

# Red Flagging Fake News

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```
# load packages
library(data.table)
library(foreign)
library(sandwich)
library(lmtest)
library(stargazer)
library(lfe)
library(car)
library(ggplot2)
library(data.table)
library(knitr)
library(rgeolocate)
library(data.table)
library(knitr)
library(lmtest)
library(ri2)
library(dplyr)
library(forcats)
```

## Null & Alternate Hypothesis

- *NULL Hypothesis* : Make people aware of the prevalence of fake news has no effect on its believability
- *Alternate Hypothesis* : General flags about fake news reduce its believability

## Calculating the sample size

In this section, we calculate the minimum required sample size for our experiment.

The statistical power of an experiment is the experiment's ability to reject the NULL hypothesis when a specific alternate hypothesis is true.

$$\alpha = P(\text{reject } H_0 | H_0)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the significance level. We select a significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$  as a tolerance for Type I errors in our experiment.

Now that we have chosen our significance level, we would like to minimize the probability of Type II error. i.e. we would like to **maximize** the power of our test against the relevant alternative. Mathematically, power is

$$\text{power} = 1 - P_r(\text{Type II Error}) = P_r(\text{reject } H_0 | H_1 \text{ is true})$$

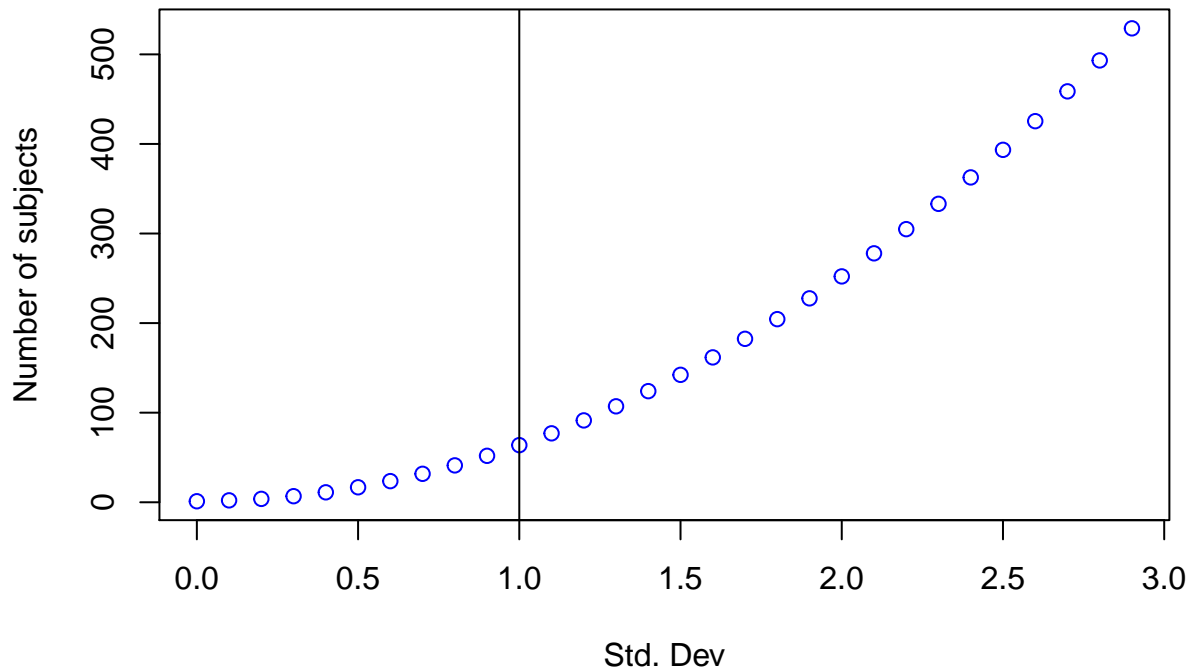
- We would set the required power of our experiment to be **80%** for this study as a reasonable expectation.

- To calculate the power for the test, we need to conjecture an expected ATE and the standard deviation for the outcome in the experiment.
- The outcome is a rating on a scale of 0-10 on how successful the red flag was in reducing the believability of the fake/misleading social media post. We would like our experiment to be able to detect a difference in means of minimum 2 points on this scale.
- We do expect the measured values for this rating to vary significantly as we poll subjects with different political opinions, life experiences and political affiliations. To be on the conservative side, we would like to have enough power in our experiment to minimize Type II errors when the std. deviation is at least 2.5 times the minimum detectable treatment effect.

```
power_sim <- function(ate,sig_level=0.05,power=0.8,alternate_hyp="two.sided", sd = 1){
  result <- NA
  sims <- seq(1e-5,sd,by=0.1)
  for(i in seq_along(sims)){
    result[i] <- power.t.test(d=ate,
                             sig.level=sig_level,
                             power=power,
                             sd=sims[i],
                             alternative=alternate_hyp)$n
  }
  return(result)
}

sd <- 3
expected_ate <- 0.5
x <- seq(1e-5,sd, by = 0.1)
samples <- power_sim(ate=expected_ate,sd = sd)
plot(x = x, y=samples,col = 'blue',
     xlab="Std. Dev",
     ylab = 'Number of subjects',
     main = "Sample size vs. expected variance in outcome (Power = 0.8)")
abline(v=1.0,col='black',lwd=1)
```

## Sample size vs. expected variance in outcome (Power = 0.8)



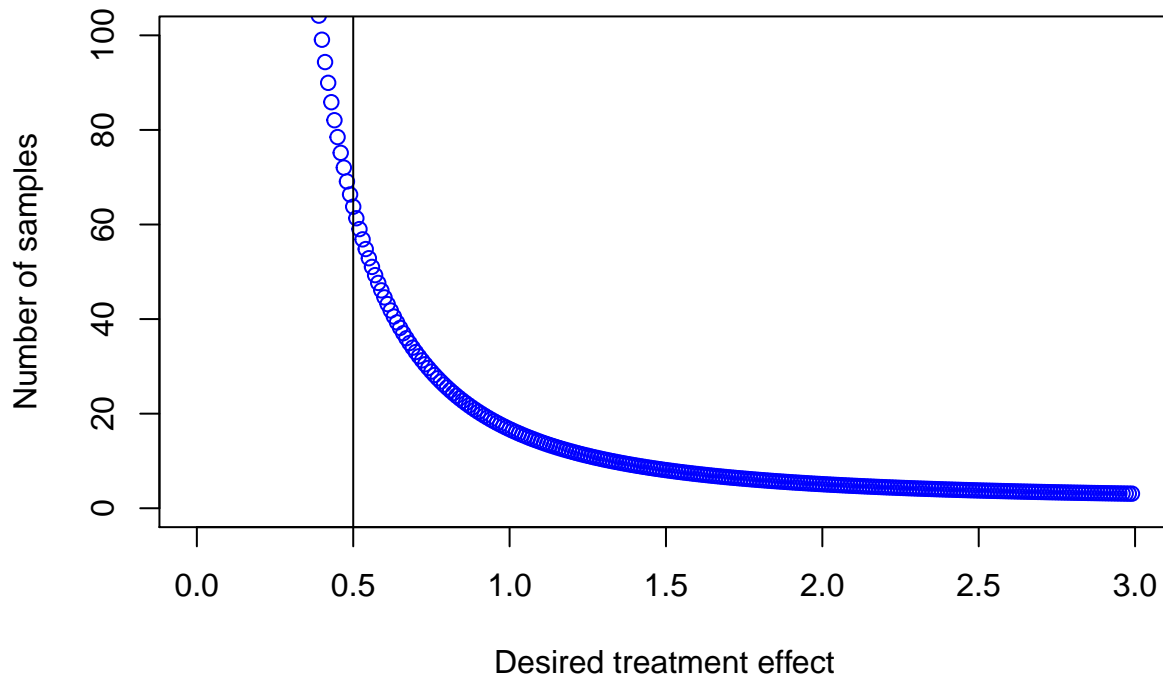
The above plot shows that we need a minimum sample size of 100 to achieve a power of 0.8 when the outcome variable has a standard deviation 1.0 times the treatment effect. The plot below, validates that the absolute value of minimum treatment effect doesn't change the sample size requirement significantly and that this is determined mostly by the expected variance in the measurement data.

