

Political Donations and the Gender Gap during COVID-19



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Research Question

What effect has the COVID-19 pandemic had on the political donation gender gap?

Who Donates and Why?

- Partisanship
- Influence
- Socio-demographic Characteristics



Donations During Recession

Individuals are less likely to donate during economic recession



Expectations

The political donations gender gap will widen in response to the pandemic.

Why Some Women Call This
Recession a 'Shecession'

A majority of the jobs lost in April were held by women, a sharp reversal of gains in the labor market.

Source: New York Times (May 9, 2020)

Data

- May 2020 Democracy Checkup Survey
- August 2020 Recovery and Resilience Survey
- Individual Contributions to Registered Political Parties (Elections Canada)



Model Specification

Dependent Variables:

1. Donated money to a political candidate or party *in the last 12 months*
One or more donations coded as 1. All other responses coded as 0.
2. Donate money to a political candidate or party *in the next month*
“Very likely” and “Fairly likely” coded 1. All other responses coded as 0.

Primary Independent Variable

Gender: coded as “male” and “female” (reference category: female)

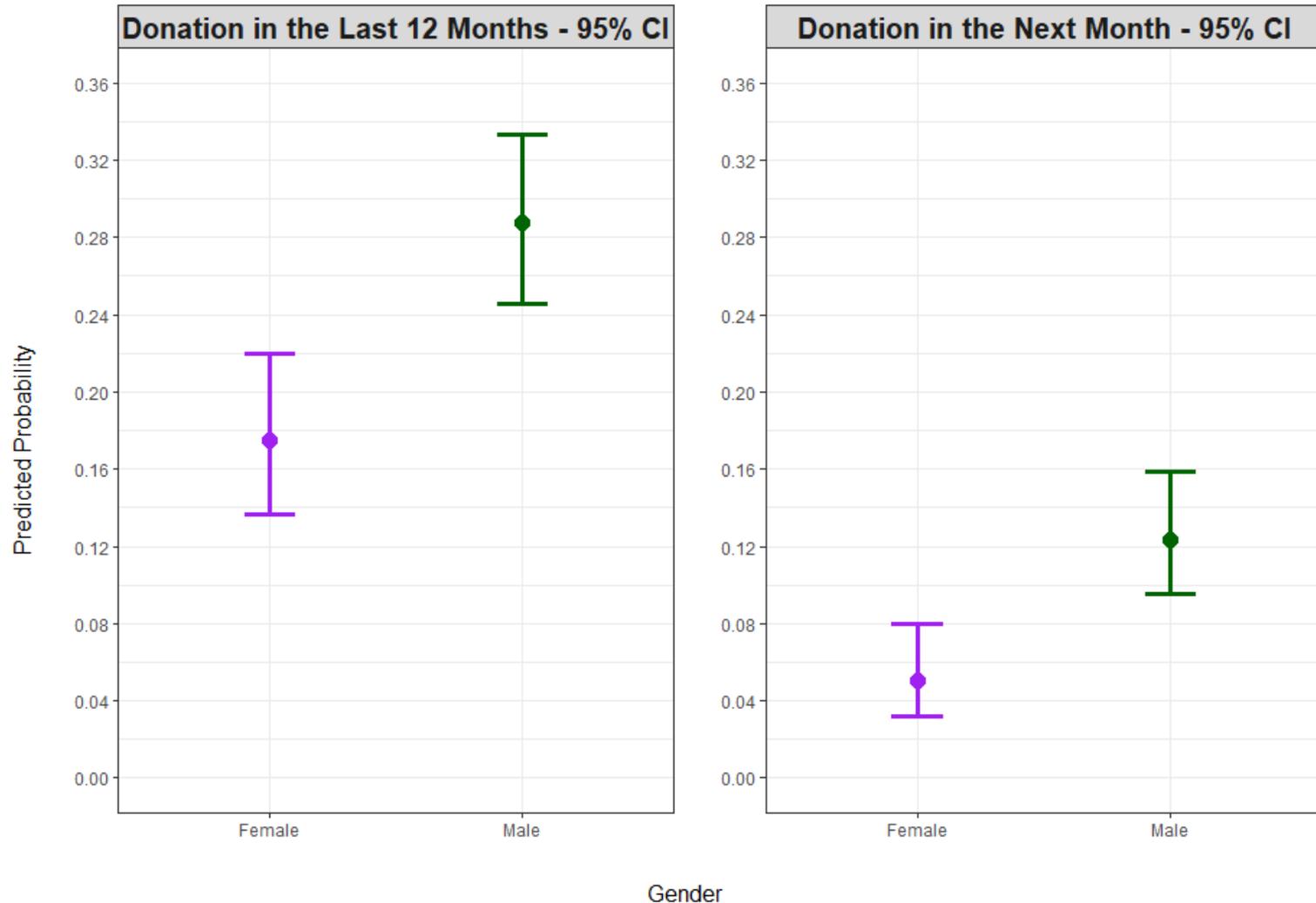
Control Variables

Main: age, income, education, party identification

