews' holistic health articles might be alienated by its pro-gun content or vice versa. This method of using relatively cheap and simple websites allows for demographic segmentation without the need for methods such as algorithmic content delivery, which would likely be more expensive.

This practice of interlinking domains makes it possible to leapfrog from identifying one domain to identifying multiple others. As of 1 May 2020, ISD's investigation identified 49 .news domains which appear to be tailored towards highly politicised right-wing content. These domains underscore the fact that NaturalNews' operation is rooted in political and social influence as much as it is in promoting questionable health advice.

In February 2020, during the early days of the COVID-19 global pandemic, one of the .news domains, [pandemic.news](#), appears to have been significantly redeveloped and expanded to become a hub for coronavirus-related NaturalNews content. Yellow banners on other .news domains direct readers towards [pandemic.news](#) (as visible above in Fig. 21). In addition to articles, the [pandemic.news](#) homepage now features Adams' podcast, HealthRanger videos hosted on Webseed's video platform Brighteon, and links to real US state health authorities. It is still just a landing domain, however, and the articles appear to redirect to [naturalnews.com](#).

As the Adams network of websites has expanded, it has grown to include domains that have no apparent link to health topics, some of which promote violence and host extremist content. A list of these, including both active and inactive domains, can be found in the appendix of this report. Also, another set of specific domains appear to be tailored for the current COVID-19 crisis, including [pandemic.news](#) and [infections.news](#). These domains are advertised on other NaturalNews-linked sites, as well as being promoted on Facebook.<sup>92</sup>

<sup>91</sup> There are a small number of .com domains in addition to the .news domains.

<sup>92</sup> Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/robin.klar.lent/posts/10218611145242528>.

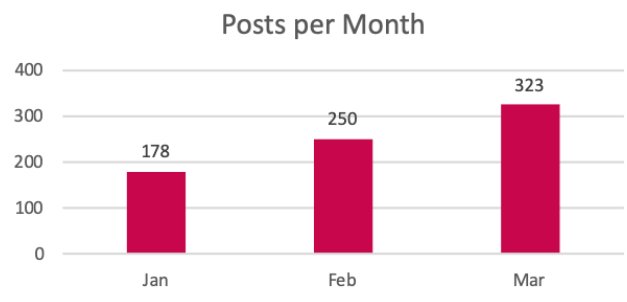


## NaturalNews on Facebook – Investigation II

### Post volume over time

ISD researchers employed the same methodology used for the 56 NewsGuard domains to analyse how links to these newly identified domains have been shared Facebook. We searched for Facebook posts including these domains from 1 January-25 March 2020. This search returned 751 posts made to public groups and pages on Facebook. While this number seems low, in comparison to the 17,344 posts found containing the original 56 domains, this investigation helps to illustrate the true reach of Adam’s NaturalNews network. In addition, this follow-up analysis focuses on older, lesser-known, and less active NaturalNews-affiliated domains, meaning that this list, while larger, is also likely to contain a greater amount of inactive websites – many of which are not relevant to news or current events.

The month with the most posts containing links to our list of additional domains was March, with 323 posts, followed by February with 250, and January with 178.



**Fig. 23.** Number of Facebook posts per month containing links to newly identified, NaturalNews affiliated domains

### Post interactions over time

The 751 posts in our data generated a total of 21,780 interactions including: likes, shares, comments, and reactions. This includes 1,917 comments and 9,373 shares (See Table 6.). The single most popular post generated 3,513 interactions. This post links to the story from climate.news about carbon dioxide greening the earth, which was the third most-shared link in our data. It was shared on the group Rural Resistance, a public group dedicated to the Australian Bush.<sup>93</sup>

Four of the 10 most active linkers appeared in our original investigation into the 56 domains flagged by NewsGuard – No Fluoride, GMO Dangers, Amazing Cures, and DR. MEHMET OZ (see Table 5). Six of the 10 are public groups, while the remaining four are pages. The most active linkers in our data only account for 370 posts or 49% of the total posts containing the newly identified NaturalNews-affiliated domains. This means that articles from these domains reach a wide range of Facebook users belonging to different groups and pages. However, the top three pages in this data – all of which appear in the original NaturalNews briefing – account for 40.8% of the posts, highlighting their importance in the spreading of NaturalNews-affiliated content on Facebook.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/groups/585289412322451/permalink/606178016900257>.

Number of Shares	Page/ Group	Name	Interactions
	Page	No Fluoride**	859
108	Page	GMO Dangers**	1,240
89	Page	Amazing Cures**	7,361
22	Public Group	BOLD NATURE Holistic Wellness Group	7
10	Public Group	DR. MEHMET OZ**	14
8	Public Group	CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HOAX!	449
8	Public Group	Climate Change Battle Royale	89
6	Public Group	Old time Medicine and Home Remedies	8
5	Public Group	BW HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP	3
4	Page	Stupid News Singapore	2

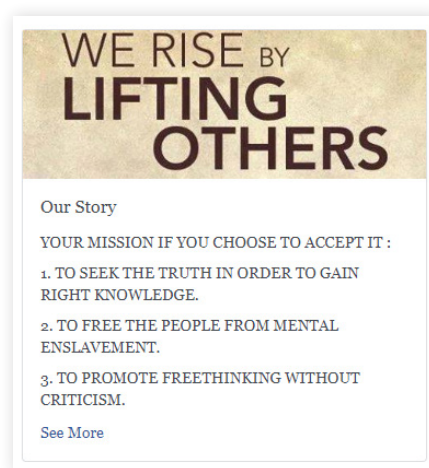
\*\* Group/page also appeared in our initial investigation

**Table 5.** Most active groups/ pages.

### BOLD NATURE Holistic Wellness Group

The third most-active linker in our data is the group BOLD NATURE Holistic Wellness Group. It was created in 2017 and is not associated with any geographic location. The group is run by Terror Fingas University, associated with the blog of the same name.<sup>94</sup> It appears to be concerned with truth-seeking and the desire to “free the people from mental enslavement”.

All of the posts made to this group are from domains not represented in the most-shared stories, such as: spirulina.news, turmeric.news, and aluminium.news.



**Fig. 24.** Screenshot of the “about” section of the BOLD NATURE Holistic Wellness Group

### CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HOAX!

This group was created in 2012 and is not associated with any geographic area. The about section of the group alleges that it is for both sides of the climate change discussion, but perhaps unsurprisingly given the group’s name, it focuses on climate denial content. All of the posts made on this group are of an article from climate.news about how carbon dioxide is greening the earth.

<sup>94</sup> Terror Fingas University, <https://fingasuniversity.tumblr.com/>.

### Climate Change Battle Royale

This group was created in 2012 but changed its name in 2018. Unfortunately, we are unable to see what the name was before. The group does not list a location, but its members are from around the world, including individuals from the US, South Africa, and Bangladesh. The opening lines of the group's description are: "Is climate change real? Or is it a communist plot to enslave humanity?". Just as with the previous group, all of the posts made to this group are from climate.news.

### Old time Medicine and Home Remedies

This group was created in 2015 and is located in Mountain Home Arkansas. It is dedicated to sharing home remedies commonly used by grandparents, instead of brand-name pharmaceuticals. Despite this, recent posts from the group reveal that discussion strays from holistic medicine to anti-abortion content (see Fig. 23.).



**Fig. 25.** Screenshot of anti-abortion content shared on Old time Medicine and Home Remedies

### BW HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

This group was created in 2015. While it does not list a location, the about section says that it is dedicated "to help us all understand the reality of HIV AIDS and other diseases in Botswana". The most linked-to domain on this group is prevention.news, which focuses on articles about preventing cancer and other diseases through diet. The posts on this group follow the same theme, such as sharing recipes for a homemade "Master Tonic".



