#### **POLSCI 9592**

Lecture 2: Bianry Dependent Variable Models

**Dave Armstrong** 

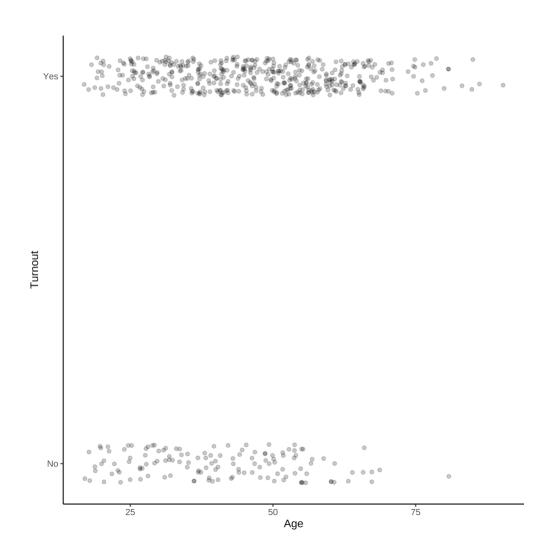


#### Goals for This Session

- 1. Develop and Evaluate the Linear Probability Model
- 2. Describe the Generalized Linear Model Framework
- 3. Estimate GLMs for Binary Dependent Variables
- 4. Consider Different Methods of Describing Effects.
- 5. What Should You Present?



## What are we up to?



What's the best way to model the relationship between these variables?

- Straight line?
- S-shaped (sigmoid) curve?
- Step
- Something else?



## Models for Binary Data: Preliminaries

I will refer to  $b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + \ldots + b_kx_k$  as  $\mathbf{X}\beta$  and "the linear predictor", which in GLM notation is often referred to as  $\eta$  (the Greek letter "eta").

In the linear model, we are modeling  $E(y|\mathbf{X})$  (the expected value of y given  $\mathbf{X}$ ) as:

$$y = \mathbf{X}\beta + \varepsilon$$

or

$$E(y|\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{X}\beta$$



### **Linear Probability Model**

The definition of an expectation is:

$$E(y) = \sum y imes Pr(y)$$

For a binary variable where  $Y=\{0,1\}$ , we get

$$E(y) = 1 imes Pr(y = 1) + 0 imes Pr(y = 0) = 1 imes Pr(y = 1) + 0 imes (1 - Pr(y = 1)) = Pr(y = 1)$$

If y is binary and we model it with the linear model, then we are asserting:

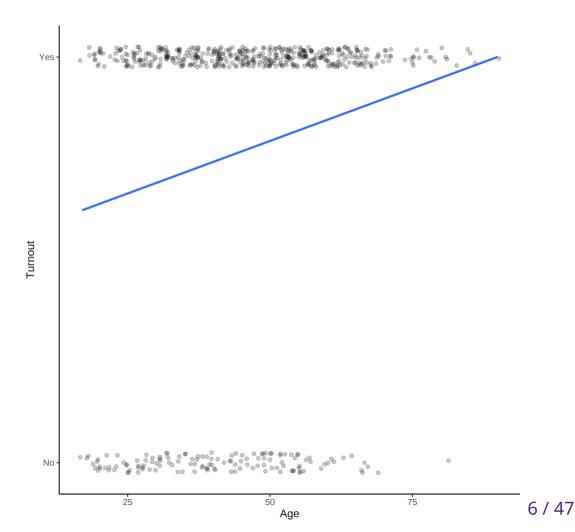
$$Pr(y=1|\mathbf{X}) = E(y|\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{X}\beta$$



## **Voting Example**

```
mod <- lm(voted ~ age,
   data=dat)
summary(mod)</pre>
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = voted ~ age, data = dat)
## Residuals:
                 10 Median
       Min
                                          Max
## -0.95374 0.07087 0.18871 0.25864 0.37778
##
## Coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) 0.534159
                       0.055181 9.680 < 2e-16 ***
              0.005180
                        0.001149
                                  4.507 7.97e-06 ***
## age
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 0.414 on 582 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.03372, Adjusted R-squared: 0.03206
## F-statistic: 20.31 on 1 and 582 DF, p-value: 7.967e-06
```





