



The Relationship between Political Affiliation and Global Warming Belief

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Introduction

- The most important factor for the lack of action towards solving the issue of global warming is believed to be a general misunderstanding about the issue and what causes it (Bord et al, 2000).
- Factors like religious beliefs also have effects on people's beliefs in climate change and can be used as an indicator whether one is more or less likely to believe in global warming or its effects (Lowe, Israel, Paudyal, & Wallen, 2022).
- There are many reasons why one may not believe in global warming, though any non-believers could be a threat to the fight to combat global warming.
- Being able to see relationships between different personal variables and belief in global warming can help others know who to target when wanting to educate on global warming and its effects.

Research Questions

- **Is there an association between Political Affiliation and one's belief in climate change, when controlling for religion?**

Methods

Sample

- Respondents (n=929) were drawn from the 2017 National Surveys on Energy and Environment (NSEE), a nationally representative sample of United States residents over the age of 18.

Measures

- Belief in global warming was assessed, with respondents being able to select yes, no, not sure, or they could refuse to answer. Additionally, respondents were asked to select the religion that best described them. The options were Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Atheist, or other.
- Respondents had to provide their state of residence, which was then recoded into four regions. Those regions were North, South, Midwest, and West.
- Respondents were also asked to identify which party they most closely align with. The options were, Democrat, Republican, Independent, or other.

Discussion

- Political Party can often serve as an indicator as to people's beliefs in global warming.
- For those who consider themselves to be Democrats, they overwhelmingly likely to believe in global warming.
- Those who consider themselves to be Republicans, they are less likely than Democrats to believe in global warming, though they are more likely than not to believe in it. The same applies to those who identify as Independents.
- Further research is needed to determine if political affiliation can predict more specific views of people on environmental issues, apart from just general belief in global warming.

Results

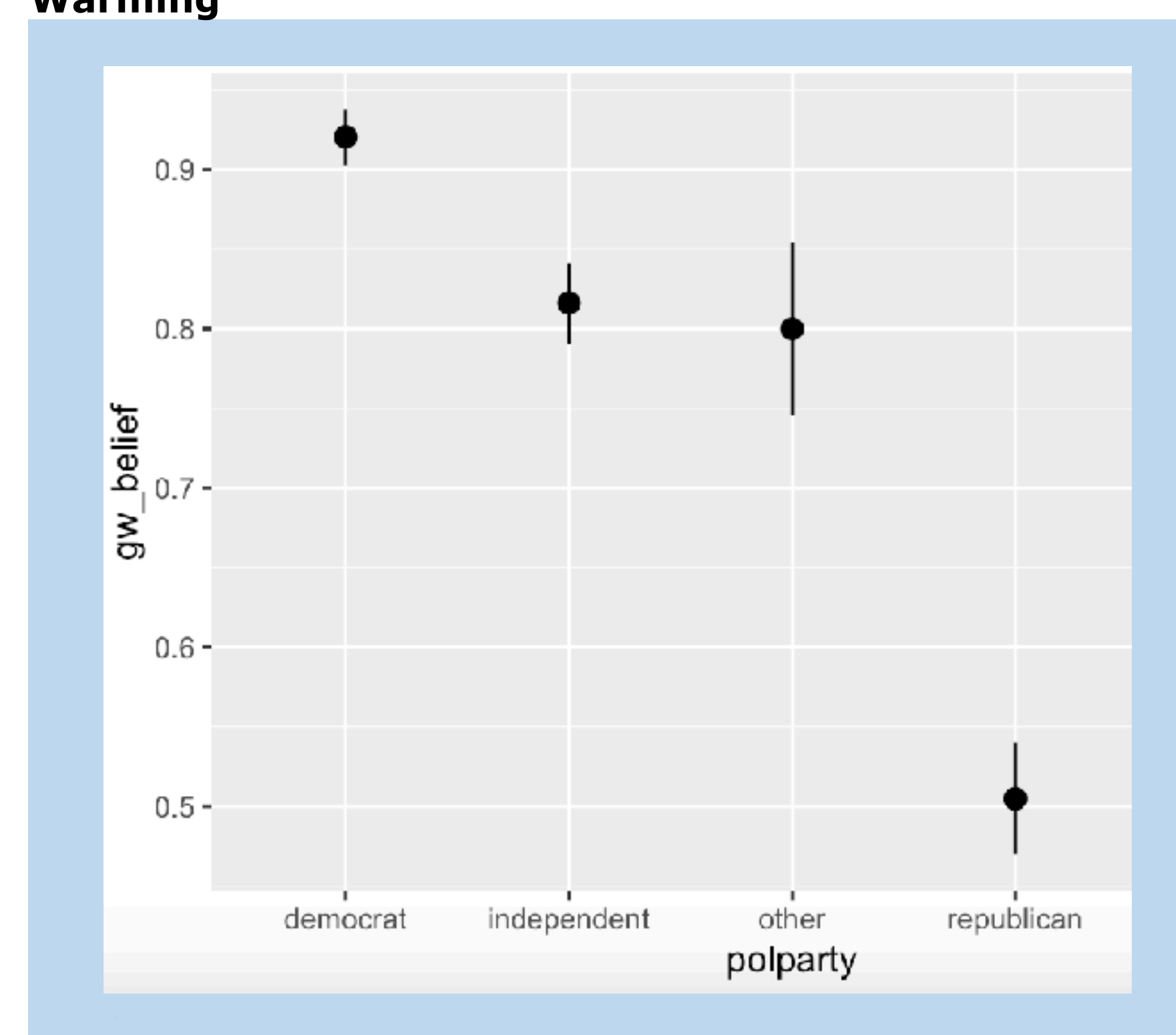
Univariate

- 67.81% of respondents indicated they believe in global warming. 20.99% indicated they do not.
- 27.56% of respondents identified as Democrats. 25.40% of respondents identified as Republicans. 29.07% of respondents identifies as Independents.

Bivariate

- A chi-square test showed that **political party** was significantly associated with **belief in global warming** ($p < 0.001$).
- Chi-square test results showed that there is not a significant association between region of residence and beliefs in global warming ($p = 0.1257$). However, a chi-square test showed that religion is significant ($p < 0.05$).

Figure 1. Political Affiliation and Belief in Global Warming



- Figure 1 reveals that **Democrats are the most likely to believe in global warming and Republicans are the least likely to do so**. Furthermore, Independents and those affiliated to other parties are more likely to believe in climate change than Republicans but less likely than Democrats.

Figure 2. Belief in Global Warming vs Region by Political Affiliation

