

Survey Instrument

Pretreatment questions (2 questions, 4 units):

1. We'd like to start with a question about national security. Here is a list of potential threats to our country's national security over the next 10 years. For each one, please tell me whether it is very serious, fairly serious, not too serious, or not a threat at all.
 - China [very serious / fairly serious / not too serious / not a threat at all]
 - North Korea [very serious / fairly serious / not too serious / not a threat at all]
 - Terrorism [very serious / fairly serious / not too serious / not a threat at all]
 - Climate change [very serious / fairly serious / not too serious / not a threat at all]
2. Shifting to another topic, people value different qualities among children. Below are 4 pairs of qualities. For each pair, please tell me which one is more important for children to have.
 - Pair 1: [Independence / Respect for elders]
 - Pair 2: [Obedience / Self-reliance]
 - Pair 3: [Curiosity / Good manners]
 - Pair 4: [Being well-behaved / Being considerate]

Insert treatment vignette here (3 units):

(1 of 5 different conditions – Control, Correct_Only, Correct_Democrat, Correct_Republican, Correct_Military)

Posttreatment questions (6 questions, 8 units):

3. About how many Americans are killed each year by terrorism on U.S. soil?
 - 87
 - 8,700
 - 870,000
4. How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of terrorism?
 - Very worried
 - Somewhat worried
 - Not too worried
 - Not worried at all
 - Don't know
5. How likely do you think it is that another terrorist attack causing large numbers of American lives to be lost will happen in the near future?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not very likely
- Not likely at all
- Don't know

6. Here is a list of potential threats to our country's national security over the next 10 years. For each one, please tell me whether it is very serious, fairly serious, not too serious, or not a threat at all.

- China [very serious / fairly serious / not too serious / not a threat at all]
- North Korea [very serious / fairly serious / not too serious / not a threat at all]
- Terrorism [very serious / fairly serious / not too serious / not a threat at all]
- Climate change [very serious / fairly serious / not too serious / not a threat at all]

7. Here is a list of potential threats to your own personal safety over the next 10 years. For each one, please tell me whether it is very serious, fairly serious, not too serious, or not a threat at all.

- Car accidents [Very serious / Fairly serious / Not too serious / Not a threat at all]
- Plane crashes [Very serious / Fairly serious / Not too serious / Not a threat at all]
- Terrorist attacks [Very serious / Fairly serious / Not too serious / Not a threat at all]
- Cancer [Very serious / Fairly serious / Not too serious / Not a threat at all]

8. Here is a pair of potential goals that the U.S. can pursue in its foreign policy. For each one, please tell me whether it is very important, fairly important, not too important, or not important at all.

- Preventing future acts of terrorism on U.S. soil [Very important / Fairly important / Not too important / Not important at all]
- Dealing with great power rivals like China [Very important / Fairly important / Not too important / Not important at all]

Treatment Vignettes

[Group A: Correction Only]

New Poll Finds Rising Fears of Terrorism Nationwide

The number of people who say that acts of terrorism against Americans are imminent is up 3% from last year, according to a new poll released this week. In the wake of recent events in San Bernardino, Orlando, Paris, and London, the Pew Research Center found that 63% of Americans think major terrorist attacks are likely to occur soon on American soil.

Government officials have echoed these concerns. “We are issuing a new advisory that the terror threat is now elevated across the country,” said Undersecretary for Homeland Security Stephen Krause. “We have to remain vigilant and we have to stay alert. Terrorists can strike anytime, anywhere.”

Taking a Closer Look at the Terror Threat

Does terrorism really pose a critical threat to us? Below is a figure showing the average American’s risk of death from different sources. Please take a minute to study it closely.

Table 1: Risk Statistics Table

Threat	Country	Period	Annual Deaths	Annual Risk
Cancers	U.S.	2009	560,000	1 in 540
Traffic accidents	U.S.	2008	34,017	1 in 8,000
Homicide	U.S.	2006	14,180	1 in 22,000
Natural disasters	U.S.	1999-2008	629	1 in 480,000
Home appliances	U.S.	Yearly average	200	1 in 1,500,000
Commercial aviation	U.S.	1989-2007	103	1 in 2,900,000
Terrorism	U.S.	1970-2007	87	1 in 3,500,000
Lightning	U.S.	1999-2008	42	1 in 7,000,000

Source: Mueller and Stewart 2015

As can be seen, around 90 Americans are killed each year by terrorism on U.S. soil. This means the risk of being a victim of terrorism in a given year is about 1 in 3.5 million. In comparison, the risk of being killed by cancer is 1 in 540, the risk of being killed in a car accident is 1 in 8,000, and the chance of being killed by your own home appliances is 1 in 1.5 million. These numbers provide some essential context when thinking about the different threats to our public safety.

[Group B: Correction + Democrat]

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Threat	Country	Period	Annual Deaths	Annual Risk
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Traffic accidents	U.S.	2008	34,017	1 in 8,000
Homicide	U.S.	2006	14,180	1 in 22,000
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Indeed, these facts have been noted by officials. For example, Democratic Congressman John Baker stated recently: “The truth is that you are far more likely to be killed by routine, mundane dangers than you are by a terrorist attack. We as Americans need to take a closer look at the risks and choices we face.”

[Group C: Correction + Republican]

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Table 3: Risk Statistics Table

Threat	Country	Period	Annual Deaths	Annual Risk
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[Group D: Correction + Military]

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Threat	Country	Period	Annual Deaths	Annual Risk
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[Group E: Control = No Correction]

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