

Politics Dataset

Sociology 312, University of Oregon
Prof. Gullickson

Overview

This data comes from the 2016 American National Election Study (ANES). The ANES is a survey of the American electorate that is conducted every two years. The study collects information on a variety of political attitudes and voting behaviors. For our purposes, we are going to primarily look at respondent's vote for president attitudes on three issues: (1) birthright citizenship, (2) gay marriage, and (3) global warming.

Unlike our other datasets, some of the variables originally include significant number of missing values. In most cases, this is because the respondent refused to answer the question or didn't understand the question enough to feel comfortable answering the question. To simplify the analysis here, I have used some advanced techniques to impute valid values for all of the missing values.

Table 1 provides summary statistics for all the quantitative variables in the politics data.

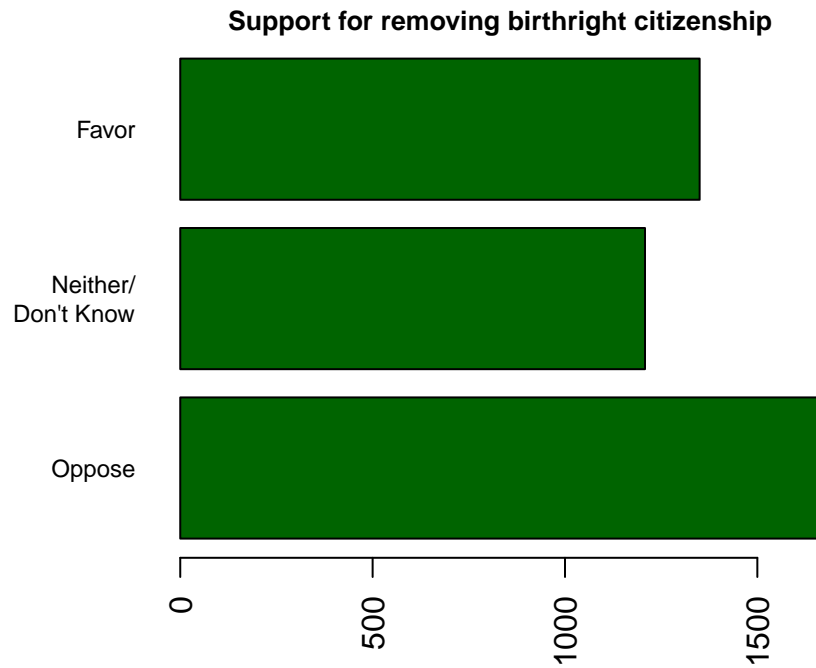
Table 1: Summary statistics for all quantitative variables in the politics dataset

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Pctl(25)	Median	Pctl(75)	Max
age	4238	49.473	17.559	18	34	50	63	90
income	4238	72.659	62.952	1	27	56	98.8	300

