



Change in Abortion Opinion among U.S. Adults since the Overturn of Roe v Wade

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Introduction

- Whether or not abortion should be legal has been a prominent question since the overturn of Roe v Wade.
- It is important to understand how this decision has affected the population and shifted public opinion.
- Public reaction to the overturn of Roe v Wade has been widely negative, although some support has also been present (Valdez, Mena-Meléndez, Crawford, Arvind, & Jozkowski, 2023).
- Despite this, most US Americans believe abortion should be legal only under certain conditions, pointing to the nuance behind the controversial question (Norrander & Wilcox, 2023).
- There is a gap in the research in comparing opinions from before the overturn to after.**
- This information might uncover if public opinion can be shifted by legislation.
- The goal of this project is to assess the difference in public opinion on various questions regarding abortion legality between 2021 and 2024.**

Methods

Sample

- 7,780 observations are in my sample.
- Data collected by GSS in the years of 2021 and 2024.
- Dataset consists of survey questions that are administered to a national sample of adults each year.
- Level of analysis was individual
- Questions in the dataset are demographic, behavioral, and attitudinal.

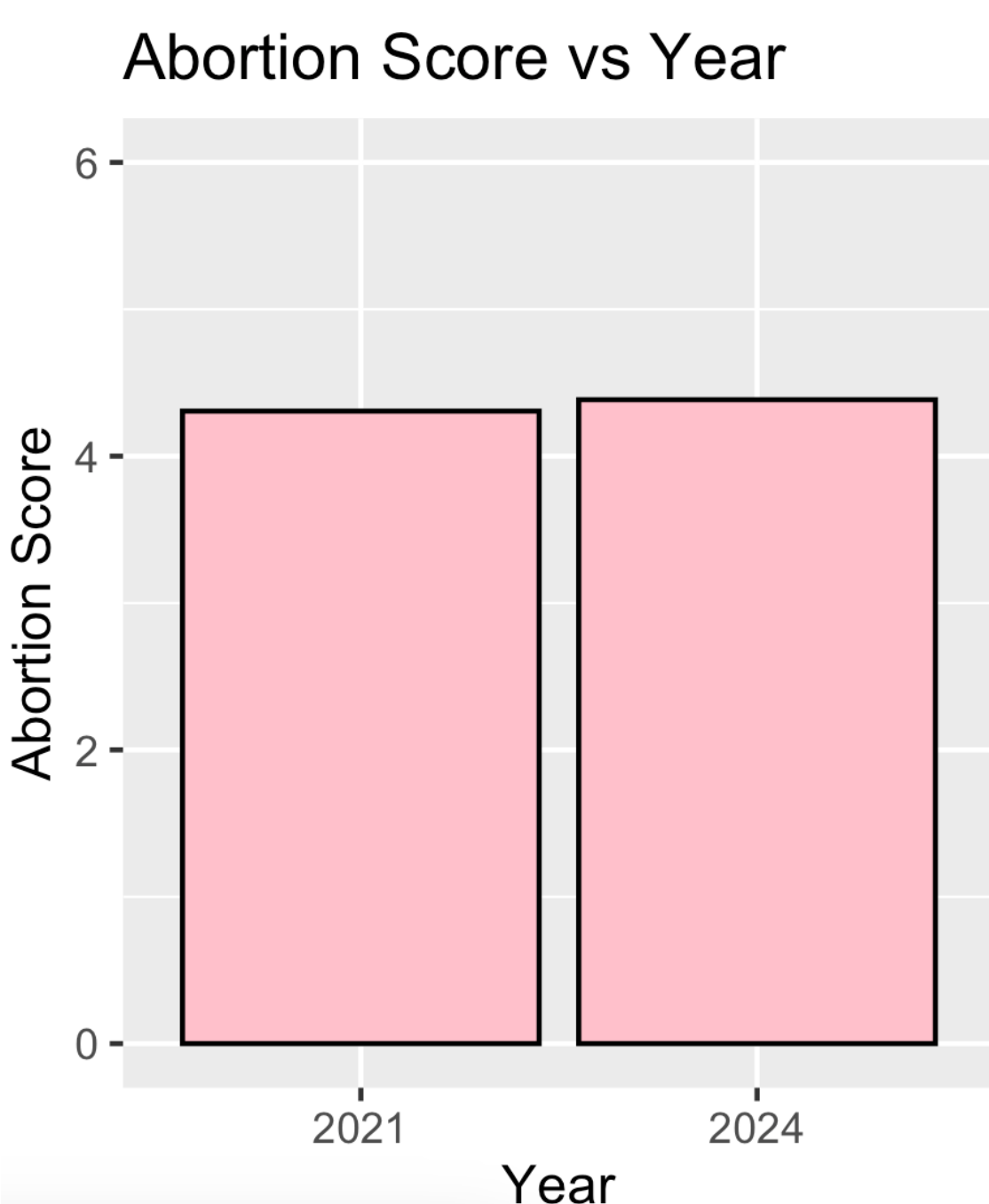
Measures

- The year variable is an indirect measure of the Roe v Wade overturn (2021: before, 2024: after).