```
power_sim_by_ate <- function(ate_vector,sig_level=0.05,power=0.8,alternate_hyp="two.sided",sd = 1){
  result <- NA
  for(i in seq_along(ate_vector)){
    result[i] <- power.t.test(d=ate_vector[i],
                             sig.level=sig_level,
                             power=power,
                             sd=sd,
                             alternative=alternate_hyp)$n
  }
  return(result)
}

sd <- 1
expected_ate <- 3
x <- seq(1e-5,expected_ate,by=0.01)
samples <- power_sim_by_ate(ate=x,sd = sd)

plot(x = x, y=samples,col = 'blue',
     xlab= "Desired treatment effect",
     ylab = 'Number of samples',ylim=c(0,100),
     main = "Sample size vs. minimum detectable treatment effect (Power = 0.8)")
abline(v=0.5,col='black',lwd=1)
```

## Sample size vs. minimum detectable treatment effect (Power = 0.8)



### Covariate questions in the survey

- Age
- Political affiliation
- Registered Voter / non-voter
- race
- are you active on social media?
- education (< high school, high school, undergrad, grad)

### Covariates in regression (not in survey)

- Mturk subject
- location of subject

### Experimental Design

#### 2 x 2

- treatment :
  - banner or no banner
  - tweet is false or true
- block by party affiliation and gender

### Treatment & control assignment

- how to randomly assign while blocking for above

## Regression Models

**Outcome:** Score on how many headlines were correctly identified by subjects (equally balanced True and False posts)

### 1. Baseline model

outcome ~ general\_flag on survey page

### 2. Model with co-variables

outcome ~ red\_flag \* gender + red\_flag \* political\_affiliation + factor(age\_group) + factor(education) + red\_flag \* location + registered\_voter + race + social\_media\_active

### 3. Model with treatment-covariate interactions

- Test if fake news red flagging affects democrats and republicans differently
- Test if fake news red flagging affects different age groups differently
- Test if fake news red flagging affects voters and non voters differently

## Pilot data analysis

```
pilot_dataset <- fread('./data/pilot/pilot_data_07262020.csv')
head(pilot_dataset)
```

```
##                               StartDate
## 1:                               Start Date
## 2: {"ImportId":"","startDate":"","timeZone":"","America/Denver"}
## 3:                               2020-07-17 18:52:45
## 4:                               2020-07-17 19:46:06
## 5:                               2020-07-17 19:48:21
## 6:                               2020-07-17 20:01:07
##                               EndDate
## 1:                               End Date
## 2: {"ImportId":"","endDate":"","timeZone":"","America/Denver"}
## 3:                               2020-07-17 18:59:24
## 4:                               2020-07-17 19:48:33
## 5:                               2020-07-17 19:59:28
## 6:                               2020-07-17 20:04:12
##                               Status      IPAddress
## 1:                               Response Type      IP Address
## 2: {"ImportId":"","status":"","ImportId":"","ipAddress"}
## 3:                               IP Address      73.93.90.157
## 4:                               IP Address      98.234.117.52
## 5:                               IP Address      71.244.172.196
## 6:                               IP Address      173.67.9.152
##                               Progress      Duration (in seconds)
## 1:                               Progress      Duration (in seconds)
## 2: {"ImportId":"","progress":"","ImportId":"","duration"}
## 3:                               100      399
## 4:                               100      147
## 5:                               100      666
## 6:                               100      185
##                               Finished
## 1:                               Finished
## 2: {"ImportId":"","finished"}
## 3:                               True
```

```

## 4: True
## 5: True
## 6: True
##
## RecordedDate
## 1: Recorded Date
## 2: {"ImportId":"","recordedDate":"","timeZone":"","America/Denver"}
## 3: 2020-07-17 18:59:25
## 4: 2020-07-17 19:48:34
## 5: 2020-07-17 19:59:28
## 6: 2020-07-17 20:04:13
##
## ResponseId RecipientLastName
## 1: Response ID Recipient Last Name
## 2: {"ImportId":"","_recordId"} {"ImportId":"","recipientLastName"}
## 3: R_u8Geu0CykTxNh6h
## 4: R_2EgXOU7K2nTlgqG
## 5: R_1NgJqwlFgUpLjT1
## 6: R_33woiiDhvnhBZZR
##
## RecipientFirstName RecipientEmail
## 1: Recipient First Name Recipient Email
## 2: {"ImportId":"","recipientFirstName"} {"ImportId":"","recipientEmail"}
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## ExternalReference LocationLatitude
## 1: External Data Reference Location Latitude
## 2: {"ImportId":"","externalDataReference"} {"ImportId":"","locationLatitude"}
## 3: 37.777099609375
## 4: 36.5802001953125
## 5: 39.1269073486328125
## 6: 39.1269073486328125
##
## LocationLongitude DistributionChannel
## 1: Location Longitude Distribution Channel
## 2: {"ImportId":"","locationLongitude"} {"ImportId":"","distributionChannel"}
## 3: -122.40599822998046875 anonymous
## 4: -121.84429931640625 anonymous
## 5: -76.697998046875 anonymous
## 6: -76.697998046875 anonymous
##
## UserLanguage
## 1: User Language
## 2: {"ImportId":"","userLanguage"}
## 3: EN
## 4: EN
## 5: EN
## 6: EN
##
## Q_RecaptchaScore
## 1: Q_RecaptchaScore
## 2: {"ImportId":"","Q_RecaptchaScore"}
## 3: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625
## 4: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625
## 5: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625
## 6: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625
##
## 1: Thank you for participating in this survey - we greatly appreciate it! The survey should take less

```

```

## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
##          Q2          Q3
## 1: Are you a registered voter? What is your age group?
## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID8""} {"ImportId":"","QID9""}
## 3:          Yes          21-40
## 4:          Yes          21-40
## 5:          Yes          21-40
## 6:          Yes          21-40
##
##          Q4
## 1: What is your political affiliation?
## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID10""}
## 3:          Democrat
## 4:          Other
## 5:
## 6:          Democrat
##
##          Q5          Q6
## 1: What is your highest level of education? What ethnicity do you identify as?
## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID19""} {"ImportId":"","QID20""}
## 3:          Graduate degree          Asian
## 4:          Graduate degree          Caucasian
## 5:          College degree          Caucasian
## 6:          College degree          Hispanic / Latinx
##
##          Q7
## 1: Do you consider yourself to be active on social media platforms?
## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID18""}
## 3:          Yes
## 4:          No
## 5:          No
## 6:          No
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:

```

```

##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?
## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID32"}
## 3: Yes
## 4:

```



## 5: Yes

## 6:

## 9A

## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?

## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID33"}

## 3: Yes

## 4:

## 5: Yes

## 6:

## 10A

## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?

## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID34"}

## 3: No

## 4:

## 5: No

## 6:

## 11A

## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?

## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID35"}

## 3: Yes

## 4:

## 5: Yes

## 6:

## 12A

## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?

## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID36"}

## 3: Yes

## 4:

## 5: No

## 6:

## 13A

## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?

## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID37"}

## 3: No

## 4:

## 5: No

## 6:

## 14A

## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?

## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID38"}

## 3: Yes

## 4:

## 5: No

## 6:

## 15A

## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?

## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID39"}

## 3: Yes

## 4:

## 5: Yes

## 6:

## 16A

## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?

## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID40"}

```
## 3: No
## 4:
## 5: No
## 6:
## 17A
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?
## 2: {"ImportId":"","QID41"}
## 3: No
## 4:
## 5: No
## 6:
```

```
names(pilot_dataset)
```

```
## [1] "StartDate" "EndDate" "Status"
## [4] "IPAddress" "Progress" "Duration (in seconds)"
## [7] "Finished" "RecordedDate" "ResponseId"
## [10] "RecipientLastName" "RecipientFirstName" "RecipientEmail"
## [13] "ExternalReference" "LocationLatitude" "LocationLongitude"
## [16] "DistributionChannel" "UserLanguage" "Q_RecaptchaScore"
## [19] "Q1" "Q2" "Q3"
## [22] "Q4" "Q5" "Q6"
## [25] "Q7" "8B" "9B"
## [28] "10B" "11B" "12B"
## [31] "13B" "14B" "15B"
## [34] "16B" "17B" "8A"
## [37] "9A" "10A" "11A"
## [40] "12A" "13A" "14A"
## [43] "15A" "16A" "17A"
```

```
data_pruned <- pilot_dataset[ 3:nrow(pilot_dataset),]
data_pruned[, c(6,7)] <- lapply(data_pruned[, c(6,7)], as.numeric)
```

```
## Warning in lapply(data_pruned[, c(6, 7)], as.numeric): NAs introduced by coercion
```

```
question_col_names <- c('8B','9B','10B','11B','12B','13B','14B','15B','16B','17B',
                        '8A','9A','10A','11A','12A','13A','14A','15A','16A','17A')
```

```
# replace all empty strings with NA
for(i in c(26:length(names(data_pruned)))){
  data_pruned[[i]][data_pruned[[i]]==''] <- NA
}
```

```
# Check the data
head(data_pruned[, 26:length(names(data_pruned))])
```

```
##      8B   9B  10B  11B  12B  13B  14B  15B  16B  17B   8A   9A  10A  11A  12A
## 1: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes  Yes   No  Yes  Yes
## 2: Yes  Yes   No  Yes  Yes   No  Yes   No   No   No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 3: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes  Yes   No  Yes   No
## 4: No   Yes   No  Yes   No   No  Yes  Yes   No   No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 5: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes  Yes   No  Yes   No
## 6: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> No   Yes   No  Yes   No
##      13A  14A  15A  16A  17A
```

```

## 1:  No  Yes  Yes  No  No
## 2: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 3:  No  No  Yes  No  No
## 4: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 5:  No  Yes  Yes  No  No
## 6:  No  No  No  No  No

# Set assignment group variable (treatment = 1 , control = 0)
data_pruned[, assignment := ifelse(is.na(data_pruned[, '8B']), 0, 1)]

## Warning in `[.data.table`](data_pruned, , `:=`(assignment,
## ifelse(is.na(data_pruned[, : Invalid .internal.selfref detected and fixed by
## taking a (shallow) copy of the data.table so that := can add this new column
## by reference. At an earlier point, this data.table has been copied by R (or
## was created manually using structure() or similar). Avoid names<- and attr<-
## which in R currently (and oddly) may copy the whole data.table. Use set* syntax
## instead to avoid copying: ?set, ?setnames and ?setattr. If this message doesn't
## help, please report your use case to the data.table issue tracker so the root
## cause can be fixed or this message improved.