Variable Descriptions

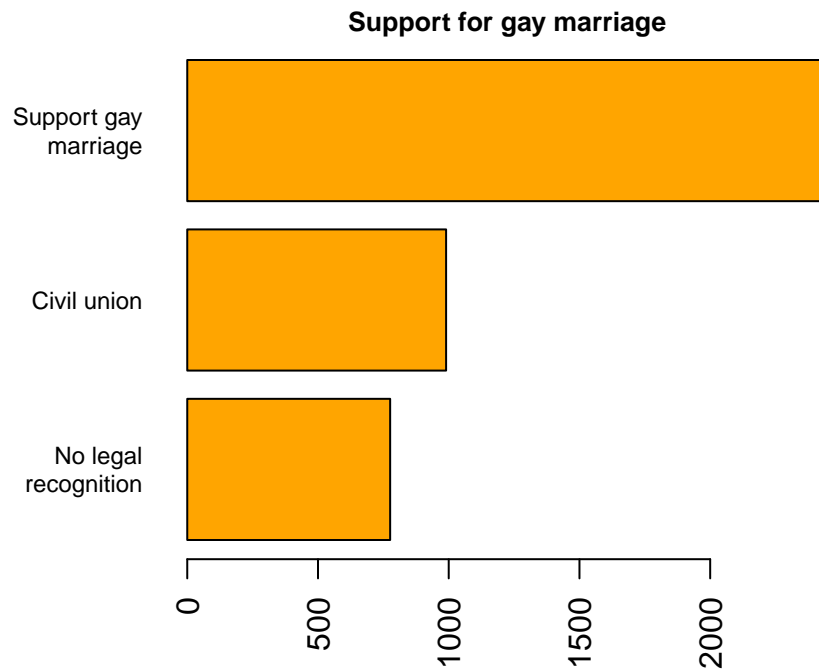
brcitizen

Respondents were asked whether they would support a proposal to change the US Constitution to remove birthright citizenship (citizenship automatically granted to individuals born in the US regardless of their parent's citizenship status). Respondents could either favor, oppose, or neither favor or oppose.



gaymarriage

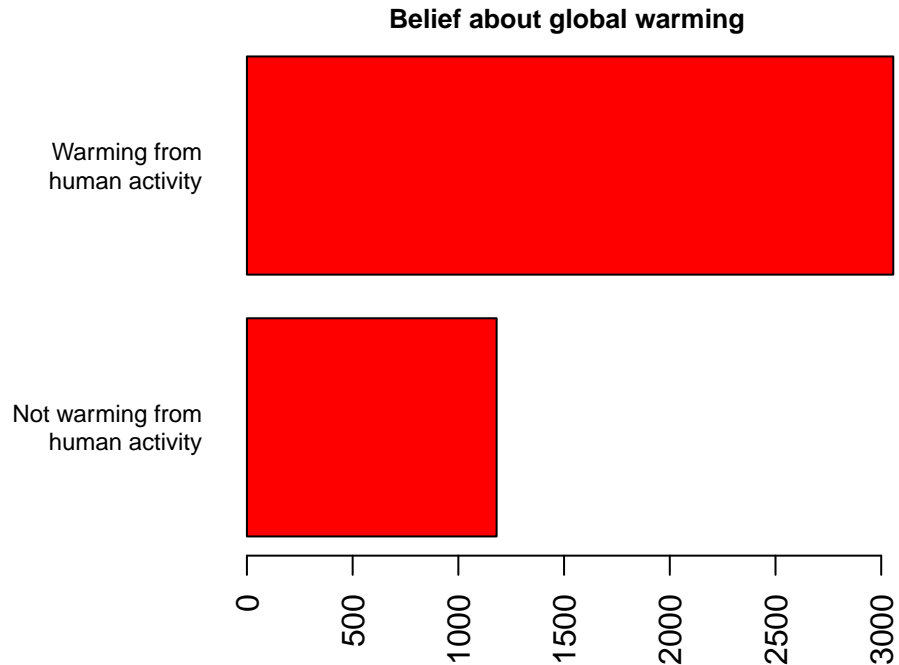
Respondents were asked for their position on gay marriage and were given the choices of “no legal recognition”, “civil union (but no marriage)”, “support gay marriage.” There were 80 missing values.