**Fig. 26.** Screenshot of natural remedy recipe shared on BW HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

### Stupid News Singapore

This page was created in 2018 and is managed by an account located in Singapore. Posts on this page highlight humorous news stories and the benefits of yoga and t'ai chi. However, the page also posts anti-Chinese content, such as the post below, which argues that Chinese President Xi Jinping "ruined the world".



Fig. 27. and Fig. 28. Screenshots of content posted on Stupid News Singapore page

### Content of the NaturalNews Network on Facebook

The most-shared link is from science.news and discusses the conspiracy that 5G radio waves have caused damage to cells in the human body and consequently, are to blame for the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the most-shared link is from the science.news domain, the most over-represented domain in our data is food.news. Six of the top 10 most linked-to stories are from food.news. They discuss dietary associated cures and treatments for illnesses such as cancer. Most likely due to COVID-19, the most-posted link from this domain is to an article about natural remedies for cold and flu symptoms.

Posts	Domain	Date	Article Headline	Interactions
38	science.news	26/02/2020	Did the 5G rollout in Wuhan damage the innate cellular defense cells of the population, putting the people at risk of complications and death from coronavirus?	1,608
30	dangerousmedicine.com	29/06/2018	It's true: Government kidnaps children and separates them from their mothers... learn the truth about "medical kidnapping" and forced vaccinations, chemotherapy	31
28	mindcontrol.news	07/11/2019	In liberal Austin, anal sex will now be taught to children in grades 3 through 8 as public education becomes pedophilia indoctrination	3,268
11	climate.news	26/04/2019	NASA declares carbon dioxide is GREENING the Earth... reveals how Green New Death is a DEATH cult that would collapse global ecology	3,513
11	food.news	22/11/2019	Fight cold and flu symptoms with these 6 natural remedies	487
10	food.news	10/02/2020	Go nuts for coconuts: 6 Health benefits of coconut meat	175
10	food.news	22/11/2019	Here's why ginger turmeric tea is one of the best remedies for improving your overall health	119
9	food.news	14/02/2020	Chili peppers discovered to contain a HOT compound against cancer	405
8	food.news	06/03/2020	Here's why LEMONS are considered powerful cancer-fighters	607
7	food.news	03/01/2020	Always eat your (green) veggies: What are the health benefits of chlorophyll?	40

Table 6. Most-shared stories from NaturalNews-affiliated domains.

## Case Study

### Black Panther-Affiliated Pages

Amongst the 51% of the posts not made by the highest linkers are 27 Black Panther-affiliated pages from around the world. Their locations include 12 US states, as well as countries like Sierra Leone, Cameroon, India and Palestine.<sup>95 96 97 98</sup> They also include party divisions such as BLACK PANTHER PARTY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT and the BLACK PANTHER PARTY SCIENCE DEPT.<sup>99 100</sup>

These pages each shared the same link to a story hosted on dangerousmedicine.com titled: "It's true: Government kidnaps children and separates them from their mothers... learn the truth about "medical kidnapping" and forced vaccinations, chemotherapy".<sup>101</sup> This link is the second most popular in our data, with 30 total posts. Two of the 27 Black Panther-affiliated pages produced two posts, so the total number of posts is greater than the total number of groups. All of these posts occurred on 25 January 2020 between 00:31 and 22:04:

Time	Number of posts
00:29	1
00:31	1
00:32	16
00:33	5
01:22	5
22:04	1

**Table 7.**

This pattern of behaviour suggests that the administrator of these affiliated pages used a posting app to share the same content with regional and specialist Facebook pages belonging to the Black Panthers at the same time. It is also important to note that the New Black Panther Party is recognised as an extremist organisation by the SPLC.<sup>102</sup> This reveals that extremist groups from different ideological backgrounds, and not just right-wing extremists, engage with and share NaturalNews-affiliated content on Facebook.

95 Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/139441199810756/permalink/860841731004029>.

96 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/groups/116056442150055/permalink/832729093816116>.

97 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/groups/596988220473151/permalink/1544647892373841>.

98 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/groups/981237351930531/permalink/2764963470224568>.

99 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1556278164677863/permalink/2224915457814127>.

100 Ibid., <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1339636726052186/permalink/3257784937570679>.

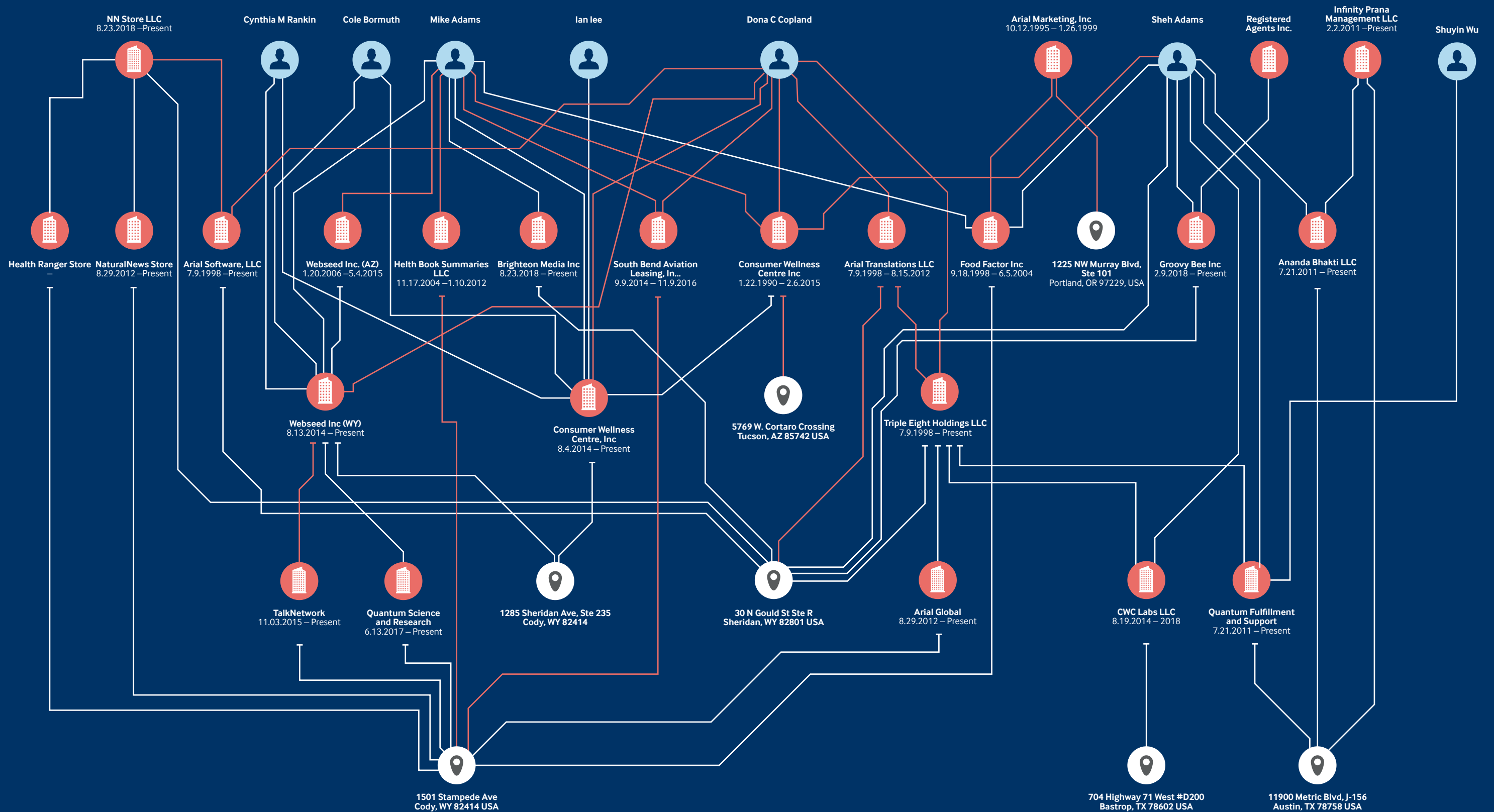
101 Dangerous Medicine, It's true: Government kidnaps children and separates them from their mothers... learn the truth about "medical kidnapping" and forced vaccinations, chemotherapy (29 June 2018), <https://dangerousmedicine.com/2018-06-29-government-kidnaps-children-truth-about-medical-kidnapping-and-forced-vaccinations-chemotherapy.html>.

