

The Association Between Identifying as Hispanic American and Political Partisanship

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Introduction

- In the 2022 midterm elections, the ‘red wave’ (or uptick in Republican support) that was anticipated by political strategists failed to crash ashore - citing national trends of democrats doing better than anticipated in battleground states. The red wave did, however, materialize in Florida as Hispanic voters showed up in record numbers for Ron DeSantis and Marco Rubio.
- Latino registered voters identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party over the Republican Party by a nearly two-to-one margin (64% vs. 33% in this year’s survey), with Latino party identification shifting little over the past few years (Pew Research Center, 2022)

Methods

Sample

Respondents were drawn from the 2021 General Social Survey (GSS), a nationally representative sample of adults 18 or older in the United States who live in non-institutional housing at the time of interviewing

Measures:

Hispanic Identity -

Hispanic identity was measured as a numeric variable. Respondents were asked “Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino/Latina? IF YES: which group are you from?” The two questions above were asked sequentially of the respondent.

Political Identification -

Party identification was also asked as a numeric variable. Respondents were asked, “Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or what?” This variable uses the GSS Methodological Report No. 56.

First Generation Status -

First-generation status was determined by whether or not the individual was born in the United States; this was a numeric variable.

Research Questions

- Is there an association between identifying as Hispanic American and voting for a particular political party?
- Does first generation status alter the association between identifying as Hispanic American and voting Republican?

Results

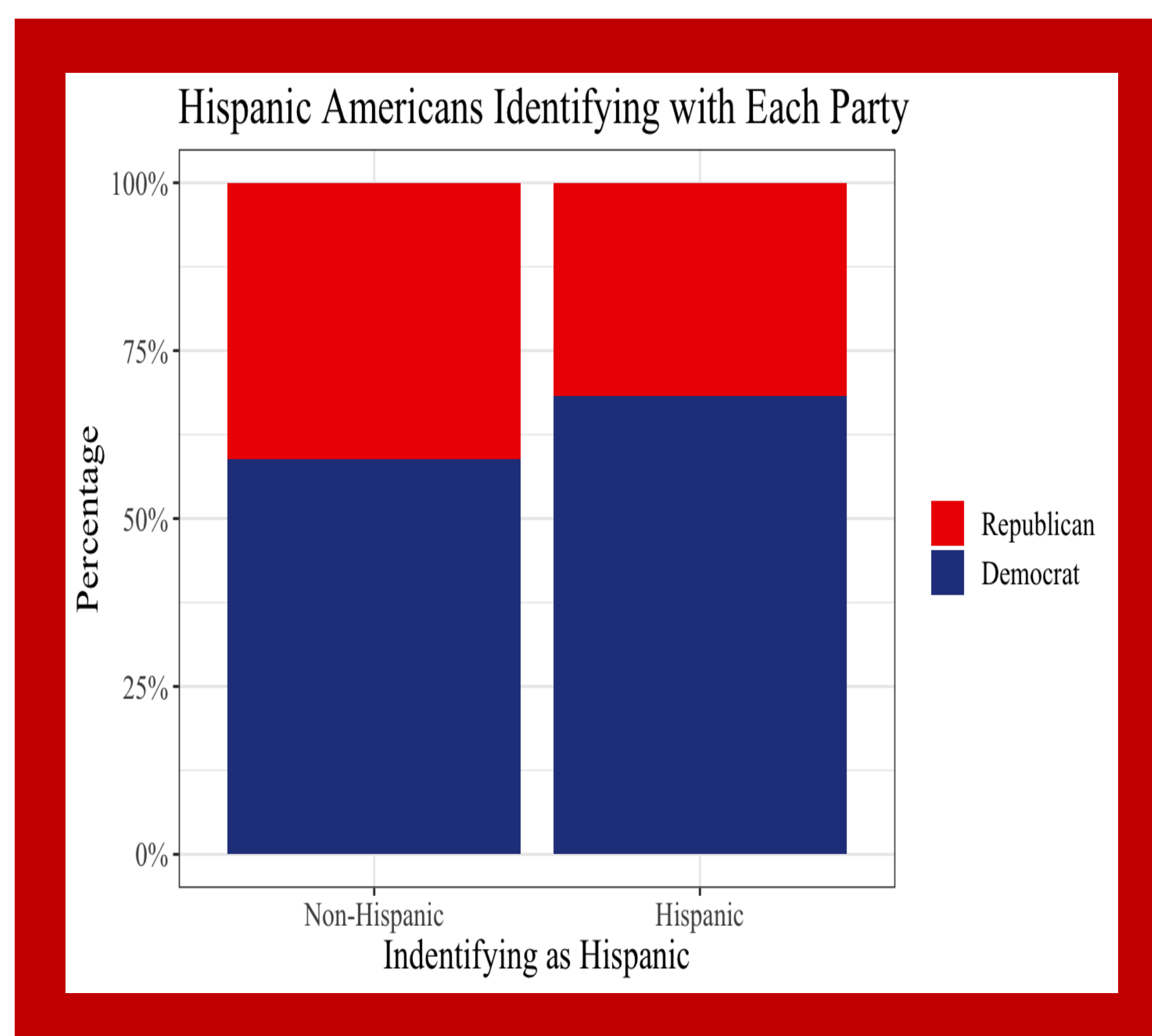


Figure 1: Bivariate Graph

Univariate -

- 40.35% of the total sample identifies as Republican
- 59.65% of the total sample identifies as Democrat

Bivariate -

Pearson’s Chi-Square analysis shows that there is a significant relationship between identifying as Hispanic American and which political party the individual identifies with. The X-squared = 7.9798, df = 1, p-value = 0.00473. Considering that the p-value is <0.05 - this relationship is significant.