### A Better Specified LPM

```
summary(mod)
```

##

```
## Call:
## lm(formula = voted ~ age + educ + income + ideo strength + female +
      race, data = dat)
## Residuals:
                 10 Median
       Min
                                           Max
## -0.98154 -0.10438 0.09751 0.26112 0.68097
##
## Coefficients:
                 Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
                -0.391614
## (Intercept)
                            0.103560 -3.782 0.000172 ***
                 0.004557
                            0.001076 4.234 2.67e-05 ***
## age
                 0.041008
                            0.007101 5.775 1.26e-08 ***
## educ
                 0.011400
                            0.003198 3.565 0.000394 ***
## income
## ideo_strength 0.032798
                            0.009483 3.459 0.000583 ***
## female
                 0.049907
                            0.031653 1.577 0.115416
## raceWhite
                 0.128341
                            0.048707
                                       2.635 0.008642 **
## raceBlack
                 0.300102
                            0.057220
                                       5.245 2.20e-07 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: 0.3767 on 576 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared: 0.2084, Adjusted R-squared: 0.1988
## F-statistic: 21.66 on 7 and 576 DF, p-value: < 2.2e-16
```



## **Model Interpretation**

- Model fit looks reasonable
- The probability of the oldest person in the dataset voting is 33% more than the probability of the youngest person voting
- The probability of the most educated person voting is about 69% higher than the probability of the least educated person voting.
- Those with the highest income have probability of voting about 27% higher than those with the lowest income.
- Those at the extremes of the ideological spectrum have probabilities of voting 16% higher than those in the middle of the ideological spectrum.
- Females are more likely to vote than men, though not significantly so.
- Whites and black are both more likely to vote than those in the "other" category. Further, blacks have a significantly higher probability of voting than do whites.



#### Does the Model Make Sense?

The substantive conclusions seem mostly reasonable if not a bit exaggerated for education and perhaps age, but

- Is the linear functional form right? Probably not. Further, the model imposes (at least in this case) a constant marginal effect. That means regardless of where you start, the variable always gives the smae change in predicted probabilities.
- Do the errors have the same variance? No the errors will almost certainly be heteroskedastic.
- Are the errors normally distributed? No the errors will likely be bimodal.
- Also, it is possible that  $\hat{y}>1$  or that  $\hat{y}<0$ , which is theoretically not possible for a probability.



## **Summary**

The problems could be solved if we coul; d make the outcome variable:

- 1. Continuous, and
- 2. Unbounded

Then we could model:

$$\widehat{\text{Outcome}} = b_0 + b_1 x_1 + \ldots + b_k x_k$$



#### The Solution

We start by wanting to predict a probability:  $\Pr(Y=1|\mathbf{X})$ , which is continuous but bounded in [0,1]. We could think of some transformations that may produce the right result:

- 1. Odds:  $rac{\Pr(Y=1|\mathbf{X})}{\Pr(Y=0|\mathbf{X})}$ , which is still bounded in  $[0,\infty]$
- 2. The log of the odds:  $\log\left(\frac{\Pr(Y=1|\mathbf{X})}{\Pr(Y=0|\mathbf{X})}\right)$  is continuous and unbounded.

So, we could model:

$$\logigg(rac{\Pr(Y=1|\mathbf{X})}{\Pr(Y=0|\mathbf{X})}igg) = b_0 + b_1x_1 + \ldots + b_kx_k$$

This is the logistic regression model.



## Log-odds to Probabilities

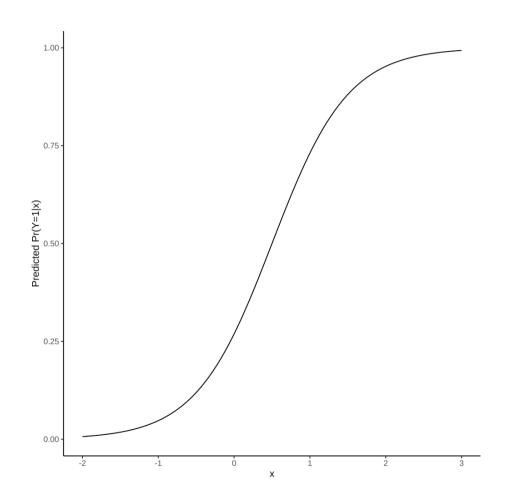
If we think of a simple model:

$$\log \left(rac{\Pr(Y=1|\mathbf{X})}{\Pr(Y=0|\mathbf{X})}
ight) = -1 + 2x$$

where x is in the range [-2,3], we could unwind the transformation to get the probabilities:

$$\Pr(Y=1|\mathbf{X}) = rac{e^{-1+2x}}{1+e^{-1+2x}}$$

This produces a function that is non-linear in x.



#### We did it!

Great, so we have a solution, can we use linear regression now

- ullet Nope because we don't actually observe the log of the odds only wheter  $y=\{0,1\}.$
- We have to use MLE
  - $\circ$  We want to make  $\Pr(Y=1|\mathbf{X})$  as big as possible for the observations where Y=1 and,
  - $\circ$  as small as possible for the observations where Y=0.