102 SPLC, <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/group/new-black-panther-party>.

## Business intelligence research into corporate entities linked to NaturalNews

The below business details and the identification of the four domain registrant entities responsible for registering the 496 domains noted in the previous section prompted ISD's OSINT team to conduct business intelligence research into NaturalNews and its founders (see appendix). The objective of this research was to develop an understanding of the scale of the organisation's corporate assets and business associations.

— Historical Relationships  
— Current Relationships





In total, ISD's research identified 21 current and historical entities linked to NaturalNews, Adams, and Sheh Adams, incorporated as back as far as January 1990 and as recently as February 2018.<sup>103</sup> The majority of the 21 companies ISD identified have been domiciled in tax haven states such as Wyoming, Arizona, Texas, and Nevada.<sup>104 105</sup> Link analysis indicates a high degree of overlap between this group of companies' officers, directors, registered agents, and addresses:

Review of current and historical corporate registry documentation indicates several of the 21 companies shown in Fig. 27. have merged with identically named entities in other states over the past decade. For example, a pair of companies, both named Webseed Inc., appear to have been registered in Arizona (incorporated 20 January 2006) and Wyoming (incorporated 13 August 2014).<sup>106 107</sup> The Arizona company appears to have merged with the Wyoming company on 6 February 2015, before being officially listed as inactive in the Arizona corporate registry as of 4 May 2015. The Wyoming-based Webseed Inc., the surviving entity, remains active.

OSINT research did not identify brick-and-mortar businesses located at any of the addresses used to register the companies noted in Fig. 27.<sup>109</sup> In several instances, the addresses used to register these companies appear to be nondescript business parks, often shared by municipal services, law firms, mail forwarding services, or seemingly unrelated businesses.<sup>110</sup> For example, corporate registry documents for eight of the current and historical NaturalNews-linked companies shown in Fig. 27. list a registered address of 1501 Stampede Ave, Cody, WY 82414. A brief check using Google Street View (Fig. 28.) indicates this is the address of the Park County Public Library, part of a larger complex of county government offices.<sup>111 112</sup>

Likewise, registry documentation indicates five of the current and historical NaturalNews-linked companies shown in Fig. 27. are registered at the address 30 N Gould St Ste R Sheridan, WY 82801. This appears to be the address of several law firms (per media reporting), a corporate services agent and a mail forwarding company.<sup>113 114 115</sup> Moreover, a targeted website search of this address on the third-party open-source corporate database OpenCorporates indicates this address may be the registered location of hundreds of other companies.<sup>116</sup>



**Fig. 29.** Screenshot from Google Street View of the address of NaturalNews-linked companies

<sup>103</sup> Due to lack of transparency within US corporate registry databases ISD is unable to confirm if these 21 companies represent the totality of NaturalNews' business assets.

<sup>104</sup> Washington Post, How the U.S. became one of the world's biggest tax havens (5 April 2016), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/04/05/how-the-u-s-became-one-of-the-worlds-biggest-tax-havens/>.

<sup>105</sup> Investopedia, <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/t/taxhaven.asp>.

<sup>106</sup> Arizona Corporation Commission, <https://ecorp.azcc.gov/BusinessSearch/BusinessInfo?entityNumber=12551817>.

<sup>107</sup> Wyoming Secretary of State, <https://wyobiz.wyo.gov/Business/FilingDetails.aspx?eFNum=194102063161008040019168021108145054080071233207>

<sup>108</sup> Ibid., <https://wyobiz.wyo.gov/Business/FilingDetails.aspx?eFNum=122038094053107062209093116048240203053032236106>

<sup>109</sup> In-person site visits would be required to fully verify the existence of brick-and-mortar businesses at the addresses ISD reviewed via OSINT research.

<sup>110</sup> Mail forwarding services can sometimes act as "virtual offices" for businesses, typically just a location for mail to be sent to on behalf of businesses operating only online.

<sup>111</sup> Google, <https://www.google.com/maps/place/1501+Stampede+Ave,+Cody,+WY+82414,+USA/@44.5206905,-109.0590868,3a,75y,142.8h,88.74t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sLbVvr8t-odTpV2RTpG8tkQ!2e0!7i16384!8i8192!4m5!3m4!1s0x534c1ed27debca79:0xe86f1adcfbff387!8m2!3d44.5205447!4d-109.0584826>.

<sup>112</sup> Park County Wyoming, <http://www.parkcounty.us/departments.html>.

<sup>113</sup> Pipeline News, New head Quantum office has a lot of tenants (30 May 2018), <https://www.pipelinenews.ca/new-head-quantum-office-has-a-lot-of-tenants-1.23318018>.

<sup>114</sup> Registered Agents Inc, <https://www.registeredagentsinc.com/contact-us/>.

<sup>115</sup> Saratoga Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce, <http://saratogaplatte.chambermaster.com/list/member/wyoming-mail-forwarding-llc-331>.

<sup>116</sup> [https://www.google.com/search?q=site%3Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fopencorporates.com+%2230+N+Gould+St+Ste+R+Sheridan%2C+WY+82801+USA%22&rlz=1C1CHBF\\_enCA899CA899&oq=site%3Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fopencorporates.com+%2230+N+Gould+St+Ste+R+Sheridan%2C+WY+82801+USA%22&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i58.11050j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=site%3Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fopencorporates.com+%2230+N+Gould+St+Ste+R+Sheridan%2C+WY+82801+USA%22&rlz=1C1CHBF_enCA899CA899&oq=site%3Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fopencorporates.com+%2230+N+Gould+St+Ste+R+Sheridan%2C+WY+82801+USA%22&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i58.11050j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8).

## Conclusion

The breadth and scale of NaturalNews' network both on social media and the surface web serve as a useful guide to understanding the capabilities of those seeking to misrepresent and mislead. Hundreds of domains, set up in apparent bursts of activity, present a significant threat to technology giants already burdened with the task of preventing the spread of disinformation in an information-rich environment. Driven by dozens of pages and groups, both public and private, networks like NaturalNews pose significant ongoing challenges to platforms such as Facebook in their efforts to combat disinformation actors who persevere in promoting themselves and their networks through both organic and inauthentic means.

Moreover, the NaturalNews network highlights the difficult parallel challenges of dealing with misleading and outright false content (e.g. false health information, extremist materials, etc.) and on-platform behaviour (e.g. spam-like behaviour aimed at promoting websites within Facebook groups and pages). While the need to mitigate platform manipulation focused on promoting problematic sites on networks such as Facebook remains an unfinished job, the issue at hand extends far beyond a single social network. Domain registrars continue to provide such actors online real estate necessary to promote harmful content. Organizations such as NaturalNews can only exist as a result of real-world corporate infrastructure. Until all three aspects (domains, social media presence, and corporate assets) are addressed in unison, empires such as that of NaturalNews will continue to subsist.



Hundreds of domains, set up in apparent bursts of activity, present a significant threat to technology giants already burdened with the task of preventing the spread of disinformation in an information-rich environment.



