

“Those who would give up essential Liberty, to
purchase a little temporary
Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.”

—Benjamin Franklin (1755)

THE SNOWDEN EFFECT: THE CONFLICT IN A FREE SOCIETY,
WHAT DO WE VALUE MORE; PRIVACY OR SECURITY?

MATTHEW BLAKE
BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY
POLITICAL SCIENCE
DR. PATRICK DONNAY (ADVISOR)
2015

Research Question:

I focus on whether public opinion towards the government's surveillance practices in the name of national security and an individual's reasonable right to privacy has shifted after revelations made by Edward Snowden on the practices of the National Security Agency (NSA).

I explore whether there has been a Snowden effect on public opinion shifting attitudes toward a greater appreciation of privacy. The conflict lies in a free society; what do we value more, security or privacy?



“I thought it was likely that society collectively would just shrug and move on,” [Snowden] says. Instead, the NSA’s surveillance has become one of the most pressing issues in the national conversation ... Public opinion has also shifted in favor of curtailing mass surveillance. “It depends a lot on the polling question,” [Snowden] says, “but if you ask simply about things like my decision to reveal Prism” —the program that allows government agencies to extract user data from companies like Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo—“55 percent of Americans agree. Which is extraordinary given the fact that for a year the government has been saying I’m some kind of supervillain.”

-Bamford, J. (2014). The most wanted man in the world. *Wired*, 22(9), 78.
Retrieved from <http://www.wired.com/2014/08/edward-snowden/>

