

		How liberal is respondent (5-pt scale)	Disapproves of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President	R. identifies as white
How liberal is respondent (5-pt scale)	Pearson Correlation	1	-.431**	-.066*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.012
	N	1456	1456	1422
Disapproves of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President	Pearson Correlation	-.431**	1	.320**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000
	N	1456	1504	1466
R. identifies as white	Pearson Correlation	-.066*	.320**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.012	.000	
	N	1422	1466	1466

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

There is a moderately consistent, negative correlation between how liberal respondents are and Obama disapproval (original Likert variable was rescaled as a dummy variable); the statistical significance for the correlation is at least .000, indicating that 1000 separate surveys under the same circumstances would all find that there is a negative relationship between being more liberal and

There is a very weak, positive correlation between how identifying as racially white and how liberal a person is; the statistical significance figure is greater than .01, but still meets the $p < .05$ standard to say that the relationship is significant, and thus the correlation coefficient would typically be starred with one asterisk.

Statistical significance at the .05 level indicates that if we were to administer 20 separate surveys, we wouldn't be surprised if one of those surveys reported no or even a negative relationship between being more liberal and disapproving of Pres. Obama.

None of the correlation coefficients in this table is higher than .700; if one of the "Pearson correlation" coefficients was that high, we would want to consider ways to deal with the fact that the of two variables are so closely correlated that we need think very carefully about putting them into a regression model where they were both being used to predict some outcome. The smaller our sample is for a given regression model, the more we need to be worried about making sure our independent variables are not highly correlated.

Highly correlated independent variables can lead to multicollinearity issues, which is when the regression coefficients in multivariate regression models are not accurately calculating the relationship between either of the highly correlated independent variables and the outcome. There is no problem if multiple independent variables are highly correlated with the dependent variable.