# Appendix

## NewsGuard List of NaturalNews-Affiliated Domains

<b>A</b>	—	technocrats.news
—		twisted.news
		tyranny.news
<b>B</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>U</b>
banned.news	mediafactwatch.com	uprising.news
biased.news	medicalextremism.com	
bioterrorism.news	medicine.news	
		<b>V</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>N</b>	vaccinedamage.news
californiacollapse.news	naturalcures.news	vaccineinjurynews.com
cdc.news	naturalnews.com	vaccines.news
censorship.news	naturalnewsradio.com	
conspiracy.news	naturopathy.news	
cures.news	newsfakes.com	<b>W</b>
	newstarget.com	wapoop.news
	nytwatch.com openborders.news	washingtonposted.news
<b>D</b>		
depopulation.news	<b>O</b>	<b>XYZ</b>
disinfo.news	outbreak.news	—
<b>E</b>	<b>P</b>	
eugenics.news	pandemic.news	
extinction.news	panic.news	
	plantmedicine.news	
<b>F</b>	populationcontrol.news	
factcheck.news	propaganda.news	
faked.news		
freedom.news	<b>Q</b>	
<b>G</b>	<b>R</b>	
—	realInvestigations.news	
	remedies.news	
<b>H</b>	risk.news	
health.news		
herbs.news	<b>S</b>	
honest.news	science.news	
	scienceclowns.com	
<b>I</b>	sciencefraud.news	
infections.news	scientific.news	
	sheeple.news	
<b>J</b>	shtf.news	
journalism.news	superbugs.news	
	<b>T</b>	
<b>KL</b>	techgiants.news	

# Possible NaturalNews-Affiliated Domains Identified by ISD

## 0-9

3dprint.news  
3dprinters.news

## A

acioformation.com  
adams.news  
addiction.news  
airpurification.news  
aisystems.news  
alternativesearch.com  
aluminum.news  
aluminumdefense.com  
ametheos.com  
amethios.com  
amethios.org  
antioxidants.news  
aquifers.news  
arialglobalreach.com  
arialtranslations.com  
arsenic.news  
arseniceliminator.com  
assopaipai.org  
atomic.news  
augmentedrealitynews.com  
authenticwords.com  
aviator.news  
awakening.news

## B

backlash.news  
barter.news  
bees.news  
biased.news  
bigpharmanews.com  
biologicalterrorism.com  
biosludge.news  
biosludged.com  
biosolids.news  
biosolidswatch.com  
bioweapon.com  
blueberries.news  
bodycircles.com  
brain.news  
breakthrough.news  
breastfeed.news  
brighteon.us  
bubble.news  
burningitup.com

## C

cacao.news  
cadmium.news  
cameragear.news  
campaignenterprise.com  
campaignsoftware.com  
cancer.news  
cancermyths.com  
cancerscams.news  
cancertruthrevealed.com  
capturetoxins.com  
catastrophe.news  
cdreporter.com  
cereals.news  
cesiumeliminator.com  
chelation.news  
chlorellafactor.com  
chlorellanews.com  
chlorellanews.org  
chlorellascience.com

civilization.news  
cleanchlorella.com  
cleanfood.news  
cleanwater.news  
climate.news  
climatesciencenews.com  
collectivewisdombooks.com  
collectivewisdomguides.com  
colloidalsilver.news  
colloidalsilvernews.com  
consciouscosmology.com  
consciousness.news  
consumers.news  
consumerwellness.info  
consumerwellness.org  
contamination.news  
cosmic.news  
counterthink.co  
courage.news

## D

dangerousfood.com  
dangerousfoods.com  
dangerousingredients.com  
dangerousmedicine.com  
dementia.news  
desertcures.com  
desktopfabrication.com  
desktopfabrication.news  
detox.news  
disastersupply.com  
diseaseprevention.news  
distributed.news  
distributednews.com  
divinitynow.com  
dolphindialogs.com  
domesticterrorism.com

## E

ecoleds.com  
ecology.news  
economiccollapse.news  
electricity.news  
emaildesigntemplates.com  
emailmarketingdirector.com  
emergencyfood.news  
emergencymedicine.news  
endangeredknowledge.org  
entitlements.news  
ethics.news  
euthanasia.news  
excite.news  
excitotoxins.com  
extinction.news

## F

factcheck.news  
factoryfood.news  
falloutblocker.com  
falloutdefender.com  
falloutdefense.com  
falseflagreport.com  
farmacy.news  
fascism.news  
fasting.news  
fdareform.org  
firstamendment.news  
fishdefense.com

fishoils.news  
fitnessheadlines.com  
fiveshockingfacts.com  
fivestepguides.com  
fivestepsolutions.com  
flusurvival.com  
food.news  
foodbars.news  
foodcures.news  
foodfabnews.com  
foodfabrecipes.com  
foodfabstore.com  
foodfactor.com  
foodfascism.com  
foodforensics.com  
foodfreedom.news  
foodinvestigation.com  
foodinvestigations.com  
foodismedicine.com  
foodlabels.news  
foodrising.com  
foodrising.news  
foodrising.org  
foodscience.news  
foodshortage.news  
foodstamps.news  
foodstorage.news  
foodtesting.news  
freedomvideos.com  
fruits.news  
fukushimadefense.com

## G

gadgetreviews.news  
genetherapy.news  
geneticallymodifiedrhymes.com  
geneticengineeringtoday.com  
globalcooling.news  
gmorhymes.com  
gmosong.com  
grassrootsvideos.com  
greenenergy.news  
greenhomes.news  
greenlivingreport.com  
greenwashing.news  
griddown.news  
griddownnews.com  
grocery.news  
grocerycures.com  
groceryreview.com  
grocerywarning.com  
groovybee.us  
growableorganics.com  
growyourmedicine.com

## H

happyplanetnews.com  
happyplanetshop.com  
healingarts.news  
healingfoods.news  
healingfromheavymetals.com  
healingplants.news  
health.news  
healthbooksummaries.com  
healthderanger.com  
healthderanger.info  
healthderanger.org  
healthfreedomreport.org

healthproductsnews.com  
healthranger.co  
healthranger.com  
healthranger.info  
healthranger.me  
healthranger.mobi  
healthranger.news  
healthranger.org  
healthrangerdiabetescure.com  
healthrangerlive.com  
healthrangerorganics.com  
healthrangerradio.com  
healthrangersdiabetescure.com  
healthrangerstableorganics.com  
healthrevolutionpetition.org  
healthrevolutiontour.com  
heavymetals.news  
heavymetalsblocker.com  
heavymetalsdefense.com  
heavymetalsnews.com  
herbal.news  
herbfacts.com  
herbranger.com  
herbreference.com  
heritage.news  
heritagewhey.news  
higher.news  
homegardening.news  
homeschooling.news  
homewaterpurification.com  
honestfoodguide.com  
honestfoodguide.org  
honeybees.news  
humanitarian.news  
humanpowered.news  
humanpowernews.com  
hyperinflationreport.com

## I

inaturalnews.com  
incred ible.news  
indoctrination.news  
influencetoday.com  
inshape.news  
intelligence.news  
intelligentdesign.news  
intolerance.news  
inventors.news

## J

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## K

kitchengadgets.news

## L

labeling.news  
languagecodes.com  
leftbehind.news  
lifeafterdeath.news  
lifemanuals.com  
lifetips.news  
linkseed.com  
lostsecretsofhealth.com  
lowheavymetals.org  
lowheavymetalsverified.org

## M

malnutrition.news  
mayhem.news

medicaljournalwatch.com  
medicalviolence.com  
medicinalherbs.news  
mental.news  
mercuryaway.com  
metalsdefense.com  
mighty.news  
mikeadams.me  
mind.news  
mindcontrol.news  
minifarmgrowbox.org  
mojo.news  
moringa.news  
moviereviews.news  
mrsa.news  
msg.news  
multiverse.news  
myradiationdefense.com  
myths.news

