

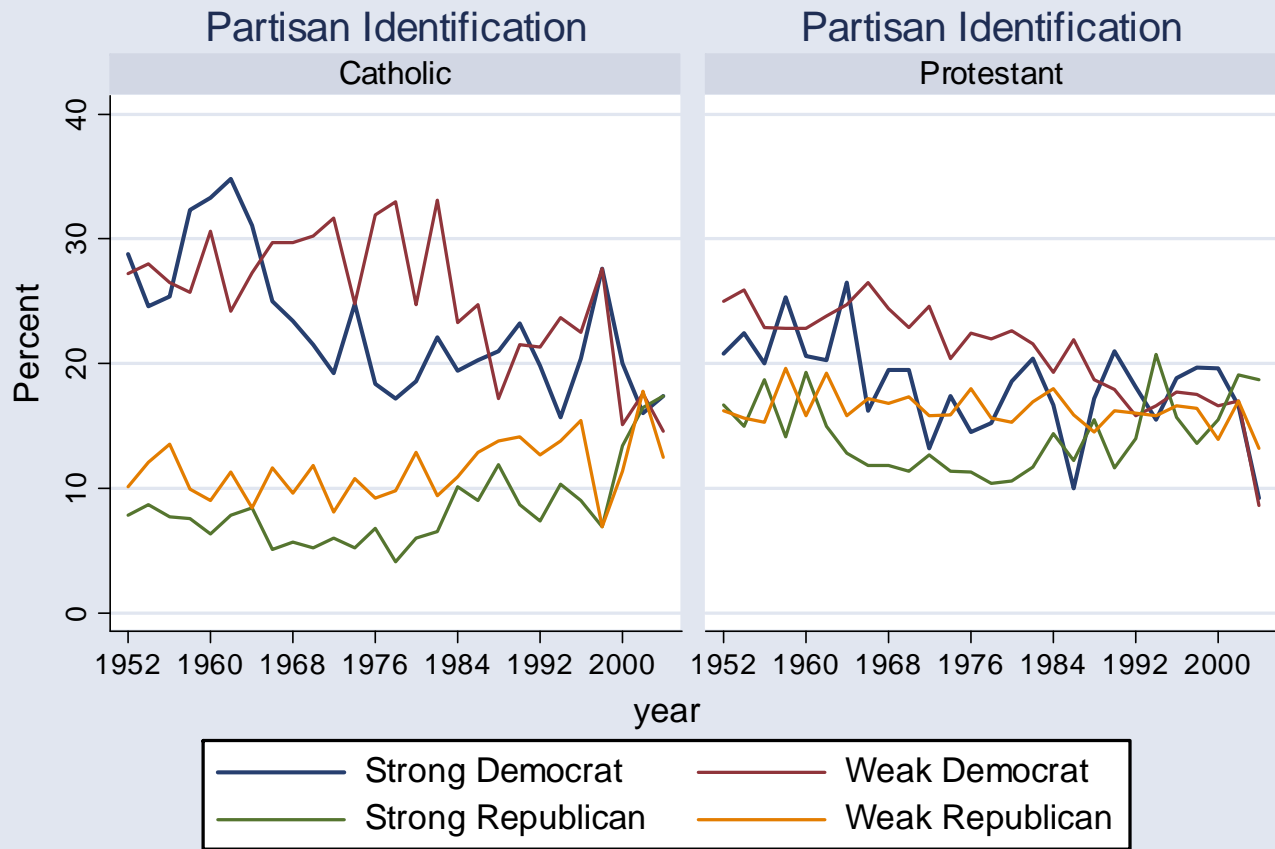
The Catholic Voter Myth: Is there a distinctive Catholic vote?

An over-time exploration of Catholic voting and the influences of campaigns, issues, and Catholic doctrine and belief on the electoral participation of Catholics.



