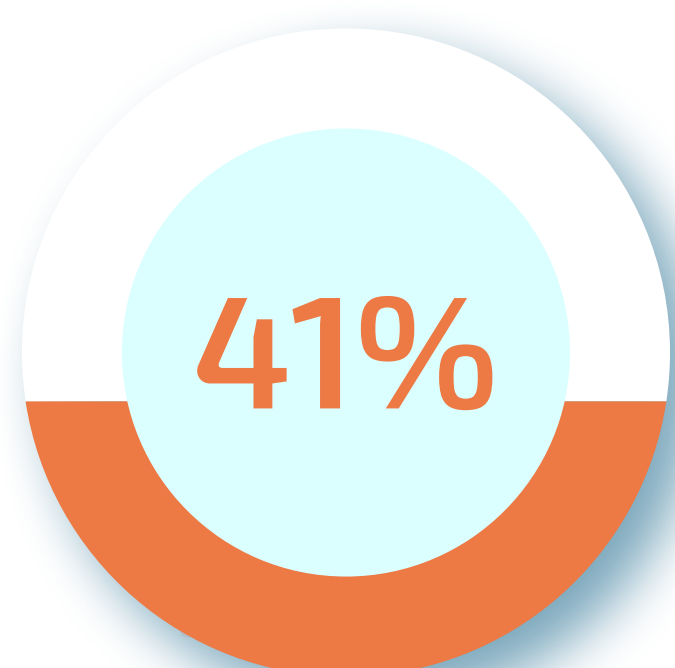


HOW ACCURATE IS FOOD SAFETY ADVICE ONLINE?

Researchers conducted a study to assess the accuracy of safe food handling advice posted on question-and-answer (Q&A) websites and forums. The researchers evaluated 625 answers to 160 questions posted between 2006 and 2019 about safe food handling on Reddit, Yahoo! Answers, Quora, and Stack Exchange.



of answers correctly conformed to government guidelines for safe food handling



of answers provided incorrect advice



of answers provided partially correct advice

RESEARCHERS FOUND THAT...



Answers to questions posted on Yahoo! Answers were less likely to be correct than those on the other platforms, with those on Quora most likely to be correct.



Answers to questions about cooking and storing food were less likely to be correct than those about handwashing, cleaning and sanitation, and risky food consumption (e.g. foods that should be avoided by pregnant women).

Some example questions include...



What's the most appropriate way to thaw hamburger meat?



What foods can you NOT eat while pregnant?



How do I know if the chicken I made is fully cooked?



'Top-rated' answers were more likely to be correct than other answers to the same question.

Food safety education is needed with consumers who use Q&A websites and forums to promote accurate safe food handling advice.

Read the full article online by scanning the QR code.



Young, I., Bhulabhai, M., & Papadopoulos, A. (2020). Safe food handling advice provided on question-and-answer websites is inconsistent. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*. 52(7), 688-696. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2019.12.011>

Prepared by Christine Lum and Ian Young, 2020.