anthonyblogan.com

The website of conservative commentator Anthony Brian Logan, that has published misleading and unsubstantiated claims about U.S. politics and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Proceed with caution: This website fails to adhere to several basic journalistic standards.

Score: 57/100

Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)

Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)

Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)

Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)

Avoids deceptive headlines (10)

Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)

Clearly labels advertising (7.5)

Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)

The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

More information.

Ownership and Financing

AnthonyBLogan.com is owned by Anthony Brian Logan, a conservative YouTube personality and podcaster based in Hixson, Tennessee. The About Us page provides Logan's biography and refers to the site as "his website." Logan has appeared as a political commentator on The Blaze TV and RT America, a news channel owned by the Russian government.

The website runs advertisements and also accepts donations from readers through PayPal, Cashapp, and Patreon, a subscription platform that allows "patrons" to contribute funds.

Content

The About Us page of AnthonyBLogan.com says, "His website will be the hub of all things related directly to him and to things he has a strong interest in. Current events related to politics, general news (including the sometimes strange stories) and cultural news will be found here. ... Everyone here is dedicated to the advancement of conservatism."

Content is divided into categories including COVID-19, Politics, Trump, Strange News, and Environment. Individual articles are also labeled with additional topics, such as "Law Enforcement," "Opinion," and "Black Community." Some articles that are critical of former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden are labeled as "Creepy Joe."

The website's ABL Live! section links to episodes of Logan's podcast.

Typical headlines include "Why Trump Doesn't Have to 'Denounce' White Supremacy;" "Trump Introduces "The 1776 Commission" To Fight Leftist Indoctrination!" and "Pelosi Visits Closed San Francisco Salon With No Mask, Says You Can't!"

Credibility

AnthonyBLogan.com's stories have often cited accounts from other news organizations, such as Reuters. For News, and Newsweek

However, NewsGuard found that the website's articles and headlines have made unsubstantiated and misleading claims, including about the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, in a July 2020 article titled, "Doctors At The 'White Coat Summit' Expose The REALITY Of The Virus!," falsely promoted the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine as a proven treatment for COVID-19, based on comments made at a July 2020 press conference in Washington held by a group called America's Frontline Doctors.

"Doctors held a White Coat Summit on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington DC to expose the reality of the virus," the article stated. "They touted several well-known and long-studied treatments that are proven to treat the virus including hydroxychloroquine, zinc, and [sic] azithromyocin aka Zithromax."

While the article accurately described the claims made at the event, Logan's article omitted an abundance of scientific evidence and research that has concluded hydroxychloroquine is not an effective treatment for COVID-19.

"There is no evidence done in a rigorous study that shows hydroxychloroquine in combination with azithromycin or zinc or whatever combination you use that has any benefit in the treatment of coronavirus to date," Dr. Amesh Adalja, a senior scholar who specializes in infectious diseases at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, told The Associated Press in July 2020.

Multiple clinical trials published before Logan's July 2020 article had found that hydroxychloroquine failed to provide benefits to COVID-19 patients. For example, a trial involving 665 patients, published in the New England Journal of Medicine in July 2020, found, "Among patients hospitalized with mild-to-moderate

Covid-19, the use of hydroxychloroquine, alone or with azithromycin, did not improve clinical status at 15 days as compared with standard care."

Another trial involving 400 patients, published in the Annals of Internal Medicine in July 2020, found that hydroxychloroquine did not decrease the severity of COVID-19 symptoms over 14 days any better than a placebo in patients who were not hospitalized. In addition, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said at a July 2020 congressional hearing, "Any and all of the randomized, placebo-controlled trials — which is the gold standard of determining if something is effective — none of them have found any efficacy for hydroxychloroquine."

In a May 2020 article headlined "Official COVID Numbers Do NOT Justify Shutdown!," the site made misleading claims about the number of deaths attributed to COVID-19.