## N

naturalactionnetwork.org  
naturalcures.news  
naturaldisaster.news  
naturaldivinity.com  
naturaldivinity.org  
naturalfoods.news  
naturalhealth.news  
naturalhealthbookstore.com  
naturalhealthconsumer.com  
naturalhealthcustomers.com  
naturalhealthdiet.com  
naturalhealthdoctors.com  
naturalhealthexchange.com  
naturalhealthformulas.com  
naturalhealthgrocery.com  
naturalhealthheadlines.com  
naturalhealthletter.com  
naturalhealthlibrary.com  
naturalhealthnews.com  
naturalhealthreader.com  
naturalhealthrecipes.com  
naturalhealthreport.com  
naturalhealthreports.com  
naturalhealthshopper.com  
naturalhealthtalk.com  
naturalhealthtimes.com  
naturalhealthupdate.com  
naturalhealthvideos.com  
naturalhealthwire.org  
naturally.news  
naturalmedicine.news  
naturalnews.co  
naturalnews.mobi  
naturalnewsvideos.com  
naturalosophy.com  
reformthefda.com  
reformthefda.org  
refreshing.news  
religiousfreedom.news  
reputationintelligence.com  
reputationmonitor.com  
retracted.news  
retractions.news  
reverseheartdisease.news

## O

o3essentials.com  
obedience.news  
obedient.news  
offgrid.news  
officialsources.news  
omega3.news  
openwire.news  
oralhealth.news  
organicfarming.news  
originalnascentiodine.com  
outrageous.news

## P

patriotpouches.us  
peakfood.news  
peakoil.news  
permaculture.news  
permissiontools.com  
pethealth.news  
petitions.news  
pharmaceuticalfraud.com  
philosophy.news  
phytonutrients.news  
plague.info  
plantcures.news  
plantmedicine.news  
poisonpantry.com  
politicalreputation.com  
pollution.news  
popo.news  
powergrid.news  
predictions.news  
preparednessreport.com  
presscapture.com  
preventcancer.news  
preventionreport.com  
printyourfood.com  
proteinexposed.com  
psych.news  
psychdrugs.news  
publicrelations.news  
purewater.news

## Q

quantumcomputing.news  
quarantine.news  
quickenings.news

## R

racewars.news  
realworld.news  
recovery.news  
reflectium.us  
reformthefda.com  
reformthefda.org  
refreshing.news  
religiousfreedom.news  
reputationintelligence.com  
reputationmonitor.com  
retracted.news  
retractions.news  
reverseheartdisease.news

## S

sacred.news  
sacredlotusclinic.com  
safezeolites.com  
sccwc.com

science.news  
sciencedeception.com  
sciencedeception.org  
sciencefailure.com  
scienceskeptic.com  
secondamendment.news  
seeds.news  
serious.news  
sevenlawsofnutrition.com  
shape.news  
shortage.news  
silvermaker.com  
skinhealth.news  
skynet.news  
smokeforthecure.org  
socialjustice.news  
socially.news  
socialunrest.news  
solar-model.org  
soulofpharma.com  
soundhealingnews.com  
soundjourneys.com  
soundjourneys.org  
spacecraft.news  
spacetourism.news  
spacetravel.news  
spamdontbuyit.com  
spamdontbuyit.org  
speakout.news  
spices.news  
spirulina.news  
spirulinanews.com  
spirulinareport.com  
spirulinascience.com  
storablesuperfoods.us  
strategic.news  
subliminal.news  
sunlightcure.com  
sunmedicine.com  
supercollider.news  
supercomputer.news  
superfood.news  
superfoodforsoldiers.com  
superfoodforsoldiers.org  
superfoodforsoldiers.us  
superfoods.news  
supplementsreference.com  
supplementsreport.com  
supplydirectory.com  
supplyresource.com  
supplysource.com  
surfacecomputingreport.com  
survivalgoods.com  
survivalreports.com  
sweeteners.news

## T

tactical.news  
technocrats.news  
theflusion.com  
thelanguagecodes.org  
thepoisoners.com  
thepoisoners.org  
thestarfieldsimulation.com  
thinking.news  
thoughtcontrol.news  
thoughtpolice.news  
toxicfoods.com  
toxindefense.org  
toxinremovers.com

toxins.news  
trademarkintelligence.com  
tragedy.news  
transhumanist.news  
trusted.news  
truthpublishing.net  
turmeric.news  
tyranny.news

## U

unbelievable.news  
uncensoredvitamins.org  
unreal.news  
upcast.us  
usdawatch.com  
usdawatch.org

## V

vaxdefense.com  
veggie.news  
vibe.news  
videogear.news  
videohealthnews.com  
videohealthreport.com  
views.news  
violence.news  
violentcrime.news  
vitamind.news  
vitamindreport.com  
vox.news  
vrworld.news

## W

wages.news  
wakeup.news  
wapo.news  
washingtonpost.news  
waterfilters.news  
waterfilterscience.com  
waterfiltersnews.com  
waterhealthnews.com  
waterpurifiers.news  
waterwars.news  
waycool.news  
webseed.com  
webseed.net  
webseed.org  
webseeding.com  
whatworksfor.me  
wheyprotein.news  
whistleblower.news  
wholefoods.news  
wildfoods.news  
womenshealth.news

## X

xray.news

## Y

y2ksupply.com  
yummy.news

## Z

zeolitescience.com



## Fact-Checking

ISD assessed the validity of the most-shared stories from NaturalNews-affiliated domains. We fact-checked the 10 most-shared stories in each of the two Facebook investigations using fact-checking websites Full Fact, Snopes, and AFP. These organisations review news and media through an independent and impartial lens while adhering to strict journalistic ethics and guiding principles.<sup>117</sup>

### Investigation 1 – NewsGuard List of NaturalNews-Affiliated Domains

#### 1. “Climate change hoax collapses as new science finds human activity has virtually zero impact on global temperatures”, NaturalNews, 12/07/2019.<sup>118</sup>

##### Claims:

- This article cites a Finnish research paper that suggests that cloud cover is responsible for differences in temperature, which are then falsely attributed to climate change.
- The research paper in question is a six-page-long “article” written by Jyrki Kauppinen and Pekka Malmi of the University of Turku, which can be found on arXiv.org.<sup>119</sup>

##### Fact-Checking:

- arxiv.org is a website whose purpose is to make research available before it has been peer-reviewed or approved for publishing. This is explicitly stated by the website itself, which has a disclaimer on the homepage that reads: “e-prints posted on arXiv are not peer-reviewed by arXiv; they should not be relied upon without context to guide clinical practice or health-related behavior and should not be reported in news media as established information without consulting multiple experts in the field.”
- Following the paper’s citation in this article, it was reviewed by scientists at Climate Feedback, a network of scientists who fact-check media about climate change.<sup>120</sup> These experts deemed that the NaturalNews article “should not be relied upon”.<sup>121</sup>

- The remainder of the article engages with many well-recognised tropes used by climate change deniers, such as those laid out by snopes.com.<sup>122</sup>

#### 2. “The disturbing history of George Soros that every American should know”, NewsTarget, 28/11/2016.<sup>123</sup>

##### Claims:

- This article alleges that during the Second World War, a young Soros turned on his Jewish kinsmen and helped the Nazi regime find and deport members of the Hungarian Jewish community in 1944 and 1945, although the article does not provide specific dates for its claims.
- The story also claims that Soros gave US\$33 million to local activists in Ferguson, Missouri, to increase racial polarisation and violence.

##### Fact-Checking:

- Soros was never affiliated with the Nazis and in fact, was only 14 when the war ended, making his participation even more unlikely.<sup>124</sup>
- While Soros did give funds to organisations involved in the Ferguson protests, this was not done with “the express purpose of promoting Ferguson-related protests and riots”.<sup>125</sup>

117 AFP, AFP Editorial Standards and Best Practices (June 2016), [https://www.afp.com/sites/default/files/paragraphrich/201701/22\\_june\\_2016\\_afp\\_ethic.pdf](https://www.afp.com/sites/default/files/paragraphrich/201701/22_june_2016_afp_ethic.pdf).

118 <https://www.naturalnews.com/2019-07-12-climate-change-hoax-collapses-new-science-cloud-cover.html>

119 Cornell University, <https://arxiv.org/>.

120 Climate Feedback, Non-peer-reviewed manuscript falsely claims natural cloud changes can explain global warming (11 July 2019), <https://climatefeedback.org/claimreview/non-peer-reviewed-manuscript-falsely-claims-natural-cloud-changes-can-explain-global-warming/>.

