

## Appendix A. Details on the data

### A.1 Summary statistics

**Table A1.1** Flanders

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Compulsory voting	12,848	2.799	1.258	1	4
IP	5,226	2.439	0.891	0	5
AP	5,441	2.069	0.995	0	5
Political interest	10,414	4.534	2.675	0	10
Political extremism	11,970	1.462	1.337	0.073	5.619
Left-right self-placement	11,970	5.307	1.994	0	10
Education	12,773	2.910	1.165	1	5
Employment status	12,815	1.514	0.577	0	2
Age	12,848	47.072	16.474	18	96
Gender	12,846	0.526	0.499	0	1

**Table A1.2** Wallonia

	N	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Compulsory voting	9,387	2.888	1.266	1	4
IP	2,948	2.256	1.021	0	4.993
AP	3,736	1.812	1.026	0	4.99
Political interest	8,074	4.388	2.806	0	10
Political extremism	8,681	1.634	1.448	0.018	5.398
Left-right self-placement	8,681	4.796	2.188	0	10
Education	9,036	3.041	1.174	1	5
Employment status	9,302	1.437	0.637	0	2
Age	9,384	46.063	16.414	18	95
Gender	9,383	0.497	0.500	0	1

## A.2 Correlation matrices

**Table A.2.1 Flanders**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 Compulsory voting	1.000									
2 IP	0.098	1.000								
3 AP	0.236	0.424	1.000							
4 Political interest	0.514	0.167	0.216	1.000						
5 Political extremism	0.146	0.239	0.255	0.205	1.000					
6 Left-right self-placement	0.002	0.082	0.031	0.081	0.017	1.000				
7 Education	0.330	0.001	0.032	0.284	0.020	-0.024	1.000			
8 Employment status	0.087	-0.035	-0.089	0.014	-0.048	-0.029	0.269	1.000		
9 Age	-0.017	0.084	0.179	0.116	0.049	0.105	-0.277	-0.383	1.000	
10 Gender	0.105	-0.018	0.005	0.233	0.063	0.047	0.010	0.128	0.039	1.000

**Table A.2.2 Wallonia**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 Compulsory voting	1.000									
2 IP	0.133	1.000								
3 AP	0.195	0.334	1.000							
4 Political interest	0.448	0.165	0.197	1.000						
5 Political extremism	0.117	0.218	0.282	0.176	1.000					
6 Left-right self-placement	0.007	-0.009	-0.067	0.020	-0.043	1.000				
7 Education	0.280	0.034	0.000	0.262	0.014	0.082	1.000			
8 Employment status	0.124	-0.011	-0.009	0.110	-0.006	0.035	0.269	1.000		
9 Age	-0.004	0.121	0.105	0.074	0.060	0.021	-0.185	-0.191	1.000	
10 Gender	0.071	0.004	0.007	0.209	0.055	0.032	0.027	0.126	0.000	1.000

