



RESEARCH QUESTIONS/HYPOTHESIS

Research Question 1: How is the consumption of politically affiliated news outlets related to people's perception of violent crimes committed by immigrants in the United States?

Research Question 2: Does a person's political affiliation influence the type of media they consume and trust the most?

Hypothesis 1: Individuals will consume mostly the news outlets that better match their personal political affiliation and create their perception on topics like violent crimes committed by immigrants, they will trust this news outlet.

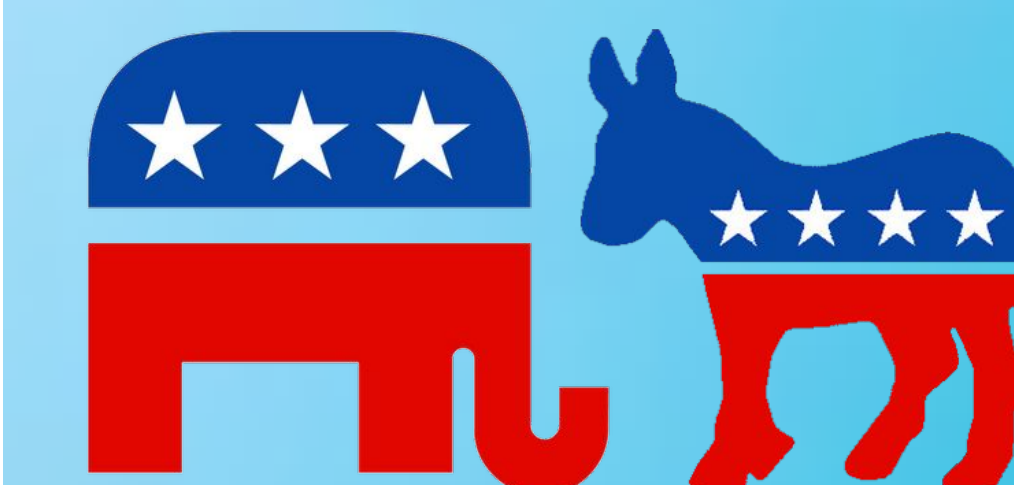
Research Question 3: Does media consumption differ based on gender and political affiliation?

Hypothesis 1: Males will lean with right-wing news outlets, views and consume the most media, while females will lean with right-wing news outlets, views, and consume less media.

Research Question 4: Does the importance of violent crimes differ based on political affiliation, gender and immigration?

Hypothesis 1: Consuming more right-wing news outlets, being Republican, will increase the perception of violent crimes committed by immigrants in the United States, the opposite will apply for left-wing news outlets, being Democrat.

	What is your political affiliation?			Total
	Democrat	Republican	Independent	
Mexicans	14	5	17	36
Venezuelans	4	1	4	9
Haitians	1	0	0	1
Indians	0	0	2	2
Other	28	9	17	54
Total	47	15	40	102



		N	Mean	Std. Deviation
How many hours a week do you spend consuming the following news outlets? - Fox News	Democrat	20	1.9000	2.35975
	Republican	12	1.9167	3.36988
	Independent	19	1.2632	1.82093
	Total	51	1.6667	2.43036
How many hours a week do you spend consuming the following news outlets? - The Daily Wire	Democrat	12	1.0833	1.97523
	Republican	10	1.1000	1.85293
	Independent	17	1.0588	1.67595
	Total	39	1.0769	1.76791
How many hours a week do you spend consuming the following news outlets? - ABC	Democrat	27	2.6296	3.61778
	Republican	11	2.1818	5.61815
	Independent	22	1.4545	1.10096
	Total	60	2.1167	3.44000
How many hours a week do you spend consuming the following news outlets? - NBC	Democrat	28	2.7143	3.06542
	Republican	11	1.2727	2.10195
	Independent	23	1.9565	2.16329
	Total	62	2.1774	2.62100
How many hours a week do you spend consuming the following news outlets? - CNN	Democrat	39	2.4872	2.59424
	Republican	11	1.4545	2.20743
	Independent	27	2.2963	3.02318
	Total	77	2.2727	2.69325