#### What Distribution?

The dependent variable is whether a respondent voted or not  $y=\{0,1\}$ , so what distribution could we use?

• There aren't a lot of two-point distributions, but the Bernoulli is a common one. Its PMF is:

$$f(y_i|p_i) = p_i^{y_i} (1-p_i)^{1-y_i}$$



#### **Likelihood Function**

First, let's consider the likelihood function:

$$egin{aligned} L_i &= \prod_i \hat{p}_i^{y_i} (1-\hat{p}_i)^{(1-y_i)} \ \log L_i &= \sum_i y_i \log \hat{p}_i + (1-y_i) \log (1-\hat{p}_i) \end{aligned}$$

where  $p_i = Pr(y_i = 1 | \mathbf{X})$ . For our purposes, most of the time:

$$Pr(y_i = 1|\mathbf{X}) = \Lambda(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{b})$$
 (Logit)  
 $Pr(y_i = 1|\mathbf{X}) = \Phi(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{b})$  (Probit)

 $\Phi(\cdot)$  and  $\Lambda(\cdot)$  are the CDFs for the normal and logistic distributions, respectively.

#### $\Diamond$

## Logit

We will often use logistic regression because the interpretation becomes a bit easier. Here:

$$Pr(y_i = 1 | \mathbf{X}) = \Lambda(\mathbf{Xb})$$

$$= \frac{e^{\mathbf{Xb}}}{1 + e^{\mathbf{Xb}}}$$

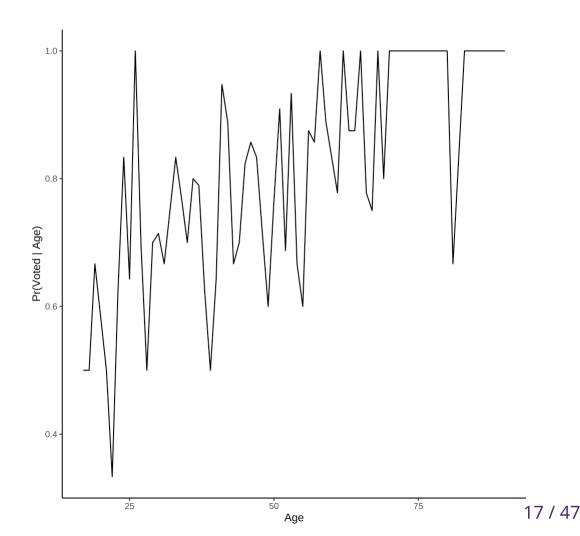
Figuring out the predicted probability "by hand" here doesn't require integration (as it does in the case of the probit model).



## Simple Example: Age and Turnout

We might want to know how age affects turnout. One possibility would be to calculate turnout for each individual value of age.

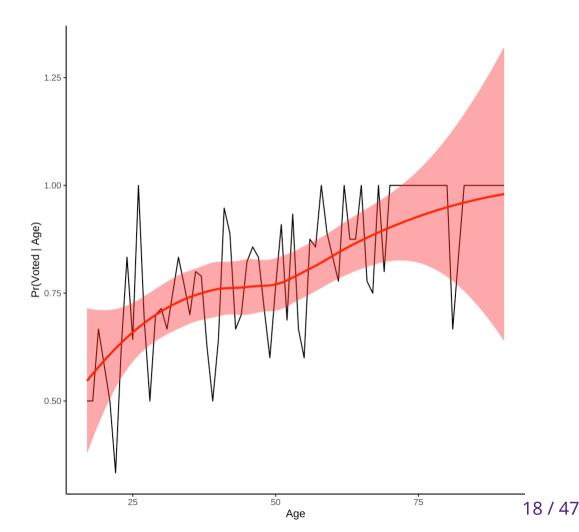
```
dat_ag <- dat %>%
  group_by(age) %>%
  summarise(turnout = mean(voted, na.rm=TRUE))
ggplot(dat_ag, aes(x=age, y=turnout)) +
  geom_line(col="black") +
  theme_classic() +
  labs(x="Age", y="Pr(Voted | Age)")
```





## **Smoothing out the Predictions**

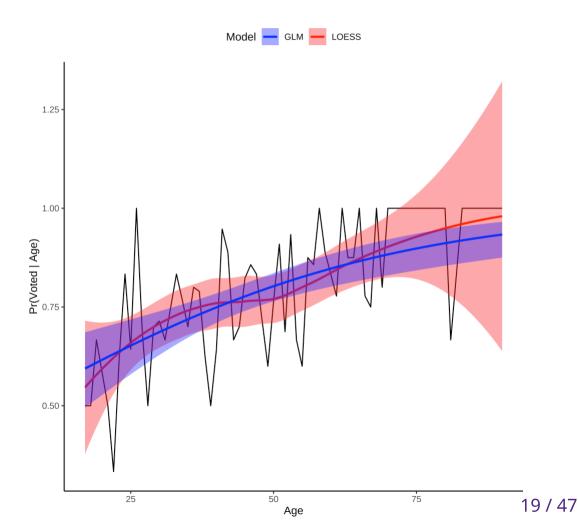
We could smooth out the predictions with a local polynomial regression.