Professor Donald Davison
Rollins College

Professor Michael Krassa
University of Illinois



Graphs by religion

Figure 2
Catholic Vote for Democratic Presidential Candidates as a Percentage of All Candidates

Year	NES	GSS
1952	51.6 % (287)	
1956	45.8 % (297)	
1960	81.9 % (205)	
1964	78.6 % (272)	
1968	55.5 % (236)	47.5 % (514)
1972	38.6 % (412)	43.7 % (1238)
1976	56.9 % (339)	60.3 % (942)
1980	41.3 % (218)	50.1 % (1303)
1984	45.8 % (380)	38.7 % (1251)
1988	52.4 % (309)	38.1 % (898)
1992	49.6 % (412)	46.1 % (1593)
1996	54.7 % (300)	66.7 % (1197)
2000	49.5 % (325)	42.9 % (1237)
2004	49.8 % (201)	46.9 % (633)

Note: (N) Sources: NES Cumulative Data File, 1948-2004 GSS Cumulative Data File, 1968-2004

Figure 3 Indicators of Religiosity for Catholics by Age

Year	% of Catholics who view religion is important guide		% Catholics attend church more than once per week	
	Young (under age 50)	Old (age 50 or over)	Young (under age 50)	Old (age 50 or over)
1970			52.2 % (180)	61.7 % (107)
1972			37.4 % (431)	51.7 % (205)
1974			37.0 % (200)	58.3 % (144)
1976			31.1 % (336)	53.4 % (204)
1978			32.2 % (362)	57.9 % (183)
1980	24.8 % (201)	40.4 % (114)	27.0 % (237)	53.4 % (131)
1982			31.4 % (191)	52.9 % (121)
1984	27.5 % (339)	39.6 % (144)	25.0 % (391)	47.3 % (182)
1986	21.6 % (167)	41.4 % (87)	23.7 % (342)	51.5 % (165)
1988	20.7 % (265)	36.5 % (148)	24.1 % (316)	45.5 % (165)
1990	23.4 % (307)	40.3 % (176)	22.2 % (311)	49.4 % (178)
1992	20.4 % (324)	47.8 % (205)	22.9 % (357)	52.5 % (223)
1994	22.5 % (266)	44.6 % (157)	23.9 % (268)	57.9 % (157)
1996	23.1 % (256)	43.9 % (166)	22.1 % (258)	47.9 % (167)
1998	28.5 % (249)	34.5 % (119)	18.6 % (249)	42.3 % (123)
2000	24.7 % (270)	40.2 % (189)	17.3 % (270)	43.9 % (189)
2002	24.4 % (196)	43.7 % (192)	20.2 % (197)	46.1 % (191)
2004	18.1 % (160)	44.2 % (129)	11.1 % (162)	45.7 % (129)

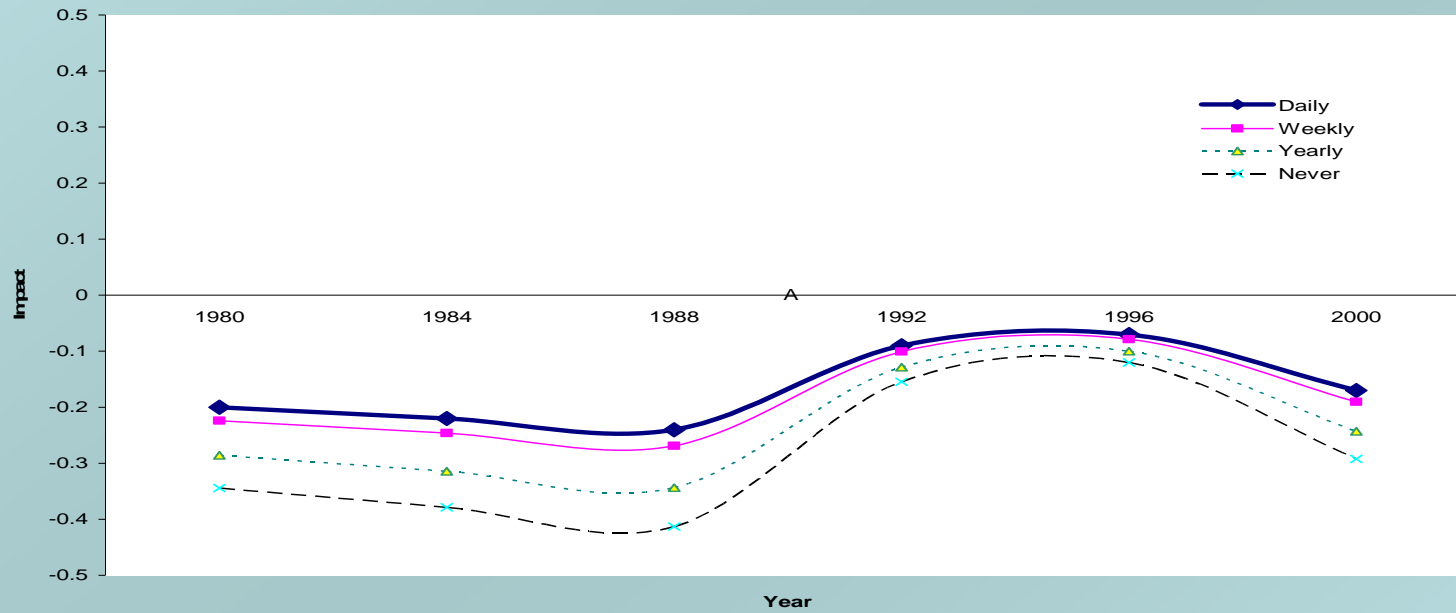
(N column frequency) Source: NES Cumulative Data File, 1948-2004