"The Center for Disease Control (CDC) released COVID-19 death toll numbers," Logan stated in the article, which linked to a CDC page that tracks deaths from the COVID-19 virus. "They are much different than what mainstream media and local governments report. Nearly every television station reports the COVID-19 death toll in the US as somewhere around 65,000. But the CDC reports approximately 35,000. That's a tremendous difference. So why the disparity?"

The CDC had reported 37,308 COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. as of May 2, 2020, the day that Logan's article was published. However, the CDC page that the article linked to clearly posts an explanation of the disparity between its figures and other sources, stating, "Provisional death counts may not match counts from other sources, such as media reports or numbers from county health departments. Our counts often track 1–2 weeks behind other data for a number of reasons: Death certificates take time to be completed."

The AnthonyBLogan.com article also speculated that the COVID-19 death toll includes people who died of pneumonia, and not COVID-19, saying, "65,000 people died of pneumonia since February 1, 2020. Are these numbers being counted as COVID deaths because they are happening simultaneously with COVID and flu? That's possible."

Bob Anderson, chief of mortality statistics at the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, told Agence France-Presse in a June 2020 article that while people can die as a result of pneumonia caused by COVID-19, and both illnesses would be named on their death certificate, their deaths are correctly attributed to COVID-19. "We're not combining pneumonia deaths with COVID-19 deaths," he said.

The CDC document that Logan cited in his article contained separate columns for COVID-19 deaths and pneumonia deaths, as well as another column for deaths for which both illnesses were recorded on the death certificate.

In an April 2020 article, titled "Are The COVID-19 Books Being COOKED?," Logan asserted that the number of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. was being inflated. "To what extent the virus has had an effect is not quite known due to the obvious inaccuracy of infection and death numbers," the article stated.

Logan suggested that the Medicare payments to hospitals treating COVID-19 patients backed his claim that the cases were inaccurately recorded. "High numbers of reported virus cases in the United States appear to be tied to money," the article stated. "For each virus patient admitted to a hospital, Medicare pays out \$13,000. If a person is admitted to the hospital, with the virus (allegedly), and is placed on a ventilator, a hospital may fetch up to \$39,000 for them."

While there was not a Medicare diagnostic code specific to COVID-19 at the time of its research, the Kaiser Family Foundation used 2017 payment rates for similar respiratory conditions to estimate that average Medicare payments to hospitals would be \$13,297 for less severe COVID-19 hospitalizations and \$40,218 for

hospitalizations that included extended treatment with a ventilator. In other words, the Medicare payments covered the cost of the patients' treatment and were not hospital profits.

The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) told the fact-checking site Snopes in April 2020 that whether hospitals are paid by Medicare for the care of a COVID-19 patient would depend on whether that patient was covered by Medicare. "CMS also told us there is no set or predetermined amount paid to hospitals for diagnosing and treating COVID-19 patients, and the amounts would depend on a variety of factors driven by the needs of each patient," Snopes wrote. "Payouts would also depend on the variance of the costs of medical care in different regions."

In a September 2020 article titled "Nashville's Mayor LIED About Virus Numbers To Justify Shutdown!," the site claimed that Nashville, Tennessee, Mayor John Cooper had concealed the number of COVID-19 cases linked to bars and restaurants in the city, because the numbers did not support the mayor's decision to temporarily close bars and limit restaurants' capacity.

"Leaked emails between the Mayor's Office staff show a clear attempt at covering the contact tracing data up. ... Another email shows a staffer asking for ideas on how to spin the data if it leaked to the media. But now that the data has leaked, there is no opportunity to spin," the article stated.

The article cited a report from Nashville TV station Fox17, which reported on emails that the station obtained from the mayor's office, including a June 2020 email in which Nashville Metro Public Health Department epidemiologist Leslie Waller asked if the data about COVID-19 cases at bars was "for public consumption."

However, contrary to AnthonyBLogan.com's claim that Cooper tried to cover up the number of cases at bars and restaurants, city officials had disclosed those numbers -- which were 30 infections at 10 locations at the time -- at a press conference on July 2, 2020.

