Religiosity and LGBTQ+ Hate Crime in the United States

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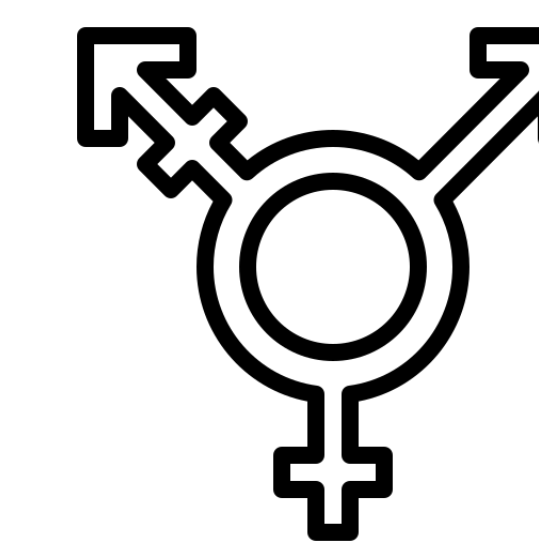
Introduction

Research Question: Does religious affiliation affect LGBTQ+ hate crime in the United States?

+ are there other influential variables?
+ is hate crime accurately reported?
+ how does this change over time?

Objectives

- To understand the complex relationships that influence LGBTQ+ hate crime in the US

- To see how certain time periods (elections, COVID-19, etc.) impact on LGBTQ+ hate crime

Data

Hate crime: filtered to only include LGBTQ+ related incidents 2014-2022

Religion: sum of places of worship per state (2020), four largest religious affiliations (Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish) and other (2014)

Additional variables
- State populations
- Political voting party
- Education level (high school, college, post-graduate)
- Unemployment rate
- Race (white, black, Hispanic, other)
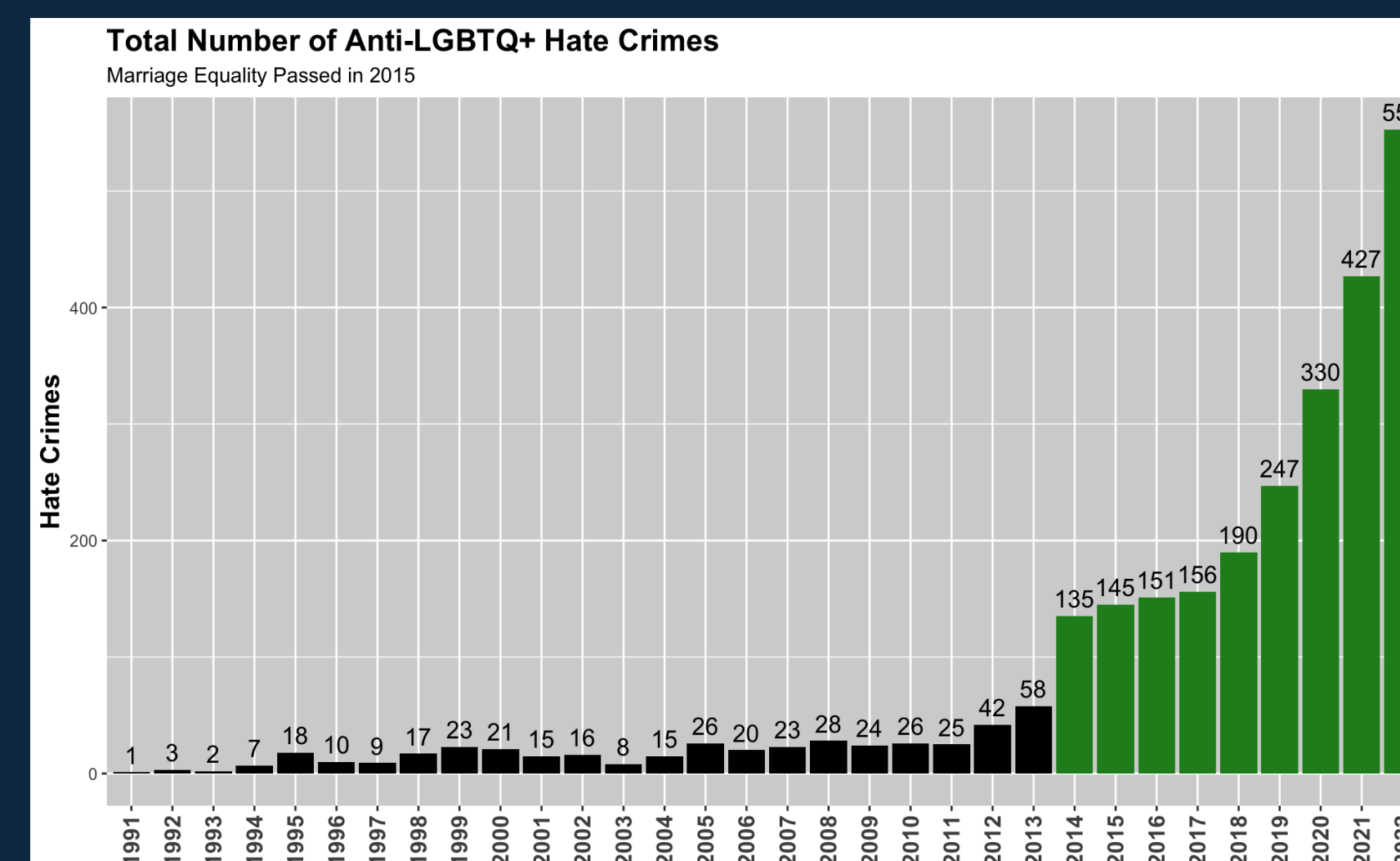- Marriage legalization year

