# Project 7: Difference-in-Differences and Synthetic Control

```
# Install and load packages
if (!require("pacman")) install.packages("pacman")
## Loading required package: pacman
devtools::install_github("ebenmichael/augsynth")
## Skipping install of 'augsynth' from a github remote, the SHA1 (0f4f1bcc) has not changed since last
     Use `force = TRUE` to force installation
pacman::p_load(# Tidyverse packages including dplyr and gqplot2
               tidyverse,
               ggthemes,
               augsynth,
               gsynth)
# set seed
set.seed(44)
# load data
medicaid expansion <- read csv('./data/medicaid expansion.csv')
## Rows: 663 Columns: 5
## -- Column specification -----
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (1): State
       (3): year, uninsured_rate, population
## date (1): Date_Adopted
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this message.
```

## Introduction

For this project, you will explore the question of whether the Affordable Care Act increased health insurance coverage (or conversely, decreased the number of people who are uninsured). The ACA was passed in March 2010, but several of its provisions were phased in over a few years. The ACA instituted the "individual mandate" which required that all Americans must carry health insurance, or else suffer a tax penalty. There are four mechanisms for how the ACA aims to reduce the uninsured population:

- Require companies with more than 50 employees to provide health insurance.
- Build state-run healthcare markets ("exchanges") for individuals to purchase health insurance.
- Provide subsidies to middle income individuals and families who do not qualify for employer based coverage.
- Expand Medicaid to require that states grant eligibility to all citizens and legal residents earning up to 138% of the federal poverty line. The federal government would initially pay 100% of the costs of this expansion, and over a period of 5 years the burden would shift so the federal government would pay 90% and the states would pay 10%.

In 2012, the Supreme Court heard the landmark case NFIB v. Sebelius, which principally challenged the constitutionality of the law under the theory that Congress could not institute an individual mandate. The Supreme Court ultimately upheld the individual mandate under Congress's taxation power, but struck down the requirement that states must expand Medicaid as impermissible subordination of the states to the federal government. Subsequently, several states refused to expand Medicaid when the program began on January 1, 2014. This refusal created the "Medicaid coverage gap" where there are individuals who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid under the old standards, but too little to qualify for the ACA subsidies targeted at middle-income individuals.

States that refused to expand Medicaid principally cited the cost as the primary factor. Critics pointed out however, that the decision not to expand primarily broke down along partisan lines. In the years since the initial expansion, several states have opted into the program, either because of a change in the governing party, or because voters directly approved expansion via a ballot initiative.

You will explore the question of whether Medicaid expansion reduced the uninsured population in the U.S. in the 7 years since it went into effect. To address this question, you will use difference-in-differences estimation, and synthetic control.

## Data

The dataset you will work with has been assembled from a few different sources about Medicaid. The key variables are:

- State: Full name of state
- Medicaid Expansion Adoption: Date that the state adopted the Medicaid expansion, if it did so.
- Year: Year of observation.
- Uninsured rate: State uninsured rate in that year.

## **Exploratory Data Analysis**

Create plots and provide 1-2 sentence analyses to answer the following questions:

- Which states had the highest uninsured rates prior to 2014? The lowest?
- Which states were home to most uninsured Americans prior to 2014? How about in the last year in the data set? **Note**: 2010 state population is provided as a variable to answer this question. In an actual study you would likely use population estimates over time, but to simplify you can assume these numbers stay about the same.

#### medicaid\_expansion

##	# A tibble: 663 x 5				
##	State	Date_Adopted	year	uninsured_rate	population
##	<chr></chr>	<date></date>	<dbl></dbl>	<dbl></dbl>	<dbl></dbl>
##	1 Alabama	NA	2008	0.140	4849377
##	2 Alaska	2015-09-01	2008	0.208	737732
##	3 Arizona	2014-01-01	2008	0.187	6731484
##	4 Arkansas	2014-01-01	2008	0.179	2994079
##	5 California	2014-01-01	2008	0.178	38802500
##	6 Colorado	2014-01-01	2008	0.170	5355856
##	7 Connecticut	2014-01-01	2008	0.0891	3596677
##	8 Delaware	2014-01-01	2008	0.108	935614
##	9 District of Columbia	2014-01-01	2008	0.0805	NA
##	10 Florida	NA	2008	0.209	19893297
## # i 653 more rows					

```
# highest and lowest uninsured rates
pre2014 <- medicaid_expansion %>%
  filter(year < 2014)
# Filter for the highest and lowest 5% using dplyr
lowest_5pct <- pre2014 %>%
  filter(uninsured_rate <= quantile(uninsured_rate, 0.05))</pre>
highest_5pct <- pre2014 %>%
  filter(uninsured_rate >= quantile(uninsured_rate, 0.95))
lowest_uninsured_states <- pull(distinct(lowest_5pct, State))</pre>
highest_uninsured_states <- pull(distinct(highest_5pct, State))
print(lowest_uninsured_states)
## [1] "Hawaii"
                               "Massachusetts"
                                                       "District of Columbia"
## [4] "Vermont"
print(highest_uninsured_states)
                                  "New Mexico" "Utah"
## [1] "Florida"
                     "Nevada"
                                                             "Texas"
```

