Introduction

- On January 6, 2021, insurrectionists stormed the U.S. Capitol in support of the former president's false assertions of election fraud
- Giving a speech just hours earlier, President Trump stated, "If you don't fight like hell, you won't have a country anymore" January 6, 2021
- One rioter paraded the halls of the Capitol building carrying a Confederate flag (Cramer 2021)
- In the event's aftermath, there were upwards of 900 arrests
- The present study examines sociodemographic profiles of people who were arrested during the January insurrection
- I then compare important social and economic characteristics of participants' towns of residence with national averages

Data and Methods

- Data from the U.S. Department of Justice
  - First, I recorded the 900+ arrests made related to the Capitol Breach
  - Recorded the hometowns of each individual arrested
- Data from the United States Census Bureau
  - I then assessed each hometown's total population, population percentage that is non-white, percentage without healthcare, and median family household income
  - For instances in which the U.S. Census Bureau did not have information about the individual's town, the individual was not considered in the research (n=719)
- Data from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics
  - Third, I identified the unemployment rates of each town

Background and Theory

- This study relies on insights from microstructural availability, attitudinal affinity, and reactive mobilization theories
- Microstructural Availability
  - Integration in personal or organizational networks that connects people to others associated with a movement increases their chances of participation (Isaac et al. 2019)
  - Capitol breach likely consisted of individuals who were connected by their support for the reelection of former President Trump
  - It is critical to have a deeper understanding of the demographics which the subgroup of President Trump supporters live in to better conceptualize motivation
- Attitudinal Affinity
  - Strong displeasure and optimism for the possibility of change is a significant predictor in one's participation in social movements (Isaac et al. 2019; McAdams 1986, 1988; Biggs 2006)
  - Deeply important to understand the demographics that President Trump resonated with, and provided optimism for regressive change
- Reactive Mobilization
  - Results from a threat caused by political, economic or demographic changes (Van Dyke and Soule 2002)
  - Increases in political opportunities or political threats lead to greater changes of mobilization (Tilly 1978)
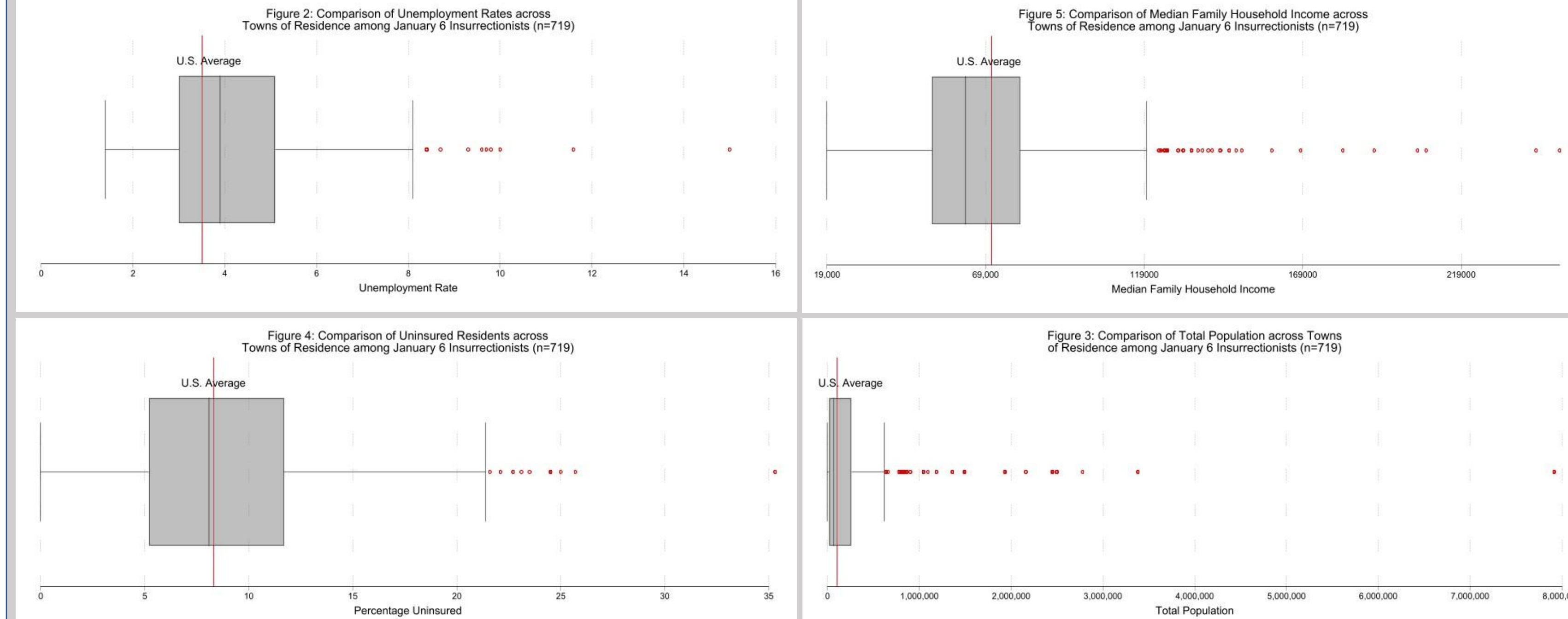
Results

Table 1. Summary Statistics for the Hometowns of Arrested Participants in the January 6, 2021 Capitol Insurrection (n=719)

Measures	Arrested January 6 Insurrectionists Mean/%	SD	Averages in the United States Mean/%	SD
Percentage of Population that is Non-white* (range .64-90.02%)	31.75%	(20.96)	40.70%	—
Unemployment Rate (range 1.4-15)	4.22	(1.61)	3.50	—
Total Population (range 57-7,917,093)	325,735	(780,486)	105,423	—
Percentage without Health Insurance (range 0-35.3%)	8.99%	(5.20)	8.30%	—
Median Family Household Income* (range $19,028-$250,001)	$69,123.40	($27,333.35)	70,784	—

* Mean/proportions significantly different at p < .05.

- Consistent with expectations, people arrested during the insurrection were from places with:
  - Smaller than average non-white population percentage
  - Median household incomes that were less than the U.S average

Discussion and Conclusions

- This study identified key characteristics of locations where arrested insurrectionists reside, and compared these characteristics with U.S. averages
- Arrested insurrectionists were from places that were on average, whiter and less socioeconomically advantaged than typical U.S. locales
- Results likely reflect the mobilization of white supremacist ideologies spurred by the former President, and that align with sociodemographic threat
- The Department of Homeland Security lists white supremacist organizations as key domestic terror threats (e.g., over 1,000 active groups in the U.S.)
- Events that took place on January 6 exemplify the potential threat posed by such groups
- Remains important to fully prosecute insurrectionists to set a precedent and to prevent future activity