Does Mass Shooting Influence Attitudinal Change? New Evidence from Orlando 2016

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- In representative democracies, public opinion should drive policy change.
- Research question: Does mass shooting galvanize American's support for gun control?

Literature

- Newman and Hartman (2019) and Hartman and Newman (2019): Proximity to shooting events increases people's gun control support.

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- Rogowski and Tucker (2019): The 2012 Sandy Hook shooting didn't increase American's gun control support, even among parents and Democrats.
- We extend RT's study by using the 2016 Orlando shooting as a new case.

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- Event: Orlando shooting on June 12, 2016, the deadliest one in US history by the occurrence (49 dead, 53 wounded).
- Data: Wave 55 of The American Panel Survey (TAPS) — Internet-based, nationally representative ($N = 1704$ before cleansing).

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- Treatment indicator: Whether the respondents answered the survey before or after June 12 (June 12 itself dropped, 57.08% in the Pre-shooting group).

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- Samples: Full, Narrow Time Window (June 11 and 13 only), Proximity, (FL, AL, GA), Reasonable Duration (15–60 min), Narrow Time Window ∩ Reasonable Duration, Proximity ∩ Reasonable Duration.

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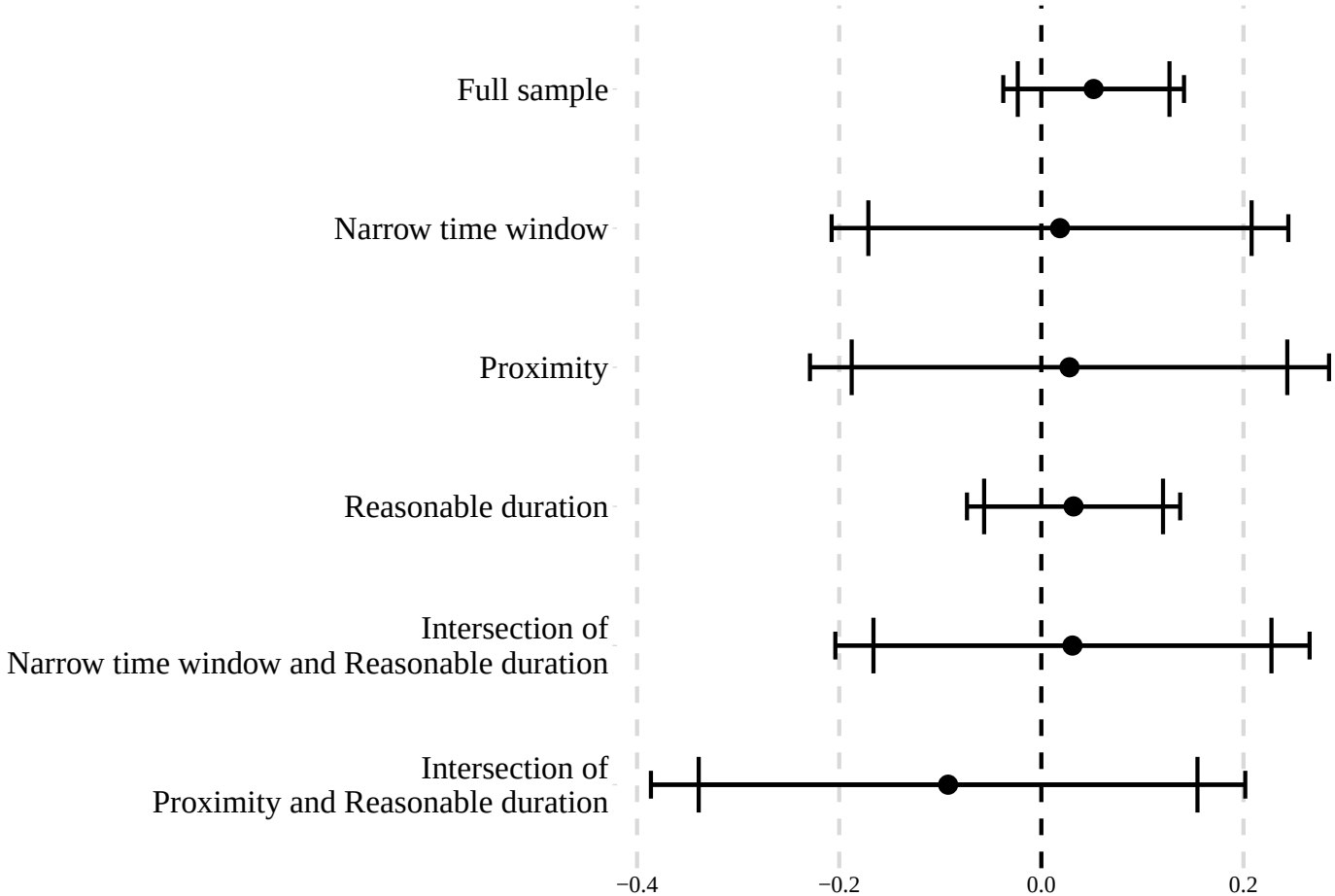
- Estimation: Logit models with survey weight, but linear probability models are used as well.

