



## **COVID19 Misinformation Database – User Guide**

This document is intended to provide the tools for researchers to obtain and use rich data on some of the debunked claims currently making the rounds online from two dashboards, COVIDGlobal and COVID Geo. The dashboards track and visualize debunked coronavirus claims from hundreds of trusted fact-checkers from around the world and is collected and updated daily by [Ryerson University's Social Media Lab](#). The dashboards are part of a rapid response project from the Social Media Lab at Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University, and is funded in part by CIHR and the World Health Organization. Below, we include instructions on how to download and filter this data for further analysis.

### **Sources:**

#### **COVIDGlobal**

##### **Highlighted features**

- Provides all debunked coronavirus claims from fact-checkers around the world.
- Searchable by keyword, record count, language, fact-checking organization, and truthfulness rating.

The COVIDGlobal Misinformation dashboard tracks and visualizes debunked coronavirus claims from hundreds of trusted fact-checkers from around the world such as AFP Fact Check, BOOM Live, AOS Fatos to name a few.

The dashboard categorizes claims according to the dates of publication, original language of publication, fact-checker organization, and a pre-established taxonomy of claim types. Additionally, claims are categorized according to the truthfulness ratings (False, Misleading, True, Unproven, Satire) attributed by fact-checker organizations.

The dashboard provides graphical representation of COVID-19 claims within a specified timeframe with the option of filtering results according to the categories mentioned above as well as topic of interest. For example, if you are interested in claims regarding “vaccines,” the dashboard allows you to refine your search results with claims on this topic (see below for more information). Links to articles reviewing specific claims are also available to users.

The information from the dashboard can be viewed directly from the online platform or can be downloaded in CSV format or exported to Google sheets.

## COVIDGeo

### Highlighted features:

- Provides a subset of coronavirus claims that provide the country in which the claims were circulated, and that were debunked from fact-checkers around the world.
- Searchable by country.

The COVIDGeo Misinformation dashboard tracks and visualizes debunked coronavirus claims that mention, or are associated with, a specific geographic location.

The dashboard categorizes claims according to the dates of publication, country mentioned or associated geographical location, and a pre-established taxonomy of claim types.

The dashboard provides graphical representation of COVID-19 claims within a specified timeframe with the option of filtering results according to the categories mentioned above. Additional information available to users include: the source of the claim, the truthfulness ratings (False, Misleading, True, Unproven) attributed by fact-checker organizations and a link to the articles reviewing specific claims.

The information from the dashboard can be viewed directly from the online platform or can be downloaded in CSV format or exported to Google sheets.