• Which states were home to most uninsured Americans prior to 2014? How about in the last year in the data set? **Note**: 2010 state population is provided as a variable to answer this question. In an actual study you would likely use population estimates over time, but to simplify you can assume these numbers stay about the same.

```
# most uninsured Americans

pre2014 <-
    pre2014 %>%

mutate(uninsured_pop = (pre2014$uninsured_rate * pre2014$population))

state_uninsured <-
    pre2014 %>%

group_by(State) %>%

summarize(AvgUninsured = mean(uninsured_pop, na.rm = TRUE))

sorted_most <- state_uninsured %>%
    arrange(desc(AvgUninsured), State)

sorted_least <- state_uninsured %>%
    arrange(AvgUninsured, State)

sorted_most
```

```
## # A tibble: 51 x 2
## State AvgUninsured
## <chr> ## 1 California 6970785.
## 2 Texas 5372081.
## 3 Florida 4115094.
```

```
## 4 New York
                        2262138.
                      1935272.
## 5 Georgia
## 6 Illinois
                      1693876.
## 7 North Carolina 1622044.
## 8 Ohio
                       1378521.
## 9 Pennsylvania
                      1260889.
## 10 Arizona
                       1180133.
## # i 41 more rows
sorted_least
## # A tibble: 51 x 2
##
     State AvgUninsured
##
     <chr>
                        <dbl>
## 1 Vermont
                         60715.
## 2 North Dakota
                       74965.
## 3 Wyoming
                        75130.
## 4 Delaware
                       91424.
## 5 Hawaii
                        99643.
## 6 Rhode Island
                      112053.
## 7 South Dakota
                      114558.
## 8 Maine
                       142888.
## 9 New Hampshire
                      143760.
## 10 Alaska
                        145397.
## # i 41 more rows
What about in the last year of the dataset?
medicaid2020 <-
  filter(medicaid_expansion, year == 2020)
# Same analysis as above but with 2020 data
medicaid2020 <-
 medicaid2020 %>%
  mutate(uninsured_pop = (medicaid2020$uninsured_rate * medicaid2020$population))
state_uninsured2020 <-
  medicaid2020 %>%
  group_by(State) %>%
  summarize(AvgUninsured = mean(uninsured_pop, na.rm = TRUE))
sorted_most2020 <- state_uninsured2020 %>%
  arrange(desc(AvgUninsured), State)
sorted_least2020 <- state_uninsured2020 %>%
  arrange(AvgUninsured, State)
sorted_most2020
## # A tibble: 51 x 2
##
     State
            AvgUninsured
##
     <chr>
                           <dbl>
                      4960080.
## 1 Texas
```

```
2 California
                           2987792.
##
    3 Florida
                           2625915.
    4 Georgia
##
                           1353044.
    5 North Carolina
##
                           1123668.
##
    6 New York
                           1026804.
                            953163.
##
    7 Illinois
    8 Ohio
                            765215.
##
    9 Arizona
                            760658.
## 10 Pennsylvania
                            741658.
## # i 41 more rows
```

sorted\_least2020

```
## # A tibble: 51 x 2
##
      State
                     AvgUninsured
##
      <chr>
                             <dbl>
    1 Vermont
##
                            28170.
##
    2 Rhode Island
                            43262.
##
    3 North Dakota
                            51024.
##
    4 Hawaii
                            59622.
##
    5 Delaware
                            61751.
##
    6 Wyoming
                            71851.
    7 New Hampshire
##
                            83589.
##
    8 Montana
                            84957.
##
    9 South Dakota
                            87024.
## 10 Alaska
                            90003.
## # i 41 more rows
```

The rate of uninsured certainly appears to be more valuable given how much the raw values are contingent upon state population. That being said, seeing Texas overtake California with nearly double the number of uninsured individuals really drives home the premise that Texas might benefit from enrolling in Medicaid Expansion. I would also be interested to see this compared to the state budget or GDP to make an assessment of the premise that refusal to enroll was a "cost issue" rather than a partisan divide. As far as low rates, I'm not surprised to see Massachusetts given their own universal healthcare bill (RomneyCare lol) that likely distinguishes them from many if not all other states.

## Difference-in-Differences Estimation

#### Estimate Model

Do the following:

