

I CAME, I SAW, I VOTED: DISTANCE TO POLLING LOCATIONS AND VOTER TURNOUT IN ONTARIO, CANADA



HOLLY ANN GARNETT AND SEAN GROGAN

Royal Military College of Canada and Polytechnique Montréal

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Development of a new data set : Mapping demographics from Canadian census data to polling divisions

We propose a way to determine demographic data of Canadian polling divisions. A simple algorithm was developed to map dissemination area data to dissemination blocks; then the demographic data is estimated by the dissemination blocks.

What influences the predicted distance to the polls?

There are systematic differences in distances and travel times to polling stations between population groups

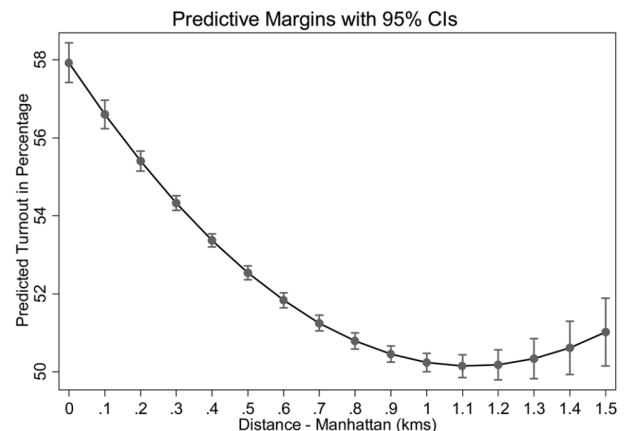
We find the following relationships between demographics and distances; as distance to the polling location increases, we see...

-  Number of electors in the polling division
-  Percentage of electors who are Indigenous
-  Average age
-  Average educational attainment
-  Average value of dwellings

Does distance to the polls influence turnout?

There is a potential negative, but non-linear, relationship between distances, travel times to turnout.

Predicted turnout based on distance to polling location



Predictive margins with a 95% CI. IV. Distance is in kilometers computed as the Manhattan (city block routing) distance, DV: Turnout. OLS Regression with control variables Average Age, % with Post-Secondary Ed, % Indigenous, Average value of Dwellings and Distance squared term

Data from: Elections Canada, Statistics Canada, Esri, Google LLC.