Bridging Partisan Division over Anti-Terrorism Policies: The Role of Threat Perceptions

Variables & Inclusion Criteria

Version 1

July, 2011

METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire was created to test the two main hypotheses and began with a brief statement about findings from an actual survey of arms control experts conducted by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Respondents were asked to read the following passage, in which the information was manipulated regarding the percentage chance of the terrorist attack. The respondents were picked through Random Digit Dialing administered by Knowledge Networks and sent a questionnaire over the Internet. Two stratums are used in the RDD sampling process based on 2000 Census Decennial Census with the first stratum having a higher concentration of Black and Hispanic households and the second stratum having a lower concentration relative to the national estimates. The survey sample was picked according to the researchers' screening criteria and responded by email to the questionnaire.

COLLECTION DATES

March 21, 2008- March 31, 2008 Sample: 1339

VARIABLES

Case Information

A. caseid
Numeric Variable

This field contains the serial number in numeric form for the respondent.

B. dt-start
Date variable

This field contains the interview start time.

C. dt-end
Date variable

This field contains the interview end time.

D. weight
Numeric Variable

This field contains the post stratification weight.

Demographic Information

A. PPGENDER
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric codes for the respondent's gender.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Gender	Value
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1
Male	1
Female	2

B. PPETHM
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the race/ethnicity of the respondent.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Race/Ethnicity	Value
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1
White, Non-Hispanic	1
Black, Non-Hispanic	2
Other, Non-Hispanic	3
Hispanic	4
2+ Races, Non-Hispanic	5

C. PPMARIT
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the marital status of the respondent.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Marital Status	Value
Not asked	-2
Refused	-1
Married	1
Widowed	2
Divorced	3
Separated	4
Never married	5
Living with partner	6

D. PPWORK
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the current employment status of the respondent.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Current Employment Status	Value
Not asked	-2
Refused	-1
Working- as a paid employee	1
Working-self employed	2
Not working-on temporary layoff from a job	3
Not working-looking for work	4
Not working-retired	5
Not working-disabled	6
Not working-other	7
I am a homemaker	8
Other	9

Age

A. PPAGE
Numeric Variable

This field contains the age of the respondent in years.

Additional codes for the responses are as follows:

Age	Value
Not asked	-2
Refused	-1

B. ppagecat
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the age of the respondent broken into 7 categories.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Age	Value
18-24	1
25-34	2
35-44	3
45-54	4
55-64	5
65-74	6
75+	7
Under 18	99

C. ppagect4
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the age of the respondent broken into 4 categories.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Age	**Value**
18-29	1
30-44	2
45-59	3
60+	4
Under 18	99

Education

A. PPEDUC
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the education attainment of the respondent in terms of the highest degree received.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Education	**Value**
Not asked	-2
Refused	-1
No formal education	1
1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grade	2
5th or 6th grade	3
7th or 8th grade	4
9th grade	5
10th grade	6
11th grade	7
12th grade (no diploma)	8
High school graduate- high school diploma or the equivalent (GED)	9
Some college, no degree	10
Associate degree	11
Bachelors degree	12
Masters degree	13
Professional or Doctorate degree	14

B. PPEDUCAT
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for education attainment of the respondent categorically.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Education	Value
Not asked	-2
Refused	-1
Less than high school	1
High school	2
Some college	3
Bachelor's degree or higher	4

Political Ideology and Party Affiliation

A. xideo
Numeric Variable

This field indicates the political ideology of the respondent.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Political Ideology	Value
Extremely liberal	1
Liberal	2
Slightly liberal	3
Moderate, middle of the road	4
Slightly conservative	5
Conservative	6
Extremely conservative	7
Missing	9

B. xparty7
Numeric Variable

This field indicates the political party affiliation of the respondent.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Political Party	Value
Strong Republican	1
Not strong Republican	2
Leans Republican	3
Undecided/Independent/Other	4
Leans Democrat	5
Not Strong Democrat	6
Strong Democrat	7
Missing	9

Residential Location and Type

A. PPREG4
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the region of residence of the respondent based on a four category description.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Region	Value
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1
Northeast	1
Midwest	2
South	3
West	4

B. ppreg9
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the region of residence of the respondent based on a nine category description.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Region	Value
New England	1
Mid-Atlantic	2
East-North Central	3
West-North Central	4
South Atlantic	5
East-South Central	6
West-South Central	7
Mountain	8
Pacific	9

C. PPSTATEN
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the state in which the respondent resides.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