## Instructions:

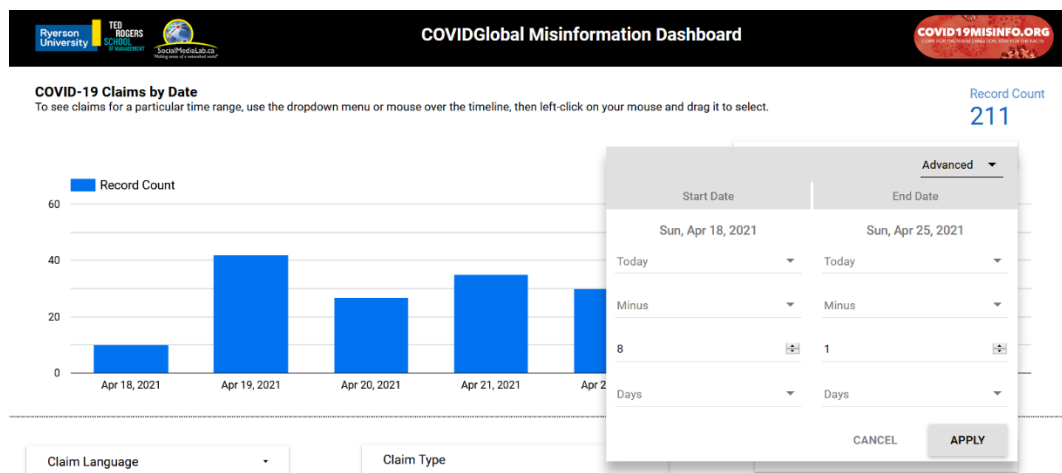
### Searching, filtering & downloading

#### Filtering

##### 1. By Date

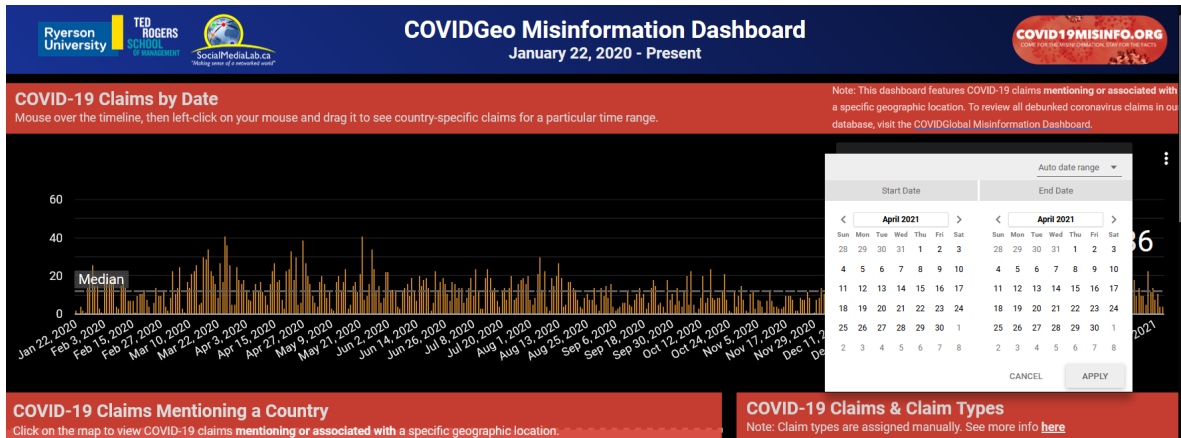
Select a date range of your choice. Please note that the filter is defaulted to data within the “last week” for the COVIDGlobal dashboard, and “All the time” for the COVIDGeo dashboard.

#### *COVIDGlobal*



**Figure 1: COVID-19 claims displayed by a customizable date range in the COVIDGlobal dashboard.**

## COVIDGeo



**Figure 2: COVID-19 claims displayed by a customizable date range in the COVIDGeo dashboard.**

## 2. By Topic of Interest

### Option 1: Select among the claim types

- Select a claim type most aligned with your topic of interest – options include diagnostics, prevention and cures, public figures, exaggeration of the virus severity, etc.
- Note that claim types are assigned manually, and it is possible that not all claims will have claim types by the time of your search. For more information about claim types and coding schema, please click [here](#).
- See the table at the bottom of your browser to view results of your filtered or refined search.

## COVIDGlobal

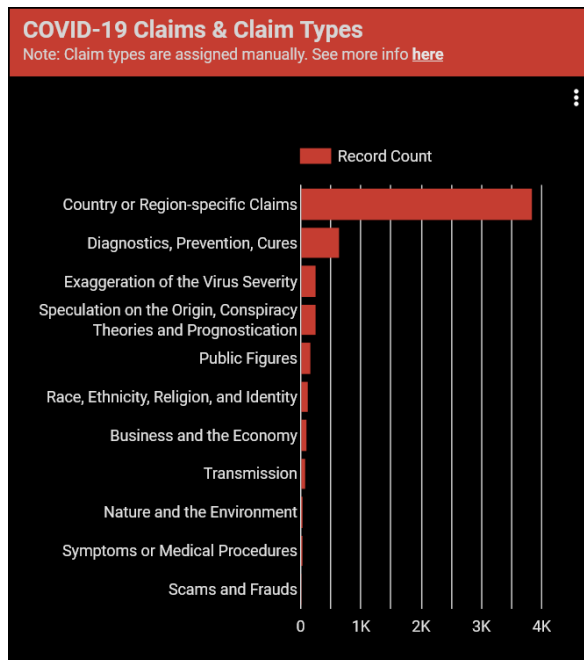
Claim Type	Record Count
null	93
Country or Region-specific ...	59
Diagnostics, Prevention, Cu...	41
Exaggeration of the Virus S...	9
Speculation on the Origin, C...	4
Business and the Economy	1
Symptoms or Medical Proc...	1
Race, Ethnicity, Religion, an...	1
Public Figures	1
Transmission	1

