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Purpose

Early research on undergraduate housing found that living on-campus led to many positive outcomes relative to living off-campus and was one of the most beneficial student experiences. However, more recent research is tentative and nuanced, perhaps due to changing demographics or differences in housing type (e.g., suite-style residence halls, residence hall-like apartments off campus). Thus, we re-examined how undergraduate living arrangements influenced persistence.

Data

- NSSE 2018 & Living Arrangements Supplement
 Persistence data from the National Student Clearinghouse
- 19,358 first-year students & 13,4662 sophomores
 - 75 U.S. institutions that provide student housing

Variables:

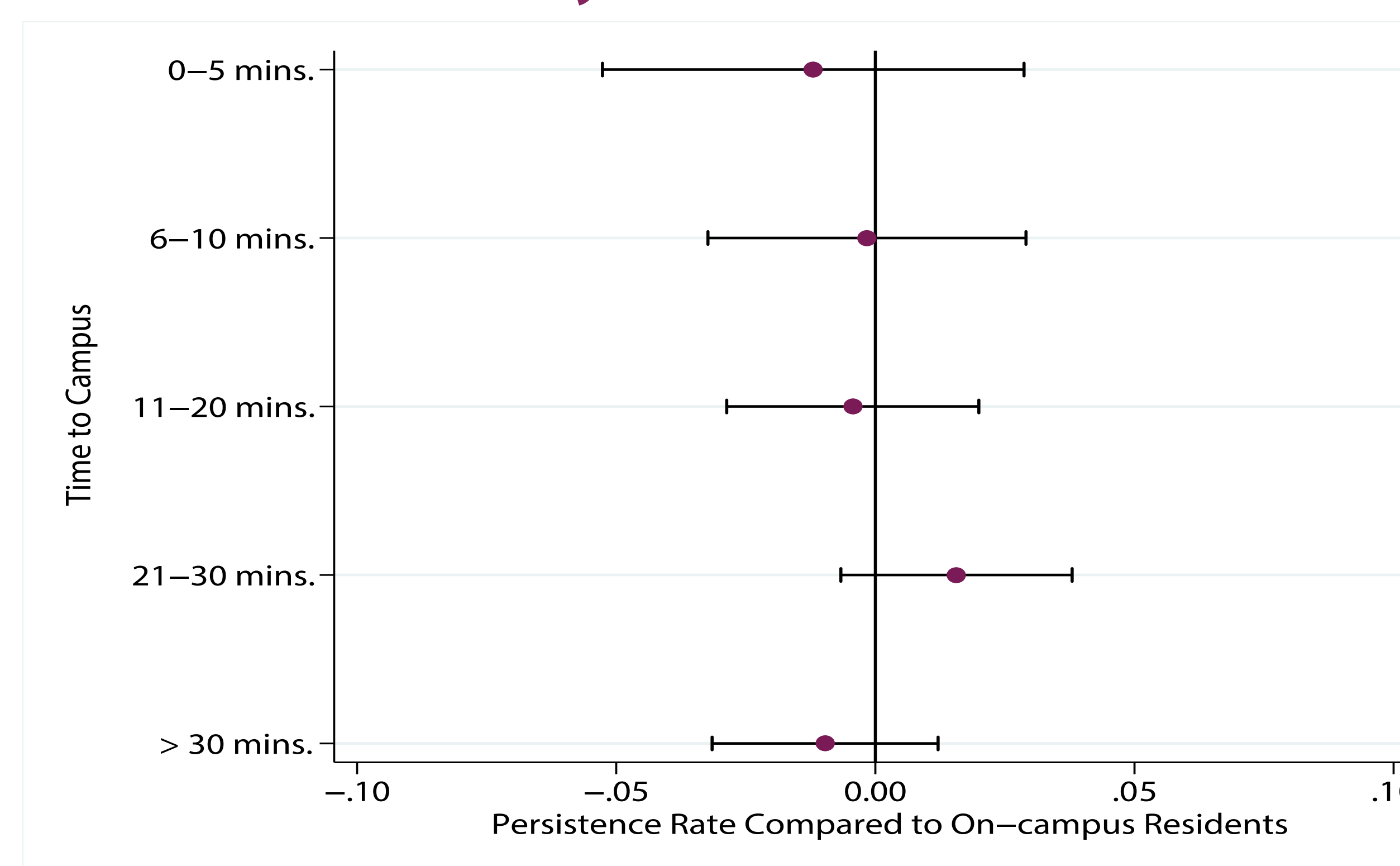
- Spring to fall persistence
- Travel time to campus
- Building type
- Student demographic and co-curricular activities
- SAT I/ACT score
- Financial stress scale
- Average income in home zip code
- Institutional characteristics

