Public Opinion and Support on Physician Assisted Suicide

Introduction

I investigate the connection between public opinion and physician assisted suicide, using data in the SPSS data set from 2021.

The strength of support a person feels towards PAS and what influenced that view is studied, religious affiliation, age, sex, education level, income, race, and region are considered in the study.

The data set was collected through surveys that willing persons over the age of 18 completed. I analyze who is more willing to support PAS and why.

I find that religion has a huge impact on public support for PAS, while other factors like education, sex, and race had an effect but religion was a leading cause.

Literature

- I hypothesized that religion would have one of the biggest impacts, it could influence attitudes and the strength of affiliation could determine how willing a person is to support assisted suicide.

- The authors of the article "*Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*," found that Religion and religious affiliations have a strong negative impact on public opinion and support for physician assisted suicide.

- Its noteworthy to say that traditional religiosity is still very impactful predictor, it has a greater impact on support to PAS. It remains the main reason people oppose the right to physician assisted suicide

- When considering education according to the "*Social Science & Medicine*," journal the higher education level the more they would be to accept PAS than those with inadequate education.

Crosstabs

Religion

- I used two crosstabs, one with variable relitennv and Assisted suicide index, the variable SEX (1.2) and I tested significance for Chi and Somers'd.

Education

- I ran a crosstab of Suicide Index and Sex, using the nominal variable degree. Tested for Significance with Chi and Somers'd.
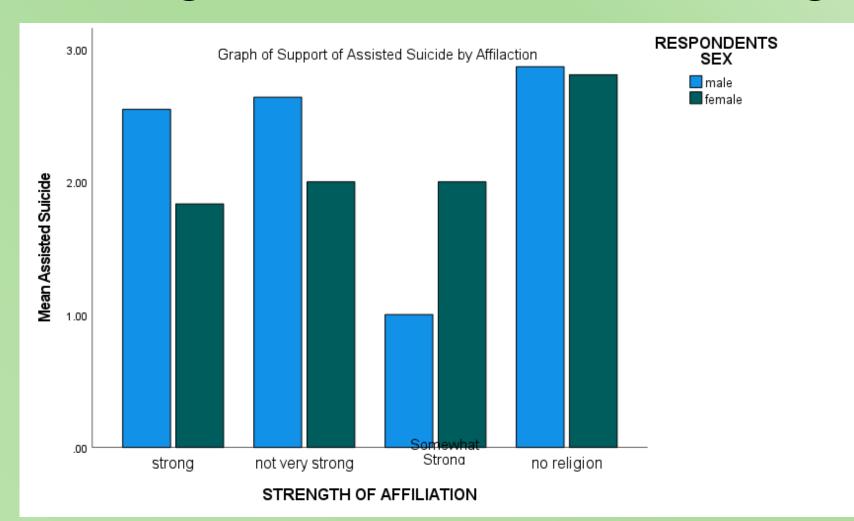
Age

- Ran a crosstabs with Suicide Index and sex still constants and age. Tested for significance with Chi and Somers'd.

Income

- The same constants are there, Suicide index and sex with the new variable – incom16. Tested for significance with Chi and Somers'd.
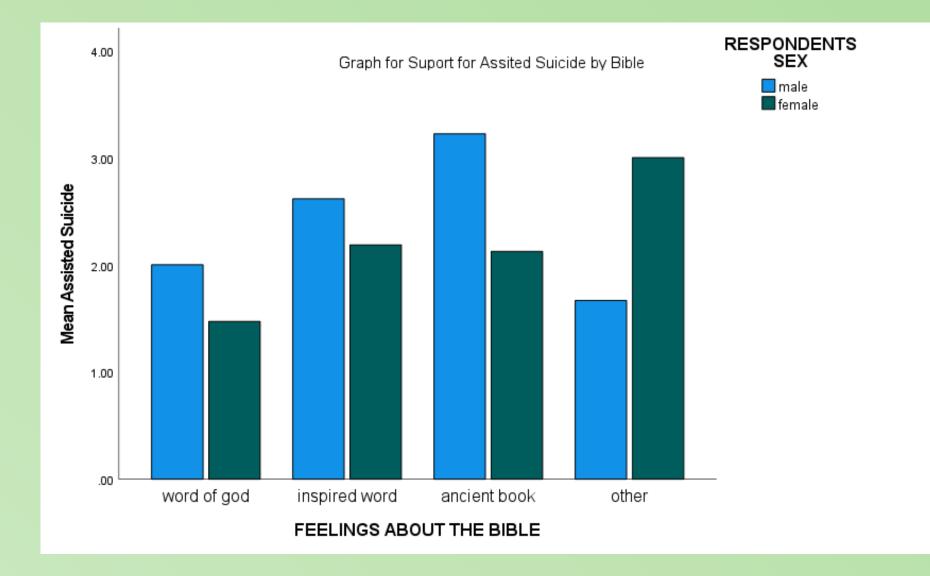
Hypothesis and Analysis