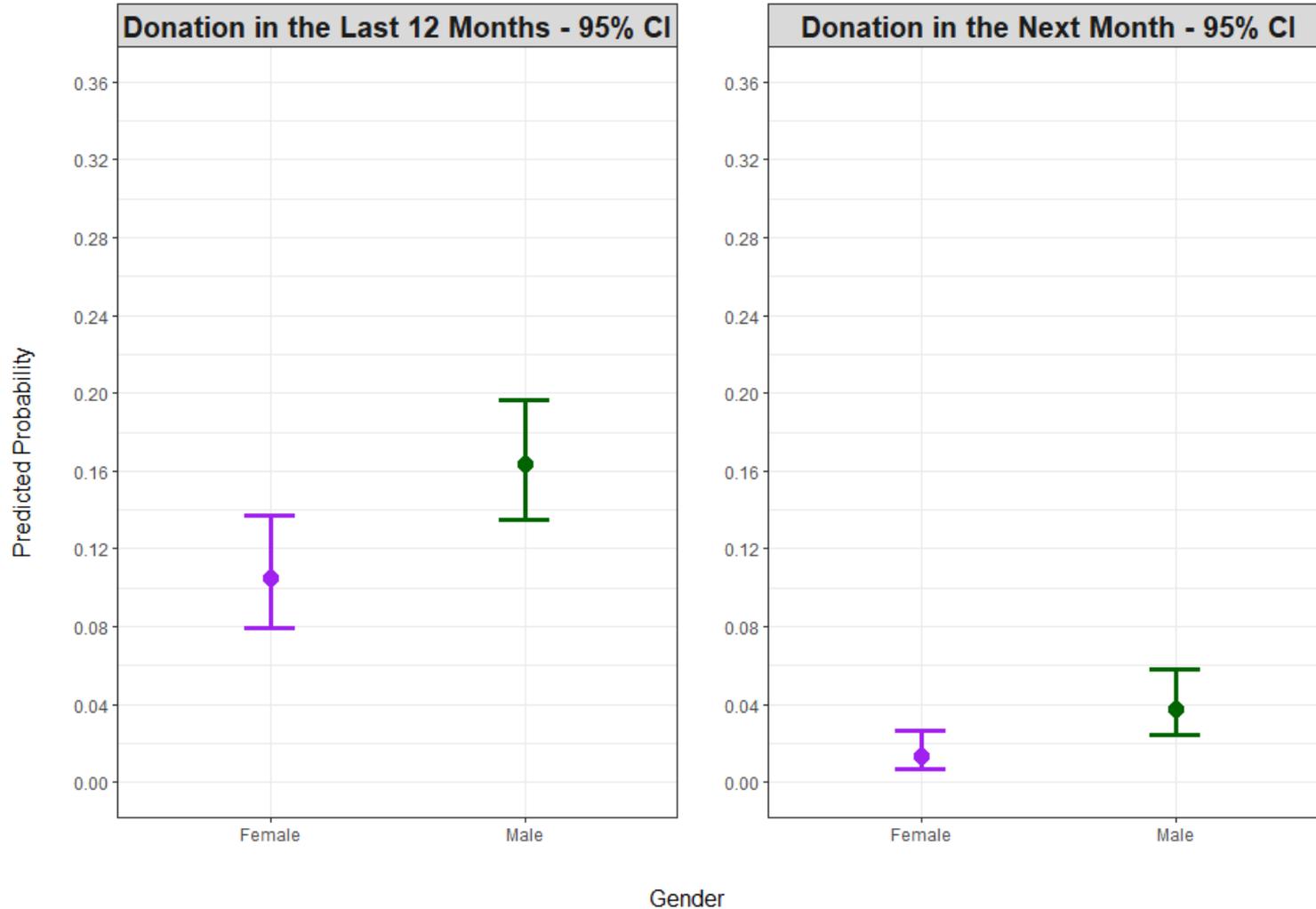
Additional: employment status, children

Results

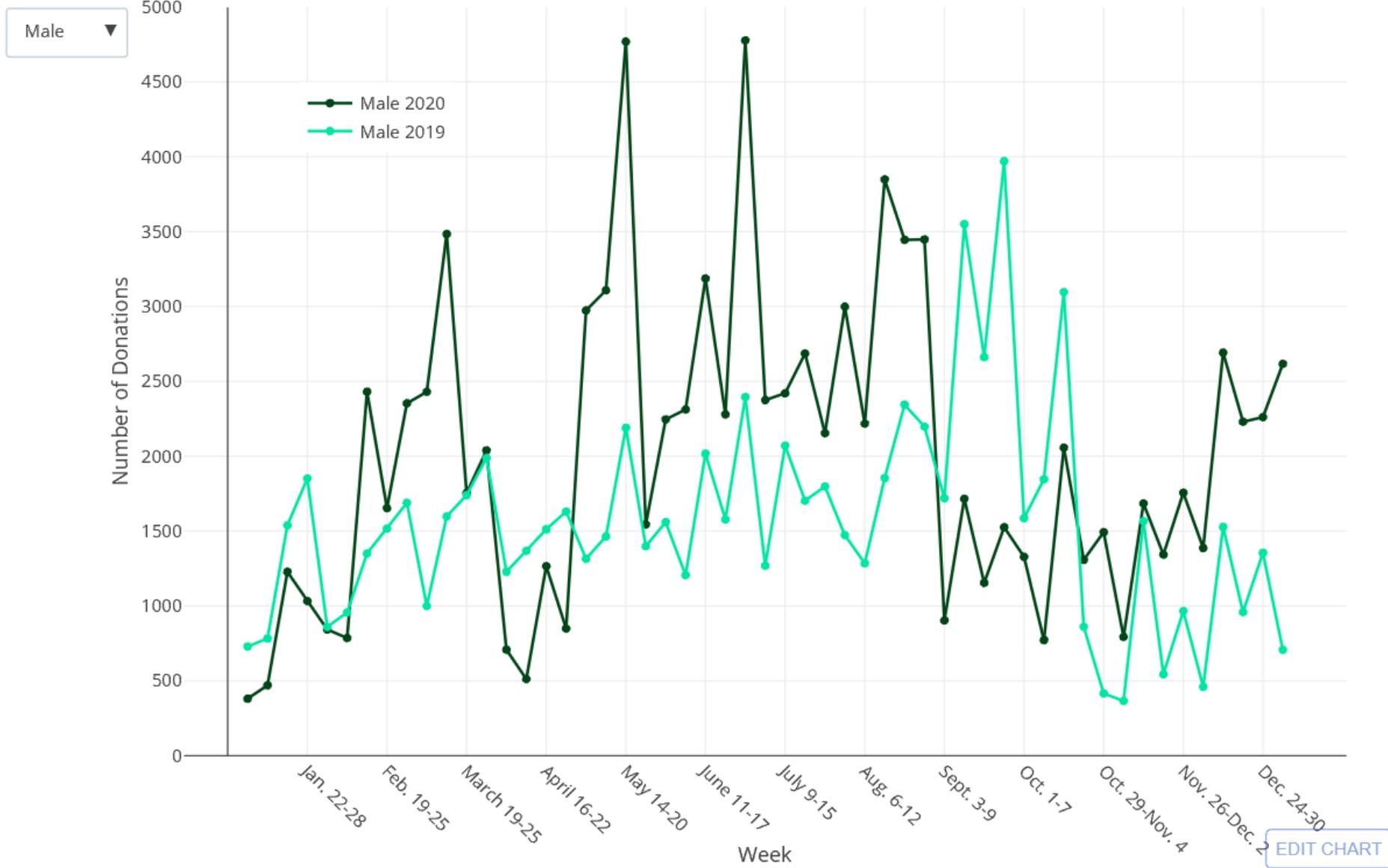
Predicted Probabilities (May 2020)



Predicted Probabilities (August 2020)



Weekly Donations to Top 3 Political Parties



Conclusion

- The pandemic appears to have mitigated the donations gender gap
- Future work might further investigate:
 - Factors underpinning the gender donations gap in Canada outside the pandemic
 - Effects of the pandemic on different forms of political participation in Canada
 - Determinants of political donations to non-parties (within and beyond the pandemic)

Thank you!
Questions? Comments?