

DOMAINS OF DANGER

How Website Speculators and Registrars Trade Internet Safety for Profit

A new Digital Citizens Alliance investigation found that little to no effort is being made to police provocative domains that can be used to scam, engage in sex trafficking and sexual abuse, or sell dangerous painkillers.

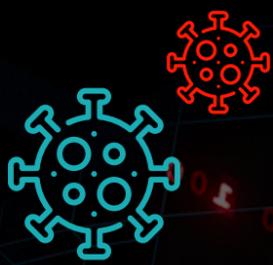
In the course of its investigation, Digital Citizens acquired from a number of well-known registrars domains whose sole purpose would be to scam (such as coronavaccinefree.com), endanger those most vulnerable (such as underage-girls-escorts.biz), engage in sexual abuse (date-rape-drug.com), or entice those seeking dangerous drugs (such as oxycodone-no-prescription.biz).

Digital Citizens Alliance conducted a survey of 1,136 American consumers on their attitudes towards the sale of these dangerous domain names. Here is what we found:

Two-thirds of Americans

66%

do NOT think domain name registrars and domain speculators should be allowed to sell domains that could be used for COVID-19 scams, such as "coronavaccinefree.com."



76%

of Americans



oppose allowing domain registrars and domain speculators to sell domains such as "date-rape-drug.com", "trackingsexslaves.com," and "underage-girlsescorts.biz."

Nearly

60%



of consumers think domain name registrars and domainers have a responsibility to withhold names – such as "date-rape-drug.com," "underage-girls-escorts.biz," or "coronavaccinefree.com" – that could be used to exploit or scam people.

Two-thirds of Americans

66%



hold the view that If domain name registrars and domainers won't take responsibility themselves to police the domain names they offer, regulations **SHOULD** be put in place to make them do so.

Source: Survey Monkey poll for Digital Citizens Alliance conducted 8/27-8/28. Margin of error +/- 3 percent.