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Terrorism and Deceptive Media

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Terrorism and Deceptive Media

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Introduction to Research

- This Study explores the effects media portrayal of terrorism has on various age groups, political affiliations, and gender in the United States.
- On average, those who are not immediately impacted by an event of collected trauma claim to have longer lasting fears of said terrorist attack because of the media's constant coverage.

Terrorism

- Terrorism is "the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives" (28 C.F.R. Section 0.85).

Media

- As social media users rise, more people can engage in unmediated communication, offering incendiary speech, unreliable information.
- Attempts to regulate terrorism on social media is comparably less welcomed in the U.S. as it infringes of the freedom of speech.
- Women are more likely to rely on the media to get political news (70%)
- Social media is associated with increased distress during collective trauma.
- Political agenda setting; political figures capitalize on the fear the media exudes
- According to the *Issue Ownership School*, the public perceives the republican party as more competent in handling issues surrounding national security and war, easing fear.

Deception

- A nation survey found despite majority of respondents not having direct exposure to 9/11, 1/5th of participants believed it to be the worst experience of their life
- Individuals who watch 4+ hours of television a week after the attack, were young and experienced greater trauma.
- Greater exposure to graphic content will lead to heightened anxiety
- Politicians, Government institutions, Commercial Corporations, Media outlets all benefit from fear and deception of terrorism

Hypotheses

- H1:** The greater one's social media usage is, the more likely they are to be afraid of terrorism
- H2:** Those who fear terrorism are more likely affiliated with the Republican party than the Democratic Party
- H3:** Females are more likely to be afraid of terrorism than males.

Data

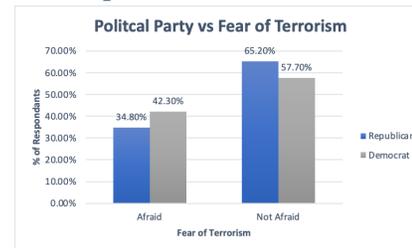
- 51.2% of respondents who consume social media daily are afraid of terrorism and 48.8% are not
- 29% of respondents who never use social media are afraid of terrorism and 71% of respondents who do not are not afraid

H1: Table

Models	Coefficient (B)	Significance
Newspaper	-.009	.780
Websites	.105	.001
TV News	.099	.002
Talk Shows	.079	.013
Social Media	.018	.000

*Significance at <.05
Adjusted R Square: .069

H2: Graph



H3: Graph

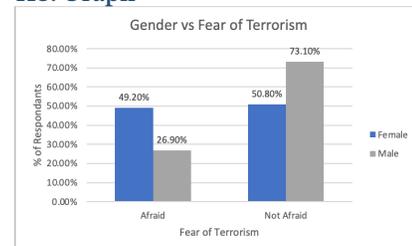


Table Interpretation

- The regression table compares 5 different media mediums ranging from paper news to digital fast social media to measure the fear of terrorism.
- Websites, TV News, Talk Shows, and Social Media were all statistically significant
- Social Media having a significance level of .000 with a weak coefficient correlation of .018 shows there is a positive relations between fear of terrorism and level of usage.
- Websites had a statistical significance of .001 with a higher statistical significance than social media. Similarly, the more often one uses online websites for news the greater the fear of terrorism is. This holds true for politically affiliated news outlets.
- Newspapers were rendered insignificant

Graph Interpretation

- The Graph of H3, shows a greater fear of terrorism among the Democratic party [42.3% D v 34.8% R]
- The Graph of H4 shows a significantly greater fear of terrorism among females than males

Findings

- H1:** The more time spent on social media the greater one's fear of terrorism will be. This correlation is not extremely strong yet still significant. In fact, there is not enough research to date that proves if social media does create fear. Exposure to graphic content does increase anxiety and stress.
- H2:** According to the Data, Democrats are 7.5% more likely to be afraid. Republicans often feel more confident in war and terrorism; given previous policy.
- H3:** Females are almost two times more likely to be afraid of terrorism. Women fear sexual assault and domestic violence as they are often portrayed as prey. There is correlation between fear of crime and terrorism. 70% of females consume more political news from the media than men.

Conclusion

- Greater exposure to social media, any online media source does increase the fear of terrorism. Yet, it is not supported that social media exposure in general will create that fear.
- Dramatized content that is not being filtered is causing fear in many citizens, of the U.S. In respecting our first amendment rights, the US does not filter content, and the heads of many media platforms do not as well. There is control in fear as well as political influence, and economic enhancement, therefore there is little incentive to adjust media portrayal.
- Exposure does not necessarily equal fear. One study showed older generations simply felt better informed. On the other hand, with a new age of media, how is this constant exposure going to affect the new generations?

Acknowledgment

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Resources

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