What Makes Some Men Feel at Greater Risk of Sexual Harassment Accusations?

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Motivation

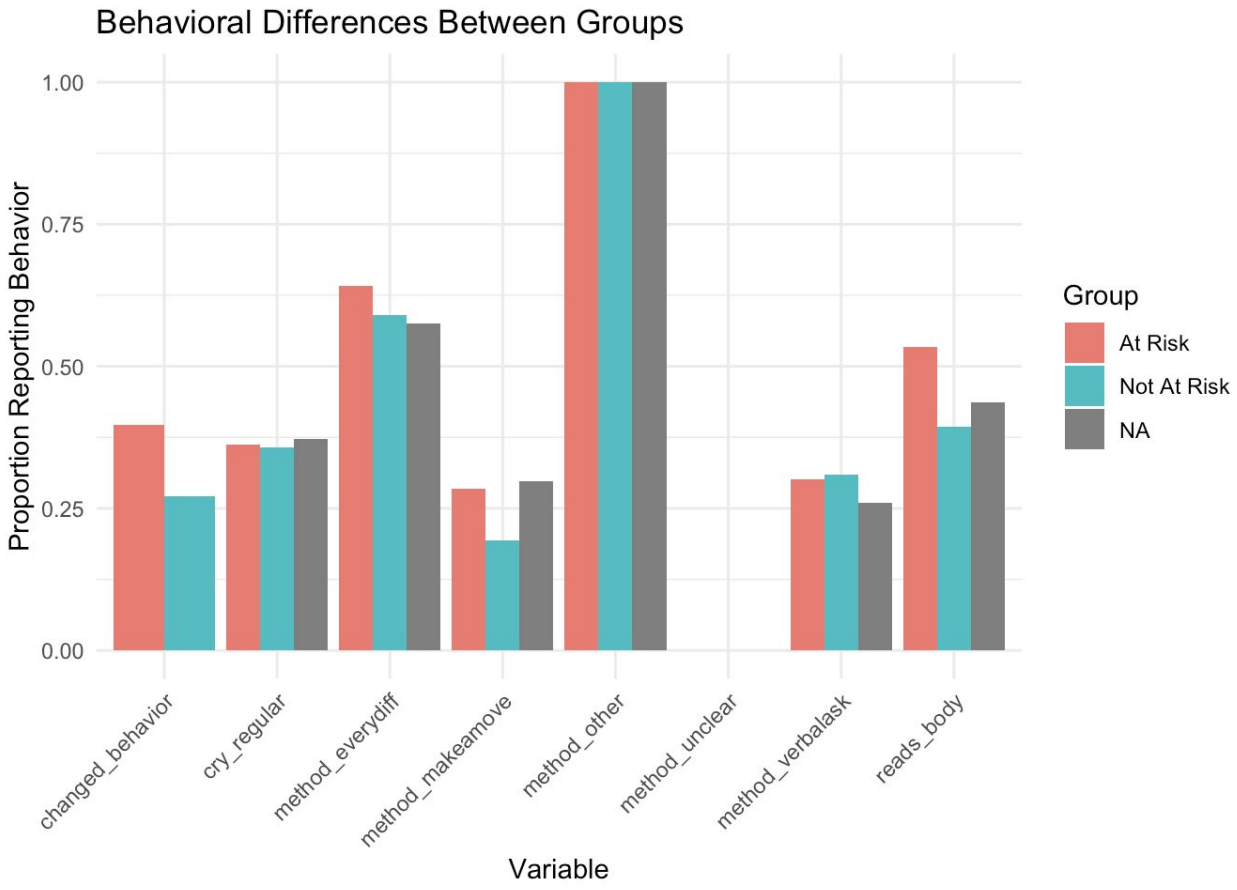
- I wanted to understand what kinds of beliefs or behaviors are linked to men who say they feel at greater risk of being falsely accused of sexual harassment.
- This matters because it connects to how people interpret and navigate consent, and how fear of misinterpretation shapes behavior.
- I used FiveThirtyEight's 2018 masculinity survey for this project.

Data Wrangling (working with survey data)

- I used the masculinity survey dataset from FiveThirtyEight.
- I cleaned the data in R and created binary variables for things like consent methods and emotional behaviors.
- For example, I made a binary variable that marks if someone cries often or sometimes, or whether they say they've changed behavior since the Me Too movement.

EDA: Key Behaviors

- Among men who said they feel at greater risk, the most common ways of gauging interest were nonverbal like reading body language or making a move.
- Surprisingly, very few of them said they ask for verbal confirmation of consent.
- A lot of them also said they changed their behavior since Me Too, which might reflect caution or awareness.