## **Logit Model**

```
ggplot() +
  geom_line(data = dat_ag,
            aes(x=age, y=turnout),
            col="black") +
  geom_smooth(data = dat,
              aes(x=age, y=voted,
                  fill="LOESS",
                  color="LOESS"),
              method="loess",
              se=TRUE) +
  geom_smooth(data = dat,
              aes(x=age, y=voted,
                  fill="GLM",
                  color="GLM"),
              method="glm",
              se=TRUE,
              method.args=list(family=binomial)) +
  scale_fill_manual(values=c("blue", "red")) +
  scale_colour_manual(values=c("blue", "red")) +
  theme_classic() +
  theme(legend.position="top") +
  labs(x="Age",
       y="Pr(Voted | Age)",
       colour="Model",
       fill="Model")
```

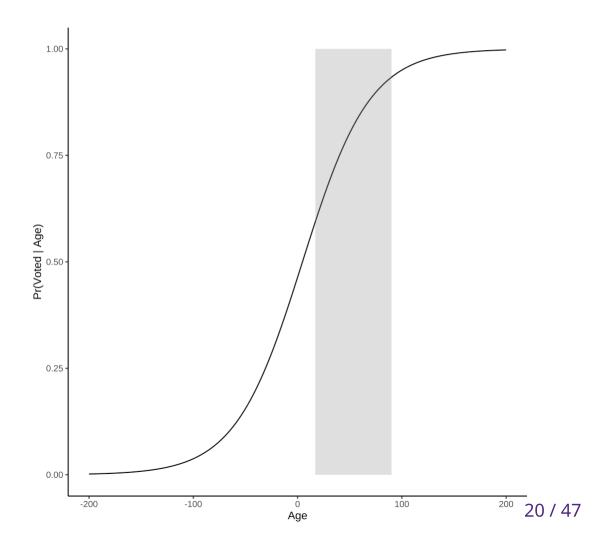




## Where is the S-shaped Curve?

You might wonder, why isn't the effect shaped like an "S" as we discussed before?

 because the range of age only covers a small range of the s-shaped curve.



#### **Estimation**

Estimation could be done in a number of ways, easiest is with the generalized linear model. In our normal linear model:

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}eta + arepsilon \ E(\mathbf{Y}) = \eta = \mathbf{X}eta$$

The generalization, is:

$$g(\mu) = \eta = \mathbf{X}eta$$

where  $g(\cdot)$  is a "link function" that transforms the unbounded linear predictor into the response space of  $\mathbf{Y}$ .



#### **GLMs**

#### GLMs have 4 components:

- 1. Stochastic component:  $\mathbf{Y}$  is a random or stochastic component that we expect to change from sample to sample in the frequentist thought experiment.
- 2. Systematic component:  $heta = \mathbf{X}eta$
- 3. Link function: The stochastic and systematic components are linked through a function which "tricks" the model into thinking that it is still acting on normally distributed outcomes.
- 4. Residuals: The residuals can be computed the same way as in the linear model, but there are other, perhaps more useful options here, too.



## **Model of Voting**

In our model of voting:

$$\mathbf{X}\beta = b_0 + b_1 \text{Age} + b_2 \text{Race} = \text{Black} + b_3 \text{Race} = \text{Other}$$

$$log\left(rac{Pr( ext{Voted}|\mathbf{X})}{1 - Pr( ext{Voted}|\mathbf{X})}
ight) = \mathbf{X}eta$$

$$Pr(\widehat{ ext{Voted}}) = rac{e^{\mathbf{X}eta}}{1 + e^{\mathbf{X}eta}}$$



## **Estimated Voting Model**

```
summary(mod)
```

```
## Call:
## glm(formula = voted ~ age + race, family = binomial(link = "logit"),
      data = dat)
## Coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## age
             0.027611
                      0.007294
                                 3.785 0.000154 ***
## raceWhite 0.831845
                      0.268921
                                 3.093 0.001980 **
## raceBlack 1.613868 0.372594
                                 4.331 1.48e-05 ***
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## (Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
      Null deviance: 629.10 on 583 degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 588.32 on 580 degrees of freedom
## AIC: 596.32
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 4
```