### A.3 Main regression analyses paper (tables)

**Table A.3.1** Effect of ideological polarization on willingness to vote

	Flanders				Wallonia			
	1991	1999	2014	2019	1991	1999	2014	2019
IP	-0.026 (0.031)	0.067** (0.025)	0.025 (0.037)	0.145*** (0.031)	-0.003 (0.045)	0.008 (0.037)	0.060 (0.045)	0.213*** (0.044)
Political interest		0.531*** (0.026)	0.565*** (0.040)	0.528*** (0.031)		0.471*** (0.037)	0.415*** (0.047)	0.495*** (0.044)
Political extremism	0.132*** (0.030)	0.049 (0.025)	0.026 (0.038)	0.065* (0.030)	0.137** (0.046)	-0.009 (0.037)	0.076 (0.045)	0.024 (0.042)
Left-right	0.017 (0.030)	-0.002 (0.025)	-0.020 (0.037)	-0.050 (0.028)	-0.026 (0.045)	0.070 (0.036)	0.032 (0.045)	-0.086* (0.039)
Education	0.387*** (0.032)	0.176*** (0.027)	0.271*** (0.040)	0.115*** (0.029)	0.308*** (0.048)	0.212*** (0.038)	0.235*** (0.047)	0.149*** (0.040)
Age	0.071* (0.033)	-0.065* (0.031)	-0.022 (0.040)	0.030 (0.034)	-0.007 (0.050)	-0.007 (0.042)	-0.043 (0.048)	0.038 (0.045)
Male	0.136* (0.064)	-0.087 (0.052)	-0.074 (0.076)	-0.009 (0.061)	0.094 (0.097)	0.013 (0.075)	0.016 (0.090)	-0.231** (0.082)
Employment status (ref: unemployed)								
Not in labour force	0.300* (0.151)	0.103 (0.153)	0.459* (0.217)	0.189 (0.164)	0.038 (0.224)	0.356* (0.154)	0.333 (0.190)	0.216 (0.157)
Employed	0.312* (0.147)	0.237 (0.149)	0.339 (0.213)	0.132 (0.163)	-0.052 (0.212)	0.231 (0.147)	0.303 (0.181)	0.311* (0.149)
Constant	2.459*** (0.142)	2.886*** (0.147)	2.719*** (0.212)	3.000*** (0.163)	3.113*** (0.214)	2.915*** (0.140)	2.803*** (0.180)	2.877*** (0.146)
R2	0.108	0.288	0.321	0.319	0.090	0.234	0.218	0.311
N	1554	1555	747	1204	584	797	574	687

Standard errors in parentheses. \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001.

**Table A.3.1** Effect of affective polarization on willingness to vote

	Flanders				Wallonia			
	1991	1999	2014	2019	1991	1999	2014	2019
AP	0.127*** (0.026)	0.096** (0.035)	0.142*** (0.039)	0.201*** (0.025)	0.110** (0.036)	0.024 (0.052)	0.130** (0.042)	0.230*** (0.031)
Political interest	0.530*** (0.026)	0.481*** (0.037)	0.554*** (0.038)	0.524*** (0.025)	0.501*** (0.037)	0.370*** (0.051)	0.445*** (0.042)	0.476*** (0.032)
Political extremism	0.059* (0.025)	0.058 (0.034)	0.020 (0.036)	0.046 (0.025)	-0.025 (0.036)	0.076 (0.051)	-0.007 (0.041)	-0.004 (0.031)
Left-right	-0.020 (0.025)	-0.030 (0.034)	-0.051 (0.035)	-0.068** (0.023)	0.079* (0.035)	-0.053 (0.048)	0.060 (0.040)	-0.085** (0.029)
Education	0.173*** (0.028)	0.309*** (0.039)	0.290*** (0.039)	0.137*** (0.024)	0.229*** (0.038)	0.239*** (0.052)	0.179*** (0.044)	0.167*** (0.030)
Age	-0.067* (0.031)	-0.040 (0.040)	-0.049 (0.040)	0.013 (0.027)	0.042 (0.040)	-0.120* (0.053)	-0.106* (0.044)	0.009 (0.031)
Male	-0.055 (0.052)	0.004 (0.069)	0.028 (0.072)	-0.050 (0.049)	0.028 (0.071)	0.158 (0.100)	-0.013 (0.079)	-0.068 (0.060)
Employment status (ref: unemployed)								
Not in labour force	0.242 (0.155)	0.580*** (0.166)	0.297 (0.197)	0.199 (0.131)	0.282* (0.135)	0.292 (0.192)	0.336* (0.153)	0.374** (0.114)
Employed	0.325* (0.152)	0.389* (0.162)	0.158 (0.193)	0.174 (0.130)	0.256* (0.130)	0.149 (0.191)	0.324* (0.145)	0.421*** (0.109)
Constant	2.729*** (0.150)	2.331*** (0.157)	2.720*** (0.193)	2.957*** (0.129)	2.838*** (0.123)	2.693*** (0.178)	2.777*** (0.141)	2.635*** (0.106)
R2	0.305	0.314	0.338	0.319	0.287	0.179	0.223	0.286
N	1519	953	879	1814	894	548	751	1307

Standard errors in parentheses. \*p&lt;0.05; \*\*p&lt;0.01; \*\*\*p&lt;0.001.

