



# The Relationship Between Having a Full Sister and Men's Political Orientation

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## Introduction

- The familial unit, especially siblings, affect people's socialization and thus their political views (C. Anthony Broh, 1979)
- It has been found that men who have sisters are often more politically conservative because sisters tend to fill "womanly" roles or chores in the household and the men in these households uphold those sorts of values in the future (Pew Research Center, 2013).
- Men who grow up with *only* sisters tend to be significantly more conservative when it comes to gender roles and identify as Republicans more often than not (Healey, 2013).

## Research Questions

- Is there a correlation between men growing up with sisters and being more politically liberal or conservative in the future?
- Does this relationship differ between those whose families can pay their bills versus those who cannot?

## Methods

### Sample

- Data was drawn from the US National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health (ADDHEALTH) codebook. Wave 1 of this codebook is a representative study of 20,000 individual children 7-12th grade from 1994-2008. Wave 5 is a followup survey with those same individuals once they are 30-40 years old from 1994-2018. This study takes the form of an in-home questionnaire.

### Measures

- In Wave 1, whether or not a man had a sibling was measured by the question "What is {NAME}'s relationship to you?" If the answer is yes they were asked "Which description best fits {NAME}'s relationship to you?" To determine if they were a half or full sister.
- In Wave 5, political leanings are measured "In terms of politics, do you consider yourself very conservative, conservative, middle-of-the-road, liberal, or very liberal?" corresponding to 1 (very conservative) to 5 (very liberal).
- Participants rated their ability to pay their bills with yes or no.

## Results

### Bivariate

- Chi-Square analysis showed that having a sister was significantly associated with political beliefs for men (p-value = 0.01739).
- Men without sisters are slightly more liberal than those with sisters (Fig. 1).

### Multivariate

- After running a simple regression test, the results showed that the p value= 0.373 which is greater than > .05. Because of this, it shows that the correlation between having a sister and political leanings is not significant and any existing correlation could have happened by chance.
- After running a multiple regression test, having a sister is not significant and whether or not a man's family is able to pay your bills (yes, no) is not significant. However, if you have a higher income you are more likely to be conservative but this relationship is not significant to whether or not a man has a sister.

