# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN HEALTH SECURITY: ACADEMIC INSIGHTS ON INFODEMIC MANAGEMENT

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**Background:** The information environment significantly impacts public health decisions, behaviors, and health security. The spread of misinformation and disinformation, known as the infodemic, undermines health interventions and public trust. Addressing this challenge requires innovative transformations in public health education to create a competent workforce. This study aimed to assess the scope and relevance of infodemic management (IM) across different academic fields and identify the training needs to enhance the current educational frameworks.

**Methods and Objectives:** As part of the US Federal Assistance Award within the University Partnership Program between Emory University and the University of Belgrade, a mixed-methods study was conducted. The curricula of all 31 faculties at the University of Belgrade were evaluated, and an online survey was distributed to deans and selected teaching personnel. This approach provided a comprehensive view of the current educational framework and opinions on IM in various academic fields.

**Results:** The survey received 33 responses from different departments at the University of Belgrade. Over 75% of participants identified misinformation as prevalent in their respective fields. More than half of the respondents believe that students are not sufficiently familiar with the concept of the infodemic and its potential consequences. Only 9% believe these topics are well covered in the current curriculum, and over 90% agree that additional content on IM is required to update study programs, indicating a significant gap in the current educational approach.

**Conclusions:** The academic community widely acknowledges the issue of misinformation and its negative impact on public health. Current gaps in academic curricula highlight the critical necessity of integrating IM into educational programs. This innovative approach will equip future specialists with the necessary skills to navigate the complexities of the modern information ecosystem.

**Keywords:** infodemic management, information environment, health workforce education and training, misinformation, disinformation