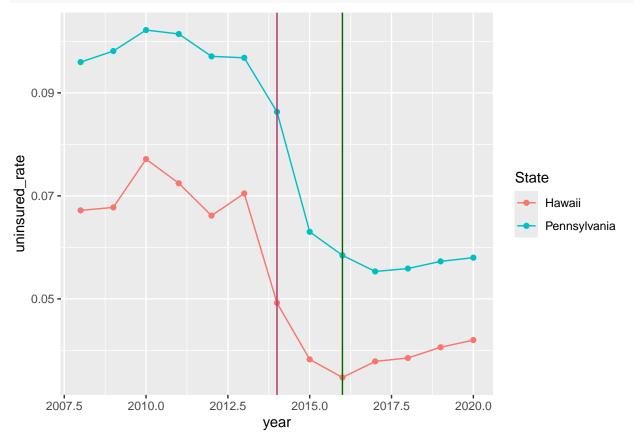
- Choose a state that adopted the Medicaid expansion on January 1, 2014 and a state that did not. **Hint:** Do not pick Massachusetts as it passed a universal healthcare law in 2006, and also avoid picking a state that adopted the Medicaid expansion between 2014 and 2015.
- Assess the parallel trends assumption for your choices using a plot. If you are not satisfied that the assumption has been met, pick another state and try again (but detail the states you tried).

```
head(medicaid\_expansion, n = 60)
```

```
## # A tibble: 60 x 5
##
      State
                             Date_Adopted
                                           year uninsured_rate population
##
      <chr>
                             <date>
                                           <dbl>
                                                           <dbl>
                                                                       <dbl>
##
    1 Alabama
                             NΑ
                                            2008
                                                          0.140
                                                                     4849377
##
    2 Alaska
                             2015-09-01
                                            2008
                                                          0.208
                                                                      737732
    3 Arizona
                             2014-01-01
                                            2008
                                                          0.187
                                                                     6731484
```

```
## 4 Arkansas
                           2014-01-01
                                         2008
                                                      0.179
                                                                2994079
  5 California
                                         2008
                                                               38802500
##
                           2014-01-01
                                                      0.178
  6 Colorado
                                         2008
                                                                5355856
                           2014-01-01
                                                      0.170
                           2014-01-01
  7 Connecticut
                                         2008
                                                      0.0891
                                                                3596677
##
## 8 Delaware
                           2014-01-01
                                         2008
                                                      0.108
                                                                 935614
## 9 District of Columbia 2014-01-01
                                         2008
                                                      0.0805
                                                                     NA
## 10 Florida
                                         2008
                                                      0.209
                                                               19893297
## # i 50 more rows
```

```
# Parallel Trends plotting
medicaid_expansion %>%
  # process
  # -----
  filter(State %in% c("Hawaii", "Pennsylvania")) %>%
  # north dakota, kentucky, nevada, arizona, Date_Adopted %in% c("2016-01-01") |
  # plot
  # -----
  ggplot() +
  geom_point(aes(x = year,
                 y = uninsured_rate,
                 color = State)) +
  geom_line(aes(x = year,
                y = uninsured_rate,
                color = State)) +
  geom_vline(xintercept = 2014, color = "maroon") +
  geom_vline(xintercept = 2016, color = "darkgreen")
```



```
# themes
  theme_fivethirtyeight() +
  theme(axis.title = element_text()) +
  ggtitle('States Enrolled on Jan 1, 2014 and Jan 1, 2016, \nbefore/after Enrollment') +
  xlab('Year') +
  ylab('Uninsured Rate')
## List of 138
## $ line
                                      :List of 6
                     : chr "black"
##
    ..$ colour
     ..$ linewidth
                     : num 0.545
##
                     : num 1
     ..$ linetype
                      : chr "butt"
##
     ..$ lineend
##
     ..$ arrow
                     : logi FALSE
     ..$ inherit.blank: logi FALSE
##
     ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_line" "element"
## $ rect
                                      :List of 5
                    : Named chr "#F0F0F0"
##
    ..$ fill
     .. ..- attr(*, "names")= chr "Light Gray"
##
##
     ..$ colour
                     : logi NA
##
     ..$ linewidth
                     : num 0.545
##
     ..$ linetype
                     : num 0
##
     ..$ inherit.blank: logi FALSE
     ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_rect" "element"
##
##
   $ text
                                      :List of 11
##
    ..$ family
                     : chr "sans"
##
     ..$ face
                      : chr "plain"
##
                     : Named chr "#3C3C3C"
     ..$ colour
##
     ....- attr(*, "names")= chr "Dark Gray"
##
     ..$ size
                     : num 12
                     : num 0.5
##
     ..$ hjust
                     : num 0.5
##
     ..$ vjust
##
     ..$ angle
                     : num 0
                    : num 0.9
##
     ..$ lineheight
##
                     : 'margin' num [1:4] Opoints Opoints Opoints
     ..$ margin
     .. ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
##
     ..$ debug
                     : logi FALSE
##
     ..$ inherit.blank: logi FALSE
##
     ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
## $ title
                                      : chr "States Enrolled on Jan 1, 2014 and Jan 1, 2016, \nbefore/a
## $ aspect.ratio
                                      : NULL
   $ axis.title
                                      :List of 11
##
##
    ..$ family
                      : NULL
##
                     : NULL
     ..$ face
##
     ..$ colour
                     : NULL
##
     ..$ size
                     : NULL
                     : NULL
##
     ..$ hjust
##
     ..$ vjust
                     : NULL
##
     ..$ angle
                     : NULL
##
                    : NULL
     ..$ lineheight
##
     ..$ margin
                     : NULL
##
     ..$ debug
                     : NULL
```

```
..$ inherit.blank: logi FALSE
   ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
##
## $ axis.title.x
                                   :List of 11
##
    ..$ family
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ face
                    : NULL
##
                   : NULL
    ..$ colour
##
    ..$ size
                   : NULL
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ hjust
##
    ..$ vjust
                    : num 1
##
    ..$ angle
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
##
                    : 'margin' num [1:4] 3points Opoints Opoints
    ..$ margin
    .. ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
##
    ..$ debug
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
##
##
   $ axis.title.x.top
                                    :List of 11
    ..$ family : NULL
##
##
    ..$ face
                   : NULL
    ..$ colour
                   : NULL
##
##
    ..$ size
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ hjust
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ vjust
                    : num 0
##
    ..$ angle
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
    ..$ margin
                  : 'margin' num [1:4] Opoints Opoints 3points Opoints
    .. ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
##
    ..$ debug
                    : NULL
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
##
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
## $ axis.title.x.bottom
                                    : NULL
## $ axis.title.y
                                    :List of 11
##
   ..$ family
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ face
                   : NULL
    ..$ colour
                    : NULL
##
##
    ..$ size
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ hjust
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ vjust
                    : num 1
                    : num 90
##
    ..$ angle
##
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
##
    ..$ margin
                  : 'margin' num [1:4] Opoints 3points Opoints Opoints
    .. ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
##
    ..$ debug
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
## $ axis.title.y.left
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.title.y.right
                                   :List of 11
##
   ..$ family : NULL
##
    ..$ face
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ colour
                   : NULL
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ size
##
    ..$ hjust
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ vjust
                   : num 1
##
    ..$ angle
                   : num -90
```

```
##
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
    ..$ margin : 'margin' num [1:4] Opoints Opoints Opoints 3points
##
    .. ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
##
    ..$ debug
                   : NULL
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
##
##
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
##
   $ axis.text
                                   :List of 11
    ..$ family
                   : NULL
##
##
    ..$ face
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ colour
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ size
                   : 'rel' num 0.8
##
                   : NULL
    ..$ hjust
##
                   : NULL
    ..$ vjust
##
                   : NULL
    ..$ angle
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
##
##
    ..$ margin
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ debug
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi FALSE
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
##
                                   :List of 11
## $ axis.text.x
##
   ..$ family
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ face
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ colour
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ size
                    : NULL
##
                   : NULL
    ..$ hjust
                   : num 1
##
    ..$ vjust
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ angle
##
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
##
    ..$ margin
                   : 'margin' num [1:4] 2.4points Opoints Opoints
##
    ...- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
                   : NULL
    ..$ debug
##
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
##
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
## $ axis.text.x.top
                                   :List of 11
