Reviewer's report

Title: Perceived coping & concern predict terrorism preparedness in Australia

Version: 1 Date: 22 July 2012

Reviewer: Sara Evans-Lacko

Reviewer's report:

This paper investigates the relationship between perceived coping and level of concern with terrorism preparedness among a large sample of Australians. The paper is clearly written and uses appropriate methods with theoretical grounding. More practical applications of the findings in addition to elaboration of the limitations section might be discussed in the discussion and conclusion section.

Background

1) The background is clearly written and appears to cite appropriate literature. The aims appear to be incremental rather than highly innovative, however, being less familiar with this area this is more difficult to judge.

Methods

Major Compulsory Revisions

2) The main methods section might benefit from some slight clarifications. For example in terms of behavioral responses, are these referring to preparedness and avoidance behaviours at any time in one's life or over a certain period of time? This is unclear as the introduction section seems to discuss interest in a more recent period of Australian history of high assumed threat but limited direct exposure.

3) The survey methods section discusses that data were appropriately weighted to reflect key demographic characteristics of the national population, specifically referring to gender and age. Little information is provided, however, about how the original sample was selected. What kind of sampling strategy, for instance was used to ensure geographic representation and how were participants selected?

Results and Discussion

Major Compulsory Revisions

4) The limitations section is quite brief and some study limitations do not seem to be mentioned. For example, the limitations of the survey measures and generalizability of the findings might be included. For instance, some of the survey measures refer to 'intended' rather than actual behaviours and these might not be the same. Additionally, are there other variables which might be included such as previous experience of a terrorist related attack or other disaster related event experience which were not measured in the survey?
5) It seems that the conclusions section could be elaborated and might include more specific ideas regarding the applications of the findings in the real world. Although this is touched on, the discussion is brief and a bit vague. Additionally, might it tie in with other parts of the paper. For instance, how might the findings relate to the discussion in the introduction around how avoidance of public transport and air travel may lead to presumed ‘safer’ travel and paradoxically significantly higher additional road fatalities? Additionally, might the findings be relevant to other issues such as ethnic profiling?

Minor Essential Revisions

6) The results are clearly presented in the text. As the tables are dense, it would be clearer to maintain consistent numbers of significant figures throughout and to present a smaller number of significant figures.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interest