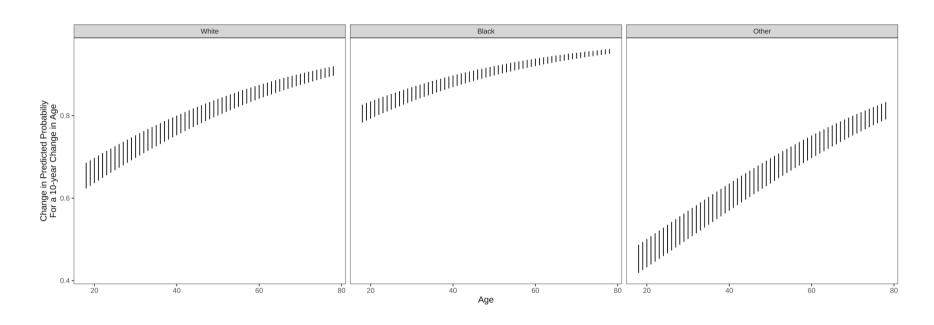
## **Interpreting Coefficients**

We could interpret coefficients the same as in the linear model, but with a different dependent variable.

- For every one-unit change in age, the log of the odds of the probability of voting goes up by 0.028 holding race constant. *How enlightening!*
- This is often not an intuitive metric for your readers (or yourselves).
- And, it doesn't really tell us anything about the actual probability of voting.



## Visual Display of Log-Odds $\rightarrow$ Probabilities



For all of these changes, the log odds ratio is the same:

$$\log \left[ \left( rac{\Pr(y = 1 | ext{Age} = a_0 + 10, ext{Race})}{1 - \Pr(y = 1 | ext{Age} = a_0 + 10, ext{Race})} 
ight) / \left( rac{\Pr(y = 1 | ext{Age} = a_0, ext{Race})}{1 - \Pr(y = 1 | ext{Age} = a_0, ext{Race})} 
ight) 
ight] = 0.276$$

#### What do OLS Coefficients Mean?

In the OLS context (assuming a continuous x), we could think about the the coefficients in two different ways.

$$y = b_0 + b_1 x + b_2 z + e$$

Marginal Effect:

$$rac{\partial E(y|x,z)}{\partial x} = b_1$$

• First Difference:

$$E(y|x=x_0+1,z=z_0)-E(y|x=x_0,z_0)=b_1$$

- Marginal Effect = First Difference
- Marginal Effect and First Difference are constant.



# Marginal Effects and First Differences in the Logit Model

$$\logigg(rac{\Pr(y=1|x,z)}{1-\Pr(y=1|x,z)}igg)=b_0+b_1x+b_2z$$

Marginal Effect:

$$rac{\partial E(y|x)}{\partial x} = b_1 f(b_0 + b_1 x + b_2 z)$$

First Difference:

$$\Delta_x = F(y|x=x_0+1,z=z) - F(y|x=x_0,z=z)$$

- Marginal Effect doesn't necessarily equal First Difference
- Neither Marginal Effect nor First Difference is constant.



# Marginal Effects vs. First Differences: Age, Race Turnout.

Consider white respondents and the effect of a 10-year change age when Age is 25 vs when it is 85:

$$ME_{25} = 0.0276 \times 10 \times f(0.0074 + 0.0276 \times 25) = 0.06125$$
  $FD_{25} = F(0.0074 + 0.0276 \times 30) - F(0.0074 + 0.0276 \times 20) = .06118$   $ME_{85} = 0.0276 \times 10 \times f(0.0074 + 0.0276 \times 85) = 0.02188$   $FD_{85} = F(0.0074 + 0.0276 \times 90) - F(0.0074 + 0.0276 \times 80) = 0.02191$ 



# **Taking Stock**

What dowe know so far?

- The coefficients don't have a nice intuitive interpretation like they do in OLS.
- The coefficients do not necessarily indicate anything in particular about the absolute value of the predicted probability.
- Different one-unit changes can have different effects.

So, how do we characterize the *effect* of a variable in a single number?



