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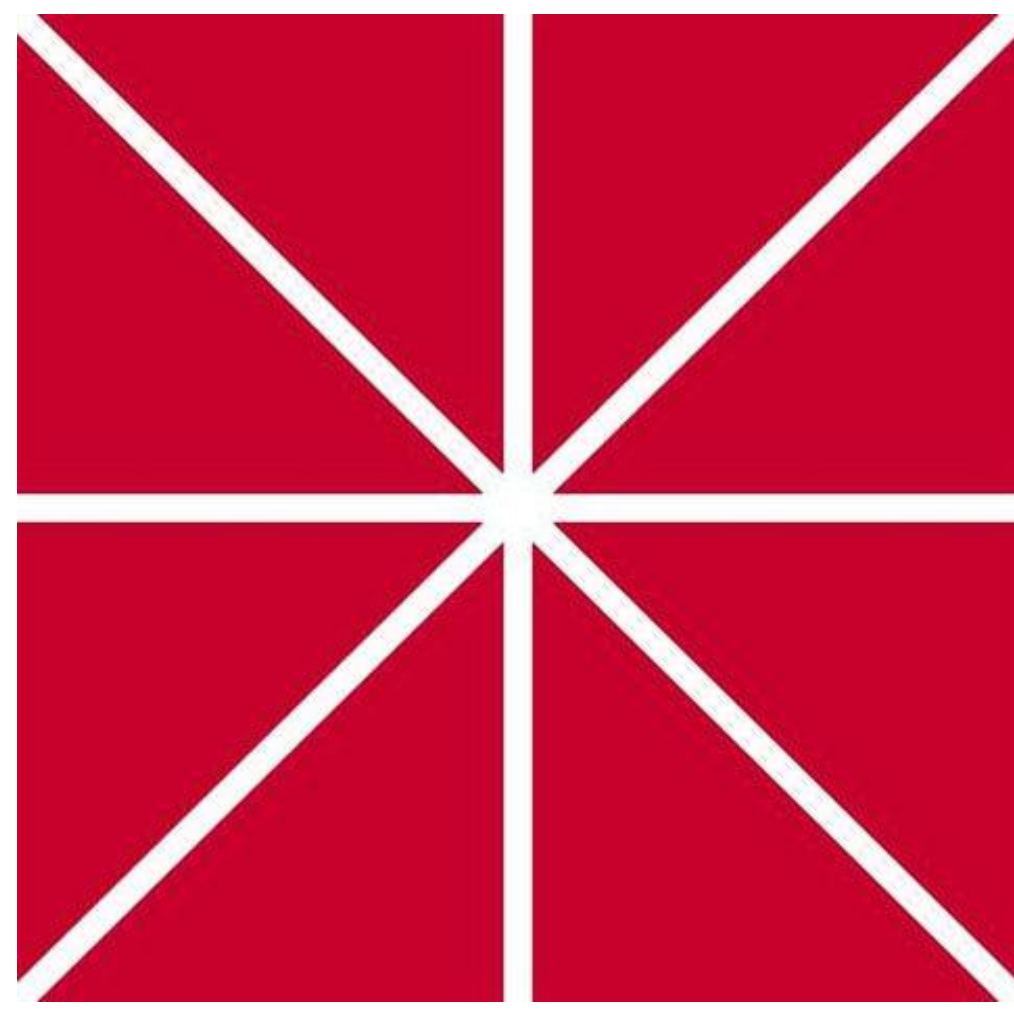
Fear of Illegal Immigration in America: How Media Influences Its Viewers

Alexandra Leon Oliva

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Fear of Illegal Immigration in America: How Media Influences Its Viewers

Alexandra Leon Oliva

Department of Political Science, Chapman University; Orange, California

Abstract:

Illegal immigration has been an ongoing social problem, leading to a great deal of variety in public opinions. Conservative media have propagated fear of illegal immigration and have influenced their viewers' perception. This past year, media coverage has been used to promote ideas on illegal immigration. The different coverages were used to explain their own examples of what they thought about the current immigration issue. Due to this, people were influenced to create their own opinions based on the information broadcasted. The framing theory implies that an individual preferred media influences their perception of illegal immigration. Using Chapman's survey of American fears, I analyzed how the fear of illegal immigration is related to media choices. To what extent does media influence the fear of illegal immigration, and if the fear of illegal immigration is formed only through media influence. The analysis of the responses focused on the correlation between fear and media influence. There is a significant relationship between the fear of illegal immigration and conservative media coverage. The analyses revealed that media influence is related to an increased fear of illegal immigration. The findings determined that the person's media preference will shape their public opinion on illegal immigration.

