**Abstract**

I am studying the viewpoint of Albertans regarding the government’s COVID-19 restrictions. Doing so, I have divided Albertans into two categories: rural and urban so that I can separately see their viewpoints and observe whether a difference of opinion exists or not. When it comes to a rural urban divide, [prior research](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/canadian-journal-of-political-science-revue-canadienne-de-science-politique/article/ethnography-and-political-opinion-identity-alienation-and-antiestablishmentarianism-in-rural-alberta/A46FC4ABB96F23BA934F857A65D791B1) has shown that it exists in Alberta. Reasons for its existence include a provincial government that is becoming [increasingly urbanized](https://prism.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/109864) every day, a healthcare system where most of the practitioners are located in urban areas making the [rural zone understaffed](https://www.cma.ca/sites/default/files/2018-11/PD14-04-e.pdf) and policies such as the carbon tax that fail to address the fact that [rural residents have to travel longer distances](https://prism.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/109864) and so bear most of the burden of this tax. All of these factors have the rural residents to feel [overlooked and being treated unfairly](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/canadian-journal-of-political-science-revue-canadienne-de-science-politique/article/ethnography-and-political-opinion-identity-alienation-and-antiestablishmentarianism-in-rural-alberta/A46FC4ABB96F23BA934F857A65D791B1). With COVID-19 factoring in, I want to study whether there was a divide with the government’s COVID-19 policies as well or were both sides on the same page. In my analysis, I discovered that there was a general consensus on several measures by the majority of both sides, however some measures did lead to one side being more in favor or opposed to it than the other.

**Course Reflections**

Some of the most important things I learned from this semester include how to use R, do effective data analysis and present it in a professional manner. I have learned how to filter and clean data, what types of analysis to do based on its type and present it using the most suitable option whether through a bar chart, histograms or cross tables. I have a set idea of what I need to do in order to effectively study data and gain insights from it.

In relation to my project, I was very keen to see how COVID-19 policies have affected individuals. We know that there have debates and protests regarding restrictions, lockdowns or vaccine passports and so I was interested how prevalent were these concerns in Alberta particularly in terms of rural and urban Albertans. I was able to gain very insightful results using Cramer’s V, Chi Square and cross tables on whether there were any differences or not. Using graphs for multiple variables I was also able to see where there were differences between the respondents' answers.

Overall, I found this course to be very useful and practical in giving me a better understanding of how to do data analysis and I will be using these learned skills in my future projects as well.

**Knowledge Mobilization Discussion**

For this project I chose to present my findings using an Op-Ed. The reason I chose to do this included the fact that Op-Eds are an efficient way to present information to a broad audience in a way that everyone reading can understand. It is important to keep in mind that not everyone will be able to interpret data or understand how statistical tests work; however, everyone deserves to know information that has been tested in order to make their own opinions or decisions. Moreover, Op-Eds give the writer more freedom to express their message and viewpoints in a personalized manner rather than following a set pattern. Op-Eds are also short and precise which is convenient for readers who are not looking to dive deep into the subject and want a general understanding of the subject. In a busy world Op-Eds might be one of the best options for readers to get a quick glimpse of what is happening around them and what others think about it.

**References**

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