

Broadband internet and fact-resistant beliefs: The case of climate change skepticism*

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Abstract

In the present study, I explore the informational role of broadband internet in forming and spreading fact-resistant attitudes, specifically climate change skepticism. My approach uses fine-grained broadband quality data in the U.S. along with an identification strategy relying on terrain-induced variations in the cost of broadband deployment. Overall, the results indicate that better internet can encourage unwarranted skepticism, albeit only to a limited extent. Suggestive evidence is further consistent with middle-aged and more Republican-leaning segments of the population driving any negative overall impacts toward denialism, while younger and less conservative segments, if at all, tend to respond in the opposite way.

Keywords Broadband internet; climate change denial
misinformation; digital infrastructure

JEL codes H40, H54, D83, O33, Q54

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I. INTRODUCTION

“[F]acts are like cows. If you look them in the face long enough, they generally run away.” - Dorothy L. Sayers, *Clouds of Witness*

In the age of ‘fake news’, misinformation can spread faster than any virus. In traditional forms of media, misinformation could only be transmitted one way, say, from a television studio to the viewer or a radio host to their listeners. However, with the rise of social media and the internet, this one-way street has become a multi-lane highway with heavy traffic in all directions. Individuals cannot only choose the content they like to see but are also able to reinforce each other in their beliefs, sometimes with severe consequences.¹ This groupthink may be further exacerbated by algorithmic pre-selection of displayed information, for example, on platforms like Facebook. Such mutual exchange and influencing of beliefs would have otherwise largely been confined to the local community where the individual happens to live and work.

For the most salient (and fun) form of exchanging information on the internet, namely via large amounts of images and videos, dial-up speed won’t do the trick. Hence, only broadband access with sufficient bandwidth can unlock this realm of new information. In smaller communities, the introduction of broadband internet may well have curbed the influence of local people of authority (e.g., the local pastor/priest) and allowed individuals to enter their ‘bubble of choice’, thus diminishing the role of locally determined norms of behavior and attitudes.

The present study examines whether the spread of broadband internet has had any noticeable effect on the prevalence of what I term ‘fact-resistant’ beliefs in the climate domain, namely beliefs that climate change (i) does not exist and/or (ii) that there is no scientific consensus on the nature of the phenomenon. The focus on these outcomes is motivated by the fact that, in a democracy, climate action will need to rely on public support, for which an acceptance of the facts appears to be a decent starting point. Yet, in 2021, only a little over half (57%) of people in the U.S. have been estimated to agree on the anthropogenic (i.e., man-made) nature of climate change (Leiserowitz et al., 2021), making it an outlier in the developed world (see, e.g., McCright et al., 2016) as

¹For example, it is easy to find media stories with titles such as *“Their mom died of COVID. They say conspiracy theories are what really killed her”*, see <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/04/24/1089786147/covid-conspiracy-theories> (last accessed: 21 January 2023).

well as an ideal candidate for further inquiry.

In principle, the effect of better internet can go both ways. On one hand, the internet can serve as a tool, allowing individuals to access information and verify facts even if they are not readily available in their local environment. This may aid people in addressing areas of ignorance that might lead otherwise rational individuals to false conclusions, an issue referred to as a *crippled epistemology* by Sunstein and Vermeule (2009).² On the other hand, it is also a tool aiding the spread of misinformation, which can push beliefs toward more implausible views. For example, there is evidence that group deliberations not only reinforce commonly held convictions, but can shift attitudes to a more extreme position, a phenomenon known as *group polarization* in the social psychology literature (see, e.g., Aronson et al., 2016, p. 288, and references therein).

To examine this question, I rely on local United States broadband quality data from Ookla, which allows mapping broadband quality on a high spatial resolution. Climate change skepticism is based on the measures from the Yale Climate Opinion Map (Howe et al., 2015a). In addition, data from the Cooperative Congressional Elections Study (CCES) are used to examine further the consistency of results with individual-level estimates from an earlier sample period.

Because the spatial dispersion of broadband is not random, in addition to a broad set of controls, I exploit exogenous variation in broadband deployment due to geographical cost factors in an instrumental variable strategy. In particular, I use the county average terrain slope (inspired by Lelkes et al., 2017) as an instrument driving up the cost of broadband provision. While terrain is highly unlikely to directly affect any views on climate change, having more uneven surroundings requires more (and hence more expensive) cable infrastructure to provide residents with the option to connect, all else equal.

The resulting estimates indicate that broadband internet has, at best, been a minor contributor to fact-resistant attitudes in the form of climate change skepticism on aggregate. At the same time, heterogeneity in responses may be an important factor

²The term has been used earlier in conjunction with extremist beliefs, which often tend to be based on a very small number of (mostly false) bits of information, see Hardin (2002). See also Douglas et al. (2019) for a general multidisciplinary review of how and why fact-resistant attitudes can arise, as well as Keeley (1999) for an excellent characterization of the conceptual issues associated with defining conspiracy theories, which are closely related to many types of what I deem ‘fact-resistant attitudes’.

when the impacts of broadband on people's beliefs are concerned. In particular, the findings are suggestive of broadband internet increasing climate change skepticism in middle-aged (around ages 50-64) segments of the population. The nature of these results remains consistent across a broad range of specifications.

In addition, partisan identity may play an important role: Republican vote shares are not only among the strongest predictors of skeptical response patterns in the data, but according to the instrumental variable estimates may also have increased as a result of better internet. In other words, the compiler areas where more amenable terrain has benefitted broadband expansion also exhibit a higher Republican vote share in the 2020 presidential elections than comparable areas with more unfavorable terrain conditions. Moreover, estimates based on CCES data suggest that Republican voters, particularly middle-aged ones, exhibit higher skepticism with broadband, while the effects are reversed for respondents identifying either as independents or Democratic voters. This highlights the potential heterogeneous role of the online information space alluded to above – individuals without strong ideological preconceptions may use it to acquire new and accurate information, while others' views can get more polarized.

Overall, the findings do not provide a convincing case for broad policy interventions in the online sphere. While some parts of the population may indeed acquire false beliefs in the climate domain, younger (and typically more experienced) internet user segments, for example, do not seem to be driving these results. If anything, they react in the opposite way. Given that fast digital communication is here to stay, this provides some ground for optimism, even if related issues such as the role and implications of the technology in terms of creating and fueling an ideologically polarized landscape remain an active area of inquiry.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first study to systematically examine the effects of broadband internet on the prevalence of false beliefs in the climate change domain on a population level. It further relates to several strands of existing literature. Firstly, my findings add to a wider literature on broadband internet which has focused on a broad range of outcomes in the political and economic sphere. Access to broadband has been shown to increase property prices in a sample of U.K. properties (Ahlfeldt et al., 2017), improve labor market outcomes for the skilled while generally worsening prospects for the low-skilled (Jayakar and Park, 2013; Czernich, 2014; Akerman et al.,

2015; Ivus and Boland, 2015), enhance productivity (Draca et al., 2007), and ultimately increase economic growth (Czernich et al., 2011; Kolko, 2012; Whitacre et al., 2014). A more comprehensive review of existing evidence on the relationship between broadband internet and economic outcomes is given by Bertsek et al. (2015). Amaral-Garcia et al. (2019) further find an increase in Caesarean-sections following broadband internet access, suggesting that information on the internet can influence individuals' behavior in a wide variety of areas. In addition, there are some indications of adverse effects on mental health, particularly for women (Golin, 2022).

In the political domain, there is evidence that broadband access boosts partisan hostility and increases partisan media consumption (Lelkes et al., 2017). However, other work questions the assertion that the internet has been a catalyst for partisanship, especially among its most frequent users, the young (Boxell et al., 2017), with more recent work focusing on mobile internet access supporting this important dimension of heterogeneity (Melnikov, 2021). Further, data from Italy initially points to lower political participation following the introduction of broadband internet. However, after 2008 the higher political engagement in other channels (namely grass-roots protest movements) led to a reversal of this effect and the success of the populist five star movement (Campante et al., 2018). For the U.K., Gavazza et al. (2019) find that broadband introduction displaced offline media and that the suggested decline in local news coverage/reach depressed voting frequency and lowered local government expenditure and taxes. In line with this detachment from local affairs, a similar study based on U.K. data finds a decline in social capital (i.e., offline interaction and civic engagement) following access to broadband internet (Geraci et al., 2019). See also Zhuravskaya et al. (2020) for a recent review.

Secondly, the present study relates to a multidisciplinary literature on climate change skepticism in the on- and offline sphere, with a particular focus on the U.S. The main takeaway from this literature is that climate change skepticism is (i) prevalent in a sizable part of the U.S. population (Leiserowitz et al., 2021), (ii) closely related to partisan identity (McCright and Dunlap, 2011; Hornsey et al., 2016), with more conservative and libertarian convictions at the skeptical end, and (iii) underpinned by a large organized climate change counter-movement (Dunlap et al., 2011; Oreskes and Conway, 2011; Brulle, 2014, 2020). See Dunlap (2013) for a general overview, as well as

Treen et al. (2020) for a review of the online sphere.

Lastly, the topic at hand further ties into a broader literature on the presence and impacts of media bias/slant (e.g. DellaVigna and Kaplan, 2007; Gentzkow and Shapiro, 2010), which has subsequently been expanded into the realm of social media, where misinformation and ‘fake news’ have been able to attract substantial attention in terms of citizen exposure (e.g. Allcott and Gentzkow, 2017; Allcott et al., 2019; and also Benkler et al., 2018 for a more computer/network science-based perspective). However, there is relatively little evidence on specific on-the-ground impacts (e.g., actual voting behavior) of exposure to fake news. Experimental evidence from France did not find any effect of ‘alternative facts’ on voting intentions, even though these ‘facts’ were found to be highly persuasive (Barrera et al., 2020). A large-scale field experiment conducted with US Facebook users provides very similar results (Levy, 2021).

II. DATA

According to the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), more than 24 million Americans were still without access to fixed internet at broadband speeds in 2016.³ These figures represent a lower bound on the actual number of residents with insufficient access to broadband internet, as the FCC considered an area to be covered in its entirety if at least one supplier (self-)reports having at least one broadband subscriber in that area. Accordingly, other sources provide very different estimates of the actual shortfall in broadband availability. Microsoft, for instance, estimated that in 2018, 162.8 million people in the US were still not using the internet at broadband speeds, a figure which also suggests a significant adoption gap in addition to the supply side restrictions.⁴ In turn, the FCC’s broadband data (also known as *Form 477* data) have considerable limitations in terms of their ability to inform about the actual broadband experience on the ground, despite their widespread use in existing research (owed to a historical lack of better data).

Given these shortcomings, I instead rely on independent broadband quality data

³<https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/broadband-progress-reports/2018-broadband-deployment-report> (last accessed: 30 January 2023).

⁴See e.g. <https://techcrunch.com/2019/04/08/microsoft-says-its-data-shows-fcc-reports-massively-overstate-broadband-adoption/> (last accessed: 30 January 2023).

based on actually measured speeds from Ookla,⁵ one of the leading internet speed measurement providers worldwide. Specifically, I use 2020 fixed median broadband speeds provided through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)'s indicators of broadband need.⁶ Note that these data measure broadband quality *conditional* on there being enough internet users to provide a reasonable quality indicator. In other words, this type of data will not be able to adequately measure the effects of switching from no internet at all to broadband. Instead, the data speak to the effects of switching from slow, low-quality internet to high-speed connections. Further data sources for robustness purposes include Microsoft's broadband measure consisting of the share of devices updating with its services at broadband speeds and the average number of providers claiming to supply broadband quality internet in a given area from the aforementioned FCC form 477 data.⁷

Figure 1 shows the counties where the median recorded download speed from Ookla is below the level considered broadband speed by the FCC (25 mbit/s). It highlights the large, typically more rural, areas of the U.S. that, to a considerable extent, did not have adequate fixed internet availability at broadband speeds by 2020. See also Figure A.1 in Appendix A for a map of continuous (log) speeds.

As for outcome variables, the present work focuses on two indicators of 'fact-resistant' beliefs based on county-level survey measures and projections from the 2020 Yale Climate Opinion Map. The underlying data are based on a long series of annual surveys on various climate change-related attitudes and beliefs, along with a corresponding projection model to improve the accuracy of their climate opinion maps. See Howe et al. (2015a) for more background.

The first indicator is the share of the population, on a scale of 0-100, thinking that climate change is not happening based on responding with 'no' to the question *"Recently, you may have noticed that global warming has been getting some attention in the news. Global warming refers to the idea that the world's average temperature has been increasing*

⁵See <https://github.com/teamookla/ookla-open-data> (last accessed: 27 January 2023).

⁶See <https://broadbandusa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ba2dcd585f5e43cba-41b7c1ebf2a43d0> (last accessed: 29 January 2023).

⁷Microsoft: See <https://github.com/microsoft/USBroadbandUsagePercentages/tree/master/dataset> (last accessed: 27 January 2023), also accessed through the NTIA's indicator data mentioned above. FCC: I average these provider numbers over (population-weighted) census block information from the FCC database: <https://www.fcc.gov/form-477-broadband-deployment-data-december-2019-version-1> (last accessed: 1 November 2022).

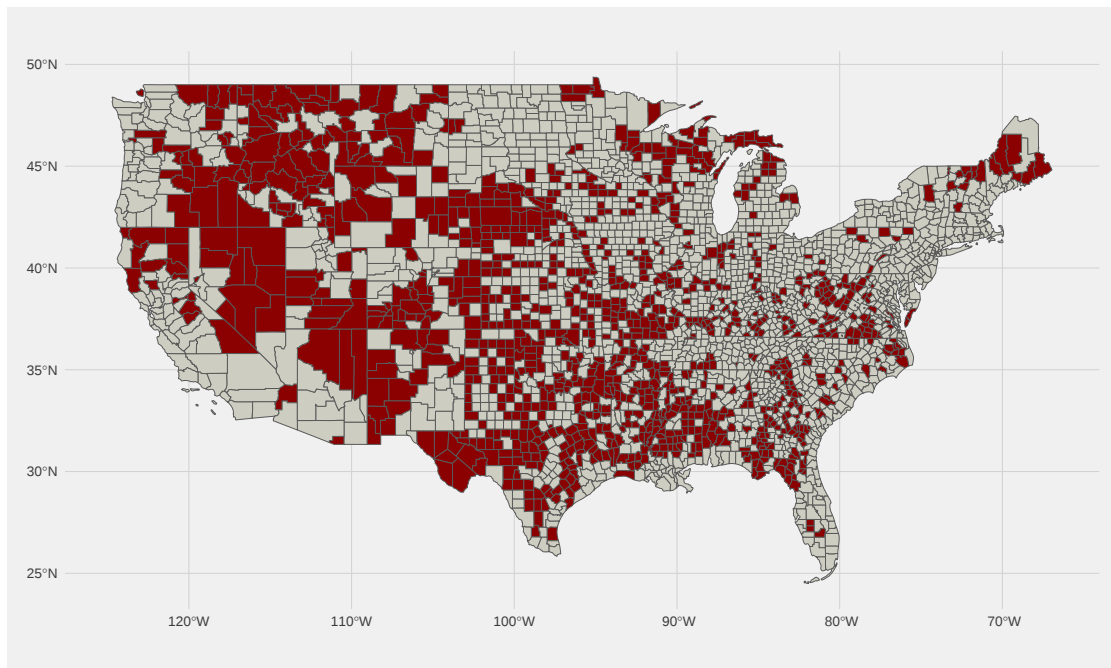


Figure 1: Counties where 2020 median download speed is below FCC broadband classification (<25 mbit/s). Data source: NTIA/Ookla

over the past 150 years, may be increasing more in the future, and that the world's climate may change as a result. What do you think: Do you think that global warming is happening?" (Howe et al., 2015b:1). This is intended to capture personal knowledge and acceptance of the basic facts around climate change.

The second indicator consists of the share of the population, on a scale of 0-100, believing that there is no scientific consensus on climate change by responding with 'there is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether or not global warming is happening' to the question "Which comes closest to your own view? [Response scale: Most scientists think global warming is happening, There is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether or not global warming is happening, Most scientists think global warming is not happening, Don't know enough to say]" (Howe et al., 2015b:2)

This indicator is a more impersonal measure of climate change skepticism and echoes the attempts of many influential voices in the public climate debate to cast doubt on the certainty of the science behind the issue (see, e.g., Oreskes and Conway, 2011).

The data are further complemented with a range of demographic and economic controls from the U.S. Census Bureau, local area unemployment figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and, for identification purposes, county-level average

terrain slope values computed based on an open-source elevation raster data collection managed by Mapzen.⁸ In addition, I also use consumer survey-based data on local Fox News viewership from MRI Simmons Local Consumer Insight. Table 1 below contains descriptive statistics for all outcome and control variables considered in the main analysis.

Table 1: County-level descriptive statistics

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Max
Population (in 100,000)	3,108	1.049	3.348	0.002	100.391
Land area (sq. miles)	3,108	950.711	1,302.933	1.999	20,056.940
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	3,108	0.278	1.806	0.0002	71.345
Black (share)	3,108	0.104	0.147	0.003	0.872
White (share)	3,108	0.867	0.157	0.069	0.996
Hispanic (share)	3,108	0.098	0.139	0.006	0.964
Male (share)	3,108	0.501	0.022	0.430	0.735
Median household income (\$ 1,000)	3,108	49.495	12.838	22.031	135.225
Poverty rate	3,108	0.145	0.058	0.027	0.477
Youth poverty rate	3,108	0.200	0.085	0.024	0.634
Unemployment rate	3,108	0.039	0.014	0.008	0.209
Median age	3,108	41.573	5.350	22.300	68.900
Aged <20 years (share)	3,108	0.244	0.036	0.078	0.449
Aged 20-34 years (share)	3,108	0.180	0.037	0.081	0.467
Aged 35-49 years (share)	3,108	0.175	0.019	0.090	0.271
Aged 50-64 years (share)	3,108	0.203	0.024	0.069	0.308
Aged 65+ years (share)	3,108	0.198	0.048	0.049	0.582
Education: high school degree or more (share)	3,108	0.870	0.063	0.264	0.989
Education: some college or more (share)	3,108	0.529	0.108	0.063	0.916
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	3,108	0.222	0.099	0.000	0.776
Ookla median download speed 2020	3,108	42.989	29.503	2.410	153.477
log(Ookla median download speed 2020)	3,108	3.514	0.727	0.880	5.034
Watched Fox News (last 7 days, share)	3,108	0.191	0.031	0.049	0.424
Republican 2000 presidential vote share	3,108	0.570	0.120	0.090	0.925
Republican 2020 presidential vote share	3,108	0.650	0.161	0.054	0.962
Average slope	3,108	1.362	1.734	0.054	13.626
Climate change is not happening (yes-percent)	3,108	15.639	3.908	3.921	30.159
There is no consensus on climate change (yes-percent)	3,108	28.691	4.066	13.513	40.477

To examine whether the observed patterns based on the Yale Climate Opinion data are also in line with other survey measures and methodology, I further use data from the U.S. Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES), a large survey on political views and voting behavior conducted every year since 2006. These data are described in more detail in Appendix E.

⁸Mapzen is a Linux Foundation project. I use a ground resolution size equivalent to about 1.2km tile width at the equator, corresponding to a pixel size of roughly 900m in the US, depending on the exact latitude. The Terrain Tiles data were accessed on 10 July 2022 from <https://registry.opendata.aws/terrain-tiles> via the *elevatr* R-package. United States SRTM terrain data courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey.

III. EMPIRICAL STRATEGY

The empirical strategy consists of two main components.

First, I perform a series of OLS regressions to explore the basic patterns in the data and how they interact with different choices of covariate selections. The estimation equation takes the following form:

$$Y_c = \beta_0 + \rho \text{Broadband_quality}_c + \gamma X_c + \mu_{state} + \epsilon_c, \quad (1)$$

where Y_c is the outcome (e.g., the share of people not believing in the scientific consensus on climate change) in county c , X_c is a vector of controls (county income, poverty rate, age, and ethnic composition, etc.), μ_{state} denotes state fixed effects, and $\text{Broadband_quality}_c$ is a measure of the extent to which a county has access to high-speed broadband. ϵ_c denotes the error term.

For the parts of the analysis that rely on the CCES data, the estimation follows along similar lines. The key differences are that outcomes are available at the individual rather than the county level, and the broadband internet measure is binary instead of continuous. See Appendix E for more information.

Second, I rely on an instrumental variable (IV) strategy inspired by Lelkes et al. (2017). They make use of (i) state-level variations in the cost of providing broadband access due to so-called ‘Right-of-way’ (ROW) laws as well as (ii) local surface topography as exogenous cost shifters/instruments affecting the local supply of broadband. Due to the geographical coarseness of the ROW measure, I focus on the latter category of instruments in the form of the average terrain slope. This allows me to use state-level fixed effects as well, helping to control for potential state-level correlation between broadband policies and the state administration’s effects on climate change views (for example, a closely elected Republican governor has been linked to more climate skepticism in a state, see Meyer, 2019).

The average slope of a county acts as a proxy for likely topological obstacles that increase the cost of broadband provision. It is highly unlikely that the average terrain slope affects any of the outcomes directly; at least it would appear hard to defend the hypothesis that more hills in the general vicinity directly affect climate change skepticism. However, the exclusion restriction could also be violated in case

of population sorting into/out of these areas. For instance, rural areas may both have a higher average slope and a more climate skeptic population, which would lead to a bias towards coefficients that suggest a stronger effect of the internet in reducing such skepticism. Tables A.1 and A.2 in Appendix A illustrate county characteristics along the internet speed and slope distribution, respectively. In both cases, there are differences in line with expectations (e.g., low internet speed counties being more rural and skeptical, and a higher share of black residents residing in counties with flatter terrain). Yet, county differences tend to be considerably lower along the slope distribution.

To mitigate potential sources of endogeneity, all main estimates are based on controls for a broad range of indicators for both the rural status (area, population, and population density), a wide range of other economic and demographic indicators (gender, age, racial composition, education, poverty rates, and median income), and a measure of pre-broadband ideology, namely the local share of votes in favor of the 2000 presidential bid of George W. Bush.⁹ This election between Bush and Al Gore further coincided very well with political fault lines on climate change, with Gore later winning the Nobel Peace Prize for his environmental efforts, while Bush had strong fossil-fuel ties.¹⁰

In terms of estimation, the second stage instrumental variable specification takes the following form:

$$Y_c = \beta_{IV} + \rho_{IV} \widehat{Broadband_quality}_c + \gamma_{IV} X_c + \mu_{state,IV} + \epsilon_{c,IV}, \quad (2)$$

where Y_c , X_c , $\mu_{state,IV}$ again denote the outcome, a vector of controls, and state fixed effects, respectively. $\widehat{Broadband_quality}_c$ is the predicted value of $Broadband_quality_c$ from the first stage.

⁹Note that broadband was virtually non-existent in 2000, with the International Telecommunication Union reporting only 2.5 fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 population in the U.S. (see <https://datahub.itu.int/data/?e=USA&c=701&i=19303>, last accessed 01 August 2023.)

¹⁰As a curious coincidence in the present context, Gore also campaigned on his strong involvement in the political process of making the internet available to a wider audience during his time in Congress, which was famously (and mockingly) misrepresented as him claiming he ‘invented the internet’ (see https://origins.osu.edu/history-news/gore-did-help-invent-internet?language_content_entity=en, last accessed 01 August 2023).

The corresponding first stage is

$$Broadband_quality_c = \alpha_0 + \pi Instrument_c + \delta X_c + \eta_{state} + \xi_c; \quad (3)$$

where the instrument $Instrument_c$ is the log of the average terrain slope in county c .

IV. RESULTS

A. OLS estimates

In line with expectations, the OLS regressions displayed in column (1) of Tables 2 and 3 show a negative association between broadband availability and the reported share of respondents agreeing that climate change is not happening or that scientists do not agree on the issue, respectively. This is consistent with the notion that better internet quality is correlated with more urban population centers, which are typically associated with more highly educated and more progressive populations and, in turn, less climate change skepticism.

However, once other demographic and economic factors such as education, age, poverty, and median income are taken into account, the regressions point to a significant positive effect of internet quality on the degree of climate change skepticism. Further controlling for Fox News viewership (an important alternative source of potentially misleading information in the climate domain, see, e.g., Feldman et al., 2012) tends to produce a positive coefficient for viewership itself, but does not appear to substantially affect the estimated impact of broadband internet.¹¹

While the broadband coefficients are statistically significant, their economic significance is limited, with a 10 percent increase in county median download speed estimated to increase climate skepticism by only about 0.03-0.06 percentage points depending on the outcome. The strongest predictor of increased climate change skepticism in the presented regressions is pre-broadband partisan identity, with a higher vote share favoring George W. Bush rather than Al Gore (who, as mentioned, campaigned on a strong environmental platform) in the 2000 presidential elections being highly indicative of a lower agreement with the facts on climate change. Conversely, a more

¹¹Note that I report results with the Fox News viewership control in a separate column because it is possible that individuals may be watching more Fox News due to their online activities, potentially rendering it a ‘bad control’ because it would be part of the outcome of interest.

Table 2: Broadband internet and agreement that climate change is not happening

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC not happening (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	-1.406*** (0.102)	0.121* (0.069)	0.280*** (0.059)	0.276*** (0.059)
2000 Bush vote share		14.506*** (0.385)	11.277*** (0.397)	11.253*** (0.395)
Population (100,000)		-0.044** (0.019)	-0.025 (0.018)	-0.025 (0.018)
Population ²		0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)		0.048*** (0.014)	0.102*** (0.020)	0.102*** (0.020)
Land area (sq. miles)		-0.0002*** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)
Education: high school degree or more (share)		2.830* (1.509)	3.005** (1.390)	2.954** (1.388)
Education: some college or more (share)		-1.849* (1.051)	2.374** (1.102)	2.402** (1.102)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)		-13.956*** (1.082)	-17.361*** (1.050)	-17.352*** (1.051)
Median age		0.013 (0.045)	0.017 (0.031)	0.017 (0.031)
Aged 20-34 years (share)		-0.792 (2.370)	-1.054 (2.138)	-1.033 (2.128)
Aged 35-49 years (share)		29.967*** (4.259)	11.235*** (3.510)	11.226*** (3.509)
Aged 50-64 years (share)		-12.307*** (4.478)	-1.605 (3.672)	-1.776 (3.677)
Aged 65+ years (share)		5.253 (4.455)	2.054 (3.311)	1.817 (3.305)
Black (share)		-12.367*** (0.372)	-14.511*** (0.406)	-14.515*** (0.405)
Hispanic (share)		-8.052*** (0.409)	-9.945*** (0.523)	-9.887*** (0.528)
Median household income (1,000 \$)		-0.009 (0.007)	0.005 (0.006)	0.005 (0.006)
Poverty rate		-0.442 (2.687)	3.982* (2.316)	3.978* (2.308)
Youth poverty rate		-0.803 (1.545)	-6.876*** (1.417)	-6.803*** (1.412)
Unemployment rate		-6.564* (3.358)	4.629 (3.700)	4.719 (3.709)
Fox News viewership (share)				1.495 (1.119)
Constant	20.581*** (0.366)	7.615*** (1.966)	11.028*** (1.876)	10.827*** (1.886)
State FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.068	0.780	0.860	0.860

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. The unit of observation consists of a U.S. mainland county.

educated population (in addition to a higher share of support for Al Gore) tends to be among the strongest predictors of more climate science-friendly beliefs.

Table 3: Broadband internet and agreement that there is a consensus on climate change

	CC no consensus (1)	CC no consensus (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	-1.177*** (0.111)	0.363*** (0.093)	0.575*** (0.079)	0.569*** (0.079)
2000 Bush vote share		14.335*** (0.508)	10.144*** (0.524)	10.114*** (0.523)
Population (100,000)		-0.115*** (0.027)	-0.064** (0.025)	-0.064** (0.025)
Population ²		0.001*** (0.0003)	0.001*** (0.0003)	0.001*** (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)		-0.078* (0.043)	-0.023 (0.031)	-0.022 (0.031)
Land area (sq. miles)		-0.0002*** (0.00005)	-0.0001** (0.0001)	-0.0001** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)		8.573*** (1.958)	8.038*** (1.948)	7.975*** (1.945)
Education: some college or more (share)		-1.662 (1.301)	4.808*** (1.354)	4.843*** (1.354)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)		-14.799*** (1.336)	-20.839*** (1.276)	-20.827*** (1.277)
Median age		-0.019 (0.052)	-0.004 (0.034)	-0.004 (0.034)
Aged 20-34 years (share)		3.148 (2.962)	-3.815 (2.710)	-3.789 (2.697)
Aged 35-49 years (share)		45.955*** (5.123)	15.114*** (4.103)	15.103*** (4.099)
Aged 50-64 years (share)		-5.224 (5.662)	-1.526 (4.535)	-1.741 (4.545)
Aged 65+ years (share)		12.029** (5.253)	4.449 (3.809)	4.151 (3.797)
Black (share)		-9.759*** (0.463)	-13.690*** (0.499)	-13.696*** (0.498)
Hispanic (share)		-6.434*** (0.542)	-9.620*** (0.710)	-9.547*** (0.715)
Median household income (1,000 \$)		-0.007 (0.010)	0.007 (0.008)	0.007 (0.008)
Poverty rate		-3.369 (3.543)	6.461** (3.070)	6.456** (3.061)
Youth poverty rate		0.711 (2.143)	-10.168*** (1.949)	-10.076*** (1.945)
Unemployment rate		0.760 (4.354)	10.660** (4.696)	10.773** (4.707)
Fox News viewership (share)				1.879 (1.608)
Constant	32.828*** (0.391)	9.435*** (2.587)	18.848*** (2.541)	18.595*** (2.550)
State FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.044	0.649	0.768	0.768

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. The unit of observation consists of a U.S. mainland county.

Even though these baseline estimates control for a wider range of demographic and economic outcomes, there may still be remaining sources of bias in the estimates. For example, if higher internet quality is correlated with a self-selected population with higher socioeconomic status in a way not adequately captured by the controls, such status could have a positive effect on the belief in the existence and science surrounding climate change. Consequently, broadband internet could appear more beneficial than it really is, implying that the coefficients would turn even larger if such factors were properly accounted for.

