

**Political polarization in US residents'
COVID-19 risk perceptions, policy preferences, and
protective behaviors**

Journal of Risk and Uncertainty, in press

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Funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, National Institute on Aging (U01AG054580), Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, and Swedish Riksbankens Jubileumsfond Program on Science and Proven Experience 'Science and Proven Experience'

COVID-19 tracking survey

- Every 2 weeks since March 16, 2020
 - Protective behaviors, such as mask use, social distancing, and handwashing
 - Risk perceptions for getting infected, dying if infected, running out of money
- In April-May 2020, we asked about concerns about opening economy
- Nationally representative sample (N~6000)

See Kapteyn et al., *Survey Research Methods*, 2020

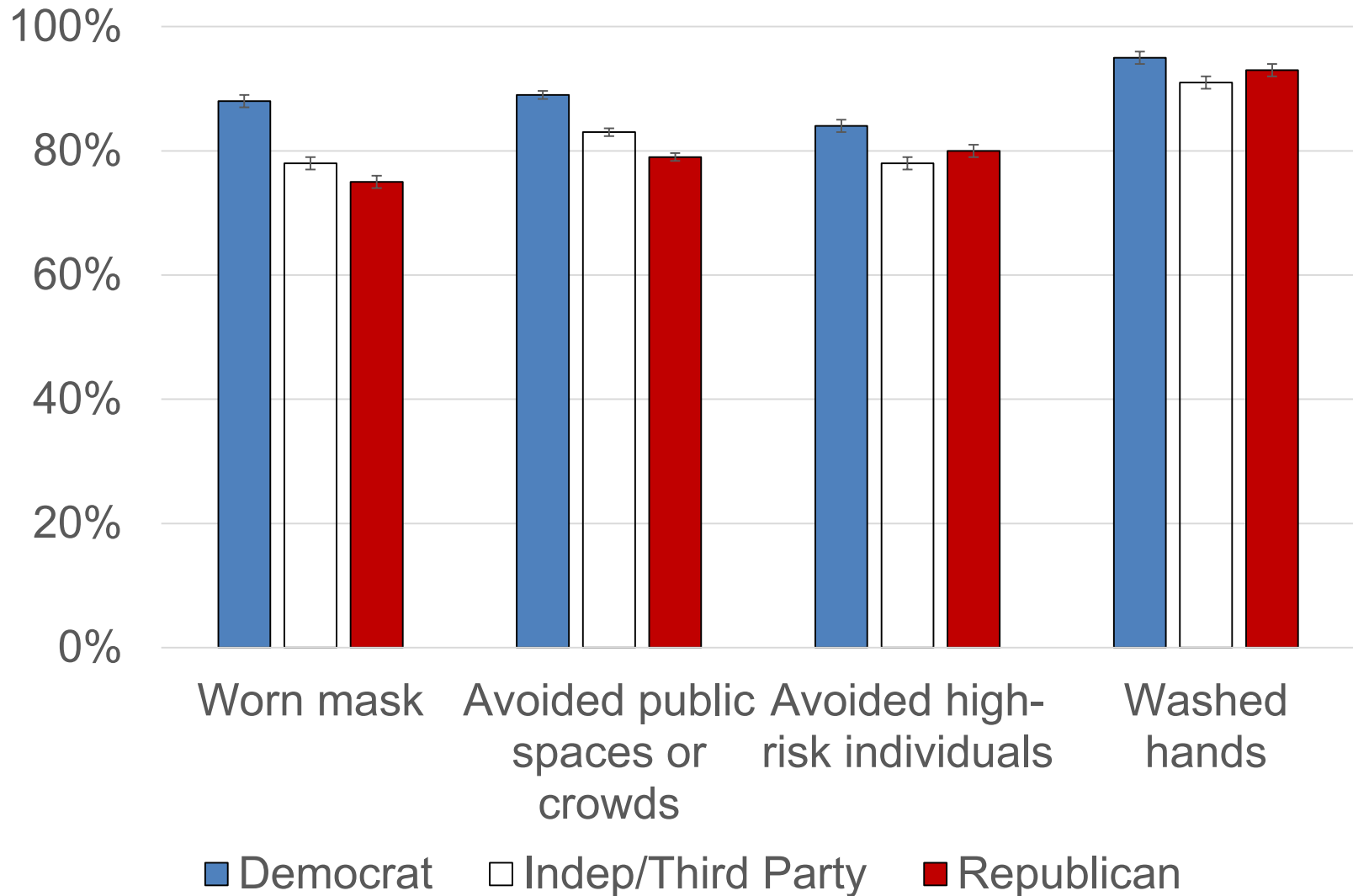
UnderStandingAmericaStudy



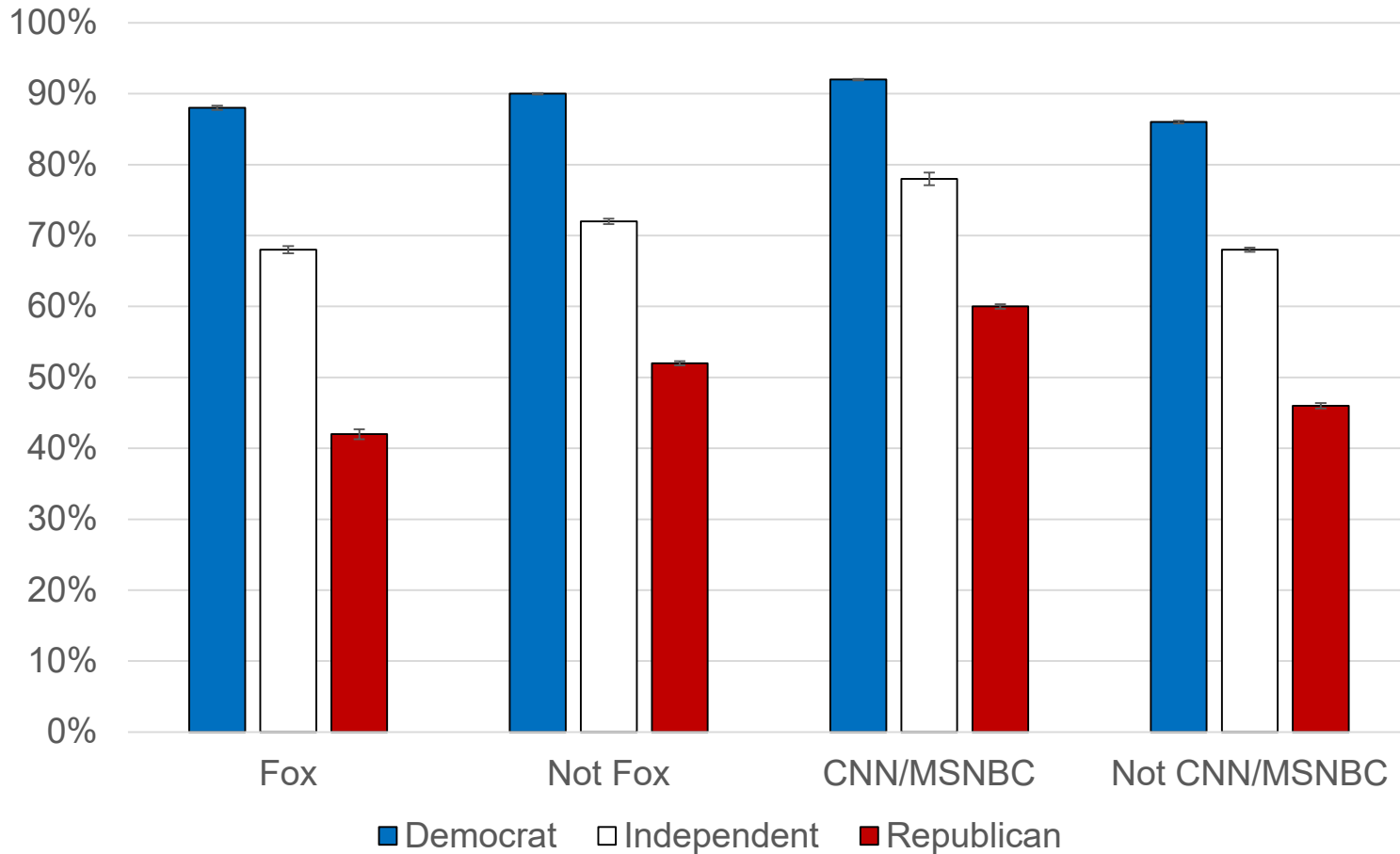
Present study

- In April-May 2020, does political inclination predict
 - Policy preferences?
 - Protective behaviors?