Two days after its story was published, Fox17 deleted the article from its website. In a statement to CNN, Fox17 said, "In a segment that aired earlier this week, we incorrectly asserted that Mayor Cooper's office withheld COVID-19 data from the public, which implied that there had been a cover up. We want to clarify that we do not believe there was any cover-up, and we apologize for the error and oversight in our reporting." None of these developments are mentioned in the AnthonyBLogan.com article.

In an October 2020 article, Logan made unsubstantiated claims about the May 2020 death of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who was killed in police custody in Minneapolis. The article said, "Two separate pathology reports performed on Floyd reveal fentanyl in his system. The behavior he exhibited on camera points toward a phenomenon called 'excited delirium' which is probably what caused his death, and not the infamous knee on the neck from Officer Chauvin."

While an autopsy performed by the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office did find that Floyd had fentanyl, an opioid pain reliever, in his system when he died, the autopsy determined that the cause of his death was "cardiopulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression," not "excited delirium," as AnthonyBLogan.com claimed.

Both the Hennepin County autopsy and an independent autopsy requested by Floyd's family confirmed that his death was a homicide. Videos from witnesses and nearby security cameras show a Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, pinning his knee to Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes, while Floyd could be heard saying, "I can't breathe." Chauvin has been charged with second-degree murder while the other officers were charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder.

Because AnthonyBLogan.com has frequently misstated and distorted facts in its stories and headlines, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not gather and present information responsibly.

AnthonyBLogan.com does not post a policy explaining how it corrects errors and NewsGuard did not find any corrections.

The website's About page identifies Logan as a "conservative political commentator" and says of the website's writers, "Everyone here is dedicated to the advancement of conservatism."

The site does label some articles as "opinion" above the headline. However, the site also publishes articles labeled as Strange News that contain opinionated statements from Logan and other writers.

For example, a September 2020 article labeled as Strange News, titled "BLM Protests A Trader Joe's Grocery Store in Seattle! But Why?," criticized a Black Lives Matter protest. "Common sense seems to elude BLM anarchists," the article stated. "Their future protest endeavors must be looked at through the same lens of understanding their ignorance. And since their ignorance has proven time and time to be dangerous, maybe the Government should step in and put an end to this silly, ignorant nonsense."

Another September 2020 article, headlined "California Will House Transgender Inmates By Their Gender Identity!" and labeled as Strange News, stated, "What is to prevent a heterosexual male from identifying as female when he is asked by prison intake? How can his transgender status be verified? Most of these men still have some or all of their original male genitalia. Radical LGBTQ+ agendas are nothing new in the United States. California, however, is taking this entirely too far."

An article titled "RT DEBATE: California Passes Aggressive Affirmative Action Law!," also published in September 2020 and labeled as Strange News, criticized a California law requiring corporations based in the state to have minority representation on their boards. "Sooner or later, class warfare will become a thing in California and in other parts of the United States with draconian laws that seek to control businesses," the article stated.

Because AnthonyBLogan.com purports to separate news from opinion, yet includes opinion in articles labeled as Strange News, NewsGuard has determined that the website does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Site owner Logan responded to NewsGuard's initial email requesting a telephone interview, and asked to receive emailed questions. He did not respond to two subsequent emails from NewsGuard seeking comment on the articles cited above, the site's approach to correcting errors, and its separation of news and opinion.

While the website publishes some misleading claims on headlines, NewsGuard found that the majority of headlines on the site generally reflected articles' content, and that the site does not feel to meet NewsGuard's standard for avoiding deceptive headlines.

Transparency

The website's About page provides Logan's biography and refers to AnthonyBLogan.com as "his" website, which NewsGuard considers a disclosure of ownership and of who is in charge of the site's content.

Advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content.

Most articles are credited to Logan, whose biography is available on the About page. Three other authors are identified on the site, and biographies are available for two of them. Thus, the site meets NewsGuard's standard for providing information about content creators.

No individual contact information is provided, but a general email address is listed on the site's Contact page.

History

The website's domain name was registered in 2014.

Written by: John Gregory
Edited by: Amy Westfeldt

Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

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Ownership and Financing

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