B. Instrumental variable estimates

In order to examine the robustness of the above results to a different empirical approach, Table 4 contains the effects produced by the instrumental variable specifications.

The first stage coefficients on display show highly significant slope coefficients with F-statistics around 25. As expected, the sign of the first stage coefficient is negative, consistent with a more uneven county terrain (higher slope) reducing the broadband quality in that area.

Turning to the second stage, I find coefficients directionally consistent with the previous results for both outcomes. They appear to be larger in magnitude, which may be an indication of a slight downward bias in the baseline coefficients shown before. Taken at face value, a 10 percent increase in broadband quality is estimated to raise the share of climate change skeptical responses by about 0.31-0.49 percentage points depending on the outcome. While small, the effect still has some economic significance and amounts to about 0.08-0.12 standard deviations in the outcome variable. The addition or removal of Fox News viewership information only has a negligible influence on the point estimates.

Looking at these effects, there is some difference between the estimated impacts of broadband between the baseline Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) and IV estimates. This raises the question of the potential sources of these divergences. An extreme interpretation would be that the OLS results are heavily biased relative to their IV counterparts, given that they become substantially more positively skewed once controls are added.

Another interpretation builds on the fact that the IV estimates capture a local average

Table 4: *Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates*

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median dl speed)	3.100*** (0.813)	3.117*** (0.828)	4.881*** (1.164)	4.913*** (1.186)
2000 Bush vote share	12.861*** (0.701)	12.888*** (0.716)	12.562*** (0.988)	12.613*** (1.010)
Education: bachelor's+ (share)	-16.704*** (1.594)	-16.708*** (1.596)	-19.835*** (2.015)	-19.843*** (2.019)
Fox News viewership (share)		-1.228 (1.723)		-2.284 (2.510)
First stage:				
log(avg. slope)	-0.080*** (0.015)	-0.079*** (0.015)	-0.080*** (0.015)	-0.079*** (0.015)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Additional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	26.57	25.861	26.57	25.861
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification. The complete set of coefficients is displayed in Table B.1 of Appendix B.1. The full set of first stage coefficients can be found in Table B.2 of Appendix B.2.

treatment effect (LATE) for a complier population (see, e.g., Angrist and Pischke, 2009), meaning in the present case that they infer from areas who have been induced to higher quality internet by having more favorable terrain as opposed to similar areas with more uneven geography. Such areas tend to be more rural due to the fact that urban centers pretty uniformly have high internet quality. And for these counties, expanding broadband coverage may also have larger marginal effects than for a broader segment of the U.S. (e.g., due to diminishing marginal effects of increasing internet quality).

C. Heterogeneity - age and partisan identity

With regard to the online sphere, it would be implausible to assume a uniform impact of better internet quality. The generational divide in exposure to information technology is perhaps the most salient dimension along which the internet usage experience may differ. According to the Pew Research Center, U.S. adults aged 50-64 have less experience in social media use, and their engagement is heavily concentrated on Facebook and YouTube. Conversely, the 18-29 year old age group is more versed and diversified across platforms such as Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram.¹² Therefore,

¹²See <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/social-media/> (last accessed: 31 January 2023).

it should not be entirely unexpected that different usage patterns can contribute to different outcomes. Indeed, Table 5 below shows some (OLS) evidence that a higher population share aged 50-64 tends to increase the coefficients towards more climate skepticism. In addition, there are some indications that pre-broadband local political preferences may constitute another dimension of heterogeneity. Higher internet quality interacted with the share of voters casting their vote for George Bush in the 2000 presidential elections produces a positive and significant coefficient for the ‘no scientific consensus’ outcome, albeit not for outright denialism.

Table 5: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - effect heterogeneity across age shares

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC no consensus (4)	CC no consensus (5)	CC no consensus (6)
log(Ookla median dl speed)	1.204*** (0.464)	−0.607 (0.491)	0.262 (0.319)	1.379** (0.625)	−2.509*** (0.643)	−1.022** (0.414)
log(dl speed) × share(<50 years)	−1.212* (0.714)			−2.977*** (0.962)		
log(dl speed) × share(50-64 years)		5.242*** (1.928)			10.149*** (2.543)	
log(dl speed) × share(65+ years)			1.035 (0.960)			3.112** (1.316)
log(dl speed) × Bush vote share	−0.345 (0.395)	−0.315 (0.399)	−0.331 (0.394)	1.597*** (0.494)	1.677*** (0.501)	1.600*** (0.492)
2000 Bush vote share	12.454*** (1.438)	12.368*** (1.460)	12.359*** (1.431)	4.762** (1.877)	4.457** (1.914)	4.698** (1.864)
Education: bachelor’s+ (share)	−17.619*** (1.011)	−17.293*** (1.033)	−17.766*** (1.014)	−20.777*** (1.224)	−20.405*** (1.228)	−21.029*** (1.234)
Fox News viewership (share)	1.543 (1.109)	1.583 (1.115)	1.653 (1.109)	1.965 (1.574)	2.011 (1.577)	2.092 (1.572)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Additional contr. (incl. age level)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.859	0.859	0.858	0.768	0.768	0.768

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. The complete set of coefficients is displayed in Table B.3 of Appendix B.3.

Next, Tables 6 and 7 show results from IV regressions based on a sample split at the median of local 2000 Bush presidential vote share and the share of the population aged 50-64 to explore whether the OLS patterns above also replicate in this setting. In terms of local political preferences, the estimates do indeed tend to be smaller in areas with a more Democratic-leaning past. For age, the differences tend to go in the same direction, but they tend to be considerably smaller (which may also be due to the smaller differences in age profiles between the samples, counties are more homogeneous along this dimension).

Table 6: Broadband internet, age, and climate skepticism - IV estimates

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median dl speed)	4.221*** (1.488)	3.058*** (1.116)	5.573*** (2.011)	5.457*** (1.721)
2000 Bush vote share	12.212*** (1.457)	13.955*** (0.909)	11.299*** (1.957)	14.501*** (1.385)
Education: bachelor's+ (share)	-14.794*** (2.236)	-16.783*** (2.015)	-16.492*** (3.057)	-20.094*** (2.682)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.837 (2.866)	-0.811 (2.465)	-2.947 (3.880)	-2.303 (3.600)
First stage:				
log(avg. slope)	-0.070*** (0.022)	-0.082*** (0.022)	-0.070*** (0.022)	-0.082*** (0.022)
Sample	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Additional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	10.266	13.526	10.266	13.526
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification. The complete set of coefficients is displayed in Table B.4 of Appendix B.3. The full set of first stage coefficients can be found in Table B.5 of Appendix B.3.

Table 7: Broadband internet, partisan identity, and climate skepticism - IV estimates

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median dl speed)	4.447*** (1.504)	1.520** (0.722)	6.385*** (2.125)	2.547** (1.060)
2000 Bush vote share	14.186*** (1.853)	9.610*** (0.760)	11.555*** (2.604)	12.747*** (1.049)
Education: bachelor's+ (share)	-20.091*** (2.943)	-14.753*** (1.494)	-20.545*** (3.847)	-19.760*** (2.192)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.324 (2.462)	0.747 (2.026)	-4.161 (3.471)	1.364 (2.984)
First stage:				
log(avg. slope)	-0.079*** (0.023)	-0.086*** (0.021)	-0.079*** (0.023)	-0.086*** (0.021)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Additional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	12.039	16.433	12.039	16.433
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.022	0	0.007
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification. The complete set of coefficients is displayed in Table B.6 of Appendix B.3. The full set of first stage coefficients can be found in Table B.7 of Appendix B.3.

Taken together, this evidence is consistent with the climate-skeptical impacts of broadband being driven by middle-aged and more Republican-leaning segments of the population. At the same time, the aggregated data do not permit a direct test of whether the effects are really due to members of these groups reporting skeptical views,

or other individuals who just happened to live in areas with a more middle-aged and politically conservative population.

To address this question, I turn to the CCES data, which allow us to examine how individual partisan identity may be linked to different experiences in the online sphere in terms of climate skepticism, and can also provide evidence from a different survey methodology without local projections.

As mentioned earlier, the internet can both be a source of valuable information and a tool where in-group views can spread and encourage group polarization. In column (1) of Table 8, we can see that the effect of broadband is negative for independent respondents, consistent with the internet as a source of new and accurate information on climate change for this group.¹³ Interestingly, when only Democratic and Republican voters are considered, the coefficient for broadband is no longer significant. Turning to columns (3) to (5), we see a partisan divide in terms of the coefficients, with Republicans leaning toward an increase and Democrats showing a lower extent of climate change denial. When we separate these coefficients further, we can see that middle-aged Republicans appear to be driving the positive coefficients, while the net effect of broadband for younger Republicans is close to zero. The same pattern holds for the response that more research is needed before the need to act on climate change can be determined, see Table E.3 in Appendix E.

As before, we also observe age-related heterogeneity, although the point estimates in Table 8 suggest an overall effect close to zero for the middle-aged (ages 50-64) democratic respondents. Table E.4 in Appendix E further shows an inverted U-shape of broadband coefficients along the age distribution similar to the main results from Table 5. Note that for these outcomes, the data stem from 2010-2012, a time period where, for example, social media use by middle-aged population segments was considerably lower both in absolute terms and relative to younger generations.¹⁴

¹³Note that the coarse binary CCES broadband measure along with the sampling variation lead to very limited explanatory power of my instrument, hence no IV results are reported for this exercise.

¹⁴See <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/social-media/> (last accessed: 31 January 2023). These age groups have since been catching up. For example, the share of respondents aged 50-64 reporting using social media increased from 63% in 2016 to 71% in 2020 in the CCES data (compared to an increase from 88% to 90% for respondents under the age of 30). In turn, these results are consistent with a world of heterogeneous effects along the age dimension where the impact depends on the extent of usage and exposure. That is, while in earlier years the aggregate effects may have favored broadband internet marginally reducing climate change skepticism overall, the increasing online presence of middle-aged individuals may have served to tilt the balance, resulting in a positive (albeit small) net impact observed in the more recent data.

Table 8: Partisan identity and climate change denial - evidence from the Congressional Cooperative Elections Study

	CC not occurring				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Broadband internet	-4.877*** (1.549)	-0.706 (0.632)	-1.864** (0.737)	-1.753** (0.746)	-2.451*** (0.885)
Broadband × Republican			3.331*** (1.224)	3.648*** (1.217)	2.802** (1.251)
Broadband × aged under 30 years				-0.577 (1.565)	
Broadband × Republican × aged under 30 years				-1.908** (0.848)	
Broadband × aged 50-64 years					2.107** (1.074)
Broadband × Republican × aged 50-64 years					1.799*** (0.462)
Sample	Indep.	Rep./Dem.	Rep./Dem.	Rep./Dem.	Rep./Dem.
Additional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	17,385	105,919	105,919	105,919	105,919
Adjusted R ²	0.111	0.047	0.077	0.077	0.077

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the county level in parentheses. Estimates are computed using cross-sectional sampling weights. The outcome is binary and scaled such that it takes the value 100 if the individual stated the view that climate change is not occurring, and 0 otherwise. This survey item is available for the 2010-2012 waves of the CCES, all of which are used here. Internet access is measured by a 0-1 dummy, taking the value 1 if the respondent reports having access to broadband at home, and 0 if the respondent reports having no internet or only dial-up. Partisan identity categories (Republican, independent, Democrat) are defined such that learners toward any party are classified as having the respective partisan identity, i.e., respondents stating to lean Republican (as well as all everyone expressing a stronger Republican identity) are assigned to the ‘Republican’ category, and analogously for the Democrats. The ‘Sample’ row details which partisan identities are used for estimation in a given column. Independents are excluded from columns (2) to (5) in order to get a clean Democrat v. Republican comparison. Additional controls include age, sex, marital status, citizenship, race (white vs. non-white), and a series of education and household income dummies. The full specification can be found in Table E.2 in Appendix E.

D. Robustness

Before discussing the implications and further context of the presented results, I proceed with a battery of checks to test the robustness of the observed patterns.

First, I examine whether clustering by state (instead of the county) affects the interpretation of results.¹⁵ While standard errors tend to be a bit larger and the first stage of the instrumental variable approach somewhat reduced in strength, the interpretation of key coefficients remains the same. The corresponding estimates can be found in Tables C.1, C.2, C.3, C.4, and C.5 in Appendix C.1.

Next, I turn to specifications where I focus on the polar opposite response to the

¹⁵Note that clustering by county is equivalent to Eicker–Huber–White Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors here given I only have one observation per county. In principle, it is reasonable to cluster estimates at the level of treatment assignment and/or sampling strata. However, it could be argued that treatment assignment extends beyond local deployment decisions. At the same time, clustering on a large fraction of the underlying population clusters may also considerably inflate standard errors (see, e.g., Abadie et al., 2023). Here, I report both sets, taking a partially agnostic position on the optimal level of clustering.

climate change questions, i.e., the outcome being the share of people believing that (i) climate change is happening and (ii) that most scientists agree on global warming (labeled “consensus”). This changes the interpretation of the coefficients such that negative values now imply higher climate change skepticism. More importantly, it tests whether there may be important interference patterns by other response categories, in particular, the people who stated “don’t know enough to say”. If the internet affects these shares, then it would also be possible that a decrease in the share of people who believe climate change is not happening will not directly translate into a higher share accepting the existence of global warming. Rather, it may merely reflect varying degrees of general ignorance or disinterest in the matter. As shown in Tables C.6, C.7, C.8, C.9, C.10, and C.11 in Appendix C.2 however, this is not the case. An increase in the skeptical response shares used previously equates to higher skepticism by those alternative measures as well.

One may further be inclined to question whether the array of control variables includes measures that are themselves affected by broadband in a way that results in controlling for part of the outcome. For example, the internet may reduce the local unemployment rate and local poverty, which may be positively linked to beliefs in climate change as well. As an additional check, I provide a set of specifications based on a narrower definition of pre-determined control variables, keeping only ideology based on the 2000 presidential election vote shares as well as geographic and demographic indicators and removing all economic outcomes such as median income, poverty indicators, unemployment, and Fox News viewership. As a result, the estimated coefficients tend to be similar, albeit slightly larger in magnitude, as shown in Tables C.12, C.13, C.14, C.15, and C.16 in Appendix C.3. Overall, the estimates are not suggestive of a noteworthy impact of this type of potentially ‘bad’ control.

In two further sets of checks, I examine whether the observed patterns may be exclusive to the Ookla internet quality measure. I use an alternative indicator by Microsoft, namely the estimated share of the county population using the internet at broadband speed based on the speed at which its software updates get transmitted to devices located in that area. By construction, this indicator is based on a smaller subset of devices and not specifically designed to measure broadband quality. Despite these limitations, the results presented in Tables C.17, C.18, C.19, C.20, and C.21 in

Appendix C.4 show patterns consistent with the evidence displayed previously, all things considered. The same holds if the average number of providers claiming to offer consumers broadband speed in a given area from the FCC form 477 data is used, as shown in Tables C.22, C.23, C.24, C.25, and C.26 in Appendix C.5. In sum, despite considerable differences in the definitions and data sources underlying these measures, they all lead to similar conclusions.

Additionally, the results also hold when the 10% most urban (see Tables C.27, C.28, C.29, C.30, and C.31 in Appendix C.6) or rural (see Tables C.32, C.33, C.34, C.35, and C.36 in Appendix C.7) counties are excluded from estimation, with population density used as a separating measure. Consistent with the notion that compliers are likely to be more rural areas, instrument power increases when urban counties are excluded, and somewhat declines when the most sparsely populated areas are removed.

Finally, I examine whether potential differences in local climate change-related disasters (hurricanes and wildfires), as measured by county-level per capita damages from the SHELDUS database, may have introduced a confounding bias into the estimates as areas more amenable to high-speed internet may also have different disaster experience, which may affect people's views on climate change. I do not find any evidence of this - coefficients remain virtually identical throughout (see Tables C.37, C.38, C.39, C.40, and C.41 in Appendix C.8).¹⁶ The same holds when I control for local climate change in the form of the county-level temperature anomaly relative to the 20th century mean, as shown in Tables C.42, C.43, C.44, C.45, and C.46 in Appendix C.9.¹⁷

V. DISCUSSION

The results presented so far raise the question of the potential origins of the observed effects. To this end, the available data along with additional sources of information on online and political behavior can provide some further context.

First, for better internet quality to have any type of downstream effect, there needs to be a corresponding change in usage behavior. If there is no observable difference in online behavior along the internet quality scale, it would be hard to argue that the new

¹⁶Data source: Arizona State University's Spatial Hazard Events and Losses Database for the United States - <https://sheldus.asu.edu/SHELDUS/>.

¹⁷Data source: NOAA National Center for Environmental Information, retrieved on December 14, 2023 from <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/county/mapping>.

information landscape provided by better internet affects people's views.

Indeed, based on data from the CCES from 2016-2020, having access to broadband internet at home is associated with a significantly higher share of respondents reporting to have used social media in the last 24 hours, which is a potential proxy measure for the frequency of internet usage as well as a possible point of contact with misleading information (see Table E.5 in Appendix E). This association persists across age groups, with the strongest effects stemming from individuals below the age of 30 (see Table E.7 in Appendix E).

Second, even if social media usage increases, for it to affect views on climate change, users would also need to use it in a way that potentially increases exposure to climate change-related information. Given that views on climate change are often expressed in a political context, one proxy for such exposure may be the general tendency to view and interact with political content. Based on information from the 2016-2019 CCES, broadband is positively linked to (i) viewing and (ii) sharing political content on social media, as well as following political events thereon (see Tables E.5 and E.6 in Appendix E). Again, people aged below 30 show the strongest increases in viewership of political content on social media, but the effects are positive and significant at conventional levels throughout, with no significant age heterogeneity for deeper interaction with political content in the form of following political events or sharing political posts (see Tables E.7 and E.8 in Appendix E)

A. Broadband, climate skepticism, and partisan identity

As shown previously, the results contain some indications that partisan identity could be a part of an explanation behind the observed patterns as far as broadband and climate change skepticism is concerned. One may conjecture (as, e.g., Melnikov, 2021), that the internet has also affected political preferences and views.

Indeed, as shown in Table 9, the instrumental variable estimates point to a positive effect of internet quality on the share of votes for Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential elections.

Table 9: Broadband internet and 2020 Republican presidential election vote share

	R vote 2020 (OLS) (1)	R vote 2020 (OLS) (2)	R vote 2020 (IV) (3)	R vote 2020 (IV) (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	−0.087*** (0.004)	−0.002 (0.002)	0.104 (0.064)	0.180*** (0.040)
2000 Bush vote share		0.650*** (0.016)		0.755*** (0.035)
First stage:				
log(avg. slope)			−0.056*** (0.013)	−0.079*** (0.015)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)			19.575	25.861
p(AR-Wald)			0.046	0
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification. The estimates include a broad set of additional demographic and economic controls. All coefficients are shown in Table D.1 in Appendix D.1. The corresponding first stage coefficients can be found in Table B.2 of Appendix B.2 (first stages identical to columns 1 and 3 therein, respectively).

In other words, the local average treatment effect for the complier population suggests that at least part of the observed impacts may be explained by the internet shifting partisan identity towards the Republican side for the complier counties, which, as mentioned above, are likely to be more rural and, hence, have a more Republican-leaning baseline ideology already. Therefore, it may not be reasonable to expect the internet to have caused a general Republican shift in the wider population, which may also help to explain the relatively precise zero estimate for the OLS specification in column (2). Instead, if the IV estimates are driven by variations in internet quality in more rural, Republican-leaning areas, the estimated effect would be consistent with a positive impact on political polarization. Such findings would be in line with results from other studies in this area (see e.g. Lelkes et al., 2017; Levy, 2021, and especially Melnikov, 2021).¹⁸

Next, Table 10 shows that controlling for contemporaneous (instead of pre-broadband) partisan identity in the form of the Republican incumbent’s vote share in

¹⁸Naturally, polarization involves more than one pole, hence my results alone would not be sufficient evidence to claim that this is what is occurring given that they omit the Democratic side.

the 2020 U.S. presidential elections reduces the coefficients for the IV estimates considerably, in the case of climate change denial to the extent that the effect is no longer significant at conventional levels. Again, this pattern is consistent with the notion that partisan identity may be an important part of what is driving the IV coefficients displayed earlier.

Table 10: *Broadband internet and climate skepticism controlling for concurrent partisan identity*

	CC not happening (OLS)	CC not happening (IV)	CC no consensus (OLS)	CC no consensus (IV)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	0.319*** (0.053)	0.008 (0.430)	0.615*** (0.076)	1.860*** (0.690)
2020 Trump vote share	17.400*** (0.361)	17.215*** (0.432)	16.147*** (0.525)	16.889*** (0.688)
First stage:				
log(avg. slope)		−0.088*** (0.016)		−0.088*** (0.016)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Additional controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)		32.042		32.042
p(AR-Wald)		0.985		0.004
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification. The full set coefficients can be found in Table D.2 of Appendix D.2.

VI. CONCLUSION

The present study examines the extent to which the availability of high-speed broadband internet may have shifted attitudes of the U.S. population away from the scientific consensus toward more climate change skepticism, a prominent example of a crucial policy issue marred by a plethora of online conspiracies. The entirety of the evidence presented only suggests a limited aggregate impact on the studied population, namely residents of the contiguous United States.

There is some suggestive evidence that the detrimental effects of higher internet quality on the agreement with climate science may be driven by middle-aged (particularly ages around 50-64) and more politically conservative segments of the population.

Complementary data further suggest that the link between broadband internet and climate change skepticism may be strongest for middle-aged Republican voters, while the effects are reversed for independent and Democratic voters, in line with the conception of the internet as a heterogeneous information space.

The observed patterns are also consistent with partisan identity being an important candidate for an underlying explanation. The instrumental variable estimates point to broadband internet increasing the 2020 Republican presidential vote share for the (likely more rural) complier population.

In addition to the standard caveat of external validity for other contexts (e.g., countries more involved in active ‘management’ of online content), two aspects should be on readers’ minds whenever the implications of these findings are considered. First, the present approach by design is only focused on a specific type of false or ‘fact-resistant’ belief. There are other potentially highly perilous falsehoods the internet may have spread to the detriment of its users. Second, to consider policy implications, it may also be necessary to examine more holistically how the internet has affected the ways and forms in which information and misinformation reach citizens, including interactions between traditional media, new/social media, and other channels through which individuals tend to get cues influencing their convictions and beliefs on important policy issues.

Overall, the evidence presented here does not lend support to the view that the internet in and of itself has led to pronounced changes in susceptibility to ‘fact-resistance’ in the case of climate change skepticism, even if some degree of ideological polarization of views is possible. Instead, it is more in line with a conception of society where most of its members can put potentially misleading information on the web into proper context. We may not be in the ‘best of all possible worlds’, but having a slightly more Panglossian view on the internet may not be entirely unwarranted.

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Appendix

A. DESCRIPTIVE MAPS AND TABLES

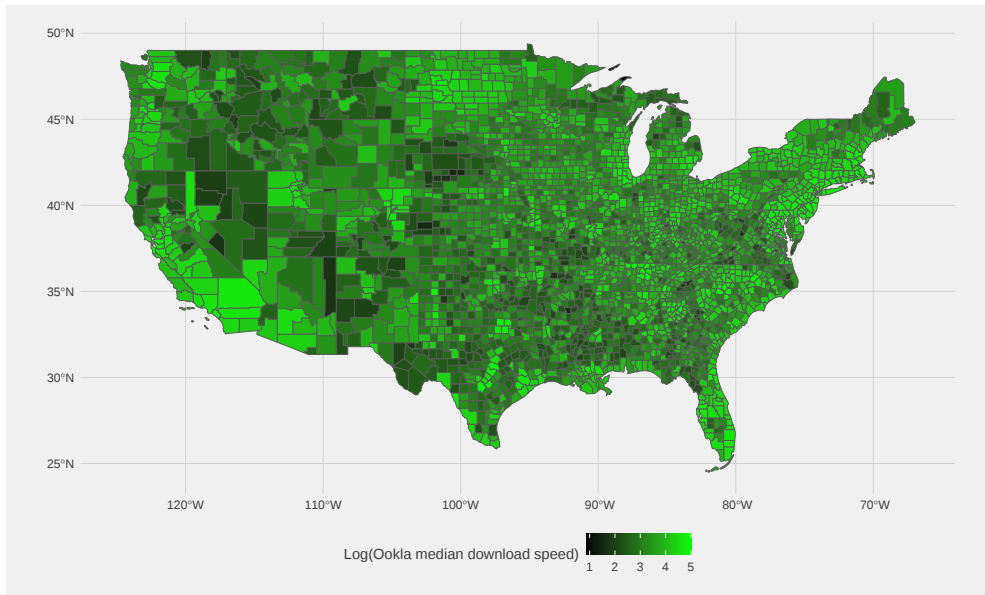


Figure A.1: Log of median broadband speed measurement by county. Data source: NTIA/Ookla

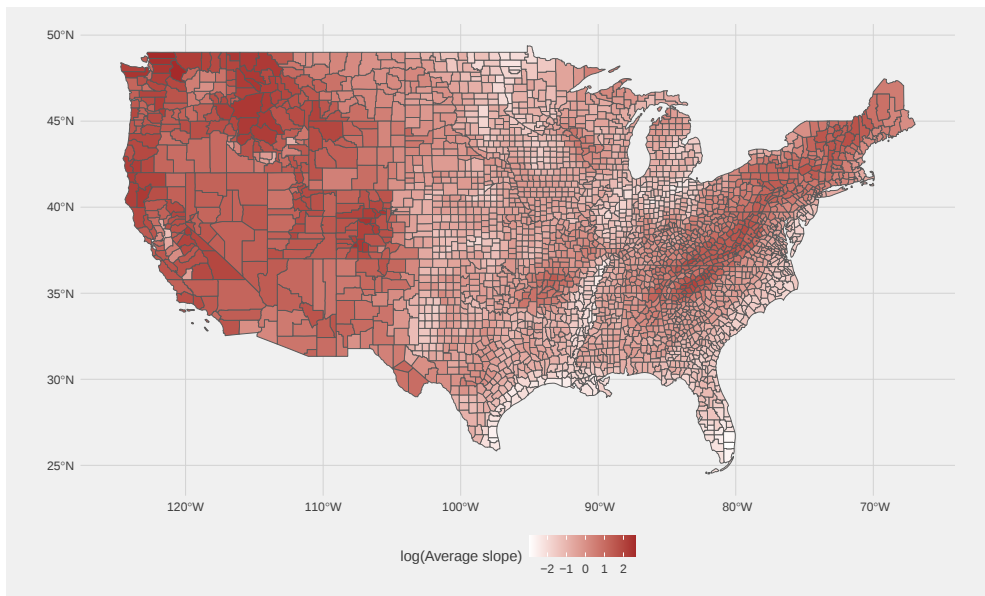


Figure A.2: Log of average terrain slope by county. Data source: Mapzen/USGS/own calculations

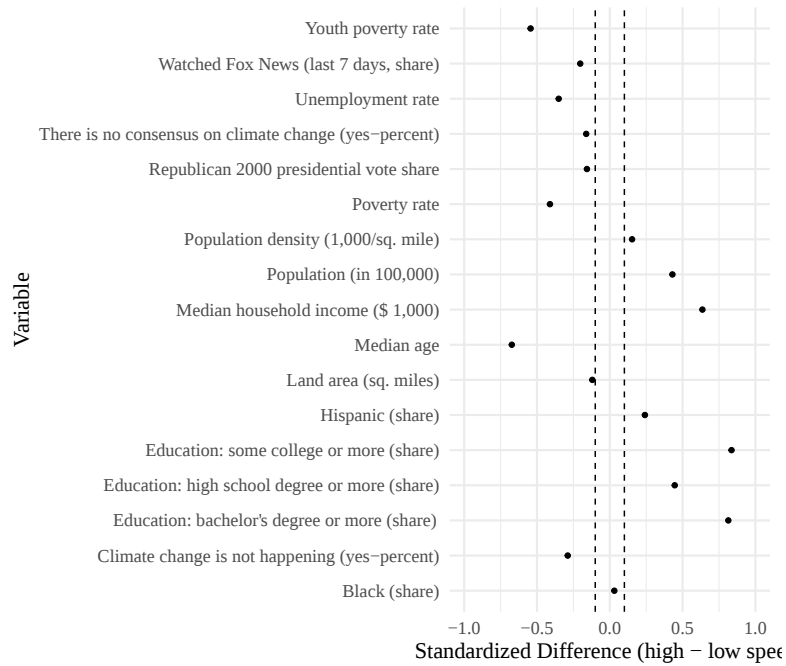


Figure A.3: Covariate balance (state demeaned) w.r.t. speed

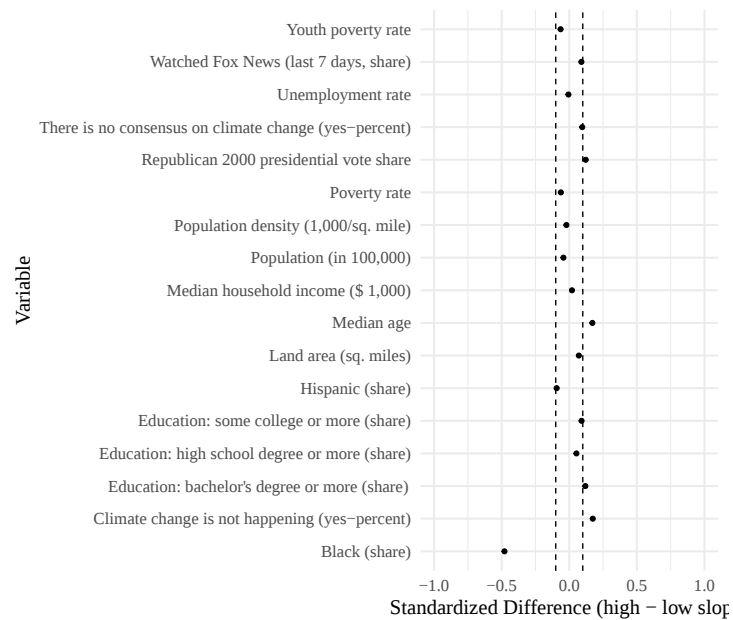


Figure A.4: Covariate balance (state demeaned) w.r.t. slope

Table A.1: Comparison of county properties between top and bottom halves in median measured download speed

