

# Climate Change Opinion and Party Divide

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**Introduction-** In recent years climate change and the issues surrounding it have become an increasingly polarizing issue, something which is often attributed to the division between the two sides of our political spectrum and the party specific ideologies that we often associate them with. My purpose in this study was to determine whether or not these assumptions are true, and through the analysis of survey data determine whether or not party ID is an accurate indicator of climate opinion.



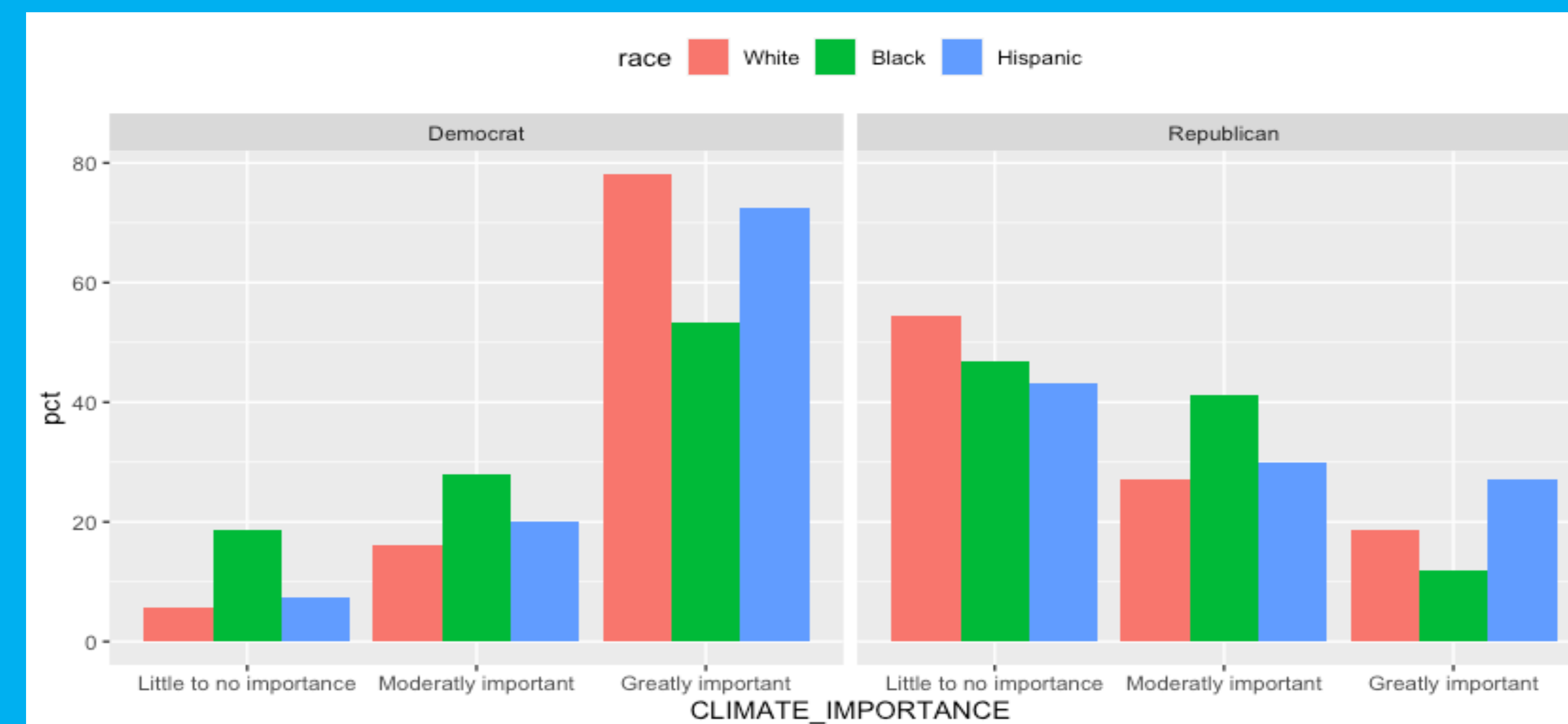
**Hypothesis-** In a comparison of individuals, those who identify as democrats are more likely recognize the significance of change than those who identify as Republican