121 Climate Feedback, <https://climatefeedback.org/>.

122 Snopes, The five pillars of climate change denial (12 February 2020), <https://www.snopes.com/news/2020/02/12/the-five-pillars-of-climate-change-denial/>.

123 <https://www.newstarget.com/2016-11-28-the-disturbing-history-of-george-soros-that-every-american-should-know.html>

124 Snopes, Was George Soros an SS officer or Nazi collaborator during world war II? (28 November 2016). <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/george-soros-ss-nazi-germany/>.

125 Snopes, Did George Soros fund Ferguson protests and Black Lives Matter? (22 January 2015), <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/riot-act/>.



3. “Democrats conspiring to stage false flag bloodshed on 20 January in Virginia – “Charlottesville 2.0” – in order to ignite a civil war and mass chaos”, NaturalNews, 16/01/2020.<sup>126</sup>

#### Claims:

- This article claims to reveal a plot orchestrated by the mainstream media and the government of Virginia, who prepared to stage violence during the Lobby Day pro-gun rally on 20 January 2020.
- The article argues that this plot would provide the necessary grounds to enact a state of emergency, confiscate legally owned guns from American citizens, and remove President Trump from office.

#### Fact-Checking:

- While snopes.com verified that a state of emergency was indeed announced, it also revealed that the claims of Left- and Antifa-organised violence were unreliable and ultimately false.<sup>127</sup>

4. “Homeschooling skyrockets as more parents get fed up with left-wing social engineering and violence in public schools”, NewsTarget, 06/05/2018.<sup>128</sup>

#### Claims:

- This article argues that the increase in applications for homeschooling in the wake of the Parkland school shooting was a reaction to the increased presence of left-wing ideology in the education system.
- It cites an article from the Washington Times that quoted worried parents naming the unsafe environment and bullying as reasons for withdrawing their children from school.<sup>129</sup>

#### The Left is driving more kids OUT of public schools

There is also the Left-wing social engineering. The craziness over transgender students and bathrooms/locker rooms, allowing students to “take a knee” during the playing of the National Anthem, the Left-wing curriculum, and refusing to allow students to wear shirts that praise POTUS Trump or feature the American flag are also driving parents into homeschooling.

#### Fact-Checking:

- We have been unable to verify claims made by the article that this phenomenon is linked to other issues such as the introduction of transgender bathrooms and the bullying of students wearing clothing with pro-Trump slogans.

<sup>126</sup> <https://www.newstarget.com/2018-06-05-homeschooling-skyrockets-as-more-parents-get-fed-up-with-left-wing-social-engineering.html?fbclid=IwAR0lQrWwzWddCXedRaFyZnh9RjcyjmsM63SDa0dQoF3Q1LC9wYd96xVaVRQ>

<sup>127</sup> Snopes, Did Virginia declare a state of emergency ahead of pro-gun rallies? (20 January 2020), <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/virginia-gun-rally-emergency/> and Did Antifa plan to infiltrate Virginia’s pro-gun rally to stage violence? (20 January 2020), <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/virginia-gun-rally-staged/>.

<sup>128</sup> <https://www.newstarget.com/2018-06-05-homeschooling-skyrockets-as-more-parents-get-fed-up-with-left-wing-social-engineering.html?fbclid=IwAR0lQrWwzWddCXedRaFyZnh9RjcyjmsM63SDa0dQoF3Q1LC9wYd96xVaVRQ>

<sup>129</sup> Washington Times, Educational decline: Homeschooling surges as parents seek safer option for children (30 May 2018), <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/30/homeschooling-surges-parents-seek-escape-shootings/>.

**5. “Vaccine bombshell as UN health experts admit toxic vaccine ingredients are harming children worldwide – see video transcript”, NaturalNews, 02/13/2019.<sup>130</sup>**

#### Claims:

- -This article alleges that health experts admitted that harms are being caused by vaccines worldwide. On 2 December 2019, the transcript of a video that was taken at a talk on global trust in vaccines and immunisations run by the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Disease.<sup>131</sup>

#### Fact-Checking:

- -The video itself is not available via the link, instead, the article bases its claims on an unofficial transcript of the video.
- -The claims made in the article engage with well-known anti-vaccine conspiracies as discussed by Full Fact and Snopes.<sup>132</sup>

**6. “5G radiation causes behaviour changes in humans, causes ion potentiation poisoning of brain cells, leading to mass insanity”, NaturalNews, 03/12/2019.<sup>133</sup>**

#### Claims:

- The waves emitted by 5G towers cause brain damage and psychiatric illness.

#### Fact-Checking:

There is currently no scientific consensus to say that 5G has negative impacts on physical or mental health.<sup>134</sup> Instead, Snopes recognises that there is an “infodemic” surrounding 5G that seeks to exacerbate distrust in science and medical professionals.<sup>135</sup>

<sup>130</sup> <https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-01-13-un-health-experts-admit-toxic-vaccine-ingredients-are-harming-children-worldwide-transcript.html>

<sup>131</sup> Vaccine Confidence Project, <https://www.vaccineconfidence.org/>.

<sup>132</sup> Snopes, Malicious bots and trolls spread vaccine misinformation (18 September 2019), <https://www.snopes.com/news/2019/09/18/malicious-bots-and-trolls-spread-vaccine-misinformation/> and Full Fact, Facts on Vaccines, <https://www.fullfact.org/health/vaccines/>.

<sup>133</sup> <https://www.naturalnews.com/2019-12-03-5g-radiation-causes-behavior-changes-in-humans-mass-insanity.html>

<sup>134</sup> Ibid., 5G conspiracy theories prosper during the coronavirus pandemic (9 April 2020), <https://www.snopes.com/news/2020/04/09/5g-conspiracy-theories-prosper-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

**7. “Brighteon Films posts new 5G mini-documentary that warns humanity about the imminent danger of 5G cell towers”, NaturalNews, 03/01/2020.<sup>136</sup>**

**Claims:**

- This article claims that 5G cell towers are dangerous.
- It cites the Scientific American and Professor Martin Pallas its main sources of information.

**Fact-Checking**

- While the article cites the Scientific American, it does not provide the title of the article or a relevant link; instead, the hyperlinked text takes readers to another NaturalNews article on 5G.
- The second source cited by NaturalNews is Martin Pall, a professor emeritus at Washington State University. Pall is well known for speaking out about the alleged dangers of 5G but has faced criticism from other scientists for only reporting on findings that support his point of view.<sup>137</sup>
- According to an investigation done by the Guardian:<sup>138</sup>

To fully debunk the health fears around 5G is impossible: there is no consistent set of claims being made, few explicit studies being cited, and a surfeit of scientific terminology being used in ways that obscure rather than illuminate. Not a single expert the Guardian spoke to believed there was any reliable evidence of harm from 5G or any other part of the publicly licensed broadcast spectrum. And the carriers are emphatic that, in the words of Three UK, “from a health and safety perspective, 5G deployment is no different to any other mobile technology ... no harmful levels of radiation are emitted.”

**8. “New evidence emerges: Coronavirus “bioweapon” might have been a Chinese vaccine experiment gone wrong... genes contain “pShuttle-SN” sequences, proving laboratory origin”, NaturalNews, 02/02/2020.<sup>139</sup>**

**Claims:**

- This article engages in unverified claims surrounding the origins of the coronavirus, highlighting that scientists recently found that the coronavirus has the same protein structure as HIV.
- The story claims that this fact means coronavirus was manufactured in a lab and while not necessarily a bioweapon, it is evidence of a vaccine gone wrong.