head(data_pruned[, 26:length(names(data_pruned))])

##      8B   9B  10B  11B  12B  13B  14B  15B  16B  17B   8A   9A  10A  11A  12A
## 1: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes  Yes   No  Yes  Yes
## 2: Yes  Yes   No  Yes  Yes   No  Yes   No   No   No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 3: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes  Yes   No  Yes   No
## 4:  No  Yes   No  Yes   No   No  Yes  Yes   No   No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 5: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes  Yes   No  Yes   No
## 6: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> No   Yes   No  Yes   No
##      13A  14A  15A  16A  17A assignment
## 1:  No  Yes  Yes   No   No              0
## 2: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>              1
## 3:  No   No  Yes   No   No              0
## 4: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>              1
## 5:  No  Yes  Yes   No   No              0
## 6:  No   No  No   No   No              0

head(data_pruned)

##      StartDate      EndDate      Status      IPAddress Progress
## 1: 2020-07-17 18:52:45 2020-07-17 18:59:24 IP Address 73.93.90.157      100
## 2: 2020-07-17 19:46:06 2020-07-17 19:48:33 IP Address 98.234.117.52      100
## 3: 2020-07-17 19:48:21 2020-07-17 19:59:28 IP Address 71.244.172.196      100
## 4: 2020-07-17 20:01:07 2020-07-17 20:04:12 IP Address 173.67.9.152      100
## 5: 2020-07-17 19:58:48 2020-07-17 20:13:25 IP Address 174.195.207.41      100
## 6: 2020-07-17 20:08:21 2020-07-17 20:17:59 IP Address 67.188.128.89      100
##      Duration (in seconds) Finished      RecordedDate      ResponseId
## 1:                399      NA 2020-07-17 18:59:25 R_u8Geu0CykTxNh6h
## 2:                147      NA 2020-07-17 19:48:34 R_2EgXOU7K2nTlgqG
## 3:                666      NA 2020-07-17 19:59:28 R_1NgJqwlFgUpLjT1
## 4:                185      NA 2020-07-17 20:04:13 R_33woiiDhvnhBZZR
## 5:                876      NA 2020-07-17 20:13:25 R_3nAiDFypCL00xYV
## 6:                578      NA 2020-07-17 20:18:00 R_3QXbtPAqPrxpNRD
##      RecipientLastName RecipientFirstName RecipientEmail ExternalReference
## 1:
## 2:

```

```
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##      LocationLatitude      LocationLongitude DistributionChannel UserLanguage
## 1:      37.777099609375 -122.40599822998046875      anonymous      EN
## 2:      36.5802001953125      -121.84429931640625      anonymous      EN
## 3: 39.1269073486328125      -76.697998046875      anonymous      EN
## 4: 39.1269073486328125      -76.697998046875      anonymous      EN
## 5:      33.87890625 -117.53530120849609375      anonymous      EN
## 6: 36.6808013916015625 -121.61640167236328125      anonymous      EN
##      Q_RecaptchaScore      Q1 Q2 Q3
## 1: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625 Female Yes 21-40
## 2: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625 Female Yes 21-40
## 3: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625 Female Yes 21-40
## 4: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625 Female Yes 21-40
## 5: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625 Female Yes 21-40
## 6: 0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625 Male Yes 61+
##      Q4      Q5      Q6 Q7 8B 9B 10B 11B 12B
## 1: Democrat Graduate degree      Asian Yes <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 2:      Other Graduate degree      Caucasian No Yes Yes No Yes Yes
## 3:      College degree      Caucasian No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 4: Democrat College degree Hispanic / Latinx No No Yes No Yes No
## 5:      Other College degree      Caucasian Yes <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 6: Republican Graduate degree      Caucasian No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
##      13B 14B 15B 16B 17B 8A 9A 10A 11A 12A 13A 14A 15A 16A 17A
## 1: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes Yes No Yes Yes No Yes Yes No No
## 2: No Yes No No No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 3: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes Yes No Yes No No No Yes No No
## 4: No Yes Yes No No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 5: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes Yes No Yes No No Yes Yes No No
## 6: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> No Yes No Yes No No No No No No
##      assignment
## 1:      0
## 2:      1
## 3:      0
## 4:      1
## 5:      0
## 6:      0
```

```
# Compute the score against answer guide
```

```
answer_guide <- c('Yes','Yes','No','Yes','No','No','Yes','Yes','No','No',
                  'Yes','Yes','No','Yes','No','No','Yes','Yes','No','No')
```

```
compute_scores <- function(dataset,answer_guide){
  for(i in 1:nrow(data_pruned)){
    dataset[i,"score"] <- sum(dataset[i,26:45] == answer_guide,na.rm=TRUE)
  }
  return(dataset)
}
```

```
data_w_scores <- compute_scores(data_pruned,answer_guide)
head(data_w_scores)
```

##	StartDate	EndDate	Status	IPAddress	Progress										
## 1:	2020-07-17 18:52:45	2020-07-17 18:59:24	IP Address	73.93.90.157	100										
## 2:	2020-07-17 19:46:06	2020-07-17 19:48:33	IP Address	98.234.117.52	100										
## 3:	2020-07-17 19:48:21	2020-07-17 19:59:28	IP Address	71.244.172.196	100										
## 4:	2020-07-17 20:01:07	2020-07-17 20:04:12	IP Address	173.67.9.152	100										
## 5:	2020-07-17 19:58:48	2020-07-17 20:13:25	IP Address	174.195.207.41	100										
## 6:	2020-07-17 20:08:21	2020-07-17 20:17:59	IP Address	67.188.128.89	100										
##	Duration (in seconds)	Finished	RecordedDate	ResponseId											
## 1:	399	NA	2020-07-17 18:59:25	R_u8Geu0CykTxNh6h											
## 2:	147	NA	2020-07-17 19:48:34	R_2EgXOU7K2nTlgqG											
## 3:	666	NA	2020-07-17 19:59:28	R_1NgJqwlFgUpLjT1											
## 4:	185	NA	2020-07-17 20:04:13	R_33woiiDhvnHBZZR											
## 5:	876	NA	2020-07-17 20:13:25	R_3nAiDFypCL00xYV											
## 6:	578	NA	2020-07-17 20:18:00	R_3QXbtPAqPrxpNRD											
##	RecipientLastName	RecipientFirstName	RecipientEmail	ExternalReference											
## 1:															
## 2:															
## 3:															
## 4:															
## 5:															
## 6:															
##	LocationLatitude	LocationLongitude	DistributionChannel	UserLanguage											
## 1:	37.777099609375	-122.40599822998046875	anonymous	EN											
## 2:	36.5802001953125	-121.84429931640625	anonymous	EN											
## 3:	39.1269073486328125	-76.697998046875	anonymous	EN											
## 4:	39.1269073486328125	-76.697998046875	anonymous	EN											
## 5:	33.87890625	-117.53530120849609375	anonymous	EN											
## 6:	36.6808013916015625	-121.61640167236328125	anonymous	EN											
##	Q_RecaptchaScore	Q1	Q2	Q3											
## 1:	0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625	Female	Yes	21-40											
## 2:	0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625	Female	Yes	21-40											
## 3:	0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625	Female	Yes	21-40											
## 4:	0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625	Female	Yes	21-40											
## 5:	0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625	Female	Yes	21-40											
## 6:	0.90000000000000002220446049250313080847263336181640625	Male	Yes	61+											
##	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	8B	9B	10B	11B	12B						
## 1:	Democrat	Graduate degree	Asian	Yes	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>						
## 2:	Other	Graduate degree	Caucasian	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes						
## 3:		College degree	Caucasian	No	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>						
## 4:	Democrat	College degree	Hispanic / Latinx	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No						
## 5:	Other	College degree	Caucasian	Yes	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>						
## 6:	Republican	Graduate degree	Caucasian	No	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>						
##	13B	14B	15B	16B	17B	8A	9A	10A	11A	12A	13A	14A	15A	16A	17A
## 1:	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
## 2:	No	Yes	No	No	No	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>
## 3:	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
## 4:	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>
## 5:	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
## 6:	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	<NA>	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
##	assignment score														
## 1:	0	9													
## 2:	1	8													
## 3:	0	9													
## 4:	1	9													

```
## 5:      0    10
## 6:      0     7

# Compute the SD and point estimates with pilot data
sd_pilot <- data_w_scores[, sd(score)]
sd_pilot

## [1] 1.3434

d <- data_w_scores[, .(scores=mean(score)), by = assignment]
mod <- lm(score ~ assignment, data_w_scores)
ate <- diff(d$scores)
ate

## [1] -0.27381

stargazer(mod, type="text")

##
## =====
##                               Dependent variable:
##                               -----
##                               score
## -----
## assignment                    -0.274
##                               (0.536)
##
## Constant                      7.857***
##                               (0.364)
##
## -----
## Observations                  26
## R2                           0.011
## Adjusted R2                  -0.030
## Residual Std. Error          1.364 (df = 24)
## F Statistic                   0.261 (df = 1; 24)
## =====
## Note:                        *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