Variable	Mean top half	Mean bottom half	Standardized diff.
Population (in 100,000)	1.907	0.192	0.53
Median age	40.136	43.01	-0.558
Land area (sq. miles)	810.447	1090.974	-0.217
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.526	0.03	0.277
Hispanic (share)	0.099	0.098	0.007
Black (share)	0.107	0.1	0.047
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.884	0.857	0.453
Education: some college or more (share)	0.566	0.492	0.732
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	0.262	0.181	0.892
Median household income (\$ 1,000)	54.044	44.946	0.758
Unemployment rate	0.038	0.041	-0.236
Poverty rate	0.132	0.158	-0.469
Youth poverty rate	0.177	0.223	-0.562
Watched Fox News (last 7 days, share)	0.188	0.194	-0.198
Republican 2000 presidential vote share	0.546	0.593	-0.403
Average slope	1.252	1.473	-0.128
Climate change is not happening (yes-percent)	14.828	16.449	-0.424
There is no consensus on climate change (yes-percent)	28.057	29.326	-0.316

Table A.2: Comparison of county properties between top and bottom halves in average county terrain slope

Variable	Mean top half	Mean bottom half	Standardized diff.
Population (in 100,000)	1.113	0.986	0.038
Median age	42.266	40.88	0.261
Land area (sq. miles)	1216.034	685.387	0.416
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.319	0.237	0.046
Hispanic (share)	0.094	0.102	-0.053
Black (share)	0.063	0.144	-0.573
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.874	0.867	0.098
Education: some college or more (share)	0.536	0.521	0.135
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	0.233	0.21	0.239
Median household income (\$ 1,000)	50.03	48.961	0.083
Unemployment rate	0.04	0.038	0.106
Poverty rate	0.142	0.147	-0.079
Youth poverty rate	0.196	0.205	-0.105
Watched Fox News (last 7 days, share)	0.19	0.191	-0.042
Republican 2000 presidential vote share	0.573	0.566	0.06
Climate change is not happening (yes-percent)	15.855	15.422	0.111
There is no consensus on climate change (yes-percent)	28.85	28.532	0.078

B. FULL ESTIMATION TABLES

B.1. Full second stage estimates

Table B.1: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates corresponding to Table 4

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	3.100*** (0.813)	3.117*** (0.828)	4.881*** (1.164)	4.913*** (1.186)
2000 Bush vote share	12.861*** (0.701)	12.888*** (0.716)	12.562*** (0.988)	12.613*** (1.010)
Population (100,000)	-0.209*** (0.059)	-0.210*** (0.059)	-0.346*** (0.084)	-0.347*** (0.085)
Population ²	0.002*** (0.001)	0.002*** (0.001)	0.004*** (0.001)	0.004*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.151*** (0.025)	0.151*** (0.025)	0.052 (0.038)	0.052 (0.038)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.259 (1.715)	2.297 (1.719)	6.900*** (2.458)	6.970*** (2.468)
Education: some college or more (share)	-4.622* (2.657)	-4.680* (2.695)	-5.875 (3.614)	-5.982 (3.673)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-16.704*** (1.594)	-16.708*** (1.596)	-19.835*** (2.015)	-19.843*** (2.019)
Median age	0.009 (0.051)	0.009 (0.051)	-0.017 (0.061)	-0.016 (0.061)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-2.362 (2.728)	-2.386 (2.742)	-5.813 (3.722)	-5.857 (3.748)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	5.410 (5.274)	5.388 (5.292)	6.220 (6.738)	6.179 (6.773)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	15.216** (7.620)	15.440** (7.743)	24.159** (10.160)	24.575** (10.347)
Aged 65+ years (share)	9.782* (5.738)	10.014* (5.811)	16.248** (7.192)	16.680** (7.311)
Black (share)	-13.775*** (0.547)	-13.768*** (0.551)	-12.566*** (0.784)	-12.553*** (0.790)
Hispanic (share)	-11.303*** (0.738)	-11.358*** (0.762)	-11.695*** (1.070)	-11.796*** (1.103)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.011 (0.009)	0.010 (0.009)	0.015 (0.012)	0.015 (0.012)
Poverty rate	14.537*** (4.146)	14.593*** (4.183)	22.578*** (5.998)	22.681*** (6.060)
Youth poverty rate	-9.775*** (2.013)	-9.849*** (2.039)	-14.594*** (2.933)	-14.732*** (2.978)
Unemployment rate	0.216 (4.851)	0.120 (4.868)	3.921 (6.781)	3.744 (6.818)
Fox News viewership (share)		-1.228 (1.723)		-2.284 (2.510)
Constant	-0.524 (4.004)	-0.416 (3.960)	1.209 (5.597)	1.409 (5.541)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	26.57	25.861	26.57	25.861
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

B.2. Full first stage estimates

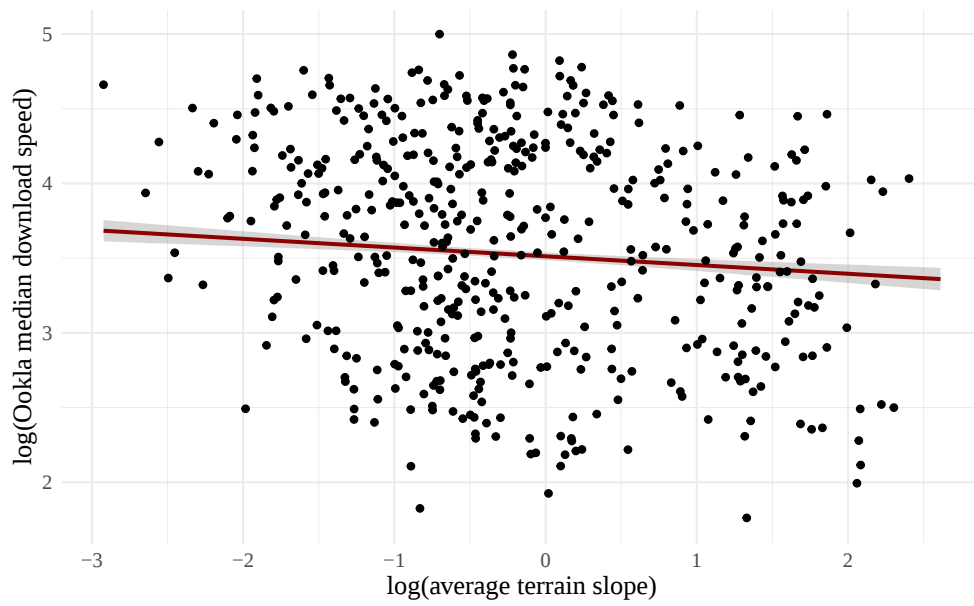


Figure B.1: First stage relationship between terrain slope and internet quality. Note that for visual purposes, only a random sample of 500 county observations has been plotted. The linear fit (and corresponding 95% confidence bands) is based on the entire sample. Data source: NTIA/Ookla/Mapzen/USGS

Table B.2: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - first stage of estimates corresponding to Table 4

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.080*** (0.015)	-0.079*** (0.015)	-0.080*** (0.015)	-0.079*** (0.015)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.592*** (0.128)	-0.604*** (0.128)	-0.592*** (0.128)	-0.604*** (0.128)
Population (100,000)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)
Population ²	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.161 (0.387)	0.131 (0.386)	0.161 (0.387)	0.131 (0.386)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.470*** (0.337)	2.481*** (0.335)	2.470*** (0.337)	2.481*** (0.335)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-0.033 (0.334)	-0.029 (0.333)	-0.033 (0.334)	-0.029 (0.333)
Median age	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	0.699 (0.611)	0.707 (0.609)	0.699 (0.611)	0.707 (0.609)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	2.549** (1.047)	2.533** (1.045)	2.549** (1.047)	2.533** (1.045)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-5.485*** (1.197)	-5.580*** (1.194)	-5.485*** (1.197)	-5.580*** (1.194)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-2.542** (1.050)	-2.682** (1.045)	-2.542** (1.050)	-2.682** (1.045)
Black (share)	-0.493*** (0.123)	-0.492*** (0.123)	-0.493*** (0.123)	-0.492*** (0.123)
Hispanic (share)	0.395*** (0.149)	0.430*** (0.150)	0.395*** (0.149)	0.430*** (0.150)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)
Poverty rate	-3.795*** (0.645)	-3.787*** (0.643)	-3.795*** (0.645)	-3.787*** (0.643)
Youth poverty rate	1.104** (0.435)	1.145*** (0.434)	1.104** (0.435)	1.145*** (0.434)
Unemployment rate	1.786 (1.115)	1.833* (1.110)	1.786 (1.115)	1.833* (1.110)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.909** (0.391)		0.909** (0.391)
Constant	3.983*** (0.474)	3.852*** (0.478)	3.983*** (0.474)	3.852*** (0.478)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	26.57	25.861	26.57	25.861
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.570

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

B.3. Full heterogeneity estimates

Table B.3: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - age heterogeneity - full estimates corresponding to Table 5

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC no consensus (4)	CC no consensus (5)	CC no consensus (6)
log(Ookla median download speed)	1.204*** (0.464)	-0.607 (0.491)	0.262 (0.319)	1.379** (0.625)	-2.509*** (0.643)	-1.022** (0.414)
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(<50 years)	-1.212* (0.714)			-2.977*** (0.962)		
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(50-64 years)		5.242*** (1.928)			10.149*** (2.543)	
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(65+ years)			1.035 (0.960)			3.112** (1.316)
log(Ookla dl speed) × Bush vote share	-0.345 (0.395)	-0.315 (0.399)	-0.331 (0.394)	1.597*** (0.494)	1.677*** (0.501)	1.600*** (0.492)
2000 Bush vote share	12.454*** (1.438)	12.368*** (1.460)	12.359*** (1.431)	4.762** (1.877)	4.457** (1.914)	4.698** (1.864)
Population (100,000)	-0.010 (0.018)	-0.010 (0.018)	-0.012 (0.018)	-0.019 (0.024)	-0.021 (0.024)	-0.023 (0.024)
Population ²	0.0005** (0.0002)	0.0004** (0.0002)	0.0005*** (0.0002)	0.0004 (0.0002)	0.0004 (0.0002)	0.0004* (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.104*** (0.021)	0.107*** (0.021)	0.102*** (0.021)	0.002 (0.026)	0.007 (0.026)	-0.001 (0.026)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.0001)	-0.0001** (0.0001)	-0.0001** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.881** (1.408)	3.013** (1.405)	2.825** (1.419)	8.023*** (1.955)	8.159*** (1.948)	7.908*** (1.969)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.096* (1.109)	2.064* (1.113)	2.067* (1.112)	4.490*** (1.353)	4.402*** (1.356)	4.468*** (1.353)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-17.619*** (1.011)	-17.293*** (1.033)	-17.766*** (1.014)	-20.777*** (1.224)	-20.405*** (1.228)	-21.029*** (1.234)
<50 years (share)	3.000 (2.682)			8.815** (3.671)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)		-14.981** (7.187)			-31.553*** (9.598)	
Aged 65+ years (share)			-2.193 (3.565)			-8.886* (4.989)
Black (share)	-14.503*** (0.414)	-14.556*** (0.405)	-14.529*** (0.416)	-13.775*** (0.506)	-13.882*** (0.497)	-13.794*** (0.506)
Hispanic (share)	-9.951*** (0.511)	-9.920*** (0.524)	-10.031*** (0.499)	-9.512*** (0.700)	-9.528*** (0.719)	-9.602*** (0.684)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.014*** (0.006)	0.010* (0.006)	0.016*** (0.006)	0.016** (0.007)	0.010 (0.007)	0.018** (0.007)
Poverty rate	3.876* (2.164)	3.572* (2.105)	3.666* (2.129)	3.893 (2.929)	3.490 (2.827)	3.796 (2.870)
Youth poverty rate	-6.835*** (1.358)	-6.720*** (1.271)	-6.702*** (1.346)	-8.514*** (1.860)	-8.399*** (1.735)	-8.421*** (1.843)
Unemployment rate	5.790 (3.653)	6.146* (3.635)	5.620 (3.653)	11.388** (4.603)	11.713** (4.605)	10.998** (4.602)
Fox News viewership (share)	1.543 (1.109)	1.583 (1.115)	1.653 (1.109)	1.965 (1.574)	2.011 (1.577)	2.092 (1.572)
Constant	10.693*** (2.072)	15.623*** (2.228)	13.016*** (1.653)	18.624*** (2.912)	30.615*** (3.091)	25.737*** (2.298)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.859	0.859	0.858	0.768	0.768	0.768

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker-Huber-White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table B.4: Broadband internet, age, and climate skepticism - IV estimates corresponding to Table 6

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.221*** (1.488)	3.058*** (1.116)	5.573*** (2.011)	5.457*** (1.721)
2000 Bush vote share	12.212*** (1.457)	13.955*** (0.909)	11.299*** (1.957)	14.501*** (1.385)
Population (100,000)	-1.145*** (0.405)	-0.200*** (0.068)	-1.231** (0.550)	-0.369*** (0.105)
Population ²	0.072*** (0.028)	0.002*** (0.001)	0.075* (0.038)	0.004*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.077 (0.099)	0.133*** (0.027)	-0.123 (0.220)	0.057* (0.033)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	5.710* (3.091)	0.172 (2.483)	9.582** (4.240)	4.410 (3.767)
Education: some college or more (share)	-5.364 (4.285)	-4.075 (3.378)	-5.165 (5.806)	-6.596 (4.891)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-14.794*** (2.236)	-16.783*** (2.015)	-16.492*** (3.057)	-20.094*** (2.682)
Median age	-0.058 (0.058)	0.081 (0.076)	-0.096 (0.078)	0.076 (0.095)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-19.518*** (6.353)	3.208 (3.541)	-21.829** (8.753)	0.926 (5.201)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	8.399 (7.598)	-2.565 (8.983)	7.601 (10.176)	-5.635 (11.766)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	26.387* (14.615)	11.491 (8.876)	30.640 (19.773)	22.407* (13.155)
Aged 65+ years (share)	4.317 (6.592)	11.826 (8.980)	7.641 (8.879)	21.947* (12.049)
Black (share)	-14.958*** (1.222)	-12.342*** (0.754)	-13.890*** (1.646)	-10.667*** (1.171)
Hispanic (share)	-13.108*** (1.412)	-10.390*** (1.061)	-16.084*** (1.944)	-10.422*** (1.612)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.002 (0.016)	0.023 (0.015)	-0.006 (0.021)	0.038* (0.022)
Poverty rate	17.498*** (5.738)	15.258** (6.879)	17.790** (7.477)	29.506*** (10.760)
Youth poverty rate	-8.381** (3.385)	-10.637*** (3.307)	-10.496** (4.563)	-17.230*** (5.153)
Unemployment rate	12.500 (7.615)	-3.190 (6.891)	20.457** (10.206)	-4.322 (10.753)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.837 (2.866)	-0.811 (2.465)	-2.947 (3.880)	-2.303 (3.600)
Constant	-2.617 (8.347)	-1.965 (4.247)	4.243 (11.321)	-4.326 (6.366)
Sample	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	10.266	13.526	10.266	13.526
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table B.5: Broadband internet, age and climate skepticism - first stage of estimates corresponding to Table 6

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	−0.070*** (0.022)	−0.082*** (0.022)	−0.070*** (0.022)	−0.082*** (0.022)
2000 Bush vote share	−0.824*** (0.177)	−0.493*** (0.179)	−0.824*** (0.177)	−0.493*** (0.179)
Population (100,000)	0.254*** (0.042)	0.056*** (0.007)	0.254*** (0.042)	0.056*** (0.007)
Population ²	−0.016*** (0.005)	−0.001*** (0.0001)	−0.016*** (0.005)	−0.001*** (0.0001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.0003 (0.018)	−0.013*** (0.004)	0.0003 (0.018)	−0.013*** (0.004)
Land area (sq. miles)	−0.00004** (0.00002)	−0.0001*** (0.00001)	−0.00004** (0.00002)	−0.0001*** (0.00001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	−0.859 (0.574)	1.160** (0.490)	−0.859 (0.574)	1.160** (0.490)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.434*** (0.456)	2.193*** (0.457)	2.434*** (0.456)	2.193*** (0.457)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	−0.415 (0.439)	−0.185 (0.426)	−0.415 (0.439)	−0.185 (0.426)
Median age	0.010 (0.011)	−0.005 (0.015)	0.010 (0.011)	−0.005 (0.015)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	2.006 (1.255)	1.080 (0.739)	2.006 (1.255)	1.080 (0.739)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	−0.401 (1.544)	3.407** (1.540)	−0.401 (1.544)	3.407** (1.540)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	−7.913*** (1.653)	−1.776 (2.047)	−7.913*** (1.653)	−1.776 (2.047)
Aged 65+ years (share)	−1.782 (1.210)	−3.387** (1.646)	−1.782 (1.210)	−3.387** (1.646)
Black (share)	−0.823*** (0.199)	−0.438*** (0.160)	−0.823*** (0.199)	−0.438*** (0.160)
Hispanic (share)	0.093 (0.276)	0.631*** (0.176)	0.093 (0.276)	0.631*** (0.176)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.004 (0.003)	−0.007** (0.003)	0.004 (0.003)	−0.007** (0.003)
Poverty rate	−0.118 (1.135)	−5.411*** (0.791)	−0.118 (1.135)	−5.411*** (0.791)
Youth poverty rate	−0.310 (0.693)	1.958*** (0.568)	−0.310 (0.693)	1.958*** (0.568)
Unemployment rate	−1.469 (1.574)	3.240** (1.613)	−1.469 (1.574)	3.240** (1.613)
Fox News viewership (share)	0.927* (0.491)	0.466 (0.605)	0.927* (0.491)	0.466 (0.605)
Constant	4.743*** (0.875)	2.768*** (0.594)	4.743*** (0.875)	2.768*** (0.594)
Sample	>median(mid. age) <median(mid. age) >median(mid. age) <median(mid. age)			
State FE	Yes Yes Yes Yes			
F-Statistic (1st st.)	10.266 13.526 10.266 13.526			
Observations	1,554 1,554 1,554 1,554			
Adjusted R ²	0.560 0.601 0.560 0.601			

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table B.6: Broadband internet, partisan identity and climate skepticism - IV estimates corresponding to Table 7

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.447*** (1.504)	1.520** (0.722)	6.385*** (2.125)	2.547** (1.060)
2000 Bush vote share	14.186*** (1.853)	9.610*** (0.760)	11.555*** (2.604)	12.747*** (1.049)
Population (100,000)	-1.379*** (0.461)	-0.068* (0.040)	-1.921*** (0.638)	-0.127** (0.059)
Population ²	0.069** (0.027)	0.001** (0.0004)	0.088** (0.037)	0.001** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.232 (0.383)	0.082*** (0.017)	-0.334 (0.508)	0.006 (0.031)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0002 (0.0001)	-0.00005 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0002)	-0.00001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	3.223 (2.638)	3.499** (1.733)	7.999** (3.668)	6.283** (2.795)
Education: some college or more (share)	-0.679 (2.918)	-2.832 (2.891)	-1.544 (3.810)	-1.387 (4.195)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-20.091*** (2.943)	-14.753*** (1.494)	-20.545*** (3.847)	-19.760*** (2.192)
Median age	0.021 (0.067)	0.010 (0.042)	0.017 (0.083)	-0.049 (0.063)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-10.460** (5.311)	4.266 (2.811)	-15.199** (7.250)	1.718 (3.861)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-1.617 (7.947)	16.475*** (4.341)	1.923 (10.543)	17.328*** (6.147)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	13.354 (9.918)	10.868 (8.038)	19.376 (13.153)	18.160 (11.696)
Aged 65+ years (share)	1.629 (7.091)	10.618* (5.463)	4.803 (9.200)	19.791** (7.854)
Black (share)	-20.008*** (1.195)	-13.834*** (0.534)	-18.519*** (1.748)	-12.256*** (0.756)
Hispanic (share)	-12.389*** (1.158)	-9.349*** (0.851)	-12.193*** (1.670)	-9.904*** (1.186)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.015 (0.016)	-0.003 (0.008)	0.013 (0.022)	0.009 (0.011)
Poverty rate	21.332*** (6.792)	4.729 (3.713)	27.394*** (9.532)	12.309** (5.527)
Youth poverty rate	-9.397*** (3.276)	-6.582*** (2.086)	-11.811** (4.650)	-12.260*** (3.065)
Unemployment rate	-4.157 (9.534)	8.090** (3.894)	-6.069 (13.383)	12.788** (5.654)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.324 (2.462)	0.747 (2.026)	-4.161 (3.471)	1.364 (2.984)
Constant	-2.987 (6.499)	2.576 (4.134)	-0.523 (9.085)	6.922 (6.107)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	12.039	16.433	12.039	16.433
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.022	0	0.007
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table B.7: Broadband internet, partisan identity and climate skepticism - first stage of estimates corresponding to Table 7

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.079*** (0.023)	-0.086*** (0.021)	-0.079*** (0.023)	-0.086*** (0.021)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.867*** (0.254)	-0.477** (0.223)	-0.867*** (0.254)	-0.477** (0.223)
Population (100,000)	0.288*** (0.035)	0.048*** (0.006)	0.288*** (0.035)	0.048*** (0.006)
Population ²	-0.014*** (0.004)	-0.0005*** (0.0001)	-0.014*** (0.004)	-0.0005*** (0.0001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.047 (0.046)	-0.011*** (0.003)	0.047 (0.046)	-0.011*** (0.003)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00002)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00002)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.321 (0.486)	-0.565 (0.589)	0.321 (0.486)	-0.565 (0.589)
Education: some college or more (share)	0.841* (0.440)	3.346*** (0.456)	0.841* (0.440)	3.346*** (0.456)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	1.011** (0.462)	-0.774* (0.425)	1.011** (0.462)	-0.774* (0.425)
Median age	-0.002 (0.011)	0.007 (0.014)	-0.002 (0.011)	0.007 (0.014)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	2.256*** (0.830)	-0.543 (0.880)	2.256*** (0.830)	-0.543 (0.880)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	2.453** (1.235)	0.960 (1.419)	2.453** (1.235)	0.960 (1.419)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-3.512** (1.393)	-6.993*** (1.791)	-3.512** (1.393)	-6.993*** (1.791)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-0.942 (1.142)	-3.881** (1.555)	-0.942 (1.142)	-3.881** (1.555)
Black (share)	-0.118 (0.246)	-0.539*** (0.164)	-0.118 (0.246)	-0.539*** (0.164)
Hispanic (share)	0.257 (0.203)	0.501** (0.206)	0.257 (0.203)	0.501** (0.206)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.002 (0.003)	-0.003 (0.003)	-0.002 (0.003)	-0.003 (0.003)
Poverty rate	-2.988*** (1.019)	-3.981*** (0.834)	-2.988*** (1.019)	-3.981*** (0.834)
Youth poverty rate	0.492 (0.620)	1.474** (0.587)	0.492 (0.620)	1.474** (0.587)
Unemployment rate	1.035 (1.887)	0.293 (1.259)	1.035 (1.887)	0.293 (1.259)
Fox News viewership (share)	0.509 (0.475)	1.282** (0.595)	0.509 (0.475)	1.282** (0.595)
Constant	3.592*** (0.655)	4.865*** (0.716)	3.592*** (0.655)	4.865*** (0.716)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	12.039	16.433	12.039	16.433
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554
Adjusted R ²	0.570	0.611	0.570	0.611

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

C. ROBUSTNESS

C.1. Clustering by state

Table C.1: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - baseline - SE clustered by state

	CC not happening	CC no consensus	CC not happening	CC no consensus
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	0.276*** (0.059)	0.569*** (0.079)	-0.607 (0.491)	-2.509*** (0.643)
2000 Bush vote share			5.242*** (1.928)	10.149*** (2.543)
Population (100,000)			-0.315 (0.399)	1.677*** (0.501)
Population ²	11.253*** (0.395)	10.114*** (0.523)	12.368*** (1.460)	4.457** (1.914)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.025 (0.018)	-0.064** (0.025)	-0.010 (0.018)	-0.021 (0.024)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.0004** (0.0002)	0.0004 (0.0002)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.102*** (0.020)	-0.022 (0.031)	0.107*** (0.021)	0.007 (0.026)
Education: some college or more (share)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.0001)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.0001)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	2.954** (1.388)	7.975*** (1.945)	3.013** (1.405)	8.159*** (1.948)
Median age	2.402** (1.102)	4.843*** (1.354)	2.064* (1.113)	4.402*** (1.356)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-17.352*** (1.051)	-20.827*** (1.277)	-17.293*** (1.033)	-20.405*** (1.228)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	0.017 (0.031)	-0.004 (0.034)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-1.033 (2.128)	-3.789 (2.697)		
Aged 65+ years (share)	11.226*** (3.509)	15.103*** (4.099)		
Black (share)	-1.776 (3.677)	-1.741 (4.545)	-14.981** (7.187)	-31.553*** (9.598)
Hispanic (share)	1.817 (3.305)	4.151 (3.797)		
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-14.515*** (0.405)	-13.696*** (0.498)	-14.556*** (0.405)	-13.882*** (0.497)
Poverty rate	-9.887*** (0.528)	-9.547*** (0.715)	-9.920*** (0.524)	-9.528*** (0.719)
Youth poverty rate	0.005 (0.006)	0.007 (0.008)	0.010* (0.006)	0.010 (0.007)
Unemployment rate	3.978* (2.308)	6.456** (3.061)	3.572* (2.105)	3.490 (2.827)
Fox News viewership (share)	-6.803*** (1.412)	-10.076*** (1.945)	-6.720*** (1.271)	-8.399*** (1.735)
unemp	4.719 (3.709)	10.773** (4.707)	6.146* (3.635)	11.713** (4.605)
foxnews_watched_7_days_2020	1.495 (1.119)	1.879 (1.608)	1.583 (1.115)	2.011 (1.577)
Constant	10.827*** (1.886)	18.595*** (2.550)	15.623*** (2.228)	30.615*** (3.091)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.860	0.768	0.859	0.768

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.2: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates - SE clustered by state

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	3.100** (1.312)	3.117** (1.332)	4.881** (2.167)	4.913** (2.197)
2000 Bush vote share	12.861*** (1.170)	12.888*** (1.181)	12.562*** (1.721)	12.613*** (1.733)
Population (100,000)	-0.209** (0.095)	-0.210** (0.096)	-0.346** (0.162)	-0.347** (0.164)
Population ²	0.002** (0.001)	0.002** (0.001)	0.004** (0.002)	0.004** (0.002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.151*** (0.032)	0.151*** (0.032)	0.052 (0.065)	0.052 (0.065)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.259 (1.843)	2.297 (1.859)	6.900*** (2.369)	6.970*** (2.401)
Education: some college or more (share)	-4.622 (4.205)	-4.680 (4.256)	-5.875 (6.344)	-5.982 (6.432)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-16.704*** (1.992)	-16.708*** (2.007)	-19.835*** (2.477)	-19.843*** (2.502)
Median age	0.009 (0.038)	0.009 (0.038)	-0.017 (0.061)	-0.016 (0.062)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-2.362 (4.840)	-2.386 (4.859)	-5.813 (5.365)	-5.857 (5.403)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	5.410 (7.291)	5.388 (7.296)	6.220 (9.315)	6.179 (9.325)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	15.216* (9.145)	15.440* (9.279)	24.159* (13.687)	24.575* (13.893)
Aged 65+ years (share)	9.782 (6.383)	10.014 (6.560)	16.248* (9.545)	16.680* (9.821)
Black (share)	-13.775*** (0.880)	-13.768*** (0.887)	-12.566*** (1.096)	-12.553*** (1.108)
Hispanic (share)	-11.303*** (1.109)	-11.358*** (1.150)	-11.695*** (1.192)	-11.796*** (1.256)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.011 (0.011)	0.010 (0.011)	0.015 (0.015)	0.015 (0.015)
Poverty rate	14.537** (6.684)	14.593** (6.739)	22.578** (10.462)	22.681** (10.542)
Youth poverty rate	-9.775*** (2.678)	-9.849*** (2.727)	-14.594*** (4.264)	-14.732*** (4.324)
Unemployment rate	0.216 (8.072)	0.120 (8.118)	3.921 (11.273)	3.744 (11.390)
Fox News viewership (share)		-1.228 (1.953)		-2.284 (2.939)
Constant	-0.524 (6.835)	-0.416 (6.784)	1.209 (10.936)	1.409 (10.880)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	8.302	8.192	8.302	8.192
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.3: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - first stage of IV estimates - SE clustered by state

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.080*** (0.028)	-0.079*** (0.028)	-0.080*** (0.028)	-0.079*** (0.028)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.592** (0.245)	-0.604** (0.243)	-0.592** (0.245)	-0.604** (0.243)
Population (100,000)	0.065*** (0.008)	0.065*** (0.008)	0.065*** (0.008)	0.065*** (0.008)
Population ²	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.018*** (0.003)	-0.018*** (0.003)	-0.018*** (0.003)	-0.018*** (0.003)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.161 (0.432)	0.131 (0.439)	0.161 (0.432)	0.131 (0.439)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.470** (0.520)	2.481** (0.516)	2.470** (0.520)	2.481** (0.516)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-0.033 (0.533)	-0.029 (0.533)	-0.033 (0.533)	-0.029 (0.533)
Median age	0.003 (0.008)	0.003 (0.008)	0.003 (0.008)	0.003 (0.008)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	0.699 (0.792)	0.707 (0.789)	0.699 (0.792)	0.707 (0.789)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	2.549** (1.105)	2.533** (1.110)	2.549** (1.105)	2.533** (1.110)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-5.485*** (1.622)	-5.580*** (1.632)	-5.485*** (1.622)	-5.580*** (1.632)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-2.542** (1.032)	-2.682** (1.046)	-2.542** (1.032)	-2.682** (1.046)
Black (share)	-0.493*** (0.172)	-0.492*** (0.172)	-0.493*** (0.172)	-0.492*** (0.172)
Hispanic (share)	0.395** (0.156)	0.430** (0.159)	0.395** (0.156)	0.430** (0.159)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.003 (0.003)	-0.003 (0.003)	-0.003 (0.003)	-0.003 (0.003)
Poverty rate	-3.795*** (1.048)	-3.787*** (1.054)	-3.795*** (1.048)	-3.787*** (1.054)
Youth poverty rate	1.104* (0.646)	1.145* (0.642)	1.104* (0.646)	1.145* (0.642)
Unemployment rate	1.786 (1.847)	1.833 (1.851)	1.786 (1.847)	1.833 (1.851)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.909** (0.449)		0.909** (0.449)
Constant	3.983*** (0.737)	3.852*** (0.731)	3.983*** (0.737)	3.852*** (0.731)
State FE	No	Yes	Yes	No
F-Statistic (1st st.)	8.302	8.192	8.302	8.192
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.570

