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# Most New Jerseyans think the media is biased, poll finds



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**TRENTON** -- Most New Jerseyans think newspapers and television stations do a good job of keeping them informed but feel the media as a whole is biased, according to a new [Stockton University poll](#).

A majority of Garden State residents polled watch cable news and are wary of so-called fake news.

"It's striking how deep the distrust is among New Jersey adults for the news media, regardless of its format," said Sharon Schulman, executive director of Stockton's William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. "These views cause concern given the role a free press plays in disseminating information in our democracy."

The telephone poll asked 786 adults about their news consumption and views on cable news, broadcast news, online news, newspapers, radio and social media. It was conducted between Feb. 15 and Feb. 21, the same week that President Donald Trump called the media the ["the enemy of the American people"](#) in a Feb. 17 post on Twitter.

Only respondents who said they use a particular type of news media were asked if they thought that type of media is biased. A majority said they found bias in news on social media (82 percent), cable TV news (67 percent), online news (62 percent) and newspapers (53 percent).

Fifty percent of people who get news from broadcast TV and radio think news from those mediums is biased.

The poll also found that nearly 80 percent of people watch cable TV news while only 46 percent rely on print newspapers.

Other notable findings include:

- Two-thirds of people under 30 mainly get their news from digital sources: 37 percent online and 29 percent social media, even though social media is considered the least accurate and most biased source among all age groups.
- Eighty-five percent of respondents said they are very or somewhat concerned that a news story may be fake. Two-thirds think they are able to spot fake news at least some of the time, but one-third don't know or are unsure when a news story is false.
- Asked who is trusted to provide unbiased coverage of state political news, respondents picked TV news (33 percent), New Jersey newspapers (24 percent) and online news (16 percent)

The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

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