



Gender and its Influence on Opinion of Governmental Spending on the Environment

Introduction

Since 1992, there has been increasing ideological polarization on the support for governmental funding of the environment. The large divide in opinion creates a barrier in the country's ability to handle environmental problems efficiently and successfully (McCright, Xiao, & Dunlap, 2014). This project highlights America's attitude towards governmental spending on the environment and what might cause one to formulate these beliefs. Specifically, this project focuses on the impact that one's gender has on their opinion. Gender, as opposed to sex, is the focus variable for this project. Identifying what causes gender differences in personal and economic freedoms can help environmental educators build programs that can reach the largest number of people. (Dhenge et al., 2022).

Literature Review

What forms opinions on any sort of public spending has been researched for over decades. Gender is often a variable that shapes personal attitudes or preferences, which would affect their attitude on governmental spending. For example, women prefer significantly more spending on a variety of issues than men do (Dolan, 2002). Women are also less likely to be neutral or strongly disagree with governmental intervention to solve problems (May et al., 2021).

On the other hand, in studies done focusing on gender and environmental concern, researchers have found that gender differences when it comes to environmental concern are present, but they are not that strong (Mohai, 1997). These studies instead highlight how the socialization of men and women could be the cause of the difference in opinions. Socialization is defined as how society treats young women and men in differing ways as they grow up. There is other supporting evidence that women are more likely to express concern for social and environmental impact (May et al., 2021), which means they are more likely to vote to increase spending on the environment.