Claim Type	Record Count
Type to search	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> null	93
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Country or Region-specific Clai...	59
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diagnostics, Prevention, Cures	41
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exaggeration of the Virus Severi...	9
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Speculation on the Origin, Cons...	4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business and the Economy	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Symptoms or Medical Procedur...	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race, Ethnicity, Religion, and Ide...	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Figures	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transmission	1

**Figure 3: COVID-19 claims categorized and filtered by claim type in the COVIDGlobal dashboard.**

## COVIDGeo



**Figure 4: COVID-19 claims categorized and filtered by claim types in the COVIDGeo dashboard.**

### Option 2: Refine result list by keyword search (COVIDGlobal only)

- Type a keyword associated with your topic of interest in the search results table at the bottom of your browser.

Please visit the link(s) provided below to learn more about each claim: ( Note: Claims not originally in English are automatically translated into English.)

To refine the results, search for claims using a keyword search. (For ex. if you ONLY want to see claims involving: vaccines, type in "vaccine", then hit "Enter" to start the search.)

Contains

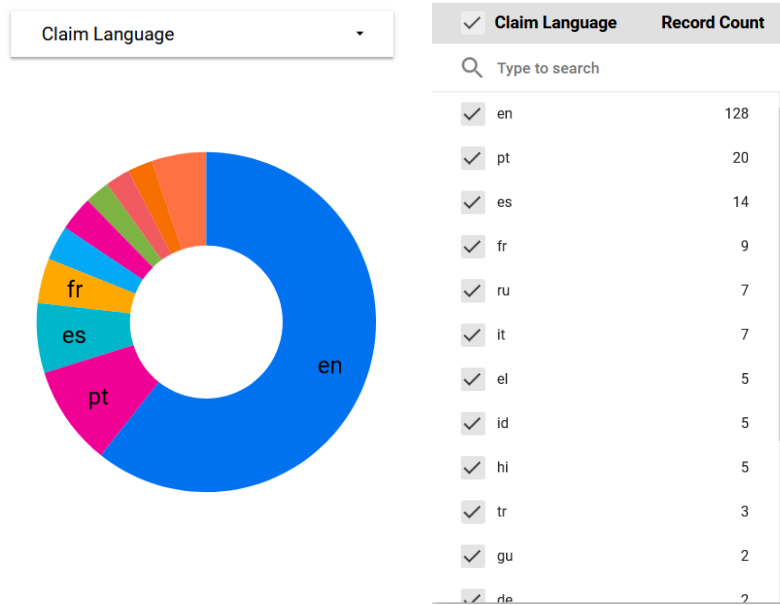
Note: Search will yield results based on the date range selected (+ any other filters selected above).

	Review Date	Claim (auto-translated into English)	Rating Provided by Fact-checker	Review Article
1.	Apr 25, 2021	The Allegation That Covid-19 Is Not A Virus, It Was A Radiated Bacteria And It Caused The Death Of People By Coagulating In The Blood In Autopsy In Russia	FALSE	<a href="https://www.malumatfurus.org/rusyada-yapilan-otopside-covid-19">https://www.malumatfurus.org/rusyada-yapilan-otopside-covid-19</a>
2.	Apr 25, 2021	Photo of an Elderly Using a Respiratory Device on the Road because Covid-19 Cases in India have Increased Drastically	False [False Context]	<a href="https://cekfakta.com/focus/6803">https://cekfakta.com/focus/6803</a>
3.	Apr 25, 2021	The claim that autopsies in Russia show Covid-19 is caused by bacteria	FALSE	<a href="https://teyit.org/analiz-rusyanin-otopsi-calismalariyla-covid-19a-neden-olanin-bakteri-oldugunu-kesfettigi-iddiasl">https://teyit.org/analiz-rusyanin-otopsi-calismalariyla-covid-19a-neden-olanin-bakteri-oldugunu-kesfettigi-iddiasl</a>
4.	Apr 25, 2021	Video shows COVID-19 impact in India.	FALSE	<a href="https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/covid-19-second-wave-visuals-in-india-lack-of-oxygen-hospital-beds-fake-news-12902">https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/covid-19-second-wave-visuals-in-india-lack-of-oxygen-hospital-beds-fake-news-12902</a>
5.	Apr 25, 2021	Video shows Covid-19 vaccination to a man with an empty syringe in India	FALSE	<a href="https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/clip-of-vaccine-administered-with-empty-syringe-is-from-mexico-12907">https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/clip-of-vaccine-administered-with-empty-syringe-is-from-mexico-12907</a>
6.	Apr 25, 2021	Video shows a large number of people from Indian Muslim community are gathered for Iftar feast in Hyderabad city.	Missing context	<a href="https://factcheck.afp.com/video-large-indian-muslim-gathering-shared-wrong-context-indias-virus-death-toll-surges">https://factcheck.afp.com/video-large-indian-muslim-gathering-shared-wrong-context-indias-virus-death-toll-surges</a>
7.	Apr 24, 2021	Nebulisers machine can be used by COVID-19 patients in place of oxygen cylinders.	FALSE	<a href="https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/fake-news-nebuliser-machine-oxygen-cylinder-concentrator-sarvodaya-hospital-12897">https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/fake-news-nebuliser-machine-oxygen-cylinder-concentrator-sarvodaya-hospital-12897</a>