- Opinion was measured with a series of six questions asking participants if they think abortion should be legal under certain circumstances: defect in fetus, health risk of mother, low income, rape, single parenthood, not wanting more children, and any reason. "yes" coded as 1, "no" coded as 0.
- Responses were summed to create a quantitative variable with higher scores reflecting more positive opinions toward abortion legality, with scores ranging from 0 to 6.
- The measures were also used separately to investigate support specificity.

Has there been a shift in the amount of people who support access to legal abortions in the U.S. since the overturn of Roe v Wade?

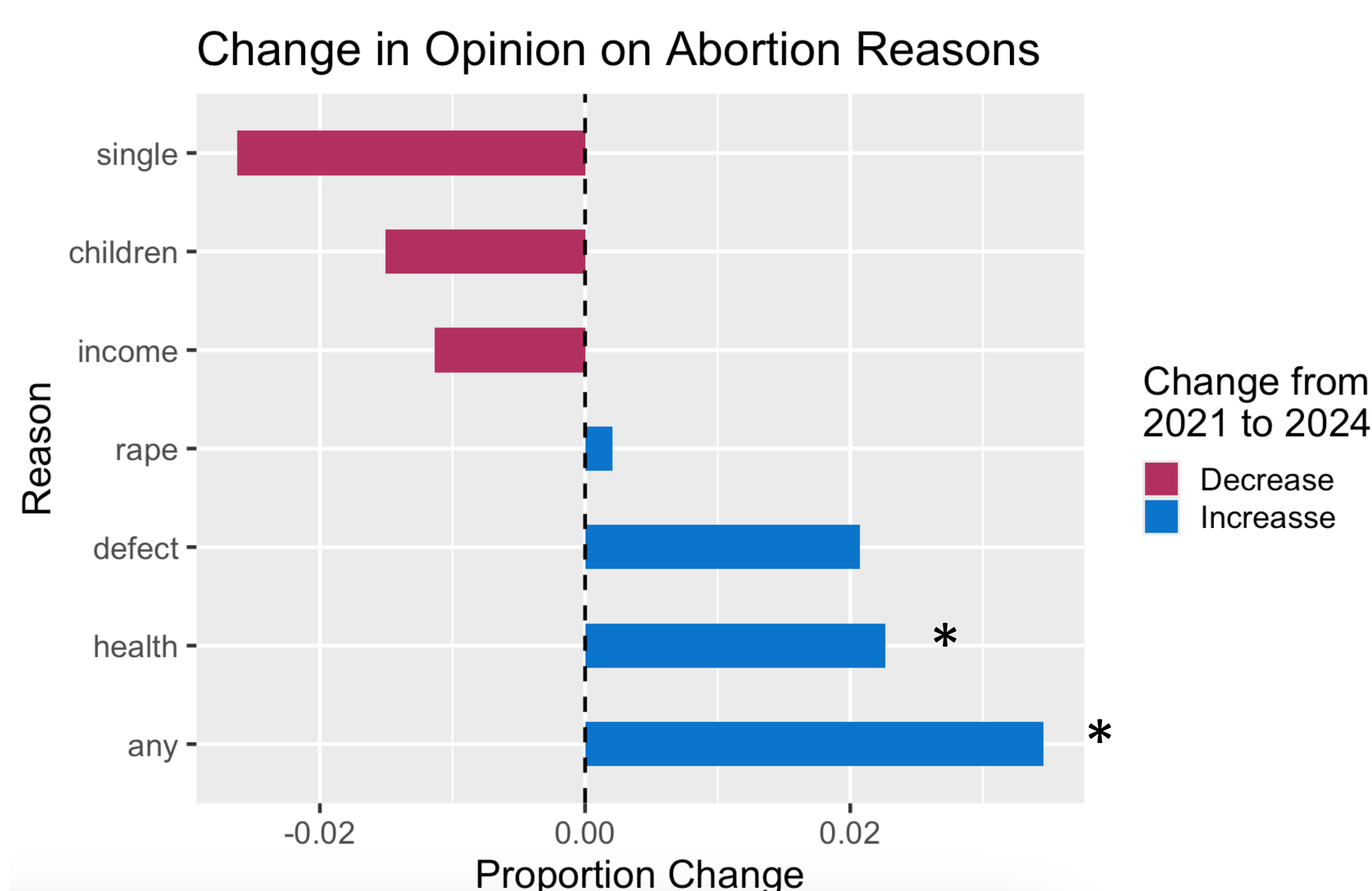
Is this dependent on the reason for abortion, or has opinion evolved similarly for different circumstances?