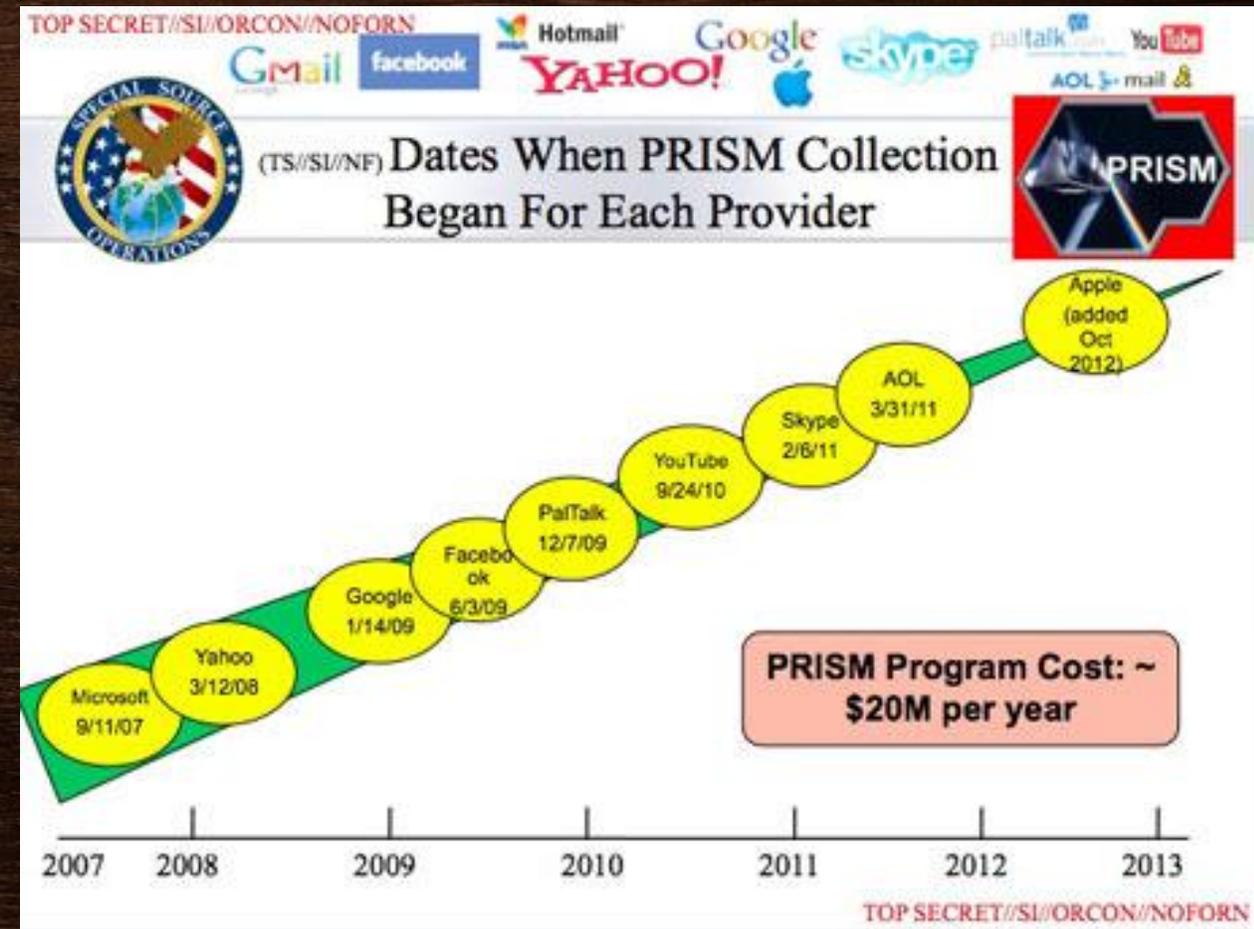
Key Legislation

USA PATRIOT Act

- Section 215
- “Bulk Phone Records Program”
- Phone Number, Location Data, Call Duration, Unique Identifiers, Time of Call

Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)

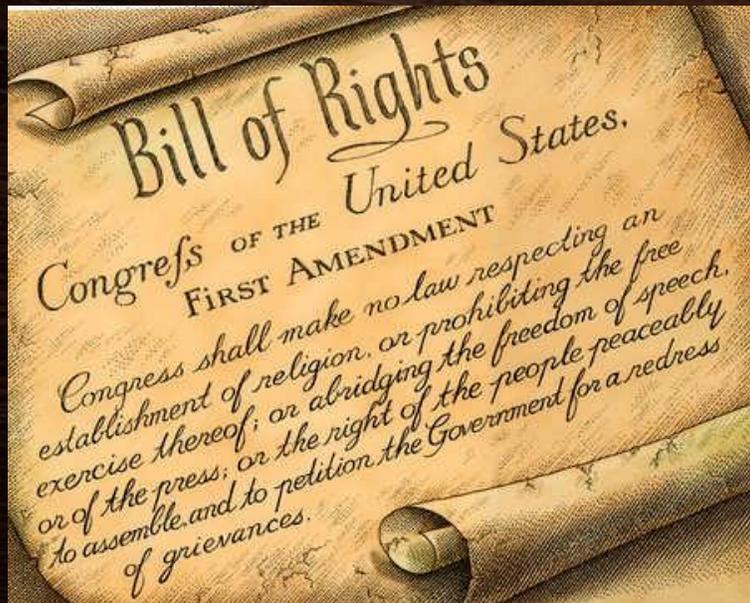
- Section 702
- Planning Tool for Resource Integration, Synchronization, and Management (PRISM)
- Contents of Communication Collected



Constitutional Infringement

First Amendment

- Those Served Prohibited from Disclosing the Fact to Others
- Individuals Targeted for Surveillance for Exercising their First Amendment Rights



Fourth Amendment

- Allows the Government 4th Amendment Searches without a Warrant & without Establishing Probable Cause
- Fails to Inform those being Investigated that their Privacy has been Compromised



Academic Literature

The attacks of September 11, 2001*, gave law enforcement officials new reasons to seek relief from Fourth Amendment strictures; fear of terrorism has prompted public opinion to tolerate and even encourage their demands ... polling consistently shows that Americans remain deeply wary of unrestrained government power. Most of us dread pervasive surveillance; we are unwilling to allow officials unchecked authority to seize individuals or rummage through personal effects. In short, we cherish privacy and personal autonomy. Their value is obvious, incontestable. Yet their importance is simultaneously obscure, disputed, dismissed. For the public at large, instincts conflict; responses are erratic.

-Schulhofer, S.J. (2012). *More Essential Than Ever: The Fourth Amendment in the Twenty-First Century*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Academic Literature

No Snowden Effect:

- Cognitive Tendency Theory: Perception of threat drives support for security
- The government's actions may clash with individual rights on grounds of trust of government and patriotism. Using contextual issues surrounding the trade-offs and the Patriot Act legislation, we identify several dimensions of support for civil liberties. (Davis & Silver 2004)
- Policy Core Beliefs

Support Snowden Effect:

- Locke who recognized the importance of government to maintain security and property but who also deeply considered the interrelated problem of an overly intrusive state for the well being of a polity. (Best, Krueger, & Pearson-Merkowitz 2012)
- “Secondary” Beliefs

