

Big Question

How have voter turnout rates changed over the last four decades and how does this relate to the changing number of people who are ineligible to vote due to felony convictions?



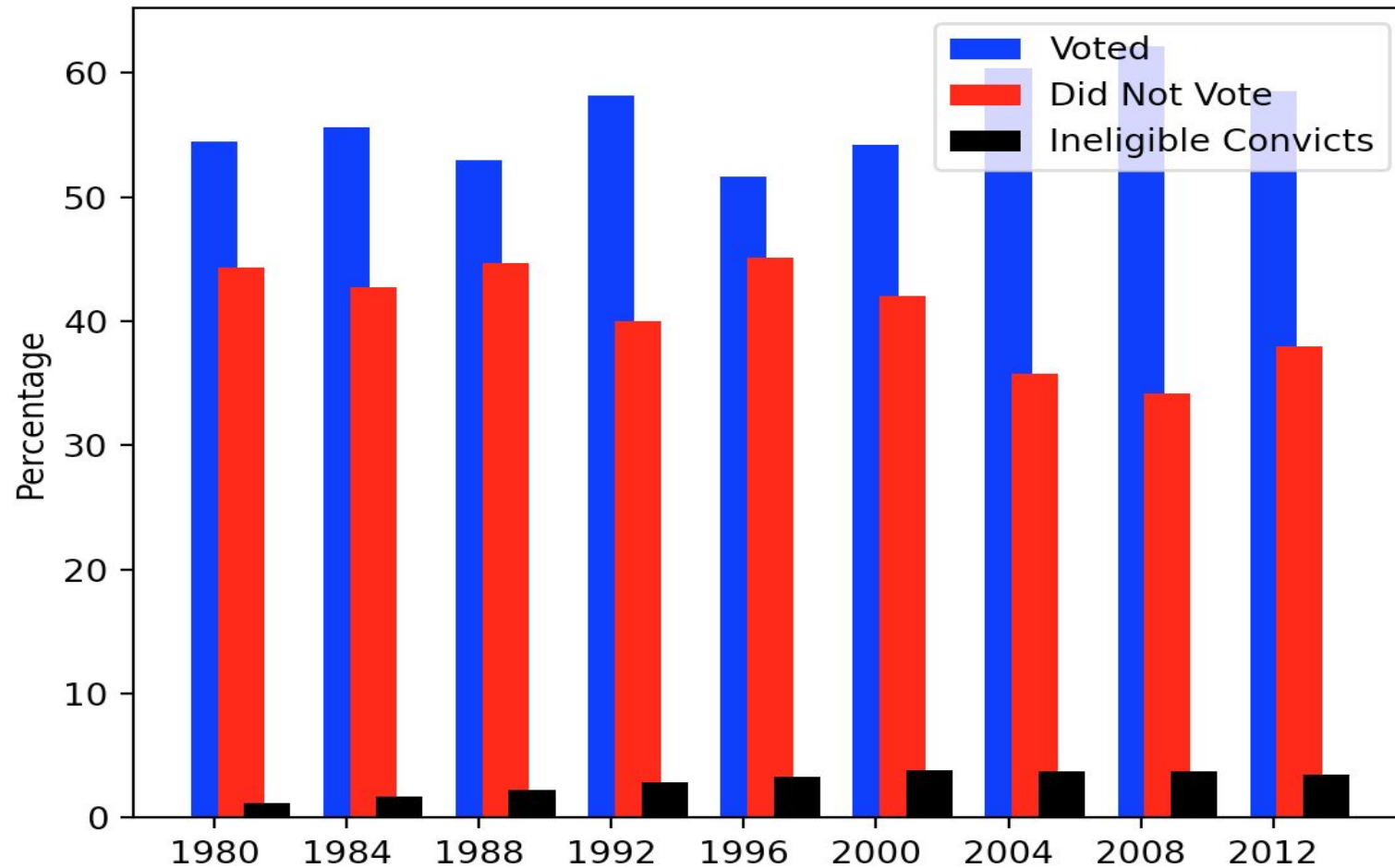
Ethical Considerations

- Individual privacy is not an issue in this dataset: all data is presented in total counts across each state
- The main ethical concern is the collection method of the data, as the counting may require the creators to access sensitive data (prison/voting)
- Another concern is the accuracy of this data... voter representation is a contentious topic and bad data could hide the true significance of the issue