# Approaches to Identifying the Effect

- Hold all other variables constant at their means and calculate the first difference or marginal effect of x. [First Difference or Marginal Effect at Means]
- Hold all other variables constant at reasonable/representative and calculate the first difference or marginal effect of x. [First Difference or Marginal Effects at Reasonable values]
- Calculate the marginal effect or first difference for all observations and then average over all observations. [Average First Difference or Marginal Effects]



#### FD at Reasonable Values

#### Age:

```
library(marginaleffects)
comparisons(mod, newdata=datagrid(age = 40, race="White"), variables=list(age=10))

##

## Term Contrast age race Estimate Std. Error z Pr(>|z|) S 2.5 % 97.5 %

## age +10 40 White 0.0478 0.0127 3.75 <0.001 12.5 0.0228 0.0728

##

## Columns: rowid, term, contrast, estimate, std.error, statistic, p.value, s.value, conf.low, conf.high, age, race, predicted_lo, predicted_hi, predicted_ni, predicted_ni, predicted_ni</pre>
## Type: response
```

#### Race:

```
comparisons(mod, newdata=datagrid(age=45), variables=list(race="pairwise"))
```

```
##
            Contrast age Estimate Std. Error
                                               z Pr(>|z|)
                                                            S 2.5 % 97.5 %
   race Black - Other 45
                           0.281
                                     0.0644 4.37 < 0.001 16.3 0.1549 0.407
   race Black - White 45
                           0.107
                                  0.0363 2.94 0.00329 8.2 0.0356 0.178
   race White - Other 45
                            0.174
                                     0.0612 2.85 0.00439 7.8 0.0544 0.294
    race
   White
   White
   White
```



#### ME at Reasonable Values

```
comparisons(mod, newdata=datagrid(age = 40, race="White"), variables="age", comparison = "dydx")

##
## Term age race Estimate Std. Error z Pr(>|z|) S 2.5 % 97.5 %

## age 40 White 0.00514 0.00146 3.53 <0.001 11.2 0.00228 0.008

##
## Columns: rowid, term, estimate, std.error, statistic, p.value, s.value, conf.low, conf.high, age, race, predicted_lo, predicted_hi, predicted, v
## Type: response</pre>
```

Marginal effects (first derivatives) only really make sense for continuous variables, so we shouldn't try to do that for race.



### **Average First Differences**

#### Age:

```
##
## Term Contrast Estimate Std. Error z Pr(>|z|) S 2.5 % 97.5 %
## age mean(+10) 0.0423 0.0102 4.17 <0.001 15.0 0.0224 0.0622
##
## Columns: term, contrast, estimate, std.error, statistic, p.value, s.value, conf.low, conf.high, predicted_lo, predicted_hi, predicted
## Type: response</pre>
```

#### Race:

```
avg_comparisons(mod, variables = list(race="pairwise"))
```

## Columns: term contrast estimate std error statistic n value s value conf low conf high predicted lo predicted high predicted

```
Contrast Estimate Std. Error
                                                    z Pr(>|z|)
                                                                  S 2.5 %
race mean(Black) - mean(Other)
                                 0.276
                                          0.0630 4.39 < 0.001 16.4 0.1530
race mean(Black) - mean(White)
                                0.107
                                          0.0366 2.92 0.00348 8.2 0.0352
race mean(White) - mean(Other)
                                 0.169
                                          0.0594 2.85 0.00435 7.8 0.0530
97.5 %
0.400
0.179
0.286
```



### **Average Marginal Effects**

#### Age:

```
##
## Term Contrast Estimate Std. Error z Pr(>|z|) S 2.5 % 97.5 %
## age mean(dY/dX) 0.00453 0.00116 3.91 <0.001 13.4 0.00226 0.0068
##
## Columns: term, contrast, estimate, std.error, statistic, p.value, s.value, conf.low, conf.high, predicted_lo, predicted_hi, predicted
## Type: response</pre>
```



## Distribution of Marginal Effects

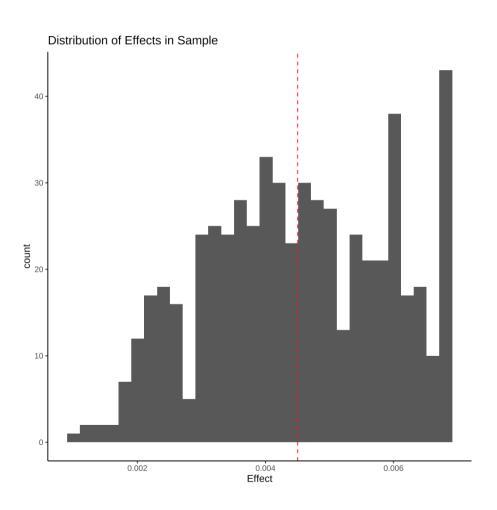
We might be interested in the distribution of marginal effects in two different senses.

