

Defensive Women: Women's Influence on Defense Policy in The United States Congress

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Research Questions

Are Republican or Democratic women more likely to introduce defense bills?

What effect does war time have on the introduction of defense bills?

Hypotheses

Women will fall within their party lines, with Republican women introducing more defense bills than Democratic women.

Defense bills will be introduced at a higher rate during war time.

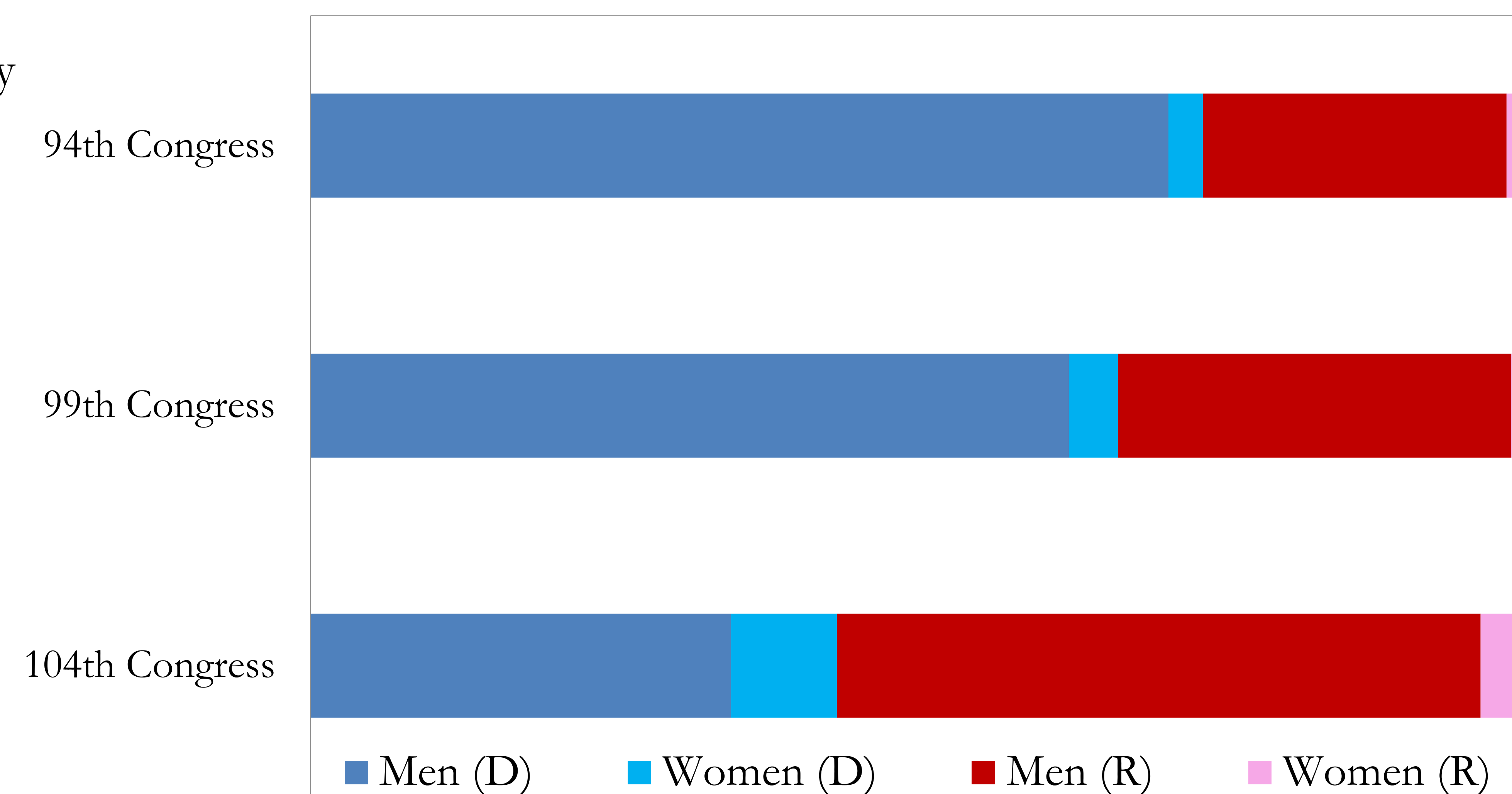
Methods

All bills collected for the 94th, 99th, and 104th Congresses from the Congressional Bills Project.

Coded under the topic "Defense" according to Policy Agendas Project guidelines. Coded for woman or man. War time or non-war time. Republican or Democrat.

The 94th Congress was split into sessions with 1975 as war time and 1976 as non-war time, to represent the end of The Vietnam War.