## Power calculation
power.t.test(d=ate,sig.level=0.95,power=0.8,sd=sd,alternative="two.sided")

##
## Two-sample t test power calculation
##
##      n = 21.818
##      delta = 0.27381
##      sd = 1
##      sig.level = 0.95
##      power = 0.8
##      alternative = two.sided
##
## NOTE: n is number in *each* group

# Modify the column names for better readability
data_mod <- rename(data_w_scores,
  Gender = Q1,
  Reg_Voter = Q2,
```

```

    Age_bin = Q3,
    Party = Q4,
    Education = Q5,
    Ethnicity = Q6,
    Soc_Med_Active = Q7
  )
head(data_mod[,19:27])

```

```

##      Gender Reg_Voter Age_bin      Party      Education      Ethnicity
## 1: Female      Yes  21-40    Democrat Graduate degree      Asian
## 2: Female      Yes  21-40      Other Graduate degree      Caucasian
## 3: Female      Yes  21-40              College degree      Caucasian
## 4: Female      Yes  21-40    Democrat College degree Hispanic / Latinx
## 5: Female      Yes  21-40      Other College degree      Caucasian
## 6:   Male      Yes   61+ Republican Graduate degree      Caucasian
##      Soc_Med_Active  8B  9B
## 1:                Yes <NA> <NA>
## 2:                No  Yes  Yes
## 3:                No <NA> <NA>
## 4:                No  No  Yes
## 5:                Yes <NA> <NA>
## 6:                No <NA> <NA>

```

## MTurk data

Mturk survey 1 was done with a higher reward and no check for BOTs. The survey subject count was 100 and responses were obtained within 24 hours due to the high reward (5-8 min task paid \$1.5).

```

mturk1_dataset <- fread('./data/Mturk_1/Mturk_1_data.csv')
head(mturk1_dataset)

```

```

##      StartDate      EndDate      Status      IPAddress Progress
## 1: Start Date      End Date Response Type      IP Address Progress
## 2: 7/24/20 22:43 7/24/20 22:45 IP Address 99.75.53.174 100
## 3: 7/24/20 22:43 7/24/20 22:45 IP Address 68.33.126.140 100
## 4: 7/24/20 22:43 7/24/20 22:45 IP Address 98.19.217.229 100
## 5: 7/24/20 22:43 7/24/20 22:45 IP Address 174.85.199.139 100
## 6: 7/24/20 22:43 7/24/20 22:45 IP Address 209.159.199.248 100
##      Duration (in seconds) Finished RecordedDate      ResponseId
## 1: Duration (in seconds) Finished Recorded Date      Response ID
## 2:                124      True 7/24/20 22:45 R_3wSF9NPrJQkHDjj
## 3:                112      True 7/24/20 22:45 R_2wHbTKc7249gZQY
## 4:                99      True 7/24/20 22:45 R_2Et95GjQbJ9BgaR
## 5:                142      True 7/24/20 22:45 R_3LimuwbiSdyN053
## 6:                152      True 7/24/20 22:45 R_1rwQr9otPsxd5D
##      RecipientLastName RecipientFirstName RecipientEmail
## 1: Recipient Last Name Recipient First Name Recipient Email
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##      ExternalReference LocationLatitude LocationLongitude
## 1: External Data Reference Location Latitude Location Longitude
## 2:                42.02209473      -88.17050171

```

```

## 3:          38.86700439          -76.81729889
## 4:          34.45120239          -84.15299988
## 5:          34.34539795          -86.27400208
## 6:          44.14149475          -103.2052002
##      DistributionChannel  UserLanguage  Q_RecaptchaScore
## 1: Distribution Channel  User Language  Q_RecaptchaScore
## 2:          anonymous      EN            0.9
## 3:          anonymous      EN            0.9
## 4:          anonymous      EN            0.7
## 5:          anonymous      EN            0.9
## 6:          anonymous      EN            0.9
##
## 1: Thank you for participating in this survey - we greatly appreciate it! The survey should take less
## 2:
## 3:
## 4:
## 5:
## 6:
##      Q2                                Q38
## 1: Are you a registered voter? Did you vote in the 2012 election?
## 2:          No                                No
## 3:          Yes                                Yes
## 4:          Yes                                Yes
## 5:          Yes                                Yes
## 6:          Yes                                Yes
##      Q39                                Q37
## 1: Did you vote in the 2016 election? What is your marital status ?
## 2:          No                                Single
## 3:          Yes                                Married
## 4:          Yes                                Married
## 5:          Yes                                Married
## 6:          Yes                                Single
##      Q40
## 1: What is your primary language of communication?
## 2:          English
## 3:          English
## 4:          English
## 5:          English
## 6:          English
##      Q36                                Q3
## 1: What is your annual household income? What is your age group?
## 2:          < $60000                                21-40
## 3:          $150000 - $250000                        21-40
## 4:          $60000 - $150000                        21-40
## 5:          < $60000                                21-40
## 6:          < $60000                                21-40
##      Q4
## 1: What is your political affiliation?
## 2:          Other
## 3:          Democrat
## 4:          Republican
## 5:          Other
## 6:          Other
##      Q5                                Q6

```



```
## 1: What is your highest level of education? What ethnicity do you identify as?
```

## 6:  
##  
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y  
## 2:  
## 3:  
## 4:  
## 5:  
## 6:  
##  
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y  
## 2:  
## 3:  
## 4:  
## 5:  
## 6:  
##  
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y  
## 2:  
## 3:  
## 4:  
## 5:  
## 6:  
##  
## 1: Disclaimer: Content on social media may contain false or misleading information. Please exercise y  
## 2:  
## 3:  
## 4:  
## 5:  
## 6:  
##  
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true? 8A  
## 2:  
## 3: Yes  
## 4: Yes  
## 5: No  
## 6:  
##  
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true? 9A  
## 2:  
## 3: No  
## 4: Yes  
## 5: Yes  
## 6:  
##  
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true? 10A  
## 2:  
## 3: Yes  
## 4: Yes  
## 5: No  
## 6:  
##  
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true? 11A  
## 2:  
## 3: Yes

```

## 4: No
## 5: Yes
## 6:
## 12A
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?
## 2:
## 3: Yes
## 4: No
## 5: Yes
## 6:
## 13A
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?
## 2:
## 3: Yes
## 4: Yes
## 5: No
## 6:
## 14A
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?
## 2:
## 3: No
## 4: No
## 5: Yes
## 6:
## 15A
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?
## 2:
## 3: Yes
## 4: Yes
## 5: Yes
## 6:
## 16A
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true?
## 2:
## 3: Yes
## 4: No
## 5: No
## 6:
## 17A SC0
## 1: Do you believe that the content of the above post is true? Score
## 2: 9
## 3: Yes 3
## 4: Yes 5
## 5: No 8
## 6: 7

```

```

data_pruned <- mturk1_dataset[ 3:nrow(mturk1_dataset),]
data_pruned[, c(6,7)] <- lapply(data_pruned[, c(6,7)], as.numeric)

```

```

## Warning in lapply(data_pruned[, c(6, 7)], as.numeric): NAs introduced by
## coercion

```

```

question_col_names <- c('8B','9B','10B','11B','12B','13B','14B','15B','16B','17B',
                        '8A','9A','10A','11A','12A','13A','14A','15A','16A','17A')
for(i in c(26:length(names(data_pruned)))){

```

```

data_pruned[[i]][data_pruned[[i]]==''] <- NA
}

# Check the data
# head(data_pruned[, 26:length(names(data_pruned))])

# Set assignment group variable (treatment = 1 , control = 0)
data_pruned[, assignment := ifelse(is.na(data_pruned[, '8B']),0,1)]

## Warning in `[.data.table` (data_pruned, , `:=`(assignment,
## ifelse(is.na(data_pruned[, : Invalid .internal.selfref detected and fixed by
## taking a (shallow) copy of the data.table so that := can add this new column
## by reference. At an earlier point, this data.table has been copied by R (or
## was created manually using structure() or similar). Avoid names<- and attr<-
## which in R currently (and oddly) may copy the whole data.table. Use set* syntax
## instead to avoid copying: ?set, ?setnames and ?setattr. If this message doesn't
## help, please report your use case to the data.table issue tracker so the root
## cause can be fixed or this message improved.
head(data_pruned[, 26:length(names(data_pruned))])

##      Q3      Q4      Q5      Q6 Q7  8B  9B 10B
## 1: 21-40 Democrat Graduate degree Caucasian Yes <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 2: 21-40 Republican College degree Hispanic / Latinx Yes <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 3: 21-40 Other Some college Caucasian Yes <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 4: 21-40 Other High school graduate Caucasian Yes No Yes No
## 5: 21-40 Democrat College degree Caucasian Yes <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 6: 41-60 Republican College degree Caucasian Yes No Yes No
##      11B 12B 13B 14B 15B 16B 17B 8A 9A 10A 11A 12A 13A 14A 15A
## 1: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes No Yes Yes Yes Yes No Yes
## 2: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes Yes Yes No No Yes No Yes
## 3: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> No Yes No Yes Yes No Yes Yes
## 4: Yes Yes No Yes No No No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 5: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> No Yes No No No No No No
## 6: Yes Yes No No Yes No Yes <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
##      16A 17A SCO assignment
## 1: Yes Yes 3 0
## 2: No Yes 5 0
## 3: No No 8 0
## 4: <NA> <NA> 7 1
## 5: No No 6 0
## 6: <NA> <NA> 6 1

answer_guide <- c('Yes','Yes','No','Yes','No','No','Yes','Yes','No','No',
                  'Yes','Yes','No','Yes','No','No','Yes','Yes','No','No')

compute_scores <- function(dataset,answer_guide){
  for(i in 1:nrow(data_pruned)){
    dataset[i,"score"] <- sum(dataset[i,26:length(names(dataset))] == answer_guide,na.rm=TRUE)
  }
  return(dataset)
}

data_w_scores <- compute_scores(data_pruned,answer_guide)
head(data_w_scores[,31:length(names(data_w_scores))])

```