Variables

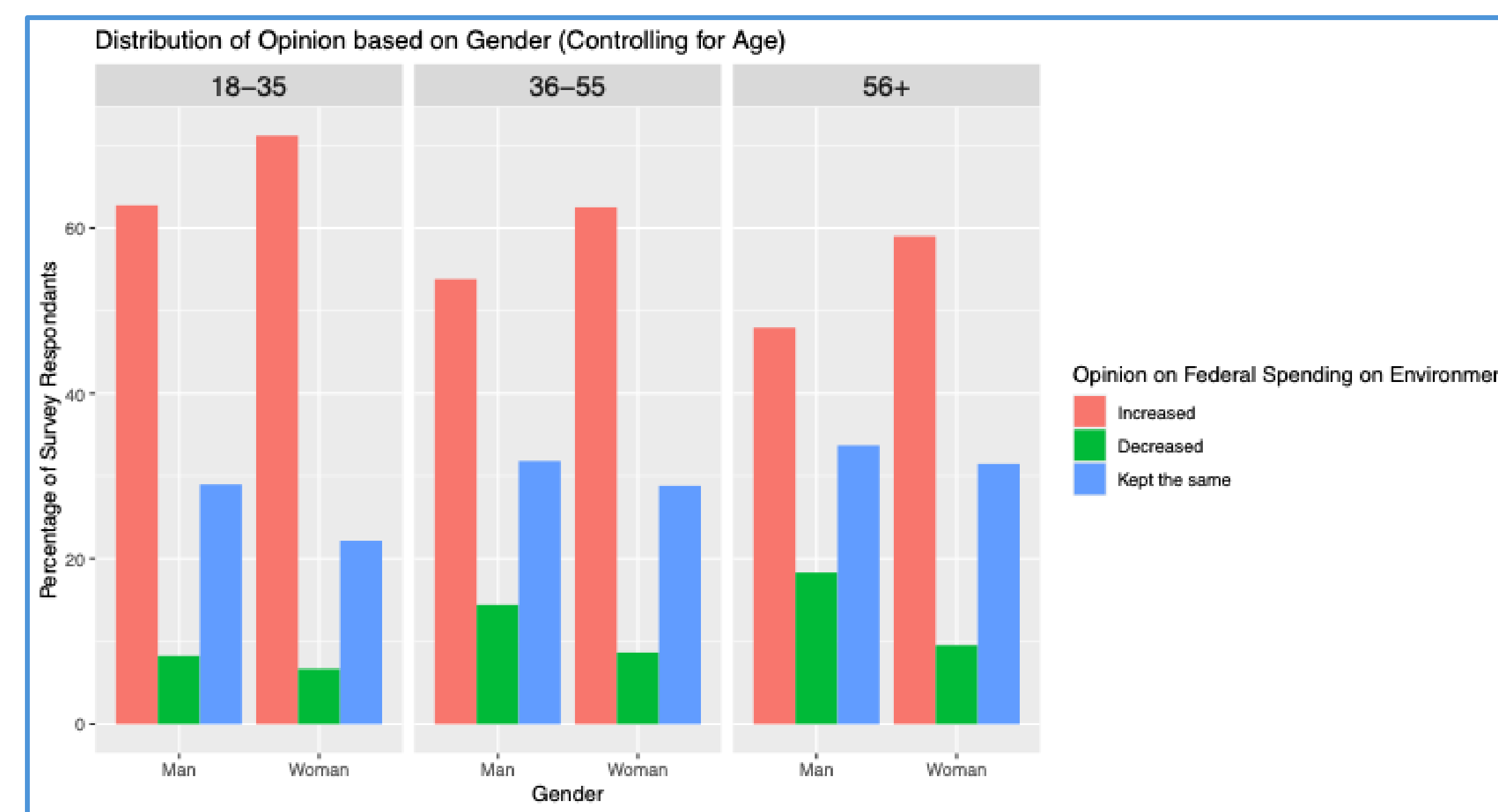
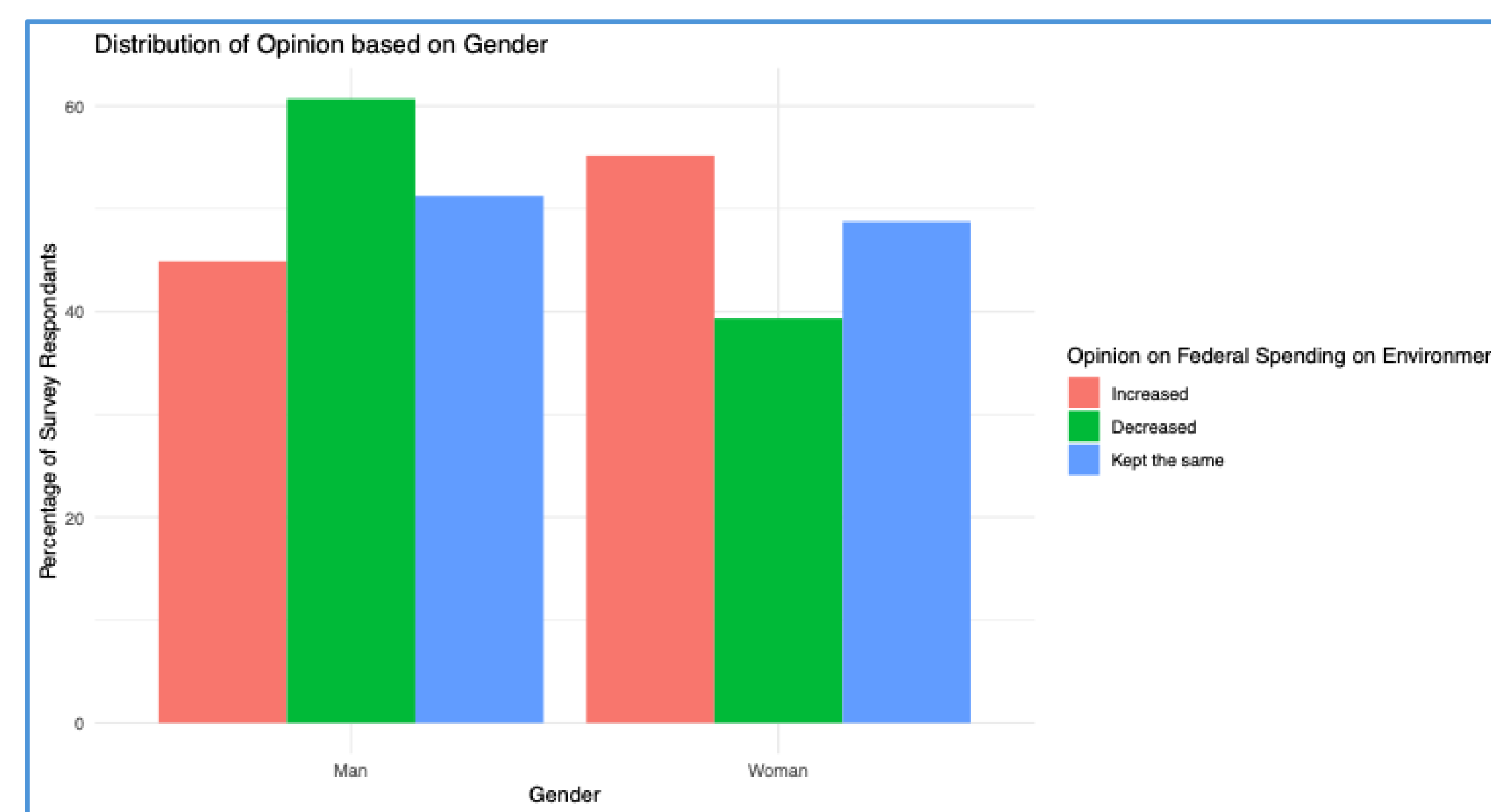
Gender	Independent	1- man 2- woman
Opinion on Federal Spending on the Environment	Dependent	1- increase 2- decrease 3- kept the same
Political Party	Control	1 – Democratic 2- Republican
Age	Control	18-35 36-55 55+
Employed	Control	1- yes 2 - no
Registration to Vote	Control	1 – yes 2 - no

Hypothesis

H0: Gender has no impact on one's opinion on federal spending on the environment.

H1: In a comparison of adults in the United States in 2024, those who *identify as a woman* are more likely to *want to increase federal spending on protecting the environment* than will those *who identify as a man*.

Data Analysis



Methods

Data from the 2024 American National Election Study (ANES) was used to show which variables impact one's opinion on federal spending on the environment in the United States.

R and RStudio were used to do statistical analysis. It was used to clean the null data, recode the variables, and create cross-tabulations to explore the relationships between the variables. The graphics were also created using RStudio.

Findings

- Women wanting to increase spending were around 10% more than men wanting to increase spending. Men wanting to decrease spending were around 20% more than women wanting to decrease spending.
- Women consistently showed more support than men to increase governmental spending on the environment, even when controlling for all other variables.
- Those who thought it should be kept the same did not show a strong difference in gender.
- This project rejects the null hypothesis, as it shows support that women are more likely to want to increase federal spending on the environment than men.

Conclusions

This research shows that women are more likely to support federal spending on the environment than men. The next steps of this project would be looking into what part of the socialization of women and men at a young age cause them to differ in opinion on the environment. If more people are aware of environmental issues, more people will want to increase federal spending on the environment. (Stockemer, Plank, & Niemann, 2021). With a positive outlook on the environment, many will be supportive of increasing governmental spending on the environment which will help improve the overall health of the natural world.

Bibliography

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