

Examining Race and Gender Variation in Abortion Opinions

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Current state of Abortion Laws

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In June 2022, The Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, effectively withdrawing the constitutional right to abortions.

Abortion laws are now dependent on the states. 14 out of the 50 US states have imposed bans or near-total bans on abortions including Tennessee and Texas.

After 2 years of the overturning of Roe v. Wade, how does the American public view abortion?

Literature Review

2023 has experienced the record highest amount of abortions within the last decade.

Over 1 million clinician approved abortions have occurred this year, marking an 11.1 % increase from 2020.

Maddow-Zimet I, Philbin J, DoCampo I and Jones RK, Monthly Abortion Provision Study, updated Sept. 12, 2024, <https://osf.io/k4x7t/>.

Literature Review cont.

Based on a recent recent survey conducted by the Pew Research center in 2024, **63 percent of participants believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases.**

36 percent say that abortion should be illegal in all or most cases.

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Mascarenhas, 2024

There is very little information analysing the influences of **race-gender status upon opinions about abortion.**

When considering this, how do other factors such as **education level**, **age**, and **religion** influence opinions about abortion?

Research Question

How does support for
abortion legalization vary
by race-gender status?

How do the above
relationships vary by age,
education, and religion?

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Data & Methods

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The data set used for this project is titled AP VoteCast, United States, 2022 derived from ICPSR Data Archive.

The survey consisted of 120,896 participants (4,506 phone interviewees and 116,309 surveyed by web). 8,802 people in final sample.

The survey was conducted from October 31 to November 8th 2022.

Predictor variables include race-gender status, age, education, and religious affiliation.

Dependent variable is measured in abortion support on a scale from 1-4 (1 = illegal in all cases, 4 = legal in all cases)