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state-level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.4: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV heterogeneity - age - SE clustered by state

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.221** (1.730)	3.058* (1.561)	5.573** (2.549)	5.457* (2.849)
2000 Bush vote share	12.212*** (1.673)	13.955*** (1.376)	11.299*** (2.406)	14.501*** (2.153)
Population (100,000)	-1.145** (0.479)	-0.200** (0.087)	-1.231* (0.674)	-0.369** (0.167)
Population ²	0.072** (0.032)	0.002** (0.001)	0.075 (0.046)	0.004** (0.002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.077 (0.066)	0.133*** (0.025)	-0.123 (0.157)	0.057 (0.048)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0002)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	5.710* (3.247)	0.172 (2.406)	9.582** (4.771)	4.410 (3.642)
Education: some college or more (share)	-5.364 (5.176)	-4.075 (4.774)	-5.165 (7.223)	-6.596 (7.765)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-14.794*** (2.755)	-16.783*** (2.371)	-16.492*** (3.685)	-20.094*** (2.869)
Median age	-0.058 (0.045)	0.081* (0.046)	-0.096 (0.065)	0.076 (0.078)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-19.518*** (6.879)	3.208 (5.067)	-21.829** (9.809)	0.926 (6.051)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	8.399 (9.282)	-2.565 (7.889)	7.601 (14.189)	-5.635 (11.184)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	26.387* (15.235)	11.491 (9.693)	30.640 (24.116)	22.407* (12.540)
Aged 65+ years (share)	4.317 (7.855)	11.826 (9.794)	7.641 (11.693)	21.947 (15.345)
Black (share)	-14.958*** (1.298)	-12.342*** (1.077)	-13.890*** (1.905)	-10.667*** (1.262)
Hispanic (share)	-13.108*** (1.718)	-10.390*** (1.332)	-16.084*** (1.992)	-10.422*** (2.221)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.002 (0.020)	0.023 (0.020)	-0.006 (0.028)	0.038 (0.032)
Poverty rate	17.498*** (5.608)	15.258 (9.330)	17.790** (7.216)	29.506* (16.936)
Youth poverty rate	-8.381* (4.514)	-10.637*** (3.458)	-10.496* (5.763)	-17.230*** (5.728)
Unemployment rate	12.500 (9.324)	-3.190 (10.276)	20.457* (11.185)	-4.322 (16.202)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.837 (3.694)	-0.811 (2.357)	-2.947 (5.087)	-2.303 (3.554)
Constant	-2.617 (9.203)	-1.965 (6.204)	4.243 (14.476)	-4.326 (10.310)
Sample	>median(mid. age)			
State FE	Yes	<median(mid. age)	Yes	<median(mid. age)
F-Statistic (1st st.)	9.613	3.683	9.613	3.683
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.001	0	0
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.5: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV heterogeneity - partisan identity - SE clustered by state

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.447* (2.467)	1.520* (0.831)	6.385* (3.819)	2.547* (1.408)
2000 Bush vote share	14.186*** (3.282)	9.610*** (1.285)	11.555** (4.659)	12.747*** (1.600)
Population (100,000)	-1.379* (0.712)	-0.068 (0.053)	-1.921* (1.120)	-0.127 (0.090)
Population ²	0.069* (0.040)	0.001* (0.001)	0.088 (0.062)	0.001 (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.232 (0.244)	0.082*** (0.020)	-0.334 (0.321)	0.006 (0.044)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0002 (0.0002)	-0.00005 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0003)	-0.00001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	3.223 (2.878)	3.499* (1.968)	7.999** (3.366)	6.283* (3.227)
Education: some college or more (share)	-0.679 (3.712)	-2.832 (3.373)	-1.544 (4.848)	-1.387 (5.702)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-20.091*** (2.446)	-14.753*** (2.029)	-20.545*** (3.848)	-19.760*** (2.969)
Median age	0.021 (0.054)	0.010 (0.054)	0.017 (0.079)	-0.049 (0.080)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-10.460 (7.575)	4.266 (4.412)	-15.199 (10.813)	1.718 (5.098)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-1.617 (10.653)	16.475*** (5.650)	1.923 (14.420)	17.328** (7.240)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	13.354 (12.875)	10.868 (6.959)	19.376 (18.701)	18.160* (10.710)
Aged 65+ years (share)	1.629 (6.574)	10.618 (7.857)	4.803 (10.184)	19.791* (10.717)
Black (share)	-20.008*** (1.349)	-13.834*** (0.983)	-18.519*** (2.101)	-12.256*** (1.135)
Hispanic (share)	-12.389*** (1.742)	-9.349*** (1.088)	-12.193*** (1.563)	-9.904*** (1.288)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.015 (0.014)	-0.003 (0.011)	0.013 (0.024)	0.009 (0.014)
Poverty rate	21.332* (11.220)	4.729 (4.612)	27.394* (16.044)	12.309 (7.751)
Youth poverty rate	-9.397** (4.481)	-6.582*** (2.408)	-11.811** (5.881)	-12.260*** (4.061)
Unemployment rate	-4.157 (10.970)	8.090 (5.070)	-6.069 (13.975)	12.788* (7.336)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.324 (2.647)	0.747 (2.458)	-4.161 (3.819)	1.364 (3.393)
Constant	-2.987 (11.765)	2.576 (4.532)	-0.523 (17.900)	6.922 (8.129)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	3.749	7.724	3.749	7.724
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.109	0	0.086
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

C.2. Reversed climate skepticism measure

Table C.6: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - baseline

	CC happening (1)	CC consensus (2)	CC happening (3)	CC consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	-0.370*** (0.101)	-0.608*** (0.130)	2.969*** (0.815)	5.918*** (1.113)
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(50-64 years)			-13.292*** (3.230)	-22.115*** (4.261)
log(Ookla dl speed) × Bush vote share			-1.057 (0.670)	-3.344*** (0.875)
2000 Bush vote share	-14.546*** (0.708)	-13.623*** (0.893)	-11.183*** (2.465)	-2.728 (3.311)
Population (100,000)	0.095*** (0.036)	0.155*** (0.047)	0.050 (0.036)	0.077* (0.044)
Population ²	-0.002*** (0.0004)	-0.002*** (0.001)	-0.001*** (0.0004)	-0.001*** (0.0005)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.090*** (0.033)	0.038 (0.056)	-0.107*** (0.036)	0.002 (0.049)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.00002 (0.0001)	-0.00001 (0.0001)	0.00004 (0.0001)	0.00002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	-2.271 (2.394)	-4.181 (3.181)	-2.297 (2.410)	-4.389 (3.111)
Education: some college or more (share)	3.248* (1.863)	4.841** (2.223)	3.502* (1.859)	4.854** (2.247)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	30.435*** (1.659)	39.432*** (2.088)	30.887*** (1.625)	40.020*** (2.013)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	10.325*** (3.564)	21.764*** (4.350)		
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-10.958** (5.223)	-5.097 (6.465)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)	3.272 (5.558)	6.762 (7.122)	42.578*** (11.959)	73.175*** (16.112)
Aged 65+ years (share)	1.781 (4.608)	4.865 (5.867)		
Black (share)	12.425*** (0.707)	5.780*** (0.860)	12.578*** (0.702)	6.219*** (0.849)
Hispanic (share)	15.836*** (0.895)	11.149*** (1.146)	15.644*** (0.886)	10.674*** (1.140)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.033*** (0.011)	-0.039*** (0.013)	-0.045*** (0.010)	-0.049*** (0.012)
Poverty rate	-8.833** (3.914)	-13.304*** (5.120)	-4.438 (3.428)	-2.323 (4.470)
Youth poverty rate	12.993*** (2.440)	16.315*** (3.252)	10.141*** (2.121)	8.966*** (2.803)
Unemployment rate	-15.452** (6.241)	-24.969*** (7.279)	-18.302*** (6.105)	-29.280*** (7.041)
Fox News viewership (share)	-4.227** (1.979)	-3.794 (2.590)	-3.870** (1.958)	-3.354 (2.529)
median_age	-0.002 (0.039)	0.018 (0.050)		
Constant	61.089*** (3.277)	38.109*** (4.185)	51.514*** (3.827)	23.196*** (5.251)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.796	0.784	0.796	0.786

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.7: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - baseline - effect heterogeneity

	CC happening (1)	CC happening (2)	CC happening (3)	CC consensus (4)	CC consensus (5)	CC consensus (6)
log(Ookla median download speed)	-2.565*** (0.792)	2.969*** (0.815)	1.349** (0.536)	-2.939*** (1.019)	5.918*** (1.113)	2.952*** (0.712)
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(<50 years)	4.721*** (1.194)			7.219*** (1.570)		
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(50-64 years)		-13.292*** (3.230)			-22.115*** (4.261)	
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(65+ years)			-5.509*** (1.612)			-8.006*** (2.109)
log(Ookla dl speed) × Bush vote share	-0.967 (0.663)	-1.057 (0.670)	-0.948 (0.660)	-3.180*** (0.862)	-3.344*** (0.875)	-3.153*** (0.857)
2000 Bush vote share	-11.534*** (2.427)	-11.183*** (2.465)	-11.575*** (2.406)	-3.384 (3.238)	-2.728 (3.311)	-3.438 (3.208)
Population (100,000)	0.045 (0.036)	0.050 (0.036)	0.049 (0.036)	0.072 (0.045)	0.077* (0.044)	0.081* (0.045)
Population ²	-0.001*** (0.0004)	-0.001*** (0.0004)	-0.001*** (0.0004)	-0.001*** (0.0005)	-0.001*** (0.0005)	-0.001*** (0.0005)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.101*** (0.036)	-0.107*** (0.036)	-0.098*** (0.036)	0.011 (0.049)	0.002 (0.049)	0.016 (0.049)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.00003 (0.0001)	0.00004 (0.0001)	0.00003 (0.0001)	0.00000 (0.0001)	0.00002 (0.0001)	-0.00000 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	-2.376 (2.420)	-2.297 (2.410)	-2.290 (2.430)	-4.415 (3.130)	-4.389 (3.111)	-4.214 (3.144)
Education: some college or more (share)	3.428* (1.857)	3.502* (1.859)	3.441* (1.857)	4.716** (2.253)	4.854** (2.247)	4.732** (2.250)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	31.048*** (1.615)	30.887*** (1.625)	31.204*** (1.621)	40.293*** (2.029)	40.020*** (2.013)	40.611*** (2.053)
<50 years (share)	-15.930*** (4.475)			-24.545*** (5.972)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)		42.578*** (11.959)			73.175*** (16.112)	
Aged 65+ years (share)			18.985*** (5.957)			27.448*** (7.922)
Black (share)	12.531*** (0.716)	12.578*** (0.702)	12.567*** (0.716)	6.128*** (0.861)	6.219*** (0.849)	6.167*** (0.859)
Hispanic (share)	15.724*** (0.859)	15.644*** (0.886)	15.795*** (0.836)	10.720*** (1.106)	10.674*** (1.140)	10.807*** (1.081)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.049*** (0.010)	-0.045*** (0.010)	-0.050*** (0.010)	-0.056*** (0.012)	-0.049*** (0.012)	-0.059*** (0.012)
Poverty rate	-3.245 (3.523)	-4.438 (3.428)	-2.929 (3.424)	-1.143 (4.653)	-2.323 (4.470)	-1.104 (4.552)
Youth poverty rate	9.296*** (2.256)	10.141*** (2.121)	9.043*** (2.227)	8.021*** (3.004)	8.966*** (2.803)	7.896*** (2.980)
Unemployment rate	-18.887*** (6.082)	-18.302*** (6.105)	-18.505*** (6.053)	-29.656*** (7.020)	-29.280*** (7.041)	-28.778*** (6.986)
Fox News viewership (share)	-4.292** (1.950)	-3.870** (1.958)	-4.558** (1.940)	-3.906 (2.535)	-3.354 (2.529)	-4.193* (2.527)
Constant	70.090*** (3.520)	51.514*** (3.827)	56.786*** (2.833)	53.407*** (4.673)	23.196*** (5.251)	33.245*** (3.804)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.796	0.796	0.795	0.785	0.786	0.784

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.8: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV estimates

	CC happening (1)	CC happening (2)	CC consensus (3)	CC consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	-4.920*** (1.330)	-4.922*** (1.349)	-6.385*** (1.689)	-6.410*** (1.716)
2000 Bush vote share	-17.161*** (1.149)	-17.164*** (1.168)	-16.922*** (1.467)	-16.961*** (1.493)
Population (100,000)	0.392*** (0.100)	0.392*** (0.100)	0.533*** (0.127)	0.534*** (0.129)
Population ²	-0.005*** (0.001)	-0.005*** (0.001)	-0.006*** (0.002)	-0.006*** (0.002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.168*** (0.045)	-0.168*** (0.045)	-0.062 (0.065)	-0.062 (0.065)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0002** (0.0001)	-0.0002** (0.0001)	-0.0003** (0.0001)	-0.0003** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	-1.214 (2.757)	-1.218 (2.758)	-2.784 (3.685)	-2.838 (3.692)
Education: some college or more (share)	14.586*** (4.182)	14.593*** (4.235)	19.220*** (5.119)	19.303*** (5.193)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	29.403*** (2.304)	29.404*** (2.304)	38.111*** (2.821)	38.118*** (2.824)
Median age	0.011 (0.064)	0.011 (0.064)	0.035 (0.078)	0.035 (0.078)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	12.489*** (4.462)	12.492*** (4.470)	24.492*** (5.580)	24.526*** (5.605)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-1.608 (7.696)	-1.605 (7.706)	6.793 (9.434)	6.825 (9.466)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-24.281** (11.208)	-24.306** (11.388)	-28.071** (14.069)	-28.393** (14.308)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-11.324 (7.877)	-11.349 (7.993)	-11.539 (9.688)	-11.874 (9.849)
Black (share)	11.228*** (0.939)	11.227*** (0.942)	4.263*** (1.187)	4.253*** (1.193)
Hispanic (share)	18.186*** (1.231)	18.192*** (1.264)	14.075*** (1.590)	14.154*** (1.629)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.042*** (0.014)	-0.042*** (0.014)	-0.050*** (0.018)	-0.050*** (0.018)
Poverty rate	-25.830*** (6.905)	-25.836*** (6.950)	-34.900*** (8.936)	-34.980*** (9.011)
Youth poverty rate	17.865*** (3.365)	17.873*** (3.403)	22.428*** (4.415)	22.535*** (4.474)
Unemployment rate	-8.097 (8.018)	-8.086 (8.045)	-15.716 (9.778)	-15.579 (9.828)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.135 (2.836)		1.766 (3.629)
Constant	79.111*** (6.447)	79.099*** (6.360)	61.223*** (8.206)	61.067*** (8.114)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	26.57	25.861	26.57	25.861
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.9: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - first stage of IV estimates

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.080*** (0.015)	-0.079*** (0.015)	-0.080*** (0.015)	-0.079*** (0.015)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.592*** (0.128)	-0.604*** (0.128)	-0.592*** (0.128)	-0.604*** (0.128)
Population (100,000)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)
Population ²	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.161 (0.387)	0.131 (0.386)	0.161 (0.387)	0.131 (0.386)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.470*** (0.337)	2.481*** (0.335)	2.470*** (0.337)	2.481*** (0.335)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-0.033 (0.334)	-0.029 (0.333)	-0.033 (0.334)	-0.029 (0.333)
Median age	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	0.699 (0.611)	0.707 (0.609)	0.699 (0.611)	0.707 (0.609)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	2.549** (1.047)	2.533** (1.045)	2.549** (1.047)	2.533** (1.045)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-5.485*** (1.197)	-5.580*** (1.194)	-5.485*** (1.197)	-5.580*** (1.194)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-2.542** (1.050)	-2.682** (1.045)	-2.542** (1.050)	-2.682** (1.045)
Black (share)	-0.493*** (0.123)	-0.492*** (0.123)	-0.493*** (0.123)	-0.492*** (0.123)
Hispanic (share)	0.395*** (0.149)	0.430*** (0.150)	0.395*** (0.149)	0.430*** (0.150)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)
Poverty rate	-3.795*** (0.645)	-3.787*** (0.643)	-3.795*** (0.645)	-3.787*** (0.643)
Youth poverty rate	1.104** (0.435)	1.145*** (0.434)	1.104** (0.435)	1.145*** (0.434)
Unemployment rate	1.786 (1.115)	1.833* (1.110)	1.786 (1.115)	1.833* (1.110)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.909** (0.391)		0.909** (0.391)
Constant	3.983*** (0.474)	3.852*** (0.478)	3.983*** (0.474)	3.852*** (0.478)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	26.57	25.861	26.57	25.861
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.570	0.570	0.570	0.570

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.10: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - age

	CC happening (1)	CC happening (2)	CC consensus (3)	CC consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	-5.678** (2.215)	-5.457*** (1.942)	-6.267** (2.591)	-7.789*** (2.613)
2000 Bush vote share	-14.894*** (2.146)	-19.938*** (1.585)	-13.789*** (2.550)	-20.658*** (2.146)
Population (100,000)	1.767*** (0.599)	0.389*** (0.122)	1.915*** (0.718)	0.572*** (0.165)
Population ²	-0.105*** (0.040)	-0.005*** (0.001)	-0.112** (0.050)	-0.006*** (0.002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.065 (0.188)	-0.160*** (0.046)	0.219 (0.332)	-0.079 (0.054)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0002 (0.0001)	-0.0003** (0.0002)	-0.0003 (0.0002)	-0.001** (0.0002)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	-8.543* (4.698)	4.491 (4.201)	-7.860 (5.825)	3.355 (5.823)
Education: some college or more (share)	14.827** (6.485)	13.635** (5.689)	17.242** (7.512)	19.204*** (7.252)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	25.909*** (3.503)	29.673*** (3.080)	31.792*** (4.140)	39.472*** (3.960)
Median age	0.038 (0.091)	-0.077 (0.094)	0.085 (0.111)	-0.069 (0.122)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	31.715*** (9.573)	4.749 (6.148)	39.849*** (11.384)	15.361* (8.076)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-11.063 (11.682)	13.062 (12.653)	5.233 (13.815)	21.683 (16.424)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-25.138 (22.049)	-24.484* (14.173)	-18.192 (25.921)	-27.243 (19.211)
Aged 65+ years (share)	0.983 (10.264)	-18.346 (12.628)	4.655 (12.377)	-24.488 (16.744)
Black (share)	13.339*** (1.810)	8.936*** (1.352)	6.452*** (2.147)	1.685 (1.816)
Hispanic (share)	20.609*** (2.245)	17.410*** (1.862)	20.264*** (2.672)	12.999*** (2.491)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.040 (0.024)	-0.063*** (0.024)	-0.040 (0.029)	-0.082** (0.032)
Poverty rate	-25.662*** (8.543)	-32.782*** (12.244)	-27.412*** (10.204)	-48.354*** (16.443)
Youth poverty rate	12.166** (4.990)	21.566*** (5.875)	14.807** (6.076)	27.304*** (7.906)
Unemployment rate	-22.733* (12.001)	-3.507 (12.134)	-30.924** (13.778)	-6.179 (16.278)
Fox News viewership (share)	0.176 (4.197)	1.234 (4.159)	-0.726 (5.005)	4.017 (5.293)
Constant	82.384*** (12.398)	83.391*** (7.363)	54.644*** (14.700)	70.677*** (9.820)
Sample	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	10.266	13.526	10.266	13.526
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0.001	0
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.11: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - partisan identity

	CC happening (1)	CC happening (2)	CC consensus (3)	CC consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	-5.883*** (2.197)	-2.877** (1.356)	-7.641*** (2.788)	-3.316* (1.718)
2000 Bush vote share	-15.612*** (2.704)	-15.320*** (1.436)	-13.867*** (3.445)	-18.278*** (1.842)
Population (100,000)	2.013*** (0.677)	0.178** (0.079)	2.631*** (0.847)	0.224** (0.101)
Population ²	-0.102*** (0.039)	-0.002*** (0.001)	-0.122** (0.049)	-0.003*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.359 (0.520)	-0.105*** (0.037)	0.494 (0.711)	-0.020 (0.053)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0003* (0.0002)	-0.00004 (0.0001)	-0.0004 (0.0002)	-0.0002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	-0.868 (3.816)	-4.171 (3.514)	-2.835 (4.901)	-3.750 (4.880)
Education: some college or more (share)	7.799* (4.092)	12.755** (5.416)	11.541** (4.957)	14.604** (6.621)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	30.533*** (3.950)	27.694*** (2.836)	36.677*** (4.937)	37.869*** (3.629)
Median age	-0.013 (0.079)	0.008 (0.082)	0.002 (0.099)	0.031 (0.109)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	26.879*** (7.558)	0.555 (5.219)	37.202*** (9.607)	13.576** (6.539)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	6.227 (10.753)	-16.051* (8.780)	8.413 (13.570)	-3.375 (10.867)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-16.183 (13.154)	-19.023 (14.414)	-19.722 (16.627)	-16.900 (18.680)
Aged 65+ years (share)	3.974 (9.038)	-14.455 (10.388)	5.799 (11.328)	-12.996 (13.582)
Black (share)	17.840** (2.050)	11.265*** (1.010)	11.081*** (2.488)	3.955*** (1.254)
Hispanic (share)	17.822*** (1.734)	16.644*** (1.586)	13.559*** (2.261)	12.484*** (1.986)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.050** (0.023)	-0.026* (0.016)	-0.046* (0.028)	-0.043** (0.020)
Poverty rate	-34.348*** (9.872)	-13.538* (7.093)	-39.262*** (12.823)	-22.407** (9.098)
Youth poverty rate	16.377*** (4.765)	13.977*** (3.977)	17.207*** (6.386)	19.919*** (5.091)
Unemployment rate	-7.721 (13.575)	-17.056** (7.898)	-7.686 (16.968)	-26.104*** (9.250)
Fox News viewership (share)	2.982 (3.629)	-4.392 (3.856)	4.829 (4.624)	-4.226 (4.738)
Constant	76.450*** (9.525)	78.403*** (7.706)	60.182*** (12.070)	55.327*** (10.127)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	12.039	16.433	12.039	16.433
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.022	0	0.039
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

C.3. Narrow definition of pre-determined controls

Table C.12: Broadband internet and climate change skepticism - baseline - narrow definition of pre-determined controls

	CC not happening (1)	CC no consensus (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	0.307*** (0.060)	0.608*** (0.080)	-1.153** (0.500)	-3.129*** (0.654)
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(50-64 years)			7.359*** (1.947)	12.442*** (2.554)
log(Ookla dl speed) × Bush vote share			0.021 (0.412)	2.115*** (0.517)
2000 Bush vote share	11.740*** (0.421)	10.639*** (0.537)	11.826*** (1.524)	3.673* (1.982)
Population (100,000)	-0.031* (0.018)	-0.075*** (0.025)	0.00003 (0.019)	-0.011 (0.024)
Population ²	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0003)	0.0003* (0.0002)	0.0003 (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.097*** (0.019)	-0.031 (0.035)	0.108*** (0.020)	0.007 (0.026)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.0001)	-0.0001*** (0.00004)	-0.0002*** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	5.047*** (1.266)	10.699*** (1.795)	5.340*** (1.305)	11.160*** (1.826)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.149* (1.131)	4.458*** (1.384)	1.601 (1.170)	3.861*** (1.402)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-16.091*** (0.916)	-19.155*** (1.164)	-15.355*** (0.943)	-18.221*** (1.152)
Median age	0.020 (0.035)	-0.001 (0.037)		
Aged 20-34 years (share)	0.054 (1.886)	-2.000 (2.440)		
Aged 35-49 years (share)	15.616*** (3.457)	21.111*** (4.115)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)	0.770 (3.794)	1.648 (4.706)	-21.733*** (7.310)	-38.315*** (9.650)
Aged 65+ years (share)	0.618 (3.744)	2.661 (4.032)		
Black (share)	-15.299*** (0.372)	-14.755*** (0.449)	-15.326*** (0.371)	-14.871*** (0.451)
Hispanic (share)	-9.671*** (0.521)	-9.282*** (0.691)	-9.539*** (0.495)	-9.016*** (0.673)
Constant	7.086*** (1.789)	13.779*** (2.250)	15.061*** (2.134)	29.427*** (2.890)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.857	0.763	0.854	0.762

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.13: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates - narrow definition of pre-determined controls

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	7.197*** (1.771)	3.331*** (0.784)	9.376*** (2.181)	5.110*** (1.120)
2000 Bush vote share		12.835*** (0.597)		12.268*** (0.826)
Population (100,000)	-1.097*** (0.221)	-0.237*** (0.059)	-1.333*** (0.272)	-0.381*** (0.084)
Population ²	0.012*** (0.003)	0.003*** (0.001)	0.014*** (0.004)	0.004*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.142** (0.070)	0.147*** (0.024)	0.041 (0.096)	0.044 (0.041)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.0002* (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)		2.181 (1.805)		6.435** (2.565)
Education: some college or more (share)		-5.834** (2.678)		-7.422** (3.675)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)		-15.339*** (1.346)		-18.036*** (1.760)
Median age	0.006 (0.110)	0.002 (0.057)	-0.023 (0.123)	-0.027 (0.067)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-30.219*** (5.695)	2.594 (2.499)	-33.257*** (6.890)	1.779 (3.504)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-18.564 (12.326)	9.060* (5.368)	-19.431 (14.351)	11.354* (6.886)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	31.990** (15.817)	17.497** (7.220)	44.766** (19.051)	26.542*** (9.698)
Aged 65+ years (share)	9.680 (13.327)	10.705* (6.460)	16.974 (15.227)	17.673** (7.924)
Black (share)	-14.303*** (1.461)	-14.129*** (0.569)	-12.447*** (1.819)	-13.013*** (0.815)
Hispanic (share)	-9.638*** (1.238)	-11.772*** (0.850)	-10.338*** (1.506)	-12.409*** (1.217)
Constant	-4.014 (8.704)	-2.169 (3.195)	-1.308 (10.662)	0.005 (4.444)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	22.665	30.52	22.665	30.52
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.14: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - first stage of IV estimates - narrow definition of pre-determined controls

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.080*** (0.017)	-0.085*** (0.015)	-0.080*** (0.017)	-0.085*** (0.015)
2000 Bush vote share		-0.421*** (0.124)		-0.421*** (0.124)
Population (100,000)	0.117*** (0.010)	0.068*** (0.007)	0.117*** (0.010)	0.068*** (0.007)
Population ²	-0.001*** (0.0002)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0002)	-0.001*** (0.0001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.018*** (0.006)	-0.018*** (0.003)	-0.018*** (0.006)	-0.018*** (0.003)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)		0.768** (0.371)		0.768** (0.371)
Education: some college or more (share)		2.631*** (0.337)		2.631*** (0.337)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)		-0.136 (0.280)		-0.136 (0.280)
Median age	0.009 (0.010)	0.005 (0.010)	0.009 (0.010)	0.005 (0.010)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	1.518** (0.597)	-0.504 (0.536)	1.518** (0.597)	-0.504 (0.536)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	3.346*** (1.161)	2.506** (1.024)	3.346*** (1.161)	2.506** (1.024)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-5.751*** (1.270)	-5.101*** (1.189)	-5.751*** (1.270)	-5.101*** (1.189)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-2.800** (1.139)	-2.945*** (1.069)	-2.800** (1.139)	-2.945*** (1.069)
Black (share)	-0.845*** (0.116)	-0.615*** (0.120)	-0.845*** (0.116)	-0.615*** (0.120)
Hispanic (share)	-0.291** (0.130)	0.588*** (0.150)	-0.291** (0.130)	0.588*** (0.150)
Constant	4.149*** (0.411)	3.018*** (0.452)	4.149*** (0.411)	3.018*** (0.452)
State FE	No	Yes	Yes	No
F-Statistic (1st st.)	22.665	30.52	22.665	30.52
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.470	0.562	0.470	0.562

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.15: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - age - narrow definition of pre-determined controls

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	3.648*** (1.133)	3.362*** (1.181)	4.977*** (1.558)	5.757*** (1.802)
2000 Bush vote share	11.155*** (1.106)	14.248*** (0.760)	10.063*** (1.489)	14.139*** (1.131)
Population (100,000)	-1.012*** (0.322)	-0.232*** (0.077)	-1.102** (0.447)	-0.413*** (0.117)
Population ²	0.064*** (0.022)	0.003*** (0.001)	0.067** (0.031)	0.004*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.081 (0.098)	0.133*** (0.026)	-0.117 (0.231)	0.053 (0.035)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	1.775 (2.486)	0.283 (2.931)	5.969* (3.392)	3.703 (4.335)
Education: some college or more (share)	-4.043 (3.405)	-5.704 (3.881)	-3.772 (4.695)	-9.210 (5.687)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-15.401*** (1.748)	-14.170*** (1.898)	-17.451*** (2.443)	-16.261*** (2.616)
Median age	-0.060 (0.053)	0.088 (0.091)	-0.098 (0.073)	0.078 (0.111)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-16.078*** (5.498)	7.765** (3.175)	-17.757** (7.798)	9.423** (4.658)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	11.284* (6.664)	2.721 (9.317)	11.179 (9.084)	2.450 (12.060)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	20.151* (10.940)	11.881 (9.129)	24.264 (15.067)	20.351 (13.514)
Aged 65+ years (share)	4.724 (6.067)	10.938 (10.242)	8.571 (8.398)	21.268 (13.298)
Black (share)	-14.871*** (1.102)	-12.956*** (0.758)	-14.016*** (1.509)	-11.293*** (1.174)
Hispanic (share)	-13.988*** (1.359)	-10.979*** (1.328)	-17.130*** (1.905)	-11.551*** (2.024)
Constant	3.674 (5.906)	-4.144 (3.448)	9.711 (8.129)	-4.506 (5.147)
Sample	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	15.473	12.742	15.473	12.742
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.16: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - partisan identity - narrow definition of pre-determined controls