Mass Public Values & Beliefs

“Deep Core” Beliefs

- Fundamental Nature of Humans
- Basic Social Justice
- Primary Values: Life, Liberty, The Pursuit of Happiness, & Equality

Policy Core Beliefs

- Balance of Power - Federalism
- Public vs. Private Services
- Individual Liberties vs. National Security

-Jenkins-Smith, H., Silva, C. L., Gupta, K., & Ripberger, J. T. (2014). Belief System Continuity and Change in Policy Advocacy Coalitions: Using Cultural Theory to Specify Belief Systems, Coalitions, and Sources of Change. *Policy Studies Journal*, 42(4), 484-508. Retrieved from doi:10.1111/psj.12071

Mass Public Values & Beliefs (Cont.)

“Secondary” Beliefs

- Individual Preferences
- Beliefs
- Facts Toward Implementing
One’s Policy Core Beliefs

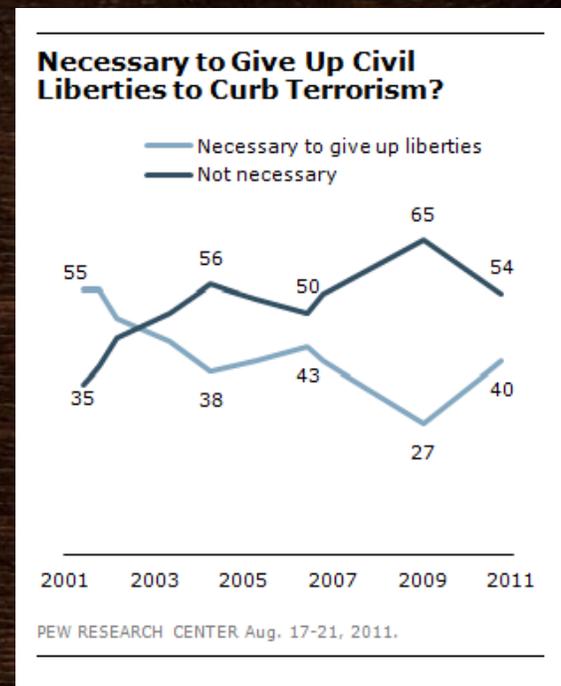
-Jenkins-Smith, H., Silva, C. L., Gupta, K., & Ripberger, J. T. (2014). Belief System Continuity and Change in Policy Advocacy Coalitions: Using Cultural Theory to Specify Belief Systems, Coalitions, and Sources of Change. *Policy Studies Journal*, 42(4), 484-508. Retrieved from doi:10.1111/psj.12071