Hypothesis 1: The more religiously affiliated, the less likely someone is to support Assisted suicide. (Male: Chi = 23.208 Sig. .025* Somers'd = .156 Sig. .222*, Female: Chi = 32.01 Sig. .001** Somers'd = .356 Sig. <.001**)

Hypothesis 2: The more education a person has the more likely they are to support assisted suicide. (Female: Chi = 66.375 Sig. <.001** Somers'd = .161 <.001**)
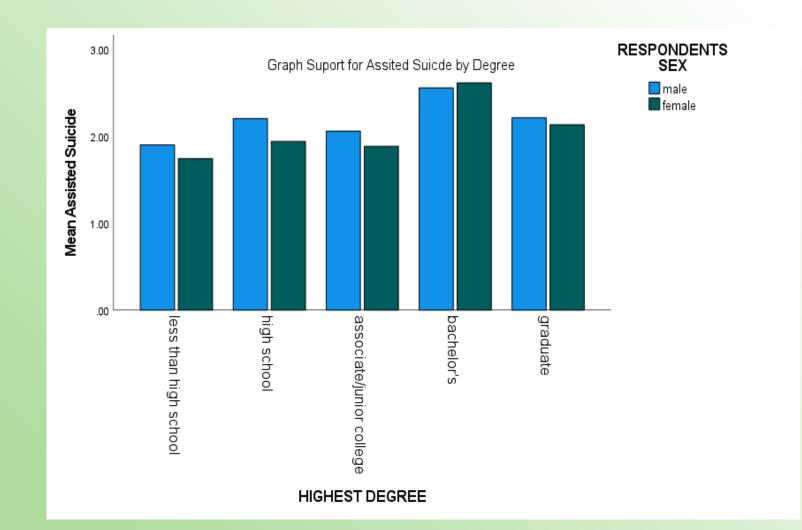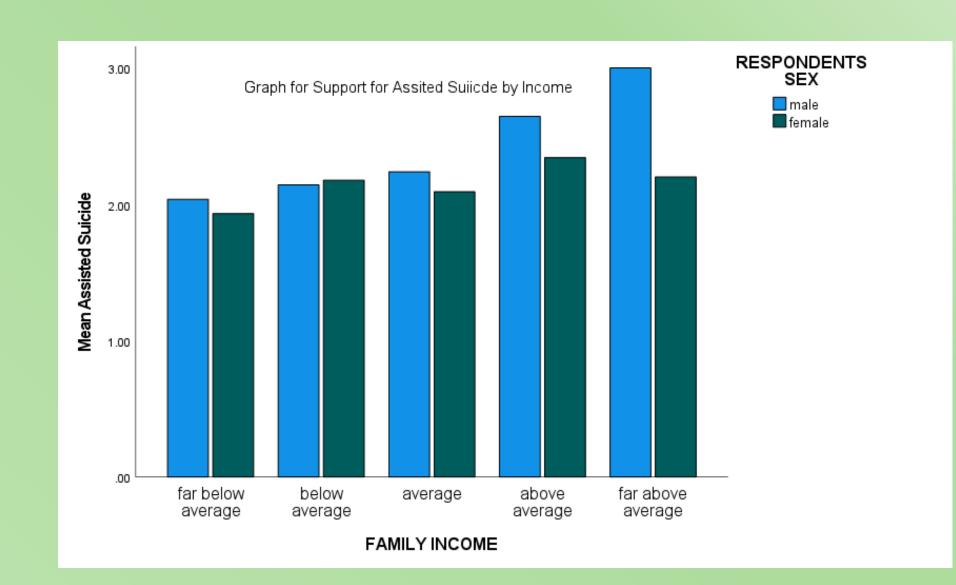

Hypothesis 3: That age will have little effect on who supports assisted suicide, because age has little to do with degree. (Male: Chi = 33.275 Sig. <.001** Somers'd = -.196 Sig. <.001**, Female: Chi = 21.683 Sig. .041*Somers'd -.093 Sig. .021*

Hypothesis 4: The more income someone has the more likely they are to support assisted suicide. (Male: Somers'd = .140 Sig. <.001**)

Results

- This data shows that when considering age, men are more likely to support assisted suicide (AS) then woman.
- Age has a bigger impact on public opinion then previously realized.
- Income has little impact on women but does impact men significantly.
- The results for degree are different than expected, my hypothesis is incorrect, higher education does not equal more support for PAS.
- Strength of Affiliation seems to have an impact, those with no religious affiliation are more likely to support PAS.