A Review of the Literature

Media Influence:

- The Framing Theory refers to how the media can associate an issue to another, in order to affect an individual's perception
- Media coverage on this issue is usually negative. Media coverage defines immigration as a problem, and offers possible solutions and causes of immigration into the U.S.
- The findings suggest that people with strong anti-immigrant opinions may believe that the news coverage is pro-immigrant and may also presume that the majority of the audience is pro-immigrant as a result of biased media coverage.

Political Identification:

- The Intergroup Contact Theory is defined as the interaction between different racial groups can reduce prejudice and foster more friendly attitudes.
- Those that are native-born workers are more likely to experience competition for jobs and express more restrictionist attitudes
- There is an underlying belief that American-ness is as natural and inevitable as genetics.

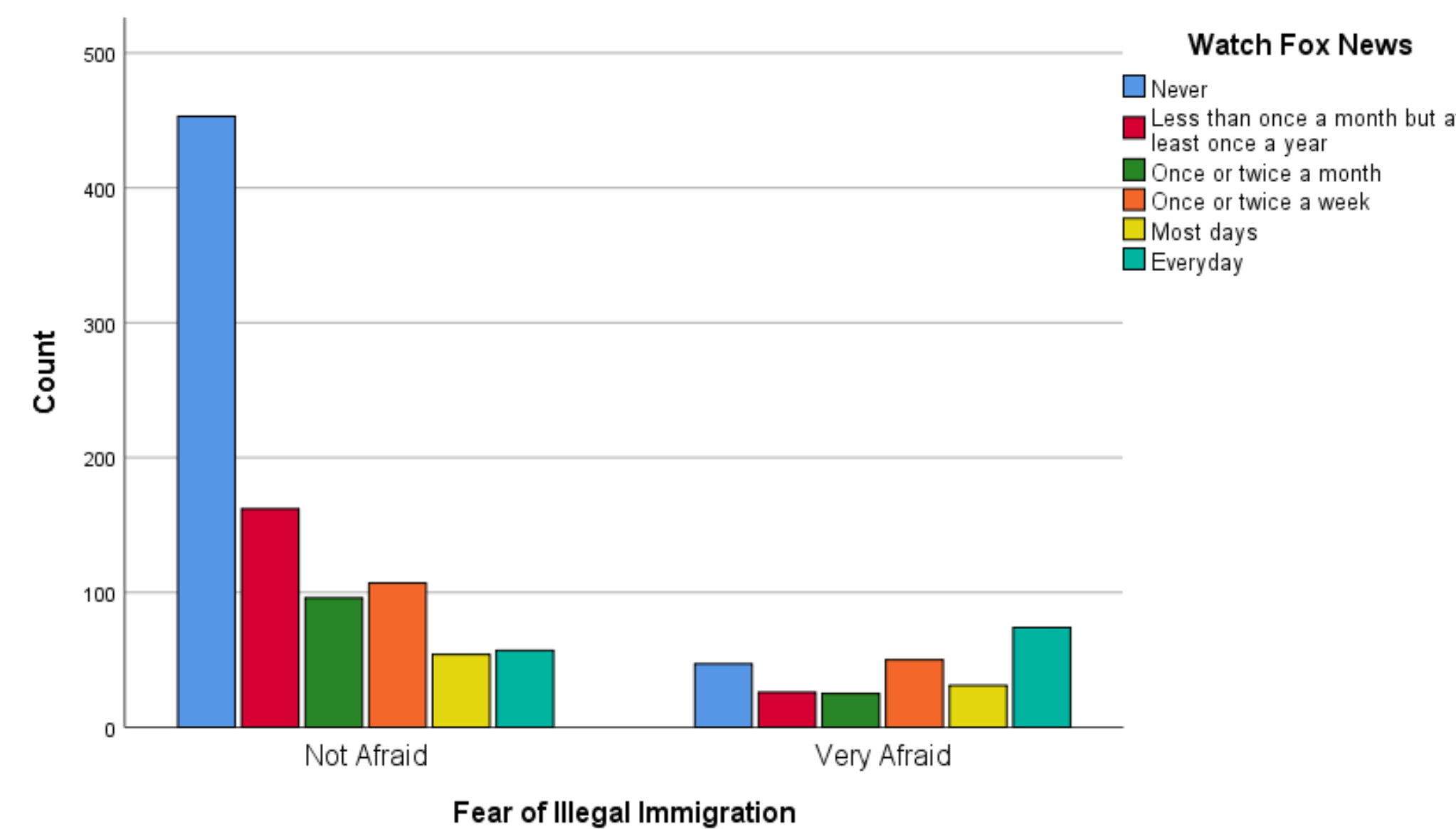
Hypotheses:

H 1: Viewers that watch Fox News every day will have a higher fear of illegal immigration.

H 2: Part 1; Those who identify as Conservatives will have a greater fear of illegal immigration than those who identify as Liberals. Part 2; Those who political identity as Democrats will have less fear of illegal immigration than Republicans.