## Bibliography-

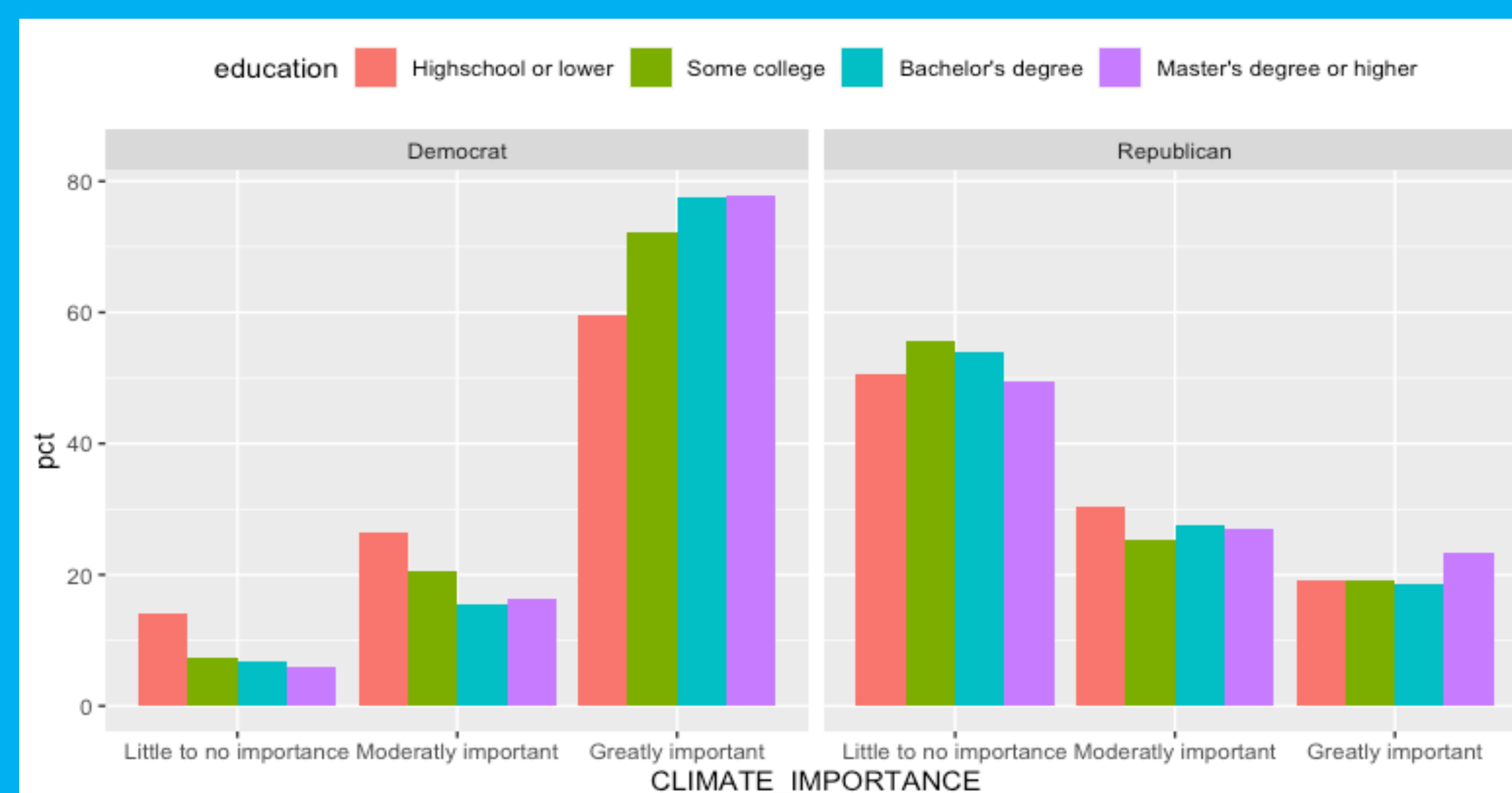
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**Materials and Methods-** This study was done using Rstudio, a coding software which allowed me to compare the responses of three dependent variables I selected to gauge opinion on climate change; How important is the issue of climate change to (you), how much is climate change effecting severe weather /temperatures in the US, and do (you) favor or oppose increased regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. To prove the relationship between my dependent variables and party ID, my independent variable, I cross referenced my results with 4 control variables, income, education, race and gender