## Appendix B. Robustness checks

### B.4 Effect of ideological and affective polarisation on willingness to vote (joint analysis)

**Table B.4.1** Flanders, 1999

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5
IP	0.0667** (0.0253)	0.0734** (0.0271)			0.0458 (0.0281)
AP			0.127*** (0.0255)	0.111*** (0.0271)	0.0984*** (0.0282)
Political interest	0.532*** (0.0260)	0.538*** (0.0280)	0.537*** (0.0268)	0.526*** (0.0280)	0.529*** (0.0280)
Political extremism	0.0496 (0.0257)	0.0655* (0.0276)	0.0600* (0.0257)	0.0654* (0.0271)	0.0569* (0.0276)
Left-right	-0.00222 (0.0245)	-0.00533 (0.0262)	-0.0200 (0.0253)	0.00203 (0.0261)	0.000467 (0.0261)
Education	0.176*** (0.0275)	0.162*** (0.0292)	0.174*** (0.0279)	0.159*** (0.0291)	0.160*** (0.0291)
Age	-0.0654* (0.0310)	-0.0878** (0.0330)	-0.0674* (0.0312)	-0.0952** (0.0329)	-0.0966** (0.0329)
Male	-0.0873 (0.0521)	-0.106 (0.0551)	-0.0549 (0.0525)	-0.0977 (0.0550)	-0.0935 (0.0550)
Employment status (ref: unemployed)					
Not in labour force	0.103 (0.153)	0.247 (0.161)	0.242 (0.155)	0.266 (0.161)	0.269 (0.161)
Employed	0.237 (0.149)	0.343* (0.157)	0.325* (0.152)	0.374* (0.157)	0.371* (0.157)
Constant	2.849*** (0.147)	2.761*** (0.155)	2.723*** (0.150)	2.731*** (0.155)	2.728*** (0.154)
R2	0.2878	0.2930	0.3052	0.2980	0.2994
N	1555	1344	1519	1344	1344

Standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ . M2 displays only the observations for which affective polarization is not missing; M4 displays only the observations for which ideological polarization is not missing.

**Table B.4.2** Flanders, 2014

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5
IP	0.0254 (0.0374)	0.0188 (0.0384)			-0.0120 (0.0401)
AP			0.142*** (0.0386)	0.112** (0.0432)	0.116* (0.0452)
Political interest	0.587*** (0.0415)	0.600*** (0.0427)	0.553*** (0.0382)	0.580*** (0.0431)	0.580*** (0.0432)
Political extremism	0.0273 (0.0390)	0.0157 (0.0396)	0.0201 (0.0356)	-0.0122 (0.0407)	-0.0112 (0.0408)
Left-right	-0.0207 (0.0377)	-0.0271 (0.0383)	-0.0505 (0.0344)	-0.0327 (0.0381)	-0.0333 (0.0382)
Education	0.275*** (0.0408)	0.291*** (0.0420)	0.289*** (0.0384)	0.293*** (0.0418)	0.293*** (0.0418)
Age	-0.0222 (0.0415)	-0.0384 (0.0435)	-0.0492 (0.0402)	-0.0722 (0.0452)	-0.0725 (0.0453)
Male	-0.0742 (0.0763)	-0.0679 (0.0784)	0.0278 (0.0718)	-0.0484 (0.0784)	-0.0471 (0.0785)
Employment status (ref: unemployed)					
Not in labour force	0.459* (0.217)	0.527* (0.224)	0.297 (0.197)	0.499* (0.223)	0.503* (0.224)
Employed	0.339 (0.213)	0.377 (0.220)	0.158 (0.193)	0.356 (0.219)	0.359 (0.219)
Constant	2.645*** (0.211)	2.572*** (0.219)	2.710*** (0.193)	2.584*** (0.217)	2.580*** (0.218)
R2	0.321	0.338	0.338	0.344	0.344
N	747	686	879	686	686

Standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ . M2 displays only the observations for which affective polarization is not missing; M4 displays only the observations for which ideological polarization is not missing.