Data Source: Pew Research Center

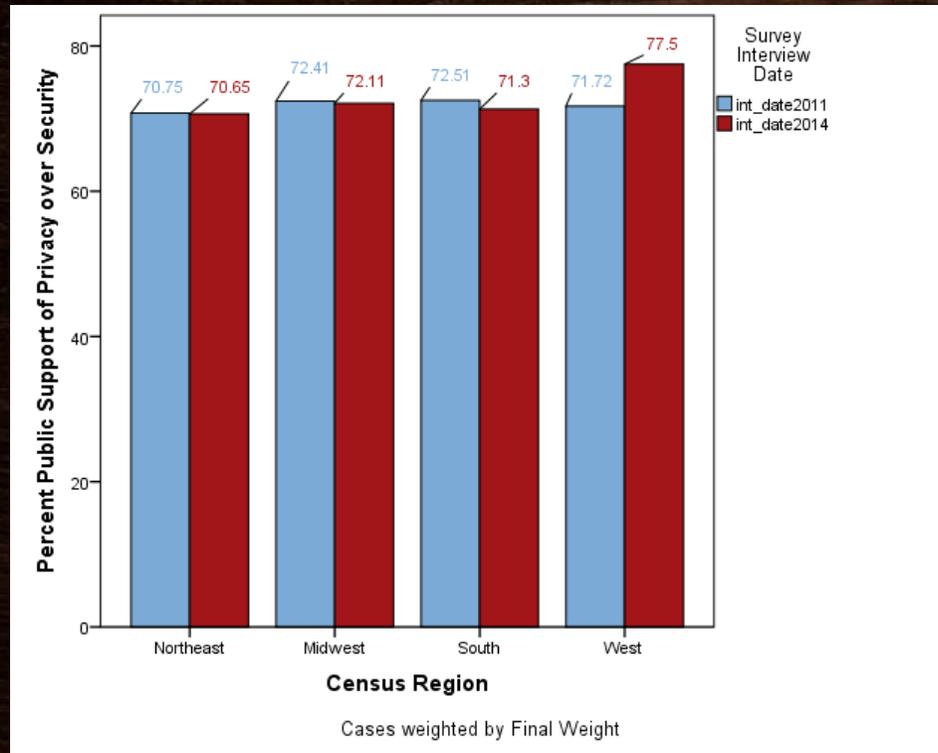
Non-Partisan
American Think-Tank

- Washington, D.C.
- Social Issues, Public Opinion, & Demographic Trends
- Public Opinion Polling, Demographic Research, Media Content Analysis, & Other Empirical Social Science Research

- January 2014 Political Survey
- 2011 Political Typology Survey



Census Region



Chi-Square Tests - Census Region

Interview Date	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
int_date 2011	Pearson Chi-Square 1.025	3	.795
	N of Valid Cases 4488		
int_date 2014	Pearson Chi-Square 16.410	3	.001
	N of Valid Cases 4845		

Symmetric Measures

Interview Date	Value	Approx. Sig.
int_date 2011	Nominal by Phi .015	.795
	Nominal Cramer's V .015	.795
	N of Valid Cases 4488	
int_date 2014	Nominal by Phi .058	.001
	Nominal Cramer's V .058	.001
	N of Valid Cases 4845	