globalwarm

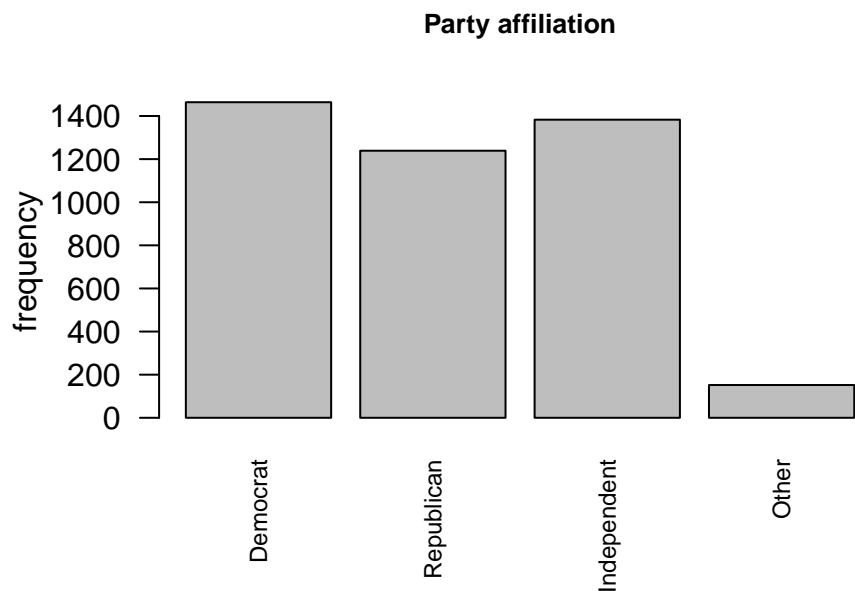
I constructed this variable from two separate questions. The first question asks whether respondents think that global warming has been happening with the options being that it “probably has” or “probably has

not.” The second question asks whether respondents thought that global warming was caused by human activity (either entirely or partially). I combine these into a single dichotomous variable where individuals either think the earth is warming from human activity or that it is not warming from human activity, where the latter category includes people who think it isn’t warming at all and people who think it is warming but not because of human activity.



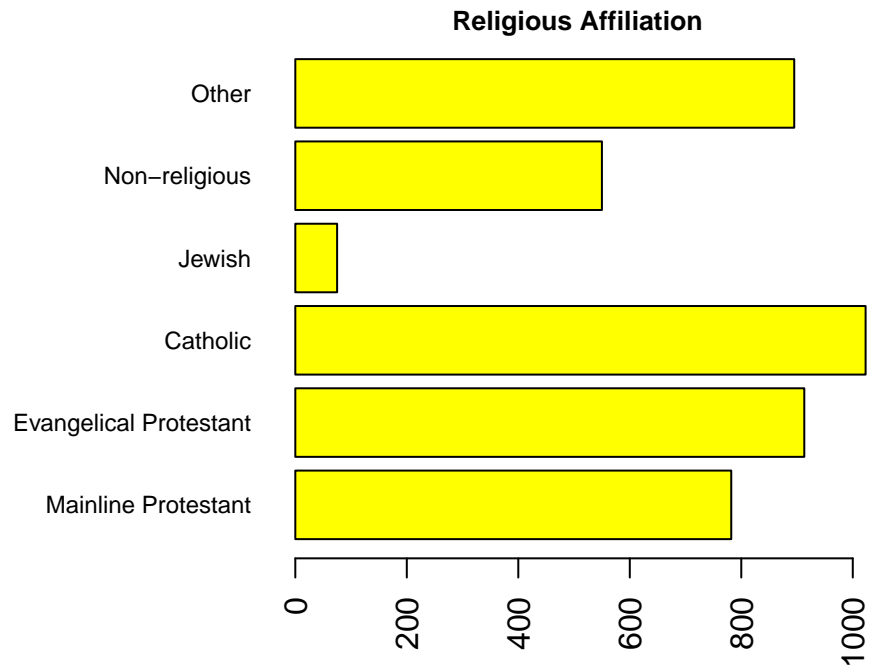
party

The political party with which the respondent identifies. This does not necessarily mean that a respondent is officially registered with a given party.