Analyses

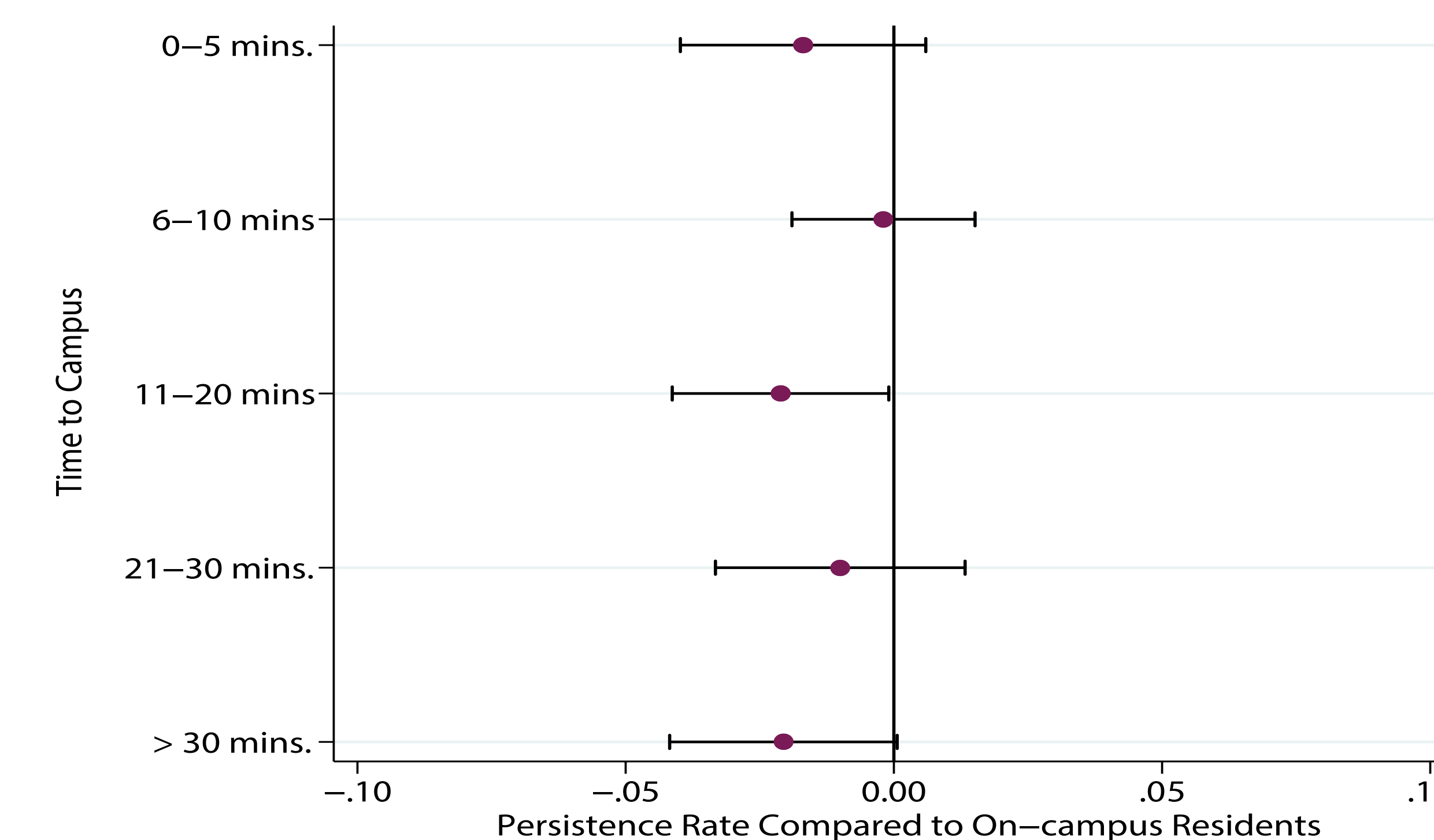
Logistic regression predicting spring to fall persistence
 Average marginal effects

