**Hansen AER Summary**

Hansen studies whether or not stricter punishments for driving under the influence are effective. He uses Blood Alcohol Content levels and official cutoffs to study if people directly above or below the .08 BAC levels, at which punishments for DUI are enforced, have a different levels of recidivism. If there is discontinuity at the treatment point, the null hypothesis that sanctions enforced at the threshold are unimpactful in regards to recidivism can be rejected.

Hansen uses data from the state of Washington’s 1999-2007 administrative records on DUI BAC tests. He uses a regression discontinuity approach to hone in on the treatment effect at a .08 and a .15 BAC level, the levels at which sanctions increase in magnitude. Since someone right above or below the cutoff is likely to hit the cutoff randomly (namely they cannot choose their BAC level and it is hard to gage the difference between a .079 and a .081 without a test), Hansen hypothesizes that the treatment can be assumed to be assigned randomly.

The results show that having a BAC over the .08 limit reduces recidivism by 2% and having a BAC over the .15 limit reduces recidivism by 1%. This makes sense considering that legal sanctions increase as these levels are passed.