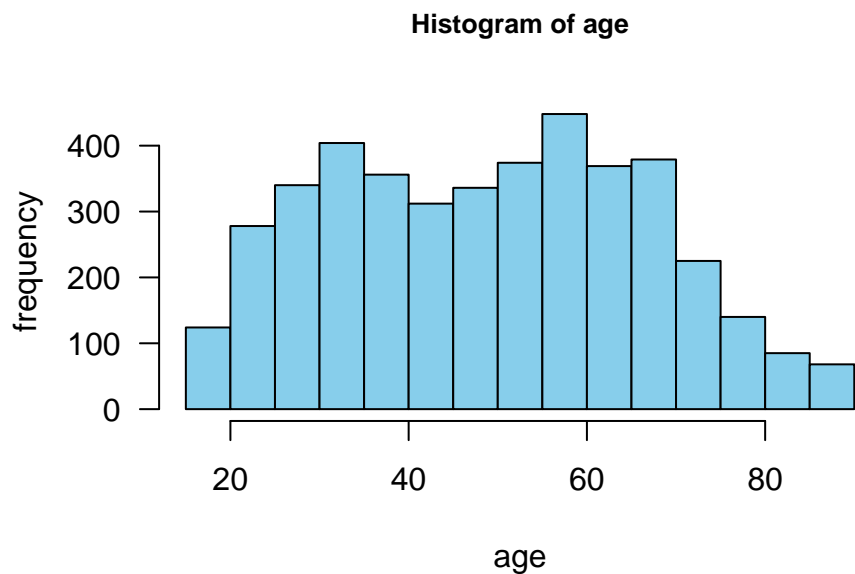
relig

The respondent's religion. This category is based on the combination of people's statement about the kind of services they typically attend along with several non-exclusive yes/no questions about their religion (e.g. evangelical, pentecostal, agnostic, aesthet).



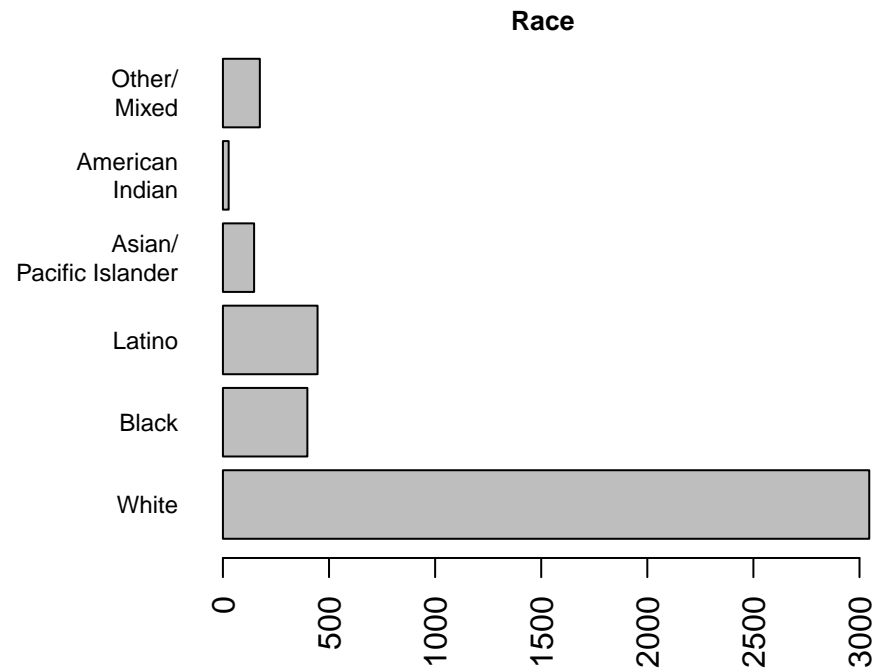
age

The age of the respondent. The ANES is focused on the voting age population. The youngest interviewee was 18 years old.



