State of Science: Surveys of Americans’ Acceptance of Politically Motivated Violence
In the wake of January 6th...

- Great concern about future politically motivated violence
- Many attempts by researchers and journalists to estimate what percent of the population supports such actions
State of Science Review

• Extensive literature review
• Examination of existing surveys
• Recommendations
Issues with Existing Surveys

• Divergent Goals
  o General Support vs. Personal Willingness

• Divergent Wording
  o Vastly different levels of abstraction

• Problematic response categories
  o Often weighting towards acceptance
Broader Issues

• Disengagement/Inattention
  o Big issue when arguing about small differences

• Intention
  o If goal is to determine likelihood of engagement > need to ask will/would questions
Moving Forward

1. Clarity of Goal
2. Consistent wording
3. Balanced Response Categories
4. Disengagement Tests
5. Repeated Surveys

Until this is done, we should be skeptical of specific claims about $x$ millions of Americans support political violence