

# What Should the US Defend?

Ethan Scrima, Iowa State University

# What Does the Public Know?

- Determining gaps in knowledge
- Finding solutions
- Survey conducted at Iowa State University
- 18+ years old and US citizenship
- 1200 responses from students, faculty and staff

# Survey Overview

- How does the public think about national defense?
- Critical infrastructure ranking
- Determining what is the greatest threat
- Trust in media platforms

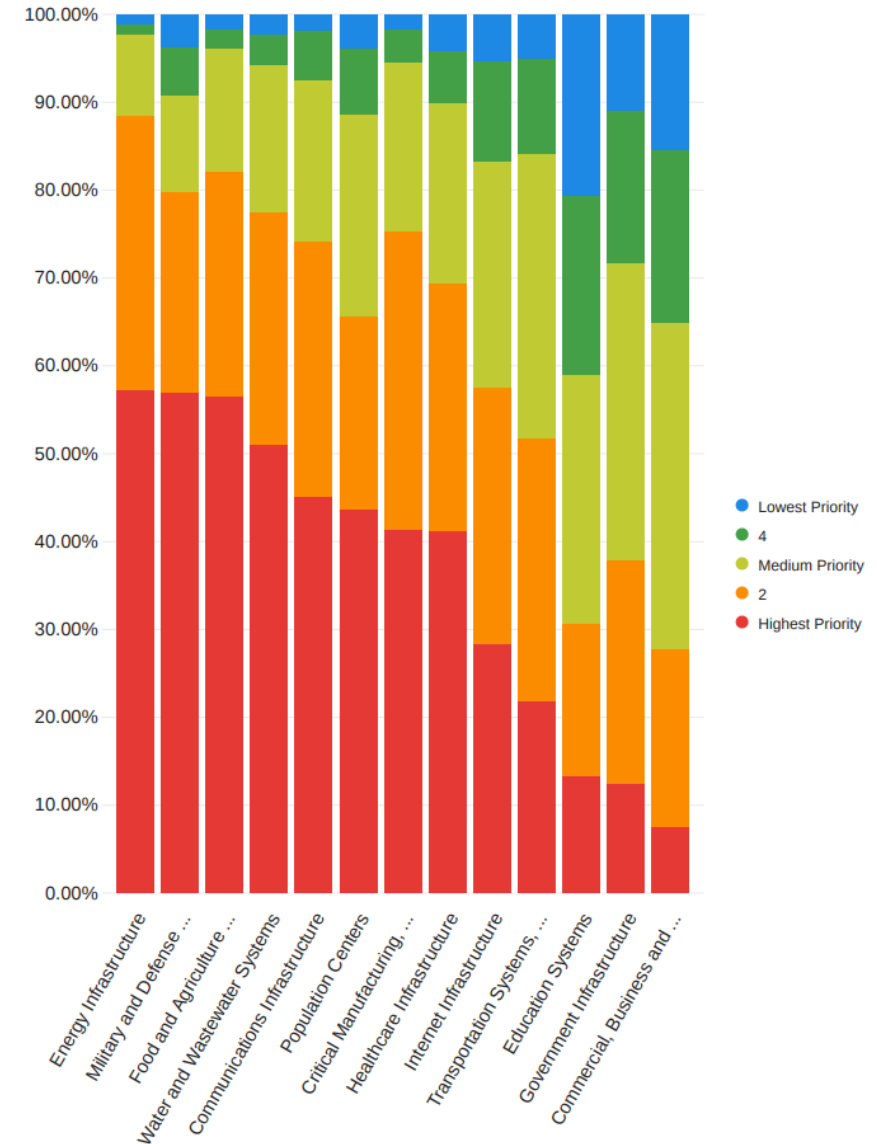
# Survey Questions

- Q1 - What potential targets within the country do you think the United States should prioritize defending in the event of war with a nation that DOES possess nuclear weapons?
- Q2 - What potential targets within the country do you think the United States should prioritize defending in the event of war with a nation that DOES NOT possess nuclear weapons?
- Q3 - What country do you view as the biggest threat to the United States right now?
- Q4 - Do you believe that the United States government and military are currently able to defend the United States against a foreign, hostile country?
- Q5 - Do you believe that you have been well informed about the effects of a nuclear attack on the United States?
- Q6 - From where do you normally get your information about current events? Choose all that apply.
- Q7 - How much do you trust each of these sources of information?
- Q8 - Do you believe that the United States education system is under threat from, or is potentially influenced by foreign countries?
- Q9 - Are you a current or former member of the United States military?
- Q10 - What is your age range?

# Findings

- Top three: energy, military, agriculture
- Bottom three: business, government, education
- 46% identified China as number one threat
- Nearly 10% identified the US as biggest threat
- 52% feel uninformed about nuclear attack
- Social media is least trusted platform
- Interesting responses

Table 2



# Implications

- Caveats
- How these results affect military preparedness
- 2018 Hawaii missile false alarm
- Public confidence in national defense

# Solutions

- Education and information campaigns
- Encouraging disaster preparedness
- Civil defense and the Finnish culture of defense

Q & A

Thank You