Recent news coverage leads many to believe that global terrorism is on the rise, so our group managed to assess data collected over the last six years (2012 – 2017) to better analyze the trends.

Initially we faced some difficulties getting the appropriate data sets to utilized and stumbled on outdated or incomplete data which were mostly unreliable or required a subscription.

We finally obtained our data from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) which is detailed, current and reliable.

***Is terrorism on the rise? Are the majority of attacks successful?***

From our analyses, global terrorism has been on the decline for the past four years with 2014 having the highest number of total attacks with a majority of them being successful. From 2014 right through 2017, we also noticed the attacks have become less successful compared to 2012 and 2013 which had very little failures relative to the amount of terrorist attacks.

***What are the most common types of terror attacks attempted over the time period reviewed?***

Our team initially speculated based on news coverage that the most common attacks were armed/unarmed assault. However, after reviewing the scope of the data set and excluding biases, we found out that Bombings/Explosions was the most common type of terrorist attack over the past six years.

***Does terrorism increase during any specific time of the year?***

We also went into analyzing when most terrorist attacks take place during a year and noticed a spike during Spring/Summer Months. We saw spikes in January(winter), May(spring), July(summer), and October(fall).

***How does terrorism in the Middle East compare to the rest of the world?***

A significant portion of all worldwide terrorist attacks occur in the Middle East, which is in

line with expectations based on news coverage.

In 2017, almost one-third of all terrorist attacks occurred in the Middle East. This is

interesting, as less than 5% of the world lives in this region.

***Summary and Future Research***

Based on news coverage, our group was surprised to find that the rate of terrorist attacks is

decreasing, and that terrorist attacks are becoming less successful.

We were also initially surprised that armed attack (gun violence) was not the leading type of attack,

however, upon further analysis of the data set and definition of terrorism, this does appear

reasonable.

We were not surprised to find that a significant portion of all worldwide terrorist attacks occur in the

Middle East, as this is in line with expectations based on news coverage.

We could consider performing future research on what drives the seasonality of terrorist attacks, and

what is impacting the rate of success of attacks (i.e., increased surveillance, improving technology,

etc.)