Supplementary Material

for

Economic Policy Uncertainty and Self-Control: Evidence from Unhealthy Choices

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APPENDIX B.1

Alcohol Use and Economic Policy Uncertainty

The table in Appendix B.1 reports panel regression results of individuals' decisions regarding alcohol use on economic policy uncertainty (EPU). The three dependent variables are an indicator for whether an individual had a drink in the past month (DRINKER), the number of drinks in the past month ($\ln(1+\text{NUM\_DRINKS})$), and an indicator for binge drinking in the past month (BINGE). All models include state-specific time trends, calendar month fixed effects, state fixed effects, and macroeconomic and demographic control variables. See Appendix A in the main paper for detailed definitions, sources, and construction of all variables. Standard errors are heteroscedasticity-consistent, 2-way clustered by state and year-month, and reported in parentheses. We exclude the following indicator variables MARRIAGE_NOT_REPORTED, AGE_GROUP_OVER_65, RACE_NOT_REPORTED, EDU_NOT_REPORTED, JANUARY indicator, and ALASKA indicator to avoid perfect multicollinearity. ***, **, and * indicate $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.1$, respectively. The sample size is 6,143,729 individuals.

Appendix B.1 (continued)

	DRINKER	ln(1+NUM_DRINKS)	BINGE
EPU	0.0160***	0.0640***	0.0086***
	(0.003)	(0.010)	(0.001)
STOCK_MARKET_RETURN	0.0172	0.0403	0.0069
	(0.026)	(0.079)	(0.009)
UNEMPLOYMENT_RATE	−0.2321**	−0.1515	0.0457
	(0.098)	(0.256)	(0.034)
INCOME_PER_CAPITA/10,000	−0.0153	0.0121	0.0117
	(0.020)	(0.050)	(0.007)
FEMALE	−0.1160***	−0.5807***	−0.1011***
	(0.003)	(0.010)	(0.003)
MARRIED_COHAB	0.0885***	0.2122***	0.0136***
	(0.006)	(0.0158)	(0.0023)
DIVORCED_OR_SEPARATED	0.0912***	0.2891***	0.0506***
	(0.004)	(0.010)	(0.002)
WIDOWED	0.0436***	0.1490***	0.0359***
	(0.004)	(0.012)	(0.002)
NEVER_MARRIED	0.0678***	0.2408***	0.0574***
	(0.004)	(0.010)	(0.002)
AGE_GROUP_18-24	0.1389***	0.3996***	0.1990***
	(0.007)	(0.025)	(0.008)
AGE_GROUP_25-34	0.1238***	0.3148***	0.1718***
	(0.007)	(0.021)	(0.006)
AGE_GROUP_35-44	0.0936***	0.2132***	0.1195***
	(0.006)	(0.018)	(0.004)

	DRINKER	ln(1+NUM_DRINKS)	BINGE
AGE_GROUP_45-54	0.0636***	0.1536***	0.0786***
	(0.005)	(0.015)	(0.003)
AGE_GROUP_55-64	0.0318***	0.0739***	0.0369***
	(0.003)	(0.009)	(0.001)
EMPLOYED	0.1047***	0.2491***	0.0342***
	(0.003)	(0.007)	(0.001)
RACE_WHITE	0.0899***	0.2619***	0.0329***
	(0.006)	(0.017)	(0.002)
RACE_BLACK	−0.0175**	−0.0935***	−0.0183***
	(0.008)	(0.022)	(0.003)
RACE_HISPANIC	−0.0087	−0.0577**	0.0042
	(0.009)	(0.025)	(0.004)
RACE_OTHER	−0.0505***	−0.1437***	−0.0014
	(0.008)	(0.025)	(0.005)
EDU_DROPOUT	−0.0083	0.0280*	0.0296***
	(0.006)	(0.015)	(0.002)
EDU_HIGH_SCHOOL	0.0873***	0.2284***	0.0359***
	(0.005)	(0.015)	(0.003)
EDU_SOME_COLLEGE	0.1645***	0.3966***	0.0357***
	(0.006)	(0.015)	(0.002)
EDU_COLLEGE_GRADUATE	0.2552***	0.6220***	0.0214***
	(0.007)	(0.020)	(0.002)
Month fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
State fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
State-specific time trends	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cluster by year-month	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cluster by state	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.138	0.134	0.087

APPENDIX B.2

Alcohol Use and Economic Policy Uncertainty—Excluding Control Variables

The table in Appendix B.2 reports panel regression results of individuals' decisions regarding alcohol use on economic policy uncertainty (EPU). The three dependent variables are an indicator for whether an individual had a drink in the past month (DRINKER), the number of drinks in the past month (ln(1+NUM_DRINKS)), and an indicator for binge drinking in the past month (BINGE). All models include state-specific time trends, calendar month fixed effects, and state fixed effects. See Appendix A in the main paper for detailed definitions, sources, and construction of all variables. Standard errors are heteroscedasticity-consistent, 2-way clustered by state and year-month, and reported in parentheses. ***, **, and * indicate $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.1$, respectively. The sample size is 6,143,729 individuals.

