



Demonstrating your Right to Vote: Do Civil Rights Demonstrations and Protests Move Voters toward Democrats

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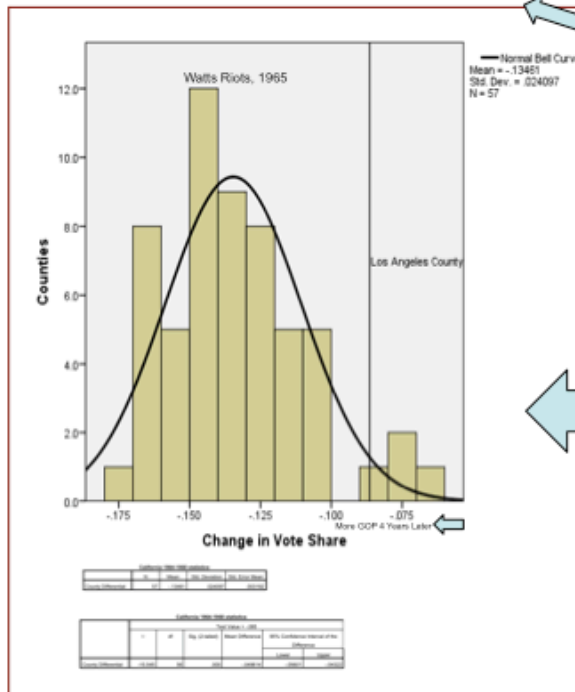
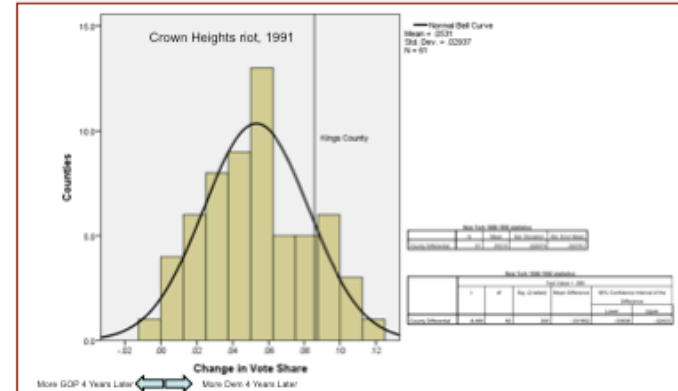
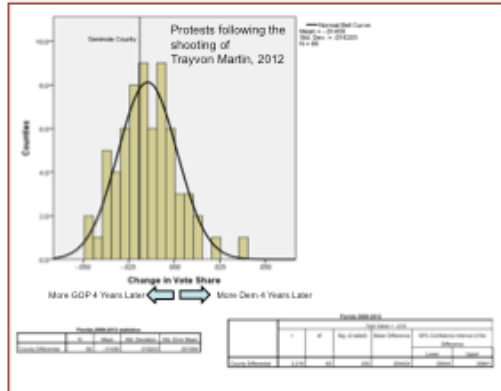
This research was intended to study whether demonstrations on issues of civil rights starting at the county level has an effect on the Democratic vote share of the county. The demonstrations in this study begin being selected after 1964, which was the last period of realignment amongst parties pertaining to issues of civil rights.

Null hypothesis (H_0): There was no significant Movement towards a greater Democratic vote share in counties enduring demonstrations on civil rights in comparison to the other counties in the same state.

Alternative hypothesis (H_A): There was significant movement towards a greater Democratic vote share in counties enduring demonstrations on civil rights in comparison to the other counties in the same state.

The purpose of this research is to study the relative move towards a more Democratic vote share in the counties where demonstrations began, between elections, compared to the average change in vote share, between elections, for all other counties in the same state.

So, it is not the change in vote share for the county enduring the demonstration from the post-demonstration election compared to the election prior to the demonstration determining if there was significant change, but rather I test to see if counties facing civil rights protests changed significantly differently than the typical change for the state's remaining counties. This shows if there is a relatively greater change in Democratic vote share in counties enduring demonstrations and protests on civil rights.



In Kings County, New York and Seminole County, Florida, the difference in Democratic vote share relative to the difference in Democratic vote share for the rest of the counties in their respective states in the same elections cannot falsify the null hypothesis at the 95% confidence interval. Although many elections that follow demonstrations do not put the county outside of two standard deviations from the mean, the data can suggest that demonstrations play a role in vote share.

In Los Angeles County, California, the change in the Democratic vote share from the 1968 election compared to the 1964 election was significantly different than the change in Democratic vote share in all other California counties following the Watts riots. This suggests that the demonstration on civil rights issues had an impact on the voting of LA county.

All election data was created using "Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections. The numbers were reanalyzed for the purposes of using the two-party vote share for better representation of a movement towards a more Democratic vote share, movement towards a more Republican vote share, or no movement towards any change in vote share.