Persistence by Travel Time to Campus

First-year Students

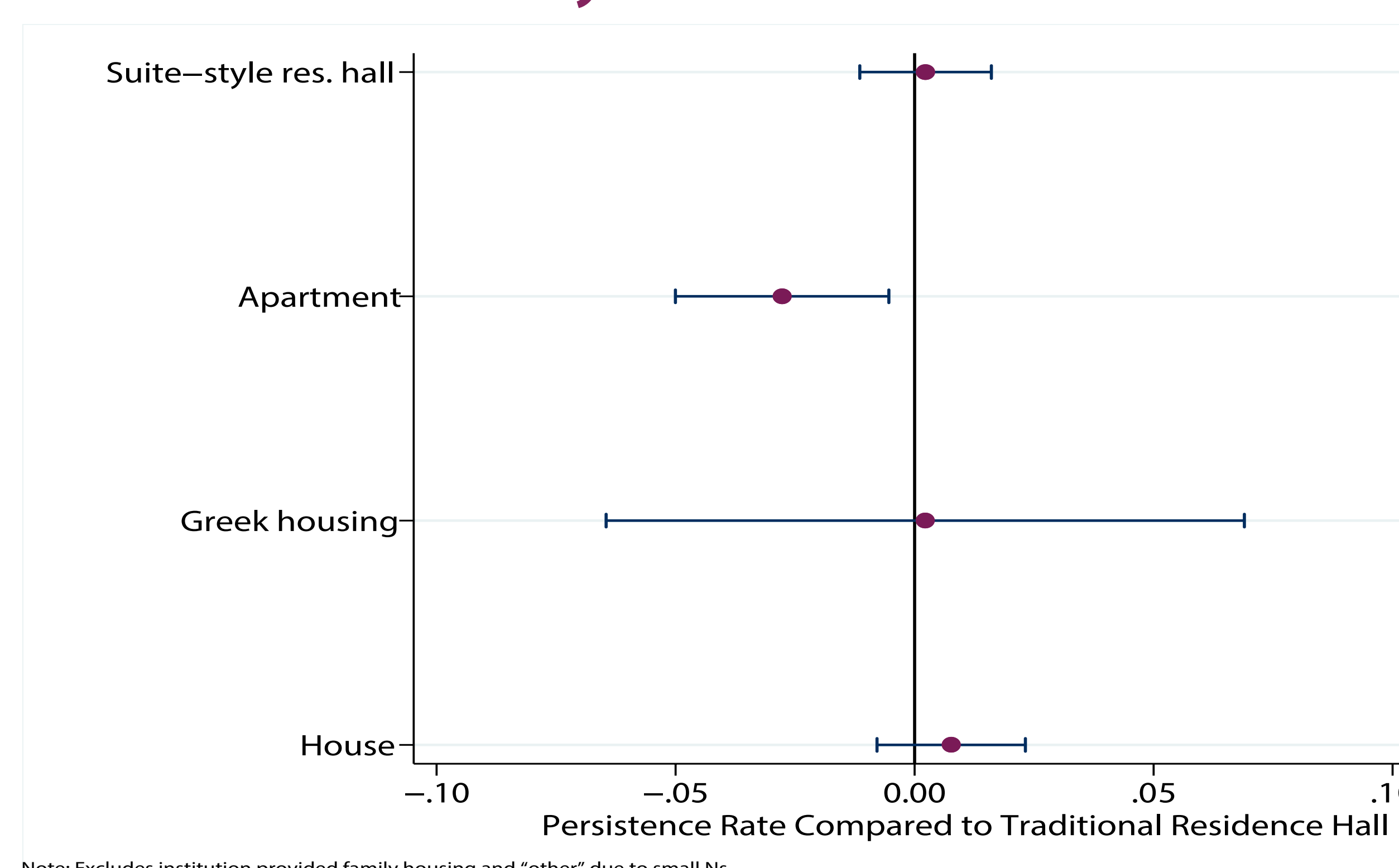


Sophomores

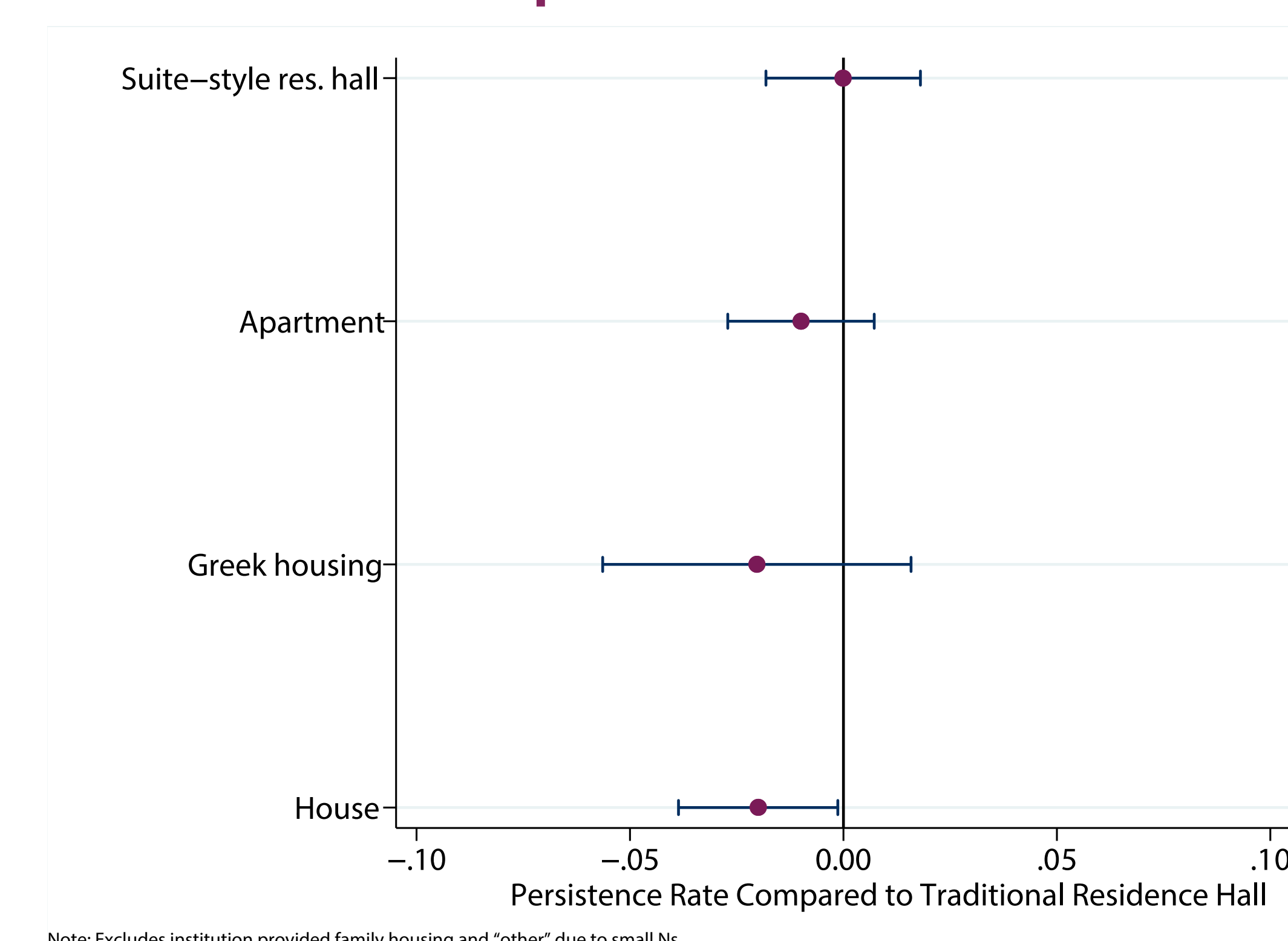


Persistence by Building Type

First-year Students



Sophomores



Summary

Our results generally confirm that living on campus does not have a large influence on student persistence as found in the early research. However, we found that the building type and time of commute were related to student persistence. Among first-year students, students who lived in an apartment were less likely to return to school in the fall. For sophomores, living more than 10 minutes away from campus was negatively related to persistence. Furthermore, sophomores who lived in a house were less likely to persist.

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