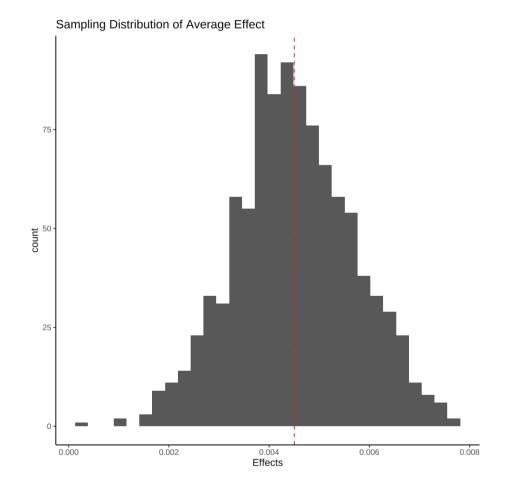
- How much does the average marginal effect (or average discrete change) change as a function of sampling variability?
- How are marginal effects or discrete changes distributed in the sample?

The answers to these will be necessarily different.



#### **Effect Distributions**







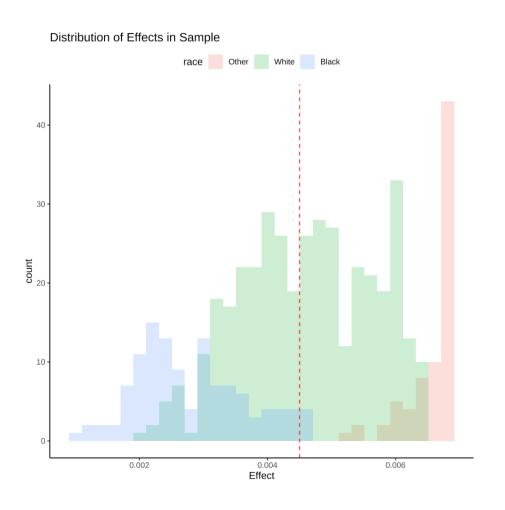
### Considering the two Distributions

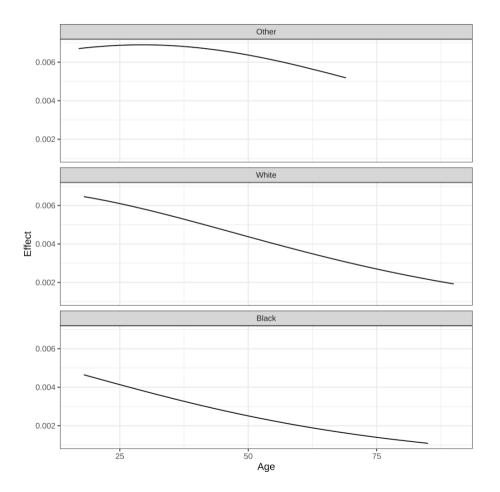
Note that the two distributions are quite different.

- The sampling distribution is, not surprisingly, approximately normal.
- The distribution in the sample looks skewed negative or maybe multimodal.



# **Effect Distributions by Race**







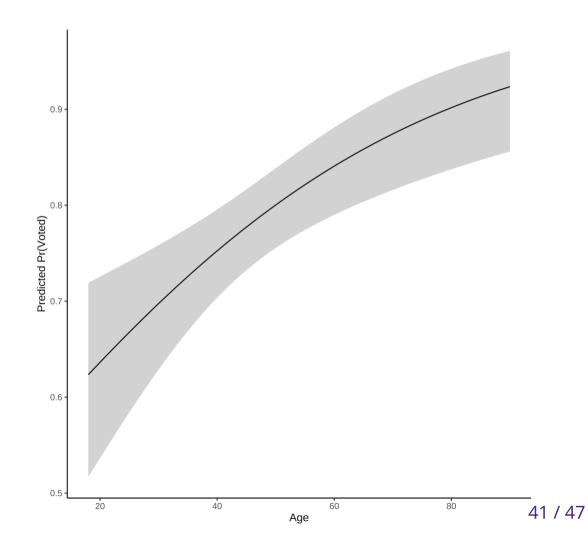
#### **Effect Plot**

Effect plots are a way of showing how the probability of the outcome of interest changes as you vary one variable over its range.

• You can use either an average effect or an effect at reasonable values approach.