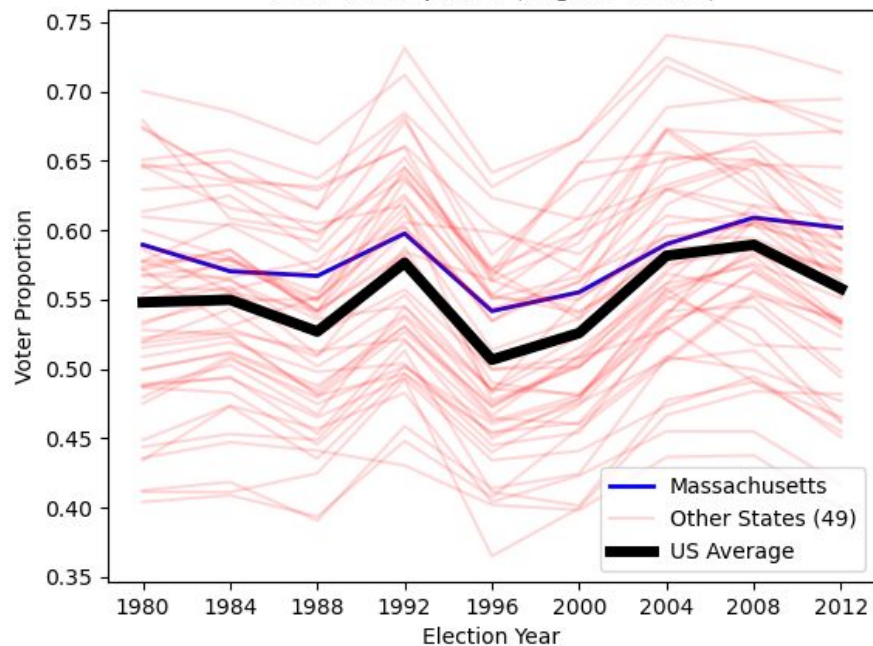
Analysis/Visualization

National VAP

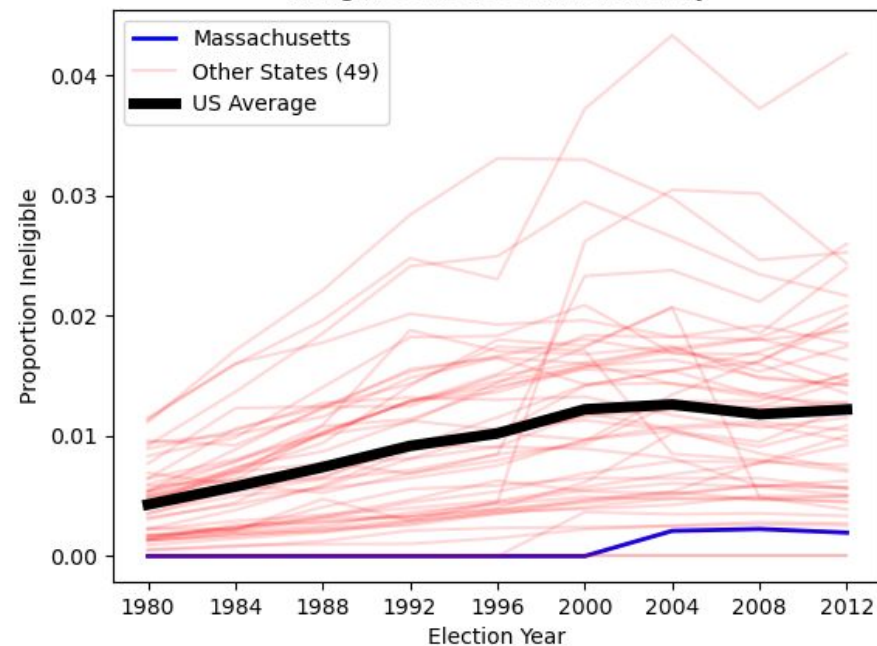


Analysis/Visualization

Voter Participation (Eligible Voters)



Ineligible due to Criminal History



*Note: Massachusetts Criminal data before 2000 is incomplete.



Last Mile / Future Work

- Compare data from states with different rules on voting (Kentucky, Iowa, and Virginia all permanently disenfranchise felons, while Maine and Vermont allow everyone, including prisoners to vote).
- Investigate demographic data for prison populations and those with felony convictions to see if/how disenfranchisement disproportionately impacts minority populations.
- Consider how low literacy rates and lack of access to quality education impacts crime/conviction rates, and voting rates.