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.549*** (1.424)	1.753** (0.719)	6.404*** (2.000)	3.022*** (1.072)
2000 Bush vote share	14.317*** (1.752)	9.795*** (0.715)	11.600*** (2.447)	12.861*** (0.977)
Population (100,000)	-1.440*** (0.447)	-0.084** (0.042)	-1.968*** (0.613)	-0.160** (0.063)
Population ²	0.071*** (0.027)	0.001** (0.0004)	0.089** (0.037)	0.002*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.223 (0.384)	0.077*** (0.017)	-0.311 (0.499)	-0.002 (0.034)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0002 (0.0001)	-0.00003 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0002)	0.00002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	1.657 (2.888)	4.839*** (1.737)	5.770 (3.977)	7.967*** (2.764)
Education: some college or more (share)	-1.731 (3.104)	-4.062 (2.977)	-2.872 (4.005)	-4.088 (4.389)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-19.380*** (2.788)	-13.890*** (1.403)	-19.921*** (3.627)	-17.329*** (2.080)
Median age	0.016 (0.072)	-0.004 (0.042)	0.006 (0.086)	-0.072 (0.065)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-2.582 (4.063)	7.582*** (2.797)	-4.259 (5.489)	7.689* (4.074)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	2.439 (7.964)	19.233*** (4.343)	6.687 (10.442)	22.668*** (6.230)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	13.480 (9.594)	15.717** (7.649)	18.910 (12.632)	26.740** (11.400)
Aged 65+ years (share)	3.941 (8.262)	12.911** (5.349)	8.504 (10.326)	23.141*** (7.812)
Black (share)	-19.641*** (1.178)	-14.339*** (0.522)	-17.924*** (1.688)	-13.054*** (0.750)
Hispanic (share)	-12.952*** (1.257)	-9.366*** (0.927)	-12.914*** (1.792)	-10.209*** (1.329)
Constant	-2.898 (5.678)	-1.376 (3.395)	-0.136 (7.860)	1.547 (4.931)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	13.441	19.217	13.441	19.217
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.006	0	0.001
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

C.4. Microsoft broadband usage share measure

Table C.17: *Broadband internet and agreement that climate change is happening - Microsoft broadband usage share measure*

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC not happening (4)
Microsoft broadband usage share	-4.576*** (0.325)	-0.451** (0.216)	0.311* (0.180)	0.298* (0.180)
2000 Bush vote share		14.334*** (0.385)	11.192*** (0.400)	11.164*** (0.399)
Population (100,000)		-0.032* (0.018)	-0.015 (0.018)	-0.015 (0.018)
Population ²		0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)		0.049*** (0.012)	0.105*** (0.022)	0.105*** (0.022)
Land area (sq. miles)		-0.0002*** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)
Education: high school degree or more (share)		2.788* (1.517)	3.089** (1.398)	3.039** (1.397)
Education: some college or more (share)		-1.474 (1.055)	2.784*** (1.073)	2.808*** (1.073)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)		-13.722*** (1.099)	-17.418*** (1.024)	-17.407*** (1.026)
Median age		0.021 (0.045)	0.018 (0.030)	0.017 (0.031)
Aged 20-34 years (share)		-0.010 (2.343)	-1.131 (2.144)	-1.110 (2.131)
Aged 35-49 years (share)		30.340*** (4.274)	11.622*** (3.436)	11.616*** (3.437)
Aged 50-64 years (share)		-13.986*** (4.413)	-3.028 (3.574)	-3.192 (3.585)
Aged 65+ years (share)		4.126 (4.429)	1.397 (3.215)	1.202 (3.214)
Black (share)		-12.372*** (0.370)	-14.556*** (0.413)	-14.560*** (0.411)
Hispanic (share)		-8.071*** (0.406)	-9.800*** (0.525)	-9.738*** (0.530)
Median household income (1,000 \$)		-0.008 (0.007)	0.005 (0.006)	0.005 (0.006)
Poverty rate		-2.205 (2.716)	3.533 (2.359)	3.545 (2.349)
Youth poverty rate		-0.110 (1.567)	-6.858*** (1.438)	-6.794*** (1.431)
Unemployment rate		-5.774* (3.356)	5.274 (3.717)	5.365 (3.727)
Fox News viewership (share)				1.616 (1.141)
Constant	17.435*** (0.145)	8.161*** (1.935)	12.108*** (1.856)	11.886*** (1.867)
State FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,097	3,097	3,097	3,097
Adjusted R ²	0.071	0.779	0.858	0.858

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker-Huber-White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.18: Broadband internet and agreement that there is consensus on climate change - Microsoft broadband usage share measure

	CC no consensus (1)	CC no consensus (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
Microsoft broadband usage share	-3.643*** (0.350)	0.584** (0.288)	1.237*** (0.247)	1.222*** (0.248)
2000 Bush vote share		14.191*** (0.509)	10.034*** (0.531)	10.004*** (0.530)
Population (100,000)		-0.105*** (0.026)	-0.053** (0.025)	-0.053** (0.024)
Population ²		0.001*** (0.0003)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)		-0.072* (0.040)	-0.016 (0.028)	-0.015 (0.028)
Land area (sq. miles)		-0.0002*** (0.00005)	-0.0001*** (0.0001)	-0.0001** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)		8.423*** (1.956)	8.054*** (1.957)	8.000*** (1.954)
Education: some college or more (share)		-1.442 (1.293)	5.248*** (1.351)	5.275*** (1.351)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)		-14.697*** (1.321)	-20.935*** (1.261)	-20.922*** (1.262)
Median age		-0.005 (0.050)	-0.003 (0.033)	-0.004 (0.033)
Aged 20-34 years (share)		3.790 (2.942)	-3.904 (2.729)	-3.882 (2.716)
Aged 35-49 years (share)		46.120*** (4.992)	15.342*** (3.995)	15.335*** (3.989)
Aged 50-64 years (share)		-6.260 (5.517)	-2.710 (4.533)	-2.890 (4.546)
Aged 65+ years (share)		9.863* (5.057)	3.155 (3.760)	2.941 (3.753)
Black (share)		-9.793*** (0.466)	-13.769*** (0.508)	-13.773*** (0.506)
Hispanic (share)		-6.519*** (0.542)	-9.415*** (0.713)	-9.347*** (0.719)
Median household income (1,000 \$)		-0.008 (0.010)	0.006 (0.008)	0.006 (0.008)
Poverty rate		-4.988 (3.561)	5.993* (3.119)	6.006* (3.107)
Youth poverty rate		1.450 (2.177)	-10.087*** (1.988)	-10.017*** (1.982)
Unemployment rate		1.666 (4.341)	11.460** (4.700)	11.560** (4.711)
Fox News viewership (share)				1.772 (1.638)
Constant	30.127*** (0.149)	10.625*** (2.560)	20.869*** (2.536)	20.626*** (2.548)
State FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,097	3,097	3,097	3,097
Adjusted R ²	0.041	0.647	0.766	0.766

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.19: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates - Microsoft broadband usage share measure

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
Microsoft broadband usage share	31.704 (20.079)	32.712 (21.451)	50.536 (31.295)	52.223 (33.503)
2000 Bush vote share	13.599*** (1.918)	13.804*** (2.101)	13.813*** (2.972)	14.157*** (3.264)
Population (100,000)	-0.514 (0.323)	-0.528 (0.343)	-0.836* (0.504)	-0.860 (0.536)
Population ²	0.006 (0.003)	0.006 (0.004)	0.009 (0.005)	0.009 (0.006)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.348** (0.160)	0.354** (0.170)	0.366 (0.248)	0.377 (0.264)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.00000 (0.0001)	0.00000 (0.0001)	0.00002 (0.0002)	0.00002 (0.0002)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.206 (3.566)	2.418 (3.648)	6.668 (5.533)	7.023 (5.677)
Education: some college or more (share)	-28.263 (20.178)	-29.311 (21.568)	-43.507 (31.477)	-45.262 (33.712)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-15.174*** (3.361)	-15.161*** (3.456)	-17.410*** (5.324)	-17.389*** (5.492)
Median age	-0.163 (0.142)	-0.164 (0.147)	-0.286 (0.229)	-0.288 (0.238)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-13.174 (9.741)	-13.635 (10.291)	-22.818 (15.104)	-23.588 (15.998)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-3.062 (13.065)	-3.474 (13.700)	-7.717 (20.457)	-8.406 (21.497)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	69.165 (47.563)	72.125 (51.221)	110.663 (74.506)	115.613 (80.375)
Aged 65+ years (share)	23.302 (16.486)	24.896 (18.087)	37.554 (26.257)	40.221 (28.815)
Black (share)	-13.644*** (1.239)	-13.597*** (1.292)	-12.338*** (1.939)	-12.259*** (2.026)
Hispanic (share)	-14.272*** (3.118)	-14.704*** (3.524)	-16.437*** (4.860)	-17.161*** (5.502)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.012 (0.022)	-0.014 (0.024)	-0.021 (0.034)	-0.024 (0.037)
Poverty rate	46.130* (27.846)	47.354 (29.561)	72.888* (43.358)	74.936 (46.126)
Youth poverty rate	-22.578** (10.754)	-23.356** (11.605)	-34.774** (16.738)	-36.075** (18.098)
Unemployment rate	-17.377 (18.091)	-18.495 (19.299)	-24.111 (28.011)	-25.982 (29.979)
Fox News viewership (share)		-7.750 (7.366)		-12.965 (11.486)
Constant	7.946 (5.339)	8.884* (5.158)	14.334* (8.268)	15.904** (7.998)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	2.763	2.564	2.763	2.564
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	3,097	3,097	3,097	3,097

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.20: *Broadband internet and climate skepticism - first stage of IV estimates - Microsoft broadband usage share measure*

	Broadband share	Broadband share	Broadband share	Broadband share
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.008* (0.005)	-0.007 (0.005)	-0.008* (0.005)	-0.007 (0.005)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.080** (0.037)	-0.084** (0.037)	-0.080** (0.037)	-0.084** (0.037)
Population (100,000)	0.016*** (0.002)	0.016*** (0.002)	0.016*** (0.002)	0.016*** (0.002)
Population ²	-0.0002*** (0.00003)	-0.0002*** (0.00003)	-0.0002*** (0.00003)	-0.0002*** (0.00003)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.008*** (0.001)	-0.008*** (0.001)	-0.008*** (0.001)	-0.008*** (0.001)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.00000 (0.00000)	-0.00000 (0.00000)	-0.00000 (0.00000)	-0.00000 (0.00000)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.018 (0.110)	0.018 (0.110)	0.018 (0.110)	0.018 (0.110)
Education: some college or more (share)	0.988*** (0.097)	0.989*** (0.097)	0.988*** (0.097)	0.989*** (0.097)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-0.052 (0.097)	-0.050 (0.097)	-0.052 (0.097)	-0.050 (0.097)
Median age	0.006** (0.003)	0.006** (0.003)	0.006** (0.003)	0.006** (0.003)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	0.407** (0.189)	0.409** (0.188)	0.407** (0.189)	0.409** (0.188)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	0.515* (0.298)	0.511* (0.299)	0.515* (0.298)	0.511* (0.299)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-2.251*** (0.335)	-2.277*** (0.336)	-2.251*** (0.335)	-2.277*** (0.336)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-0.676** (0.282)	-0.710** (0.284)	-0.676** (0.282)	-0.710** (0.284)
Black (share)	-0.052 (0.038)	-0.052 (0.038)	-0.052 (0.038)	-0.052 (0.038)
Hispanic (share)	0.134*** (0.041)	0.145*** (0.041)	0.134*** (0.041)	0.145*** (0.041)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.0004 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.0004 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)
Poverty rate	-1.361*** (0.205)	-1.356*** (0.205)	-1.361*** (0.205)	-1.356*** (0.205)
Youth poverty rate	0.508*** (0.143)	0.518*** (0.142)	0.508*** (0.143)	0.518*** (0.142)
Unemployment rate	0.743** (0.306)	0.757** (0.305)	0.743** (0.306)	0.757** (0.305)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.285** (0.121)		0.285** (0.121)
Constant	0.121 (0.140)	0.082 (0.141)	0.121 (0.140)	0.082 (0.141)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	2.763	2.564	2.763	2.564
Observations	3,097	3,097	3,097	3,097
Adjusted R ²	0.564	0.564	0.564	0.564

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.21: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - effect heterogeneity across age shares - Microsoft broadband usage share measure

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC no consensus (4)	CC no consensus (5)	CC no consensus (6)
Microsoft broadband usage share	-0.071 (1.498)	-3.559** (1.532)	-1.518 (0.980)	0.972 (1.897)	-9.697*** (2.011)	-6.017*** (1.238)
Usage share × share(<50 years)	-2.042 (2.271)			-8.597*** (2.922)		
Usage share × share(50-64 years)		10.850* (6.304)			26.759*** (8.272)	
Usage share × share(65+ years)			1.208 (3.016)			9.615** (3.911)
Usage share × Bush voter share	2.695** (1.231)	2.796** (1.229)	2.680** (1.230)	8.917*** (1.505)	9.122*** (1.506)	8.824*** (1.506)
2000 Bush vote share	10.137*** (0.634)	10.104*** (0.636)	10.127*** (0.630)	6.745*** (0.841)	6.636*** (0.847)	6.772*** (0.838)
Population (100,000)	0.007 (0.019)	0.009 (0.019)	0.005 (0.019)	0.001 (0.024)	0.004 (0.024)	-0.002 (0.024)
Population ²	0.0003 (0.0002)	0.0003 (0.0002)	0.0003* (0.0002)	0.0002 (0.0002)	0.0002 (0.0002)	0.0002 (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.112*** (0.024)	0.113*** (0.024)	0.112*** (0.024)	-0.002 (0.022)	0.001 (0.022)	-0.003 (0.022)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001*** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0002*** (0.0001)	-0.0002*** (0.0001)	-0.0002*** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.922** (1.422)	2.985** (1.421)	2.890** (1.426)	8.026*** (1.974)	8.067*** (1.966)	7.957*** (1.981)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.388** (1.076)	2.394** (1.078)	2.374** (1.075)	4.653*** (1.346)	4.644*** (1.345)	4.638*** (1.348)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-17.483*** (0.997)	-17.416*** (1.002)	-17.521*** (1.000)	-20.564*** (1.214)	-20.545*** (1.207)	-20.613*** (1.226)
<50 years (share)	0.652 (1.313)			3.370* (1.720)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)		-3.746 (3.482)			-9.871** (4.679)	
Aged 65+ years (share)			-0.299 (1.716)			-3.790* (2.280)
Black (share)	-14.679*** (0.426)	-14.684*** (0.416)	-14.693*** (0.426)	-14.064*** (0.510)	-14.101*** (0.498)	-14.073*** (0.510)
Hispanic (share)	-9.819*** (0.518)	-9.816*** (0.531)	-9.830*** (0.504)	-9.384*** (0.709)	-9.376*** (0.727)	-9.382*** (0.690)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.013** (0.006)	0.012** (0.006)	0.013** (0.006)	0.015** (0.007)	0.012* (0.007)	0.016** (0.007)
Poverty rate	3.075 (2.216)	3.026 (2.159)	3.091 (2.164)	2.875 (2.996)	3.146 (2.903)	2.941 (2.922)
Youth poverty rate	-6.620*** (1.388)	-6.654*** (1.293)	-6.630*** (1.366)	-8.242*** (1.910)	-8.582*** (1.774)	-8.229*** (1.886)
Unemployment rate	5.122 (3.712)	5.262 (3.693)	4.993 (3.707)	11.244** (4.616)	11.077** (4.620)	11.020** (4.611)
Fox News viewership (share)	1.697 (1.124)	1.606 (1.126)	1.740 (1.123)	1.757 (1.600)	1.528 (1.594)	1.864 (1.599)
Constant	14.252*** (1.512)	15.446*** (1.543)	14.734*** (1.333)	22.344*** (2.070)	26.595*** (2.160)	25.101*** (1.851)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,097	3,097	3,097	3,097	3,097	3,097
Adjusted R ²	0.857	0.857	0.857	0.767	0.767	0.767

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker-Huber-White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

C.5. FCC broadband provider measure

Table C.22: Broadband internet and agreement that climate change is happening - FCC broadband provider measure

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC not happening (4)
No. broadband providers	-0.476*** (0.089)	0.068 (0.049)	0.106** (0.041)	0.104** (0.041)
2000 Bush vote share		14.435*** (0.387)	11.176*** (0.400)	11.151*** (0.398)
Population (100,000)		-0.039** (0.018)	-0.013 (0.018)	-0.013 (0.018)
Population ²		0.001*** (0.0002)	0.0005*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)		0.046*** (0.014)	0.096*** (0.021)	0.096*** (0.021)
Land area (sq. miles)		-0.0002*** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)
Education: high school degree or more (share)		2.872* (1.514)	3.116** (1.398)	3.058** (1.395)
Education: some college or more (share)		-1.922* (1.058)	2.971*** (1.068)	2.994*** (1.069)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)		-13.804*** (1.088)	-17.553*** (1.029)	-17.539*** (1.031)
Median age		0.015 (0.045)	0.018 (0.030)	0.018 (0.030)
Aged 20-34 years (share)		-0.423 (2.352)	-0.860 (2.146)	-0.839 (2.134)
Aged 35-49 years (share)		29.994*** (4.243)	11.915*** (3.475)	11.895*** (3.474)
Aged 50-64 years (share)		-12.443*** (4.426)	-2.938 (3.571)	-3.110 (3.577)
Aged 65+ years (share)		4.931 (4.370)	1.613 (3.229)	1.352 (3.223)
Black (share)		-12.355*** (0.373)	-14.528*** (0.409)	-14.532*** (0.407)
Hispanic (share)		-8.109*** (0.407)	-9.844*** (0.527)	-9.779*** (0.532)
Median household income (1,000 \$)		-0.009 (0.007)	0.005 (0.006)	0.005 (0.006)
Poverty rate		-0.833 (2.665)	3.336 (2.337)	3.343 (2.328)
Youth poverty rate		-0.551 (1.544)	-6.595*** (1.426)	-6.517*** (1.421)
Unemployment rate		-6.413* (3.355)	5.182 (3.778)	5.275 (3.787)
Fox News viewership (share)				1.695 (1.125)
Constant	16.394*** (0.158)	7.866*** (1.951)	11.779*** (1.867)	11.538*** (1.878)
State FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.010	0.780	0.859	0.859

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.23: Broadband internet and agreement that there is consensus on climate change - FCC broadband provider measure

	CC no consensus (1)	CC no consensus (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
No. broadband providers	-0.407*** (0.097)	0.141** (0.064)	0.244*** (0.056)	0.242*** (0.056)
2000 Bush vote share		14.079*** (0.513)	9.950*** (0.534)	9.917*** (0.532)
Population (100,000)		-0.096*** (0.026)	-0.041 (0.025)	-0.042* (0.025)
Population ²		0.001*** (0.0003)	0.001** (0.0003)	0.001** (0.0003)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)		-0.085** (0.042)	-0.036 (0.031)	-0.036 (0.031)
Land area (sq. miles)		-0.0002*** (0.00005)	-0.0001** (0.0001)	-0.0001** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)		8.648*** (1.968)	8.278*** (1.978)	8.199*** (1.972)
Education: some college or more (share)		-1.754 (1.308)	6.010*** (1.337)	6.040*** (1.336)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)		-14.360*** (1.325)	-21.263*** (1.268)	-21.245*** (1.270)
Median age		-0.013 (0.051)	-0.002 (0.033)	-0.002 (0.033)
Aged 20-34 years (share)		4.234 (2.934)	-3.401 (2.724)	-3.374 (2.707)
Aged 35-49 years (share)		46.126*** (5.058)	16.537*** (4.068)	16.510*** (4.061)
Aged 50-64 years (share)		-5.928 (5.594)	-4.179 (4.474)	-4.410 (4.485)
Aged 65+ years (share)		10.952** (5.129)	3.625 (3.777)	3.275 (3.764)
Black (share)		-9.766*** (0.465)	-13.710*** (0.503)	-13.716*** (0.501)
Hispanic (share)		-6.600*** (0.543)	-9.421*** (0.717)	-9.335*** (0.722)
Median household income (1,000 \$)		-0.007 (0.010)	0.006 (0.008)	0.007 (0.008)
Poverty rate		-4.820 (3.482)	5.235* (3.103)	5.244* (3.090)
Youth poverty rate		1.464 (2.136)	-9.591*** (1.963)	-9.487*** (1.957)
Unemployment rate		1.356 (4.355)	11.825** (4.852)	11.949** (4.862)
Fox News viewership (share)				2.276 (1.626)
Constant	29.337*** (0.166)	10.436*** (2.590)	20.291*** (2.561)	19.968*** (2.572)
State FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.007	0.647	0.765	0.765

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.24: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates - FCC broadband provider measure

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
No. broadband providers	3.920** (1.842)	3.928** (1.858)	6.658** (2.957)	6.677** (2.986)
2000 Bush vote share	13.194*** (1.198)	13.207*** (1.219)	13.343*** (1.906)	13.377*** (1.943)
Population (100,000)	-0.256** (0.123)	-0.256** (0.124)	-0.450** (0.198)	-0.451** (0.200)
Population ²	0.003** (0.002)	0.003** (0.002)	0.006** (0.002)	0.006** (0.003)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.036 (0.061)	0.036 (0.062)	-0.136* (0.075)	-0.137* (0.075)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0002)	0.0001 (0.0002)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	4.487* (2.439)	4.513* (2.459)	10.583*** (3.964)	10.648*** (4.000)
Education: some college or more (share)	-0.508 (2.577)	-0.523 (2.600)	0.161 (3.985)	0.123 (4.026)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-22.096*** (2.851)	-22.109*** (2.872)	-28.902*** (4.428)	-28.937*** (4.467)
Median age	0.020 (0.054)	0.020 (0.054)	0.001 (0.073)	0.001 (0.073)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	1.445 (3.749)	1.441 (3.754)	0.474 (5.712)	0.465 (5.726)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	15.622*** (6.038)	15.637*** (6.051)	22.769*** (8.579)	22.807*** (8.606)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	9.140 (8.606)	9.228 (8.730)	16.127 (13.105)	16.354 (13.318)
Aged 65+ years (share)	13.338* (7.996)	13.460* (8.160)	23.337* (11.954)	23.650* (12.244)
Black (share)	-12.491*** (1.108)	-12.486*** (1.118)	-10.286*** (1.775)	-10.272*** (1.794)
Hispanic (share)	-11.057*** (1.025)	-11.084*** (1.055)	-11.460*** (1.646)	-11.530*** (1.693)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.019 (0.014)	0.019 (0.014)	0.031 (0.022)	0.030 (0.022)
Poverty rate	17.781** (8.022)	17.805** (8.071)	29.522** (12.843)	29.583** (12.934)
Youth poverty rate	-6.819*** (2.428)	-6.850*** (2.436)	-9.969*** (3.779)	-10.047*** (3.798)
Unemployment rate	9.337 (7.651)	9.308 (7.649)	18.810 (11.736)	18.738 (11.742)
Fox News viewership (share)		-0.656 (2.336)		-1.681 (3.740)
Constant	-2.432 (7.460)	-2.365 (7.360)	-3.602 (11.819)	-3.430 (11.673)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	6.024	5.933	6.024	5.933
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.25: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - first stage of IV estimates - FCC broadband provider measure

	No. providers (1)	No. providers (2)	No. providers (3)	No. providers (4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.043** (0.018)	-0.043** (0.018)	-0.043** (0.018)	-0.043** (0.018)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.547*** (0.157)	-0.556*** (0.157)	-0.547*** (0.157)	-0.556*** (0.157)
Population (100,000)	0.064*** (0.010)	0.064*** (0.010)	0.064*** (0.010)	0.064*** (0.010)
Population ²	-0.001*** (0.0002)	-0.001*** (0.0002)	-0.001*** (0.0002)	-0.001*** (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.015 (0.010)	0.015 (0.010)	0.015 (0.010)	0.015 (0.010)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.00004** (0.00002)	-0.00004** (0.00002)	-0.00004** (0.00002)	-0.00004** (0.00002)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	-0.410 (0.507)	-0.430 (0.507)	-0.410 (0.507)	-0.430 (0.507)
Education: some college or more (share)	0.889** (0.398)	0.896** (0.399)	0.889** (0.398)	0.896** (0.399)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	1.311*** (0.399)	1.314*** (0.398)	1.311*** (0.399)	1.314*** (0.398)
Median age	-0.0004 (0.010)	-0.001 (0.010)	-0.0004 (0.010)	-0.001 (0.010)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-0.520 (0.802)	-0.513 (0.801)	-0.520 (0.802)	-0.513 (0.801)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-0.742 (1.155)	-0.750 (1.153)	-0.742 (1.155)	-0.750 (1.153)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-2.924** (1.311)	-2.984** (1.313)	-2.924** (1.311)	-2.984** (1.313)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-2.996*** (1.073)	-3.088*** (1.070)	-2.996*** (1.073)	-3.088*** (1.070)
Black (share)	-0.658*** (0.144)	-0.659*** (0.144)	-0.658*** (0.144)	-0.659*** (0.144)
Hispanic (share)	0.253 (0.196)	0.276 (0.196)	0.253 (0.196)	0.276 (0.196)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.004 (0.003)	-0.004 (0.003)	-0.004 (0.003)	-0.004 (0.003)
Poverty rate	-3.753*** (0.807)	-3.749*** (0.806)	-3.753*** (0.807)	-3.749*** (0.806)
Youth poverty rate	0.057 (0.540)	0.085 (0.539)	0.057 (0.540)	0.085 (0.539)
Unemployment rate	-0.948 (1.472)	-0.916 (1.471)	-0.948 (1.472)	-0.916 (1.471)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.600 (0.460)		0.600 (0.460)
Constant	3.736*** (0.603)	3.648*** (0.607)	3.736*** (0.603)	3.648*** (0.607)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	6.024	5.933	6.024	5.933
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.403	0.403	0.403	0.403

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Note that the slope instrument for this table is based on a higher spatial resolution (at about 60m pixel length) than at the baseline due to somewhat better first stage. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.26: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - effect heterogeneity across age shares - FCC broadband provider measure

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC no consensus (4)	CC no consensus (5)	CC no consensus (6)
No. broadband providers	0.138 (0.351)	-0.658* (0.352)	-0.451* (0.232)	0.251 (0.460)	-1.410*** (0.471)	-1.100*** (0.300)
No. providers × share(<50 years)	-0.694 (0.532)			-1.555** (0.708)		
No. providers × share(50-64 years)		1.883 (1.469)			3.595* (1.971)	
No. providers × share(65+ years)			0.877 (0.738)			2.122** (0.982)
No. providers × Bush vote share	0.655** (0.292)	0.656** (0.293)	0.649** (0.291)	1.589*** (0.361)	1.590*** (0.364)	1.580*** (0.361)
2000 Bush vote share	10.148*** (0.625)	10.147*** (0.631)	10.143*** (0.623)	7.595*** (0.830)	7.556*** (0.837)	7.601*** (0.828)
Population (100,000)	0.009 (0.018)	0.007 (0.018)	0.009 (0.018)	-0.004 (0.024)	-0.008 (0.024)	-0.004 (0.024)
Population ²	0.0003 (0.0002)	0.0003 (0.0002)	0.0003 (0.0002)	0.0002 (0.0002)	0.0002 (0.0002)	0.0002 (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.113*** (0.021)	0.114*** (0.021)	0.112*** (0.021)	-0.001 (0.030)	0.0001 (0.031)	-0.002 (0.030)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001*** (0.0001)	-0.0001*** (0.0001)	-0.0001*** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.949** (1.428)	2.959** (1.425)	2.952** (1.434)	8.134*** (1.989)	8.129*** (1.987)	8.133*** (1.997)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.514** (1.094)	2.514** (1.094)	2.510** (1.095)	5.177*** (1.334)	5.179*** (1.329)	5.186*** (1.335)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-17.657*** (1.016)	-17.586*** (1.029)	-17.694*** (1.020)	-21.166*** (1.231)	-21.154*** (1.224)	-21.221*** (1.241)
<50 years (share)	0.629 (1.120)			1.982 (1.576)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)		-1.660 (2.957)			-4.666 (4.188)	
Aged 65+ years (share)			-0.839 (1.526)			-2.681 (2.155)
Black (share)	-14.649*** (0.420)	-14.670*** (0.409)	-14.655*** (0.421)	-13.979*** (0.513)	-14.021*** (0.502)	-13.974*** (0.514)
Hispanic (share)	-9.810*** (0.522)	-9.794*** (0.535)	-9.839*** (0.508)	-9.252*** (0.715)	-9.265*** (0.734)	-9.271*** (0.696)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.014** (0.006)	0.013** (0.006)	0.014** (0.006)	0.019*** (0.007)	0.017** (0.007)	0.019*** (0.007)
Poverty rate	3.324 (2.181)	3.345 (2.148)	3.174 (2.142)	4.223 (2.957)	4.224 (2.889)	4.125 (2.892)
Youth poverty rate	-6.555*** (1.356)	-6.593*** (1.284)	-6.459*** (1.343)	-8.794*** (1.863)	-8.852*** (1.762)	-8.713*** (1.844)
Unemployment rate	4.438 (3.701)	4.375 (3.681)	4.502 (3.704)	10.245** (4.742)	10.112** (4.728)	10.313** (4.747)
Fox News viewership (share)	1.762 (1.112)	1.798 (1.112)	1.784 (1.111)	2.335 (1.598)	2.382 (1.585)	2.321 (1.597)
Constant	14.072*** (1.428)	14.821*** (1.473)	14.608*** (1.325)	22.106*** (2.036)	24.334*** (2.097)	23.793*** (1.864)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.858	0.858	0.858	0.764	0.764	0.764

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker-Huber-White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

C.6. Excluding most urban counties

Table C.27: Broadband internet and climate change skepticism - baseline - excluding 10% most urban counties