Percent of Defense Bills Introduced Per Congress



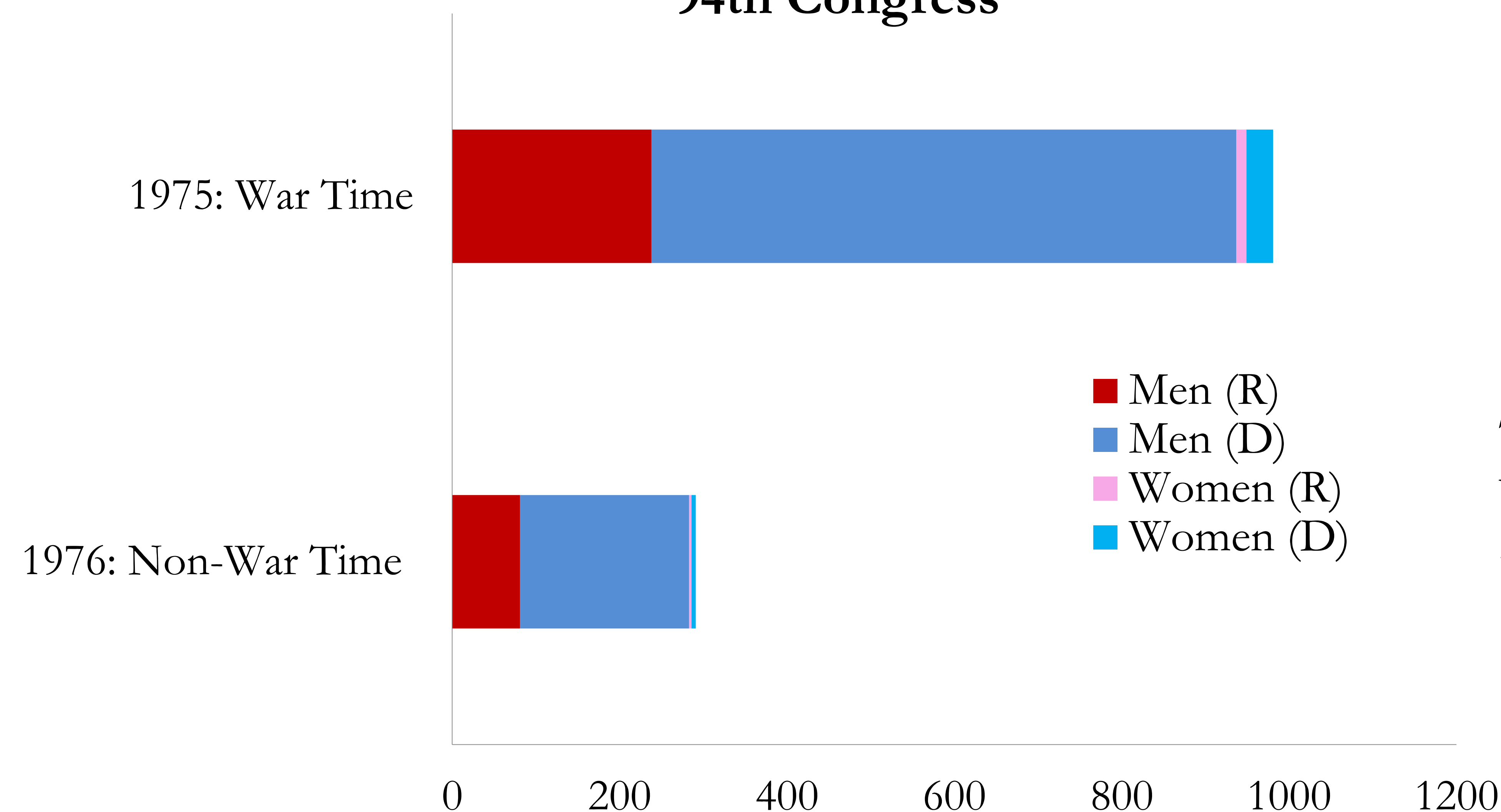
Findings

94th Congress: Two GOP women introduced 15 defense bills for 10.07% of the total GOP women bills. Seven DNC women introduced 37 bills for 6.08% of total DNC women bills.. There was a ratio of 14 DNC women to 5 GOP women. All women's defense bills came from the House, and 84.62% were introduced during war time.

99th Congress: Four GOP women introduced four defense bills for 2.29%. Eight DNC women introduced 21 bills for 8.82%. Both parties had 12 women. All defense bills introduced by women came from the House.

104th Congress: Three GOP women introduced 11 defense bills for 3.63% . Sixteen DNC women introduced 29 bills for 39.73%. Six GOP and five DNC bills came from the Senate, with a ratio of 20 GOP to 33 DNC women members.

94th Congress



Acknowledgments

Thank you to Bryan Jones, Sean Theriault, Michelle Whyman and Trey Thomas. The College of Liberal Arts and The Office of Undergraduate Research. My family, friends and my research colleagues, especially Justin Gonzales.

Conclusions

- DNC women introduced bills at a higher percentage per total bills than GOP women.
- Women introduce defense bills, not by party, but more along the lines of their gender.
- More defense bills are introduced by women members of the House.
- Both men and women are shown to be somewhat effected by war time by introducing bills at a higher rate than during non-war time.