Replication: Prevalence-Induced Belief Change, October 2021 (#77989)

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1) Have any data been collected for this study already?
No, no data have been collected for this study yet.

2) What's the main question being asked or hypothesis being tested in this study?
People will judge conspiratorial beliefs as more likely when they believe that those beliefs are more prevalent among people. Prevalence information will have a greater influence over a judgment when one is less certain (i.e. when the judgment is less extreme; operationalized as the distance from 50 on a 0-100 likelihood scale).

3) Describe the key dependent variable(s) specifying how they will be measured.
Belief change, or the difference between ratings of likelihood (0-100 scale) for statements before vs. after the prevalence information is presented. As a manipulation check, the change in one's estimate of the prevalence of the belief ("prevalence change") will also be recorded.

4) How many and which conditions will participants be assigned to?
Two conditions, within-subjects: control vs. exaggerated. In the control condition, the prevalence data will roughly match participants' own estimates of the population-level prevalence of the belief. In the exaggerated condition, the prevalence data will be exaggerated by 40% relative to the participants' prior prevalence estimates.

5) Specify exactly which analyses you will conduct to examine the main question/hypothesis.
We will use a t-test to assess the effect of prevalence condition (control vs. exaggerated) on belief change. We will also assess how initial certainty and prevalence change predict belief change.

6) Describe exactly how outliers will be defined and handled, and your precise rule(s) for excluding observations.
We will exclude any participant who fails more than one of 4 attention checks (e.g. rates "Stop signs are green." as more than 10% likely) or who fails one or more of 6 filter questions designed to catch bots (e.g. "What's your favorite frozen treat?"). We will also exclude trials in which participants initially endorsed the empirically unsupported belief with a likelihood rating of over 60% due to the nature of our manipulation.

7) How many observations will be collected or what will determine sample size? No need to justify decision, but be precise about exactly how the number will be determined.
200 American adults will be recruited to participate online via Prolific.

8) Anything else you would like to pre-register? (e.g., secondary analyses, variables collected for exploratory purposes, unusual analyses planned?)