    ..$ family : NULL
##
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ face
##
    ..$ colour
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ size
                   : NULL
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ hjust
##
    ..$ vjust
                   : num 0
##
    ..$ angle
                   : NULL
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
##
##
                   : 'margin' num [1:4] Opoints Opoints 2.4points Opoints
    ..$ margin
##
    .. ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ debug
##
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
##
## $ axis.text.x.bottom
                                  : NULL
## $ axis.text.y
                                   :List of 11
    ..$ family
                   : NULL
##
                   : NULL
##
   ..$ face
   ..$ colour
                   : NULL
##
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ size
##
    ..$ hjust
                   : num 1
```

```
: NULL
##
    ..$ vjust
##
    ..$ angle
                   : NULL
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
##
##
                  : 'margin' num [1:4] Opoints 2.4points Opoints Opoints
    ..$ margin
##
    .. ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ debug
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
##
                                 : NULL
   $ axis.text.y.left
## $ axis.text.y.right
                                   :List of 11
   ..$ family : NULL
##
    ..$ face
                   : NULL
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ colour
##
    ..$ size
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ hjust
                   : num 0
##
    ..$ vjust
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ angle
                   : NULL
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
##
                  : 'margin' num [1:4] Opoints Opoints Opoints 2.4points
##
    ..$ margin
    .. ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
##
    ..$ debug
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
##
   $ axis.text.theta
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.text.r
                                   :List of 11
    ..$ family
                   : NULL
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ face
##
    ..$ colour
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ size
                   : NULL
##
                   : num 0.5
    ..$ hjust
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ vjust
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ angle
##
    ..$ lineheight : NULL
##
                  : 'margin' num [1:4] Opoints 2.4points Opoints 2.4points
    ..$ margin
    ...- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
##
    ..$ debug
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
##
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
##
   $ axis.ticks
                                   : list()
   ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_blank" "element"
##
## $ axis.ticks.x
                                  : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.x.top
                                  : NULL
                                  : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.x.bottom
## $ axis.ticks.y
                                  : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.y.left
                                  : NULL
                                  : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.y.right
                                  : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.theta
## $ axis.ticks.r
                                  : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.x.top
                                  : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.x.bottom
                                  : NULL
                                 : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.y.left
## $ axis.minor.ticks.y.right
                                 : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.theta
                                  : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.r
                                   : NULL
```

```
## $ axis.ticks.length
                                    : 'simpleUnit' num 3points
## ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
## $ axis.ticks.length.x
                                    : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.length.x.top
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.length.x.bottom
                                    : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.length.y
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.length.y.left
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.length.y.right
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.length.theta
                                    : NULL
                                    : NULL
## $ axis.ticks.length.r
## $ axis.minor.ticks.length
                                   : 'rel' num 0.75
## $ axis.minor.ticks.length.x
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.length.x.top : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.length.x.bottom: NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.length.y
                                    : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.length.y.left : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.length.y.right : NULL
## $ axis.minor.ticks.length.theta
## $ axis.minor.ticks.length.r
                                    : NULL
## $ axis.line
                                    : list()
   ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_blank" "element"
##
## $ axis.line.x
                                   : NULL
                                   : NULL.
## $ axis.line.x.top
## $ axis.line.x.bottom
                                   : NULL
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.line.y
## $ axis.line.y.left
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.line.y.right
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.line.theta
                                   : NULL
                                   : NULL
## $ axis.line.r
## $ legend.background
                                   :List of 5
                : NULL
##
    ..$ fill
##
    ..$ colour
                   : logi NA
##
                  : NULL
    ..$ linewidth
##
                   : NULL
    ..$ linetype
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi FALSE
##
##
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_rect" "element"
## $ legend.margin
                                    : 'margin' num [1:4] 6points 6points 6points
##
   ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
   $ legend.spacing
                                    : 'simpleUnit' num 12points
   ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
##
## $ legend.spacing.x
                                    : NULL
                                    : NULL.
## $ legend.spacing.y
## $ legend.key
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.key.size
                                    : 'simpleUnit' num 1.2lines
   ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 3
## $ legend.key.height
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.key.width
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.key.spacing
                                    : 'simpleUnit' num 6points
   ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
## $ legend.key.spacing.x
                                   : NULL
## $ legend.key.spacing.y
                                   : NULL
                                   : NULL
## $ legend.frame
## $ legend.ticks
                                   : NULL
## $ legend.ticks.length
                                   : 'rel' num 0.2
```

```
## $ legend.axis.line
                                    : NULL
##
   $ legend.text
                                     :List of 11
##
    ..$ family
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ face
                     : NULL
##
     ..$ colour
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ size
                    : 'rel' num 0.8
##
    ..$ hjust
                    : NULL
##
     ..$ vjust
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ angle
                     : NULL
##
                   : NULL
    ..$ lineheight
##
    ..$ margin
                    : NULL
                    : NULL
##
     ..$ debug
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
##
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
##
## $ legend.text.position
                                    : NULL
##
   $ legend.title
                                     :List of 11
##
    ..$ family
                    : NULL
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ face
##
    ..$ colour
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ size
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ hjust
                    : num 0
##
    ..$ vjust
                    : NULL
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ angle
##
    ..$ lineheight
                    : NULL
                   : NULL
##
    ..$ margin
                    : NULL
##
    ..$ debug
##
    ..$ inherit.blank: logi TRUE
    ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_text" "element"
## $ legend.title.position
                                   : NULL
## $ legend.position
                                    : chr "bottom"
## $ legend.position.inside
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.direction
                                    : chr "horizontal"
## $ legend.byrow
                                   : NULL
## $ legend.justification
                                    : chr "center"
## $ legend.justification.top
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.justification.bottom
                                   : NULL
## $ legend.justification.left
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.justification.right
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.justification.inside
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.location
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.box
                                    : chr "vertical"
## $ legend.box.just
                                    : NULL
## $ legend.box.margin
                                     : 'margin' num [1:4] Ocm Ocm Ocm Ocm
##
   ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 1
## $ legend.box.background
                                     : list()
   ..- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "element_blank" "element"
##
   $ legend.box.spacing
                                     : 'simpleUnit' num 12points
##
   ..- attr(*, "unit")= int 8
   [list output truncated]
## - attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "theme" "gg"
## - attr(*, "complete")= logi TRUE
## - attr(*, "validate")= logi TRUE
```