**Figure 5: COVID-19 claims, review dates, ratings, and links to the source of the claim. You can also filter through the claims by topic of interest using the keyword search bar in the COVIDGlobal dashboard.**

### 3. By Language (COVIDGlobal only)

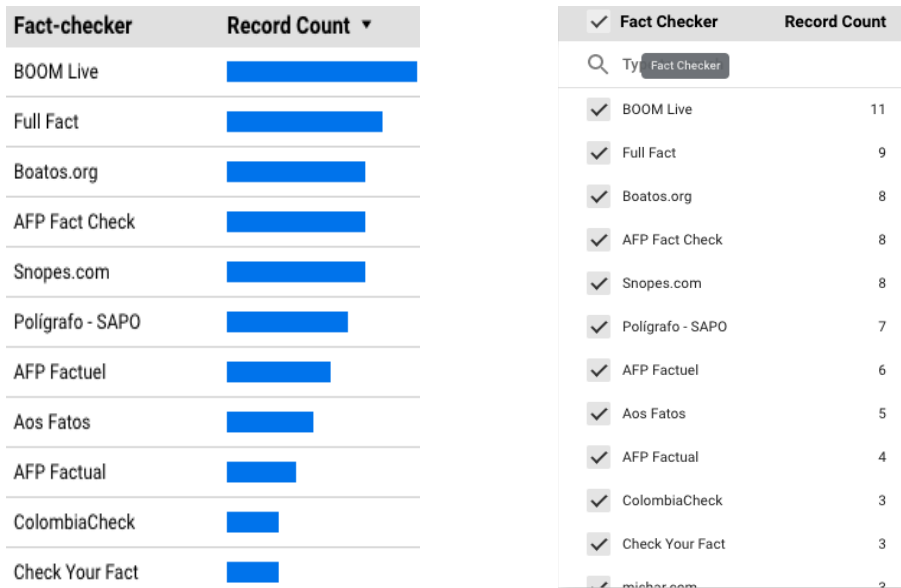
- Select a language from the checkbox menu to filter results according to their language of publication.
- Note that all claims not originally in English are automatically translated in the results section.



**Figure 6: COVID-19 claims categorized and filtered by language in the COVIDGlobal dashboard.**

### 4. By Fact-checker (COVIDGlobal only)

- Select an organization from the checkbox menu to filter results according to the fact-checkers responsible for debunking the claims.



**Figure 7: COVID-19 claims categorized and filtered by fact-checker in the COVIDGlobal dashboard.**

## 5. By Truthfulness Rating (COVIDGlobal only)

- Filter results by truthfulness rating (as attributed by fact-checkers), by hovering over the different coloured boxes on the truthfulness rating table. Definitions for the truthfulness ratings, “true”, “false”, “misleading”, and “unproven”, are provided in the textbox below. The color intensity is proportional to the number of times the claim has been debunked. For more information about how the truthfulness ratings are standardized and categorized, please click [here](#).