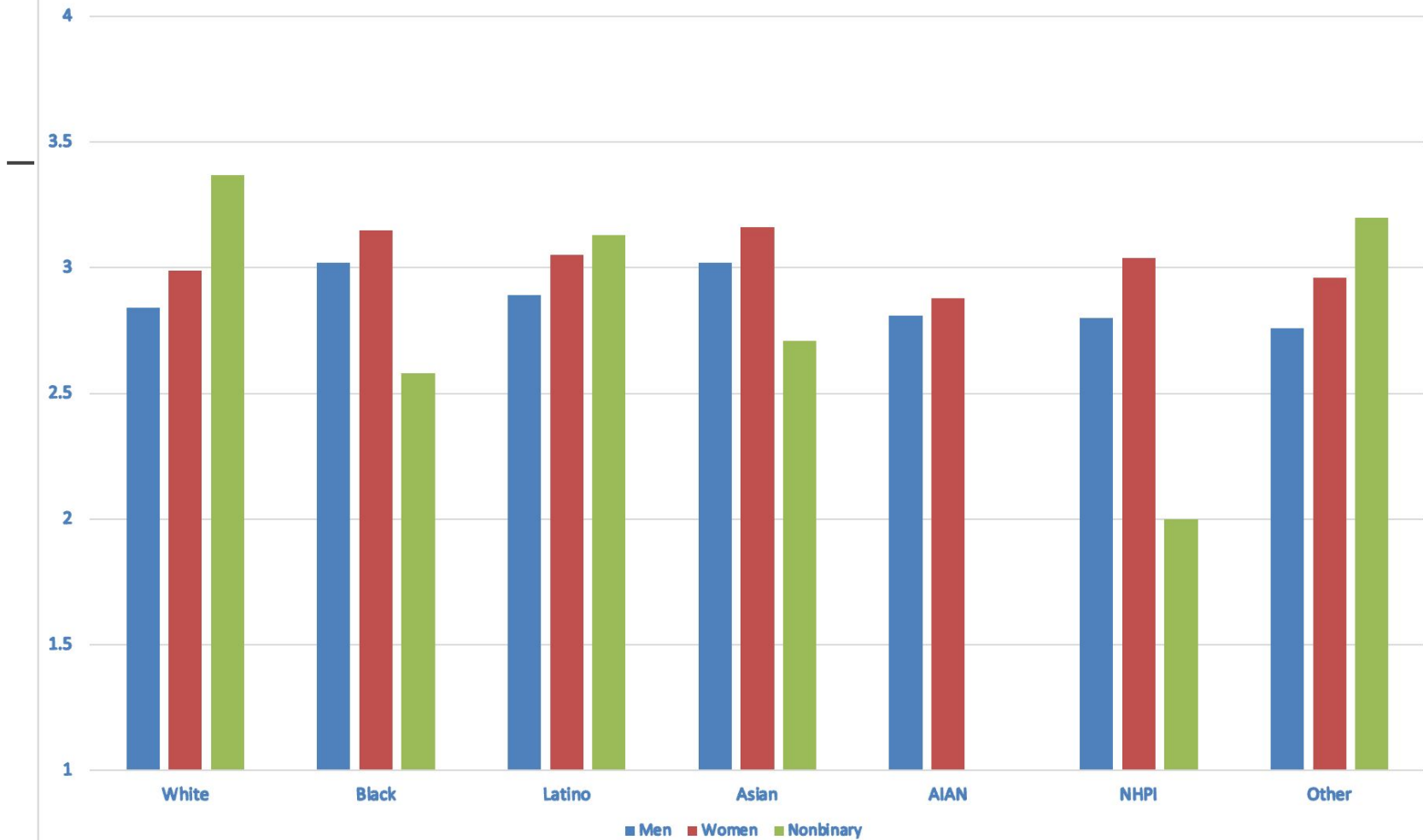
Analytic Strategy

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- Intersectional approach
- Comparing **mean abortion support for each race-gender status**, by different **religious**, **educational**, and **age** categories
- **Kruskal-Wallis** comparison of means tests showed **significant differences in abortion support across the race-gender status**