	CC not happening (1)	CC no consensus (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	0.392*** (0.064)	0.631*** (0.088)	-1.137** (0.545)	-1.825** (0.709)
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(50-64 years)			5.489*** (2.048)	8.700*** (2.721)
log(Ookla dl speed) × Bush vote share			0.659 (0.461)	1.109* (0.588)
2000 Bush vote share	11.631*** (0.411)	9.841*** (0.551)	9.500*** (1.622)	6.250*** (2.119)
Population (100,000)	0.137 (0.109)	0.245** (0.107)	0.192* (0.110)	0.332*** (0.108)
Population ²	-0.002 (0.004)	-0.008* (0.004)	-0.004 (0.004)	-0.010** (0.004)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-2.527*** (0.796)	-3.387*** (0.849)	-2.374*** (0.794)	-3.163*** (0.846)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001*** (0.00004)	-0.0002*** (0.0001)	-0.0001*** (0.00004)	-0.0002*** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	3.383** (1.399)	8.692*** (1.988)	3.431** (1.429)	8.712*** (2.017)
Education: some college or more (share)	3.004*** (1.129)	4.591*** (1.416)	2.734** (1.160)	4.117*** (1.418)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-17.254*** (1.130)	-18.970*** (1.404)	-17.467*** (1.119)	-19.326*** (1.337)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-1.342 (2.231)	-2.691 (2.874)		
Aged 35-49 years (share)	11.495*** (3.547)	18.273*** (4.222)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-2.958 (3.749)	-4.943 (4.790)	-15.350** (7.482)	-27.333*** (9.992)
Aged 65+ years (share)	0.410 (3.283)	1.751 (3.897)		
Black (share)	-14.651*** (0.433)	-13.325*** (0.541)	-14.783*** (0.442)	-13.501*** (0.553)
Hispanic (share)	-9.697*** (0.555)	-9.275*** (0.758)	-9.754*** (0.562)	-9.341*** (0.769)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.007 (0.008)	0.004 (0.010)	0.011 (0.007)	0.013 (0.009)
Poverty rate	4.809* (2.474)	3.234 (3.323)	4.435** (2.199)	2.764 (3.047)
Youth poverty rate	-7.422*** (1.507)	-8.090*** (2.095)	-7.365*** (1.331)	-8.032*** (1.871)
Unemployment rate	7.324* (3.762)	11.773** (4.730)	7.822** (3.723)	12.502*** (4.656)
Fox News viewership (share)	1.270 (1.144)	1.051 (1.636)	1.573 (1.130)	1.338 (1.599)
median_age	0.034 (0.031)	0.027 (0.035)		
Constant	9.491*** (1.909)	17.182*** (2.611)	16.520*** (2.363)	28.046*** (3.266)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,797	2,797	2,797	2,797
Adjusted R ²	0.837	0.717	0.835	0.715

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.28: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates - excluding 10% most urban counties

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	3.151*** (0.676)	3.162*** (0.686)	4.627*** (0.949)	4.655*** (0.965)
2000 Bush vote share	13.063*** (0.640)	13.075*** (0.647)	11.907*** (0.879)	11.940*** (0.891)
Population (100,000)	-0.414** (0.183)	-0.417** (0.185)	-0.553** (0.225)	-0.559** (0.229)
Population ²	0.017** (0.007)	0.017** (0.007)	0.021** (0.008)	0.021** (0.008)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-9.222*** (1.792)	-9.236*** (1.804)	-13.099*** (2.454)	-13.135*** (2.476)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.00001 (0.0001)	-0.00001 (0.0001)	-0.00002 (0.0001)	-0.00002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	3.283** (1.625)	3.311** (1.630)	8.513*** (2.363)	8.588*** (2.375)
Education: some college or more (share)	-0.161 (1.753)	-0.194 (1.768)	0.031 (2.250)	-0.055 (2.274)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-16.268*** (1.587)	-16.261*** (1.589)	-17.546*** (1.973)	-17.528*** (1.978)
Median age	0.062 (0.045)	0.062 (0.045)	0.067 (0.053)	0.068 (0.053)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-3.769 (2.782)	-3.794 (2.795)	-6.189* (3.732)	-6.255* (3.761)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	6.896 (4.777)	6.901 (4.783)	11.585* (5.988)	11.598* (6.007)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	6.304 (5.685)	6.399 (5.725)	8.404 (7.370)	8.654 (7.432)
Aged 65+ years (share)	1.219 (4.595)	1.316 (4.600)	2.814 (5.562)	3.067 (5.576)
Black (share)	-13.560*** (0.588)	-13.556*** (0.590)	-11.743*** (0.821)	-11.733*** (0.827)
Hispanic (share)	-10.492*** (0.661)	-10.519*** (0.670)	-10.398*** (0.947)	-10.469*** (0.956)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.007 (0.010)	0.007 (0.010)	0.005 (0.014)	0.005 (0.014)
Poverty rate	10.642*** (3.283)	10.663*** (3.294)	11.685** (4.618)	11.741** (4.643)
Youth poverty rate	-8.604*** (1.920)	-8.640*** (1.926)	-9.765*** (2.732)	-9.860*** (2.749)
Unemployment rate	7.901* (4.331)	7.863* (4.331)	12.655** (5.964)	12.557** (5.974)
Fox News viewership (share)		-0.678 (1.569)		-1.779 (2.223)
Constant	-1.391 (3.431)	-1.342 (3.411)	1.314 (4.732)	1.442 (4.711)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	39.015	38.116	39.015	38.116
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	2,797	2,797	2,797	2,797

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.29: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - first stage of IV estimates - excluding 10% most urban counties

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.098*** (0.016)	-0.097*** (0.016)	-0.098*** (0.016)	-0.097*** (0.016)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.561*** (0.128)	-0.566*** (0.128)	-0.561*** (0.128)	-0.566*** (0.128)
Population (100,000)	0.204*** (0.026)	0.204*** (0.025)	0.204*** (0.026)	0.204*** (0.025)
Population ²	-0.007*** (0.001)	-0.007*** (0.001)	-0.007*** (0.001)	-0.007*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	2.398*** (0.183)	2.387*** (0.182)	2.398*** (0.183)	2.387*** (0.182)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.00004*** (0.00001)	-0.00004*** (0.00001)	-0.00004*** (0.00001)	-0.00004*** (0.00001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	-0.065 (0.378)	-0.090 (0.377)	-0.065 (0.378)	-0.090 (0.377)
Education: some college or more (share)	1.100*** (0.322)	1.119*** (0.321)	1.100*** (0.322)	1.119*** (0.321)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-0.094 (0.320)	-0.100 (0.320)	-0.094 (0.320)	-0.100 (0.320)
Median age	-0.010 (0.008)	-0.010 (0.008)	-0.010 (0.008)	-0.010 (0.008)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	1.170** (0.586)	1.182** (0.586)	1.170** (0.586)	1.182** (0.586)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	2.289** (0.925)	2.262** (0.924)	2.289** (0.925)	2.262** (0.924)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-2.801*** (1.076)	-2.860*** (1.074)	-2.801*** (1.076)	-2.860*** (1.074)
Aged 65+ years (share)	0.109 (0.920)	0.019 (0.918)	0.109 (0.920)	0.019 (0.918)
Black (share)	-0.717*** (0.126)	-0.714*** (0.126)	-0.717*** (0.126)	-0.714*** (0.126)
Hispanic (share)	0.156 (0.151)	0.179 (0.151)	0.156 (0.151)	0.179 (0.151)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.001 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)
Poverty rate	-2.097*** (0.663)	-2.096*** (0.661)	-2.097*** (0.663)	-2.096*** (0.661)
Youth poverty rate	0.488 (0.441)	0.516 (0.439)	0.488 (0.441)	0.516 (0.439)
Unemployment rate	0.066 (1.075)	0.100 (1.073)	0.066 (1.075)	0.100 (1.073)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.626* (0.363)		0.626* (0.363)
Constant	3.854*** (0.475)	3.770*** (0.478)	3.854*** (0.475)	3.770*** (0.478)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	39.015	38.116	39.015	38.116
Observations	2,797	2,797	2,797	2,797
Adjusted R ²	0.554	0.555	0.554	0.555

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.30: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - age - excluding 10% most urban counties

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	3.117*** (1.009)	3.174*** (0.841)	4.316*** (1.433)	5.059*** (1.229)
2000 Bush vote share	11.427*** (1.121)	13.983*** (0.795)	10.391*** (1.560)	12.825*** (1.147)
Population (100,000)	-2.016*** (0.756)	-0.565** (0.243)	-1.663 (1.037)	-0.841*** (0.311)
Population ²	0.576*** (0.217)	0.022** (0.009)	0.462 (0.294)	0.029*** (0.011)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-6.784** (3.083)	-8.665*** (1.823)	-11.026*** (4.211)	-12.628*** (2.535)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.00001 (0.0001)	0.00004 (0.0001)	0.00002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	4.495* (2.581)	3.022 (2.019)	7.185* (3.699)	9.018*** (3.134)
Education: some college or more (share)	1.591 (2.144)	-0.803 (2.315)	3.535 (3.020)	-1.808 (3.088)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-16.185*** (1.894)	-15.549*** (1.974)	-18.117*** (2.720)	-16.058*** (2.533)
Median age	-0.015 (0.047)	0.144** (0.066)	-0.034 (0.066)	0.175** (0.080)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-14.938*** (5.311)	0.995 (3.729)	-17.641** (7.835)	-0.998 (5.275)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	4.338 (6.372)	-2.171 (7.573)	3.653 (8.944)	-0.626 (9.537)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	11.039 (8.411)	9.530 (7.703)	10.033 (12.096)	16.978 (10.884)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-4.008 (4.893)	0.572 (7.017)	-2.821 (6.775)	2.436 (8.731)
Black (share)	-15.773*** (0.892)	-12.110*** (0.811)	-14.537*** (1.254)	-9.394*** (1.197)
Hispanic (share)	-11.930*** (1.188)	-9.521*** (0.851)	-13.842*** (1.697)	-8.785*** (1.246)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.001 (0.014)	0.017 (0.016)	-0.004 (0.020)	0.022 (0.021)
Poverty rate	14.163*** (4.975)	11.680** (4.875)	13.338** (6.632)	15.490** (7.232)
Youth poverty rate	-8.288*** (2.878)	-9.970*** (2.978)	-9.930** (4.050)	-11.852*** (4.419)
Unemployment rate	16.765** (7.203)	4.322 (5.603)	25.267** (10.110)	4.158 (8.418)
Fox News viewership (share)	-1.255 (2.194)	-1.811 (2.294)	-1.623 (3.109)	-3.635 (3.237)
Constant	3.505 (5.860)	-4.509 (3.562)	12.063 (8.431)	-5.528 (5.111)
Sample	>median(mid. age)			
State FE	Yes			
F-Statistic (1st st.)	16.078	23.94	16.078	23.94
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.31: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - partisan identity - excluding 10% most urban counties

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.010*** (1.242)	2.084*** (0.746)	5.099*** (1.594)	3.465*** (1.170)
2000 Bush vote share	12.975*** (1.611)	10.573*** (0.818)	9.881*** (2.066)	11.888*** (1.162)
Population (100,000)	-1.964*** (0.698)	-0.215 (0.175)	-1.975** (0.880)	-0.263 (0.231)
Population ²	0.256*** (0.082)	0.010 (0.006)	0.229** (0.101)	0.010 (0.008)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-9.491*** (2.524)	-5.120*** (1.965)	-14.284*** (3.232)	-8.222*** (2.866)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	-0.0001 (0.0001)	0.00002 (0.0001)	-0.0001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	3.813 (2.361)	3.889** (1.881)	8.863*** (3.104)	8.738*** (3.250)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.047 (2.434)	-1.148 (2.086)	2.503 (2.880)	-0.965 (3.154)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-17.510*** (2.706)	-14.651*** (1.599)	-16.527*** (3.137)	-16.865*** (2.430)
Median age	0.041 (0.058)	0.048 (0.043)	0.044 (0.066)	0.058 (0.071)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-7.661* (4.626)	2.582 (3.051)	-11.697** (5.835)	1.065 (4.526)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-0.563 (7.360)	16.621*** (4.466)	2.695 (9.145)	22.219*** (6.654)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	7.179 (7.773)	7.903 (6.610)	8.864 (9.470)	8.972 (10.316)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-3.783 (6.087)	5.795 (4.722)	-4.342 (7.235)	8.672 (7.269)
Black (share)	-19.703*** (1.212)	-13.314*** (0.710)	-16.765*** (1.594)	-11.102*** (1.084)
Hispanic (share)	-12.265*** (1.032)	-9.257*** (0.884)	-11.664*** (1.405)	-9.587*** (1.277)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.018 (0.016)	-0.006 (0.011)	0.016 (0.020)	-0.008 (0.016)
Poverty rate	16.916*** (5.673)	4.215 (3.331)	19.748*** (7.273)	5.268 (5.113)
Youth poverty rate	-8.456*** (3.131)	-6.483*** (2.208)	-10.376** (4.131)	-8.296** (3.366)
Unemployment rate	-0.074 (9.047)	10.175** (4.061)	-0.374 (11.820)	16.501*** (5.982)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.335 (2.194)	0.642 (2.054)	-3.814 (2.891)	-0.055 (3.128)
Constant	-0.744 (5.442)	-0.255 (4.036)	5.425 (6.969)	1.703 (6.315)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	16.013	17.782	16.013	17.782
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.001	0	0
Observations	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

C.7. Excluding most rural counties

Table C.32: Broadband internet and climate change skepticism - baseline - excluding 10% most rural counties

	CC not happening (1)	CC no consensus (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	0.249*** (0.060)	0.511*** (0.082)	-0.299 (0.561)	-2.070*** (0.752)
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(50-64 years)			5.440*** (2.097)	11.097*** (2.832)
log(Ookla dl speed) × Bush vote share			-0.953** (0.464)	0.550 (0.594)
2000 Bush vote share	11.656*** (0.430)	11.573*** (0.561)	15.097*** (1.776)	9.713*** (2.347)
Population (100,000)	-0.022 (0.018)	-0.060** (0.024)	-0.008 (0.018)	-0.022 (0.024)
Population ²	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.0004** (0.0002)	0.0004 (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.103*** (0.021)	-0.010 (0.028)	0.102*** (0.020)	0.007 (0.025)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001* (0.00005)	-0.0001 (0.0001)	-0.0001* (0.00005)	-0.0001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	4.594*** (1.534)	11.767*** (2.037)	4.331*** (1.621)	11.354*** (2.149)
Education: some college or more (share)	1.754 (1.075)	4.430*** (1.408)	1.621 (1.096)	4.145*** (1.453)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-16.278*** (0.968)	-20.199*** (1.298)	-16.830*** (0.972)	-20.448*** (1.293)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-1.945 (2.313)	-5.787** (2.882)		
Aged 35-49 years (share)	14.757*** (3.518)	18.806*** (4.599)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)	0.993 (3.929)	0.337 (5.302)	-13.918* (8.109)	-31.041*** (11.038)
Aged 65+ years (share)	2.446 (3.536)	4.251 (4.734)		
Black (share)	-14.940*** (0.424)	-13.829*** (0.519)	-14.885*** (0.430)	-14.029*** (0.535)
Hispanic (share)	-9.557*** (0.572)	-8.703*** (0.762)	-9.612*** (0.574)	-8.764*** (0.771)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.005 (0.006)	0.008 (0.008)	0.017*** (0.006)	0.019** (0.007)
Poverty rate	5.380** (2.404)	9.512*** (3.073)	5.638*** (2.133)	6.379** (2.764)
Youth poverty rate	-5.411*** (1.462)	-8.040*** (1.948)	-5.599*** (1.331)	-6.292*** (1.746)
Unemployment rate	8.173** (3.573)	11.383** (4.653)	10.130*** (3.547)	14.012*** (4.553)
Fox News viewership (share)	1.424 (1.230)	1.869 (1.748)	1.256 (1.247)	1.788 (1.745)
median_age	0.003 (0.032)	-0.005 (0.045)		
Constant	8.282*** (2.067)	13.023*** (2.644)	12.042*** (2.708)	23.615*** (3.639)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	2,797	2,797	2,797	2,797
Adjusted R ²	0.870	0.793	0.869	0.791

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.33: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates - excluding 10% most rural counties

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	3.234*** (1.067)	3.268*** (1.093)	5.129*** (1.538)	5.186*** (1.577)
2000 Bush vote share	12.975*** (0.730)	13.018*** (0.751)	13.609*** (1.045)	13.681*** (1.076)
Population (100,000)	-0.187*** (0.064)	-0.188*** (0.065)	-0.314*** (0.092)	-0.316*** (0.094)
Population ²	0.002*** (0.001)	0.002*** (0.001)	0.003*** (0.001)	0.003*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.143*** (0.024)	0.143*** (0.024)	0.052 (0.038)	0.052 (0.039)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.00001 (0.0001)	0.00001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	4.296** (1.861)	4.333** (1.870)	11.299*** (2.726)	11.362*** (2.741)
Education: some college or more (share)	-7.359** (3.576)	-7.431** (3.634)	-9.668* (5.155)	-9.790* (5.245)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-14.722*** (1.443)	-14.756*** (1.440)	-17.785*** (2.037)	-17.844*** (2.036)
Median age	-0.042 (0.048)	-0.044 (0.048)	-0.075 (0.071)	-0.077 (0.071)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-2.666 (2.870)	-2.598 (2.881)	-6.912* (3.941)	-6.798* (3.958)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	9.020* (4.919)	9.059* (4.932)	9.920 (6.966)	9.985 (6.997)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	23.600** (9.657)	24.310** (10.059)	35.242** (13.755)	36.437** (14.334)
Aged 65+ years (share)	13.964** (6.144)	14.583** (6.404)	22.002** (8.890)	23.042** (9.263)
Black (share)	-14.260*** (0.571)	-14.264*** (0.574)	-12.776*** (0.825)	-12.783*** (0.831)
Hispanic (share)	-11.189*** (0.884)	-11.306*** (0.939)	-11.213*** (1.283)	-11.411*** (1.357)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.011 (0.009)	0.010 (0.009)	0.018 (0.012)	0.017 (0.012)
Poverty rate	17.700*** (5.375)	17.709*** (5.406)	28.586*** (7.786)	28.601*** (7.838)
Youth poverty rate	-9.671*** (2.525)	-9.732*** (2.561)	-14.627*** (3.668)	-14.730*** (3.721)
Unemployment rate	2.407 (5.377)	2.230 (5.419)	2.480 (7.717)	2.181 (7.791)
Fox News viewership (share)		-2.527 (2.356)		-4.247 (3.438)
Constant	-3.324 (4.750)	-3.118 (4.678)	-4.972 (6.778)	-4.627 (6.683)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	15.635	15.113	15.635	15.113
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	2,797	2,797	2,797	2,797

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.34: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - first stage of IV estimates - excluding 10% most rural counties

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.063*** (0.016)	-0.062*** (0.016)	-0.063*** (0.016)	-0.062*** (0.016)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.455*** (0.139)	-0.468*** (0.138)	-0.455*** (0.139)	-0.468*** (0.138)
Population (100,000)	0.056*** (0.006)	0.055*** (0.006)	0.056*** (0.006)	0.055*** (0.006)
Population ²	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.014*** (0.003)	-0.014*** (0.003)	-0.014*** (0.003)	-0.014*** (0.003)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.00003** (0.00001)	-0.00003** (0.00001)	-0.00003** (0.00001)	-0.00003** (0.00001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	-0.015 (0.446)	-0.034 (0.444)	-0.015 (0.446)	-0.034 (0.444)
Education: some college or more (share)	3.047*** (0.333)	3.032*** (0.331)	3.047*** (0.333)	3.032*** (0.331)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-0.368 (0.315)	-0.344 (0.313)	-0.368 (0.315)	-0.344 (0.313)
Median age	0.014 (0.012)	0.015 (0.011)	0.014 (0.012)	0.015 (0.011)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	0.474 (0.666)	0.432 (0.661)	0.474 (0.666)	0.432 (0.661)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	2.306** (1.077)	2.248** (1.070)	2.306** (1.077)	2.248** (1.070)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-6.968*** (1.338)	-7.208*** (1.326)	-6.968*** (1.338)	-7.208*** (1.326)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-3.570*** (1.193)	-3.821*** (1.182)	-3.570*** (1.193)	-3.821*** (1.182)
Black (share)	-0.410*** (0.126)	-0.401*** (0.126)	-0.410*** (0.126)	-0.401*** (0.126)
Hispanic (share)	0.446*** (0.158)	0.497*** (0.158)	0.446*** (0.158)	0.497*** (0.158)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)
Poverty rate	-4.229*** (0.679)	-4.162*** (0.676)	-4.229*** (0.679)	-4.162*** (0.676)
Youth poverty rate	1.487*** (0.461)	1.492*** (0.460)	1.487*** (0.461)	1.492*** (0.460)
Unemployment rate	1.998* (1.158)	2.054* (1.149)	1.998* (1.158)	2.054* (1.149)
Fox News viewership (share)		1.271*** (0.447)		1.271*** (0.447)
Constant	3.902*** (0.530)	3.732*** (0.532)	3.902*** (0.530)	3.732*** (0.532)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	15.635	15.113	15.635	15.113
Observations	2,797	2,797	2,797	2,797
Adjusted R ²	0.570	0.571	0.570	0.571

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.35: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - age - excluding 10% most rural counties

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.542** (1.842)	3.356** (1.661)	5.881** (2.435)	6.117** (2.624)
2000 Bush vote share	13.193*** (1.850)	13.586*** (0.809)	13.378*** (2.434)	14.412*** (1.266)
Population (100,000)	-1.043** (0.440)	-0.195** (0.087)	-1.051* (0.584)	-0.371*** (0.137)
Population ²	0.069** (0.030)	0.002** (0.001)	0.068* (0.040)	0.004*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.067 (0.106)	0.122*** (0.023)	-0.124 (0.220)	0.048 (0.033)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	-0.0001 (0.0002)	0.0002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	8.273** (3.860)	1.313 (3.252)	15.666*** (5.168)	7.015 (5.082)
Education: some college or more (share)	-7.846 (5.482)	-8.123 (5.255)	-7.953 (7.310)	-13.301 (8.199)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-14.863*** (2.482)	-13.805*** (1.933)	-17.057*** (3.313)	-16.371*** (2.920)
Median age	-0.198 (0.126)	0.002 (0.066)	-0.272 (0.168)	0.003 (0.105)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-21.884*** (8.418)	0.969 (3.919)	-25.787** (11.210)	-3.336 (5.960)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	16.077* (9.218)	5.232 (7.865)	19.585 (12.034)	2.134 (12.265)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	41.799* (22.198)	17.585 (11.090)	53.328* (29.119)	24.918 (17.502)
Aged 65+ years (share)	19.855 (13.538)	16.748* (9.102)	27.155 (18.009)	28.034* (14.499)
Black (share)	-14.680*** (1.466)	-12.919*** (0.788)	-13.194*** (1.943)	-11.211*** (1.248)
Hispanic (share)	-14.685*** (2.182)	-10.693*** (1.601)	-18.564*** (2.757)	-11.104*** (2.490)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.002 (0.017)	0.018 (0.015)	-0.006 (0.022)	0.038 (0.023)
Poverty rate	19.171*** (6.765)	18.381* (9.603)	22.010** (8.623)	35.672** (15.479)
Youth poverty rate	-8.168** (3.926)	-10.922** (4.599)	-9.823* (5.094)	-18.089** (7.430)
Unemployment rate	11.013 (8.480)	-3.932 (8.858)	13.721 (10.822)	-9.081 (14.306)
Fox News viewership (share)	-5.160 (3.769)	-0.167 (3.174)	-6.034 (5.067)	-1.564 (4.720)
Constant	-6.362 (9.252)	-2.570 (4.557)	-4.340 (12.231)	-6.231 (7.001)
Sample	>median(mid. age)		>median(mid. age)	
State FE	Yes		Yes	
F-Statistic (1st st.)	7.402		7.402	
p(AR-Wald)	0		0	
Observations	1,398		1,398	

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.36: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - partisan identity - excluding 10% most rural counties

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	5.957** (2.781)	1.347* (0.793)	8.548** (3.949)	2.216* (1.136)
2000 Bush vote share	14.461*** (1.930)	9.317*** (0.778)	13.254*** (2.732)	13.040*** (1.039)
Population (100,000)	-1.504** (0.688)	-0.049 (0.040)	-2.079** (0.966)	-0.100* (0.057)
Population ²	0.075** (0.038)	0.001* (0.0004)	0.097* (0.052)	0.001* (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.408 (0.469)	0.075*** (0.015)	-0.666 (0.702)	0.010 (0.028)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0002 (0.0002)	-0.0001* (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0002)	-0.0001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	4.571 (3.786)	5.363** (2.192)	10.661* (5.495)	10.378*** (3.216)
Education: some college or more (share)	-8.459 (5.857)	-2.319 (3.211)	-12.083 (8.286)	-1.122 (4.614)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-17.504*** (3.013)	-14.829*** (1.455)	-17.607*** (4.200)	-19.678*** (2.124)
Median age	-0.028 (0.090)	0.005 (0.045)	-0.011 (0.127)	-0.060 (0.071)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-15.796* (8.150)	4.146 (2.919)	-22.222* (11.497)	0.810 (3.936)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-5.400 (11.901)	18.031*** (4.548)	-2.848 (16.903)	18.934*** (6.358)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	22.983 (16.065)	15.167* (9.068)	30.169 (22.293)	24.719* (13.194)
Aged 65+ years (share)	11.460 (11.044)	7.487 (5.769)	17.523 (15.680)	15.567* (8.514)
Black (share)	-18.808*** (1.502)	-14.658*** (0.518)	-16.152*** (2.196)	-13.377*** (0.701)
Hispanic (share)	-13.850*** (2.015)	-8.435*** (0.824)	-13.984*** (2.940)	-8.632*** (1.075)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.022 (0.020)	-0.003 (0.008)	0.018 (0.027)	0.009 (0.011)
Poverty rate	29.904*** (11.308)	6.202 (4.503)	37.859** (15.996)	14.658** (6.591)
Youth poverty rate	-12.404** (5.439)	-4.886** (2.137)	-15.456** (7.697)	-9.766*** (3.070)
Unemployment rate	-7.509 (13.631)	8.894** (3.979)	-18.684 (19.754)	13.284** (5.847)
Fox News viewership (share)	-5.084 (4.254)	0.946 (2.264)	-8.433 (6.065)	1.428 (3.278)
Constant	-6.850 (8.535)	0.594 (4.988)	-8.173 (12.093)	3.326 (7.308)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	5.248	12.946	5.248	12.946
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.073	0	0.033
Observations	1,398	1,398	1,398	1,398

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

C.8. Controlling for natural disasters

Table C.37: Broadband internet and climate change skepticism - baseline - controlling for natural disasters

	CC not happening (1)	CC no consensus (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	0.276*** (0.059)	0.568*** (0.080)	-0.602 (0.492)	-2.502*** (0.643)
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(50-64 years)			5.223*** (1.929)	10.119*** (2.544)
log(Ookla dl speed) × Bush vote share			-0.316 (0.400)	1.673*** (0.501)
Hurricane/flood damage (per cap.) last 3y	0.00000 (0.00001)	0.00001 (0.00002)	0.00000 (0.00001)	0.00001 (0.00002)
Fire damage (per cap.) last 3y	0.0005 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.0004 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)
2000 Bush vote share	11.250*** (0.396)	10.111*** (0.523)	12.368*** (1.461)	4.465** (1.915)
Population (100,000)	-0.025 (0.018)	-0.064** (0.025)	-0.010 (0.018)	-0.021 (0.024)
Population ²	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.0004** (0.0002)	0.0004 (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.102*** (0.020)	-0.022 (0.031)	0.107*** (0.021)	0.007 (0.026)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.0001)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.956** (1.389)	7.975*** (1.946)	3.015** (1.405)	8.159*** (1.950)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.403** (1.103)	4.837*** (1.354)	2.064* (1.114)	4.397*** (1.357)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-17.359*** (1.053)	-20.827*** (1.279)	-17.297*** (1.034)	-20.405*** (1.230)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-1.016 (2.129)	-3.769 (2.698)		
Aged 35-49 years (share)	11.219*** (3.509)	15.088*** (4.100)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-1.789 (3.678)	-1.770 (4.546)	-14.927** (7.190)	-31.468*** (9.600)
Aged 65+ years (share)	1.828 (3.305)	4.168 (3.798)		
Black (share)	-14.517*** (0.405)	-13.697*** (0.498)	-14.558*** (0.405)	-13.884*** (0.497)
Hispanic (share)	-9.887*** (0.529)	-9.542*** (0.716)	-9.921*** (0.525)	-9.525*** (0.720)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.005 (0.006)	0.007 (0.008)	0.010* (0.006)	0.010 (0.007)
Poverty rate	3.977* (2.309)	6.455** (3.061)	3.573* (2.106)	3.493 (2.828)
Youth poverty rate	-6.804*** (1.413)	-10.094*** (1.945)	-6.724*** (1.272)	-8.417*** (1.735)
Unemployment rate	4.711 (3.712)	10.732** (4.711)	6.134* (3.638)	11.678** (4.610)
Fox News viewership (share)	1.483 (1.119)	1.855 (1.609)	1.574 (1.115)	1.993 (1.577)
median_age	0.017 (0.031)	-0.004 (0.034)		
Constant	10.828*** (1.887)	18.619*** (2.553)	15.616*** (2.229)	30.610*** (3.092)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.860	0.768	0.859	0.768

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.38: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates - controlling for natural disasters

