

STAT I Data Presentation

Some Musings About the Chilean Constitutional Plebiscite & Redistributive Politics

Alex Dean

Vanderbilt University

Hypothesis and Supporting Lit

Hypothesis: Impoverished individuals are more likely to support the proposed 2022 constitution than individuals not experiencing poverty.

- 1 Proposed constitution greatly increased ability of the state to enact redistributive policies (La Propuesta de Constitución Política de 2022)
- 2 Impoverished individuals more likely to support for greater redistribution (Meltzer & Richard 1981, Romer 1975, LAPOP 2018)
- 3 Dummy control variable: Impoverished communes more likely to be rural than urban (Ministerio del Interior y Seguridad Pública 2019)

The Data

- I Self-collected data from Chilean government websites:
 - i Plebiscite Results = Electoral Service
 - ii Poverty Rates = Interior Ministry
 - iii Urban Statistics = Interior Ministry
- II Commune-level data (most similar to a county-municipality hybrid)
- III 345 observations

Scatterplot of relationship

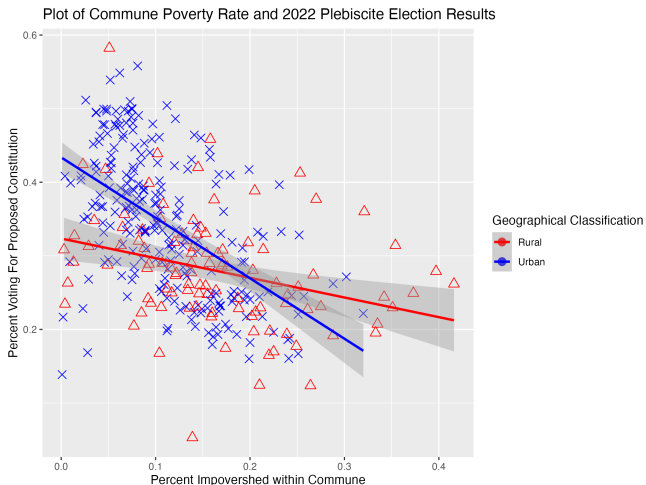


Figure: Scatterplot 1

Regression

Table 1: Regression Table

| | <i>Dependent variable:</i> | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Percent Yes 2022 | |
| | (1) | (2) |
| Percent Poverty | -0.558*** (0.061) | -0.267*** (0.086) |
| dummy(Urban = 1) | 0.034*** (0.010) | 0.110*** (0.019) |
| Poverty*Urban | | -0.554*** (0.118) |
| Constant | 0.371*** (0.013) | 0.324*** (0.016) |
| Observations | 345 | 345 |
| R ² | 0.272 | 0.316 |
| Adjusted R ² | 0.268 | 0.310 |
| Residual Std. Error | 0.081 (df = 342) | 0.078 (df = 341) |
| F Statistic | 64.042*** (df = 2; 342) | 52.618*** (df = 3; 341) |

Note:

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

So does X **cause** Y?

I Issues with establishing causality

- I failed to reject the null hypothesis
- Partisanship as a mediator
- Maybe reverse causality is at play?

II How can we better assess this hypothesis?

- Individual-level data (matches units of hypothesis)
- Experiment which establishes causal direction
- Additional temporal data (Sheds light into whether the plebiscite is an “outlier”)