Online Supplement

Our study was conducted with 101 undergraduate students from a large public research university in the west coast. Students were recruited from a pool of subjects organized by the Social Science department. The Social Science department also gives the students extra credit for their participation in a course in their department. Of the 101 undergraduate students, the majority of students (61 students) identified themselves as Social Science majors (e.g., Political Science, Psychology), 14 were undecided, 3 were studying Natural Sciences (e.g., Biology, Chemistry), 2 were Business/Economics majors, and the remaining students left the question blank.

The following is the actual survey administered to the subjects. The survey consists of 8 questions, presented to participants in random order. After the 8 questions, students respond to 5 additional demographics and survey discussion.

University of California, Irvine

Study Information Sheet

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- You are being asked to participate in a research study to preferences for different outcome patterns involving lives lost versus saved over time.
- The research procedures involve completing a short survey via Sona Systems.
- The only foreseeable discomforts associated with the study are those associated with normal computer usage.
- Participation in this study is voluntary. There is no cost to you for participating. You may choose to skip a question or a study procedure. You may refuse to participate or discontinue your involvement at any time without penalty. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time by exiting the webpage on your web browser.

- You will receive extra course credit for an eligible course through the UCI Social Sciences human subjects' pool. You will receive a ½ unit of course credit for each ½ hour of participation in this study. Total amount of credit you may earn for this study is ½ credit. The course instructor offering extra course credit for participation in research must provide alternatives to earn extra course credit. The alternative assignment must require equal or less time and effort for the amount of extra credit that can be earned through participation in research.

- All research data collected will be stored securely and confidentially on our databases. This information is password protected and completely anonymous.

- The research team, authorized UCI personnel, the study sponsor (if applicable), and regulatory entities such as the FDA, may have access to your study records to protect your safety and welfare. Any information derived from this research project that personally identifies you will not be voluntarily released or disclosed by these entities without your separate consent, except as specifically required by law.

- If you have any comments, concerns, or questions regarding the conduct of this research please contact the researchers listed at the top of this form.

- If you are unable to reach the researchers listed at the top of the form and have general questions, or you have concerns or complaints about the research, or questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact UCI's Office of Research Administration by phone, (949) 824-6662, by e-mail at IRB@rgs.uci.edu or 5171 California Avenue, Suite 150, Irvine, CA 92617.

Introduction

Business firms and government agencies sometimes face decisions on projects or environmental regulations involving risks to life, such as cancer risks due to toxic chemical exposures. Different possible actions will often lead to different spreads of outcomes over time. We are investigating what patterns of outcomes over time people prefer.

The following couple of pages lists different sequences of lives saved or lives lost. These groups of sequences differ on the number that is saved (or lost) and when the event takes place. Since the sequences differ on the number of lives involved, whether the lives are saved or lost, and when the lives are saved (or lost), your answers may vary from sequence to sequence. It all depends on your individual preferences with respect to the problem at hand. An example is as follows:

Please rate (according to personal preference) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 relatively excellent distribution of lives) these sequences of different ways 24 lives could be saved for sure for three consecutive years, starting this year.

	This Year	Next Year	2 Years from Now
Option A	24	0	0
Option B	8	8	8
Option C	0	0	24

You will fill in a rating from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives compared to the other distributions) to 10 (a relative excellent distribution of lives compared to the others) for each of these 3 sequences.

Also make sure to notice that the timings of the events can differ, either starting this year or 15 years from now.

Please fill out the following questionnaire with your preference, as you perceive them to be at this point in time. In reality, there are no "correct" answers to the following questions. Your answers may vary from others and from question to question because your preferences differ. Just be as honest as you can.

Question 1

Please rate (according to personal preference) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives), these sequences of different ways **24 lives** could be **saved** for sure for three consecutive years, **starting this year**.

	This Year	Next Year	2 Years from Now
Option A	0	0	24
Option B	8	8	8
Option C	24	0	0

Rate (by filling in the blank) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives) for each option. Be sure to notice the timing of the events as labeled in the first row of the table.

Option A	
Option B	
Option C	

Question 2

Please rate (according to personal preference) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives), these sequences of different ways **24 lives** could be **saved** for sure for three consecutive years, **starting 15 years from now**.

	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17
Option A	0	0	24
Option B	8	8	8
Option C	24	0	0

Rate (by filling in the blank) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives) for each option. Be sure to notice the timing of the events as labeled in the first row of the table.

Option A	
Option B	
Option C	

Question 3

Please rate (according to personal preference) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives), these sequences of different ways **24 lives** could be **lost** for sure for three consecutive years, **starting this year**.

	This Year	Next Year	2 Years from Now
Option A	0	0	-24
Option B	-8	-8	-8
Option C	-24	0	0

Rate (by filling in the blank) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives) for each option. Be sure to notice the timing of the events as labeled in the first row of the table.

Option A	
Option B	
Option C	

Question 4

Please rate (according to personal preference) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives), these sequences of different ways **24 lives** could be **lost** for sure for three consecutive years, **starting 15 years from now**.

	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17
Option A	0	0	-24
Option B	-8	-8	-8
Option C	-24	0	0

Rate (by filling in the blank) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives) for each option. Be sure to notice the timing of the events as labeled in the first row of the table.

Option A	
Option B	
Option C	

Question 5

Please rate (according to personal preference) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives), these sequences of different ways **600 lives** could be **saved** for sure for three consecutive years, **starting this year**.

	This Year	Next Year	2 Years from Now
Option A	0	0	600
Option B	200	200	200
Option C	600	0	0

Rate (by filling in the blank) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives) for each option. Be sure to notice the timing of the events as labeled in the first row of the table.

Option A	
Option B	
Option C	

Question 6

Please rate (according to personal preference) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives), these sequences of different ways **600 lives** could be **saved** for sure for three consecutive years, **starting 15 years from now**.

	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17

Option A	0	0	600
Option B	200	200	200
Option C	600	0	0

Rate (by filling in the blank) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives) for each option. Be sure to notice the timing of the events as labeled in the first row of the table.

Option A	
Option B	
Option C	

Question 7

Please rate (according to personal preference) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives), these sequences of different ways **600 lives** could be **lost** for sure for three consecutive years, **starting this year**.

	This Year	Next Year	2 Years from Now
Option A	0	0	-600
Option B	-200	-200	-200
Option C	-600	0	0

Rate (by filling in the blank) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives) for each option. Be sure to notice the timing of the events as labeled in the first row of the table.

Option A	
Option B	
Option C	

Question 8

Please rate (according to personal preference) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives), these sequences of different ways **600 lives** could be **lost** for sure for three consecutive years, **starting 15 years from now**.

	Year 15	Year 16	Year 17
Option A	0	0	-600
Option B	-200	-200	-200
Option C	-600	0	0

Rate (by filling in the blank) from 1 (relatively poor distribution of lives) to 10 (relatively excellent distribution of lives) for each option. Be sure to notice the timing of the events as labeled in the first row of the table.

Option A	
Option B	
Option C	

Question 9

What is your age?

Question 10

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

Question 11

What is your area of study or expertise? Please choose the one you feel closest to or most appropriate.

- Business / Economics
- Engineering / Math
- Humanities
- Natural Science (e.g., Biology, Chemistry)
- Social Science (e.g., Political Science, Psychology)
- Other/Undecided

Question 12

	Not Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Average	Somewhat Easy	Easy
How difficult was this survey (select one)?					

Question 13

	Not Interesting	Somewhat Interesting	Average	Somewhat Interesting	Very Interesting
How interesting was this survey (select one)?					

Question 14

In general, did you have a specific way of answering the questions? What was it?