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	3.230*** (0.862)	3.249*** (0.877)	5.055*** (1.229)	5.090*** (1.252)
Hurricane/flood damag (per cap.) last 3y	-0.00003 (0.00002)	-0.00003 (0.00002)	-0.00004 (0.00004)	-0.00004 (0.00004)
Fire damage (per cap.) last 3y	0.001*** (0.0005)	0.001*** (0.0005)	0.002* (0.001)	0.002* (0.001)
2000 Bush vote share	12.916*** (0.725)	12.945*** (0.741)	12.635*** (1.020)	12.689*** (1.044)
Population (100,000)	-0.217*** (0.062)	-0.218*** (0.062)	-0.357*** (0.088)	-0.358*** (0.089)
Population ²	0.003*** (0.001)	0.003*** (0.001)	0.004*** (0.001)	0.004*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.153*** (0.026)	0.153*** (0.026)	0.055 (0.039)	0.055 (0.039)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.248 (1.743)	2.289 (1.748)	6.885*** (2.500)	6.960*** (2.510)
Education: some college or more (share)	-4.887* (2.758)	-4.950* (2.799)	-6.229* (3.754)	-6.344* (3.818)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-16.739*** (1.624)	-16.745*** (1.626)	-19.884*** (2.056)	-19.893*** (2.061)
Median age	0.009 (0.052)	0.009 (0.052)	-0.017 (0.063)	-0.016 (0.063)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-2.371 (2.782)	-2.396 (2.798)	-5.821 (3.801)	-5.866 (3.829)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	5.163 (5.393)	5.138 (5.413)	5.886 (6.906)	5.841 (6.944)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	15.994** (7.893)	16.238** (8.027)	25.198** (10.537)	25.642** (10.738)
Aged 65+ years (share)	10.129* (5.875)	10.383* (5.954)	16.715** (7.379)	17.177** (7.509)
Black (share)	-13.753*** (0.561)	-13.745*** (0.565)	-12.537*** (0.805)	-12.523*** (0.812)
Hispanic (share)	-11.401*** (0.766)	-11.461*** (0.792)	-11.826*** (1.109)	-11.934*** (1.144)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.011 (0.010)	0.011 (0.010)	0.016 (0.013)	0.016 (0.013)
Poverty rate	14.990*** (4.317)	15.050*** (4.359)	23.184*** (6.232)	23.295*** (6.300)
Youth poverty rate	-9.813*** (2.061)	-9.893*** (2.089)	-14.645*** (3.001)	-14.792*** (3.049)
Unemployment rate	0.167 (4.949)	0.062 (4.968)	3.853 (6.930)	3.664 (6.970)
Fox News viewership (share)		-1.336 (1.777)		-2.431 (2.583)
Constant	-1.146 (4.196)	-1.030 (4.150)	0.375 (5.845)	0.587 (5.787)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	24.91	24.226	24.91	24.226
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.39: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - first stage of IV estimates - controlling for natural disasters

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.077*** (0.015)	-0.076*** (0.015)	-0.077*** (0.015)	-0.076*** (0.015)
Hurricane/flood damage (per cap.) last 3y	0.00001* (0.00000)	0.00001* (0.00000)	0.00001* (0.00000)	0.00001* (0.00000)
Fire damage (per cap.) last 3y	-0.0002 (0.0003)	-0.0002 (0.0003)	-0.0002 (0.0003)	-0.0002 (0.0003)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.587*** (0.128)	-0.599*** (0.128)	-0.587*** (0.128)	-0.599*** (0.128)
Population (100,000)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)
Population ²	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.159 (0.387)	0.129 (0.385)	0.159 (0.387)	0.129 (0.385)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.454*** (0.336)	2.466*** (0.335)	2.454*** (0.336)	2.466*** (0.335)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-0.024 (0.334)	-0.020 (0.332)	-0.024 (0.334)	-0.020 (0.332)
Median age	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	0.681 (0.610)	0.689 (0.609)	0.681 (0.610)	0.689 (0.609)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	2.523** (1.044)	2.508** (1.042)	2.523** (1.044)	2.508** (1.042)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-5.507*** (1.196)	-5.601*** (1.193)	-5.507*** (1.196)	-5.601*** (1.193)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-2.544** (1.048)	-2.683** (1.043)	-2.544** (1.048)	-2.683** (1.043)
Black (share)	-0.482*** (0.123)	-0.481*** (0.123)	-0.482*** (0.123)	-0.481*** (0.123)
Hispanic (share)	0.408*** (0.149)	0.443*** (0.149)	0.408*** (0.149)	0.443*** (0.149)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)
Poverty rate	-3.784*** (0.646)	-3.776*** (0.643)	-3.784*** (0.646)	-3.776*** (0.643)
Youth poverty rate	1.074** (0.434)	1.115** (0.433)	1.074** (0.434)	1.115** (0.433)
Unemployment rate	1.732 (1.116)	1.781 (1.110)	1.732 (1.116)	1.781 (1.110)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.902** (0.392)		0.902** (0.392)
Constant	4.011*** (0.474)	3.881*** (0.477)	4.011*** (0.474)	3.881*** (0.477)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	24.91	24.226	24.91	24.226
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108
Adjusted R ²	0.570	0.571	0.570	0.571

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.40: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - age - controlling for natural disasters

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.447*** (1.604)	3.163*** (1.184)	5.870*** (2.158)	5.565*** (1.817)
Hurricane/flood damag (per cap.) last 3y	-0.0001* (0.00003)	-0.00001 (0.00002)	-0.0001 (0.00005)	-0.00000 (0.00005)
Fire damage (per cap.) last 3y		0.001* (0.001)		0.002* (0.001)
2000 Bush vote share	12.386*** (1.549)	13.972*** (0.931)	11.527*** (2.075)	14.507*** (1.413)
Population (100,000)	-1.207*** (0.436)	-0.205*** (0.072)	-1.312** (0.589)	-0.374*** (0.110)
Population ²	0.076** (0.030)	0.002*** (0.001)	0.079* (0.041)	0.004*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.078 (0.102)	0.134*** (0.028)	-0.121 (0.222)	0.058* (0.033)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	6.009* (3.223)	0.050 (2.553)	9.975** (4.407)	4.293 (3.855)
Education: some college or more (share)	-5.911 (4.573)	-4.267 (3.490)	-5.884 (6.176)	-6.805 (5.056)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-14.667*** (2.332)	-16.867*** (2.048)	-16.326*** (3.182)	-20.204*** (2.718)
Median age	-0.058 (0.060)	0.081 (0.077)	-0.096 (0.080)	0.076 (0.096)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-19.564*** (6.598)	3.154 (3.605)	-21.889** (9.064)	0.912 (5.278)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	8.948 (7.902)	-2.924 (9.208)	8.322 (10.570)	-5.976 (12.064)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	28.168* (15.595)	11.627 (9.065)	32.980 (21.020)	22.376* (13.390)
Aged 65+ years (share)	4.841 (6.874)	12.216 (9.180)	8.330 (9.230)	22.420* (12.325)
Black (share)	-14.857*** (1.291)	-12.327*** (0.769)	-13.758*** (1.738)	-10.657*** (1.192)
Hispanic (share)	-13.015*** (1.438)	-10.491*** (1.116)	-15.962*** (1.971)	-10.526*** (1.687)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.002 (0.016)	0.024 (0.015)	-0.006 (0.022)	0.040* (0.022)
Poverty rate	17.524*** (5.956)	15.810** (7.233)	17.825** (7.751)	30.046*** (11.249)
Youth poverty rate	-8.000** (3.524)	-10.814*** (3.423)	-9.995** (4.733)	-17.391*** (5.310)
Unemployment rate	13.048* (7.879)	-3.501 (7.098)	21.177** (10.549)	-4.766 (11.008)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.941 (2.996)	-0.881 (2.511)	-3.082 (4.046)	-2.401 (3.651)
Constant	-4.145 (8.970)	-2.245 (4.414)	2.236 (12.094)	-4.577 (6.610)
Sample	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	9.542	12.449	9.542	12.449
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.41: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - partisan identity - controlling for natural disasters

	CC not happening	CC not happening	CC no consensus	CC no consensus
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.746*** (1.663)	1.540** (0.729)	6.833*** (2.341)	2.562** (1.068)
Hurricane/flood damage (per cap.) last 3y	-0.00004 (0.00004)	0.00001 (0.00002)	-0.0001 (0.0001)	0.00001 (0.00003)
Fire damage (per cap.) last 3y	0.001 (0.001)	0.010*** (0.001)	0.002 (0.002)	0.012*** (0.002)
2000 Bush vote share	14.411*** (2.004)	9.598*** (0.764)	11.902*** (2.821)	12.727*** (1.054)
Population (100,000)	-1.458*** (0.502)	-0.070* (0.041)	-2.038*** (0.695)	-0.128** (0.060)
Population ²	0.072** (0.030)	0.001** (0.0004)	0.093** (0.040)	0.001** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.245 (0.397)	0.082*** (0.017)	-0.353 (0.529)	0.006 (0.031)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0002 (0.0001)	-0.00004 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0002)	-0.00001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	3.105 (2.747)	3.471** (1.739)	7.830** (3.837)	6.241** (2.803)
Education: some college or more (share)	-0.861 (3.060)	-2.890 (2.905)	-1.819 (4.025)	-1.438 (4.212)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-20.468*** (3.113)	-14.725*** (1.497)	-21.115*** (4.100)	-19.729*** (2.195)
Median age	0.022 (0.070)	0.010 (0.042)	0.018 (0.087)	-0.049 (0.063)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-10.973* (5.654)	4.243 (2.819)	-15.956** (7.752)	1.695 (3.869)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-2.261 (8.353)	16.544*** (4.346)	0.948 (11.151)	17.403*** (6.154)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	14.458 (10.533)	10.869 (8.094)	21.008 (14.045)	18.093 (11.762)
Aged 65+ years (share)	2.116 (7.398)	10.766** (5.474)	5.527 (9.664)	19.959** (7.864)
Black (share)	-20.097*** (1.253)	-13.833*** (0.537)	-18.648*** (1.837)	-12.259*** (0.760)
Hispanic (share)	-12.524*** (1.222)	-9.375*** (0.866)	-12.390*** (1.767)	-9.920*** (1.204)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.017 (0.017)	-0.003 (0.008)	0.016 (0.023)	0.008 (0.011)
Poverty rate	22.234** (7.282)	4.820 (3.733)	28.726*** (10.229)	12.392** (5.552)
Youth poverty rate	-9.285*** (3.408)	-6.647*** (2.093)	-11.645** (4.851)	-12.329*** (3.073)
Unemployment rate	-3.991 (9.969)	8.088** (3.917)	-5.805 (14.034)	12.756** (5.671)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.467 (2.598)	0.655 (2.026)	-4.378 (3.668)	1.249 (2.981)
Constant	-4.267 (7.076)	2.561 (4.173)	-2.439 (9.860)	6.952 (6.156)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	10.886	16.165	10.886	16.165
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.021	0	0.007
Observations	1,554	1,554	1,554	1,554

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

C.9. Controlling for local climate change

Table C.42: Broadband internet and climate change skepticism - baseline - controlling for local climate change

	CC not happening (1)	CC no consensus (2)	CC not happening (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	0.280*** (0.059)	0.572*** (0.079)	-0.597 (0.488)	-2.494*** (0.640)
log(Ookla dl speed) × share(50-64 years)			5.406*** (1.918)	10.253*** (2.536)
log(Ookla dl speed) × Bush vote share			-0.385 (0.400)	1.615*** (0.503)
Temperature anomaly last 5y	-0.284*** (0.073)	-0.247** (0.099)	-0.306*** (0.073)	-0.260*** (0.099)
2000 Bush vote share	11.222*** (0.395)	10.082*** (0.523)	12.578*** (1.457)	4.639** (1.916)
Population (100,000)	-0.022 (0.019)	-0.061** (0.025)	-0.008 (0.019)	-0.020 (0.024)
Population ²	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.0003)	0.0004** (0.0002)	0.0004 (0.0002)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.107*** (0.021)	-0.018 (0.031)	0.112*** (0.022)	0.012 (0.025)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.0001)	-0.0001** (0.00004)	-0.0001** (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.994** (1.385)	8.015*** (1.952)	3.088** (1.397)	8.231*** (1.951)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.444** (1.107)	4.872*** (1.355)	2.121* (1.121)	4.447*** (1.357)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-17.397*** (1.062)	-20.860*** (1.284)	-17.295*** (1.048)	-20.394*** (1.235)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-1.023 (2.123)	-3.832 (2.698)		
Aged 35-49 years (share)	10.695*** (3.545)	14.453*** (4.109)		
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-1.693 (3.709)	-1.754 (4.556)	-15.483** (7.134)	-31.966*** (9.558)
Aged 65+ years (share)	1.898 (3.360)	4.265 (3.829)		
Black (share)	-14.446*** (0.402)	-13.644*** (0.496)	-14.487*** (0.401)	-13.835*** (0.496)
Hispanic (share)	-9.640*** (0.535)	-9.338*** (0.726)	-9.651*** (0.530)	-9.303*** (0.730)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.007 (0.006)	0.009 (0.008)	0.012** (0.006)	0.011 (0.007)
Poverty rate	4.161* (2.309)	6.769** (3.062)	3.735* (2.101)	3.740 (2.823)
Youth poverty rate	-6.950*** (1.408)	-10.314*** (1.940)	-6.863*** (1.266)	-8.602*** (1.731)
Unemployment rate	5.334 (3.685)	11.408** (4.704)	6.983* (3.597)	12.538*** (4.593)
Fox News viewership (share)	1.421 (1.120)	1.869 (1.611)	1.546 (1.116)	2.042 (1.579)
median_age	0.016 (0.032)	-0.005 (0.035)		
Constant	11.312*** (1.879)	19.090*** (2.549)	15.999*** (2.212)	30.916*** (3.077)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	3,106	3,106	3,106	3,106
Adjusted R ²	0.860	0.768	0.859	0.768

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.43: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - IV estimates - controlling for local climate change

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	3.254*** (0.840)	3.277*** (0.857)	5.038*** (1.196)	5.078*** (1.221)
Temperature anomaly last 5y	-0.374*** (0.108)	-0.379*** (0.109)	-0.382** (0.154)	-0.390** (0.155)
2000 Bush vote share	12.907*** (0.719)	12.942*** (0.736)	12.608*** (1.009)	12.667*** (1.033)
Population (100,000)	-0.215*** (0.060)	-0.216*** (0.061)	-0.352*** (0.086)	-0.354*** (0.087)
Population ²	0.003*** (0.001)	0.003*** (0.001)	0.004*** (0.001)	0.004*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.160*** (0.026)	0.160*** (0.026)	0.061 (0.038)	0.062 (0.038)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0002* (0.0001)	0.0002* (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	2.260 (1.759)	2.307 (1.766)	6.903*** (2.516)	6.982*** (2.528)
Education: some college or more (share)	-4.918* (2.745)	-4.993* (2.788)	-6.182* (3.707)	-6.308* (3.773)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-16.737*** (1.653)	-16.743*** (1.656)	-19.866*** (2.074)	-19.877*** (2.080)
Median age	0.009 (0.054)	0.009 (0.054)	-0.017 (0.064)	-0.016 (0.064)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-2.342 (2.776)	-2.366 (2.793)	-5.811 (3.781)	-5.851 (3.811)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	4.672 (5.431)	4.655 (5.453)	5.401 (6.899)	5.374 (6.939)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	16.307** (7.957)	16.611** (8.103)	25.252** (10.509)	25.761** (10.725)
Aged 65+ years (share)	10.202* (6.000)	10.496* (6.084)	16.697** (7.452)	17.190** (7.584)
Black (share)	-13.633*** (0.563)	-13.621*** (0.568)	-12.423*** (0.806)	-12.404*** (0.814)
Hispanic (share)	-11.033*** (0.757)	-11.099*** (0.779)	-11.422*** (1.092)	-11.531*** (1.122)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.013 (0.010)	0.013 (0.010)	0.018 (0.013)	0.018 (0.013)
Poverty rate	15.110*** (4.236)	15.170*** (4.276)	23.217*** (6.102)	23.318*** (6.165)
Youth poverty rate	-9.954*** (2.060)	-10.039*** (2.086)	-14.816*** (2.987)	-14.957*** (3.032)
Unemployment rate	0.666 (4.921)	0.541 (4.942)	4.412 (6.888)	4.202 (6.933)
Fox News viewership (share)		-1.559 (1.799)		-2.610 (2.597)
Constant	-0.616 (4.114)	-0.487 (4.075)	1.138 (5.725)	1.354 (5.673)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	26.075	25.319	26.075	25.319
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	3,106	3,106	3,106	3,106

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.44: Broadband internet and climate skepticism - first stage of IV estimates - controlling for local climate change

	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)	log(Ookla dl)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(avg. slope)	-0.079*** (0.015)	-0.078*** (0.016)	-0.079*** (0.015)	-0.078*** (0.016)
Temperature anomaly last 5y	0.022 (0.026)	0.025 (0.026)	0.022 (0.026)	0.025 (0.026)
2000 Bush vote share	-0.590*** (0.128)	-0.603*** (0.128)	-0.590*** (0.128)	-0.603*** (0.128)
Population (100,000)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)	0.065*** (0.007)
Population ²	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)	-0.001*** (0.0001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)	-0.018*** (0.004)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)	-0.0001*** (0.00001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	0.162 (0.388)	0.131 (0.387)	0.162 (0.388)	0.131 (0.387)
Education: some college or more (share)	2.461*** (0.337)	2.472*** (0.336)	2.461*** (0.337)	2.472*** (0.336)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-0.029 (0.335)	-0.024 (0.334)	-0.029 (0.335)	-0.024 (0.334)
Median age	0.003 (0.010)	0.002 (0.010)	0.003 (0.010)	0.002 (0.010)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	0.674 (0.612)	0.679 (0.611)	0.674 (0.612)	0.679 (0.611)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	2.507** (1.052)	2.482** (1.050)	2.507** (1.052)	2.482** (1.050)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	-5.525*** (1.202)	-5.629*** (1.199)	-5.525*** (1.202)	-5.629*** (1.199)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-2.526** (1.054)	-2.668** (1.049)	-2.526** (1.054)	-2.668** (1.049)
Black (share)	-0.500*** (0.124)	-0.500*** (0.124)	-0.500*** (0.124)	-0.500*** (0.124)
Hispanic (share)	0.372** (0.153)	0.406*** (0.153)	0.372** (0.153)	0.406*** (0.153)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)
Poverty rate	-3.742*** (0.649)	-3.725*** (0.647)	-3.742*** (0.649)	-3.725*** (0.647)
Youth poverty rate	1.067** (0.438)	1.102** (0.436)	1.067** (0.438)	1.102** (0.436)
Unemployment rate	1.774 (1.117)	1.824 (1.112)	1.774 (1.117)	1.824 (1.112)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.942** (0.393)		0.942** (0.393)
Constant	3.977*** (0.476)	3.843*** (0.478)	3.977*** (0.476)	3.843*** (0.478)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	26.075	25.319	26.075	25.319
Observations	3,106	3,106	3,106	3,106
Adjusted R ²	0.569	0.570	0.569	0.570

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker-Huber-White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise.

Table C.45: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - age - controlling for local climate change

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.408*** (1.552)	3.193*** (1.128)	5.764*** (2.085)	5.591*** (1.730)
Temperature anomaly last 5y	-0.477*** (0.184)	-0.250* (0.147)	-0.486** (0.243)	-0.248 (0.224)
2000 Bush vote share	12.320*** (1.509)	14.001*** (0.927)	11.408*** (2.016)	14.554*** (1.404)
Population (100,000)	-1.173*** (0.421)	-0.205*** (0.070)	-1.259** (0.567)	-0.375*** (0.107)
Population ²	0.075** (0.029)	0.002*** (0.001)	0.077* (0.040)	0.004*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.092 (0.098)	0.139*** (0.028)	-0.107 (0.208)	0.063* (0.033)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0001 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	5.767* (3.173)	0.057 (2.527)	9.641** (4.328)	4.299 (3.830)
Education: some college or more (share)	-6.023 (4.479)	-4.228 (3.435)	-5.837 (6.034)	-6.742 (4.944)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-14.440*** (2.337)	-16.932*** (2.063)	-16.131*** (3.171)	-20.238*** (2.737)
Median age	-0.061 (0.060)	0.082 (0.079)	-0.099 (0.080)	0.078 (0.098)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-19.261*** (6.521)	3.144 (3.627)	-21.567** (8.926)	0.933 (5.300)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	8.319 (7.773)	-3.266 (9.157)	7.520 (10.351)	-6.252 (11.921)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	28.344* (15.255)	11.800 (9.151)	32.636 (20.516)	22.869* (13.475)
Aged 65+ years (share)	5.032 (6.838)	12.324 (9.325)	8.371 (9.151)	22.383* (12.358)
Black (share)	-14.714*** (1.284)	-12.239*** (0.765)	-13.641*** (1.722)	-10.562*** (1.182)
Hispanic (share)	-12.771*** (1.450)	-10.245*** (1.093)	-15.741*** (1.982)	-10.272*** (1.657)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.002 (0.016)	0.025* (0.015)	-0.005 (0.021)	0.041* (0.022)
Poverty rate	17.038*** (5.841)	16.002** (6.934)	17.322** (7.589)	30.135*** (10.806)
Youth poverty rate	-8.244** (3.459)	-10.857*** (3.351)	-10.357** (4.647)	-17.363*** (5.202)
Unemployment rate	12.936* (7.805)	-3.006 (7.037)	20.903** (10.455)	-4.192 (10.952)
Fox News viewership (share)	-3.254 (2.975)	-0.962 (2.546)	-3.372 (4.000)	-2.507 (3.695)
Constant	-2.630 (8.583)	-2.049 (4.344)	4.230 (11.567)	-4.479 (6.490)
Sample	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)	>median(mid. age)	<median(mid. age)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	9.982	13.68	9.982	13.68
p(AR-Wald)	0	0	0	0
Observations	1,554	1,552	1,554	1,552

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

Table C.46: Broadband internet and belief in climate science - IV heterogeneity - partisan identity - controlling for local climate change

	CC not happening (1)	CC not happening (2)	CC no consensus (3)	CC no consensus (4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	4.448*** (1.501)	1.769** (0.778)	6.386*** (2.123)	2.832** (1.136)
Temperature anomaly last 5y	-0.137 (0.179)	-0.385*** (0.118)	-0.091 (0.248)	-0.442** (0.176)
2000 Bush vote share	14.167*** (1.852)	9.717*** (0.775)	11.542*** (2.606)	12.866*** (1.072)
Population (100,000)	-1.380*** (0.460)	-0.077* (0.043)	-1.922*** (0.638)	-0.137** (0.063)
Population ²	0.069** (0.027)	0.001** (0.0004)	0.087** (0.037)	0.001** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	-0.234 (0.383)	0.091*** (0.018)	-0.335 (0.508)	0.017 (0.030)
Land area (sq. miles)	0.0002 (0.0001)	-0.00003 (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0002)	0.00001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	3.244 (2.647)	3.560** (1.799)	8.013** (3.676)	6.357** (2.913)
Education: some college or more (share)	-0.621 (2.924)	-3.634 (3.045)	-1.505 (3.817)	-2.317 (4.423)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-20.128*** (2.945)	-14.505*** (1.543)	-20.569*** (3.843)	-19.475*** (2.269)
Median age	0.021 (0.068)	0.009 (0.043)	0.017 (0.083)	-0.051 (0.066)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-10.451** (5.313)	4.304 (2.914)	-15.193** (7.251)	1.703 (3.998)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	-1.685 (7.950)	15.471*** (4.440)	1.878 (10.533)	16.055** (6.273)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	13.363 (9.940)	12.882 (8.581)	19.383 (13.164)	20.402 (12.405)
Aged 65+ years (share)	1.652 (7.140)	11.263** (5.698)	4.818 (9.229)	20.578** (8.164)
Black (share)	-19.933*** (1.196)	-13.658*** (0.553)	-18.469*** (1.751)	-12.057*** (0.792)
Hispanic (share)	-12.271*** (1.186)	-9.173*** (0.859)	-12.114*** (1.709)	-9.705*** (1.202)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	0.015 (0.016)	0.001 (0.009)	0.013 (0.022)	0.013 (0.012)
Poverty rate	21.304*** (6.792)	5.794 (3.878)	27.375*** (9.536)	13.642** (5.740)
Youth poverty rate	-9.430*** (3.271)	-6.993*** (2.166)	-11.833** (4.647)	-12.815*** (3.162)
Unemployment rate	-3.718 (9.563)	8.680** (3.952)	-5.775 (13.413)	13.527** (5.773)
Fox News viewership (share)	-2.445 (2.467)	0.595 (2.157)	-4.241 (3.478)	1.245 (3.148)
Constant	-2.765 (6.510)	2.058 (4.386)	-0.375 (9.128)	6.382 (6.423)
Sample	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)	>median(Rep)	<median(Rep)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)	12.013	15.281	12.013	15.281
p(AR-Wald)	0	0.01	0	0.004
Observations	1,554	1,552	1,554	1,552

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the state level in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

D. FULL ESTIMATES FOR RESULTS IN DISCUSSION SECTION

D.1. Broadband & 2020 Republican vote share – full estimates corresponding to Table 9

Table D.1: Broadband internet and 2020 Republican presidential election vote share

	R vote 2020 (OLS)	R vote 2020 (OLS)	R vote 2020 (IV)	R vote 2020 (IV)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	−0.087*** (0.004)	−0.002 (0.002)	0.104 (0.064)	0.180*** (0.040)
2000 Bush vote share		0.650*** (0.016)		0.755*** (0.035)
Population (100,000)		−0.0004 (0.001)		−0.012*** (0.003)
Population ²		0.00001 (0.00001)		0.0001*** (0.00004)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)		0.002*** (0.001)		0.006*** (0.001)
Land area (sq. miles)		−0.00000 (0.00000)		0.00001*** (0.00000)
Education: high school degree or more (share)		−0.051 (0.042)		−0.094 (0.075)
Education: some college or more (share)		−0.093*** (0.035)		−0.548*** (0.122)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)		−0.659*** (0.032)		−0.618*** (0.064)
Median age		−0.001 (0.001)		−0.001 (0.002)
Aged 20-34 years (share)		0.066 (0.087)		−0.021 (0.140)
Aged 35-49 years (share)		0.318*** (0.109)		−0.057 (0.212)
Aged 50-64 years (share)		−0.129 (0.119)		0.977*** (0.345)
Aged 65+ years (share)		0.363*** (0.102)		0.890*** (0.232)
Black (share)		−0.451*** (0.015)		−0.403*** (0.027)
Hispanic (share)		−0.255*** (0.018)		−0.349*** (0.037)
Median household income (1,000 \$)		0.001** (0.0002)		0.001* (0.0004)
Poverty rate		0.072 (0.093)		0.754*** (0.210)
Youth poverty rate		−0.079 (0.053)		−0.274*** (0.106)
Unemployment rate		−0.365*** (0.129)		−0.661*** (0.237)
Fox News viewership (share)		0.180*** (0.036)		0.005 (0.089)
Constant	0.956*** (0.015)	0.531*** (0.066)	0.284 (0.224)	−0.191 (0.186)
First stage:				
log(avg. slope)			−0.056*** (0.013)	−0.079*** (0.015)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)			19.575	25.861
p(AR-Wald)			0.046	0
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. “p(AR-Wald)” contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification. The full set of first stage coefficients can be found in Table B.2 of Appendix B.2 (first stages identical to columns 1 and 3 therein, respectively).

D.2. Controlling for ideology – full estimates corresponding to Table 10

Table D.2: *Broadband internet and climate skepticism controlling for partisan identity - full estimates from Table 10*

	CC not happening (OLS)	CC not happening (IV)	CC no consensus (OLS)	CC no consensus (IV)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
log(Ookla median download speed)	0.319*** (0.053)	0.008 (0.430)	0.615*** (0.076)	1.860*** (0.690)
2020 Trump vote share	17.400*** (0.361)	17.215*** (0.432)	16.147*** (0.525)	16.889*** (0.688)
Population (100,000)	-0.018 (0.013)	0.003 (0.031)	-0.056*** (0.022)	-0.138*** (0.051)
Population ²	0.0004*** (0.0001)	0.0002 (0.0003)	0.001*** (0.0002)	0.001*** (0.001)
Population density (1,000/sq. mile)	0.059*** (0.013)	0.054*** (0.015)	-0.061* (0.033)	-0.043 (0.034)
Land area (sq. miles)	-0.0001* (0.00003)	-0.0001* (0.00004)	-0.0001* (0.00005)	-0.00001 (0.0001)
Education: high school degree or more (share)	3.860*** (1.193)	3.932*** (1.171)	8.869*** (1.810)	8.580*** (1.856)
Education: some college or more (share)	4.008*** (1.039)	4.756*** (1.513)	6.271*** (1.283)	3.276 (2.204)
Education: bachelor's degree or more (share)	-5.867*** (1.128)	-6.042*** (1.122)	-10.068*** (1.324)	-9.369*** (1.538)
Median age	0.029 (0.036)	0.030 (0.034)	0.007 (0.037)	0.004 (0.043)
Aged 20-34 years (share)	-2.144 (1.571)	-1.948 (1.596)	-4.623** (2.327)	-5.406** (2.455)
Aged 35-49 years (share)	5.714* (3.426)	6.434* (3.336)	10.103*** (3.881)	7.223 (4.560)
Aged 50-64 years (share)	0.544 (3.644)	-1.298 (4.512)	0.803 (4.489)	8.174 (6.501)
Aged 65+ years (share)	-4.486 (3.417)	-5.305 (3.505)	-1.629 (3.836)	1.649 (4.684)
Black (share)	-6.640*** (0.368)	-6.788*** (0.397)	-6.287*** (0.515)	-5.696*** (0.646)
Hispanic (share)	-5.441*** (0.439)	-5.316*** (0.461)	-5.361*** (0.658)	-5.861*** (0.722)
Median household income (1,000 \$)	-0.004 (0.006)	-0.004 (0.006)	-0.001 (0.007)	0.001 (0.008)
Poverty rate	2.769* (1.632)	1.655 (2.214)	5.539** (2.530)	9.997*** (3.602)
Youth poverty rate	-5.439*** (1.054)	-5.123*** (1.130)	-8.828*** (1.689)	-10.094*** (1.888)
Unemployment rate	11.174*** (2.854)	11.698*** (2.977)	17.253*** (4.149)	15.156*** (4.503)
2000 Bush vote share	-1.649* (0.999)	-1.326 (1.112)	-1.087 (1.549)	-2.382 (1.734)
Fox News viewership (share)	1.499 (1.489)	2.751 (2.312)	9.496*** (2.248)	4.485 (3.534)
State FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
F-Statistic (1st st.)		32.042		32.042
p(AR-Wald)		0.985		0.004
Observations	3,108	3,108	3,108	3,108

(***, **, *) $\Leftrightarrow$ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Robust (Eicker–Huber–White) standard errors in parentheses. Control variables contain values from 2019 unless stated otherwise. "p(AR-Wald)" contains the p-values of an Anderson and Rubin (1949) Wald test robust to weak identification.