**Table B.4.3 Flanders, 2019**

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5
IP	0.145*** (0.0306)	0.152*** (0.0307)			0.0941** (0.0330)
AP			0.201*** (0.025)	0.185*** (0.031)	0.149*** (0.0331)
Political interest	0.532*** (0.0317)	0.533*** (0.0320)	0.523*** (0.026)	0.535*** (0.032)	0.525*** (0.032)
Political extremism	0.0654* (0.0300)	0.0739* (0.0303)	0.046 (0.025)	0.055 (0.031)	0.041 (0.031)
Left-right	-0.0504 (0.0281)	-0.0542 (0.0285)	-0.068** (0.023)	-0.057* (0.028)	-0.062* (0.028)
Education	0.116*** (0.0291)	0.121*** (0.0295)	0.138*** (0.024)	0.137*** (0.029)	0.124*** (0.029)
Age	0.0317 (0.0366)	0.0208 (0.0370)	0.013 (0.027)	0.010 (0.037)	0.002 (0.037)
Male	-0.009 (0.061)	-0.0121 (0.0608)	-0.050 (0.049)	0.014 (0.061)	0.008 (0.060)
Employment status (ref: unemployed)					
Not in labour force	0.189 (0.164)	0.169 (0.164)	0.199 (0.131)	0.146 (0.164)	0.135 (0.163)
Employed	0.132 (0.163)	0.0925 (0.164)	0.174 (0.130)	0.076 (0.163)	0.065 (0.163)
Constant	2.956*** (0.162)	2.992*** (0.163)	2.961*** (0.129)	2.997*** (0.162)	3.013*** (0.161)
R2	0.319	0.329	0.319	0.336	0.341
N	1204	1164	1814	1164	1164

Standard errors in parentheses. \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001. M2 displays only the observations for which affective polarization is not missing; M4 displays only the observations for which ideological polarization is not missing.

**Table B.4.4** Wallonia, 1999

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5
IP	0.00823 (0.0370)	0.000565 (0.0379)			-0.0116 (0.0387)
AP			0.110** (0.0361)	0.0574 (0.0394)	0.0600 (0.0403)
Political interest	0.491*** (0.0389)	0.479*** (0.0398)	0.502*** (0.0374)	0.467*** (0.0405)	0.467*** (0.0405)
Political extremism	-0.00878 (0.0368)	-0.00738 (0.0382)	-0.0253 (0.0360)	-0.0188 (0.0382)	-0.0170 (0.0387)
Left-right	0.0683 (0.0356)	0.0712 (0.0366)	0.0794* (0.0352)	0.0729* (0.0365)	0.0735* (0.0366)
Education	0.217*** (0.0392)	0.215*** (0.0401)	0.230*** (0.0378)	0.218*** (0.0401)	0.219*** (0.0402)
Age	-0.00713 (0.0426)	0.0133 (0.0439)	0.0429 (0.0402)	0.0119 (0.0435)	0.0136 (0.0439)
Male	0.0126 (0.0749)	-0.0117 (0.0763)	0.0278 (0.0715)	-0.00300 (0.0762)	-0.00419 (0.0764)
Employment status (ref: unemployed)					
Not in labour force	0.356* (0.154)	0.375* (0.155)	0.282* (0.135)	0.365* (0.155)	0.364* (0.156)
Employed	0.231 (0.147)	0.258 (0.148)	0.256* (0.130)	0.246 (0.148)	0.248 (0.148)
Constant	2.839*** (0.140)	2.856*** (0.141)	2.829*** (0.123)	2.860*** (0.141)	2.860*** (0.141)
R2	0.2337	0.2274	0.2873	0.2296	0.2297
N	797	750	894	750	750

Standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ . M2 displays only the observations for which affective polarization is not missing; M4 displays only the observations for which ideological polarization is not missing.