Assessment: Very difficult to find two states that are parallel but opted in to Medicaid at different times

more than a year apart. I found that Hawaii (adopted Jan 1, 2014) and Pennsylvania (adopted Jan 1, 2015) are *somewhat* similar but definitely still have differences. Concerningly, in 2013, Hawaii's rates spike while Pennsylvania's remaini the same.

• Estimates a difference-in-differences estimate of the effect of the Medicaid expansion on the uninsured share of the population. You may follow the lab example where we estimate the differences in one pretreatment and one post-treatment period, or take an average of the pre-treatment and post-treatment outcomes

```
# Difference-in-Differences estimation
# create a dataset for kansas and colorado
HI_PA <-
 medicaid_expansion %>%
  filter(State %in% c("Pennsylvania", "Hawaii")) %>%
  filter(year >= 2014 & year <= 2015)
# pre-treatment difference
# -----
pre_diff <-</pre>
 HI_PA %>%
  # filter out only the year we want
  filter(year == 2014) %>%
  # subset to select only vars we want
  select(State,
         uninsured_rate) %>%
  # make the data wide
  pivot_wider(names_from = State,
              values_from = uninsured_rate) %>%
  # subtract to make calculation
  summarise(Pennsylvania - Hawaii)
# post-treatment difference
# -----
post_diff <-
 HI_PA %>%
  # filter out only the quarter we want
  filter(year == 2015) %>%
  # subset to select only vars we want
  select(State,
         uninsured_rate) %>%
  # make the data wide
  pivot_wider(names_from = State,
              values_from = uninsured_rate) %>%
  # subtract to make calculation
  summarise(Pennsylvania - Hawaii)
# diff-in-diffs
# -----
diff_in_diffs <- post_diff - pre_diff</pre>
diff_in_diffs
##
    Pennsylvania - Hawaii
```

## 1

-0.01232

### **Discussion Questions**

• Card/Krueger's original piece utilized the fact that towns on either side of the Delaware river are likely to be quite similar to one another in terms of demographics, economics, etc. Why is that intuition harder to replicate with this data?