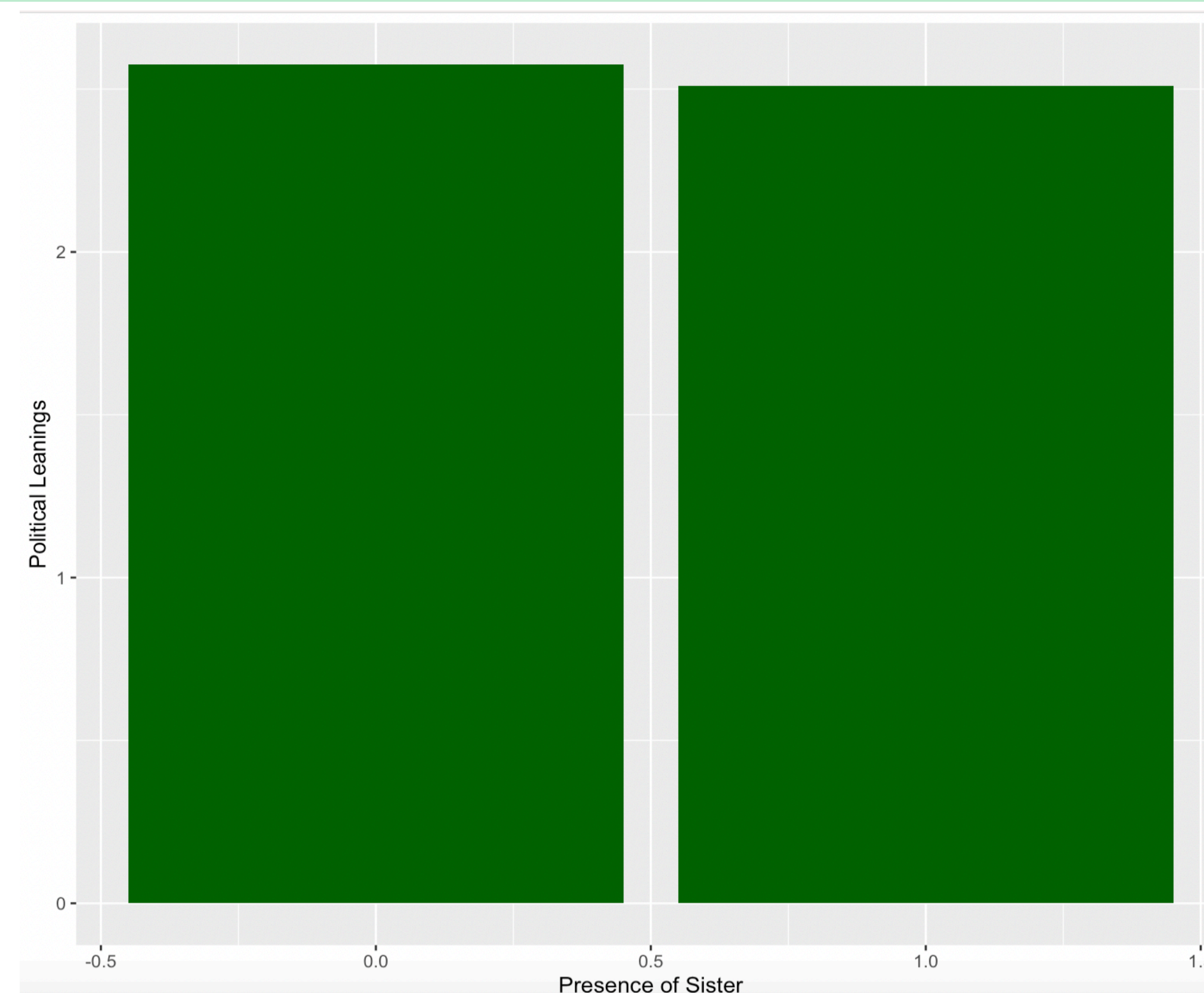


Figure 1: Whether or Not a Man Has A Sister and Corresponding Political Beliefs (H5SS8)

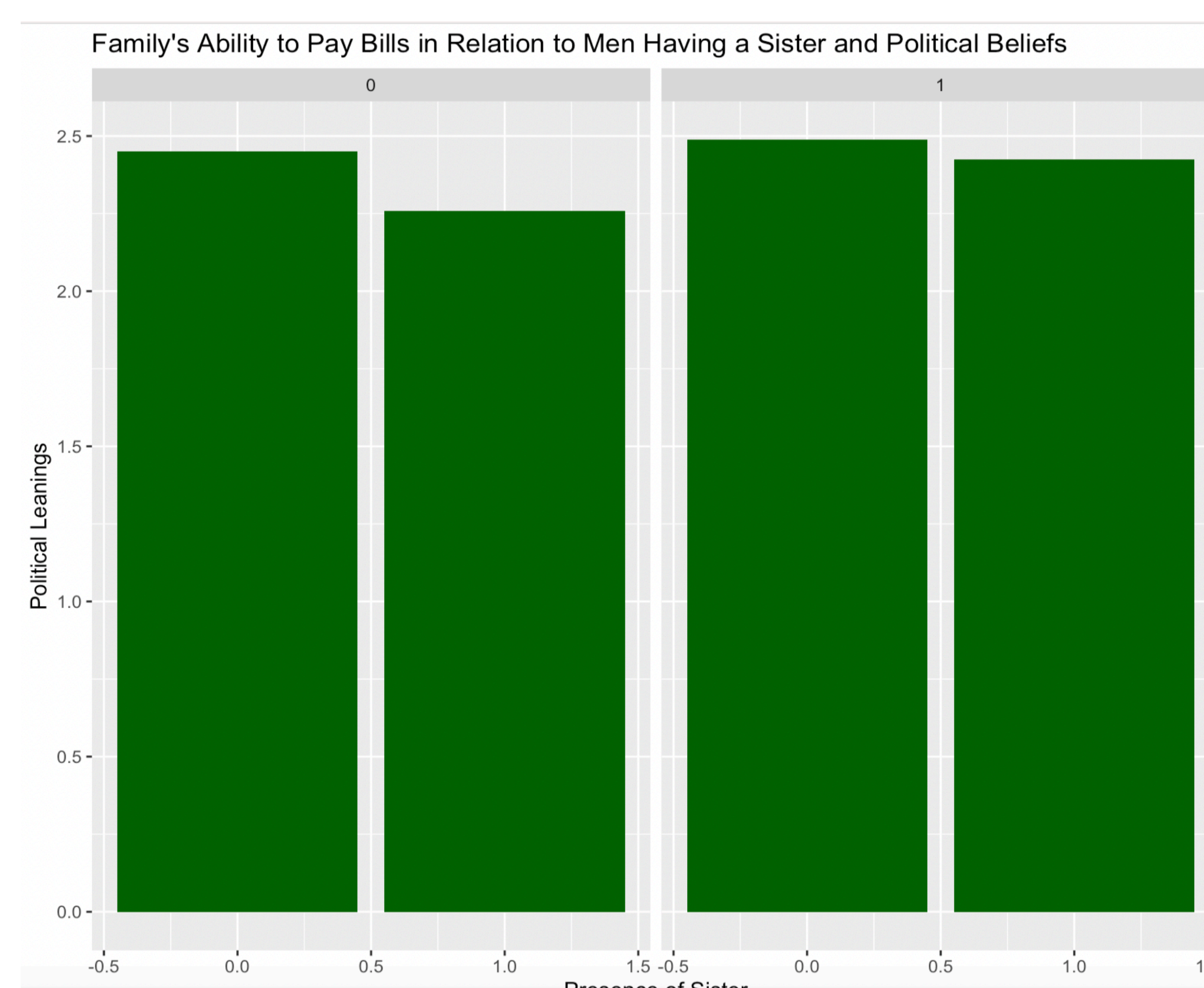


Figure 2: Relation of Having a Sister and Corresponding Political Beliefs to Whether or Not Their Family Could Pay Their Bills

## Discussion

- Men that grew up with sisters are statistically more likely to be conservative during adulthood.
- This relationship is no longer significant when controlling for the third variable whether those families can pay their bills.
- These findings may contribute to literature on the impact of siblings on one another, in relation to political views.
- Future research is needed to determine and control for other variables that may be affecting the final results.

## References

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