274 observations

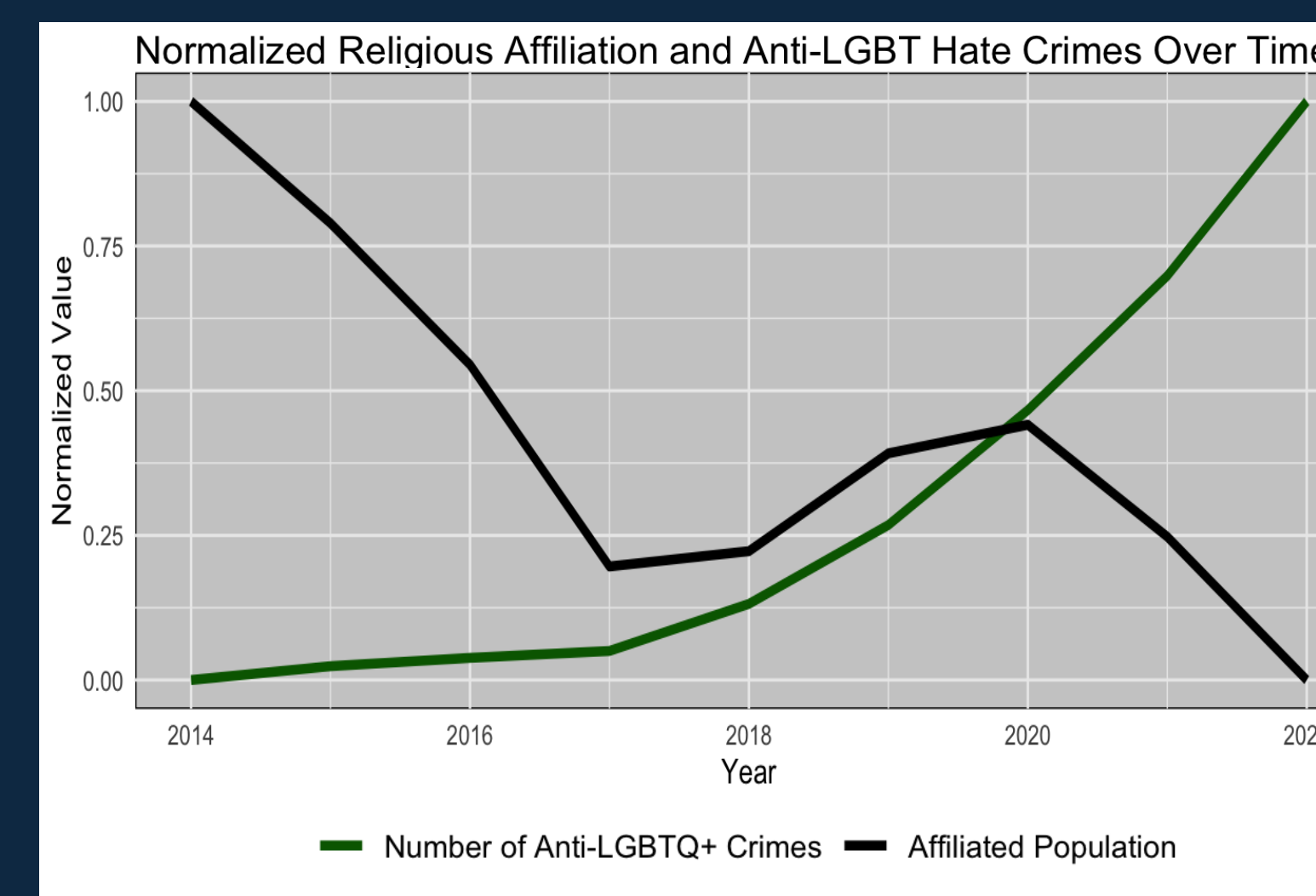## Methods/ Results

Figure 1: LGBTQ+ Hate Crime Over Time
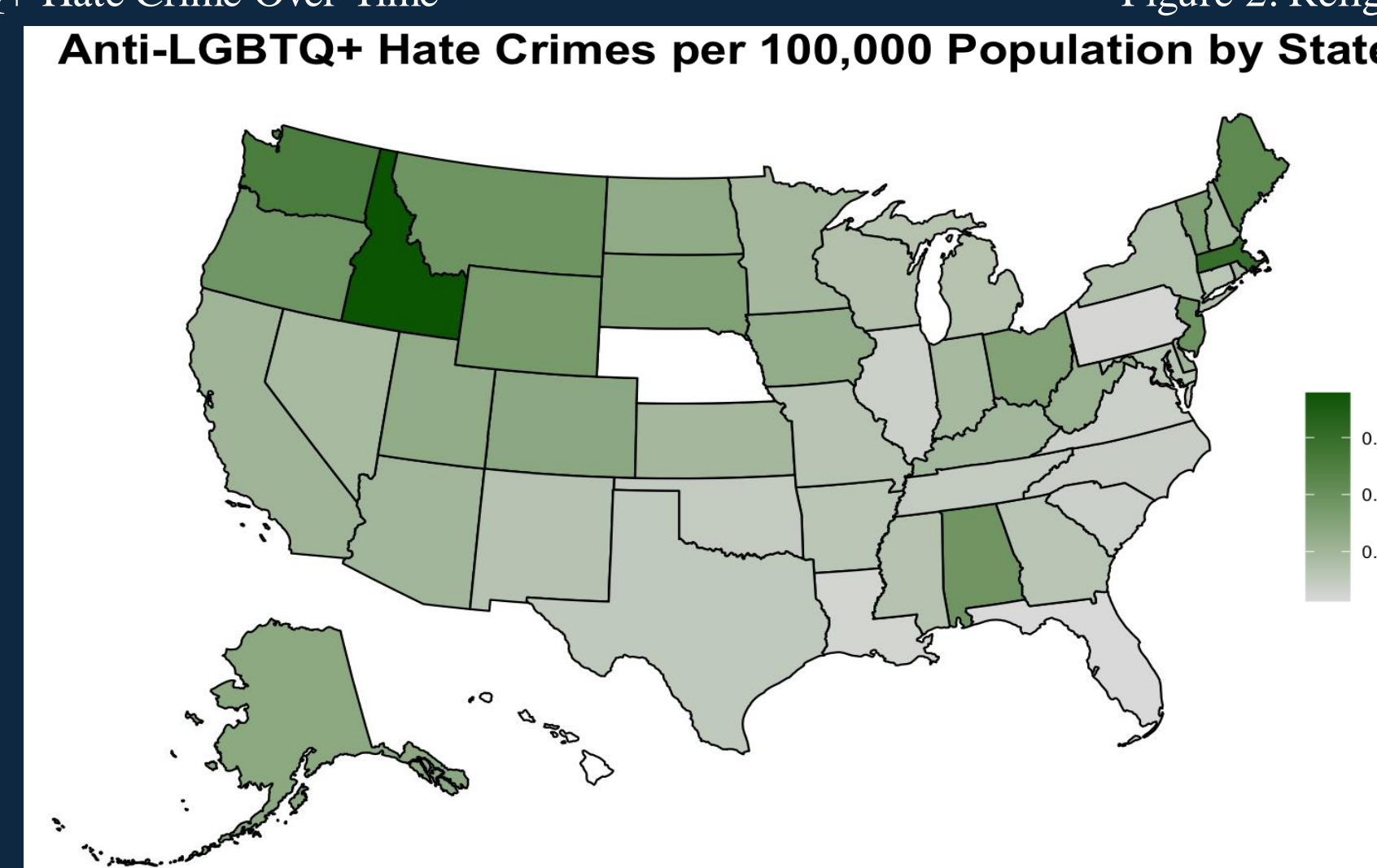

Figure 2: Religion and Hate Crime Over Time

Figure 3: Average LGBTQ+ Hate Crime Rate Map

Figure 4: Regression Output

Regression Interpretations

- Religious Affiliations are significant in model (2), but not in other models.

- Population to Church ratio has negative coefficients across all models, implying that higher church presence relative to population is associated with lower hate crime rates.

- Same-sex marriage was legalized in 2015, explaining the temporal effects between 2015 (positive coefficient) and other years (negative coefficients).

Conclusions

After controlling for demographics, location, and temporal factors, our findings suggest that religion and religious affiliations do not have a significant impact on Anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes in the US from 2014-2022.

Moving forward, it would be valuable for research to delve deeper into the underlying reasons for the observed significance of years within the final model.

Expanding parameter scope to encompass additional influencing factors on hate crimes and aggregating data at the county level could offer valuable avenues for exploration.

Ethical considerations

- Bias and Stereotyping

- Harming Religious Communities

References

LGBTQ+ Hate Crime Data: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program

Places of Worship Data: US Department of Homeland Security

Religious Affiliation Data: Pew Research Center

Population Data: US Census Bureau

Demographic Data: Public Religion Research Institute