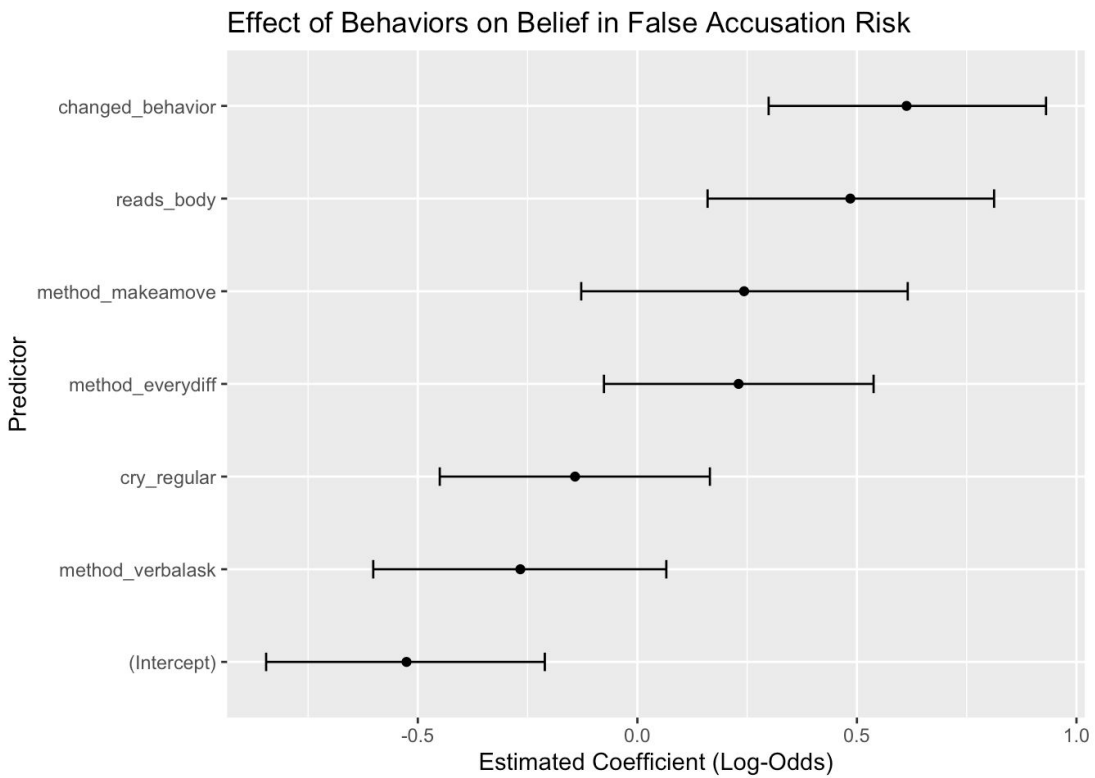


- This bar chart compares behavior frequencies between men who feel at risk and those who don’t.
- The “at risk” group was more likely to say they changed their behavior and relied on reading body language.
- Asking for verbal consent was less common in both groups.
- Overall, this suggests that some cautious behaviors are more common among those who feel vulnerable, but clear consent methods like verbal confirmation are not necessarily one of them.

Modeling: Logistic Regression Model

- I ran a logistic regression model using the binary outcome: whether someone feels at risk of false accusation.
- The predictors were emotional behavior and consent strategies, like crying, reading body language, and asking for verbal consent.