**True:** a fact-checker reviewed a claim and deemed that it was truthful in its entirety.

**False:** a fact-checker reviewed a claim and deemed that it was false in its entirety.

**Misleading:** a fact-checker reviewed a claim and deemed that the claim contained some level of falsehood (e.g., partially false, questionable, or misleading).

**Unproven:** a fact-checker reviewed a claim and deemed that it was not possible to prove currently either due to the lack of scientific knowledge or other reasons (e.g., unproven, unsupported, or unfounded).

### Claims and Their Truthfulness Ratings (auto-translated into English):

Mouse over boxes below to explore different claims grouped by rating (False, Misleading, True and Unproven)  
For more info on the four rating categories, see our [Simplified Fact-checking Rating System](#).

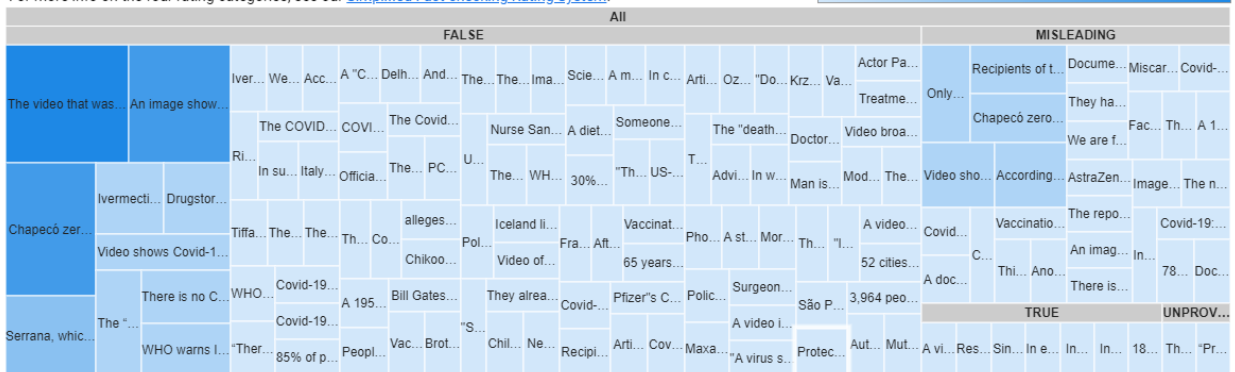
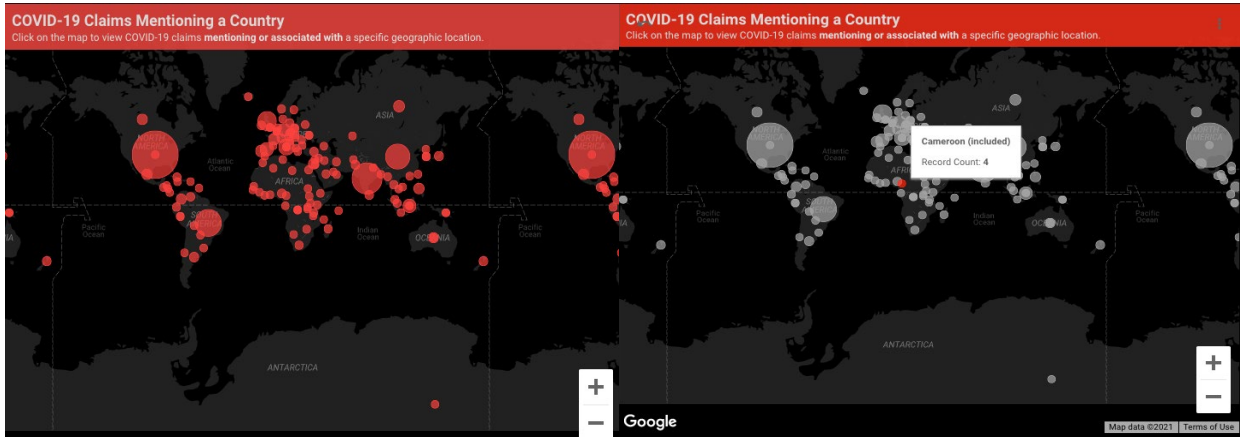


Figure 8: COVID-19 claims organized into a 4-item rating system in the COVIDGlobal dashboard.