Figure 4
The Effect of Partisanship and Issues on Presidential Vote
Standardized Regression Coefficients

Year	PartyID	Abortion	Immigration	Poverty	Death Penalty
1972	.21*	-.14**	.012*	.19*	.11
1976	.34**	-.06	.01	.17*	.09
1980	.11*	-.20*	.13	.16*	.21*
1984	.09*	-.22**	.12	.18	.22**
1988	.08**	-.24*	.00024	.13*	.23**
1992	.32*	-.09**	.095**	.17*	.13
1996	.31**	-.07**	.11*	.18*	.10
2000	.39**	-.17**	.02	.03	.0004
*significant at 0.05 **significant at 0.1 Source: GSS Cumulative Data File, 1968-2004					

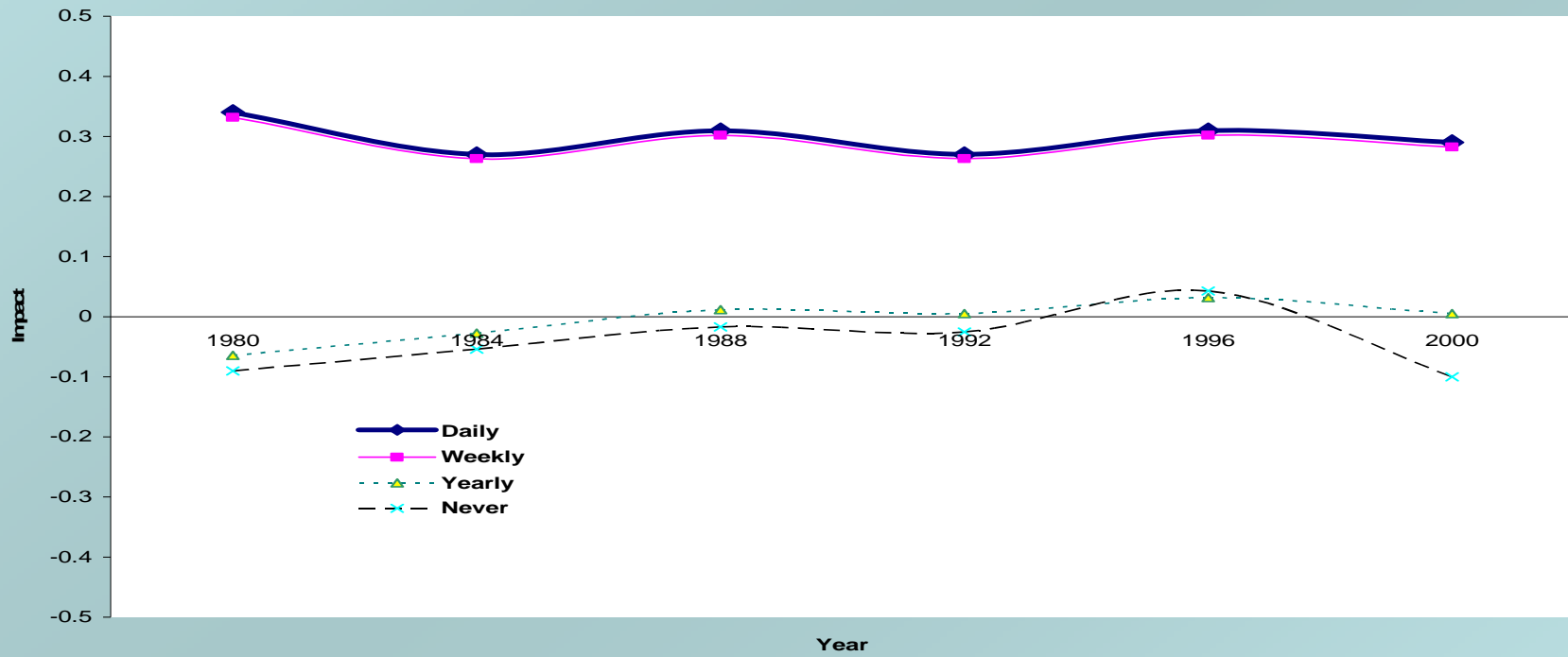
Abortion pulls Catholics toward the Republican Party.

