

### CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2016 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

# **S0404**

#### **Project Title**

## The Influence of General Anxiety on the Perception of Personal Safety

#### **Objectives/Goals**

The purpose of this project was to obtain a general idea of how people felt about their personal safety based on being attacked and terrorist attacks/shootings, and collected GAD-7 scores to compare data.

Abstract

#### Methods/Materials

Created a survey that consisted of questions regarding peoples' personal safety (surveymonkey.com), included GAD-7 questions, demographics,

#### Results

493 randomly recruited people off of social media completed the survey and their data was thoroughly analyzed. As age increases anxiety decreases (vice versa), females were more anxious than males, the higher level of education completed the less anxiety there was, the lower the annual income the more anxiety.

#### **Conclusions/Discussion**

Terrorist attacks and shootings are unpredictable, and clearly make people more anxious as there have been many recent occurrences like these in recent years/months. My data has concluded that people who are fearful of an attack are more anxious than those who aren't. Anxiety is a powerful emotion and can result in overreactions like incidences in the Santa Ana Mall and the LA County Schools.

#### **Summary Statement**

The levels of anxiety of people were measured, in regards to how they felt about their overall personal safety, given terrorist attacks and shootings.

#### **Help Received**

I developed the idea to measure peoples' anxiety based off of personal safety (using the GAD-7) and my father, Dr. Curtis J. Condon (PhD in Neurology) allowed me to use his work computer to organize the data collected from the survey I created.