Fear of Illegal Immigration

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Introduction to Research
This study explores how the fear of illegal immigration is affected based on media, party identification, and race/ethnicity.
For many years immigration has been the center of debate, and different policies are continuously brought up or created in order to have tighter regulations, while this has been a hot topic for many years, the views and attitudes on immigration have shifted through the decades.

Negative stigma are illegal immigration has bounced around different racial/ethnic groups through the years.
The first being 1880’s 1920’s, portraying this negative stigma around Chinese immigrants. The 50’s through the 70’s played on the narrative that “Illegal” Mexican Immigrants take jobs, and the most current stigma has been about “Illegal Immigration” in correlation to terrorism following the events of 9/11, and seeing it as a security threat.

Negative Stigma illegal immigration
• Pew Research found that 52% of Americans believe that immigrants are a burden to the economy

A Review of the Literature
Media and Immigration:
• the process of agenda-setting theory news media frames their stories in a way to persuade people what is important and give them salience to certain stories or events; causing immigration to be a hot topic for border states, spreading this overdramatized fear of immigration
• news organizations tend to overtly market certain ideological beliefs in order to gain a consistent following and audience

Party Identification and Immigration
• As of recent 8/10 Republicans consider a large number of immigrants a threat, and the partisan gap over immigration is the widest it’s been, making it extremely difficult to adopt any policies, while many lives are being negatively affected by this.
• The way in which Latinos and other immigrants are portrayed in the media have led White Americans to support the Republican

Race/ Ethnicity and Immigration
• Vamik D. Volkan’s psychological approach to large group identity, “us versus them” is engrained in us since birth, leading us to categorize ourselves in groups often based on ethnicity, nationalism and other similar categories

Hypotheses:

H1: Watching Fox News will lead to a greater fear of illegal immigration.

H2: Those who identify as Republicans are more likely to fear illegal immigration than those who identify as Democrats or independents.

H3: People of color will have less fear of illegal immigration than those who identify as white.

Data

H1: Media v. Fear of Illegal Immigration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Coefficient (B)</th>
<th>Stand. Coefficient</th>
<th>Significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Party ID</td>
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<td>-.390</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox News</td>
<td>.016</td>
<td>.332</td>
<td>.000</td>
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<td>CNN</td>
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<td>-.031</td>
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<td>Social Media News</td>
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<td>Black Non Hispanic</td>
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<td>-.058</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Non Hispanic</td>
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<td>-.002</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table Interpretation
H1: The first table displays a bar graph derived from a cross-tab. The results exhibit that 80.6% of people who never watch Fox News are not afraid while 94.4% are afraid of illegal immigration. 83.5% of people who rarely watch Fox News are not afraid, while 98.5% are afraid. In the category of sometimes watching Fox News 66.5% of people are not afraid of illegal immigration, while 33.5% are afraid. Lastly 43.5% of those who watch Fox News frequently are not afraid, while 56.5% are afraid. Chart 3 similarly displays fear of illegal immigration based on the independent variable being “how often you watch CNN” with the categories being recoded the same way as Chart 2.

H2: According to the chart 71.9% of those who watch CNN are not afraid while 28.1% are afraid. 82.3% of those who rarely watch CNN are not afraid, and 17.7% are afraid. 85% of those who sometimes watch CNN are not afraid of illegal immigration and 15% are. And lastly out of those who frequently watch CNN 75.3% are not afraid and 24.7% are afraid.

H3: The Crosstab graphs we are able to see that generally those who watch Fox News more frequently have more of a fear of illegal immigration, while those that never watch it to rarely watch it are not afraid of the illegal immigration. This supports my hypothesis, as well as the literature because as we know Fox News tend to push their conservative ideology/agenda, which usually exaggerates illegal immigration in order to create a fear, and have an outlet of someone to blame for issues in regards to the economy.

Conclusions
Media, specifically conservative media (Fox News) has the largest impact on fear of illegal immigration—confirming the agenda setting theory.
• Party Identification still seems to identify this fear, this polarization can lead to a halt on policy, due to the divide
• Those who identify as Hispanic will be less afraid of illegal immigration
• All three of the independent variables, media, party ID, and race/ethnicity have an effect one fear of illegal immigration
• As long as this fear exist, borders will continue to harden, and the stigma around immigrants will continue to be negative.

References