Multivariate -

After controlling for whether the Hispanic American was born inside the United States, it was more likely for the individual to identify as Republican if they were born inside the US. If the Hispanic individual was born outside of the US, they were more likely to vote Democrat.

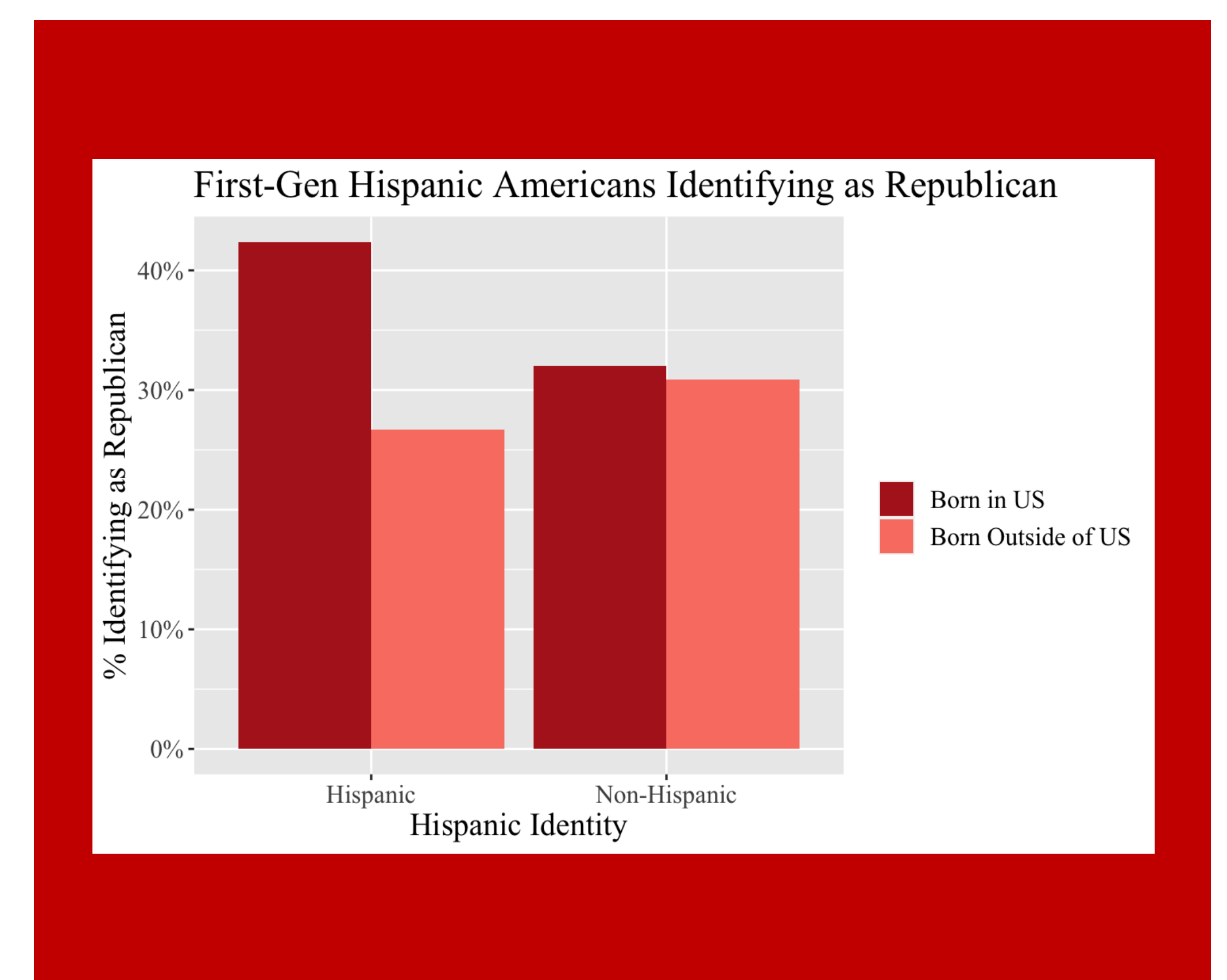


Figure 2: Multivariate Graphs

Discussion

- Being Hispanic-American may make it more likely that an individual identifies as a Democrat in comparison to someone who is not Hispanic-American.
- First-generation status may affect a Hispanic American’s likelihood of being a Democrat with a Hispanic American who is born in the US being more likely to be a Republican than a Hispanic American who is born outside of the US.

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