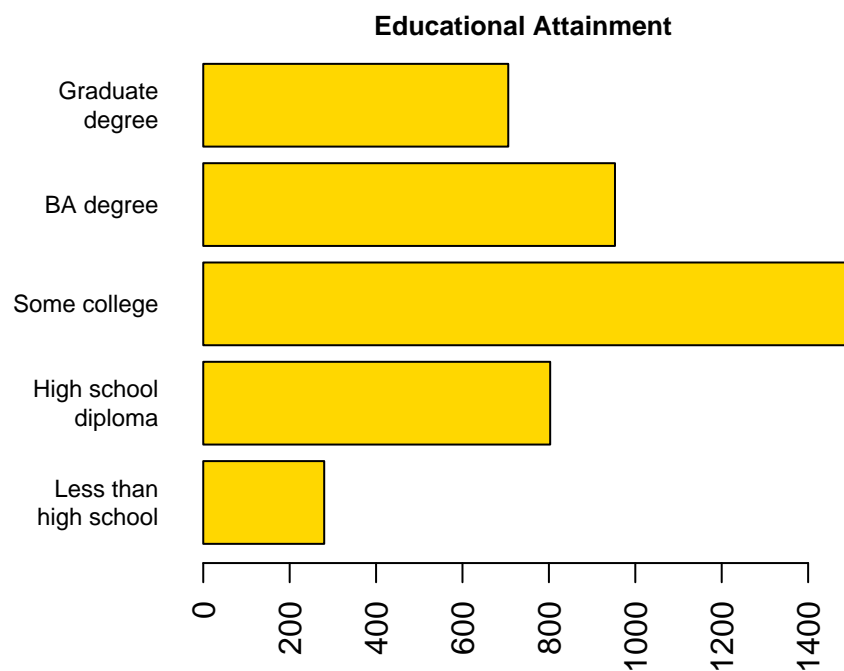
race

The race of the respondent. Respondents could write in multiple races, but to keep it simple, we will combine the small number of individuals who reported multiple races with those who listed “Other” as their race.



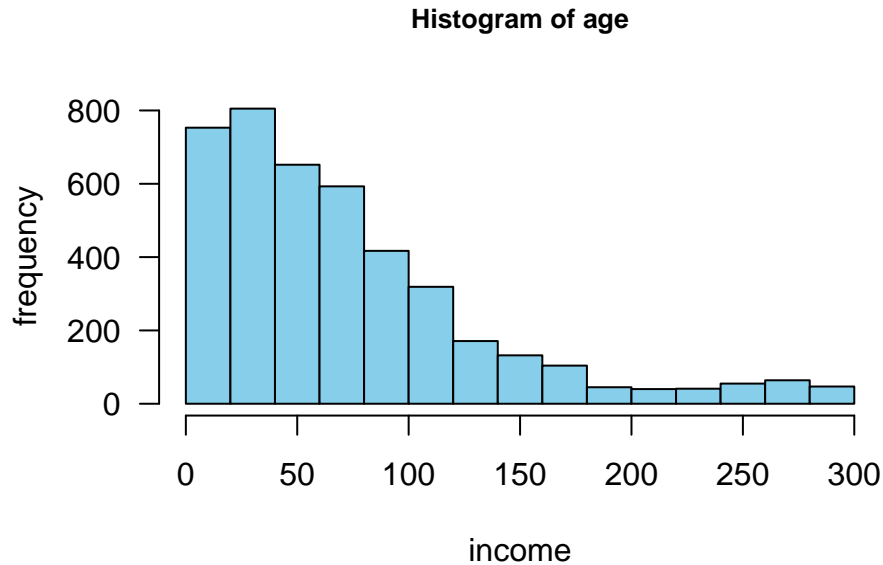
educ

The respondent's level of education. This is recorded as an ordinal variable. The “Some college” response indicates individuals who have attended college (including 2-year programs) but have not earned a BA.



income

The family income of the respondent in 1000s of dollars. Respondents did not give actual dollar amounts here but rather indicated which bracket of income (e.g. \$20,000-30,000) they fell within. For the purposes of our class, I randomly select an actual value within this bracket for each respondent.



workstatus

The work status of the respondent. Respondents could either be working, unemployed, or out of the labor force. The last category refers to people who are not employed and not currently looking for work, whereas unemployed indicates a person who is not employed and is currently looking for work.