```
##      8B   9B  10B  11B  12B  13B  14B  15B  16B  17B   8A   9A  10A  11A  12A
## 1: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes  No  Yes  Yes  Yes
## 2: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> Yes  Yes  Yes  No  No
## 3: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> No  Yes  No  Yes  Yes
## 4:   No  Yes  No  Yes  Yes  No  Yes  No  No  No <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
## 5: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> No  Yes  No  No  No
## 6:   No  Yes  No  Yes  Yes  No  No  Yes  No  Yes <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
##      13A 14A 15A 16A 17A SCO assignment score
## 1: Yes  No  Yes  Yes  Yes   3         0   3
## 2: Yes  No  Yes  No  Yes   5         0   5
## 3:   No  Yes  Yes  No  No   8         0   4
## 4: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>  7         1   5
## 5:   No  No  No  No  No   6         0   6
## 6: <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>  6         1   2
```

```
sd <- data_w_scores[, sd(score)]
sd
```

```
## [1] 1.1527
```

```
d <- data_w_scores[, .(scores=mean(score)), by = assignment]
mod <- lm(score ~ assignment, data_w_scores)
ate <- diff(d$scores)
ate
```

```
## [1] 0.40902
```

```
stargazer(mod, type="text")
```

```
##
## =====
##                               Dependent variable:
##                               -----
##                               score
## -----
## assignment                    0.409*
##                               (0.227)
##
## Constant                      4.451***
##                               (0.160)
##
## -----
## Observations                  101
## R2                           0.032
## Adjusted R2                   0.022
## Residual Std. Error          1.140 (df = 99)
## F Statistic                   3.250* (df = 1; 99)
## =====
## Note:                        *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01
```

```
## Power calculation
power.t.test(d=ate,sig.level=0.95,n=nrow(data_w_scores),sd=sd,alternative="two.sided")
```

```
##
## Two-sample t test power calculation
##
## n = 101
```

```
##          delta = 0.40902
##          sd = 1.1527
##          sig.level = 0.95
##          power = 0.99303
##          alternative = two.sided
##
## NOTE: n is number in *each* group
```

## EDA with Mturk data set 1

```
data_w_scores[, .(score_mean = mean(score)), by=assignment]
```

```
##      assignment score_mean
## 1:           0      4.451
## 2:           1      4.860
```

```
data_mod <- rename(data_w_scores,
  Gender = Q1,
  Reg_Voter = Q2,
  Age_bin = Q3,
  Party = Q4,
  Education = Q5,
  Ethnicity = Q6,
  Soc_Med_Active = Q7
)
```

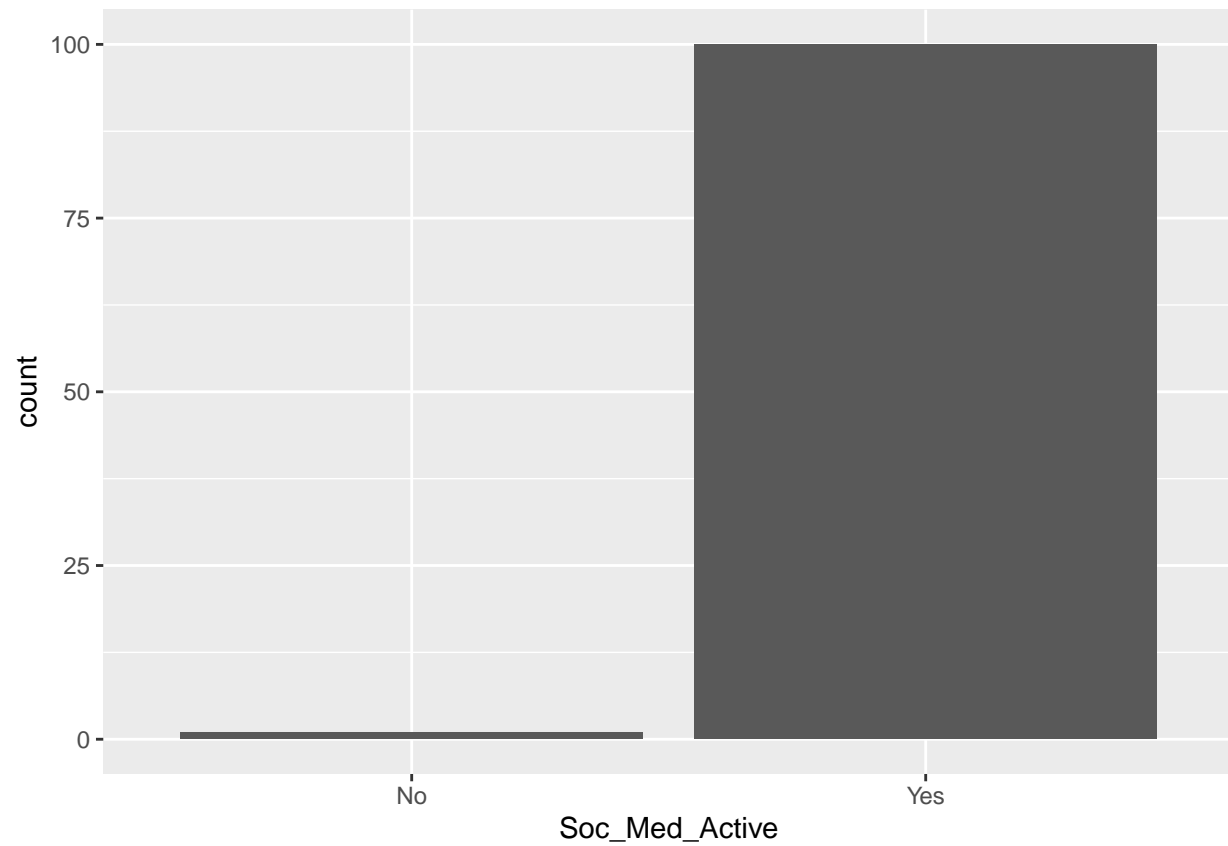
```
data_mod$Gender[data_mod$Gender==''] <- 'Unanswered'
```

```
names(data_mod)
```

```
## [1] "StartDate"      "EndDate"        "Status"
## [4] "IPAddress"      "Progress"       "Duration (in seconds)"
## [7] "Finished"       "RecordedDate"   "ResponseId"
## [10] "RecipientLastName" "RecipientFirstName" "RecipientEmail"
## [13] "ExternalReference" "LocationLatitude"  "LocationLongitude"
## [16] "DistributionChannel" "UserLanguage"     "Q_RecaptchaScore"
## [19] "Gender"         "Reg_Voter"       "Q38"
## [22] "Q39"           "Q37"             "Q40"
## [25] "Q36"           "Age_bin"         "Party"
## [28] "Education"     "Ethnicity"       "Soc_Med_Active"
## [31] "8B"           "9B"              "10B"
## [34] "11B"          "12B"             "13B"
## [37] "14B"          "15B"             "16B"
## [40] "17B"          "8A"              "9A"
## [43] "10A"          "11A"             "12A"
## [46] "13A"          "14A"             "15A"
## [49] "16A"          "17A"             "SC0"
## [52] "assignment"    "score"
```

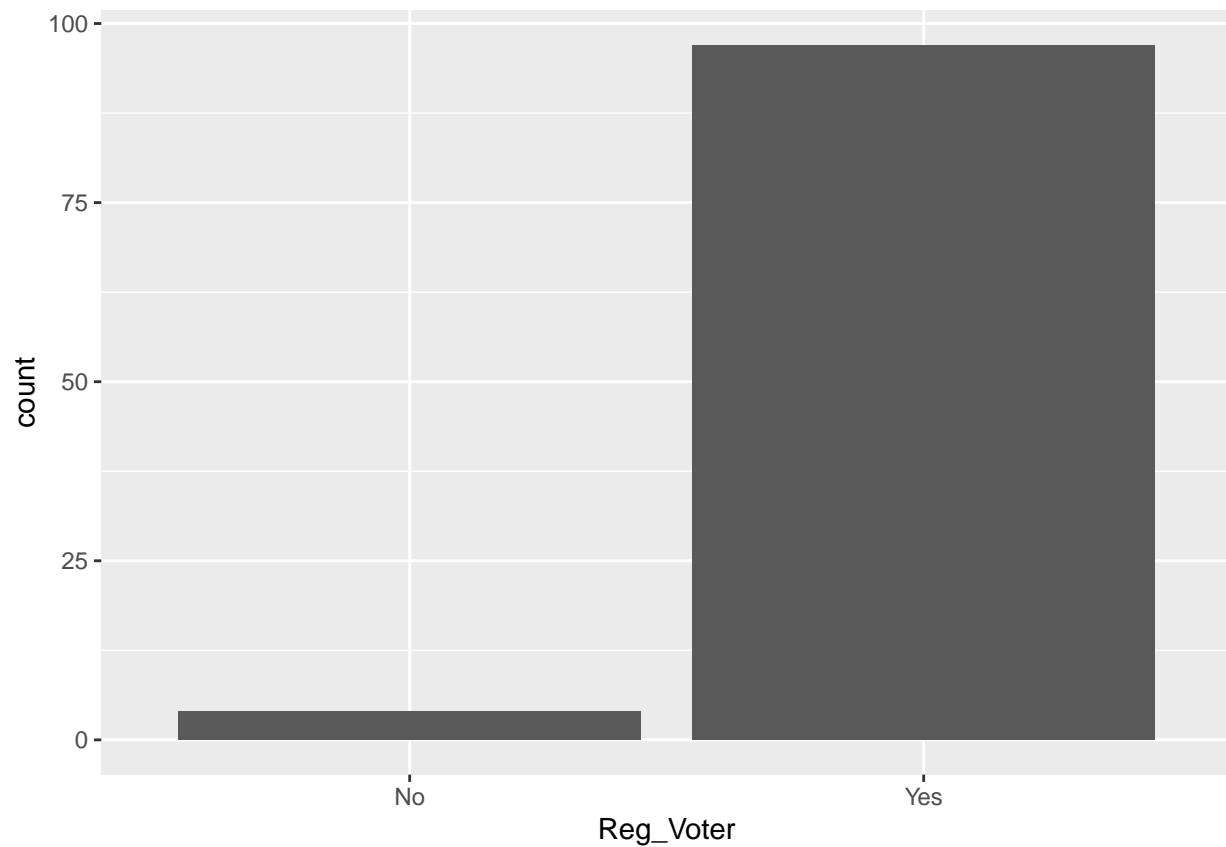
Nearly everyone in the Mturk survey considered themselves active on social media