**Table B.4.5** Wallonia, 2014

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5
IP	0.0595 (0.0450)	0.0593 (0.0480)			0.0457 (0.0487)
AP			0.130** (0.0423)	0.0992 (0.0552)	0.0899 (0.0561)
Political interest	0.426*** (0.0484)	0.436*** (0.0517)	0.441*** (0.0417)	0.422*** (0.0525)	0.420*** (0.0525)
Political extremism	0.0771 (0.0458)	0.0644 (0.0475)	-0.00658 (0.0402)	0.0420 (0.0498)	0.0400 (0.0498)
Left-right	0.0329 (0.0456)	0.0351 (0.0470)	0.0585 (0.0387)	0.0418 (0.0469)	0.0390 (0.0469)
Education	0.235*** (0.0473)	0.211*** (0.0499)	0.177*** (0.0430)	0.232*** (0.0508)	0.229*** (0.0510)
Age	-0.0444 (0.0498)	-0.0717 (0.0557)	-0.106* (0.0437)	-0.0761 (0.0557)	-0.0778 (0.0557)
Male	0.0157 (0.0896)	0.00247 (0.0951)	-0.0134 (0.0792)	0.00465 (0.0949)	0.00614 (0.0949)
Employment status (ref: unemployed)					
Not in labour force	0.333 (0.190)	0.394 (0.202)	0.336* (0.153)	0.397* (0.202)	0.399* (0.202)
Employed	0.303 (0.181)	0.389* (0.189)	0.324* (0.145)	0.385* (0.188)	0.391* (0.188)
Constant	2.737*** (0.180)	2.709*** (0.187)	2.758*** (0.140)	2.710*** (0.187)	2.704*** (0.187)
R2	0.218	0.234	0.223	0.237	0.239
N	574	459	751	459	459

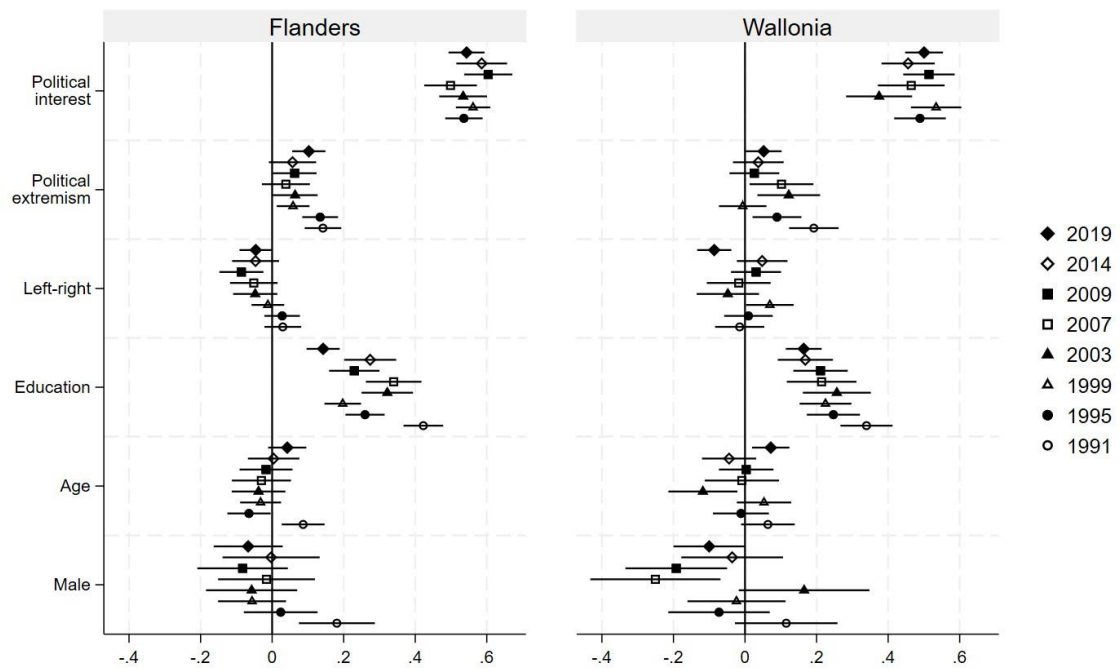
Standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ . M2 displays only the observations for which affective polarization is not missing; M4 displays only the observations for which ideological polarization is not missing.

