

# How Representative is an Abortion Debate on Twitter?

Eduardo Graells-Garrido  
Data Science Institute, UDD

Ricardo Baeza-Yates  
NTENT & Northeastern University

Mounia Lalmas  
Spotify

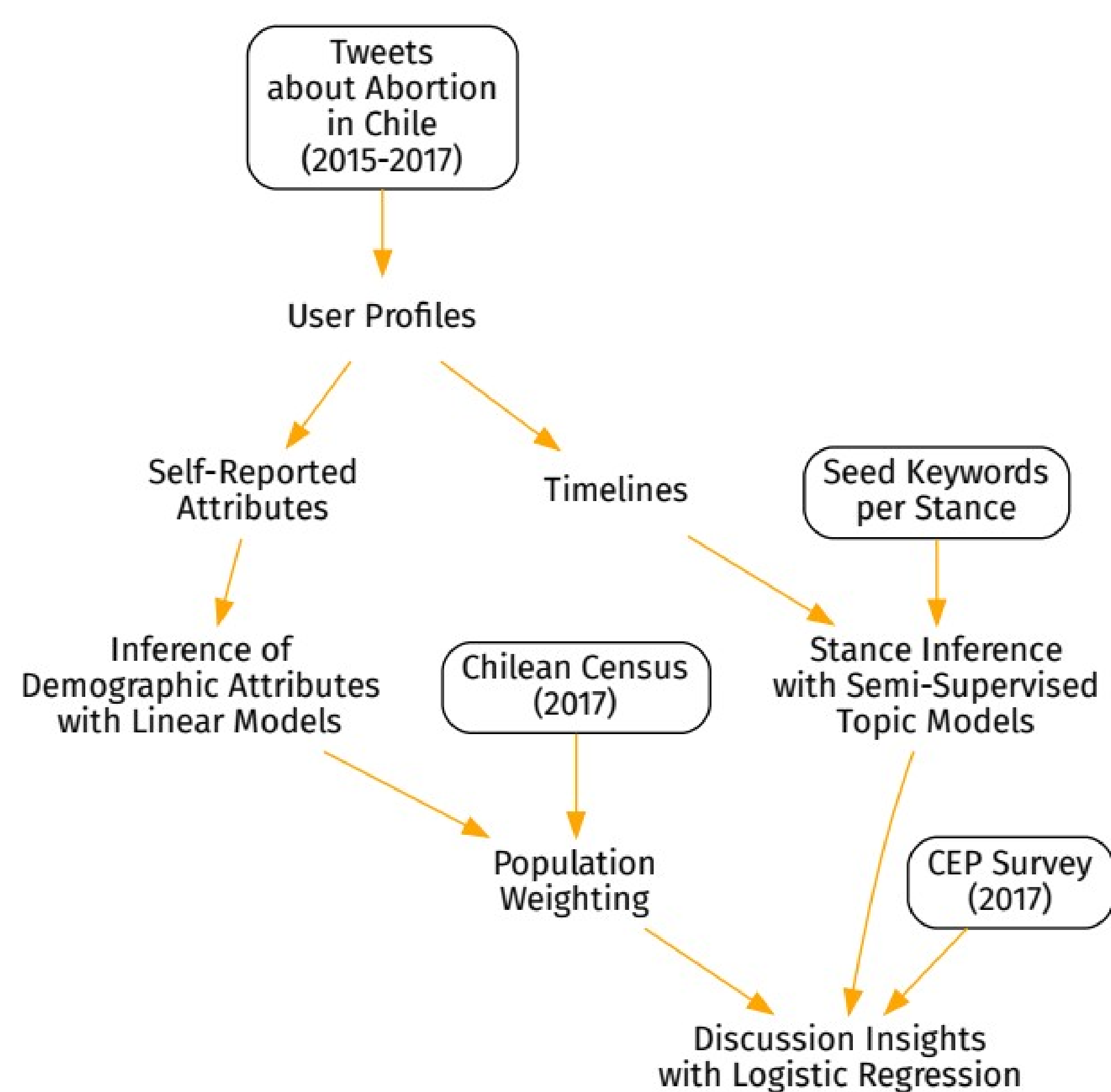
## Motivation

Political discussion on Twitter is common, however, it has severe biases, including population representation.