Results



Bivariate

- ANOVA reveals that U.S citizens in 2021 did **not** report a significantly different opinion on abortion than those in 2024 ($F=1.008$, $p=0.315$).

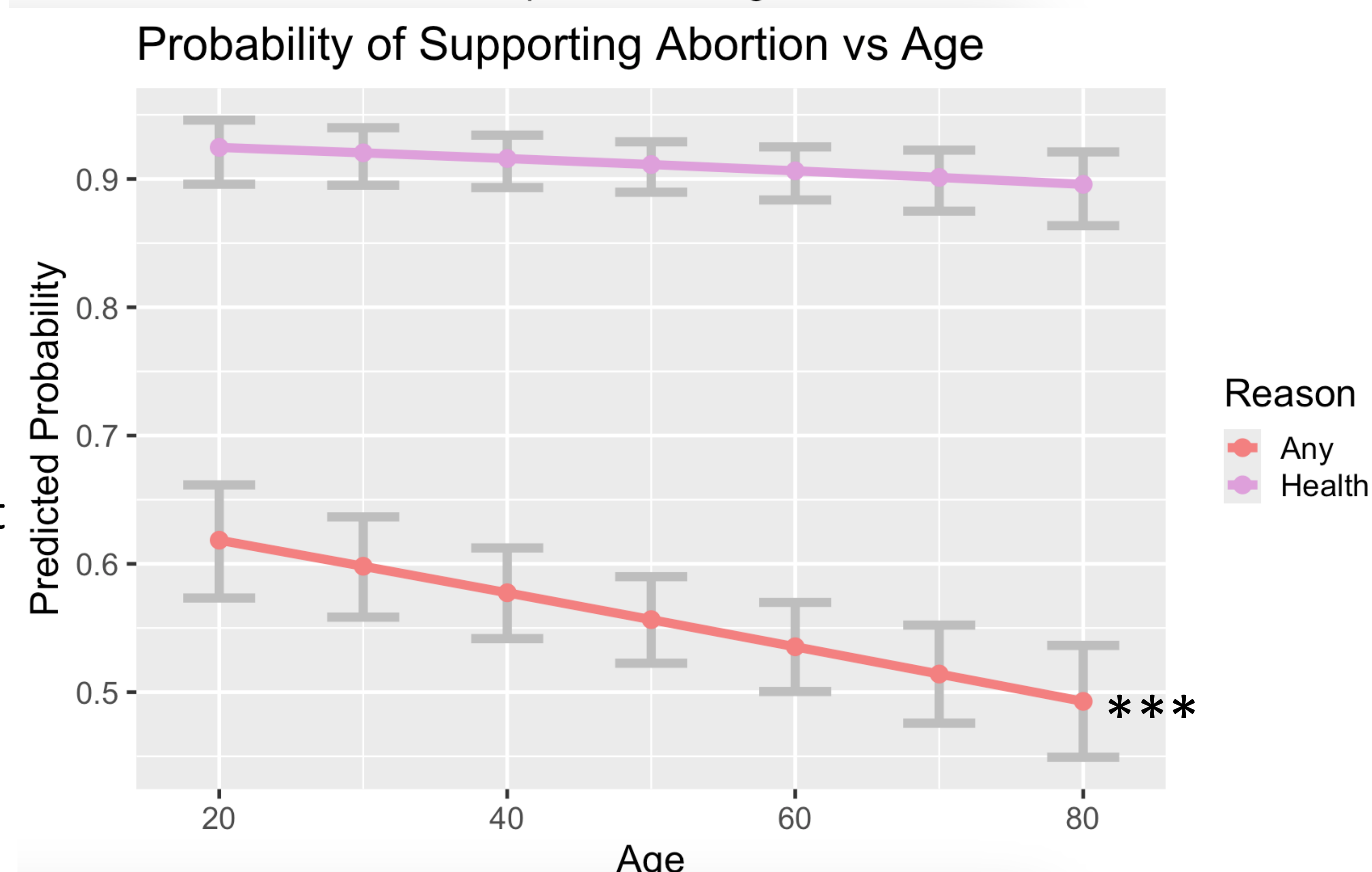


Multivariate

- Chi-Square analysis showed that health ($X^2=4.54$, $p=0.033$), and any ($X^2=3.90$, $p=0.048$) were **significantly** associated with year, but that single, children, income, rape, and defect were **not**.
- Demographic variables (age and sex) confounded this relationship.

Logistic Regression

- Logistic regression analyses showed a **significant** relationship between age and support for abortion under any circumstances ($OR= 1.13$, $p=2.01e-05$), but this relationship was **not** significant for support for abortions when the mother's health is at risk ($p=0.12$).
- There was **no** significant relationship with sex ($p=0.46$ and $p=0.15$).



Discussion

- General opinion on abortion across all reasons for abortion has not shifted since the overturn of Roe v Wade.**
- There has been a significant increase in support for abortions obtained when the mother's health is at risk.
- People's support for abortions obtained for any reason has increased significantly.
- Demographic variables such as age and sex confound these significant increases.
- Age is significantly associated with support for abortions happening under any circumstance.
- However, **age is not significantly associated with support for abortion when the mother's health is at risk.**
- These results indicate that **public opinion does not seem to have shifted since the overturn**, and that **age is only a predictor of abortion opinion under certain circumstances.**

References

- Norrander, B., & Wilcox, C. (2023). Trends in Abortion Attitudes: From Roe to Dobbs. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 87(2), 427–458. <https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfad014>
- Valdez, D., Mena-Meléndez, L., Crawford, B. L., Arvind, A., & Jozkowski, K. N. (2023). Online Social Media Reactions to the Overturn of Roe v. Wade: Public Health Implications and Policy Insights. *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 21(2), 616–631. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-023-00892-2>