State	Value
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1

ME	11
NH	12
VT	13
MA	14
RI	15
CT	16
NY	21
NJ	22
PA	23
OH	31
IN	32
IL	33
MI	34
WI	35
MN	41
IA	42
MO	43
ND	44
SD	45
NE	46
KS	47
DE	51
MD	52
DC	53
VA	54
WV	55
NC	56
SC	57
GA	58
FL	59
KY	61
TN	62
AL	63
MS	64
AR	71
LA	72
OK	73
TX	74
MT	81
ID	82
WY	83
CO	84
NM	85
AZ	86
UT	87
NV	88

WA	91
OR	92
CA	93
AK	94
HI	95
AS	96
GU	97
PR	98
VI	99

D. PPMSACAT
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for whether the respondent lives in a metropolitan statistical area (MSA).

The codes for the responses are as follows:

MSA	**Value**
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1
Non-Metro	1
Metro	2

E. PPRENT
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the respondent's ownership status of living quarters.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Ownership Status	**Value**
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1
Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household	1
Rented for cash	2
Occupied without payment of cash rent	3

Household Information

A. PPHHHEAD
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for whether the respondent was the head of the household.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Household Head	Value
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1
No	0
Yes	1

B. PPHHSIZE
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the size of the respondent's household.

Additional codes for the responses are as follows:

Household Size	Value
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1

C. PPHOUSE
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the type of housing that the respondent lives in.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Household Type	Value
Not asked	-2
Refused	-1
A one-family house detached from any other house	1
A one-family house attached to one or more houses	2
A building with 2 or more apartments	3
A mobile home	4
Boat, RV, van, etc.	5

D. PPINCIMP
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the respondent's household income.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Household Income	Value
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1

Less than $5,000	1
$5,000 to $7,499	2
$7,500 to $9,999	3
$10,000 to $12,499	4
$12,500 to $14,999	5
$15,000 to $19,999	6
$20,000 to $24,999	7
$25,000 to $29,999	8
$30,000 to $34,999	9
$35,000 to $39,999	10
$40,000 to $49,999	11
$50,000 to $59,999	12
$60,000 to $74,999	13
$75,000 to $84,999	14
$85,000 to $99,999	15
$100,000 to $124,999	16
$125,000 to $149,999	17
$150,000 to $174,999	18
$175,000 or more	19

E. PPNET
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for whether the respondent's household has internet access.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Internet Access	**Value**
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1
No	0
Yes	1

Household Members

A. PPT01
Numeric Variable

This field contains the number of household members who are children between the ages of 0 and 2.

Additional codes for the responses are as follows:

Age 0-2	**Value**
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1

B. PPT25
Numeric Variable

This field contains the number of household members who are children between the ages of 2 and 5.

Additional codes for the responses are as follows:

Age 2-5	**Value**
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1

C. PPT612
Numeric Variable

This field contains the number of household members who are children between the ages of 6 and 12.

Additional codes for the responses are as follows:

Age 6-12	**Value**
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1

D. PPT1317
Numeric Variable

This field contains the number of household members who are children between the ages of 13 and 17.

Additional codes for the responses are as follows:

Age 13-17	**Value**
Not Asked	-2
Refused	-1

E. PPT18OV
Numeric Variable

This field contains the number of household members who are adults age 18 and over.

Additional codes for the responses are as follows:

Age 18+	**Value**
Not Asked	-2

Refused	-1

Experimental Group

A. xdhs08
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric codes for the respondent's experimental group.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Experimental Group	Value
Group 1	1
Group 2	2
Group 3	3
Group 4	4

Questionnaire
Question 1: People often have to take risks when making financial, career, or other life decisions. Generally speaking, how comfortable are you taking risks?

A. Q1
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses to Question 1 are as follows:

Risk	Value
Refused	-1
Extremely comfortable	1
Somewhat comfortable	2
Not too comfortable	3
Not comfortable at all	4

Question 2: How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

A. Q2
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses to Question 2 are as follows:

Time	Value
Refused	-1
Never	1
Only some of the time	2
Most of the time	3
Just about always	4

Question 3: What would you estimate to be the percentage chance that the United States will suffer a damaging terrorist attack in the next five years? Please only type in whole numbers between 0 and 100.

A. Q3
Numeric Variable

The responses to Question 3 are in numeric form that represents a percentage.

Question 3.5-3.8: Next, we would like to ask you some questions about products and services you recently purchased.

A. Q3-5
String variable

This field contains the text response to the question: "What was the name of the last restaurant you went out to eat at?"

B. Q3-6
String variable

This field contains the text response to the question: "What was the name of the last movie you saw in the theater?"

C. Q3-7
String variable

This field contains the text response to the question: "Think back to the last time you filled up your car with gas. How much did the gas cost per gallon?"

D. Q3-8
String variable

This field contains the text response to the question: "Where would you life to take your next vacation?"

Question 4: Assisting the government in preparing for a potential terrorist attack, the Senate Foreign Relations committee surveyed a group of arms control experts about the likelihood of a terrorist attack on American soil. Based on an analysis of the responses, the experts concluded that there is an [variable X %] chance that there will be a damaging terrorist attack in the United States in the next five years.

A. X
Numeric Variable

A computer generated integer randomly assigned to each respondent and represents a percentage.

Question 4-(1-7): How should the United States government inform the American public about the current level of terrorist threat?

A. Q4-1
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response for Question 4-1 which states "Television announcements."

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Television Announcements	Value
No	0
Yes	1

B. Q4-2
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response for Question 4-2 which states "Radio announcements."

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Radio Announcements	Value
No	0
Yes	1

C. Q4-3
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response for Question 4-3 which states "Unsolicited emails."

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Unsolicited E-mails	Value
No	0
Yes	1

D. Q4-4
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response for Question 4-4 which states "Internet postings."

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Internet Postings	Value
No	0
Yes	1

E. Q4-5
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response for Question 4-5 which states “Announcements from local law enforcement authorities.”

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Announcements from Law Enforcement	**Value**
No	0
Yes	1

F. Q4-6
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response for Question 4-5 which states “Another way, please specify.”

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Another Way	**Value**
No	0
Yes	1

G. Q4-6-oe
String variable

This field contains the specific text response from Q4-6 which asked whether there was another way to inform the American public.

H. Q4-7
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response for Question 4-7 which states “Refused.”

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Refused	**Value**
No	0
Yes	1

Question 5: In your opinion, how likely is it that the United States will experience a damaging terrorist attack in the next five years?

A. Q5
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Likelihood	Value
Refused	-1
Extremely likely	1
Somewhat likely	2
Not too likely	3
Not likely at all	4

Question 6: How concerned are you that the United States will suffer a damaging terrorist attack in the next five years?

A. Q6
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Concern	Value
Refused	-1
Extremely concerned	1
Somewhat concerned	2
Not too concerned	3
Not concerned at all	4

Question 7: How concerned are you that you or your family will be victims of a damaging terrorist attack in the next five years?

A. Q7
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Concern	Value
Refused	-1
Extremely concerned	1
Somewhat concerned	2
Not too concerned	3
Not concerned at all	4

Question 8: If the United States suffers a damaging terrorist attack in the next five years, how many people do you think will die in the attack?

A. Q8
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Casualties	Value
Refused	-1
0-10	1
11-100	2
101-1,000	3
1,001-10,000	4
More than 10,000	5

Question 9: Do you support or oppose the U.S. government using wiretaps to listen in on citizens' phone conversations in terrorism investigations?

A. Q9
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Phone Conversations	Value
Refused	-1
Strongly support	1
Somewhat support	2
Neither support nor oppose	3
Somewhat oppose	4
Strongly oppose	5

Question 10: Do you support or oppose a law requiring libraries to turn over to terrorism investigators records of what books people have checked out?

A. Q10
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Library Requirements	Value
Refused	-1
Strongly support	1
Somewhat support	2
Neither support nor oppose	3
Somewhat oppose	4
Strongly oppose	5

Question 11: Do you support or oppose limits on airline passengers carrying liquids or gels (e.g. beverages, toothpaste, shampoo) onto airplanes?

A. Q11
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Liquids/Gels	Value
Refused	-1
Strongly support	1
Somewhat support	2
Neither support nor oppose	3
Somewhat oppose	4
Strongly oppose	5

Question 12: Do you support or oppose the United States launching a military attack against Iran, which American government officials have accused of supporting terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda?

A. Q12
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Iran	Value
Refused	-1
Strongly support	1
Somewhat support	2
Neither support nor oppose	3
Somewhat oppose	4
Strongly oppose	5

Question 13: Do you support or oppose the proposal to build a fence along the United States-Mexico border to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the U.S.?

A. Q13
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Illegal Immigrants	Value
Refused	-1
Strongly support	1
Somewhat support	2
Neither support nor oppose	3
Somewhat oppose	4
Strongly oppose	5

Question 14: What is the current threat level for the U.S. national government?

A. Q14
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Threat Level	**Value**
Refused	-1
Severe (Red)	1
High (Orange)	2
Elevated (Yellow)	3
Guarded (Blue)	4
Low (Green)	5
Not sure	6