H 3: Those who identify as a Conservative Republican will have a much greater fear of illegal immigration than Liberal Democrats.

H 1: Media Influence



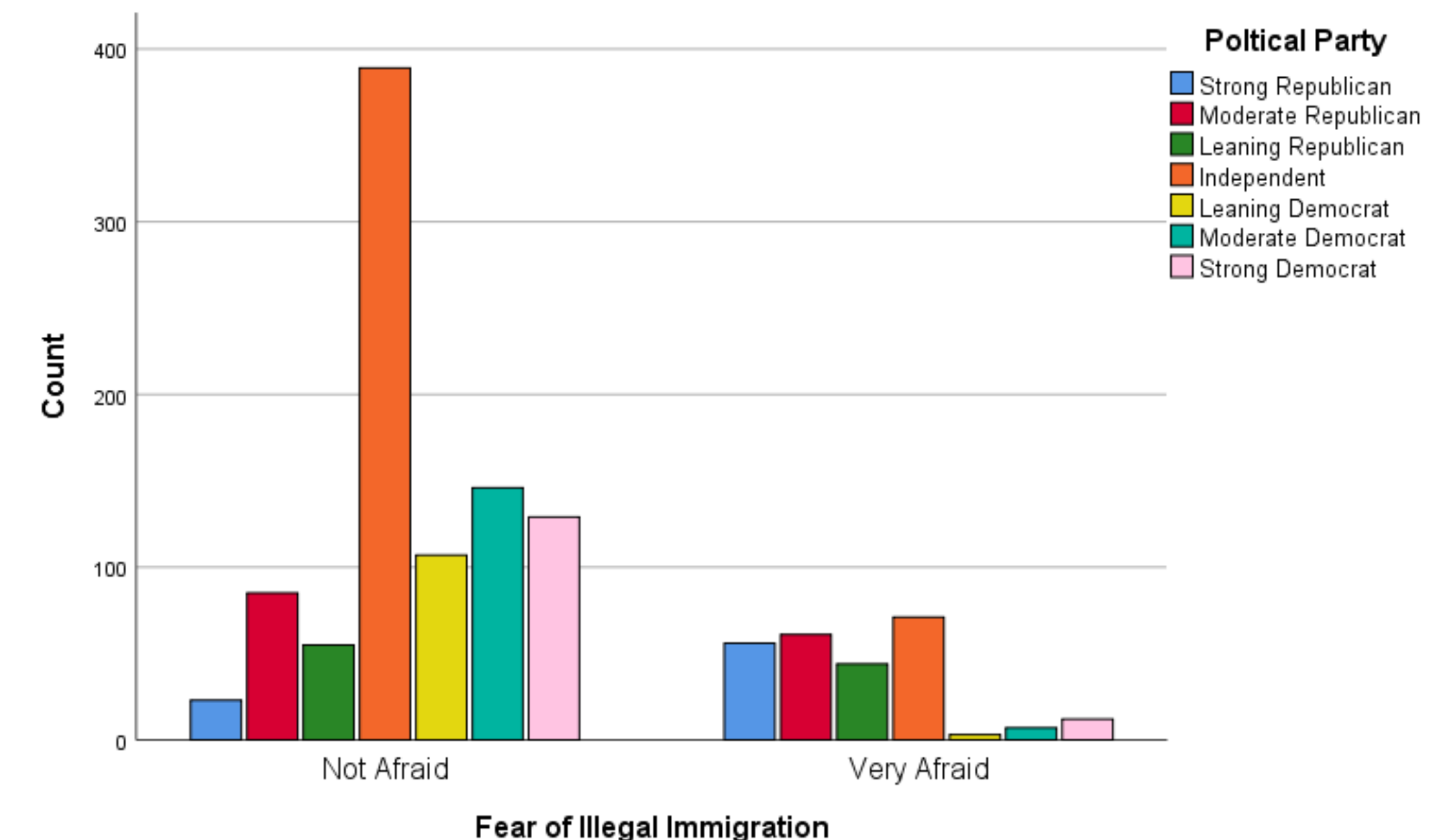
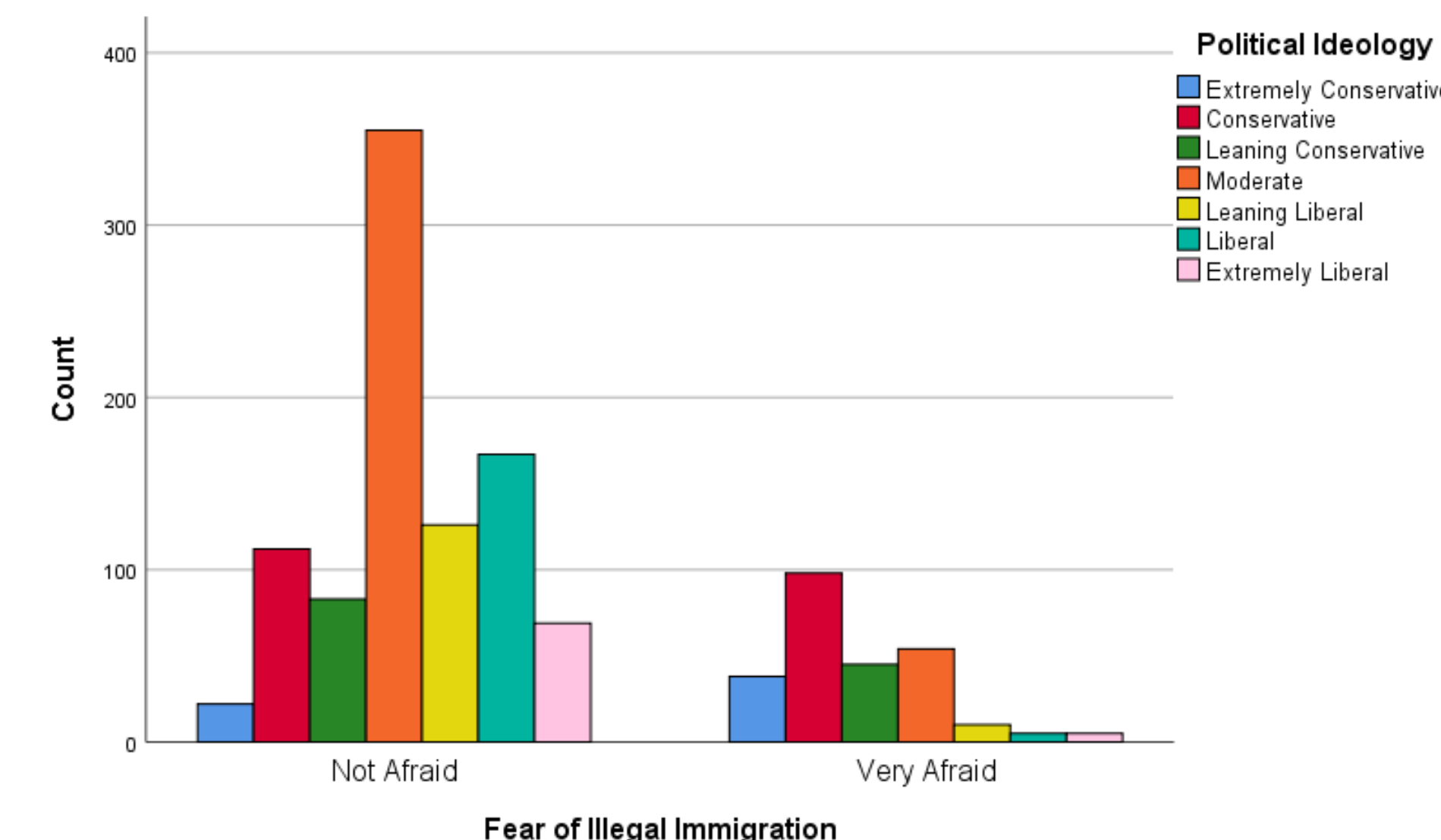
Regression Results