Climate Importance by Party ID, Controlling for Race

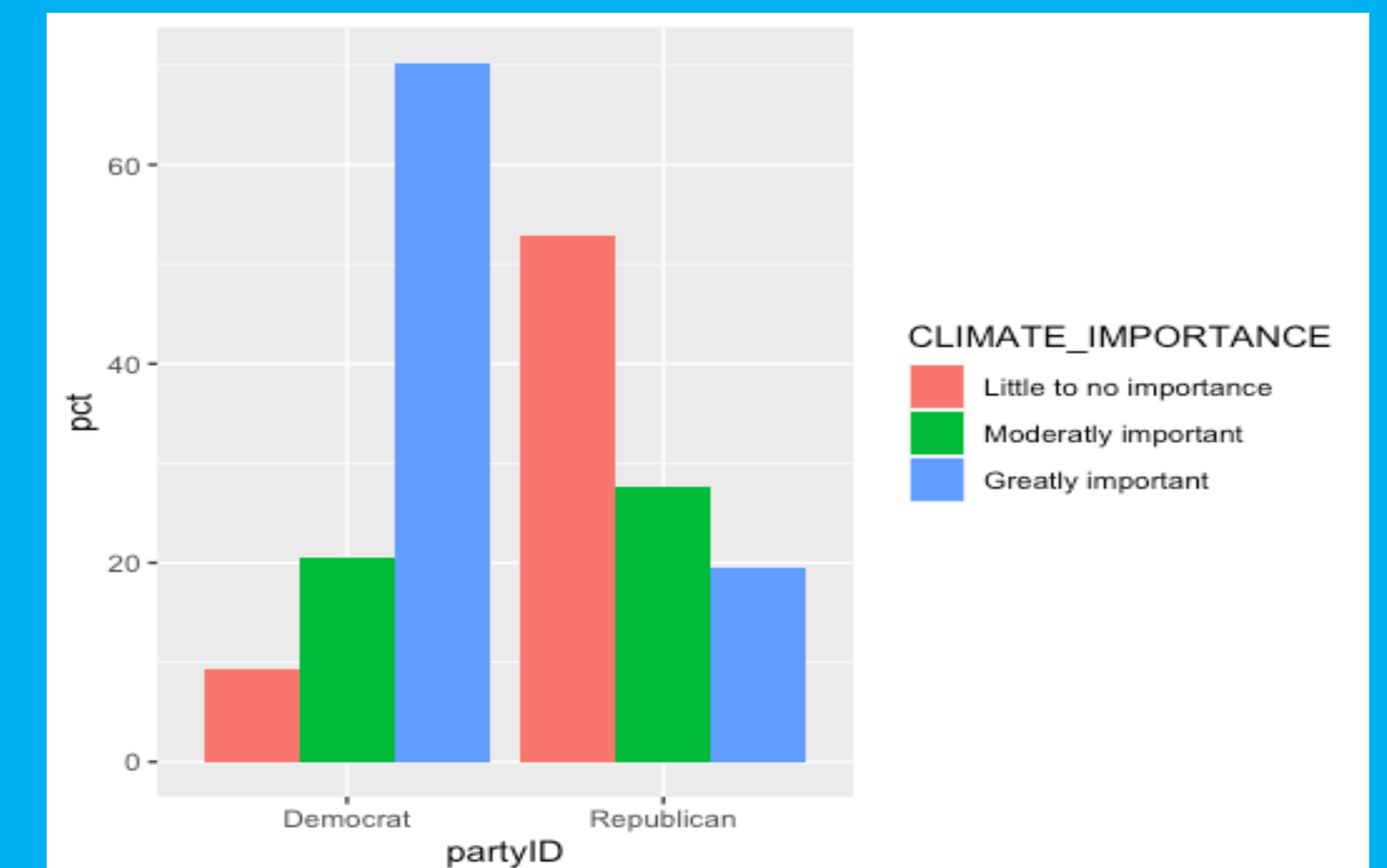


Climate Importance by Party ID, Controlling for Education



**Results-** Upon cross referencing my three dependent variables with party ID, I found there was a relationship between the two. In the question regarding climate change importance only 9% of Democrats vs 50% of Republicans said it was of little to no importance, while 70% of Democrats and only 17% of Republicans said it was greatly important. The other two dependent variables followed a similar pattern. Upon controlling for gender, I found that while all my variables had what is known in statistics as an additive relationship, where the controls did affect the dependent variable, but they did not negate the effect of party ID, the independent variable.

Climate importance by Party ID



**Conclusion-** While race, gender, income and education all have some impact on the dependent variables, climate opinion can still reliably be measured by party ID. For example, black democrats are more likely than their white counterparts to view climate change as moderately important, while what democrats are more likely to view it as greatly important. Still, both groups of democrats are more likely than their republican counterparts, white or black, to view climate change as greatly important