Results

Figure 1: Differenced predicted probabilities of gun control legislation support (Pre-shooting *versus* Post-shooting), bivariate specification



Note: Wider error bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals while narrower error bars indicate the 90% confidence intervals. The standard errors necessary for calculating the confidence intervals are derived from the Delta method.

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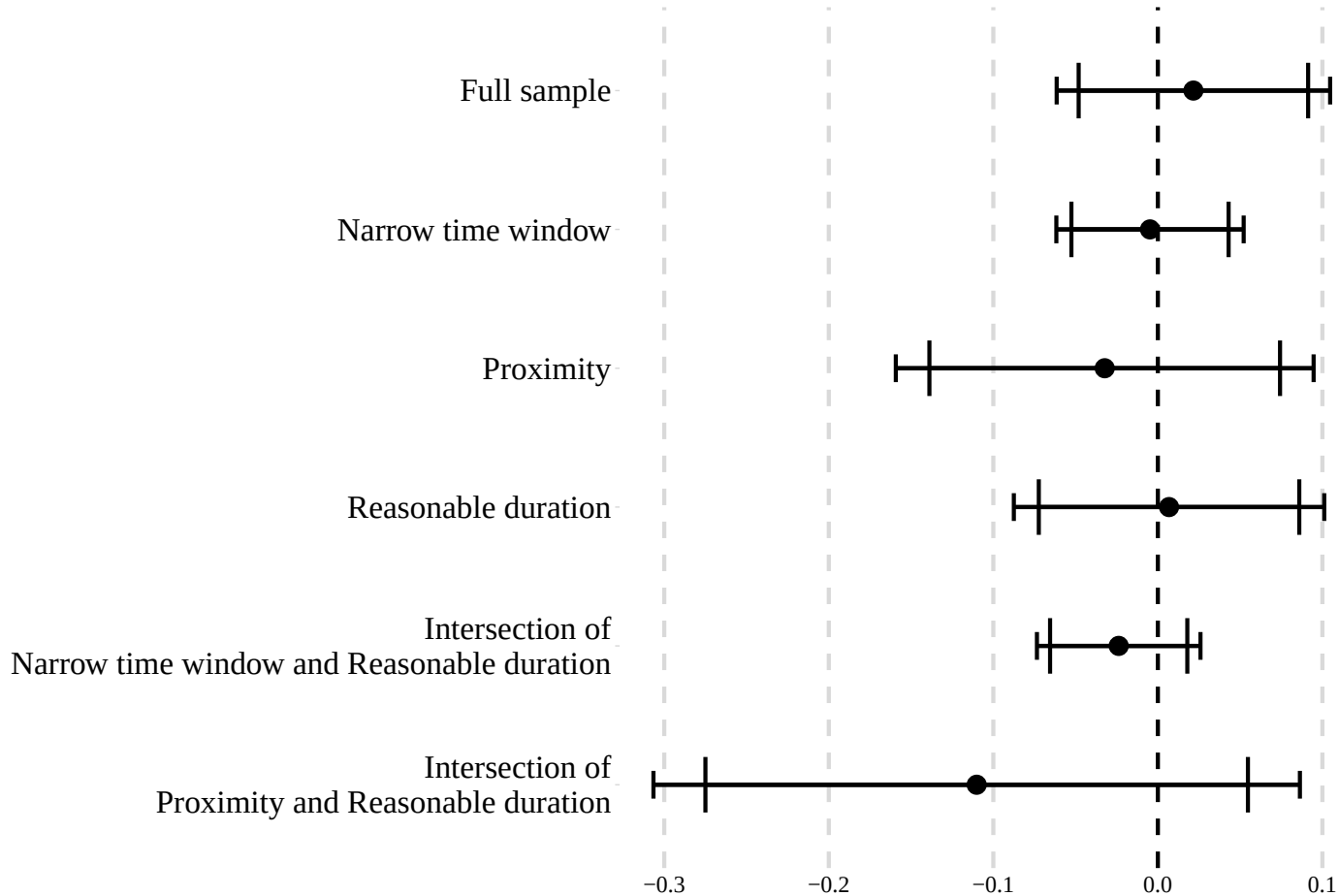
Figure 2: Differenced predicted probabilities of gun control legislation support (Pre-shooting *versus* Post-shooting), full specification



Note: Covariates are held at their median values. Wider error bars indicate the 95% confidence intervals while narrower error bars indicate the 90% confidence intervals. The standard errors necessary for calculating the confidence intervals are derived from the Delta method.