Descriptives: Protective behaviors

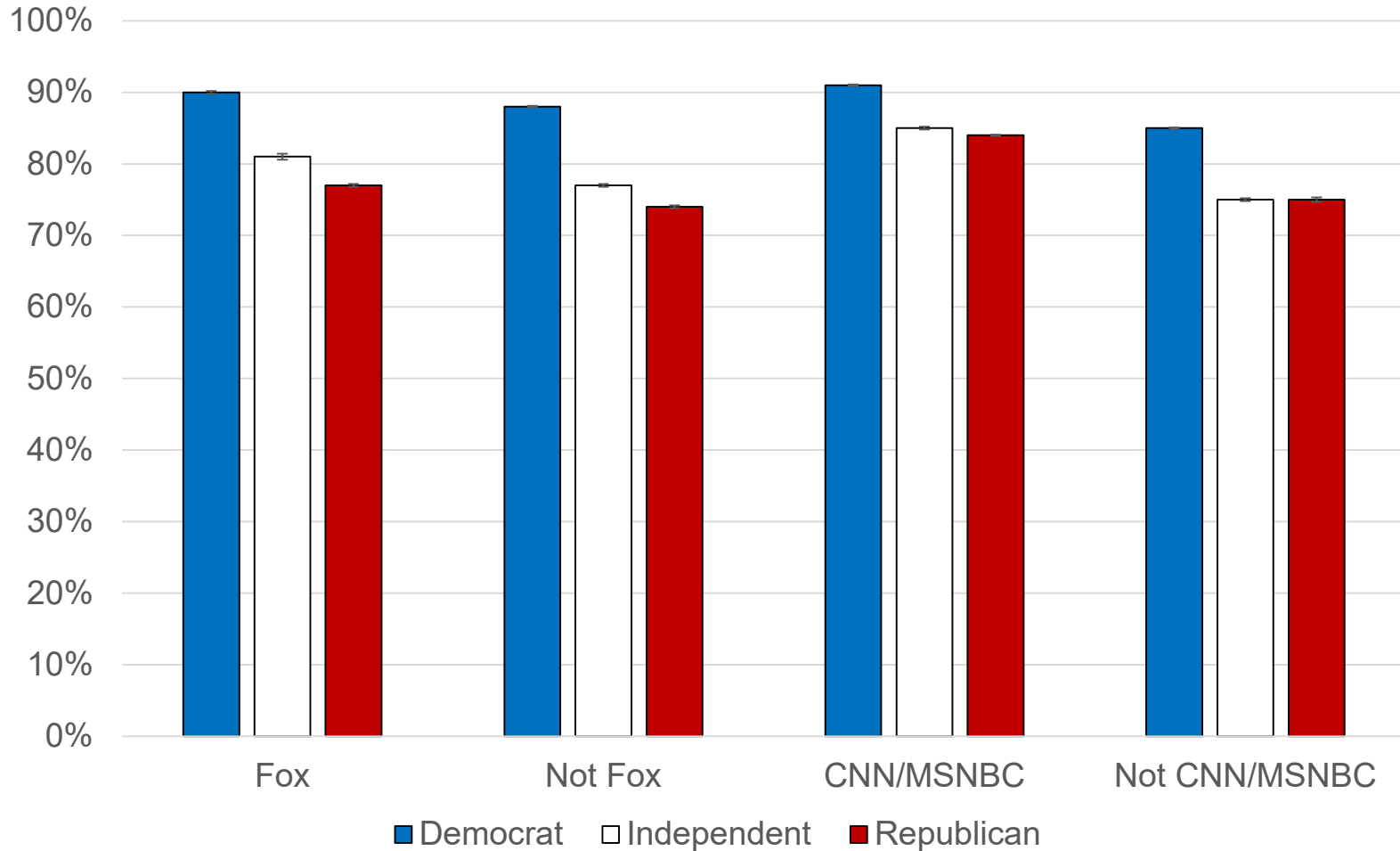


Logistic regression: States in general opened too quickly



Note: Predicted probabilities. Models controlled for risk perceptions and demographics

Logistic regression: Worn mask



Note: Predicted probabilities. Models controlled for risk perceptions and demographics

Conclusion

- Political polarization most pronounced in policy preferences as well as self-reported mask use and social distancing
 - Differences hold after accounting for risk perceptions and media use
- Risk communication research suggests focusing on what unites people

Papers on COVID-19

(to request copies, email wandibdb@usc.edu)

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- Ciancio, A., Kämpfen, F., Kohler, I.V., Bennett, D., & Bruine de Bruin, W., Darling, J., Kapteyn, A., Maurer, J., & Kohler, H.P. (2020). Know Your Epidemic, Know Your Response: Early Perceptions of COVID-19 in the United States. *PLOS One*, 15, 1-11.
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