Table 2: Standardized Regression Coefficients Predicting The Fear Of Illegal Immigration

Independent Variables	B	SE B	β
Fox News	.139	.017	.244*
CNN	-.029	.021	-.046
MSNBC	-.005	.021	-.008
Political Ideology	-.123	.021	-.194*
Political Party	-.133	.019	-.223*
Age	.160	.021	.214*
Gender	.051	.049	.025
Education	9.049E-5	.005	.000
Employment Status	.002	.013	.004
Marital Status	-.022	.017	-.034
Income	.001	.001	.036

Notes. R2=.354;*p < .05 the p-value shows which variables are statistically significant.

H 2: Political Ideology and Political Party



Findings

H 1: Media Influence

Fox News is a significant factor in the fear of illegal immigration. Higher levels of exposure to Fox News correlate with higher fear levels, while other local news such as CNN and MSNBC are not significant to the fear of illegal immigration. The hypothesis can be confirmed.

H 2: Political Identification

Party identification and fear of illegal immigration have a moderately strong relationship that is statistically significant. The hypothesis can be confirmed

H 3: Media Influence v. Political Identification

Media Influence and Political Identification have a strong relationship that is statistically significant towards the fear of illegal immigration. By being able to confirm hypothesis 1 and 2, this last hypothesis can be confirmed.

Conclusions

Political ideology and political parties do have a statistical significant towards illegal immigration; media influence, especially from Fox News, is significantly greater, showing that it is one of the biggest factors to the fear of illegal immigration, whereas other news sources such as CNN and MSNBC were statistically insignificant and not a determining factor to the development of fear of illegal immigration.

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