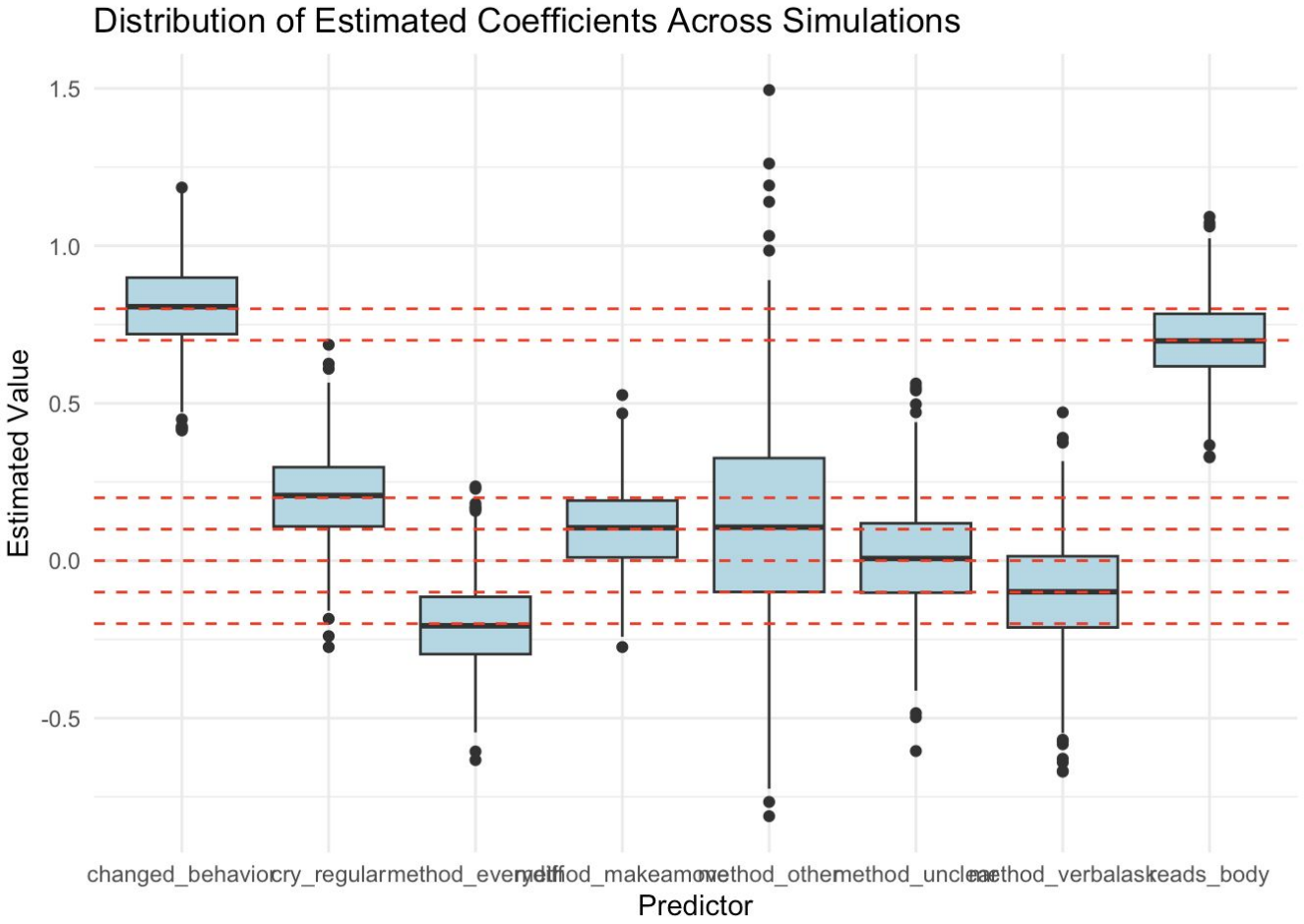
Coefficient Plot (Effect of Behaviors on Belief in False Accusation Risk)



- This plot shows the estimated effect size for each behavior.
- Bars that don't cross zero are significant. We see that "changed behavior" and "reads body" are both positive and significant.
- This suggests people who feel at risk are already adjusting how they act, and they tend to rely on more ambiguous cues like body language.

Monte Carlo Simulation:

- I simulated 1000 datasets with binary predictors like “changed behavior,” “reads body,” and “verbal consent.”
- The goal was to see how well logistic regression can recover the true coefficients.


Distribution of Estimated Coefficients Across Simulations
Estimated Value
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
-0.5
changed_behavior
cry_regular
method_everyoth
method_makeamov
method_other
method_uncle
method_verbalask
reads_body
Predictor

Simulation Results / Summary

- After running 1000 simulations, I looked at the bias, variance, and mean squared error of the estimated coefficients.
- “Changed behavior” and “reads body” were consistently recovered with low bias, meaning the model performs reliably when sample size is large.
- This helps show that our findings in Project 3 weren’t just a fluke and that they do reflect patterns that a logistic regression model can consistently pick up.

Reflection:

- How to turn survey data into meaningful predictors and use them in a model.

- Modeling real human behavior is tricky, especially when the behaviors are about things as sensitive as consent.

- ★ My final takeaway is that people who feel vulnerable don’t always use clearer strategies.
- ★ The model suggests that fear and caution often come with ambiguity, which makes it hard to create simple fixes.
  - ○ It also shows that logistic regression can still be a powerful tool, as long as we understand what the results actually mean.