**Fact-Checking:**

- The research paper cited in the article was removed by the authors because it had not been peer-reviewed or officially published, but it became popular with conspiracy theorists. This was exposed by Snopes, who revealed that the HIV protein strands found in the coronavirus are so small that their appearance is “nothing more than random chance”.<sup>140</sup>

<sup>136</sup> <https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-01-03-brighteon-films-new-5g-mini-documentary-imminent-danger-of-5g-cell-towers.html>

<sup>137</sup> Kenneth R. Foster, and John E. Moulder. Response to Pall, Wi-Fi is an important threat to human health. Environmental Research, Volume 168 (2019): Pages 445-447.

<sup>138</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/jul/26/how-baseless-fears-over-5g-rollout-created-a-health-scare>

<sup>139</sup> <https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-02-02-coronavirus-bioweapon-chinese-vaccine-experiment-gone-wrong-pshuttle-sn-gene-sequence.html>

<sup>140</sup> Snopes, The origins and scientific failings of the COVID-19 ‘bioweapon’ conspiracy theory (1 April 2020), <https://www.snopes.com/news/2020/04/01/covid-19-bioweapon/>.

**9. “UN hiring “disarmament officers” to conduct “field missions” in New York as UN occupation plan for US goes live”, NaturalNews, 02/01/2020.<sup>141</sup>**

**Claims:**

- On 2 January 2020, the above story from NaturalNews also appeared on the conspiracy news site Info Wars.<sup>142</sup>
- The story argues that the UN’s disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programme is a “euphemism for gun confiscation”.
- It also mentions a previous request made by Cook County Commissioner Richard Boykin to have the UN deployed in Chicago to help end the “quiet genocide” of African-Americans.<sup>143</sup>

**Fact-Checking:**

- While Richard Boykin did make this request, it was misleadingly circulated with a fake UN document from 2013 that outlined the creation of a “civilian weapons confiscation group.”<sup>144</sup>

**10. “New science proves that vaccines spread infectious disease, causing up to 15 times more infections among fully vaccinated children”, NaturalNews, 24/01/2020.<sup>145</sup>**

**Claims:**

- This article engages in the unverified claims surrounding vaccine effectiveness. It discusses the DTaP vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis or whooping cough, as responsible for giving inoculated individuals whooping cough.

**Fact-Checking:**

- There is no scientific evidence to support this claim. Firstly, a relatively recent change in the type of vaccine resulted in a decrease in its period of effectiveness.<sup>146</sup>
- The CDC says that the increase in cases can also be attributed to an increased reporting and wider spread of the bacteria.<sup>147</sup>
- Both the CDC and the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) continue to recommend the vaccine as the most effective way to protect against whooping cough.<sup>148</sup>

<sup>141</sup> <https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-01-02-un-hiring-disarmament-officers-field-missions-new-york-un-occupation-of-america.html>

<sup>142</sup> InfoWars, UN hiring “disarmament officers” to conduct “field missions” in New York as UN occupation plan for America Goes Live (2 January 2020), <https://www.infowars.com/un-hiring-disarmament-officers-to-conduct-field-missions-in-new-york-as-un-occupation-plan-for-america-goes-live/>.

<sup>143</sup> Snopes, Will UN peacekeepers be deployed on the streets of Chicago? <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/will-un-peacekeepers-deployed-streets-chicago/>.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

<sup>145</sup> <https://www.naturalnews.com/2020-01-24-vaccines-spread-infectious-diseases-15-times-more-infections-fully-vaccinated.html>

<sup>146</sup> Harvard Health Publishing, Protection from the Tdap vaccine doesn’t last very long (9 February 2016), <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/protection-from-the-tdap-vaccine-doesnt-last-very-long-201602099202>.

<sup>147</sup> CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/dtap-tdap/public/index.html>.

<sup>148</sup> ECDC, <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/pertussis/facts>.

## Investigation 2 – OSINT Identified NaturalNews-Affiliated Domains

1. “Did the 5G rollout in Wuhan damage the innate cellular defence cells of the population, putting the people at risk of complications and death from COVID-19?”, [Science.news](https://www.science.news/2020-02-26-5g-rollout-in-wuhan-damage-the-innate-cellular-defense-cells-coronavirus.html), 26/02/2020.<sup>149</sup>

## Claims:

- 5G towers produce ionising waves that alter the cells in the human body and cause cancer.
- 5G waves compromise the functioning of cells, resulting in a greater risk of developing a severe case of COVID-19.

## Fact-Checking:

- 5G is non-ionising meaning that it does not harm cells.<sup>150</sup>
- Waves emitted by 5G towers cannot damage the DNA inside cells, while waves with higher frequencies (such as X-rays, gamma rays and ultraviolet light) are thought to cause cancer.<sup>151</sup>

2. “It’s true: Government kidnaps children and separates them from their mothers... learn the truth about “medical kidnapping” and forced vaccinations, chemotherapy”, [dangerousmedicine.com](https://www.dangerousmedicine.com/2018-06-29-government-kidnaps-children-truth-about-medical-kidnapping-and-forced-vaccinations-chemotherapy.html), 29/06/2018.<sup>152</sup>

## Claims:

- The stories about immigrant children being mistreated in US detention facilities are “manufactured fake news” (see below).
- The US government has been kidnapping children from parents who do not vaccinate the children, or who pursue alternative cancer treatments—or “medical kidnapping”

Again, these are just a few examples among *many* that take place every single day in the U.S., unbeknownst to the millions of brain-addled zombies who simply believe whatever the mainstream media tells them. If the news of the day is *some manufactured fake news story* about a crying illegal alien child, for instance, then the zombies eat it right up – no questions asked, and with no concern for anything not reported by their propaganda outlets of choice.

## Fact-Checking:

- An article approved by Snopes as a verified source explicitly describes the mistreatment of immigrant children being held in US detention facilities, as told by eyewitnesses.<sup>153</sup>
- Snopes discusses the difficulty in investigating claims of medical kidnapping orchestrated by Child Protect Services (CPS) agencies, especially that “news outlets are generally unable to verify a family’s claims in any given CPS dispute, which creates the risk of unwarranted public alarm being generated from incidents that have practical and reasonable explanations.”<sup>154</sup>

149 <https://www.science.news/2020-02-26-5g-rollout-in-wuhan-damage-the-innate-cellular-defense-cells-coronavirus.html>

150 Full Fact, These claims about the new coronavirus and 5G are unfounded (13 March 2020), <https://fullfact.org/online/coronavirus-5G/>.

151 Ibid., <https://fullfact.org/health/5G-not-accelerating-coronavirus/>.

152 <https://dangerousmedicine.com/2018-06-29-government-kidnaps-children-truth-about-medical-kidnapping-and-forced-vaccinations-chemotherapy.html>

153 Associated Press, Attorneys: Texas border facility is neglecting migrant kids (21 June 2019), <https://apnews.com/46da2dbe04f54adbb875cfbc06bbc615>.

154 Snopes, Alabama CPS ‘medical kidnap’ (17 June 2016), <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/alabama-cps-medical-kidnap/>.



3. “In liberal Austin, anal sex will now be taught to children in grades 3 through 8 as public education becomes pedophilia indoctrination”, [mindcontrol.news](https://www.mindcontrol.news/2019-11-07-austin-schools-teaching-anal-sex-children.html), 07/11/2019.<sup>155</sup>

#### Claims:

- “The Austin Independent School District (AISD) in Texas has voted to implement a new pro-LGBTQ curriculum that includes teaching third-graders how to have anal sex”.<sup>156</sup>

#### Fact-Checking:

- The AISD did vote to implement a new curriculum in 2019. To the best of ISD’s knowledge and following a manual review of the publicly available lesson plans, none of these involves teaching children how to have anal sex. Additionally, every student and/or parent has the right to opt-out of any or all of these lessons.<sup>157</sup>

4. “NASA declares carbon dioxide is greening the earth... reveals how Green New Deal is a death cult that would collapse global ecology”, [climate.news](https://www.climate.news/2019-04-26-nasa-declares-carbon-dioxide-is-greening-the-earth.html), 26/04/2019.<sup>158</sup>

#### Claims:

- “a scientific study published in Nature Climate Change and highlighted by NASA reveals that rising carbon dioxide levels are having a tremendously positive impact on the re-greening of planet Earth over the last three decades, with some regions experiencing over a 50% increase in plant life”.<sup>159</sup>
- The Green New Death (read Deal) would result in the collapse of the global economy.

