

WHEN IS CONTACT EFFECTIVE?
EVIDENCE ON REFUGEE-HOSTING AND
FAR-RIGHT SUPPORT IN FRANCE.

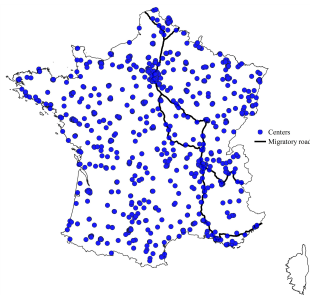
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Research questions: How exposure to refugees impact far-right voting ?

Identification: Uses the spatial allocation and the timing of 446 **refugee housing centers** openings in France between 1995 and 2017.

Figure: Housing centers for refugees and asylum seekers in France



Empirical strategy: DiD in a staggered adoption (de Chaisemartin and d'Haultfoeuille (2020)) design with several specifications (full sample, only-treated, matching, polling-station level within municipalities, instrumental variables, etc...).



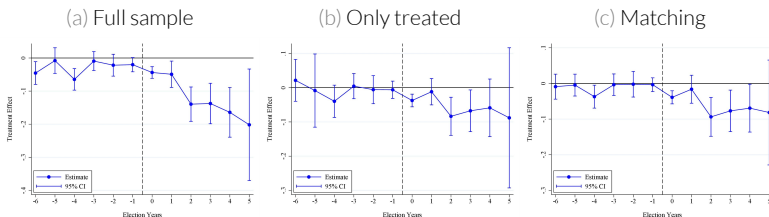
RESULTS

Table: Refugee center openings effect on far-right voting

<i>Far-right vote-share at presidential elections</i>	(1) Full Sample	(2) Only Treated	(3) Matching
Refugee center opening	-0.037*** (0.006)	-0.021*** (0.008)	-0.018*** (0.007)
Election year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Municipality FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	135,048	1,522	3,928

- A refugee center opening decreases far-right voting in presidential election by about 2%.

Figure: Effect on far-right vote at presidential and European elections





CHANNELS

- It **discourages non-voters** who could have been lured to the far-right to start voting for them.
- The **contact hypothesis** is at work, but **too-disruptive** contact, as measured by the magnitude of the flows, the cultural distance, and the media-salience of the refugee topic, can mitigate beneficial effects of contact on reducing far-right support.
- **Composition changes** from native avoidance can explain up to 25% of the decrease in far-right voting.
- Potential positive **economic or amenities shocks** cannot explain the decrease in far-right voting.
- The political shift away from the far-right induced by the opening of a refugee center is likely to be **long-lasting**.

Bibliography I

de Chaisemartin, C. and d'Haultfoeuille, X. (2020). Two-way fixed effects estimators with heterogeneous treatment effects. *American Economic Review*.