

A Lot Of Science Is Fake - Gideon M-K; Health Nerd - Medium

How much? No one is sure.

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Pictured: Science. Photo by [Hal Gatewood](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Fraud is a big problem in science. People fake academic work. In some cases, this is silly and fairly amusing, the [retracted paper that claimed](#) that men who carry guitar cases are more attractive. In other cases, like the [story of Yoshitaka Fujii](#) who admitted to fabricating results in trials of drugs used to treat serious surgical complications, it's less funny and more terrifying.

And a new paper has just come out estimating that this problem is way bigger than most people believe. It's possible that *one in seven* scientific papers are the result of people fabricating their results.

Scientific Misconduct

For most bad practices, you'll see a huge grey area where different professors argue one way or another about what constitutes an issue. Some people think self-plagiarism — copying paragraphs or even large segments from one of your papers to a new one — is terrible, while some senior professors defend it.

Everyone agrees that p-hacking, where scientists cherry-pick results or analyses to find statistically important results even though their data does not show anything, is bad, but there are *degrees* of bad.

Fraud is no different. There's a wide range of things that you can do which could potentially be considered fraudulent in the right...