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Why Youth Voters Have Lower Participation


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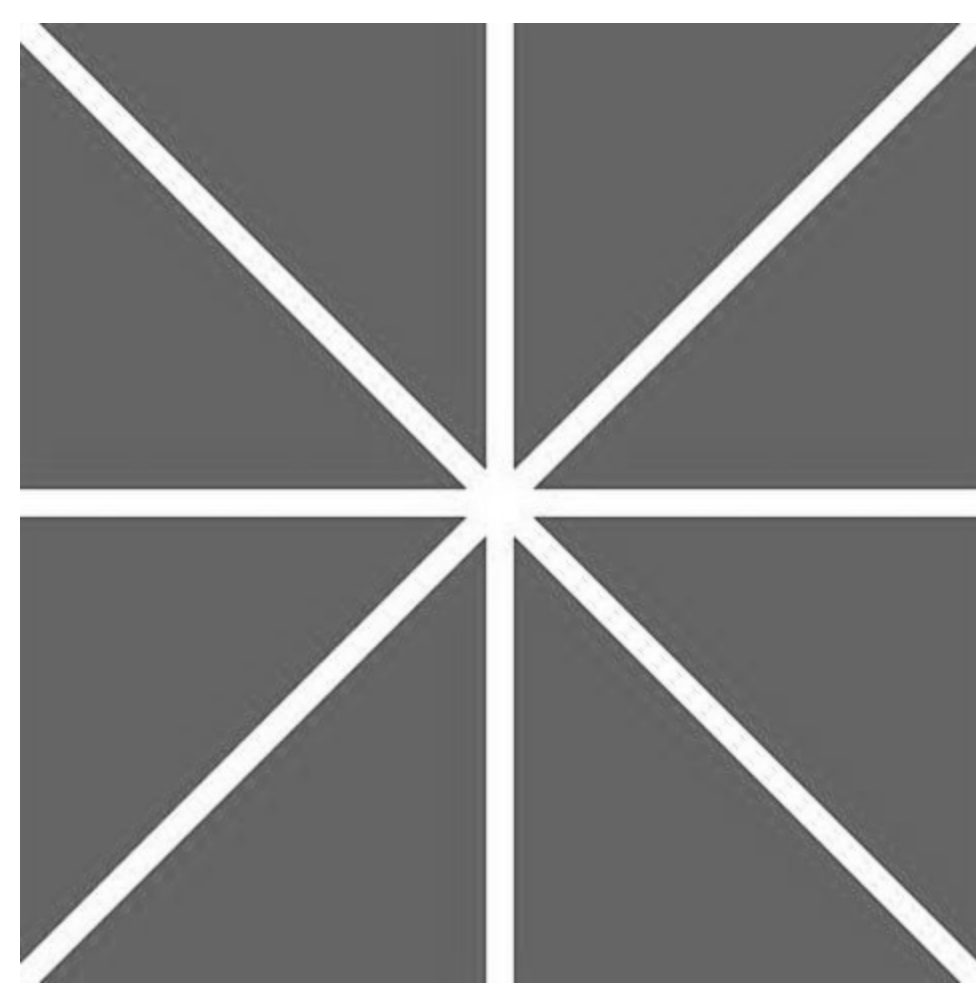
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WHY YOUTH VOTERS HAVE LOWER PARTICIPATION

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Introduction

Intro: In our research, we are interested in discovering the reasoning behind the low voter turn out rate in young adults for recent presidential elections. Our research will consist of comparing and contrasting different external variables that can negatively or positively impact the voter turn out rate of young adults. We will be examining factors such as race, registered voters, family income, education level, and gender in order to extract our data.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
1	.706	.499	.498

Table 1. This is the model summary.
a. Predictors: (Constant), Respondent Age Group, Race recorder for non White, R registered voters, R education, family income.

Hypothesis

Specific factors impact the voter participation of young adults. We believe that some of the significant factors that impact voter turnout for young adults are race, education, and income.

Experimental Method

Using the SPSS software we imputed variables including family income, race recorder for white contrast, education, registered voters, and gender, all against the respondent age group:

- We researched factors that impact voter participation
- We ran these factors along with other through regression model
- Analyzed the data and established significant connections

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Significance
1 Regression	624.221	5	124.844	1225.813	.000
Residual	627.372	6160	.102		
Total	1251.593	6165			

Table 2. This figure is of the ANOVA graph.
a. Dependent variable; Did R vote (1=yes, 0=no)
B. Predictors: (Constant), Respondent Age Group, Race recorder for non White, R registered voters, R education, family income.