```
ggplot(data_mod) + geom_bar(aes(x = Soc_Med_Active))
```



Also nearly everyone said that they were registered as a voter currently

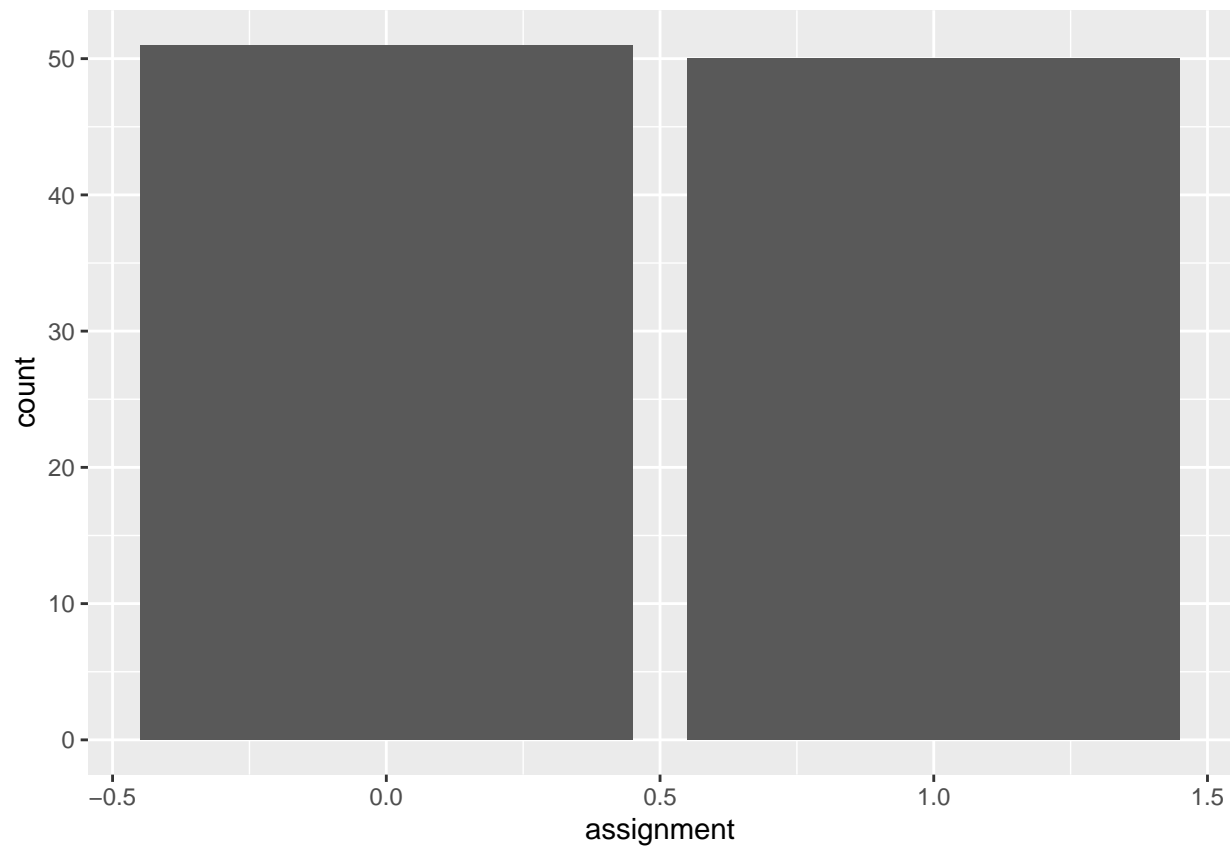
```
ggplot(data_mod) + geom_bar(aes(x = Reg_Voter))
```



The randomization worked well in the survey software and we had an equal allocation to treatment and control groups in the experiment

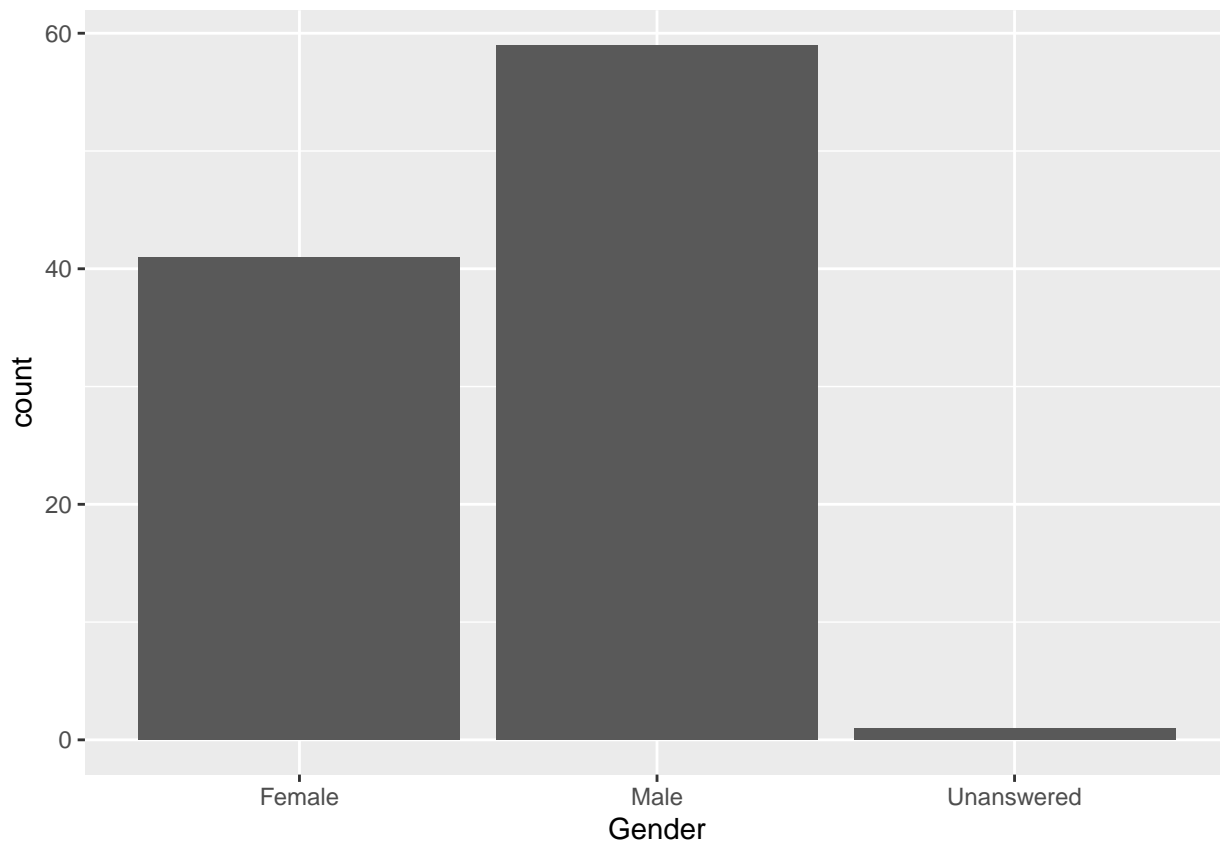
```
ggplot(data_mod) + geom_bar(aes(x = assignment))
```





There does seem to be a slight skew in the distribution of participant's gender towards the Male gender (One subject did not answer the gender question)