Figure 2 Media Consumption per Political Party RESULTS / DATA / EVIDENCE

In a one-way ANOVA analysis on the importance of different violent crimes, how often they are committed by immigrants, and how much those articles appear in their preferred news outlet's feed, the results were analyzed based on the political affiliation of the participants. In all cases, Republicans had a higher score than other political parties. When asked, "How often do immigrants commit the following violent crimes?", Republicans were more likely to believe than all other parties that all the four violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, assault) were more often committed by immigrants. With murder, Republicans (M = 1.53, SD = 0.64) were much more likely to believe that immigrants commit the crime than Independents (M = 1.12, SD = 0.40) and Democrats (M = 1.10, SD = 0.30). The one-way ANOVA reported the findings as statistically significant, $F(2, 109) = 8.691, p < .001$. This same question was repeated with other violent crimes, with rape the results were similar with the highest score in Republicans (M=1.73 SD=.799) than Independents (M = 1.23, SD = .527) or Democrats (M = 1.17, SD = .382), $F(2, 109)=7.187, p = .001$. In regards to robbery, Republicans reported the highest mean score (M = 1.73, SD = 0.704), followed by Independents (M = 1.37, SD = 0.578) and Democrats (M = 1.19, SD = 0.445), $F(2, 109) = 6.025, p = .003$. Finally, the same was found for assault, Republicans reported the highest mean score (M = 1.60, SD = 0.737), followed by Independents (M = 1.40, SD = 0.583) and Democrats (M = 1.12, SD = 0.323). A one-way ANOVA revealed a statistically significant difference among the groups, $F(2, 109) = 6.896, p = .002$. However, independents surpassed Republicans when it came to the question "How often do articles on the following violent crime appear in the news feed of the news outlet?" specifically in regards to rape. Rape-related news articles were more likely to appear to Independents (M = 1.70, SD = 0.832) rather than Republicans (M = 1.53, SD = 0.640) and Democrats (M = 1.24, SD = 0.513), $F(2, 109) = 5.617, p = .005$. Media consumption patterns were not statistically significant, yet still analyzed.

When it came to media consumption based on gender for news outlets by independent samples t-test, there were significant results for *The Daily Wire*, $t(98) = -2.201, p = .036$ (two-sided). Females reported a higher mean of 1.44 hours per week (SD = 2.10) in comparison to the male counterpart mean consumption time of 0.46 hours per week (SD = 0.52). Females consumed more time on media than males when it came to other news outlets like *NBC*, $t(98) = -2.329, p = .023$ (two-sided), where females consumed it with a mean of 2.65 hours per week (SD = 3.02) while males with a mean of 1.33 hours per week (SD = 1.39). *CNN*, $t(98) = -2.129, p = .037$ (two-sided), showed similar statistically significant results with females on a higher mean of 2.71 hours per week (SD = 2.92) rather than males with a mean consumption time of 1.43 hours per week (SD = 2.09). There was no statistical significance in relation to frequency of violent crimes appearing in news outlets or perceptions on immigrants committing those crimes, however males still scored slightly higher than females.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS

Based on a correlation analysis conducted, consuming more news outlets increased the perception of violent crimes. This was particularly true for Republicans who scored highest on media consumption patterns, frequency on seeing articles of crimes and having higher perceptions of crime by immigrants. Indeed, people matched their political views to their news outlets. Females consumed overall more media than men regardless of where it leans politically, even right-wing. This could be because the sample size of women was higher.

ABSTRACT

Immigration has risen as one of the most important topics in the United States, a country combatting an increasing political polarization, but perceptions about immigrants are often shaped by the media and how they portray a population. An online survey completed by 112 participants was conducted, with questions ranging from multiple choice to likert scales that examined participants' media consumption patterns for five American news outlets – Fox News, The Daily Wire, ABC, NBC, CNN – and their perceptions on immigrants committing violent crimes – murder, rape, robbery, assault. The objective of the research survey was to compare answers based on political affiliation, gender and other demographic variables of the participants to understand media consumption patterns of groups, their in-group similarities and their out-group differences when it comes to perceiving violent crimes in relation to immigrants as perpetrators. Initial results matched previous research in finding that when compared per political affiliation, Democrats trusted their media news outlets more than Independents but Republicans were almost twice more likely compared to Democrats. Republicans were also more likely to show high concern for violent crimes and view them in their preferred news outlets feed, they also were more likely to believe that immigrants committed certain violent crimes such as murder and robbery. Other findings discovered no statistically significant change in media consumption based on political affiliation, nor when it came to age correlation, however women were more likely to consume CNN, NBC and The Daily Wire. This research further supports media consumption related theories such as the Cultivation Theory, Agenda Setting Theory and Media Framing Theory based on how the media pushes certain narratives and stories that create people's perception of reality, which usually differs based on political affiliation.