#### The Green New Deal is a “Death Cult”

It turns out that climate change alarmists, by vilifying CO2, are demanding actions that would make the planet *less* green by killing plants everywhere. Instead of a warm, wet planet with abundant rainfall and rainforests, Democrat seem to want a **cold, dead world that’s devoid of plant life**.

#### Fact-Checking:

- The study “Greening of the Earth and its Drivers” was published in the journal Nature Climate Change and reviewed by NASA.<sup>160</sup> While the report explains that carbon dioxide has caused an increase in vegetation, the “positives of CO2 are likely to be outweighed by the negative”.<sup>161</sup>
- The authors of the study have been quoted by the BBC and Carbon Brief and stress that the trend towards global greening over the past 30 years is not evidence that climate change is beneficial”.<sup>162</sup>

<sup>155</sup> <https://www.mindcontrol.news/2019-11-07-austin-schools-teaching-anal-sex-children.html>

<sup>156</sup> NaturalNews, In liberal Austin, anal sex will now be taught to children in grades 3 through 8 as public education becomes pedophilia indoctrination (7 November 2019), <https://www.naturalnews.com/2019-11-07-austin-schools-teaching-anal-sex-children.html>.

<sup>157</sup> AISD, <https://www.austinisd.org/pe-health/health-education/hsr>.

<sup>158</sup> <https://www.climate.news/2019-04-26-nasa-declares-carbon-dioxide-is-greening-the-earth.html>

<sup>159</sup> NaturalNews, NASA declares carbon dioxide is greening the earth... reveals how Green New Death is a DEATH cult that would collapse global ecology (26 April 2019), <https://www.naturalnews.com/2019-04-26-nasa-declares-carbon-dioxide-is-greening-the-earth.html>.

<sup>160</sup> Nature Climate Change, Greening of the earth and its drivers (25 April 2016), <https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3004>.

<sup>161</sup> BBC News, Rise in CO2 has ‘greened planet earth’ (25 April 2016), <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-36130346>.

<sup>162</sup> Carbon Brief, Rising CO2 has ‘greened’ world’s plants and trees (25 April 2016), <https://www.carbonbrief.org/rising-co2-has-greened-worlds-plants-and-trees>.

**5. “Fight cold and flu symptoms with these six natural remedies”, food.news, 22/11/2019.**<sup>163</sup>

**Claims:**

- Cold and flu symptoms can be cured with natural remedies including garlic, honey, hot peppers, ginger, green tea and salt and “could be just as effective as contemporary medicine”.

**Fact-Checking:**

- The FDA lists a series of approved medication for common colds and the flu. There is currently no proof that natural remedies such as certain foods and drinks can “cure” both ailments.<sup>164</sup>

**6. “Go nuts for coconuts: six health benefits of coconut meat”, food.news, 10/02/2020.**<sup>165</sup>

**Claims:**

- Coconut, in particular coconut meat, has a range of health properties, including improving heart health, aiding digestive health and supporting weight loss.

**Fact-Checking:**

- A review of existing medical literature by Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health concluded that clinical studies are insufficient to conclude, while the American Heart Association Coconut published a scientific advisory statement in 2017 recommending to replace saturated fats (including coconut oil) with unsaturated fat.<sup>166 167</sup>

**7. “Here’s why ginger turmeric tea is one of the best remedies for improving your overall health”, food.news, 22/11/2019.**<sup>168</sup>

**Claims:**

- Ginger and turmeric have a range of health benefits and when combined are contributing to overall health, including warding off cancer; the article quotes a series of studies proving this claim, including a study by the University of Michigan which allegedly found evidence that ginger may protect from ovarian cancer.

**Fact-Checking:**

- Dr. Joe Schwarcz, the Director of McGill University’s “Office for Science and Society”, reviewed the article and its claims. He points out that many phytochemicals found in nature are able to kill cancer cells in vitro, but this does not mean that they are “viable cancer treatments”.<sup>169</sup> Dr. Schwarcz also commented on the article’s misleading and “reckless” wording, which implies that “ginger is an alternative to chemo”.<sup>170</sup>

<sup>163</sup> <https://food.news/2019-11-22-6-remedies-for-cold-and-flu-symptoms.html>

<sup>164</sup> The Food and Drug Administration, <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/it-cold-or-flu-prevention-symptoms-treatments>.

<sup>165</sup> <https://food.news/2020-02-10-6-health-benefits-of-coconut-meat.html>

<sup>166</sup> Harvard T.H.Chan, <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutritionsource/food-features/coconut-oil/>

<sup>167</sup> American Heart Association, Replacing saturated fat with healthier fat may lower cholesterol as well as drugs in context of a healthy diet (15 June 2017), <https://newsroom.heart.org/news/replacing-saturated-fat-with-healthier-fat-may-lower-cholesterol-as-well-as-drugs-in-context-of-a-healthy-diet>.

<sup>168</sup> <https://food.news/2019-11-22-ginger-turmeric-tea-is-the-best-remedy.html>

<sup>169</sup> <https://www.mcgill.ca/oss/article/cancer-controversial-science-food-health-news-quackery-toxicity/walk-gingerly-declaring-ginger-cancer-cure>

<sup>170</sup> Ibid.

**8. “Chili peppers discovered to contain a hot compound against cancer”, food.news, 14/02/2020.<sup>171</sup>**

**Claims:**

- Chilli peppers have a compound that inhibits lung cancer metastasis; the article quotes a study by Marshall University to support this claim.

**Fact-checking:**

- The study by Marshall University was published in April 2019 and was conducted on cultured cells, with tests performed on mice, not on humans.<sup>172</sup>

**9. “Here’s why lemons are considered powerful cancer-fighters”, food.news, 06/03/2020.<sup>173</sup>**

**Claims:**

- Lemon juice and lemon extract can prevent cancer by killing off cancer cells.

**Fact-Checking:**

- Snopes carried out fact-checking of claims that lemons can kill cancer cells and concluded that this claim is unsupported by credible medical evidence.<sup>174</sup>

**10. “Always eat your (green) veggies: What are the health benefits of chlorophyll?”, food.news, 03/01/2020.<sup>175</sup>**

**Claims:**

- There is scientific data to back the idea that chlorophyll has health benefits.

**Fact-Checking:**

- Fact-checking on health benefit claims about chlorophyll by the New York Times concluded that “most of the available scientific research for chlorophyll and chlorophyllin comes from cellular and animal studies” and that existing studies are not sufficient to provide scientific evidence that chlorophyll has notable health benefits.<sup>176</sup>

<sup>171</sup> <https://food.news/2020-02-14-chili-peppers-have-hot-compound-against-cancer.html>

<sup>172</sup> Marshall University, Spicy compound from chili peppers slows lung cancer progression

Cell, animal studies show potential of capsaicin as lung cancer treatment (6 April 2019), <https://jcesom.marshall.edu/news/musom-news/spicy-compound-from-chili-peppers-slows-lung-cancer-progression/>.

<sup>173</sup> <https://food.news/2020-03-06-heres-why-lemons-are-considered-powerful-cancer-fighters.html>

<sup>174</sup> Snopes, Do Lemons cure cancer? (18 April 2011), <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/lemon-cancer-cure/>.

<sup>175</sup> <https://food.news/2020-01-03-the-health-benefits-of-chlorophyll.html>

<sup>176</sup> New York Times, Are there benefits to chlorophyll supplements? (15 November 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/style/chlorophyll-benefits.html>.



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