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

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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 95% CIs.

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

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