INTRODUCTION / LITERATURE REVIEW

Cultivation Theory: One crucial theoretical framework to consider is Cultivation Theory which suggests that long-term exposure to media, especially television, influences people's perception of the world. In this research, the specific perception will be on immigrant-committed violent crimes based on five American news outlets. "On Immigration and Crime" that relates to cultivation theory by providing a historical context that shapes our modern attitudes towards immigration. Romer D., Hall Jamieson K. & Aday S. (2003) proves the correlation of fear of crimes with high media consumption. In this research, media consumption will be analyzed in relation to political affiliation.

Media Framing Theory: Similar research on this topic incorporates the Media Framing Theory suggesting that media frames information to its consumers therefore shaping the way they understand and perceive an issue. This is specifically relevant to the five news outlets that will be analyzed in this study since they differ in their political bias and affiliation, using different framing strategies. The research by Sohoni, D., & Sohoni, T. W. P. (2014) proves in detail that journalists and media take the reins of the story by promoting negative links between immigrants, their legal status and crimes.

Agenda Setting Theory: Agenda Setting Theory is about mass media highlighting certain topics that will be perceived by the public as important. Media coverage influences the perception of certain topics and attracts the attention of governments in their publicization of issues. Particularly, this can be politically biased and affiliated in the United States. The Trump Hypothesis was researched by Green, D. (2016) and delves in whether immigrants are responsible for higher levels of violent and drug-related crimes in the U.S. as stated by Donald Trump. The research proved that this hypothesis was rhetoric-based instead of evidence-based, however the research is outdated by focusing only on the Mexican immigrant group since this rhetoric has more recently shifted to Haitians and Venezuelans.

METHODOLOGY / PROCESS

The research used an online survey as its research method. The survey was structured to collect data on the targeted variables of media consumption, media trust, political affiliation, and perceptions on violent crimes (assault, robbery, murder, and rape) as defined by the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2019), committed by immigrants. The survey was distributed online to assess participants' perception of violent crimes committed by immigrants and their significance in five American politically biased news outlets (CNN, NBC, ABC, Fox News, The Daily Wire). The survey took approximately 5 minutes to complete. The analysis of the survey data utilizes quantitative methods, including statistical tests (ANOVA, T-Test, F-Test, Chi-Squared, Correlation), to explore the relationships between the variables and derive meaningful conclusions about whether people feel strongly or not about immigrant violent crime based on the media they consume and their trust in it. There were a total of 112 participants' responses collected. The study included participants between the ages of 18 to 55 years old from any political affiliation, education level, gender, and race/ethnicity which were recorded only for inclusion and demographic purposes without any identifiatory attribution.

Political Affiliation	Frequency	Percent
Democrat	52	46.4
Republican	15	13.4
Independent	44	39.3

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	28	25.0
Female	79	70.5
Other*	4	3

* includes "Prefer not to say", "Non-binary" and missing data

Immigrant	Frequency	Percent
No	72	64.3
Yes	14	12.5
No, but my parents are	25	22.3

Figure 1 Demographics

		Crimes in the United States are:			Total
		Increasing	Decreasing	The same	
Are you an immigrant yourself?	No	29	14	29	72
	Yes	6	1	7	14
	No, but my parents are	14	5	6	25
Total		49	20	42	111

		What is your political affiliation?			Total
		Democrat	Republican	Independent	
Crimes in the United States are:	Increasing	22	9	18	49
	Decreasing	13	1	6	20
	The same	17	5	20	42
Total		52	15	44	111

		What is your political affiliation?			Total
		Democrat	Republican	Independent	
The media you consume leans:	Right-wing	1	5	2	8
	Left-wing	28	1	11	40
	Moderate	23	9	28	60
Total		52	15	41	108

Figure 3 Other Data

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REFERENCES: Complete list of references available by scanning the QR code below.