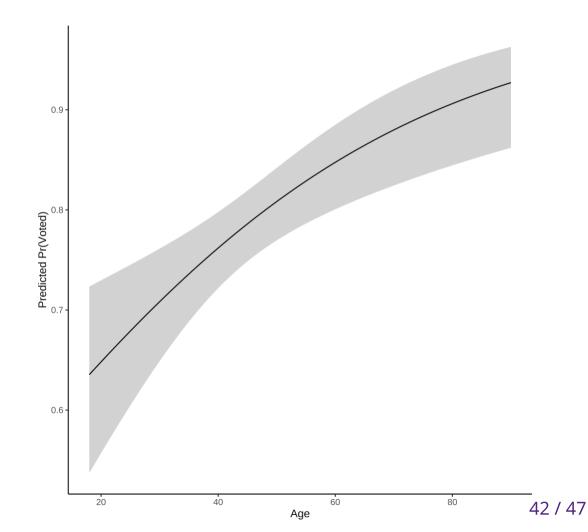


## Effect Plot: RV Approach



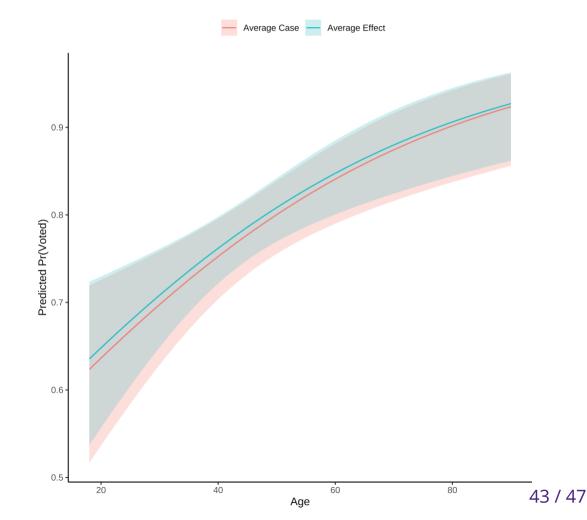


## Effect Plot: AE Approach





#### Comparison





#### What Should You Present

- For variables of theoretical interest
  - A graph of predicted probabilities if the variable is continuous or a table or graph if it is categorical.
  - In the discussion, you can talk about the distribution of discrete changes if you like and identify important groups in that distribution.
- For variables that have theoretical importance to others.
  - You might want to present a first difference or two for variables others will find really interesting, particularly if you can show your theoretically important variable is more important.
- Make sure to present a table of descriptive statistics either in the paper or an appendix so people could calculate MEMs or MERs if they wanted to on their own.



## **Example Table**

```
tidy.comparisons <- function(x, ...){
  comps %>% select(term, estimate, std.error,
                   p.value, conf.low, conf.high)
registerS3method("tidy", "comparisons", tidy.comparisons)
comps <- avg_comparisons(mod) %>%
 mutate(term =c("age", "raceBlack", "raceWhite"))
f <- function(x) format(round(x, 3), big.mark=",")</pre>
gm <- list(
 list("raw" = "nobs", "clean" = "N", "fmt" = f),
 list("raw" = "logLik", "clean" = "LL", "fmt" = f),
 list("raw" = "aic", "clean" = "AIC", "fmt" = f),
 list("raw" = "bic", "clean" = "BIC", "fmt" = f))
modelsummary(
  list("GLM" = mod,
       "FD" = comps),
  estimate = c("{estimate}{stars}",
                  "{estimate}"),
  stars = c("*" = .05),
  coef_map = c("age" = "Age",
               "raceBlack" = "Race: Black",
               "raceOther" = "Race: Other",
               "raceWhite" = "Race: White",
               "(Intercept)" = "Constant"),
  gof_map = gm,
  notes = "* p < 0.05 (two-tailed)",</pre>
  output = "flextable"
```

	GLM	FD
Age	0.028*	0.005
	(0.007)	(0.001)
Race: Black	1.614*	0.276
	(0.373)	(0.063)
Race: White	0.832*	0.169
	(0.269)	(0.059)
Constant	-0.824*	
	(0.366)	
N	584	
LL	-294.162	
AIC	596.323	
BIC	613.803	

<sup>\*</sup> p < 0.05 (two-tailed)



#### Review

#### We covered the following topics:

- 1. Develop and Evaluate the Linear Probability Model
- 2. Describe the Generalized Linear Model Framework
- 3. Estimate GLMs for Binary Dependent Variables
- 4. Consider Different Methods of Describing Effects.
- 5. What Should You Present?

#### **Exercises**

If you load the file ces0419.rda, it will put an object in your workspace called ces0419, which has selected variables form the Canadian Election Study for the years 2004-2019. The variables in the data are described below. Estimate a model that predicts support for the Liberal party (you'll have to make a dummy variable indicating liberal vote vs vote for another party, first). Use whatever variables you like. Then answer the following questions:

- 1. Which variables are statistically significant in the model?
- 2. Pick 2 variables and find the first differences using both the First Differences at Reasonable Values and Average First Differences approaches.
- 3. Pick 2 variables and make effects graphs for them, again using both the Reasonable Values and Average Effects approaches.
- 4. What can does your model say about the likelihood of voting for the Liberal Candidate?