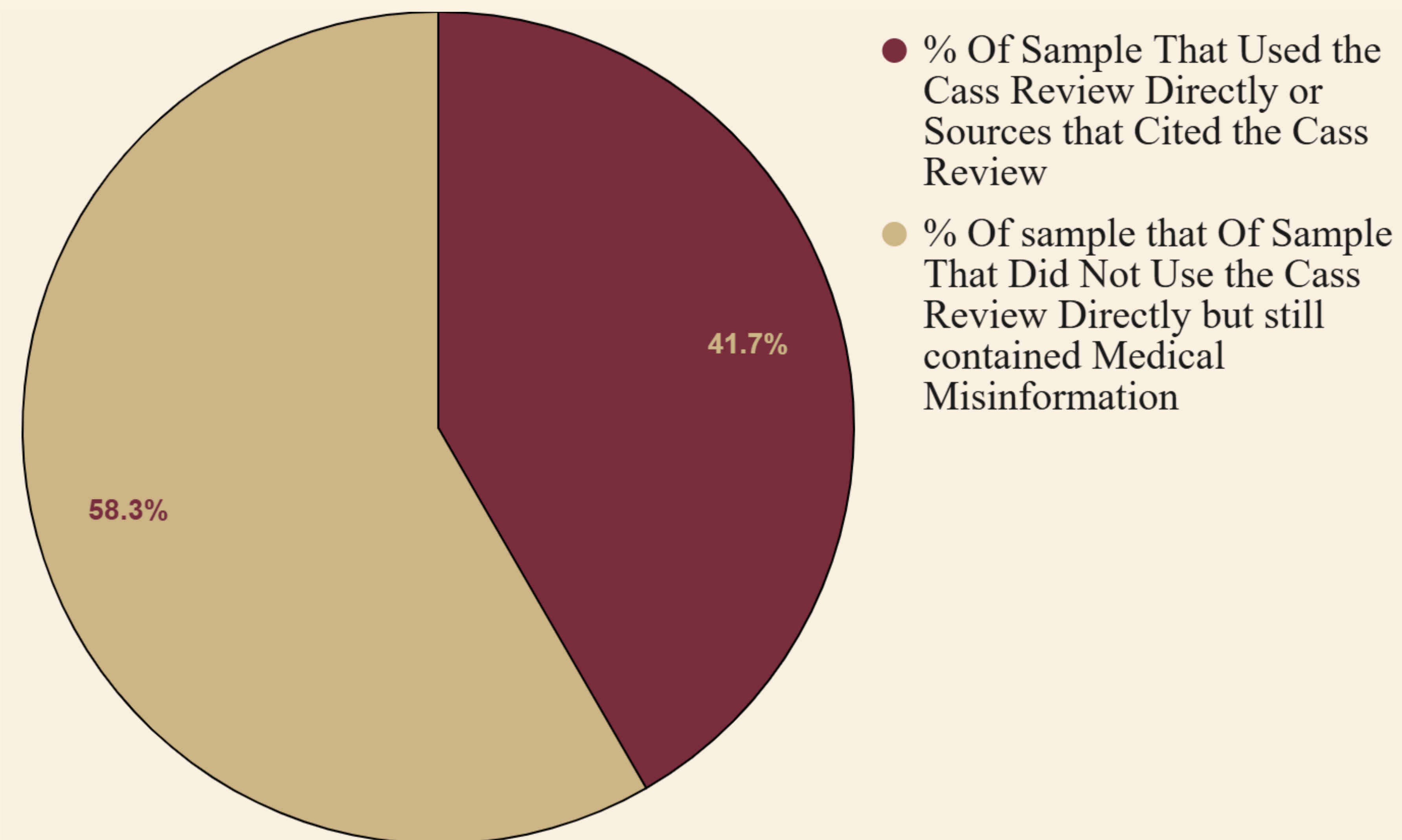


Medical Misinformation Surrounding Gender Affirming Care: The Repercussions for the Medical System

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Introduction:

In recent years as medical misinformation has grown, U.S. wide repercussions have followed. While some of these repercussions are obvious, such as the 2280 measles cases in 2025, other signs are more hidden (CDC 2026). The misinformation surrounding gender affirming care has provided many problems of its own. Polls such as one conducted by the Pew Research center found a 10% rise in favor towards banning health care professionals from providing care related to gender transitions for minors since 2022. My research is specifically focused on how both government and medically spread misinformation has contradicted previous medical consensus on gender affirming care. My research is specifically focused on the impact of this type misinformation on the broader medical community. A topic that has been under covered despite the often discussed nature of gender affirming care. With over 214 bills on trans health care being considered in 2025 alone (Trans Legislation Tracker, 2025). My research's end goal is to help synthesize much of the misinformation surrounding a topic often uncovered from the medical angle.



Graph showing the percent of sampled sources directly used the Cass Review as a source. Sample contained 6 popular sources, 4 government sources, and 2 medical sources. Specifics are available in the references

Reference



Conclusion:

The attacks on gender affirming care have had effects on the public. Results from my research show that the misinformation surrounding gender affirming care has worsened public trust in gender affirming care. This misinformation does not exist in vacuum, since 2020, trust in the medical system has taken a massive downturn. With a survey by Gallup finding a 10% drop in trust between 2021 - 2023 alone (Saad, 2023). While other factors have played into this, the impact of medical misinformation surrounding gender affirming care shouldn't be ignored. Gender affirming care should be considered as an important part of the falling trust in medical authority. The fight over gender affirming care has only widened the divide between the public and the medical community.

Methods:

The methods for my project can easily be broken down into 3 segments:

- First I examined several government sponsored or provided articles about gender affirming care. I analysed the key points from each source and documented what they had in common.
- I then would take medical documents that contradicted previous scientific consensus on gender affirming care such as the Cass Review. I compared what claims they shared with the government provided articles and documented the results.
- I then took popular sources and polls on gender affirming care and traced what they had in common with both sources to prove a connection. I also compared each source with other peer reviewed articles on gender affirming care.

Results:

- Government documents echoed much of the medical misinformation presented in medical documents contradicting previous consensus
 - Specifically, claims surrounding children where the most common site of contradictory claims
- Popular sources often restated misinformation present in governmental documents
- Rise in general concern about gender affirming care in the past few years across polls.
- Poll results showed connections with concerns found in medical sources challenging previous medical consensus and government documents