

Cancer-related 'fake news' on social media influences young adult cancer caregivers' decision making

Young adult cancer caregivers' experiences with cancer-related health misinformation on social media

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INTRODUCTION

- Young adult cancer caregivers are digital natives who use social media during cancer experiences.
- We interviewed caregivers to describe their exposure to **cancer-related health misinformation (i.e. fake news)** on social media.

METHODS

1. N=21 young adults, ages 18-39, weekly social media use, caregiving for an adult cancer patient diagnosed 6 months-5 years prior.
2. Recruited from 08/2017-06/2018 at oncology clinics and online.
3. Thematic content analysis of semi-structured interviews.

RESULTS

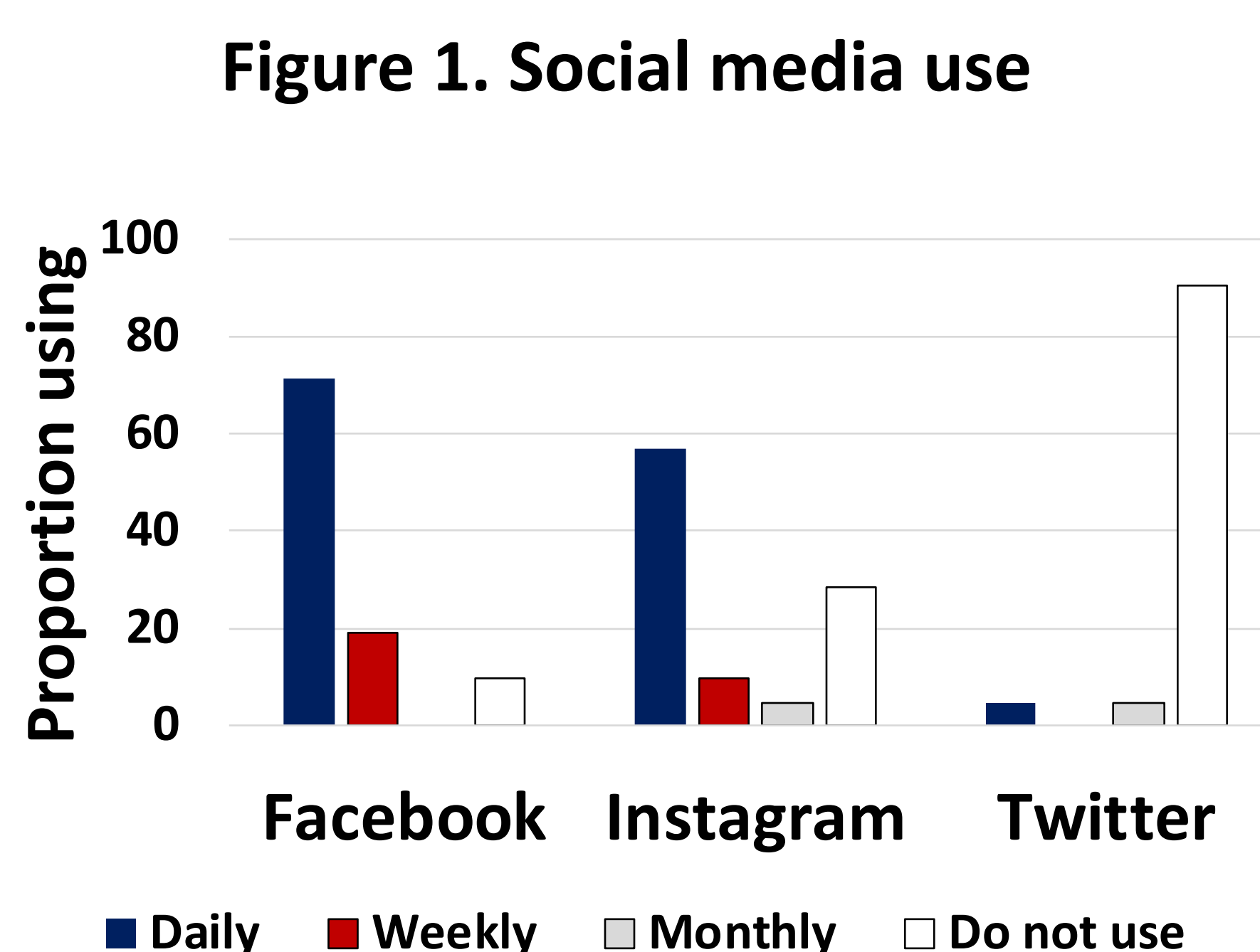


Table 1. Caregiver and cancer patient characteristics (N=21)

Caregiver	%	Patient	%
Age at Interview		Age at Interview	
18-24	19.0	18-29	19.0
25-29	28.6	30-39	52.4
30-34	23.8	+40	28.6
35-39	28.6	Relationship	
Female	76.2	Spouse/partner	47.6
NHW	90.5	Parent	28.5
Education		Other ²	23.8
≤High school	14.3	Time since diagnosis	
Some college	28.6	6 m to <1 y	33.3
≥College grad	57.1	1 y to < 2 y	52.4
Caring for others ¹	66.7	2 y to <5 y	14.3

¹Options included a child under age 18, child over age 18, parent, spouse, or other
²Included siblings, child

RESULTS

76% of caregivers experienced cancer-related 'fake news'

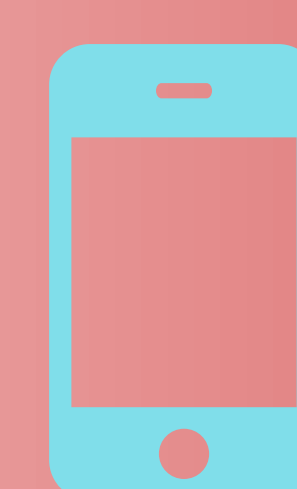


Distress and uncertainty

Crosscheck dubious sources

DISCUSSION

- Caregivers' ability to identify cancer misinformation is unknown.
- Supporting digital literacy may help address unmet information needs among young caregivers.



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