

# A Review of Smartphone Fact-Checking Apps and their (Non) Use Among Older Adults

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## Problem

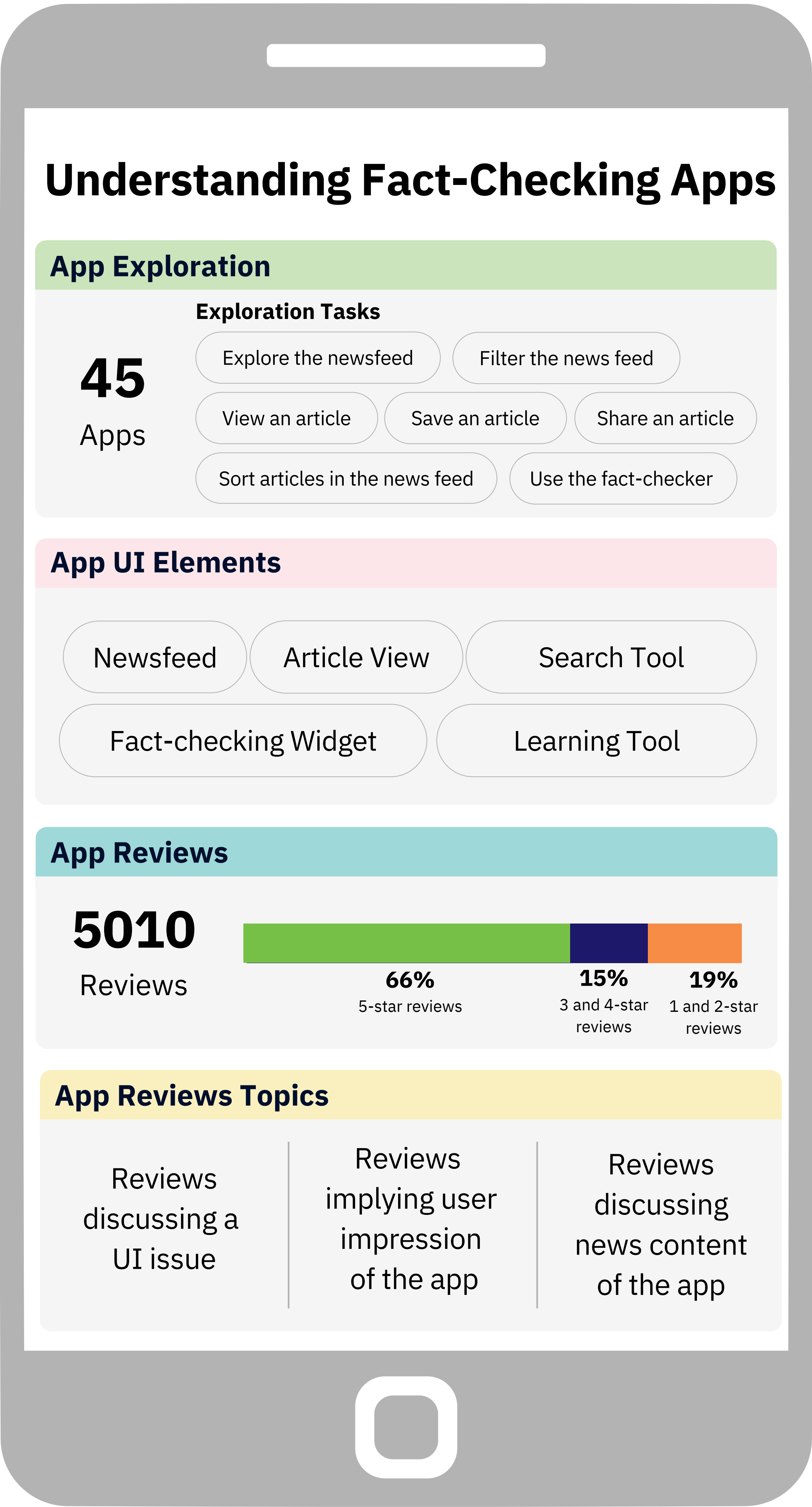
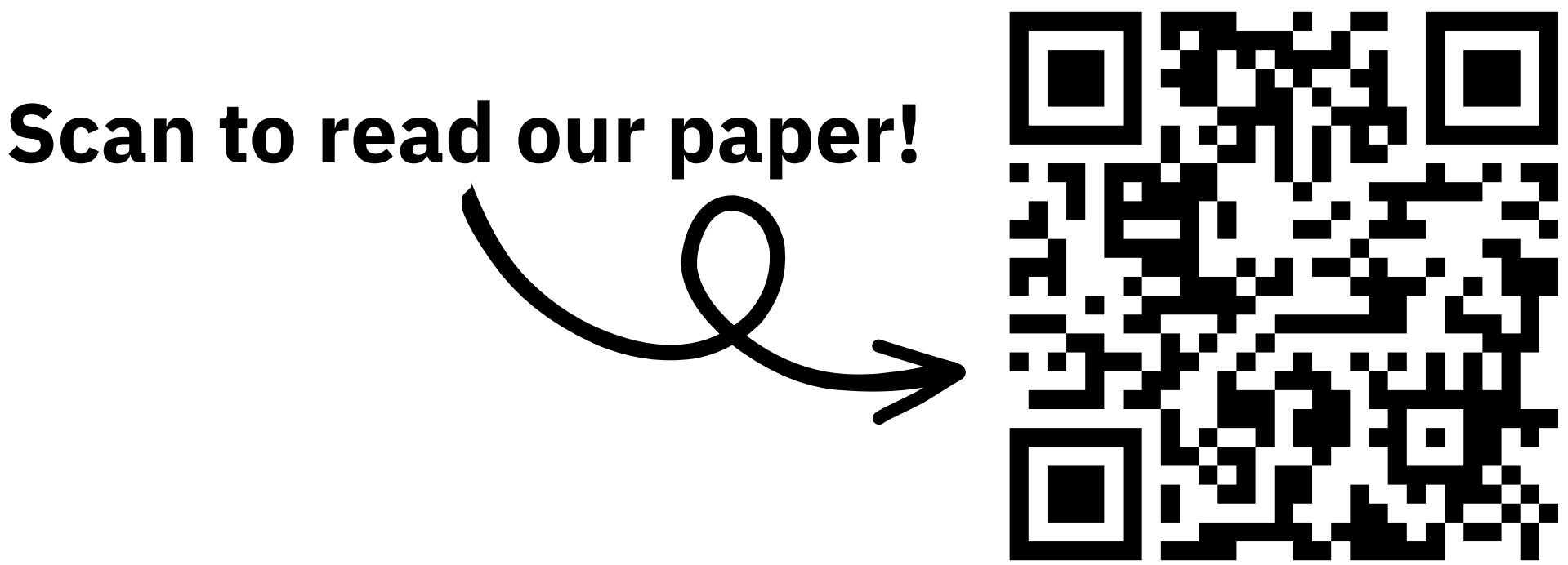
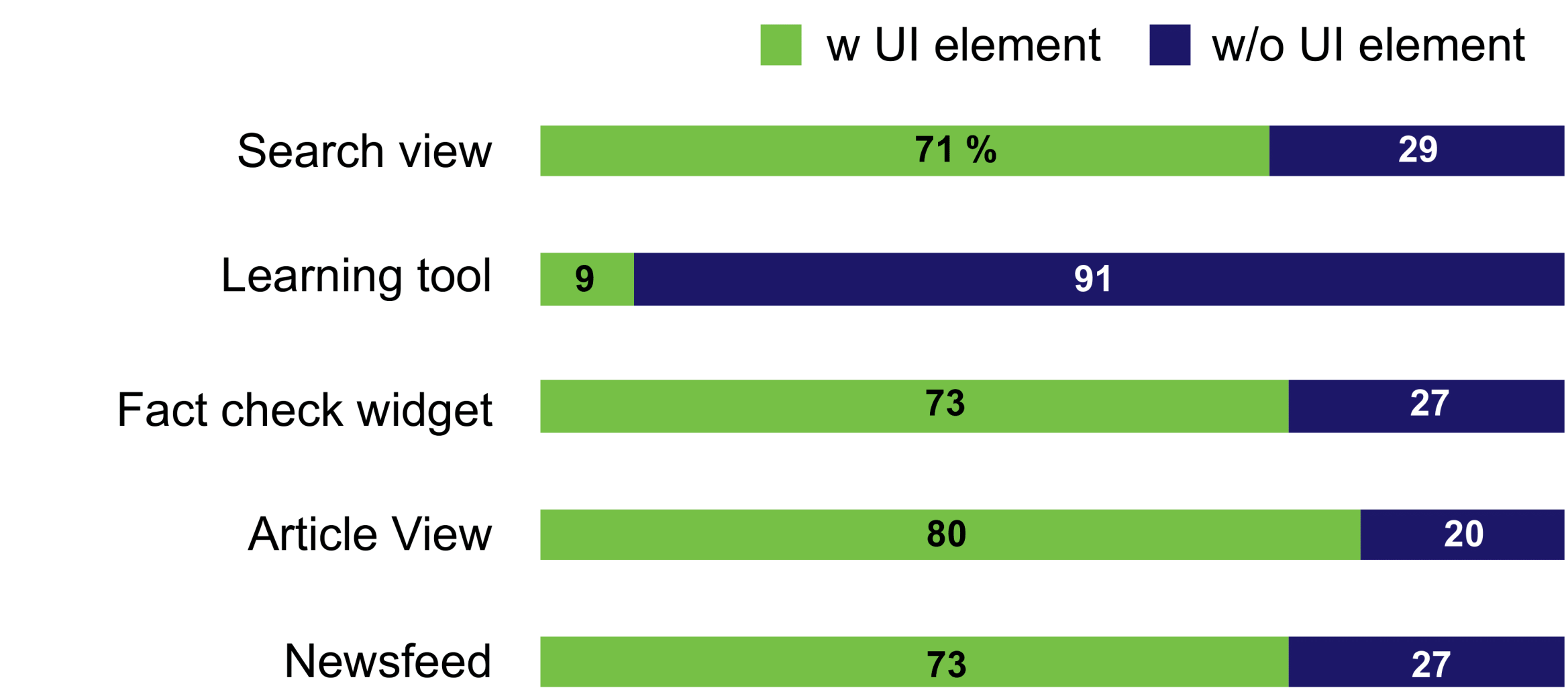
- In today's age, most people encounter falsehoods frequently on their smartphones.
- In 2021, 61% of adults over 65 owned a smartphone, and this global upward trend is expected to continue.
- Older adults are among the most vulnerable to the negative effects of fake news.
- One study found that, older adults shared about seven times as many fake news articles as their younger counterparts.
- Recent studies also show that older adults engage more frequently with misinformation than younger users.