Issue Impact by Attendance



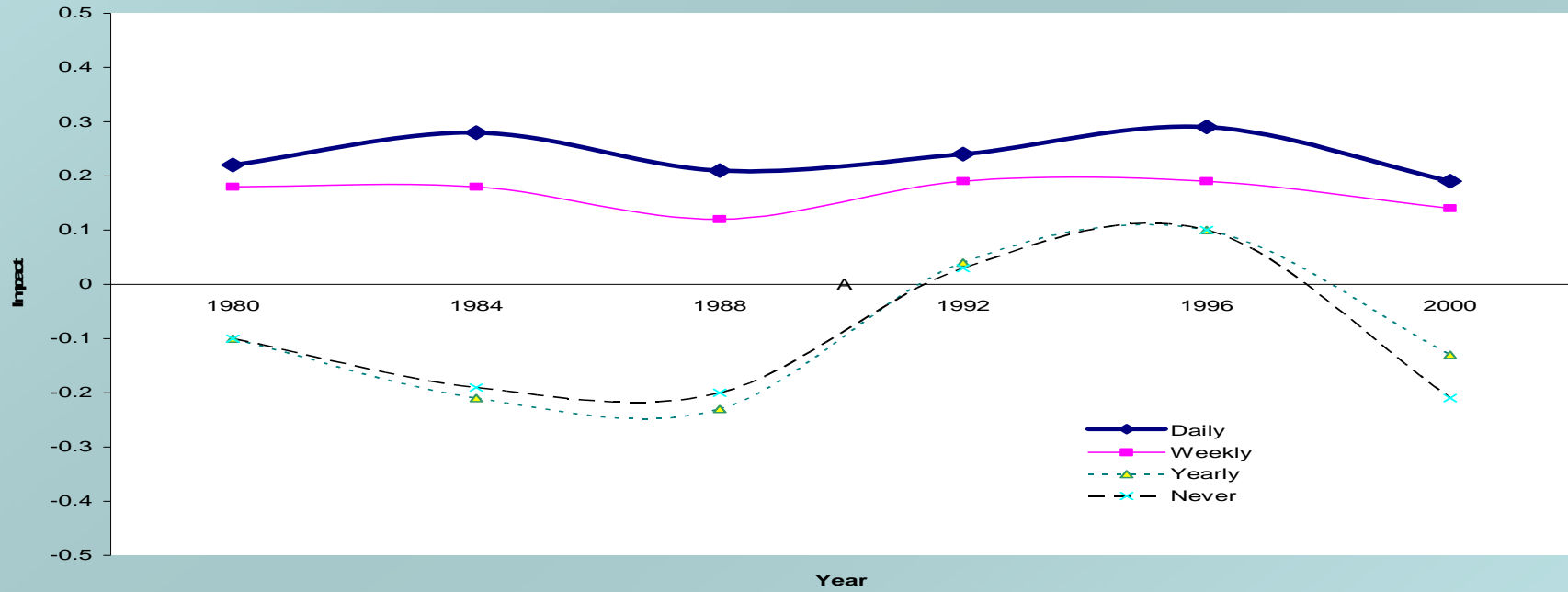
Death Penalty pulls Catholics toward the Democratic Party.