#### • Answer:

- On one hand, due to the geographic similarities of the two cities the shared economies are likely to be much stronger. People can and do physically move between the two and intertwine across multiple dimensions. Should that study have been done at the statewide level, differences across the states likely would have resulted in divergent trends and an inappropriate diff-in-diff to assess a counterfactual. Further, how states responded to A) the passing of the ACA, and B) the judicial decision differ across the nation and are not inherently geographically bound.
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of using the parallel trends assumption in difference-in-differences estimates?

#### • Answer:

Identifying and assuming parallel trends allows for estimating the average treatment effect on the treated given that we can "reasonably" say that the control groups share similar properties that allows us to isolate the effect of treatment. It can be useful when comparing treatment between two distinct yet similar groups in natural experiments. However, the assumption may not hold robustly. There may be other confounders at the time of treatment that violate the assumption that the control group is similar to/the same as the treatment group through the full time of analysis. And of course a parallel trend may not exist or not be perfectly parallel.

## Synthetic Control

Estimate Synthetic Control

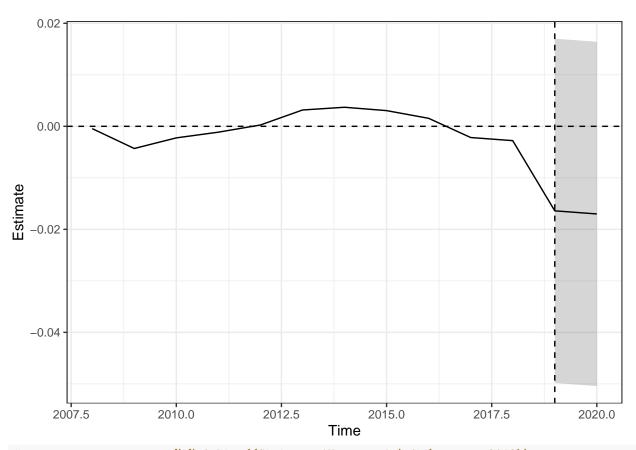
Although several states did not expand Medicaid on January 1, 2014, many did later on. In some cases, a Democratic governor was elected and pushed for a state budget that included the Medicaid expansion, whereas in others voters approved expansion via a ballot initiative. The 2018 election was a watershed moment where several Republican-leaning states elected Democratic governors and approved Medicaid expansion. In cases with a ballot initiative, the state legislature and governor still must implement the results via legislation. For instance, Idaho voters approved a Medicaid expansion in the 2018 election, but it was not implemented in the state budget until late 2019, with enrollment beginning in 2020.

#### Do the following:

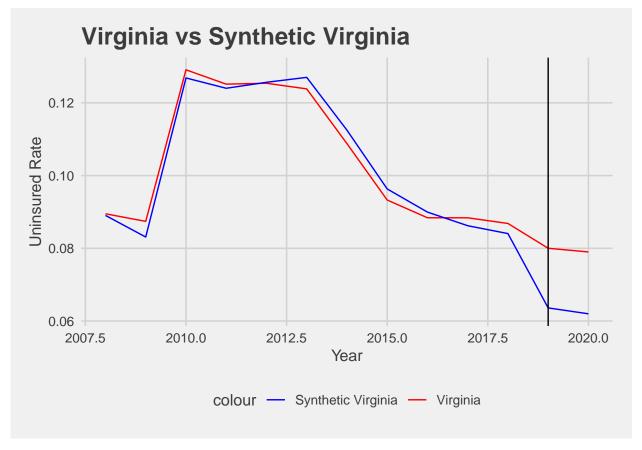
• Choose a state that adopted the Medicaid expansion after January 1, 2014. Construct a non-augmented synthetic control and plot the results (both pre-treatment fit and post-treatment differences). Also report the average ATT and L2 imbalance.

First, pick a state that adopted Medicaid after Jan 1, 2014. From above, we can see that Virginia adopted on January 1, 2019.

```
# view head
head(medicaid_expansion)
## # A tibble: 6 x 6
              Date_Adopted year uninsured_rate population treatment
##
    State
##
     <chr>
               <date>
                             <dbl>
                                            <dbl>
                                                       <dbl>
                                                                  <dbl>
## 1 Alabama
                              2008
                                            0.140
                                                     4849377
## 2 Alaska
               2015-09-01
                              2008
                                            0.208
                                                     737732
                                                                     0
## 3 Arizona
               2014-01-01
                              2008
                                            0.187
                                                     6731484
                                                                     0
## 4 Arkansas
               2014-01-01
                              2008
                                            0.179
                                                     2994079
                                                                     0
## 5 California 2014-01-01
                              2008
                                            0.178
                                                    38802500
                                                                     0
## 6 Colorado
               2014-01-01
                              2008
                                            0.170
                                                     5355856
                                                                     0
# non-augmented synthetic control
syn <-
                                    # save object
  augsynth(uninsured_rate ~ treatment, # treatment - use instead of treated bc latter codes 2012.25 as
                                    # unit
                         State,
                         year, # time
                         medicaid_expansion,
                                                # data
           progfunc = "None",
                                    # plain syn control
           scm = T)
                                    # synthetic control
## One outcome and one treatment time found. Running single_augsynth.
# summary to show average ATT and L2 imbalance
summary(syn)
##
## Call:
## single_augsynth(form = form, unit = !!enquo(unit), time = !!enquo(time),
      t_int = t_int, data = data, progfunc = "None", scm = ..2)
##
## Average ATT Estimate (p Value for Joint Null): -0.0167 ( 0.095 )
## L2 Imbalance: 0.009
## Percent improvement from uniform weights: 88.9%
##
## Avg Estimated Bias: NA
##
## Inference type: Conformal inference
##
## Time Estimate 95% CI Lower Bound 95% CI Upper Bound p Value
## 2019
                               -0.05
           -0.016
                                                  0.017
                                                          0.079
## 2020
           -0.017
                               -0.05
                                                  0.016
                                                          0.081
# Plot differences
plot(syn)
```



```
# virginia_synvirginia %>% filter((State == 'Virginia' ) & (year >= 2019))
syn_sum <- summary(syn)</pre>
# create synthetic Virginia
virginia_synvirginia <-
  # data
  medicaid_expansion %>%
  # filter just Kansas
  filter(State == "Virginia") %>%
  # bind columns
  bind_cols(difference = syn_sum$att$Estimate) %>%# add in estimate
  # calculate synthetic Virginia
  mutate(synthetic_virginia = uninsured_rate + difference) # adds the estimate to the observed Kansas t
# plot
virginia_synvirginia %>%
  ggplot() +
  geom_line(aes(x = year,
                y = uninsured_rate,
                color = 'Virginia')) +
  # synthetic Virginia
```