## How are we fact-checking?

- Fact-checking is either done automatically or via human intervention.
- Fact-checking tools come in a variety of shapes and sizes:
  - Dedicated websites (Snopes.com)
  - Browser plugins (WeVerify)
  - Informational tags on posts (YouTube)
  - Website feature (Pinocchio at WashingtonPost.com)
  - Mobile apps (Logically)


## Methodology

- Systematic fact-checking apps review.
- Semi-structured interviews with older adults (N=11).

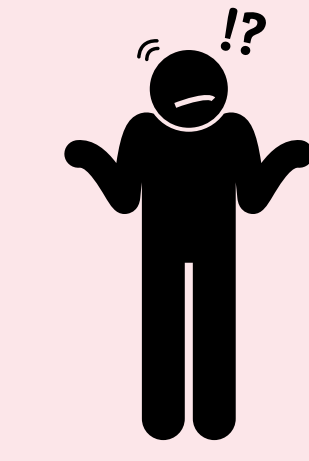


## Older adults fact-checking behaviors

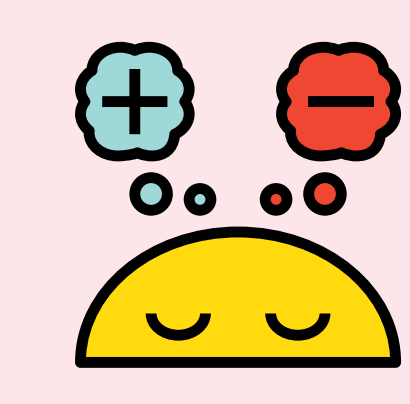
Older users prefer asking friends or acquaintances for fact-checking.




Older users use tools that are already familiar to them, like Google search or Snopes, that they have come to trust from prior use.



Older users may not consider fact-checking if the source conforms to their political point of view, or that of view of someone or a group they admire or socially belong to.



Older users are NOT using fact-checking apps on smartphones.



## Older adults' interaction with fact-checks:

Older adults interacted with fake news and fact-checked claims majorly by sharing.

- Shared these in their circles
- Shared with someone they know would be interested in the topic
- Shared to prove a point in a discussion
- Shared as a sole act of altruism to help others

The participants majorly shared privately instead of posting on their personal pages. Their favorite sharing channels were posting to Facebook or sending the fact-checked article via email.

Our participants rarely interacted through comments or likes.