Issue Impact by Attendance



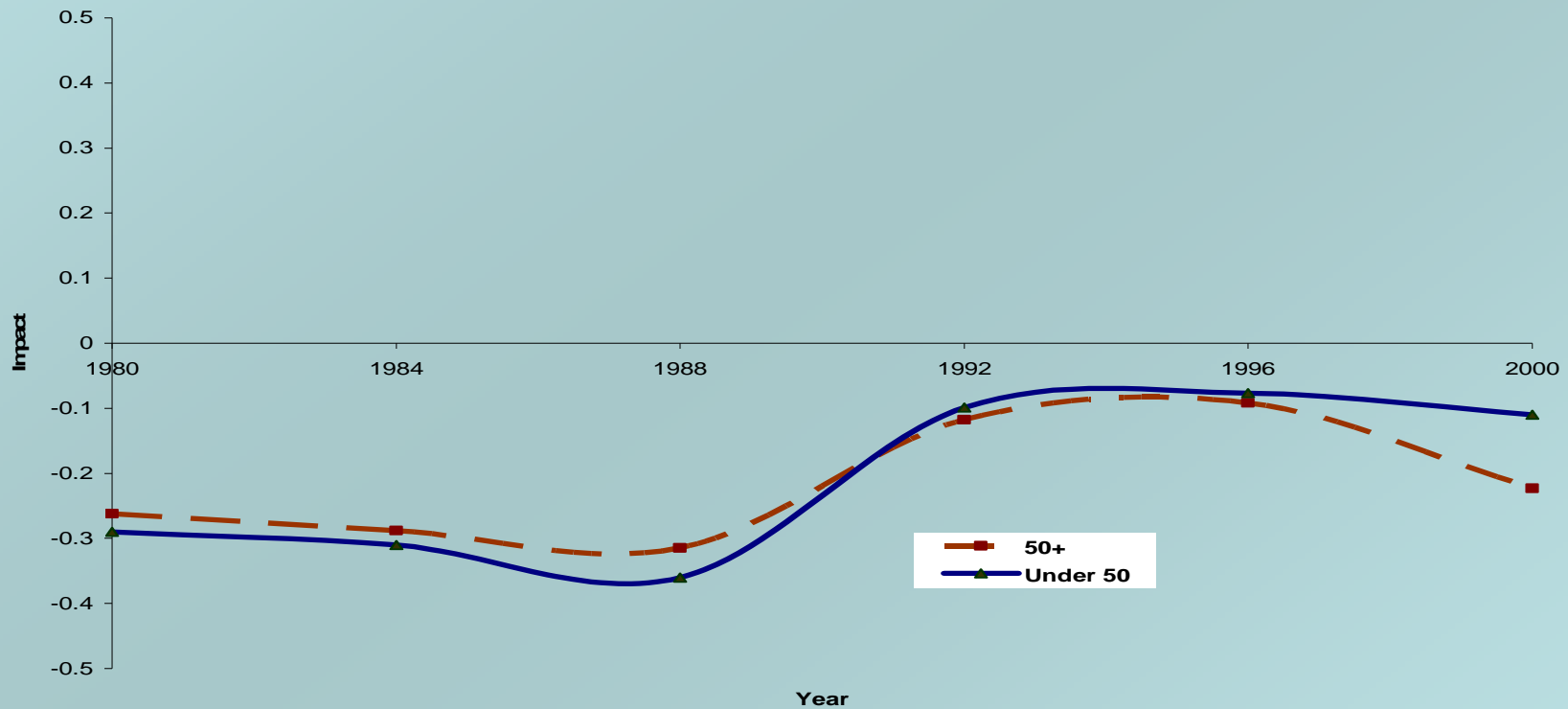
Poverty pulls Catholics toward the Democratic Party.