```
ggplot(data_mod) + geom_bar(aes(x = Gender))
```

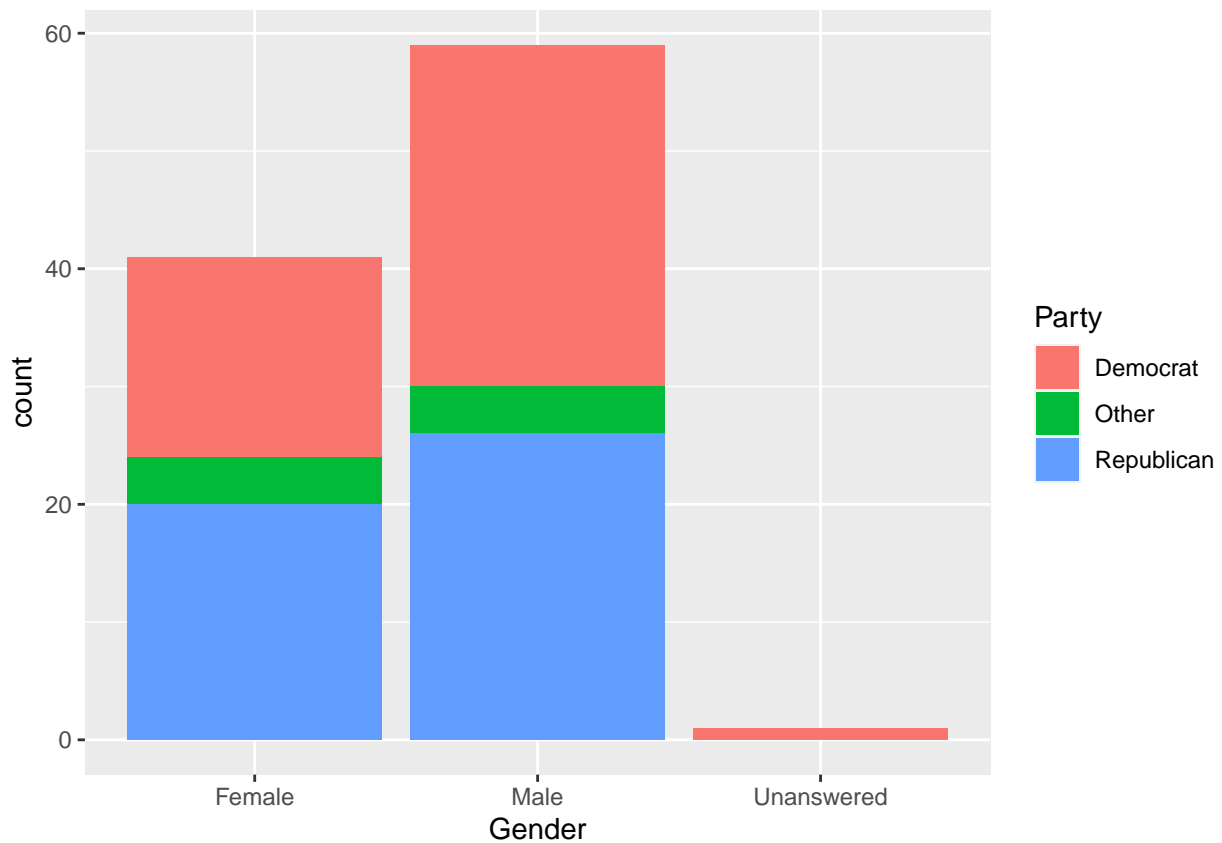


Within each gender category, we see that the party affiliation is approximately evenly distributed.

```
data_mod[, .N, by=.(Gender,Party)]
```

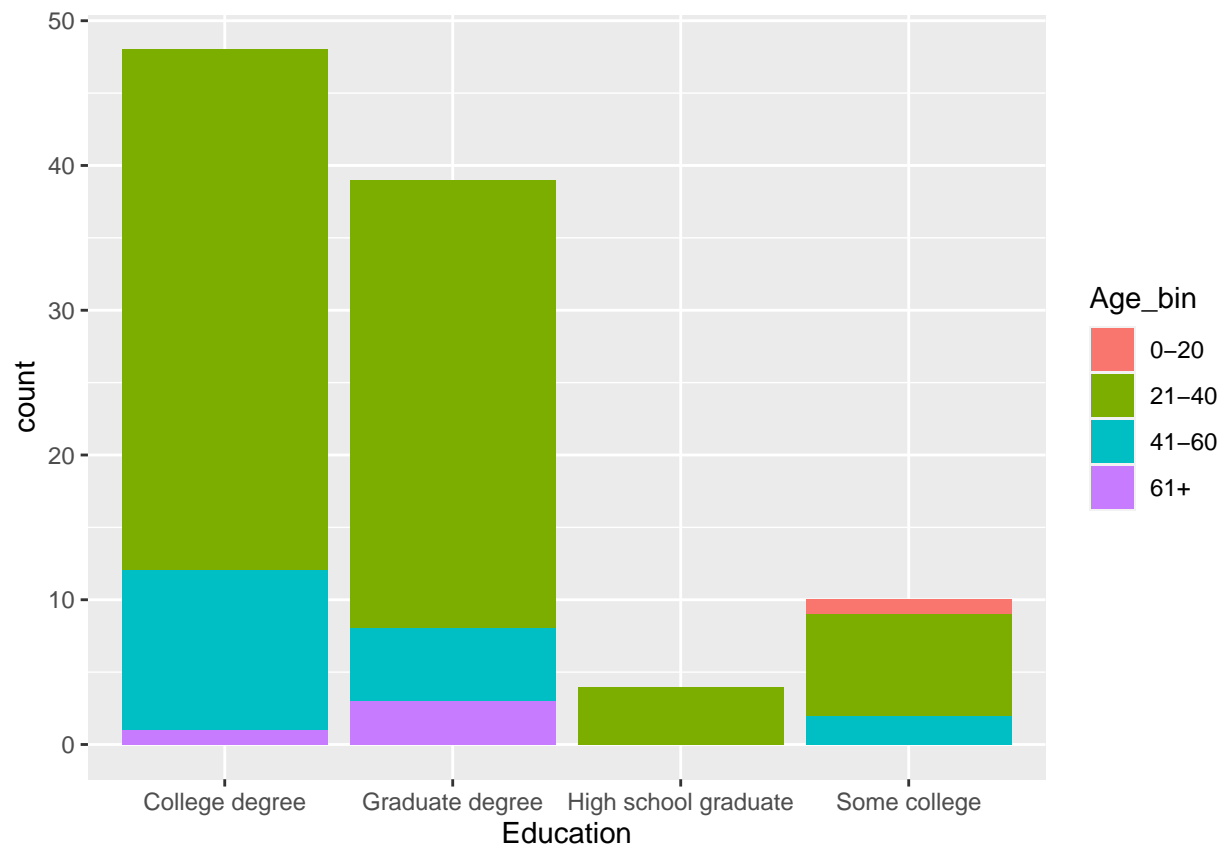
```
##      Gender      Party  N
## 1:   Female  Democrat 17
## 2:   Female Republican 20
## 3:   Female      Other  4
## 4:    Male      Other  4
## 5:    Male  Democrat 29
## 6:    Male Republican 26
## 7: Unanswered  Democrat  1
```

```
ggplot(data_mod) + geom_bar(aes(x = Gender, fill=Party))
```

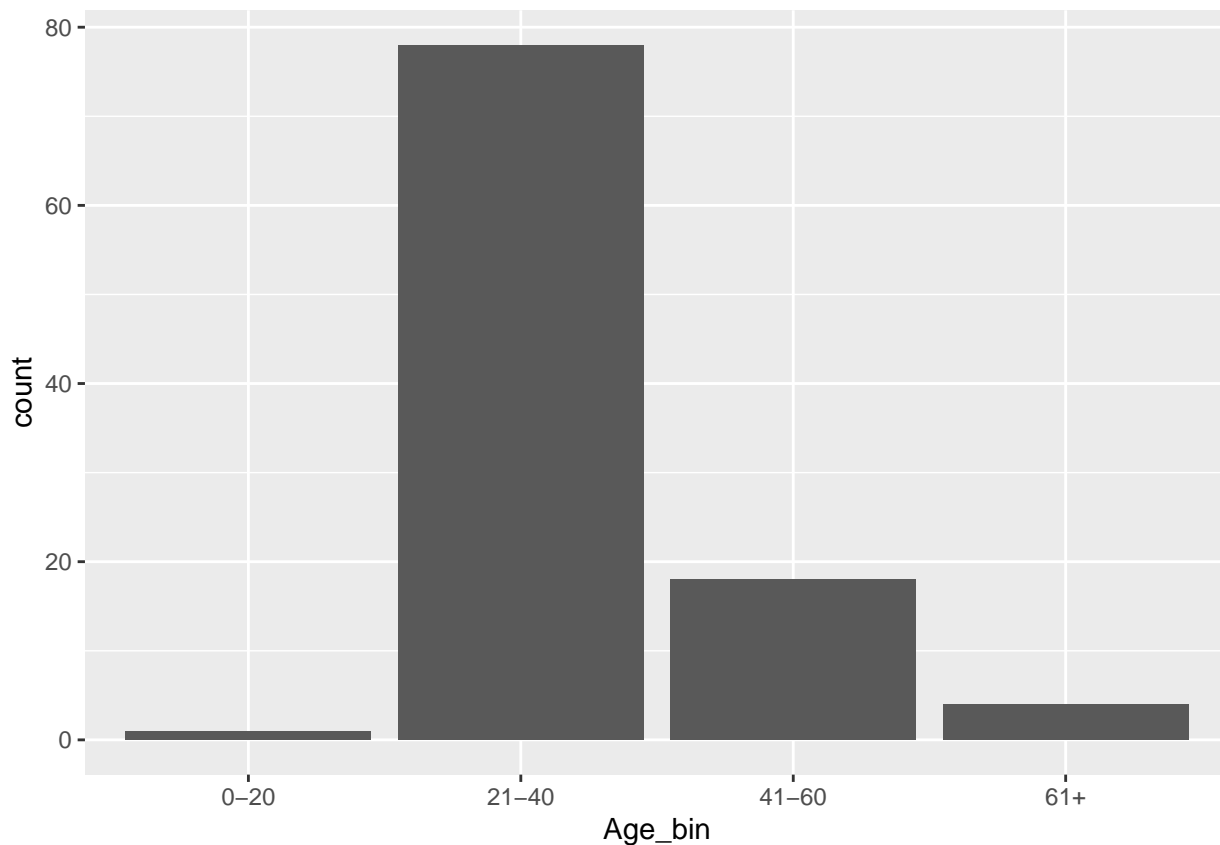


Our dataset does appear to consist mostly of people with atleast a college degree or higher and the participants mostly belong to the 21-40 age bucket.