## 6. By Country (COVIDGeo only)

- Use the interactive world map to select a country or geographical location by which to filter results.



**Figure 9: An interactive map of COVID-19 claims by geographical location in the COVIDGeo dashboard.**

### Downloading Results

#### Option 1: All Search Results

- After filtering results according to the instructions outlined above, all refined search results should be available in a detailed table at the bottom of your browser.
- To download the results, hover over the top right corner of each table with your mouse and click on format options. Formats available include CSV, CSV (Excel), and export to Google Sheets.

### COVIDGlobal

Please visit the link(s) provided below to learn more about each claim: ( Note: Claims not originally in English are automatically translated into English.)

To refine the results, search for claims using a keyword search. (For ex. if you ONLY want to see claims involving: vaccines, type in "vaccine", then hit "Enter" to start the search.)

Contains

Note: Search will yield results based on the date range selected (+ any other filters selected above).

Apr 18, 2021 - Apr 25, 2021

Review Date	Claim (auto-translated into English)	Rating Provided by Fact-checker	Review Article	Sort by
1. Apr 25, 2021	The Allegation That Covid-19 Is Not A Virus, It Was A Radiated Bacteria And It Caused The Death Of People By Coagulating In The Blood In Autopsy In Russia	FALSE	<a href="https://www.yaplan-otop">https://www.yaplan-otop</a>	Reset action
2. Apr 25, 2021	Photo of an Elderly Using a Respiratory Device on the Road because Covid-19 Cases in India have Increased Drastically	False [False Context]	<a href="https://cekfe">https://cekfe</a>	Download CSV
3. Apr 25, 2021	The claim that autopsies in Russia show Covid-19 is caused by bacteria	FALSE	<a href="https://evit.calismakivi.oidugunu-k">https://evit.calismakivi.oidugunu-k</a>	Download CSV (Excel)
4. Apr 25, 2021	Video shows COVID-19 impact in India.	FALSE	<a href="https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/covid-19-second-wave-visuals-in-india-lack-of-oxygen-hospital-beds-fake-news-12902">https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/covid-19-second-wave-visuals-in-india-lack-of-oxygen-hospital-beds-fake-news-12902</a>	Export to Sheets
5. Apr 25, 2021	Video shows Covid-19 vaccination to a man with an empty syringe in India	FALSE	<a href="https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/clip-of-vaccine-administered-with-empty-syringe-is-from-mexico-12907">https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/clip-of-vaccine-administered-with-empty-syringe-is-from-mexico-12907</a>	
6. Apr 25, 2021	Video shows a large number of people from Indian Muslim community are gathered for Iftar feast in Hyderabad city.	Missing context	<a href="https://factcheck.afo.com/video-large-indian-muslim-gathering-shared-wrong-context-indias-virus-death-toll-surges">https://factcheck.afo.com/video-large-indian-muslim-gathering-shared-wrong-context-indias-virus-death-toll-surges</a>	