Issue Impact by Attendance



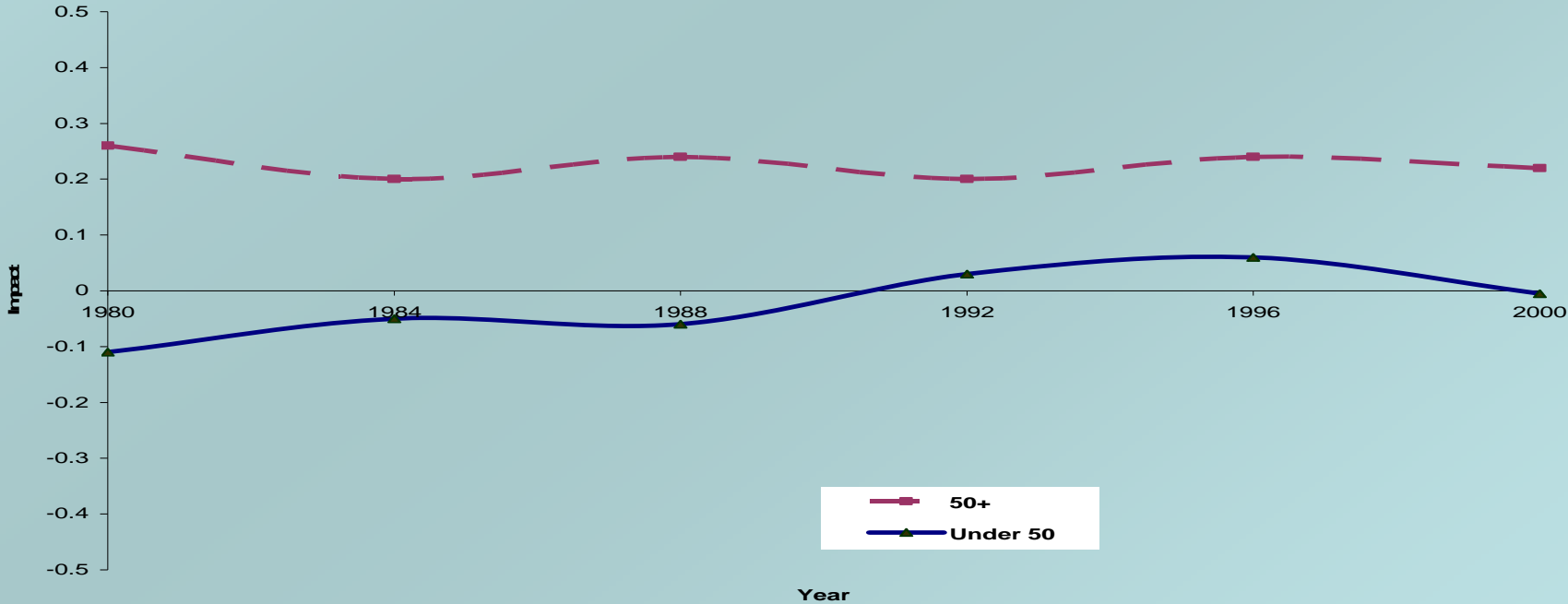
Abortion pulls younger Catholics toward the Republican party more than older Catholics.

Issue Impact by Age



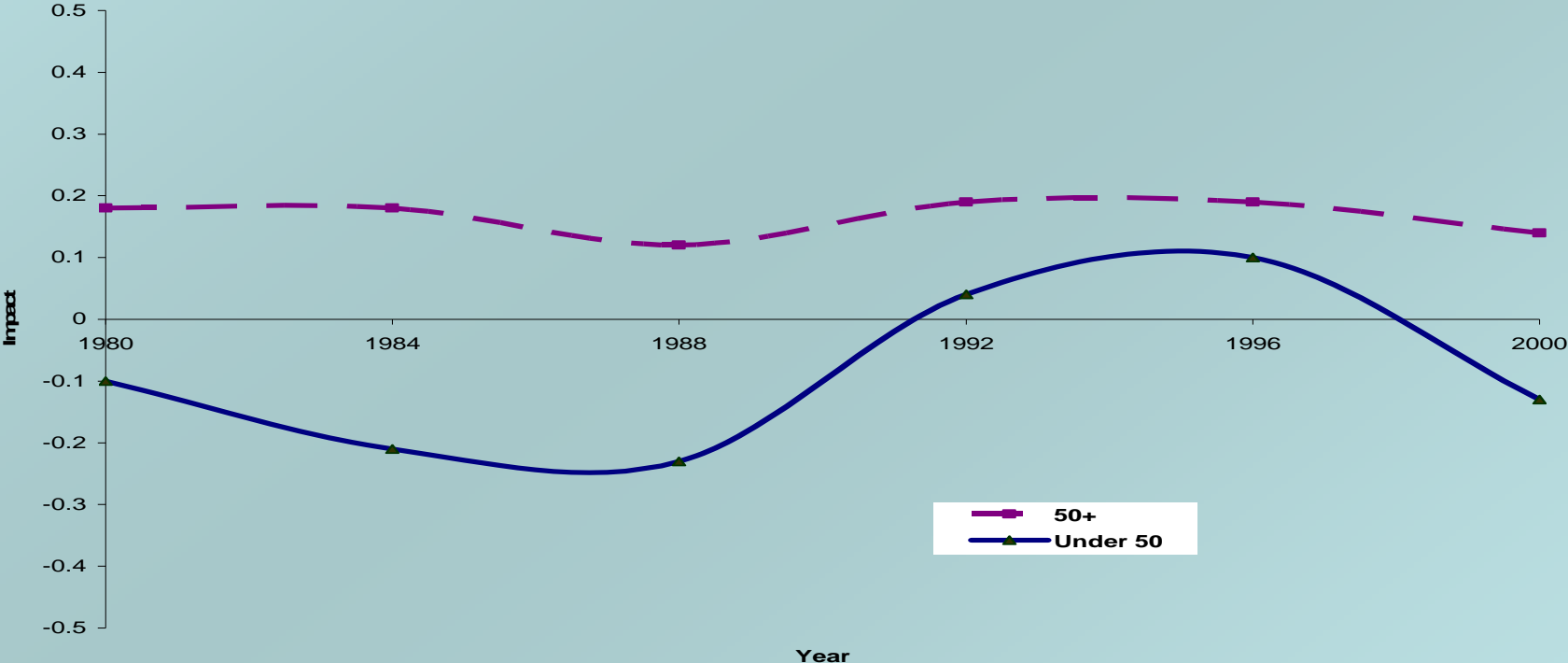
The Death Penalty pulls older Catholics toward Democratic Candidates.

