Terrorism Definition Codebook
November 2024

ID

Description: Unique computer-generated identifier for each respondent.

Data Type: Integer

Values: Unique ID for each respondent, no two respondents share the same ID.

Time

Description: Time at which the response was recorded, indicating whether it was before or after the treatment exposure.

Data Type: Binary (Integer)

Values:

"0" – response was recorded before treatment,

"1" – response was recorded after treatment.

Treatment

Description: Indicator of whether the respondent was assigned to the treatment or control group in the study.

Data Type: Binary (Integer)

Values:

"1" – respondent received treatment,

"0" – respondent received placebo.

Age (Only Study1, Study 3, and Study 4)

Description: the age of the respondent when the survey was conducted.

Data Type: Numeric

Gender (Only Study1, Study 3, and Study 4)

Description: the gender of the respondent.

Data Type: Categorical

Values:

"1" – Male,

"2" – Female.

Group Assignment (group_assignment, only Study 2)

Description: Clarifies the group assignment of the respondent, indicating whether they were part of the treatment or control group.

Data Type: Binary (Integer)

Values:

"1" – assigned to receive treatment,
"0" –assigned to the control group.

Arm (Only Study 2)
Description: Specifies the type of treatment modality the respondent received. Options include different formats such as video, transcript, or audio.
Data Type: Categorical (Video/Transcript/Audio)
Values: "Video," "Transcript," "Audio."

Wave (Only Study 2)
Description: Specifies the wave of survey.
Data Type: Categorical (Experiment, Follow up)
Values: "Experiment," "Follow up."

Country or Countryname (Only Study 2 and Study 4)
Description: The country the respondent resides in.
Data Type: Character
Values: Text

Knowledge* (Only Study1, Study 3, and Study 4)
Description: The self-reported level of knowledge on terrorism the respondent/student has before the treatment (taking the class)
Data Type: Numeric
Values: Between 1 (least) to 7 (most)

Interest* (Only Study1, Study 3, and Study 4)
Description: The self-reported level of interest on terrorism the respondent/student has before the treatment (taking the class)
Data Type: Numeric
Values: Between 1 (least) to 7 (most)

Type (Only Government and Scholar Definitions)
Description: Specifies the type of institution or person that defines terrorism.
Data Type: Categorical (Academic/US govt/Foreign Govt/Prof/Intl Org)
Values:
"Academic" – Scholarly definition,
"US Govt" – from the United States Government,
"Foreign Govt" – from any government that is not the USA,
"Intl Org" – from an international organization,

“Prof” – from the professors that participated in the study 3.

Political Objective (obj_pol)

Description: Indicates whether the act is intended to achieve a specific political objective. Political objectives include attempts to change or maintain government policy, overthrow or change the government, end a military occupation, control territory or a population, or initiate social change. If the response explicitly mentions targeting the state or government to bring about a change in behavior, this should be coded as a political objective.

Data Type: Binary (Integer)

Values:

"1" – There is a clear political objective as defined above.

"0" – No clear political objective; vague language (e.g., "to pursue a goal" or "impose their beliefs") or insufficient context to imply a political aim.

Organizational Objective (obj_org)

Description: Indicates whether the act is intended to achieve an organizational objective, such as seeking notoriety, recruits, money, publicity, or power.

Data Type: Binary (Integer)

Values:

"1" – Clear indication that the act is aimed at organizational gains, such as gaining notoriety, recruits, or weakening an opponent.

"0" – No clear organizational objective, or the response uses vague phrases without further context to suggest such an aim.

Ideological Objective (obj_ideo)

Description: Indicates whether the act is intended to pursue an ideological objective related to a system of ideas or beliefs that are not concrete or political.

Data Type: Binary (Integer)

Values:

"1" – Clear reference to an ideological goal or pursuit (e.g., spreading an idea or fulfilling a belief).

"0" – No clear ideological objective, or the response lacks specific details beyond vague phrases like "to pursue a goal."

Any Objective (obj_any)

Description: Indicates whether the act has any defined objective, regardless of type. Phrases like "to pursue a goal" or "impose their beliefs" can be considered if they imply a general objective. "Causing fear" as an end goal does not qualify; there must be a specific desired outcome stated, beyond the act's motivation or cause.

Data Type: Binary (Integer)

Values:

"1" – The response indicates a clear objective, whether political, organizational, ideological, or non-specific but present.
"0" – No specific objective is mentioned, or the only outcome is causing fear without further stated aims.

Inspire Fear or Terror (fear_terror)

Description: Indicates whether the act is intended to intimidate or inspire fear or terror.
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:
"1" – References fear, terror, or similar emotions.
"0" – No reference to fear, terror, or similar emotions.

Fear as Means (fear_means)

Description: Indicates whether fear or terror is used as a means or tactic to achieve another objective (e.g., political, organizational, ideological).
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:
"1" – Fear or terror is described as a means to achieve a broader objective.
"0" – Fear or terror is either the end objective or is not referenced as a means to achieve something broader.

Fear as End (fear_end)

Description: Indicates whether the act aims to instill fear or terror as the primary objective.
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:
"1" – Fear or terror is identified as the end objective.
"0" – Fear or terror is a means to another objective, or there is no reference to fear or terror as the end objective.

Non-State Actor (nsa)

Description: Indicates whether the perpetrator is unaffiliated with any country, regime, or government.
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:
"1" – Non-governmental actor (not affiliated with a state),
"0" – No reference to non-state affiliation.

State Actor (state)

Description: Indicates whether the perpetrator is affiliated with a country, regime, or government.
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:
"1" – Perpetrator is state-affiliated,

"0" – No reference to state affiliation.

Religion (rel_any)

Description: Indicates whether the perpetrator is affiliated with a religion, either through its identity, targets, or motives/objectives.
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values: "1" – Religious affiliation, target, or motivation is indicated,
"0" – No reference to religious affiliation.

Religion Islam (rel_isl)

Description: Indicates whether the perpetrator is affiliated with Islam, either through its identity, targets, or motives/objectives.
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:
"1" – Affiliation, target, or motivation of Islam is indicated,
"0" – No reference to Islam as a religious affiliation.

Violence (violence)

Description: Indicates whether the definition includes the use or threat of violence. Words like "destroy," "attack," "mentally/emotionally harm," "public act of destruction," "physically harm," and "force" all count as violence.
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:
"1" – Includes use or threat of violence (e.g., words like "attack" or "harm").
"0" – No reference to violence as defined above.

Civilian Target (targ_civ)

Description: Indicates whether the target of the act is civilians or non-combatants. Words like "public," "innocents," and "target population" are coded as civilian. "Society" is coded as both civilian and political, while "people" alone is too vague and is coded as "0."
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:
"1" – Civilian or non-combatant target.
"0" – No reference to civilian or non-combatant targets.

Political Target (targ_pol)

Description: Indicates whether the target of the act is political, such as government members or buildings. Non-military targets include both civilian and political targets. Words like "state," "nation," or "country" are coded as political. "Society" is coded for both civilian and political.
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:

"1" – Political target.

"0" – No reference to a political target.

Military Target (targ_mil)

Description: Indicates whether the target of the act is military. Words like "military," "soldiers," "army," or "armed forces" are coded as military targets.
Data Type: Binary (Integer)
Values:
"1" – Military target,
"0" – No reference to a military target.