

Analysis

This paper is an extension of Gauchat, 2012.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics, General Social Survey 1974 to 2021 ($N = 35,940$)

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Confidence in Science	0.445		0	1
Female	0.538		0	1
Non-White	0.183		0	1
Education (yrs)	13.213	3.035	0	20
High School	0.512		0	1
Bachelor	0.167		0	1
Graduate	0.085		0	1
South	0.342		0	1
Church Attendance	3.698	2.701	0	8
Family Income	0.026	0.998	-1.056	4.305
Age	4.514	1.677	1.800	8.800
Independent	0.361		0	1
Republican	0.251		0	1
Moderate	0.377		0	1
Conservative	0.143		0	1
Post-Reagan (1981-2021)	0.798		0	1
Bush (2001-2008)	0.117		0	1
Post-Trump (2017-2021)	0.097		0	1
COVID-19	0.060		0	1
Cohort	1950.627	20.757	1886	2003

Note: Family income is measured in constant dollars (base = 1986) and was z-score standardized. The original age variable was decreased by a factor of 10.

Figure 1. Unadjusted Means of Public Trust in Science for Each Survey Year by Political Ideology



Note: Figure shows three-year moving averages for each group, which smooth the patterns

References

Gauchat, G. (2012). Politicization of Science in the Public Sphere: A Study of Public Trust in the United States, 1974 to 2010. *American Sociological Review*, 77(2), 167–187. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0003122412438225>