	DRINKER	ln(1+NUM_DRINKS)	BINGE
EPU	0.0034	0.0420***	0.0042**
	(0.004)	(0.011)	(0.002)
Macroeconomic variables	No	No	No
Demographic variables	No	No	No
Month fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
State fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
State-specific time trends	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cluster by year-month	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cluster by state	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.039	0.030	0.007

APPENDIX B.3

Robustness Check—Alternative Measure of Uncertainty—News-based EPU

The table in Appendix B.3 reports panel regression results of individuals' decisions regarding alcohol

use on economic policy uncertainty (as captured by NEWS_BASED_EPU). The three dependent

variables are an indicator for whether an individual had a drink in the past month (DRINKER), the

number of drinks in the past month (ln(1+NUM_DRINKS)), and an indicator for binge drinking in

the past month (BINGE). All models include state-specific time trends, calendar month fixed

effects, state fixed effects, and macroeconomic and demographic control variables (reported in

Panels C and D of Table 2). See Appendix A in the main paper for detailed definitions, sources, and

construction of all variables. Standard errors are heteroscedasticity-consistent, 2-way clustered by

state and year-month, and reported in parentheses. ***, **, and * indicate $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.05$, and $p <$

0.1, respectively. The sample size is 6,143,729 individuals.

	DRINKER	ln(1+NUM_DRINKS)	BINGE
NEWS_BASED_EPU	0.0118***	0.0421***	0.0042***
	(0.002)	(0.007)	(0.001)
STOCK_MARKET_RETURN	0.0216	0.0452	0.0039
	(0.027)	(0.080)	(0.009)
UNEMPLOYMENT_RATE	−0.1189	0.3601	0.1315***
	(0.093)	(0.263)	(0.037)
INCOME_PER_CAPITA/10,000	−0.0095	0.0367	0.0154**
	(0.020)	(0.050)	(0.007)
Demographic variables	Yes	Yes	Yes
Month fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
State fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes
State specific time trends	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cluster by year-month	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cluster by state	Yes	Yes	Yes
R^2	0.138	0.134	0.087

APPENDIX B.4

EPU and State Characteristics—Additional Tests

In Appendix B.4, we partition all states into three groups based on an alternative measure of stock market participation (Chien and Morris (2017)) and estimate panel regression of state-month average alcohol use on economic policy uncertainty (EPU), indicators for high (top tercile) and low (bottom tercile) stock market participation, and interaction effects for EPU and high and low stock market participation. Independent variables also include the contemporaneous stock market return, unemployment rate, per capita state income, state-month level demographic characteristics, state-specific time trends, and calendar month fixed effects. The three dependent variables are the proportion of survey participants who had a drink in the past month (PCT_DRINKER), the average number of drinks in the past month (AVG_ln(1+NUM_DRINKS)), and the fraction of survey participants who engaged in binge drinking in the past month (PCT_BINGE). The bottom row in Panel A reports an *F*-statistic of the test that EPU's effect in high stock market participation states does not differ from EPU's effect in low stock market participation states. Panel B reports analogous results with states sorted by religiosity ranking. See Appendix A in the main paper for detailed definitions, sources, and construction of all variables. Standard errors are heteroscedasticity-consistent, 2-way clustered by state and year-month, and reported in parentheses. ***, **, and * indicate $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.05$, and $p < 0.1$, respectively. The sample size is 12,700 state-month observations.

	PCT_DRINKER	AVG_ln(1+NUM_DRINKS)	PCT_BINGE
Panel A. Stock Market Participation Rate (Alternative Measure)			
EPU	0.0093	0.0575***	0.0067***
	(0.006)	(0.016)	(0.002)
HIGH_PCT_MKT_PART	0.0237	0.0464	0.0199***
	(0.017)	(0.047)	(0.009)
LOW_PCT_MKT_PART	−0.0337	−0.0684	0.0073
	(0.024)	(0.057)	(0.010)
EPU × HIGH_PCT_MKT_PART	0.0031	0.0176	0.0014
	(0.005)	(0.013)	(0.003)
EPU × LOW_PCT_MKT_PART	−0.0059	−0.0170	−0.0035
	(0.005)	(0.013)	(0.002)
F-test: EPU × HIGH = EPU × LOW *(Prob>F)*	3.81*	8.68***	3.69*
	(0.057)	(0.005)	(0.061)
Panel B. State Religiosity Ranking			
EPU	0.0136***	0.0695***	0.0048*
	(0.005)	(0.013)	(0.002)
HIGH_RELIGIOSITY	−0.0959***	−0.1924***	−0.0207*
	(0.027)	(0.058)	(0.011)
LOW_RELIGIOSITY	0.0410**	0.1014*	0.0032
	(0.017)	(0.052)	(0.011)
EPU × HIGH_RELIGIOSITY	−0.0034	−0.0146	0.0007
	(0.004)	(0.010)	(0.002)
EPU × LOW_RELIGIOSITY	0.0033	0.0154	0.0073***
	(0.004)	(0.012)	(0.002)
F-test: EPU × HIGH = EPU × LOW *(Prob>F)*	2.84*	6.58**	12.64***
	(0.098)	(0.014)	(0.001)