**Figure 10: COVID-19 claims by review date, rating, and source in the COVIDGlobal dashboard.**

## COVIDGeo

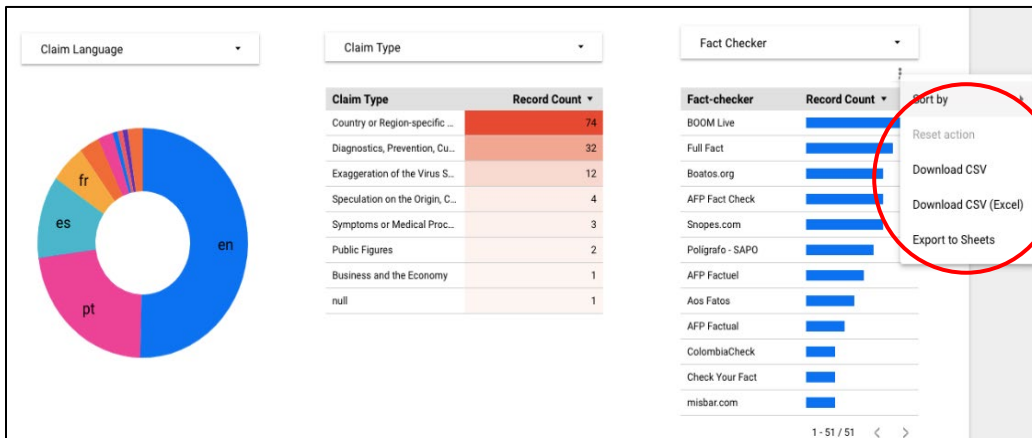
	Country (mentioned)	Review Date	Claim	Source	Textual Rating	
1.	India	Apr 25, 2021	Video shows Covid-19 vaccination to a man with an empty syringe in India	whatsapp message	FALSE	
2.	India	Apr 25, 2021	Video shows COVID-19 impact in India.	twitter	FALSE	
3.	Russia	Apr 25, 2021	The Allegation That Covid-19 Is Not A Virus, It Was A Radiated Bacteria And It Caused The Death Of People By Coagulating In The Blood In Autopsy In Russia	health cafe	FALSE	
4.	India	Apr 25, 2021	Video shows a large number of people from Indian Muslim community are gathered for Iftar feast in Hyderabad city.	multiple sources	Missing context	<a href="https://factcheck.afp.com/video-large-indian-muslim-gathering-shared-wrong-context-indias-virus-death-toll-surges">https://factcheck.afp.com/video-large-indian-muslim-gathering-shared-wrong-context-indias-virus-death-toll-surges</a>
5.	United Kingdom	Apr 24, 2021	Claim that the miscarriage rate in Britain with Covid-19 vaccine increased by 483 percent in seven weeks	social media	FALSE	<a href="https://teyit.org/analiz-britanyada-covid-19-asisi-olanlarda-dusuk-oraninin-yedi-haftada-yuzde-483-arttigini-iddia">https://teyit.org/analiz-britanyada-covid-19-asisi-olanlarda-dusuk-oraninin-yedi-haftada-yuzde-483-arttigini-iddia</a>
6.	India	Apr 24, 2021	Clip shows organs of COVID-19 patients being trafficked in India	social media	FALSE	<a href="https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/fake-news-viral-clip-dead-bodies-morgue-organ-harvesting-audio-covid-19-patients-russia-factcheck-12895">https://www.boomlive.in/fact-check/fake-news-viral-clip-dead-bodies-morgue-organ-harvesting-audio-covid-19-patients-russia-factcheck-12895</a>

**Figure 11: COVID-19 claims by country, review date, rating, and source in the COVIDGeo dashboard.**

### Option 2: Download Results for Each Filter Category

- Download the results from each filter category separately (date, language, claim type, fact checker, truthfulness rating, country, or geographical location).
- To download separate results from each filter category, hover over the top right corner of each graph or visual with your mouse and click on format options. Formats available include CSV, CSV (Excel), and export to Google Sheets.

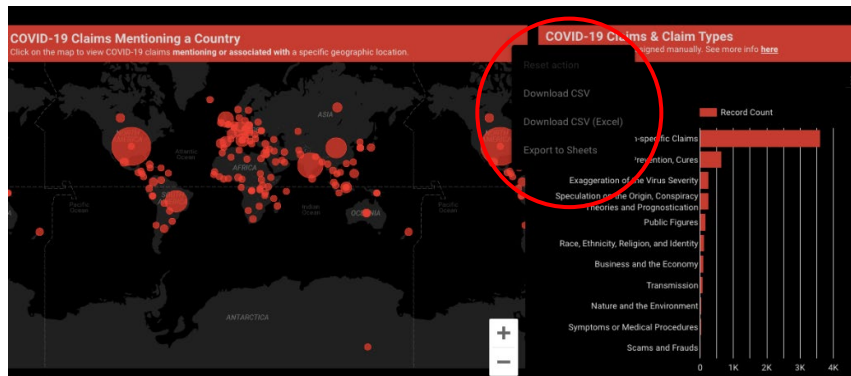
## COVIDGlobal



**Figure 12: Filtering COVID-19 claims by language and claim type in the COVIDGlobal dashboard.**



## COVIDGeo



**Figure 13: Filtering COVID-19 claims by country and claim type in the COVIDGeo dashboard.**