Issue Impact by Age

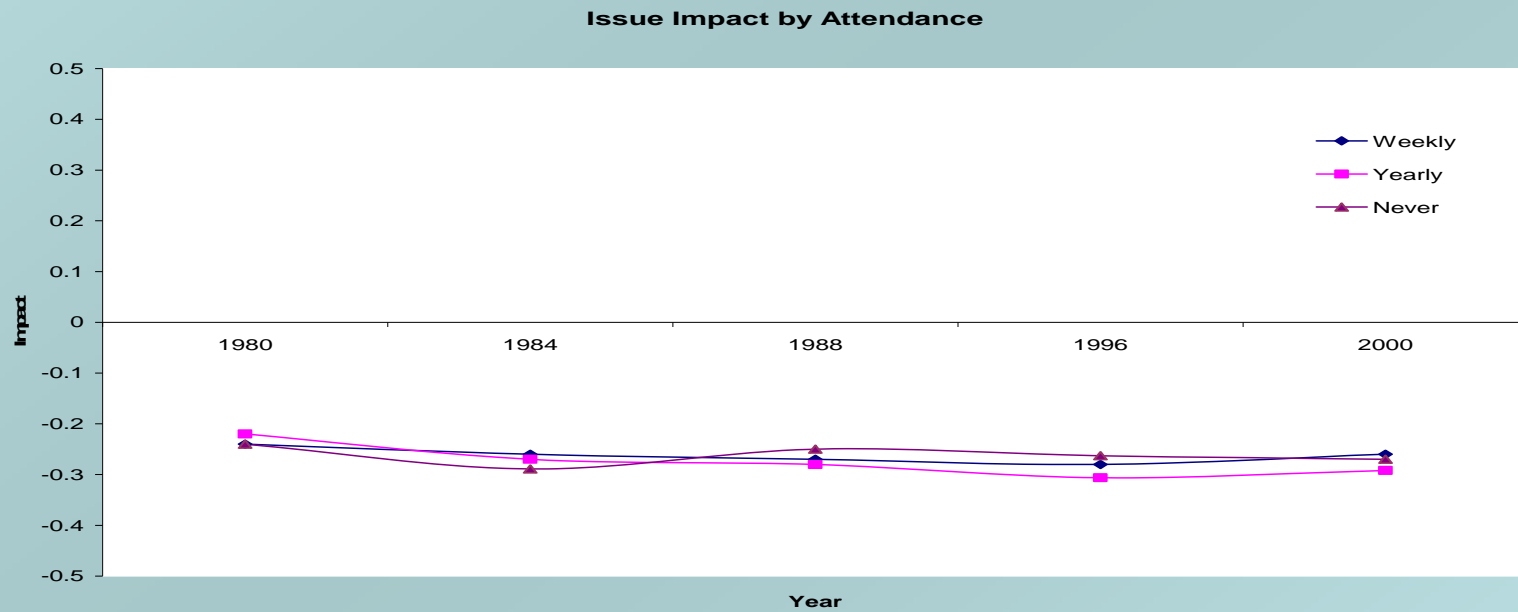


The doctrine of a preference for the poor pulls older Catholics toward the Democratic Party.