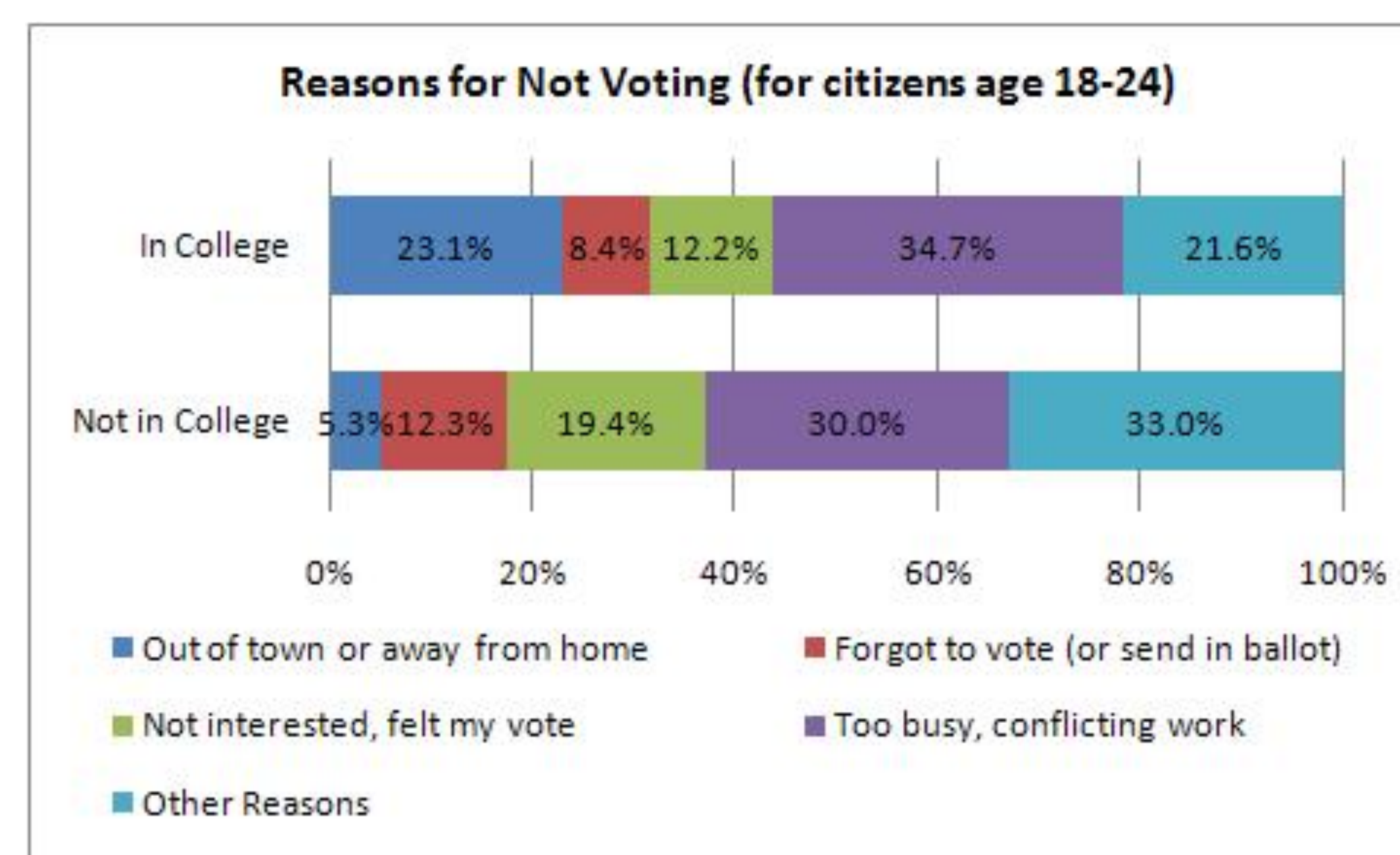


Figure 1. This graph shows some of the main reasons that youth voters do not participate, with the additional factors of education. As we discovered there is a difference between educated and uneducated youth voters that can even be seen in their extended reasons for not participating in an election voting.

Conclusions

Based on the research we conducted and the model that was created we can establish certain factors that directly impact the likelihood of youth voting participation. Youth voters are less likely to vote because of their low feeling of political efficacy, this is exacerbated for those young voters of minority groups. The factor of a minority group was found to be an important impact on young voters with white youth having a higher probability of participation. This can be attributed to their social position that alienates them from political processes.

Education was found to be an important contribution to an individuals voting participation. Those individuals with a higher education are more likely to vote, this is consistent for youth voters where those obtaining their university education are more likely to vote than their counterparts. Education increases awareness of the elections as well as the importance to the political system in the United States that needs voters.

Registered voter status for a voter is a significant factor for youth voters and is one the top reasons young voters often claim as to why they do not vote. With the current set up for voting registration many individuals are unaware of the way in which to register or the deadlines to due so and then are turned away on election day.

Results

The results showed that there were significant factors to whether a youth individual voted or not, these included whether or not they were registered, race, education, and family income. From the results gender was eliminated as it showed to significant factor as to whether a young adult voted.

The factors of registration, education, family income, and race were all incredibly significant with a .000 significance rating. There are limited however to the information and results accumulated here since the model did not control for multiple years or other outside variables.

Model	Standardized Coefficients Beta	Significance
1 (Constant)		.300
R Registered (yes=1;other =0)	.657	.000
Race recorder for White contrast	-.043	.000
R Education 4-category	.077	.000
Family income	.074	.000
Respondent age group	.029	.003

Table 3. This table shows the results from the regression model in terms of the numerical significance these variables have to the respondent age group of young voters. The lower the number the more significant the variable so here it is seen that all the factors are significant.

Family Income was found to be significant because of the position it places individuals in within our society. Those with an interest in the outcome of the election, possibly based on income, are more likely to vote than those with lower income.

Conclusion (continued)

All these conclusions are based on the variable in our regression model of respondent age group between 18-24, meaning the youth voters. These factors independently and accumulated create the reasons as to why youth voters continuously have a lower voter turnout rate for young voters.

Future Research

In the future, it would be lucrative to test the effectiveness of canvassing, through direct mail and phone calls, in order to analyze its effect on youth voter turnout. The increase of social media in presidential campaigns could play an even greater role in educating the youth about current political issues, and therefore increase their likelihood of voting. A future candidate that is charismatic and focuses on the issues that plague the youth population could also have an effect on these voting trends. The use of exit polling is another worthwhile pursuit in order to examine the characteristics of young adults that **have** voted, in order to distinguish their characteristics from the characteristics of those that do not partake in voting during presidential elections.

- Implement further variables into our model.
- Compare our results against other results found by scientists.

Acknowledgements

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