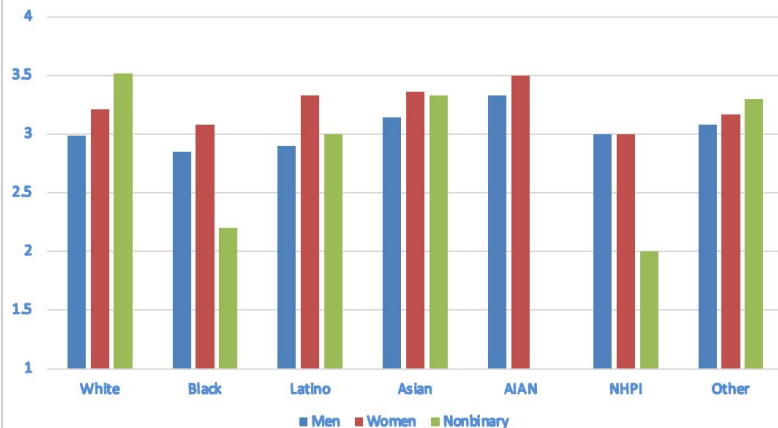
Results

Average Abortion Opinion vs All Ages

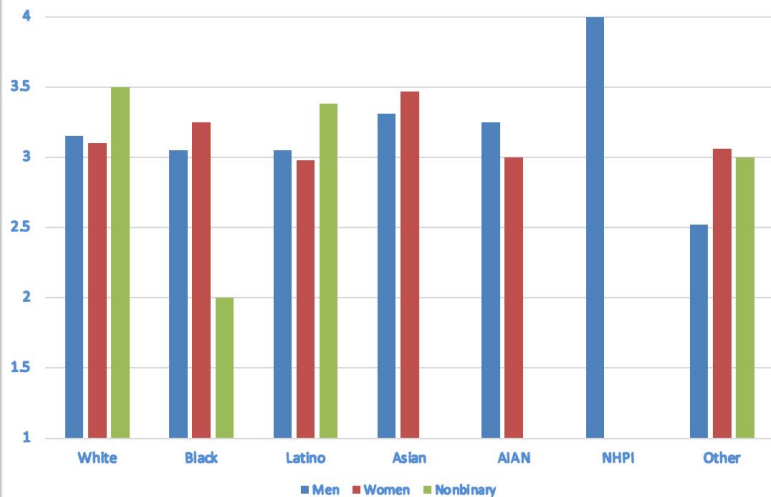


Age

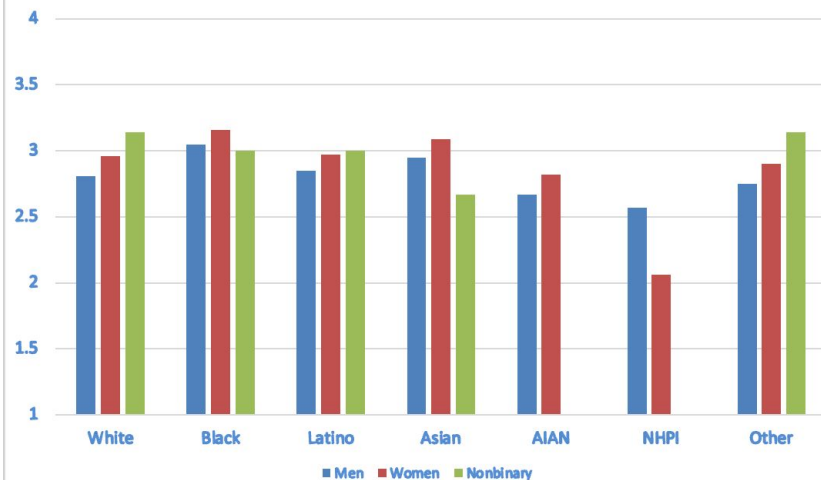
Average Abortion Opinion vs Age (18-24 Years)



Average Abortion Opinion vs Age (25-29 years)

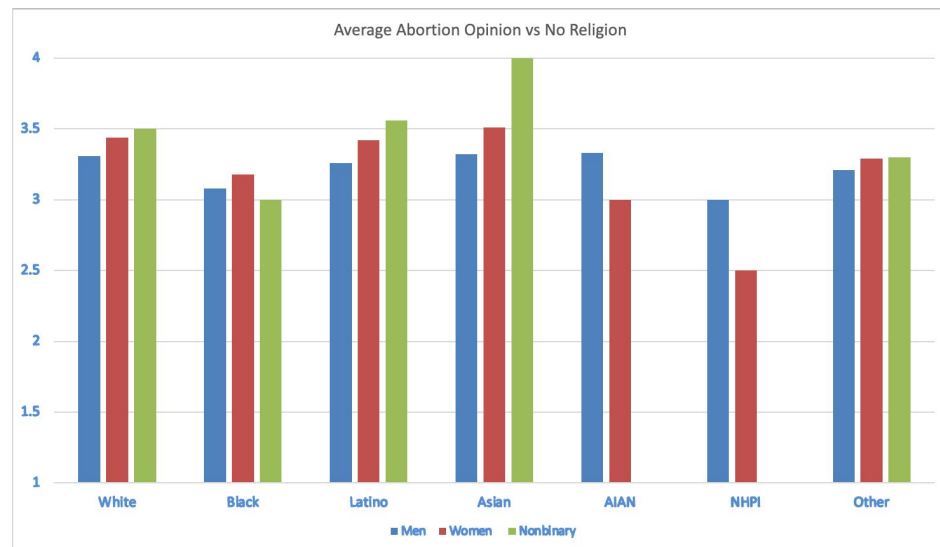
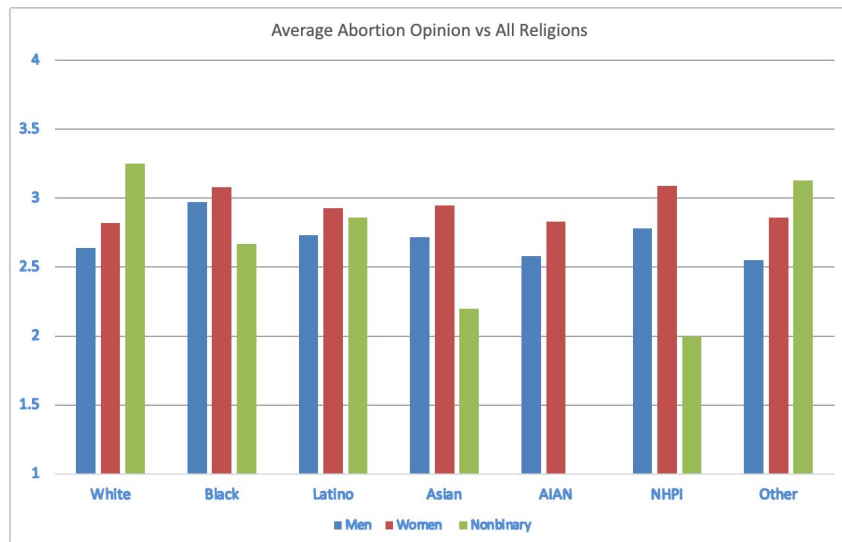


Average Abortion Opinion vs Age (30+ Years)

