Supplementary Content

Alexa Top 1-Million Sites

The list of top 1-million sites reported by Alexa and the scripts for scanning the list are both available on Mozilla's Github: https://github.com/mozilla/cipherscan/tree/master/top1m.

Supplementary Tables

Table S1.

Signature Information Sources of the Chemtrail Narrative (Robustness Check)

Index	Information Sources	Prevalence (%)	Issue-focused ^a
1	geoengineeringwatch.org	25.1	Yes
2	gofundme.com#	12.8	
3	activistpost.com	10.8	
4	beforeitsnews.com	10.1	
5	dailymail.co.uk	9.9	
6	globalskywatch.com	9.6	Yes
7	climateviewer.com*	9.3	Yes
8	infowars.com	9.1	
9	globalmarchagainstchemtrailsandgeoengineering.com*	8.9	Yes
10	gmacag.com*	8.8	Yes
11	globalresearch.ca	8.7	
12	rt.com	8.3	
13	worldtruth.tv	8.2	
14	aircrap.org*	8.0	Yes
15	yournewswire.com	7.9	
16	collective-evolution.com	7.8	
17	avaaz.org*	7.7	
18	bitchute.com	7.5	
19	stopsprayingus-sf.com*	7.1	Yes
20	rense.com	6.5	
21	zengardner.com*	6.3	
22	blogtalkradio.com*	6.1	
23	thetruthdenied.com*	6.1	
24	hugedomains.com #	5.9	
25	carnicominstitute.org*	5.7	
26	whyintheworldaretheyspraying.com*	5.6	Yes
27	thelibertybeacon.com	5.4	
28	humansarefree.com	5.4	
29	wakeup-world.com	5.2	
30	stateofthenation2012.com	5.2	
31	rumble.com	5.1	
32	wakingtimes.com	5.1	

Note. Prevalence indicates the proportion of communities that referenced a certain signature source one or more times, among all Chemtrail communities. Information sources marked with * are sources that have not been included in the list of low credibility information sources. The list is composed of disinformation sources and niche sources, and the latter excluded the 1,000 most popular sources on the Internet. All sources were used by more than 5% of the Chemtrail communities. * Information sources were identified as issue-focused if their content focuses on the Chemtrail conspiracy theory; unsubstantiated concern of condensation trail, weather modification, and geoengineering; or the denial of climate change. * Information sources that were not included in Table 3.

Table S2.

Comparison of Regression Results Based on Different Criteria of Signature Sources.

	Model 1 ^a	Model 2 b	Model 3 ^c
Key predictors			
Signature source	0.436 (0.135) **	0.334 (0.118) **	0.343 (0.162) *
Government source	-0.204 (0.105)	0.242 (0.141)	-0.214 (0.104) *
Legitimate news source	0.247 (0.141)	-0.209 (0.106) *	0.231 (0.139)
Message level covariates			
Year	0.083 (0.040) *	0.083 (0.040) *	0.083 (0.040) *
Message length	0.064 (0.026) *	0.064 (0.026) *	0.068 (0.027) *
Facebook internal resource	-0.304 (0.080) ***	-0.307 (0.082) ***	-0.311 (0.081) ***
Including photo	-0.214 (0.064) ***	-0.216 (0.064) ***	-0.218 (0.065) ***
Including video	-0.321 (0.065) ***	-0.324 (0.065) ***	-0.329 (0.066) ***
Account level covariates			
Account type	0.167 (0.206)	0.171 (0.207)	0.175 (0.207)
Subscriber size	-0.015 (0.008)	-0.014 (0.008)	-0.015 (0.008)
Constant	0.590 (0.201) **	0.590 (0.204) **	0.604 (0.202) **

Note. N = 137,140 articles grouped within 784 communities. Statistical significance is indicated by *p < .05, **p < .01, ***p < .001. The 95% confidence intervals (CIs) are shown within square brackets. The length of a message is calculated by dividing the number of characters in a message by 1,000, while the subscriber size is determined by dividing the number of subscribers of an account by 1,000. The "Year" variable ranges from 0 (representing the year 2010) to 13 (representing the year 2022) and is represented as an integer. The account type is categorized as 1 if it is a Facebook Page and 0 if it's a Facebook Group. The standard errors are clustered at the account level.

 $^{^{\}rm a}$ In Model 1, signature sources were defined as those cited by more than 5% of communities.

 $^{^{\}it b}$ In Model 2, signature sources were defined as those cited by more than 3% of communities.

^b In Model 3, signature sources were defined as those cited by more than 7% of communities.

Table S3.

Number of Posts Created by the Chemtrail Communities on Facebook

Year	Num. posts	
2011	492	
2012	6990	
2013	13593	
2014	17688	
2015	19799	
2016	18326	
2017	13483	
2018	11269	
2019	8024	
2020	8422	
2021	6542	
2022	9063	
2023*	3449	

Notes. Data collection was until April 2023.

Supplementary Figures

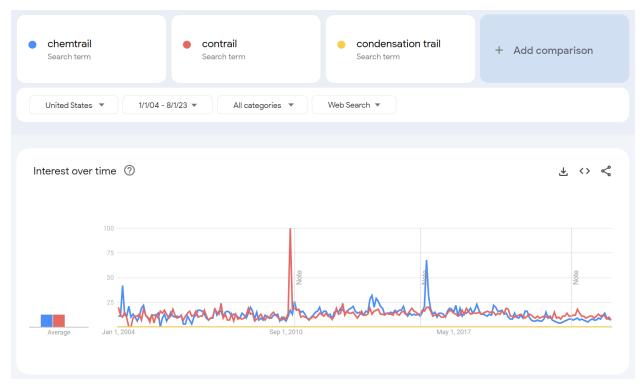
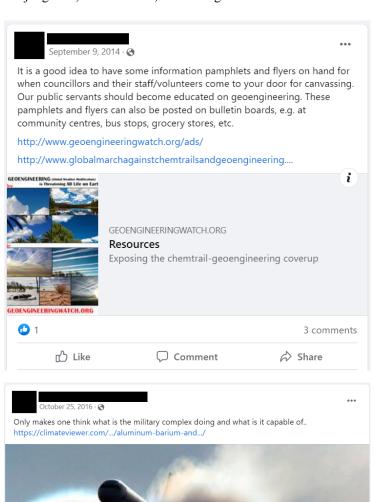


Figure S1. Google Trends Results for Chemtrail, Contrail, and Condensation Trail



Aluminum, Barium, and Chemtrails Explained – JUST THE FACTS

Like

I have been researching the chemtrail phenomenon for over three years now and I am constan...

Comment Comment

29 comments 1 share

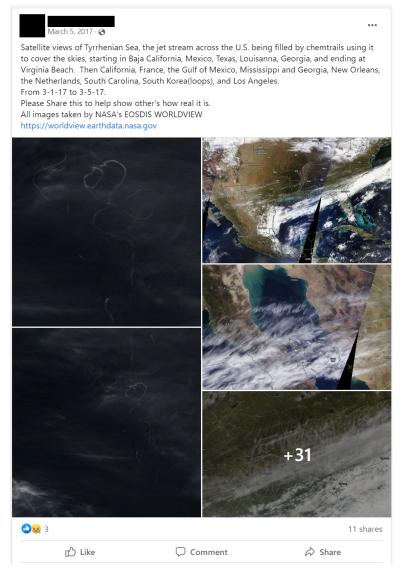


Figure S2. Example Facebook Posts from the Chemtrail Online Communities