E. CCES ANALYSIS

Below, I present more information on the Cooperative Congressional Election Study (CCES) data used in Section D. The outcome variable consists of a 0-100 dummy (rescaled to match the range of other dependent variables) for the response “*Climate change not occurring*” or “*More research needed*”, respectively, to the following question:

“From what you know about global climate change or global warming, which one of the following statements comes closest to your opinion?”

Other possible responses to the question were “*immediate action*”, “*some action*”, and “*no action necessary*”.

This denialist “*not occurring*” response option was only available in the 2010, 2011, and 2012 waves of the study, hence the sample only consists of observations from those years. The entire question was discontinued for subsequent survey waves. Table E.1 below contains descriptive statistics for the variables used in the analysis.

Internet access is measured by a 0-1 dummy, taking the value 1 if the respondent reports having access to broadband at home, and 0 if the respondent reports having no internet or dial-up.

Table E.1: CCES data - descriptive statistics

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Max
CC not occurring	124,579	6.565	24.766	0	100
CC more research needed	124,579	20.278	40.207	0	100
Broadband internet	124,579	0.951	0.217	0	1
Age	124,579	52.314	15.486	18	96
Aged 50-64 years	124,579	0.406	0.491	0	1
Male	124,579	0.477	0.499	0	1
Foreigner	124,579	0.011	0.105	0	1
Non-white	124,579	0.239	0.427	0	1
Married	124,579	0.582	0.493	0	1
Divorced/separated	124,579	0.139	0.346	0	1
Widowed	124,579	0.051	0.220	0	1
Education: no degree	124,579	0.025	0.158	0	1
Education: high school	124,579	0.240	0.427	0	1
Education: some college	124,579	0.268	0.443	0	1
Education: 2-year college	124,579	0.092	0.289	0	1
Education: 4-year college	124,579	0.251	0.434	0	1
Education: post-graduate	124,579	0.124	0.330	0	1
Household income <10k	124,579	0.038	0.191	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 10k,20k)	124,579	0.073	0.260	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 20k,30k)	124,579	0.100	0.300	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 30k,40k)	124,579	0.101	0.301	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 40k,50k)	124,579	0.093	0.290	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 50k,60k)	124,579	0.090	0.287	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 60k,70k)	124,579	0.068	0.252	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 70k,80k)	124,579	0.072	0.258	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 80k,100k)	124,579	0.083	0.277	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 100k,120k)	124,579	0.061	0.240	0	1
Household income ∈ [\$ 120k,150k)	124,579	0.048	0.214	0	1
Household income: \$ 150k+	124,579	0.054	0.226	0	1
Household income: won't say	124,579	0.118	0.323	0	1

Table E.2: CCES data - full results corresponding to Table 8

	CC not occurring				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Broadband internet	-4.877*** (1.549)	-0.706 (0.632)	-1.864** (0.737)	-1.753** (0.746)	-2.451*** (0.885)
Broadband × Republican			3.331*** (1.224)	3.648*** (1.217)	2.802** (1.251)
Broadband × aged under 30 years				-0.577 (1.565)	
Broadband × Republican × aged under 30 years				-1.908** (0.848)	
Broadband × aged 50-64 years					2.107** (1.074)
Broadband × Republican × aged 50-64 years					1.799*** (0.462)
Republican			5.796*** (1.198)	5.784*** (1.196)	5.766*** (1.196)
Male	2.091*** (0.633)	2.387*** (0.250)	1.635*** (0.251)	1.623*** (0.251)	1.627*** (0.250)
Education: high school	-1.889 (1.464)	-2.700*** (0.880)	-2.895*** (0.868)	-2.901*** (0.869)	-2.893*** (0.869)
Education: some college	-2.248 (1.449)	-3.347*** (0.897)	-3.679*** (0.887)	-3.621*** (0.886)	-3.627*** (0.883)
Education: 2-year college	-2.161 (1.470)	-3.332*** (0.938)	-3.586*** (0.928)	-3.464*** (0.929)	-3.488*** (0.927)
Education: 4-year college	-2.171 (1.401)	-3.903*** (0.910)	-3.923*** (0.895)	-3.799*** (0.896)	-3.803*** (0.896)
Education: post-grad	-2.907* (1.620)	-4.953*** (0.912)	-4.285*** (0.891)	-4.176*** (0.895)	-4.209*** (0.895)
Household income ∈ [\$ 10k,20k)	-5.686*** (1.593)	-2.585*** (0.790)	-2.616*** (0.793)	-2.645*** (0.789)	-2.645*** (0.791)
Household income ∈ [\$ 20k,30k)	-5.657*** (1.557)	-2.138*** (0.782)	-2.380*** (0.779)	-2.434*** (0.772)	-2.424*** (0.776)
Household income ∈ [\$ 30k,40k)	-6.412*** (1.570)	-2.534*** (0.810)	-2.787*** (0.804)	-2.846*** (0.798)	-2.819*** (0.801)
Household income ∈ [\$ 40k,50k)	-5.442*** (1.643)	-1.637* (0.851)	-2.197*** (0.845)	-2.234*** (0.837)	-2.234*** (0.840)
Household income ∈ [\$ 50k,60k)	-6.864*** (1.551)	-2.265*** (0.793)	-2.856*** (0.790)	-2.879*** (0.784)	-2.871*** (0.786)
Household income ∈ [\$ 60k,70k)	-5.883*** (1.674)	-1.619** (0.816)	-2.356*** (0.813)	-2.364*** (0.809)	-2.348*** (0.810)
Household income ∈ [\$ 70k,80k)	-7.212*** (1.810)	-1.686** (0.841)	-2.296*** (0.833)	-2.290*** (0.828)	-2.314*** (0.832)
Household income ∈ [\$ 80k,100k)	-7.428*** (1.655)	-2.168*** (0.829)	-3.000*** (0.829)	-2.974*** (0.824)	-3.010*** (0.828)
Household income ∈ [\$ 100k,120k)	-8.530*** (1.672)	-2.548*** (0.840)	-3.431*** (0.830)	-3.409*** (0.825)	-3.445*** (0.828)
Household income ∈ [\$ 120k,150k)	-5.732*** (2.159)	-2.958*** (0.863)	-3.797*** (0.858)	-3.766*** (0.853)	-3.835*** (0.857)
Household income: \$ 150k+	-5.663*** (1.894)	-2.223** (0.888)	-3.298*** (0.875)	-3.273*** (0.868)	-3.340*** (0.875)
Household income: Won't say	-4.034** (1.577)	0.293 (0.860)	-0.948 (0.848)	-1.128 (0.841)	-1.140 (0.842)
Foreigner	0.090 (2.016)	-1.635* (0.946)	-1.141 (0.989)	-1.154 (0.985)	-1.114 (0.985)
Married	1.375* (0.753)	2.130*** (0.347)	0.784** (0.344)	0.775** (0.345)	0.720** (0.342)
Divorced/separated	0.071 (1.108)	0.569 (0.404)	-0.133 (0.399)	-0.080 (0.396)	-0.184 (0.377)
Widowed	1.578 (1.816)	0.927* (0.540)	0.045 (0.539)	-0.474 (0.497)	-0.476 (0.501)
Non-white	1.720** (0.780)	-1.700*** (0.306)	0.543** (0.273)	0.579** (0.270)	0.600** (0.269)
Age	0.175 (0.115)	0.086* (0.047)	0.126*** (0.046)		
Age ²	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.001** (0.0005)	-0.001*** (0.0005)		
Aged under 30 years				1.259 (1.515)	
Aged 50-64 years					-2.320** (1.081)
Sample	Indep.	Rep./Dem.	Rep./Dem.	Rep./Dem.	Rep./Dem.
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	17,385	105,919	105,919	105,919	105,919
Adjusted R ²	0.111	0.047	0.077	0.077	0.077

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the county level in parentheses. Estimates are computed using cross-sectional sampling weights. Internet access is measured by a 0-1 dummy, taking the value 1 if the respondent reports having access to broadband at home, and 0 if the respondent reports having no internet or dial-up. Partisan identity categories (Republican, independent, Democrat) are defined such that learners toward any party are classified as having the respective partisan identity, i.e., respondents stating to lean Republican (as well as all everyone expressing a stronger Republican identity) are assigned to the 'Republican' category, and analogously for the Democrats.

Table E.3: CCES data - broadband internet and ‘more research needed’ on climate change

	CC more research needed				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Broadband internet	−2.043 (2.322)	−2.629** (1.073)	−3.905*** (1.323)	−3.968*** (1.275)	−4.702*** (1.568)
Broadband × Republican			3.995** (2.017)	4.662** (1.986)	3.827* (2.024)
Broadband × aged under 30 years				0.622 (2.907)	
Broadband × Republican × aged under 30 years				−3.842*** (1.244)	
Broadband × aged 50-64 years					3.007 (2.011)
Broadband × Republican × aged 50-64 years					0.691 (0.774)
Republican			15.553*** (1.982)	15.649*** (1.965)	15.581*** (1.971)
Male	−1.676 (1.072)	0.997** (0.388)	−0.625* (0.369)	−0.624* (0.367)	−0.546 (0.369)
Education: high school	−0.144 (2.512)	−1.533 (1.216)	−1.984* (1.200)	−2.025* (1.201)	−1.980* (1.203)
Education: some college	−2.177 (2.471)	−3.956*** (1.219)	−4.696*** (1.197)	−4.891*** (1.200)	−4.981*** (1.202)
Education: 2-year college	−3.895 (2.960)	−3.727*** (1.262)	−4.314*** (1.240)	−4.677*** (1.245)	−4.645*** (1.247)
Education: 4-year college	−3.735 (2.651)	−5.799*** (1.219)	−5.874*** (1.198)	−6.218*** (1.202)	−6.204*** (1.206)
Education: post-grad	−7.421** (2.958)	−8.486*** (1.317)	−7.082*** (1.289)	−7.276*** (1.294)	−7.143*** (1.299)
Household income ∈ [\$ 10k,20k)	−3.402 (2.686)	−1.398 (1.329)	−1.490 (1.328)	−1.325 (1.327)	−1.277 (1.329)
Household income ∈ [\$ 20k,30k)	−5.806** (2.470)	−2.219* (1.333)	−2.778** (1.326)	−2.531* (1.326)	−2.554* (1.328)
Household income ∈ [\$ 30k,40k)	−5.367** (2.560)	−1.832 (1.310)	−2.416* (1.308)	−2.166* (1.300)	−2.165* (1.308)
Household income ∈ [\$ 40k,50k)	−6.588** (2.723)	−3.043** (1.325)	−4.286*** (1.304)	−4.016*** (1.304)	−4.040*** (1.307)
Household income ∈ [\$ 50k,60k)	−4.121 (2.828)	−3.029** (1.279)	−4.344*** (1.284)	−4.146*** (1.279)	−4.144*** (1.283)
Household income ∈ [\$ 60k,70k)	−5.626** (2.862)	−2.855** (1.331)	−4.482*** (1.312)	−4.381*** (1.312)	−4.311*** (1.315)
Household income ∈ [\$ 70k,80k)	−4.815 (2.948)	−2.057 (1.382)	−3.406** (1.368)	−3.252** (1.368)	−3.246** (1.370)
Household income ∈ [\$ 80k,100k)	−4.794 (3.009)	−1.730 (1.294)	−3.554*** (1.272)	−3.435*** (1.268)	−3.387*** (1.272)
Household income ∈ [\$ 100k,120k)	−5.886* (3.435)	−2.685** (1.351)	−4.626*** (1.351)	−4.556*** (1.350)	−4.490*** (1.353)
Household income ∈ [\$ 120k,150k)	−4.052 (3.544)	−1.896 (1.432)	−3.737*** (1.393)	−3.680*** (1.394)	−3.526** (1.394)
Household income: \$ 150k+	−4.447 (3.589)	−1.692 (1.398)	−4.040*** (1.350)	−3.953*** (1.351)	−3.844*** (1.349)
Household income: Won’t say	−2.539 (2.616)	−1.498 (1.339)	−4.208*** (1.327)	−3.684*** (1.319)	−3.638*** (1.321)
Foreigner	−2.285 (3.382)	−1.195 (2.023)	−0.141 (2.027)	−0.317 (2.030)	−0.559 (2.033)
Married	3.967*** (1.368)	4.871*** (0.548)	1.967*** (0.539)	2.211*** (0.526)	2.826*** (0.516)
Divorced/separated	3.319 (2.073)	1.588** (0.694)	0.055 (0.680)	0.412 (0.658)	1.138* (0.651)
Widowed	5.815* (3.160)	4.571*** (1.161)	2.666** (1.184)	4.215** (1.142)	4.964*** (1.125)
Non-white	0.061 (1.297)	−1.507*** (0.573)	3.367*** (0.542)	3.047*** (0.537)	3.044*** (0.541)
Age	−0.223 (0.200)	−0.199*** (0.074)	−0.111 (0.071)		
Age ²	0.003 (0.002)	0.003*** (0.001)	0.002** (0.001)		
Aged under 30 years				−0.541 (2.797)	
Aged 50-64 years					−3.720* (1.971)
Sample	Indep.	Rep./Dem.	Rep./Dem.	Rep./Dem.	Rep./Dem.
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	17,385	105,919	105,919	105,919	105,919
Adjusted R ²	0.117	0.049	0.095	0.095	0.095

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the county level in parentheses. Estimates are based on cross-sectional sampling weights.

Table E.4: CCES data - age-related heterogeneity

	CC not occurring (1)	CC not occurring (2)	CC not occurring (3)	CC not occurring (4)
Broadband internet	−0.890 (0.809)	−2.597*** (0.735)	−2.301*** (0.813)	−1.400** (0.633)
Broadband internet × aged <50 years	−1.131 (1.134)			
Broadband internet × aged 50-64 years		3.310*** (1.039)		
Broadband internet × aged 50+ years			1.380 (1.135)	
Broadband internet × aged 65+ years				−2.441 (1.907)
Aged <50 years	1.164 (1.118)			
Aged 50-64 years		−2.942*** (1.008)		
Aged 50+ years			−1.354 (1.122)	
Aged 65+ years				1.952 (1.919)
Male	2.413*** (0.235)	2.346*** (0.232)	2.346*** (0.232)	2.347*** (0.232)
Education: high school	−1.901*** (0.728)	−2.204*** (0.746)	−2.212*** (0.746)	−2.194*** (0.746)
Education: some college	−2.456*** (0.742)	−2.838*** (0.767)	−2.852*** (0.768)	−2.870*** (0.766)
Education: 2-year college	−2.235*** (0.797)	−2.660*** (0.813)	−2.666*** (0.815)	−2.689*** (0.814)
Education: 4-year college	−2.995*** (0.750)	−3.185*** (0.775)	−3.196*** (0.775)	−3.221*** (0.774)
Education: post-grad	−4.243*** (0.766)	−4.301*** (0.793)	−4.296*** (0.793)	−4.304*** (0.793)
Household income ∈ [\$ 10k,20k)	−3.600*** (0.725)	−3.436*** (0.729)	−3.418*** (0.731)	−3.448*** (0.731)
Household income ∈ [\$ 20k,30k)	−3.124*** (0.710)	−3.158*** (0.706)	−3.146*** (0.708)	−3.154*** (0.710)
Household income ∈ [\$ 30k,40k)	−3.634*** (0.706)	−3.501*** (0.711)	−3.499*** (0.713)	−3.509*** (0.714)
Household income ∈ [\$ 40k,50k)	−2.705*** (0.760)	−2.541*** (0.769)	−2.536*** (0.772)	−2.545*** (0.772)
Household income ∈ [\$ 50k,60k)	−3.402*** (0.700)	−3.241*** (0.699)	−3.234*** (0.701)	−3.258*** (0.703)
Household income ∈ [\$ 60k,70k)	−2.580*** (0.755)	−2.394*** (0.755)	−2.384*** (0.756)	−2.419*** (0.756)
Household income ∈ [\$ 70k,80k)	−2.819*** (0.772)	−2.750*** (0.776)	−2.732*** (0.778)	−2.761*** (0.779)
Household income ∈ [\$ 80k,100k)	−3.441*** (0.745)	−3.198*** (0.751)	−3.173*** (0.753)	−3.210*** (0.753)
Household income ∈ [\$ 100k,120k)	−3.653*** (0.748)	−3.470*** (0.751)	−3.437*** (0.754)	−3.487*** (0.755)
Household income ∈ [\$ 120k,150k)	−3.800*** (0.773)	−3.645*** (0.780)	−3.599*** (0.782)	−3.645*** (0.782)
Household income: \$ 150k+	−3.441*** (0.795)	−3.037*** (0.815)	−2.986*** (0.818)	−3.032*** (0.815)
Household income: Wont't say	−0.767 (0.777)	−0.759 (0.756)	−0.730 (0.761)	−0.722 (0.761)
Foreigner	−0.814 (0.938)	−0.836 (0.956)	−0.845 (0.958)	−0.873 (0.956)
Married	2.400*** (0.307)	2.177*** (0.306)	2.233*** (0.309)	2.277*** (0.307)
Divorced/separated	0.814** (0.384)	0.559 (0.376)	0.630* (0.381)	0.658* (0.385)
Widowed	1.262** (0.511)	0.985** (0.499)	1.044** (0.516)	1.203** (0.529)
Non-white	−1.090*** (0.278)	−1.007*** (0.287)	−1.009*** (0.291)	−1.033*** (0.289)
Additional controls	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State FE	Yes	No	No	No
County FE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	124,579	124,579	124,579	124,579
Adjusted R ²	0.009	0.042	0.042	0.042

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the county level in parentheses. Estimates are based on cross-sectional sampling weights.

Table E.5: CCES data - broadband and social media I - recent usage and viewing of political content

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Social media: used in last 24h	Social media: view pol. content		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Broadband internet	0.052*** (0.007)	0.099*** (0.006)	0.106*** (0.010)	0.078*** (0.010)
Male		-0.073*** (0.004)		0.065*** (0.004)
Education: high school		0.028*** (0.009)		0.014 (0.011)
Education: some college		0.064*** (0.010)		0.105*** (0.012)
Education: 2-year college		0.041*** (0.010)		0.084*** (0.012)
Education: 4-year college		0.055*** (0.010)		0.105*** (0.012)
Education: post-grad		0.056*** (0.011)		0.122*** (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 10k,20k)		0.048*** (0.010)		0.047*** (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 20k,30k)		0.052*** (0.009)		0.051*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 30k,40k)		0.045*** (0.010)		0.067*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 40k,50k)		0.043*** (0.009)		0.068*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 50k,60k)		0.047*** (0.009)		0.084*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 60k,70k)		0.042*** (0.010)		0.078*** (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 70k,80k)		0.051*** (0.010)		0.088*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 80k,100k)		0.045*** (0.010)		0.080*** (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 100k,120k)		0.047*** (0.010)		0.099*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 120k,150k)		0.035*** (0.011)		0.112*** (0.014)
Household income: \$ 150k+		0.032*** (0.011)		0.114*** (0.014)
Household income: Wont't say		-0.011 (0.010)		0.048*** (0.013)
Foreigner		0.005 (0.013)		-0.056*** (0.015)
Married		0.003 (0.004)		0.007 (0.005)
Divorced/separated		0.012* (0.006)		0.006 (0.008)
Widowed		0.015 (0.010)		-0.030** (0.012)
Non-white		-0.048*** (0.004)		0.014** (0.006)
Age		-0.005*** (0.001)		-0.004*** (0.001)
Age ²		-0.00002*** (0.00001)		0.00003*** (0.00001)
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	201,511	200,534	102,939	102,341
Adjusted R ²	0.024	0.108	0.041	0.063

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the county level in parentheses. Estimates are based on cross-sectional sampling weights. 'Used social media' is equal to 1 if the respondent reported using social media in the last 24 hours, and 0 otherwise. This information is available in the 2016-2020 waves of the CCES and all available years have been used for the present estimates. 'Social media: view pol. content' is equal to 1 if the respondent reported viewing political content on social media (no timeframe given in question) and 0 otherwise. This item is from the 2016-2019 waves of the CCES.

Table E.6: CCES data - broadband and social media use II - interaction with political content

	Dependent variable:			
	Social media: follow pol. event	Social media: share pol. content		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Broadband internet	0.082*** (0.008)	0.033*** (0.008)	0.056*** (0.008)	0.023*** (0.008)
Male		0.075*** (0.004)		0.029*** (0.004)
Education: high school		0.021** (0.010)		−0.019 (0.012)
Education: some college		0.100*** (0.011)		0.054*** (0.012)
Education: 2-year college		0.092*** (0.011)		0.035*** (0.012)
Education: 4-year college		0.134*** (0.011)		0.039*** (0.012)
Education: post-grad		0.145*** (0.011)		0.047*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 10k,20k)		−0.012 (0.012)		−0.002 (0.011)
Household income ∈ [\$ 20k,30k)		0.010 (0.012)		0.006 (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 30k,40k)		−0.012 (0.011)		−0.011 (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 40k,50k)		0.018 (0.012)		−0.002 (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 50k,60k)		0.029** (0.012)		0.006 (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 60k,70k)		0.024* (0.012)		0.004 (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 70k,80k)		0.055*** (0.012)		0.019 (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 80k,100k)		0.025** (0.012)		0.017 (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 100k,120k)		0.052*** (0.014)		0.022 (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 120k,150k)		0.066*** (0.013)		0.029** (0.013)
Household income: \$ 150k+		0.087*** (0.013)		0.040*** (0.013)
Household income: Wont't say		0.029** (0.011)		−0.009 (0.012)
Foreigner		−0.029* (0.015)		−0.015 (0.014)
Married		−0.002 (0.005)		0.010* (0.005)
Divorced/separated		0.003 (0.007)		0.027*** (0.008)
Widowed		−0.020* (0.010)		−0.001 (0.012)
Non-white		−0.020*** (0.005)		−0.008 (0.005)
Age		−0.006*** (0.001)		−0.001* (0.001)
Age ²		0.0001*** (0.00001)		0.00003*** (0.00001)
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	102,939	102,341	102,939	102,341
Adjusted R ²	0.029	0.057	0.028	0.040

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the county level in parentheses. Estimates are based on cross-sectional sampling weights. 'Social media: follow pol. event' is equal to 1 if the respondent reported following a political event on social media (no timeframe given in question) and 0 otherwise. 'Social media: share pol. content' is equal to 1 if the respondent reported sharing political content on social media (no timeframe given in question) and 0 otherwise. Both items are from the 2016-2019 waves of the CCES.

Table E.7: CCES data - broadband and social media III - age and recent usage and viewing of political content

	Dependent variable:			
	Social media: used in last 24h		Social media: view pol. content	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Broadband internet	0.057*** (0.009)	0.059*** (0.007)	0.059*** (0.013)	0.075*** (0.011)
Broadband internet × aged 50-64 years		0.002 (0.016)		-0.020 (0.023)
Broadband internet × aged under 30 years	0.048*** (0.013)		0.042** (0.020)	
Male	-0.076*** (0.004)	-0.077*** (0.004)	0.066*** (0.004)	0.065*** (0.004)
Education: high school	0.036*** (0.010)	0.038*** (0.010)	0.014 (0.011)	0.014 (0.011)
Education: some college	0.083*** (0.010)	0.096*** (0.010)	0.105*** (0.012)	0.109*** (0.012)
Education: 2-year college	0.066*** (0.010)	0.068*** (0.011)	0.085*** (0.012)	0.085*** (0.012)
Education: 4-year college	0.083*** (0.010)	0.083*** (0.011)	0.107*** (0.012)	0.106*** (0.012)
Education: post-grad	0.074*** (0.011)	0.060*** (0.011)	0.125*** (0.012)	0.118*** (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 10k,20k)	0.027*** (0.010)	0.023** (0.010)	0.046*** (0.014)	0.044*** (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 20k,30k)	0.031*** (0.009)	0.029*** (0.009)	0.050*** (0.013)	0.050*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 30k,40k)	0.024** (0.010)	0.022** (0.010)	0.065*** (0.013)	0.065*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 40k,50k)	0.024*** (0.009)	0.022** (0.009)	0.067*** (0.013)	0.067*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 50k,60k)	0.031*** (0.009)	0.030*** (0.010)	0.083*** (0.013)	0.083*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 60k,70k)	0.028*** (0.010)	0.025** (0.010)	0.078*** (0.014)	0.077*** (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 70k,80k)	0.042*** (0.010)	0.041*** (0.010)	0.088*** (0.013)	0.088*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 80k,100k)	0.038*** (0.010)	0.036*** (0.010)	0.081*** (0.014)	0.080*** (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 100k,120k)	0.043*** (0.010)	0.044*** (0.010)	0.100*** (0.013)	0.100*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 120k,150k)	0.028*** (0.011)	0.028*** (0.011)	0.112*** (0.014)	0.112*** (0.014)
Household income: \$ 150k+	0.028*** (0.010)	0.034*** (0.011)	0.114*** (0.014)	0.116*** (0.014)
Household income: Wont't say	-0.047*** (0.009)	-0.045*** (0.010)	0.045*** (0.013)	0.046*** (0.013)
Foreigner	0.037*** (0.013)	0.051*** (0.013)	-0.053*** (0.015)	-0.047*** (0.015)
Married	-0.047*** (0.004)	-0.099*** (0.004)	0.005 (0.005)	-0.015*** (0.005)
Divorced/separated	-0.051*** (0.006)	-0.104*** (0.006)	0.0002 (0.008)	-0.023*** (0.008)
Widowed	-0.135*** (0.009)	-0.205*** (0.009)	-0.042*** (0.011)	-0.070*** (0.011)
Non-white	-0.027*** (0.004)	-0.025*** (0.004)	0.017*** (0.006)	0.018*** (0.006)
Aged 50-64 years		-0.069*** (0.015)		0.002 (0.023)
Aged under 30 years	0.127*** (0.013)		0.021 (0.019)	
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	200,534	200,534	102,341	102,341
Adjusted R ²	0.073	0.059	0.063	0.061

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the county level in parentheses. Estimates are based on cross-sectional sampling weights. 'Used social media' is equal to 1 if the respondent reported using social media in the last 24 hours, and 0 otherwise. This information is available in the 2016-2020 waves of the CCES and all available years have been used for the present estimates. 'Social media: view pol. content' is equal to 1 if the respondent reported viewing political content on social media (no timeframe given in question) and 0 otherwise. This item is from the 2016-2019 waves of the CCES.

Table E.8: CCES data - broadband and social media use IV - age and interaction with political content

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>			
	Social media: follow pol. event	Social media: share pol. content		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Broadband internet	0.031*** (0.010)	0.040*** (0.009)	0.040*** (0.010)	0.031*** (0.009)
Broadband internet × aged 50-64 years		-0.016 (0.019)		0.004 (0.019)
Broadband internet × aged under 30 years	0.021 (0.016)		-0.023 (0.016)	
Male	0.076*** (0.004)	0.075*** (0.004)	0.029*** (0.004)	0.029*** (0.004)
Education: high school	0.018* (0.010)	0.018* (0.010)	-0.022* (0.012)	-0.022* (0.012)
Education: some college	0.093*** (0.011)	0.094*** (0.011)	0.048*** (0.012)	0.047*** (0.012)
Education: 2-year college	0.083*** (0.011)	0.082*** (0.011)	0.027** (0.012)	0.027** (0.012)
Education: 4-year college	0.124*** (0.011)	0.124*** (0.011)	0.030*** (0.012)	0.031*** (0.012)
Education: post-grad	0.140*** (0.011)	0.138*** (0.011)	0.042*** (0.013)	0.044*** (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 10k,20k)	-0.007 (0.012)	-0.007 (0.012)	0.003 (0.011)	0.003 (0.011)
Household income ∈ [\$ 20k,30k)	0.016 (0.012)	0.016 (0.012)	0.010 (0.013)	0.011 (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 30k,40k)	-0.006 (0.012)	-0.005 (0.012)	-0.006 (0.012)	-0.005 (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 40k,50k)	0.023* (0.012)	0.024** (0.012)	0.003 (0.012)	0.003 (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 50k,60k)	0.033*** (0.012)	0.034*** (0.012)	0.009 (0.012)	0.010 (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 60k,70k)	0.028** (0.012)	0.028** (0.012)	0.007 (0.014)	0.007 (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 70k,80k)	0.058*** (0.012)	0.058*** (0.012)	0.021* (0.012)	0.021* (0.012)
Household income ∈ [\$ 80k,100k)	0.028** (0.012)	0.028** (0.012)	0.018 (0.013)	0.019 (0.013)
Household income ∈ [\$ 100k,120k)	0.055*** (0.014)	0.055*** (0.014)	0.023 (0.014)	0.023* (0.014)
Household income ∈ [\$ 120k,150k)	0.069*** (0.013)	0.068*** (0.013)	0.031** (0.013)	0.030** (0.013)
Household income: \$ 150k+	0.090*** (0.013)	0.090*** (0.013)	0.042*** (0.013)	0.041*** (0.013)
Household income: Wont't say	0.042*** (0.011)	0.043*** (0.011)	0.003 (0.012)	0.003 (0.012)
Foreigner	-0.038** (0.016)	-0.035** (0.016)	-0.025* (0.014)	-0.026* (0.014)
Married	0.012** (0.005)	0.004 (0.005)	0.026*** (0.005)	0.030*** (0.005)
Divorced/separated	0.022*** (0.007)	0.011 (0.007)	0.050*** (0.008)	0.054*** (0.007)
Widowed	0.037*** (0.010)	0.027*** (0.010)	0.055*** (0.011)	0.062*** (0.011)
Non-white	-0.026*** (0.005)	-0.025*** (0.005)	-0.015*** (0.005)	-0.015*** (0.005)
Aged 50-64 years		0.031* (0.019)		0.016 (0.018)
Aged under 30 years	-0.006 (0.015)		0.001 (0.016)	
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
County FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	102,341	102,341	102,341	102,341
Adjusted R ²	0.053	0.054	0.037	0.037

(***, **, *) ⇔ significant at the 1%, 5%, and 10%-level, respectively. Standard errors clustered at the county level in parentheses. Estimates are based on cross-sectional sampling weights. 'Social media: follow pol. event' is equal to 1 if the respondent reported following a political event on social media (no timeframe given in question) and 0 otherwise. 'Social media: share pol. content' is equal to 1 if the respondent reported sharing political content on social media (no timeframe given in question) and 0 otherwise. Both items are from the 2016-2019 waves of the CCES.