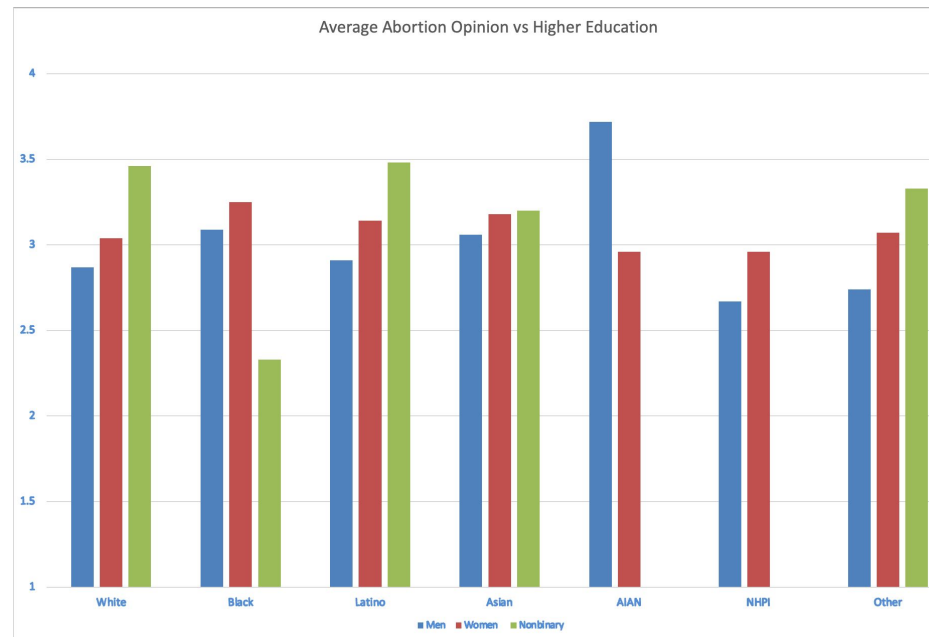
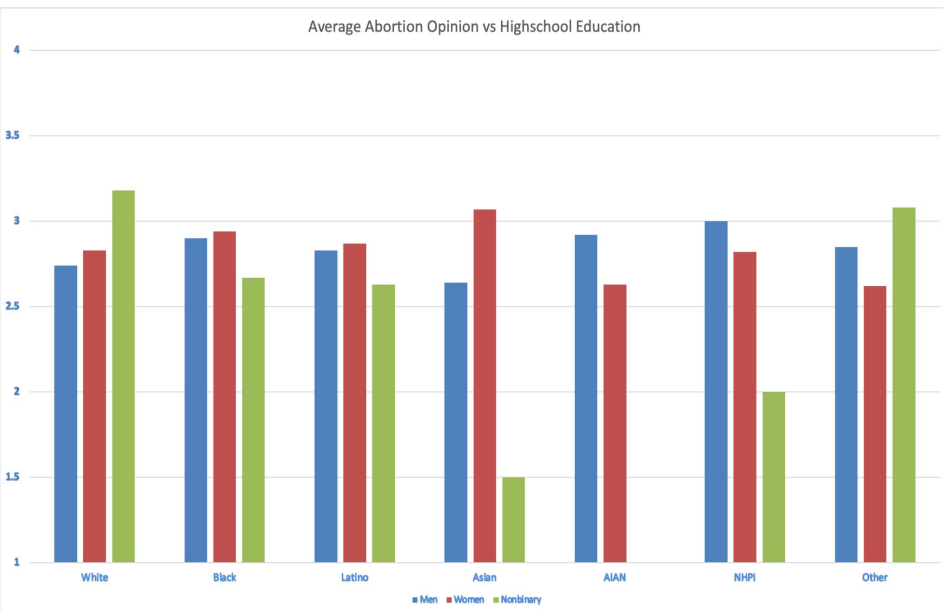


Religious vs. Unaffiliated

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High school VS College



Discussion

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Abortion opinions vary by race-gender status.

Age – Young adults support abortion more than older adults; gender gaps greater among younger adults; Black older adults have more support than Black young adults

Education appears to influence the opinions of White and Black women and Asian men, but less so for White and Black men and Asian women

Religion is negatively associated with abortion support for White and Latino adults, but less so for Black men, women, and nonbinary people

Limitations and Future Direction

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- **Small sample sizes** for nonbinary, AI/AN, and NH/PI demographics.
- **Registered voters** only
- This analysis did not control for other variables like **economic status** or **geographical location**. In the future, we would like to use **regression** to further analyse how multiple social determinants affect public opinion about abortion.

Citations

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Choi, A., & Cole, D. (2024, October 7). *Abortion law state map: See where abortions are legal or banned*. CNN.

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Thank you!



Questions?

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