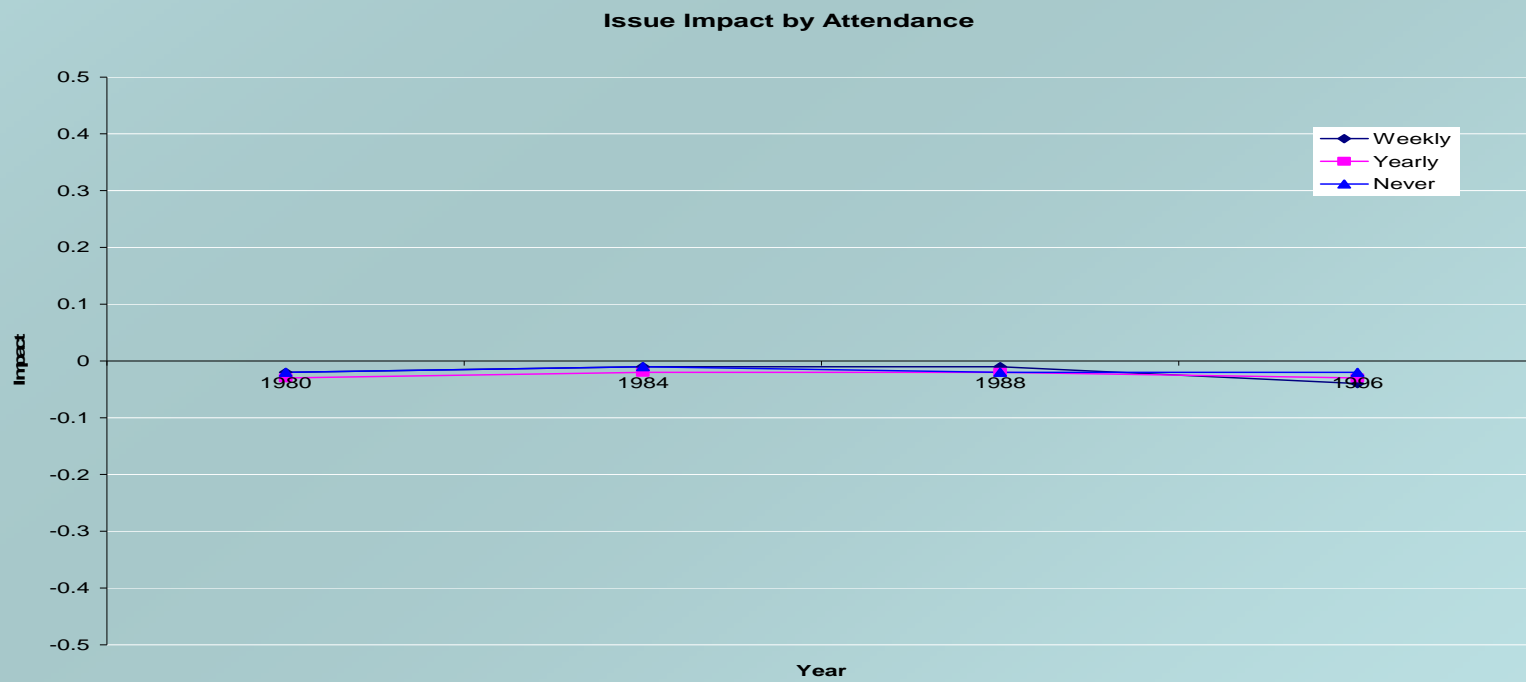
Issue Impact by Age



Abortion pulls self identified white evangelicals toward the Republican party regardless of whether or not they attend church services.



The vote of white evangelicals is uninfluenced by the death penalty.



The vote of white evangelicals is uninfluenced by candidate positions on the treatment of the poor.

Issue Impact by Attendance