**Table B.4.6** Wallonia, 2019

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5
IP	0.213*** (0.0435)	0.202*** (0.0449)			0.145** (0.0471)
AP			0.230*** (0.031)	0.210*** (0.0427)	0.165*** (0.0449)
Political interest	0.499*** (0.0446)	0.499*** (0.0462)	0.478*** (0.032)	0.500*** (0.0459)	0.479*** (0.0461)
Political extremism	0.0242 (0.0419)	0.0316 (0.0430)	-0.004 (0.031)	0.0164 (0.0434)	-0.00471 (0.0437)
Left-right	-0.0860* (0.0392)	-0.0896* (0.0402)	-0.085** (0.029)	-0.0944* (0.0399)	-0.0825* (0.0399)
Education	0.148*** (0.0401)	0.142*** (0.0410)	0.167*** (0.030)	0.164*** (0.0409)	0.154*** (0.0408)
Age	0.0384 (0.0452)	0.0249 (0.0468)	0.009 (0.031)	0.0388 (0.0461)	0.0148 (0.0464)
Male	-0.231** (0.0816)	-0.234** (0.0837)	-0.068 (0.060)	-0.240** (0.0833)	-0.227** (0.0829)
Employment status (ref: unemployed)					
Not in labour force	0.216 (0.157)	0.226 (0.160)	0.374** (0.114)	0.212 (0.159)	0.204 (0.158)
Employed	0.311* (0.149)	0.321* (0.152)	0.421*** (0.109)	0.315* (0.152)	0.311* (0.151)
Constant	2.849*** (0.145)	2.852*** (0.147)	2.632*** (0.106)	2.871*** (0.147)	2.871*** (0.146)
R2	0.311	0.299	0.286	0.304	0.314
N	687	652	1307	652	652

Standard errors in parentheses. \*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01; \*\*\*p<0.001. M2 displays only the observations for which affective polarization is not missing; M4 displays only the observations for which ideological polarization is not missing.

### B.5 Analyses with only control variables, each election study 1991-2019



## B.6 Analyses with multiple imputation

**Table B.6.1** Regressions with IP and AP jointly included based on multiple imputation

	Flanders			Wallonia		
	1999	2014	2019	1999	2014	2019
IP	0.058 (0.033)	0.017 (0.049)	0.073** (0.026)	0.019 (0.042)	0.056 (0.046)	0.106** (0.036)
AP	0.128*** (0.031)	0.135** (0.041)	0.167*** (0.028)	0.128** (0.042)	0.143** (0.046)	0.171*** (0.032)
Political interest	0.569*** (0.025)	0.570*** (0.038)	0.514*** (0.026)	0.506*** (0.036)	0.422*** (0.037)	0.460*** (0.028)
Political extremism	0.029 (0.026)	0.026 (0.035)	0.030 (0.025)	-0.033 (0.035)	-0.002 (0.037)	-0.021 (0.027)
Left-right	-0.011 (0.023)	-0.048 (0.033)	-0.066** (0.023)	0.071* (0.032)	0.052 (0.035)	-0.066** (0.024)
Employment status (ref: unemployed)						
Not in labour force	0.116 (0.144)	0.251 (0.192)	0.199 (0.130)	0.289* (0.128)	0.248 (0.138)	0.334*** (0.099)
Employed	0.238 (0.142)	0.134 (0.188)	0.194 (0.129)	0.296* (0.124)	0.217 (0.134)	0.399*** (0.095)
Education	0.191*** (0.025)	0.273*** (0.036)	0.129*** (0.024)	0.232*** (0.037)	0.173*** (0.037)	0.154*** (0.026)
Age	-0.054 (0.031)	-0.036 (0.041)	0.013 (0.029)	0.047 (0.042)	-0.070 (0.041)	0.040 (0.027)
Male	-0.032 (0.048)	0.010 (0.069)	-0.052 (0.048)	-0.008 (0.070)	-0.030 (0.072)	-0.077 (0.050)
Constant	2.577*** (0.139)	2.517*** (0.187)	2.902*** (0.128)	2.439*** (0.116)	2.664*** (0.128)	2.735*** (0.093)
Imputations	20	20	20	20	20	20
Average RVI	0.0546	0.0626	0.0289	0.0331	0.0676	0.1284
Largest FMI	0.2687	0.3754	0.1918	0.1592	0.3364	0.4805
N	1827	977	1884	982	984	1845

Multiple imputation ( $m = 20$ ) used for the variables IP and AP. Standard errors in parentheses. \* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ .