An Experimental Study of the Effects of Government Terror Warnings on Political Attitudes

Variables & Inclusion Criteria

Version 1

July, 2011

METHODOLOGY

This study examined the role that exposure to terror threats has on the American public's view of presidential candidates and candidate preferences; specifically, the effect that terror threats have on political attitudes. The survey was conducted by Knowledge Networks (KN) over the Internet in May and June 2008, using a nationally representative sample of 1282 American adults. KN recruits panel members over the telephone via random digit dialing (RDD) and provides them with WebTV equipment in exchange for their participation in weekly surveys, which they complete online. All Americans were sampled from the KN panel.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Sample Fielded
May 22, 2008 – June 9, 2008 n= 1282

VARIABLES

Case Information

A. caseid
Numeric Variable

This field indicates the unique case identification number.

A. dt_start
Date Variable

This field indicates the date the interview started.

B. dt_end
Date Variable

This field indicates the date the interview ended.

C. weight
Numeric Variable

This field contains the weight.

Demographic Information

A. PPGENDER
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the gender of the respondent.

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

Age

A. PPAGE
Numeric Variable

This field contains the age of the respondent in years.

Additional codes for the responses are:

Age	Value
Not Asked	-2
REFUSED	-1

B. ppagect4
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the age of the respondent broken into four ranges.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

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

C. ppagecat
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the age of the respondent broken into seven ranges.

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

Education

A. PPEDUC
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the highest degree received by the respondent.

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 broken into four categories.

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

Residential Location and Type

A. PPREG4
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the region in which the respondent resides broken into four categories.

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 in which the respondent resides broken into nine categories.

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	0
Metro	1

E. PPRENT
Numeric Variable

This field contains the numeric code for the respondent's ownership status of their 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 count of the size of the respondent's household.

Additional codes for the responses are:

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 household income broken into nineteen categories.

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 had internet access.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Internet Access	**Value**
No	0
Yes	1

Household Members

A. PPT01
Numeric Variable

This field contains a count of the number of household members who are children under 2 years old.

Additional codes for the responses are:

Age 0-2	Value
Not Asked	-2
REFUSED	-1

B. PPT25
Numeric Variable

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

Additional codes for the responses are:

Age 2-5	Value
Not Asked	-2
REFUSED	-1

C. PPT612
Numeric Variable

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

Additional codes for the responses are:

Age 6-12	Value
Not Asked	-2
REFUSED	-1

D. PPT1317
Numeric Variable

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

Additional codes for the responses are:

Age 13-17	Value
Not Asked	-2
REFUSED	-1

E. PPT18OV
Numeric Variable

This field contains a count of the number of household members who are adults 18 years old and above.

Additional codes for the responses are:

Age 18+	Value
Not Asked	-2
REFUSED	-1

Experimental Group

A. XDHS02
Numeric Variable

This field indicates the group that the respondent was assigned to.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Group	Value
1	1
2	2

Questions from Questionnaire

Article Question: This article offers important information that most Americans ought to be aware of

A. T1
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response regarding the Associated Press article.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Offers Important Information	Value
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2

Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

B. T2
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response regarding the Healthcare IT News article.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Offers Important Information	**Value**
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

C. T3
Numeric Variable

This field contains the response regarding the New York Times article.

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Offers Important Information	**Value**
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

Question 1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling his job as president?

A. Q1
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

President Bush	**Value**
Refused	-1
Strongly disapprove	1

Moderately disapprove	2
Slightly disapprove	3
Slightly approve	4
Moderately approve	5
Strongly approve	6

Question 2a: Which issue is the most important to you?

A. Q2a
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Most Important Issue	**Value**
Refused	-1
The Economy	1
Homeland Security	2
Immigration	3
The War in Iraq	4
Moral Values	5

Question 2b: Which issue is the second most important to you?

A. Q2b
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

2nd Most Important Issue	**Value**
Refused	-1
The Economy	1
Homeland Security	2
Immigration	3
The War in Iraq	4
Moral Values	5

Question 2c: Which issue is the third most important to you?

A. Q2c
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

3rd Most Important Issue	**Value**
Refused	-1
The Economy	1
Homeland Security	2

Immigration	3
The War in Iraq	4
Moral Values	5

Question 2d: Which issue is the fourth most important to you?

A. Q2d
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

4th Most Important Issue	**Value**
Refused	-1
The Economy	1
Homeland Security	2
Immigration	3
The War in Iraq	4
Moral Values	5

Question 2E: Which answer is the fifth most important to you?

A. Q2e
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

5th Most Important Issue	**Value**
The Economy	1
Homeland Security	2
Immigration	3
The War in Iraq	4
Moral Values	5

Question 3: If the 2008 presidential election were held today, who would you vote for?

A. Q3
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Vote	**Value**
Refused	-1
Illinois Senator, Barack Obama (Democrat)	1
Arizona Senator, John McCain (Republican)	2
Another candidate	3
Undecided	4
I do not plan to vote in the 2008 election	5

Question 4A: I enjoy having a clear and structured mode of life.

A. Q4A
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Enjoy Life	Value
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

Question 4B: Even after I've made up my mind about something, I am always eager to consider a different opinion.

A. Q4B
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Consider Different Opinions	Value
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

Question 4C: I dislike it when a person's statement could mean many different things.

A. Q4C
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Dislike Statements	Value
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4

Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

Question 4D: We would have fewer problems if we treated different groups more equally.

A. Q4D
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Treat Groups Equally	**Value**
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

Question 4E: If you start trying to change things very much, you usually make them worse.

A. Q4E
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Change Things	**Value**
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

Question 4F: I enjoy the uncertainty of going into a new situation without knowing what might happen.

A. Q4F
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Enjoy New Situation	**Value**
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3

Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

Question 4G: In getting what your group wants, it is sometimes necessary to use force against other groups.

A. Q4G
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Necessary Use Force	**Value**
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

Question 4H: I consider myself open to new experiences.

A. Q4H
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Open New Experiences	**Value**
Refused	-1
Strongly disagree	1
Moderately disagree	2
Slightly disagree	3
Slightly agree	4
Moderately agree	5
Strongly agree	6

Question 7: Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a…

A. Q7
Numeric Variable

The codes for the responses are as follows:

Party Alignment	**Value**
Refused	-1
Republican	1

Democrat	2
Independent	3
Another party, please specify	4
No preference	5

B. Q7-4
String Variable

This is text field for the respondent to specify their party if answering "Another Party" in Question 7.