```
ggplot(data_mod) + geom_bar(aes(x = Education, fill=Age_bin))
```



```
ggplot(mutate(data_mod, Age = fct_infreq(Age_bin))) + geom_bar(aes(x = Age_bin))
```



```
data_mod[, .N, by=(Party, Age_bin)]
```

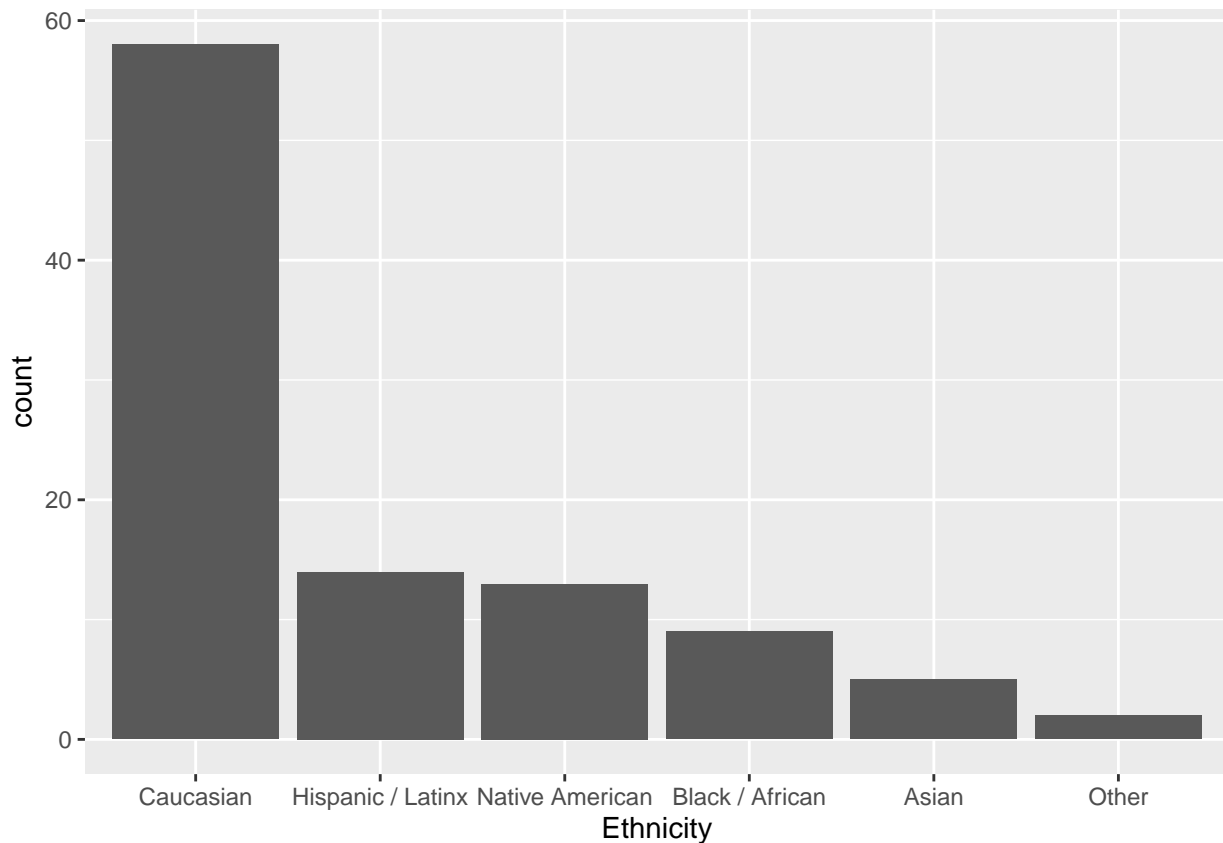
```
##      Party Age_bin  N
## 1: Democrat  21-40 40
## 2: Republican 21-40 33
## 3:   Other    21-40  5
## 4: Republican 41-60 10
## 5:   Other    41-60  3
## 6: Democrat  41-60  5
## 7: Democrat   61+  1
## 8: Republican 61+  3
## 9: Democrat   0-20  1
```

In terms of ethnicity of the randomly sampled subjects, the majority were Caucasian followed by approximately equal counts of Hispanic and Native americans, followed by african americans and asians.

```
data_mod[, .N, by=Ethnicity]
```

```
##      Ethnicity  N
## 1:   Caucasian 58
## 2: Hispanic / Latinx 14
## 3:  Native American 13
## 4:  Black / African  9
## 5:      Asian      5
## 6:      Other      2
```

```
ggplot(mutate(data_mod, Ethnicity = fct_infreq(Ethnicity))) + geom_bar(aes(x = Ethnicity))
```



```
compute_robust_ci<- function(mod,clustering = FALSE,data=NA) {
  coefs <- names(mod$coefficients)
  if (clustering){
    # calculate robust clustered standard errors
    robust_se <- sqrt(diag(vcovCL(mod,cluster = data)))
  }
  else{
    # calculate robust standard errors without clustering
    robust_se <- sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod)))
  }
  ci_ll <- NA
  ci_ul <- NA
  for(i in 1:length(coefs)){
    ci_ll[i] <- mod$coefficients[[coefs[i]]] - 1.96 * robust_se[i]
    ci_ul[i] <- mod$coefficients[[coefs[i]]] + 1.96 * robust_se[i]
  }
  ci_custom <- matrix(c(ci_ll,ci_ul), nrow = length(coefs), byrow = FALSE)
  return(ci_custom)
}
```

```
compute_robust_se<- function(mod,clustering = FALSE,data=NA) {
  coefs <- names(mod$coefficients)
  if (clustering){
    # calculate robust clustered standard errors
    robust_se <- sqrt(diag(vcovCL(mod,cluster = data)))
```

```

}
else{
  # calculate robust standard errors without clustering
  robust_se <- sqrt(diag(vcovHC(mod)))
}

return(robust_se)
}

mod <- lm(score ~ assignment+factor(Gender)+factor(Party)+factor(Age_bin)+ factor(Ethnicity)+factor(Edu
se_custom <- compute_robust_se(mod)
stargazer(mod,type="text")

```

```

##
## =====
##                               Dependent variable:
##                               -----
##                               score
## -----
## assignment                    0.507**
##                               (0.240)
##
## factor(Gender)Male            0.002
##                               (0.246)
##
## factor(Gender)Unanswered      -2.848**
##                               (1.165)
##
## factor(Party)Other            0.202
##                               (0.495)
##
## factor(Party)Republican       0.015
##                               (0.261)
##
## factor(Age_bin)21-40         -0.010
##                               (1.275)
##
## factor(Age_bin)41-60        -0.348
##                               (1.305)
##
## factor(Age_bin)61+          -0.309
##                               (1.443)
##
## factor(Ethnicity)Black / African 0.483
##                               (0.658)
##
## factor(Ethnicity)Caucasian    0.046
##                               (0.569)
##
## factor(Ethnicity)Hispanic / Latinx 0.349
##                               (0.615)
##
## factor(Ethnicity)Native American 0.683
##                               (0.627)

```

```

##
## factor(Ethnicity)Other                0.518
##                                     (1.038)
##
## factor(Education)Graduate degree      0.186
##                                     (0.264)
##
## factor(Education)High school graduate -0.641
##                                     (0.639)
##
## factor(Education)Some college         -0.789*
##                                     (0.456)
##
## Constant                             4.304***
##                                     (1.429)
##
## -----
## Observations                        101
## R2                                0.209
## Adjusted R2                        0.058
## Residual Std. Error                1.119 (df = 84)
## F Statistic                        1.384 (df = 16; 84)
## =====
## Note:                             *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

```