Bryce Baxter   10/01/25

Article Review #1 / Cyberattacks, Cyber threats, and attitudes toward cybersecurity policies

https://academic.oup.com/cybersecurity/article/7/1/tyab019/6382745?searchresult=1

BLUF: In this article review, I will explore how different cyberattacks and threats may affect public support and certain cybersecurity policies.

Do cyberattacks affect public support?

In this article, **Snider (2021)** explores how exposure to different cyberattacks and threats can affect public support for the cybersecurity policies that are in place. The studies done in this article show that cyberattacks do in fact change public support. However, the reactions may vary depending on the given cyberattack or the person being tested. They may not be as affected as say another person in the test. Different types of cyberattacks lead to support for different types of policy responses. Public support is not definite between everyone. It may come down to people's views and the severity of the threat.

What is the study performed in this article?

The authors conducted one randomized large survey experiment to test whether exposure to lethal vs. nonlethal cyberattacks changes people's perceived cyber threat and support for different cybersecurity policies. Their hypothesis is that public support for government cybersecurity measures rises after being exposed to different cyberattacks.

The survey took place in Israel and 1,022 adults took part in the survey. Participants were randomly assigned to watch a lethal cyberattack video, a non-lethal cyberattack video, and a control group. The lethal cyberattack video described physical harm and life-threatening situations. The non-lethal video described financial or information damage. The experiment utilized a Independent Variable and a Dependent Variable. The independent variable was exposure to cyberattacks and the dependent variable was support for cybersecurity policies. After group 1 and 2 were done with their videos they answered questions about how threatened they felt by the cyberattacks in their video. They were also asked how they felt about certain cybersecurity policies like CPP (Cyber Prevention Policy), CAP (Cyber Alert Policy), and COP (Cyber Oversight Policy). Group three also answered these questions.

What are the results of the survey?

Participants who were exposed to lethal cyberattacks support cybersecurity policies that focus on alerting the public in case of cyberattacks. The lethal group supports CAP more than any other group. Participants who were exposed to non-lethal cyberattacks supported policies that focus on state oversight of cyberattacks. For group three, the data shows that exposure to cyberattacks (lethal or non-lethal) can affect levels of support for specific cybersecurity policies. The results show that exposure to cyberattacks leads to additional support for cybersecurity regulations and policies. This study proves that governments will need to converse with the public to develop new cybersecurity regulations.

Conclusion

This study shows that cyberattacks do in fact sway public opinion for specific cybersecurity policies. This study is so important because cyberattacks happen every day. According to the University of Mayland, a cyberattack occurs every 39 seconds. Those cyberattacks are targeting the public and they will need to be aware of what the government is doing to counter these attacks. Technology becomes increasingly more important in our lives everyday and we will need regulations to protect our private information from getting into the wrong hands.

Sources

Snider, K. L. G., Shandler, R., Zandani, S., & Canetti, D. (2021). Cyberattacks, cyber threats, and attitudes toward cybersecurity policies. *Journal of Cybersecurity*, *7*(1). https://doi.org/10.1093/cybsec/tyab019

Mahmutovic, J. (2022, August 11). *Are surveys quantitative or qualitative?* SurveyLegend. https://www.surveylegend.com/types-of-surveys/quantitative-vs-qualitative/

SentinelOne. (2025, July 30). *Key Cyber security Statistics for 2025*. SentinelOne. https://www.sentinelone.com/cybersecurity-101/cybersecurity/cyber-security-statistics/