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Gender Gap in the Environmental Movement

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Introduction to Research

- This study explores how gender identity shapes the Environmental Movement in the United States of America
- On average, women have been the majority of the participants in the environmental movement's population
 - The gender gap is not a product of the recent political mobilization of women.
- There is a cross-cultural belief that women have naturally paid more attention to the environment, and been more active in participating in pro-environmental schools of thought.
 - Because of this trend that goes back centuries, we have terms such as Mother Nature, and a pattern of effeminate symbolism in nature.
 - Men have been socialized to be more utilitarian. With industrialization, the past 150 years has bred males to see the environment as a source of either personal or corporate profit.
- Here in the twenty-first century, we are seeing a trend of more concern for the environment, as seen with the preponderance of new environmental movements. As these grow and gain popularity, we hopefully will see equal participation across all genders.

Previous Research

- Women, it is argued, are more likely to have value systems consistent with the goals of the environmental movement
 - This, coupled with socialization into largely nurturing, protective roles, is thought to make women more concerned about the well-being of others and about the entire planet
- The different research studies reviewed before conducting this research lent themselves to largely believing that women dominated the social movement, but have had relatively no luck coming to any sort of agreeable conclusion within the scientific community.
- Furthermore, women have been shown to be naturally more drawn to joining not only the environmental movement, but any type of new social movement or NSM, that agrees with the same basic concepts of equality and fair treatment of the environment and other people.

Hypotheses:

- H 1: Women are more likely than men to claim they are an environmentalist.
- H 2: Women are more likely than men to support increases in federal budget environmental spending.
- H 3: Women are more likely than men to be an active member in an environmental rights movement.

Data

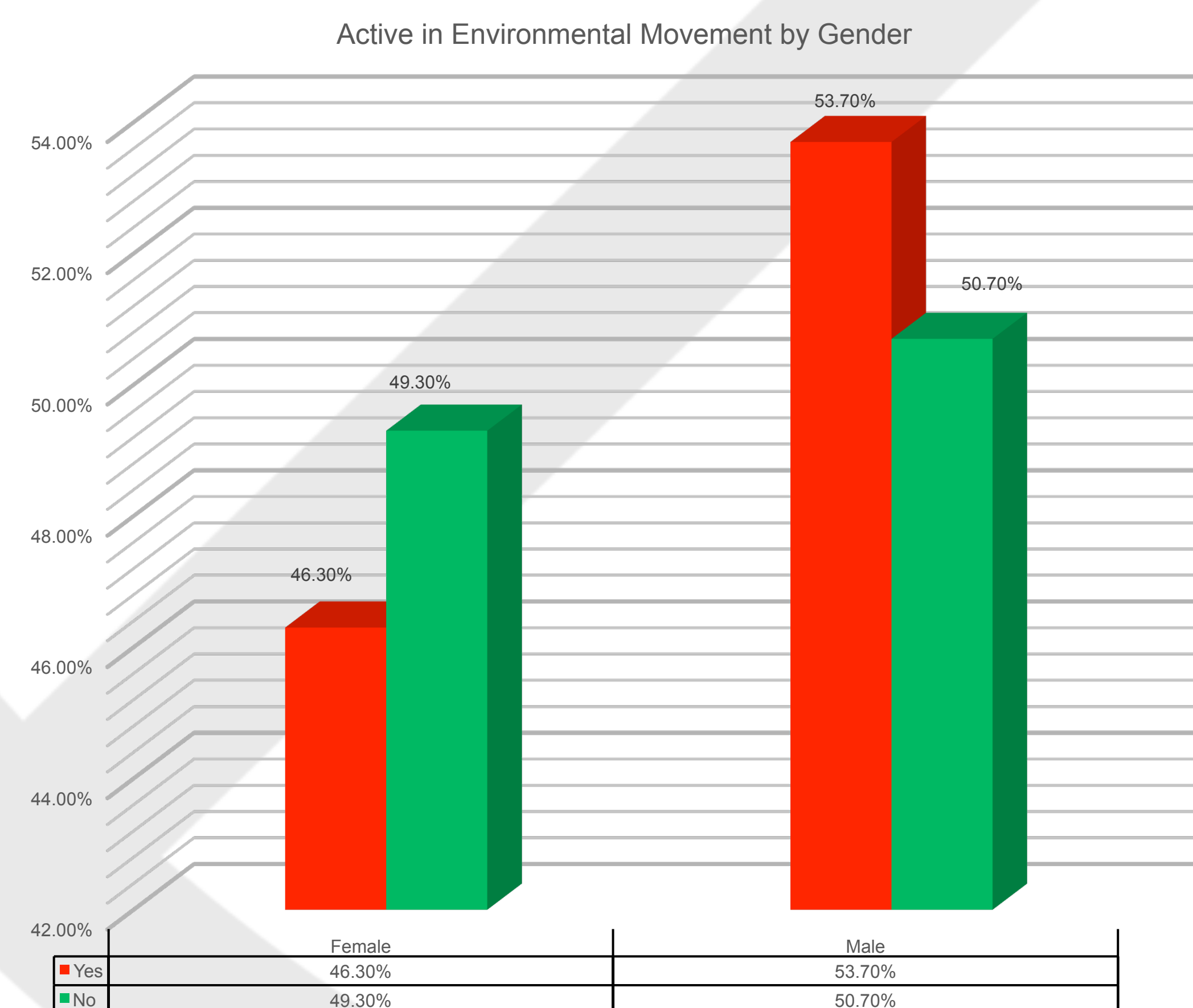
H 1: "Are You an Environmentalist?"

Following results pulled from the crosstabulation:

Cross Tabulation Results:

- Yes, I definitely am an environmentalist
 - Women: 49.5%
 - Men: 50.5%
- Yes, I am Somewhat an environmentalist
 - Women: 50.6%
 - Men: 49.4%
- No, I am not an environmentalist
 - Women: 47.7%
 - Men: 52.3%

H 3: Active in a Environmental Movement



H 2: Environmental Spending



Methods

- This data was gathered from the pre and post election surveys gathered by the American National Election Studies group.
- Survey questions pertaining to the subject at hand were selected to best represent the goals of the research and provide accurate results.
- The survey questions were then crosstabulated and conclusions were drawn.
- All conclusions in this research were tested to be statistically significant, and all tested to be so.

Findings

H 1: "Are You an Environmentalist?"
The findings from the cross tabulation show that the environmental movement is no longer populated by a majority of females. Rather, now it is a significant near fifty/fifty split between the two genders. According to these results, the environmental movement is no longer dominated by any one gender claiming to be environmentalists.

H 2: Environmental Spending
The results show that there are 7.8% more females than males who support increased federal spending on the environment. There are staggeringly 16.8% more Men than women who want a decrease in spending. Lastly, there are 7.2% more women than men who would keep spending at the same amount. This hypothesis is confirmed.

H 3: Environmental Activism
According to the results men have are 7.4% more active in environmental movements than females. This refutes the original hypothesis.

Conclusions

- Refuting previous studies, there is no longer a gender gap in people claiming to be environmentalists.
- Women, however, are still more in favor to ask the government to increase federal spending on the environment than men are.
- In an opposite move, more men are participating in environmental activism than women.
- These studies show that though now there is no longer a gender gap in the environmental movement, the ways in which males and females support the environment differ in their execution.

Acknowledgments

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