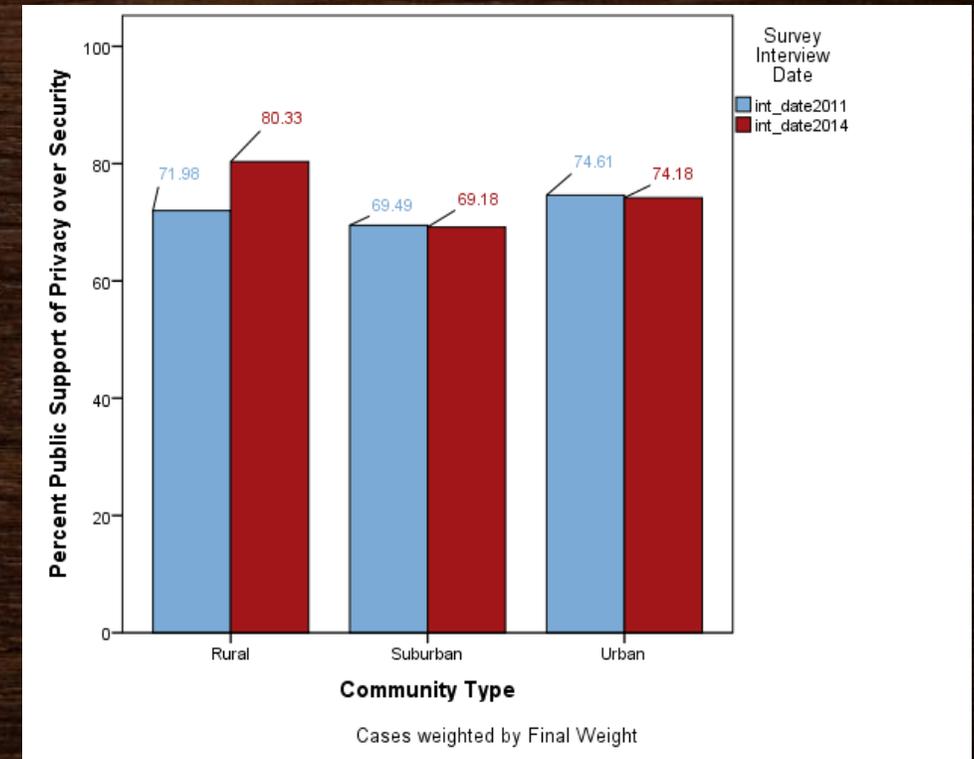
Community Type

Chi-Square Tests - Community Type

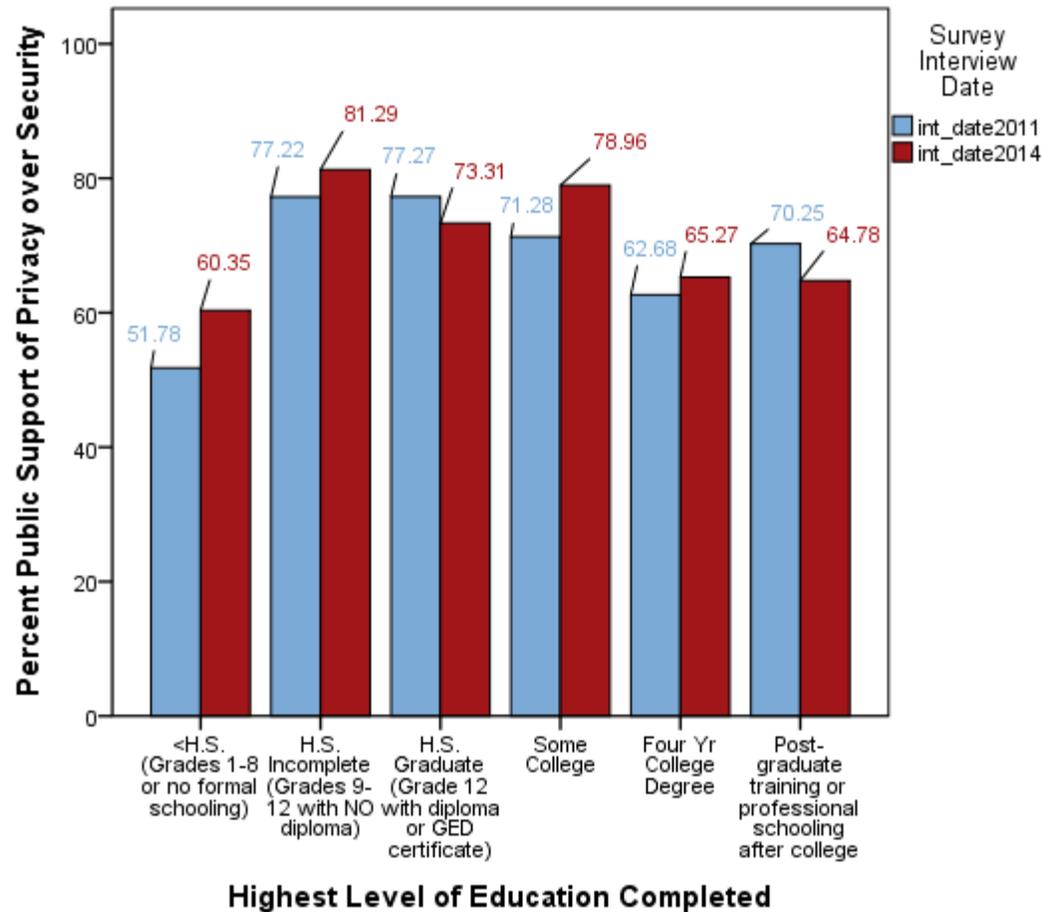
Interview Date		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
int_date 2011	Pearson Chi-Square	10.953	2	.004
	N of Valid Cases	4292		
	Pearson Chi-Square	40.539	2	.000
int_date 2014	N of Valid Cases	4842		

Symmetric Measures

Interview Date		Value	Approx. Sig.
int_date 2011	Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.051
		Cramer's V	.051
	N of Valid Cases		4292
int_date 2014	Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.092
		Cramer's V	.092
	N of Valid Cases		4842



Highest Level of Education



Cases weighted by Final Weight

Chi-Square Tests - Highest Level of Education

Interview Date		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
int_date 2011	Pearson Chi-Square	77.177	5	.000
	N of Valid Cases	4478		
int_date 2014	Pearson Chi-Square	88.570	5	.000
	N of Valid Cases	4832		

Symmetric Measures

Interview Date		Value	Approx. Sig.
int_date 2011	Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.131
		Cramer's V	.131
	N of Valid Cases		4478
int_date 2014	Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.135
		Cramer's V	.135
	N of Valid Cases		4832

House-Hold Income Level

Chi-Square Tests - Household Income Level

Interview Date		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
int_date 2011	Pearson Chi-Square	46.023	8	.000
	N of Valid Cases	4015		
	Pearson Chi-Square	129.667	8	.000
int_date 2014	N of Valid Cases	4412		

Symmetric Measures

Interview Date		Value	Approx. Sig.
int_date 2011	Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.107
		Cramer's V	.107
	N of Valid Cases		4015
int_date 2014	Nominal by Nominal	Phi	.171
		Cramer's V	.171
	N of Valid Cases		4412