Does this influence the insights we can obtain regarding discussion about political issues?

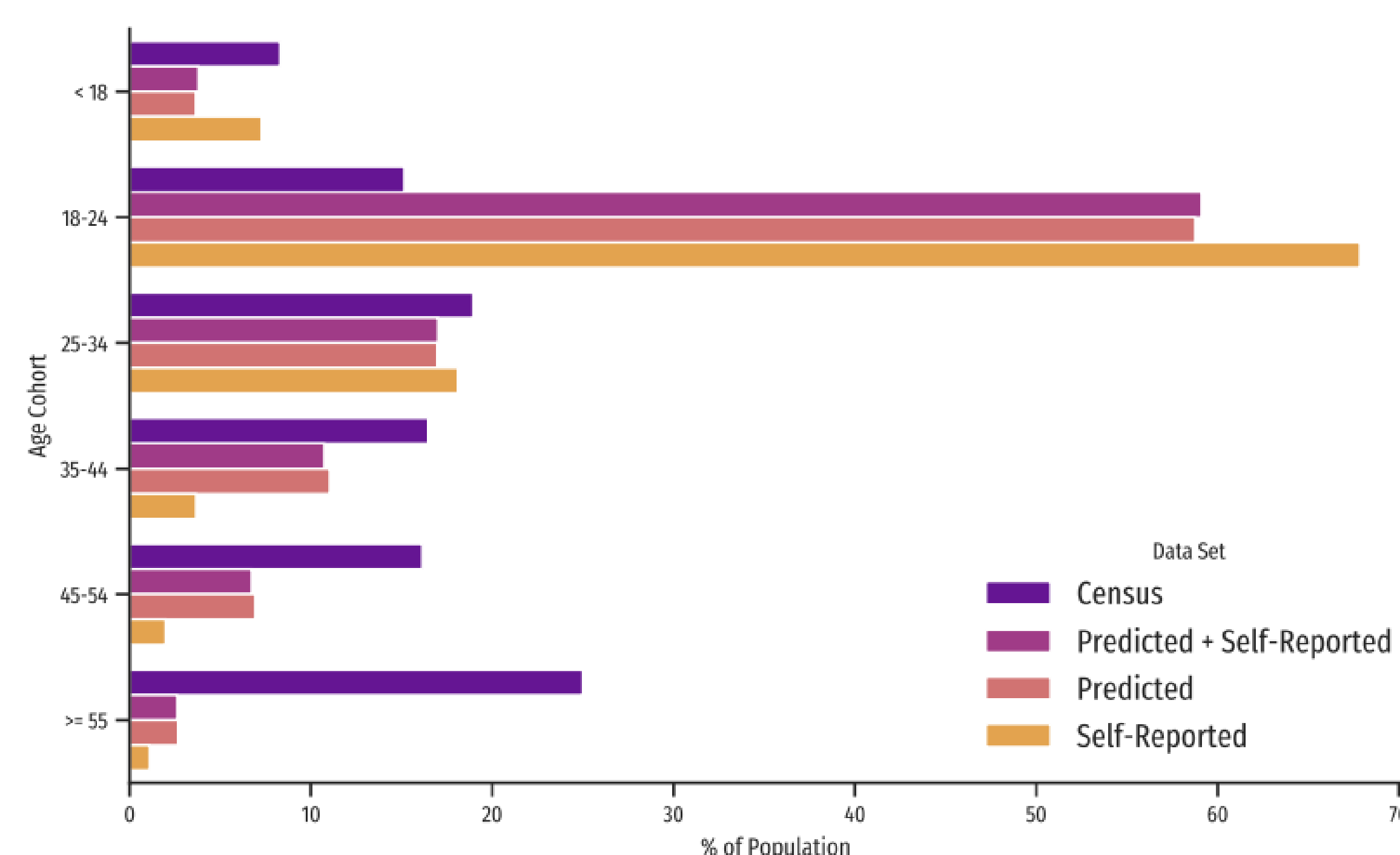
## Data Sets and Methodology

We crawled Twitter for tweets about Abortion in Chile, using the Streaming API, and integrated other data sources into a pipeline of analysis:

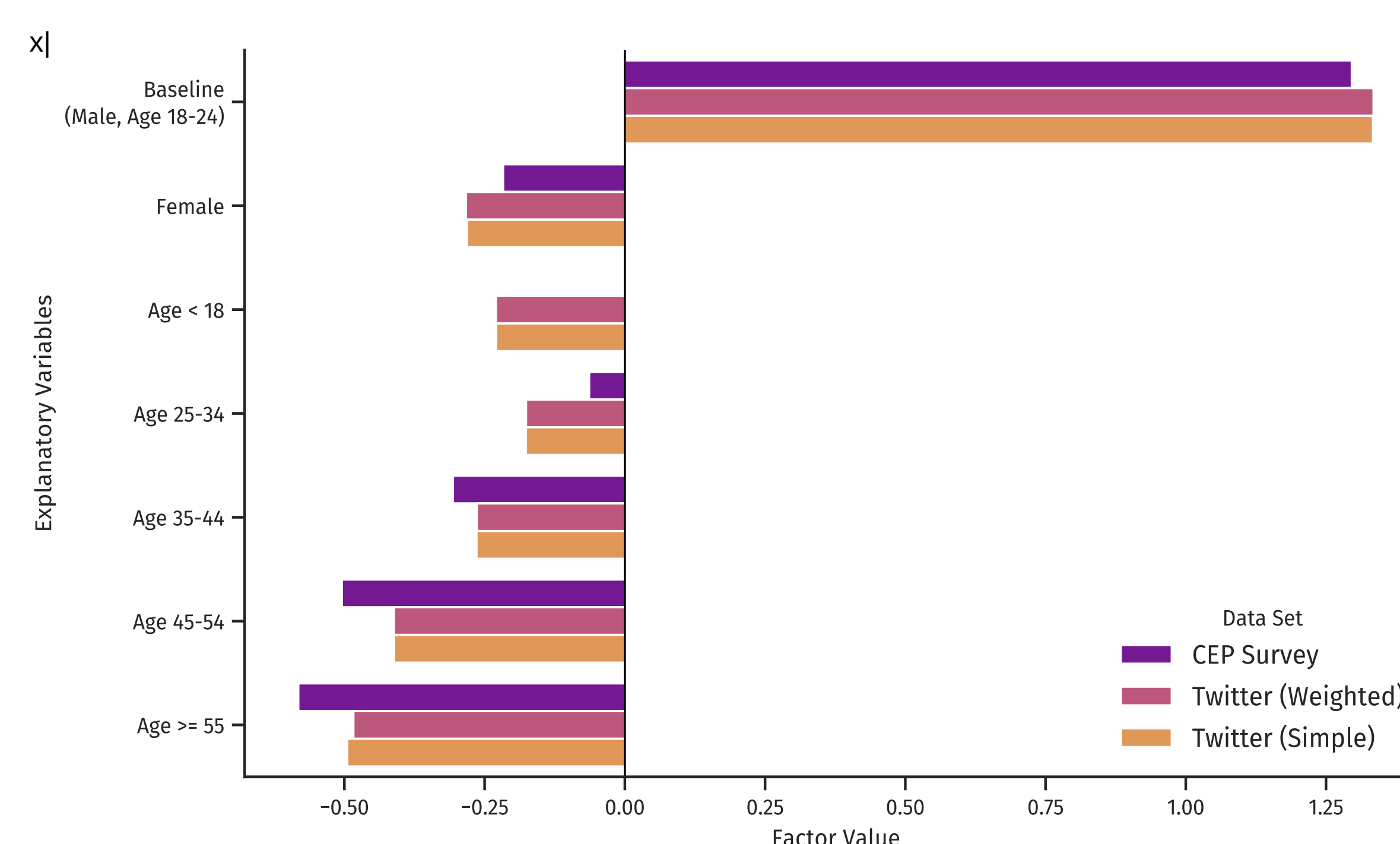


## Key Results

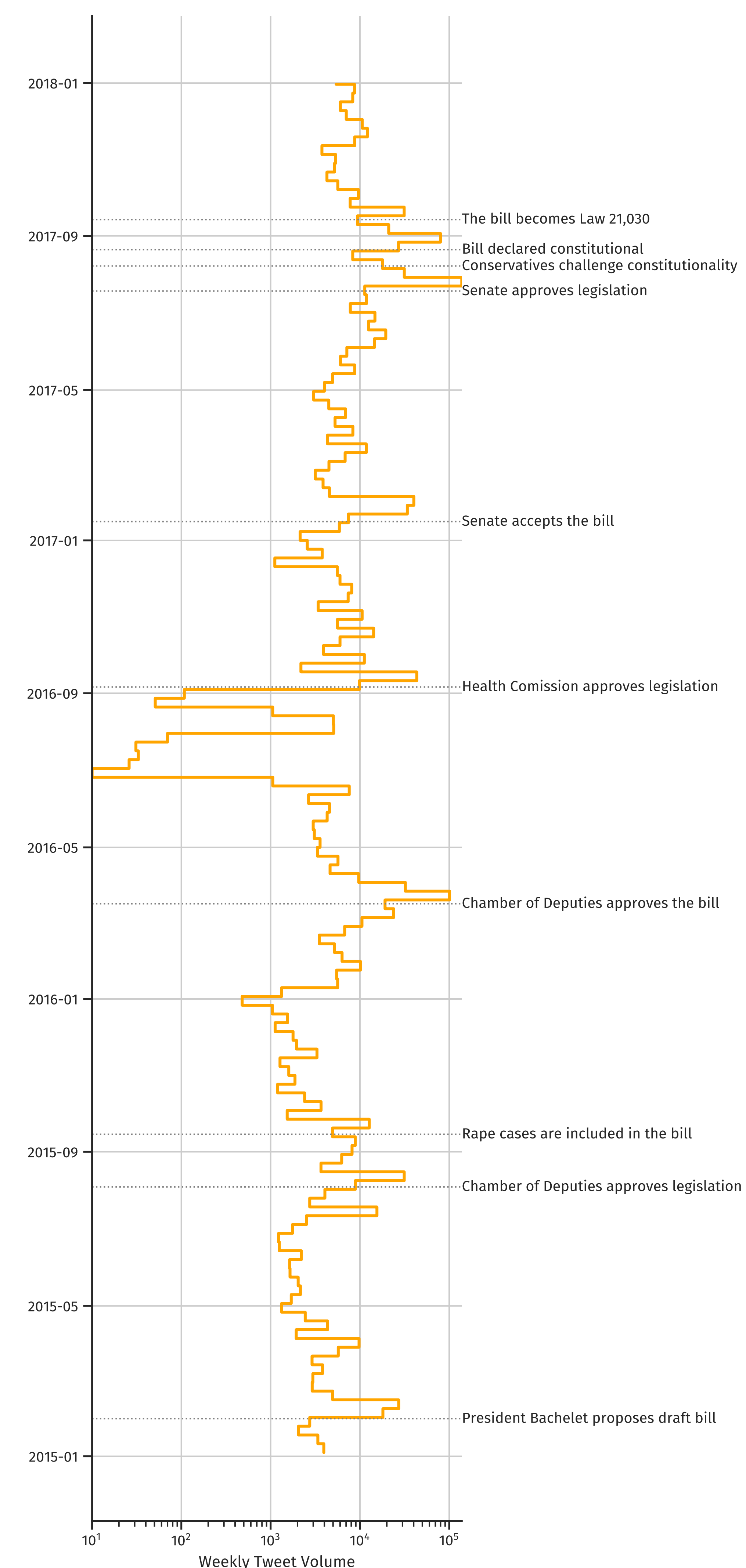
There is bias in population toward males (0.78 f/m ratio, compared to 1.06 in census) and young people:



Explanatory variables of **stance with respect to abortion** derived from Twitter have **similar magnitudes and equal signs** to those from nationally representative surveys:



## Timeline of Discussion and Legislation



In Chile, the **discussion about abortion on Twitter** provides **representative insights** when controlling for demographic attributes.