

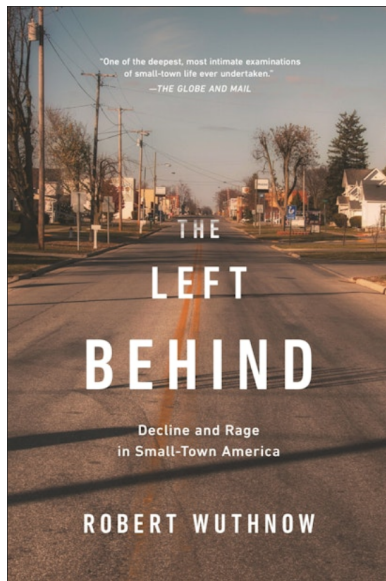
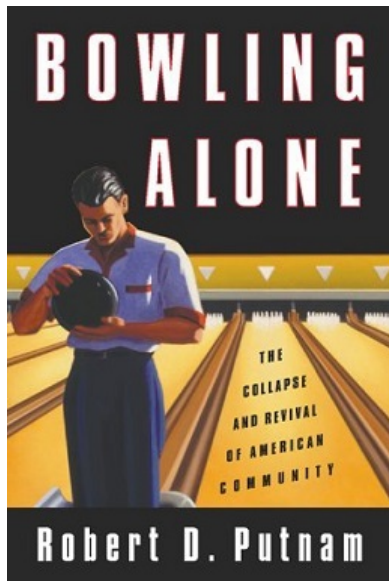
Deaths of Despair: An Analysis of Mortality in the American Rust Belt

Samuel Lowe, Jacob Zelko

Northeastern University

April 16, 2025

Introduction & Background



Data Sets

United States Census

- ▶ Census conducted once every 10 years, most recently in 2020



Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA)

- ▶ Religious data, broken down by number of adherents and congregations per state
- ▶ Bowling Alone notes that religious involvement is one of the only kinds of social engagement to not fall

IPUMS CPS

- ▶ Socioeconomic and health data such as household income, food stamps, smoking frequency, unemployment, etc.
- ▶ Huge amount of data spanning numerous surveys across several decades

Feature Selection: Lasso Regression

Feature Selection: Singular Value Decomposition

Future Work