• Re-run the same analysis but this time use an augmentation (default choices are Ridge, Matrix Completion, and GSynth). Create the same plot and report the average ATT and L2 imbalance.

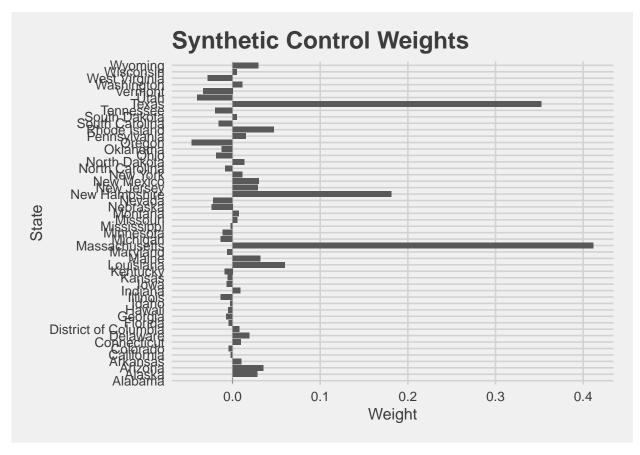
## One outcome and one treatment time found. Running single\_augsynth.

```
summary(ridge_syn)
```

##

```
## Call:
## single_augsynth(form = form, unit = !!enquo(unit), time = !!enquo(time),
      t_int = t_int, data = data, progfunc = "ridge", scm = ..2)
##
## Average ATT Estimate (p Value for Joint Null): -0.0143 ( 0.061 )
## L2 Imbalance: 0.001
## Percent improvement from uniform weights: 99.2%
## Avg Estimated Bias: -0.002
##
## Inference type: Conformal inference
## Time Estimate 95% CI Lower Bound 95% CI Upper Bound p Value
## 2019 -0.014
                             -0.043
                                                 0.015
                                                         0.070
## 2020
         -0.015
                             -0.043
                                                 0.014
                                                         0.079
```

• Plot barplots to visualize the weights of the donors.



**HINT**: Is there any preprocessing you need to do before you allow the program to automatically find weights for donor states?

 We may want to remove states that adopted a form of universial healthcare prior to or separate from the medicaid expansion. Massachusetts is the obvious example here by adopting their own healthcare system in 2006.

#### **Discussion Questions**

• What are the advantages and disadvantages of synthetic control compared to difference-in-differences estimators?

## • Answer:

- Synthetic control allows for much closer matching as it takes data from all other controls in the dataset, rather than tryingi to make an educated guess. However, diff-in-diff may allow for drawing conclusions beyond the specific unit analysis. In other words, doing a diff-in-diff between two states may give a broader insight into how medicaid adoption affected uninsured rates elsewhere, whereas synthetic control will tell us more about the effects of medicaid adoption in the state we synthesize but not elsewhere.
- One of the benefits of synthetic control is that the weights are bounded between [0,1] and the weights must sum to 1. Augmentation might relax this assumption by allowing for negative weights. Does this create an interpretation problem, and how should we balance this consideration against the improvements augmentation offers in terms of imbalance in the pre-treatment period?

#### • Answer

- Allowing negative weights can complicate the interpretation that each donor contributes "X%" to

the synthetic set. It suggests that some control units might effectively "counteract" others, which can be harder to justify or explain in a causal inference context.

## Staggered Adoption Synthetic Control

### Estimate Multisynth

Do the following:

• Estimate a multisynth model that treats each state individually. Choose a fraction of states that you can fit on a plot and examine their treatment effects.

```
# multisynth model states
# Removing Massachusetts & add new treatment variable
medicaid expansion clean <- medicaid expansion %>%
  filter(!State == "Massachusetts") %>%
    # create "treatment" - year collective bargaining was adopted
   mutate(Date_Adopted = ifelse(is.na(Date_Adopted),
                                    Inf, Date_Adopted),
           adopted = 1 * (year >= as.numeric(format(as.Date(Date_Adopted, format = "%Y-%m-%d"), "%Y")))
medicaid_expansion_clean
## # A tibble: 650 x 7
##
      State
                     Date_Adopted year uninsured_rate population treatment adopted
##
      <chr>
                            <dbl> <dbl>
                                                  <dbl>
                                                             <dbl>
                                                                        <dbl>
                                                                                <dbl>
##
   1 Alabama
                              Inf 2008
                                                 0.140
                                                           4849377
                                                                            0
                                                                                    0
                            16679 2008
                                                                            0
                                                                                    0
##
  2 Alaska
                                                 0.208
                                                            737732
  3 Arizona
                            16071 2008
                                                 0.187
                                                           6731484
                                                                            0
                                                                                    0
## 4 Arkansas
                            16071 2008
                                                                                    0
                                                 0.179
                                                           2994079
                                                                            0
##
   5 California
                            16071 2008
                                                 0.178
                                                          38802500
                                                                            0
                                                                                    0
## 6 Colorado
                            16071 2008
                                                 0.170
                                                                            0
                                                                                    0
                                                           5355856
## 7 Connecticut
                            16071 2008
                                                 0.0891
                                                           3596677
                                                                            0
                                                                                    0
## 8 Delaware
                            16071 2008
                                                                            0
                                                                                    0
                                                 0.108
                                                            935614
                            16071 2008
## 9 District of C~
                                                 0.0805
                                                                NA
                                                                            0
                                                                                    0
## 10 Florida
                              Inf 2008
                                                 0.209
                                                          19893297
                                                                            0
                                                                                    0
## # i 640 more rows
# Multisynth model states
# Setting nu to 0 to treat each state individually
no_pool_syn <- multisynth(uninsured_rate ~ adopted,</pre>
                        State,
                                                      # unit
                        year,
                                                      # time
                        nu = 0.
                                                    # no pooling
                        medicaid_expansion_clean, # data
                        n leads = 2)
no_pool_synsum <- summary(no_pool_syn)</pre>
no_pool_synsum$att
##
       Time
                           Level
                                       Estimate
                                                  Std.Error
                                                              lower bound
## 1
        -12
                         Average 1.025101e-02 0.037957396 -0.0648191846
```

```
## 2
        -11
                          Average 1.160478e-02 0.026734532 -0.0425560692
##
  3
        -10
                          Average 3.432105e-03 0.011716643 -0.0190546194
##
  4
         -9
                          Average -5.185198e-04 0.007580385 -0.0158867256
##
  5
         -8
                          Average -1.848474e-03 0.008369585 -0.0156006257
##
   6
         -7
                          Average -1.163056e-03 0.007227458 -0.0124020708
  7
##
         -6
                          Average -1.136448e-04 0.007167483 -0.0126611594
## 8
         -5
                          Average -7.142314e-04 0.006064815 -0.0120605201
## 9
         -4
                          Average 2.720578e-04 0.003258371 -0.0062644474
##
  10
         -3
                          Average -3.903377e-04 0.003605776 -0.0077116302
         -2
##
  11
                          Average -8.841279e-04 0.003892036 -0.0087190759
##
   12
         -1
                          Average -9.166283e-05 0.003466892 -0.0074552654
   13
          0
##
                          Average -1.173916e-02 0.004748010 -0.0212930770
##
   14
          1
                          Average -1.817259e-02 0.006550081 -0.0309284125
##
  15
         NA
                          Average -1.440935e-02 0.005159329 -0.0246273620
## 16
        -12
                           Alaska
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   17
        -11
                           Alaska
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
                                              NA
                                                                          NA
   18
        -10
                           Alaska
                                                          NaN
##
   19
         -9
                           Alaska
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
  20
                                                                          NA
         -8
                           Alaska
                                              NΑ
                                                          NaN
##
  21
         -7
                           Alaska
                                    1.027723e-03 0.023082311 -0.0402930653
##
  22
         -6
                           Alaska 7.243849e-04 0.017800827 -0.0313787810
##
  23
         -5
                           Alaska -1.195273e-02 0.024951418 -0.0461080769
## 24
                           Alaska 4.610996e-03 0.007427316 -0.0104625804
         -4
   25
                           Alaska 6.778125e-03 0.008352612 -0.0130776303
##
         -3
##
  26
         -2
                           Alaska -2.317406e-03 0.010999430 -0.0183712245
##
  27
         -1
                           Alaska 1.128911e-03 0.004954784 -0.0091367641
##
   28
          0
                           Alaska -1.065096e-02 0.012512980 -0.0278209506
##
   29
          1
                           Alaska -4.996361e-03 0.005882979 -0.0159787189
##
   30
                           Alaska -7.823663e-03 0.008904028 -0.0217715106
         ΝA
##
   31
        -12
                          Arizona
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
  32
        -11
                          Arizona
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   33
        -10
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
                          Arizona
##
   34
         -9
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
                          Arizona
##
   35
         -8
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
                          Arizona
##
   36
         -7
                                              NA
                                                                          NA
                          Arizona
                                                          NaN
                                   2.625765e-03 0.024122081 -0.0414435148
##
   37
         -6
                          Arizona
##
  38
         -5
                          Arizona -2.946809e-03 0.013306461 -0.0219916454
## 39
         -4
                          Arizona -3.901417e-03 0.015042918 -0.0302540513
##
  40
         -3
                          Arizona -2.336919e-03 0.011427891 -0.0227669765
  41
         -2
                          Arizona 3.943136e-03 0.007575458 -0.0113743321
##
   42
                                   2.616243e-03 0.007384575 -0.0118825809
##
         -1
                          Arizona
##
   43
          0
                          Arizona -2.067609e-02 0.016629048 -0.0453036983
##
   44
          1
                          Arizona -3.170106e-02 0.025456749 -0.0658238817
                          Arizona -2.618858e-02 0.020990629 -0.0555618953
##
   45
         NA
##
  46
        -12
                         Arkansas
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
        -11
## 47
                                              NA
                                                                          NA
                         Arkansas
                                                          NaN
##
   48
        -10
                         Arkansas
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   49
         -9
                         Arkansas
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   50
         -8
                         Arkansas
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   51
         -7
                                              NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
                         Arkansas
                                   2.488362e-03 0.026397683 -0.0530609294
##
  52
         -6
                         Arkansas
## 53
         -5
                         Arkansas -2.706397e-03 0.016905364 -0.0321668602
## 54
         -4
                                   9.865953e-04 0.010700928 -0.0184076346
                         Arkansas
## 55
         -3
                                   1.429651e-03 0.011251309 -0.0212821890
```

```
## 56
         -2
                         Arkansas -1.852202e-03 0.010558665 -0.0222650232
##
  57
                         Arkansas -3.460092e-04 0.010432431 -0.0222419245
         -1
                         Arkansas -2.147545e-02 0.028360010 -0.0571013614
##
   58
          0
##
  59
                         Arkansas -2.998838e-02 0.034564757 -0.0692828948
          1
##
   60
         NA
                         Arkansas -2.573191e-02 0.031410668 -0.0627754024
##
  61
        -12
                       California
                                               NA
                                                          NaN
##
  62
        -11
                       California
                                               NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
## 63
        -10
                       California
                                               NΑ
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   64
         -9
                       California
                                               NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
                                               NA
##
   65
         -8
                       California
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   66
         -7
                       California
                                               NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
   67
                       California -6.332163e-11 0.014405867 -0.0224134074
##
         -6
##
   68
         -5
                       California 7.062909e-11 0.014506824 -0.0243288263
##
   69
         -4
                       California 1.736669e-11 0.005972630 -0.0119335181
##
   70
         -3
                       California -1.434475e-10 0.006797815 -0.0138460683
##
   71
         -2
                       California 9.116377e-11 0.007865408 -0.0156675535
         -1
##
   72
                       California 2.760953e-11 0.009310717 -0.0171304255
##
   73
          0
                       California -2.939468e-02 0.031418116 -0.0651908786
                       California -5.028501e-02 0.053606829 -0.1086660456
##
  74
          1
##
   75
         NΑ
                       California -3.983985e-02 0.042474614 -0.0862674978
##
  76
        -12
                         Colorado
                                               NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NΑ
                         Colorado
##
  77
        -11
                                               NΑ
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
  78
##
        -10
                         Colorado
                                               NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   79
         -9
                         Colorado
                                               NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   80
         -8
                         Colorado
                                               NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NΑ
##
   81
         -7
                         Colorado
                                               NA
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NA
##
   82
         -6
                                    3.411354e-03 0.024422341 -0.0435058608
                         Colorado
##
   83
         -5
                         Colorado -3.552840e-03 0.011742331 -0.0254621896
##
   84
         -4
                                   1.924324e-03 0.004496013 -0.0068610794
##
   85
         -3
                         Colorado 1.918107e-03 0.007762177 -0.0132755616
##
   86
         -2
                         Colorado -2.129560e-03 0.010151124 -0.0186619499
##
   87
         -1
                         Colorado -1.571385e-03 0.013825769 -0.0254236111
##
   88
          0
                         Colorado -1.172853e-02 0.025550407 -0.0482160634
                         Colorado -2.533451e-02 0.031699363 -0.0616749252
##
   89
          1
##
   90
                         Colorado -1.853152e-02 0.028404387 -0.0546806722
         NA
##
  91
        -12
                      Connecticut
                                               NΑ
                                                          NaN
                                                                          NΑ
##
  92
        -11
                      Connecticut
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                   West Virginia -5.064441e-02 0.045456050 -0.0992161580
## 540
                   West Virginia -4.193279e-02 0.036984567 -0.0818675903
         NA
##
        upper bound
```

```
0.078134387
## 1
## 2
        0.059022215
## 3
        0.026859978
## 4
        0.012964496
## 5
        0.016818169
## 6
        0.014407099
## 7
        0.015015184
        0.011916145
## 8
## 9
        0.006332432
## 10
        0.006205907
## 11
        0.005825194
## 12
        0.006073928
## 13
       -0.002682828
## 14
       -0.005366612
## 15
       -0.004522737
## 16
                  NA
## 17
                  NA
## 18
                  NA
## 19
                  NA
## 20
                  NA
## 21
        0.041346130
## 22
        0.032073580
## 23
        0.035407328
## 24
        0.016185006
## 25
        0.021513585
## 26
        0.017600165
## 27
        0.011281682
## 28
        0.013393484
## 29
        0.006467355
## 30
        0.009827969
## 31
                  NA
##
  32
                  NA
##
  33
                  NA
## 34
                  NA
  35
##
                  NA
## 36
                  NA
## 37
        0.044461138
## 38
        0.023310869
## 39
        0.025768368
## 40
        0.017839550
## 41
        0.015485512
## 42
        0.014924099
## 43
        0.014535866
## 44
        0.021268720
## 45
        0.018219981
## 46
                  NA
## 47
                  NA
## 48
                  NA
## 49
                  NA
## 50
                  NA
## 51
                  NA
## 52
        0.055363551
## 53
        0.028722839
## 54
        0.019453151
```

```
0.023344153
## 55
## 56
        0.020428427
## 57
        0.021989787
## 58
        0.034048055
##
  59
        0.036551788
##
  60
        0.034806507
## 61
                  NA
## 62
                  NA
## 63
                  NA
## 64
                  NA
## 65
                  NA
## 66
                  NA
## 67
        0.029132225
## 68
        0.029351267
## 69
        0.009965563
## 70
        0.011690605
## 71
        0.013429691
##
  72
        0.016027577
##
  73
        0.030327259
## 74
        0.051547429
## 75
        0.040363514
## 76
                  NA
## 77
                  NA
## 78
                  NA
## 79
                  NA
## 80
                  NA
## 81
                  NA
## 82
        0.044361598
## 83
        0.019712538
## 84
        0.010212072
## 85
        0.016682901
## 86
        0.017379918
##
  87
        0.024766921
## 88
        0.036951259
## 89
        0.034478288
        0.035714775
## 90
## 91
                  NA
## 92
                  NA
## 93
                  NA
## 94
                  NA
## 95
                  NA
## 96
                  NA
## 97
        0.022615344
## 98
        0.023738098
## 99
        0.019458350
        0.016446014
## 100
## 101
        0.017974565
## 102
        0.015614759
## 103
        0.015535827
## 104
        0.022500010
## 105
        0.016340144
## 106
                  NA
## 107
                  NA
## 108
                  NA
```

```
## 109
                 NA
## 110
                 NA
## 111
                 NA
## 112
        0.059277850
## 113
        0.048804708
## 114
        0.026623412
## 115
        0.036621099
        0.038858355
## 116
## 117
        0.019720521
## 118
        0.015705571
## 119
        0.010533047
## 120
        0.005191573
## 121
                 NA
## 122
                 NA
## 123
                 NA
## 124
                 NA
## 125
                 NA
## 126
                 NA
## 127
        0.025269953
## 128
        0.010080263
## 129
        0.004433351
## 130
        0.010152380
## 131
        0.025090702
## 132
        0.010459459
## 133
        0.030373122
## 134
        0.038344361
## 135
        0.034572175
## 136
                 NA
## 137
                 NA
## 138
                 NA
## 139
                 NA
## 140
                 NA
## 141
                  NA
## 142
        0.026528406
## 143
        0.024184110
## 144
        0.012869536
## 145
        0.014176792
## 146
        0.017549034
## 147
        0.009334280
## 148
        0.011622956
## 149
        0.019531143
## 150
        0.012422131
## 151
        0.044478385
## 152
        0.030903072
## 153
        0.027635350
## 154
        0.014587792
## 155
        0.009812186
## 156
        0.013794201
## 157
        0.004553078
## 158
        0.017671366
        0.018431367
## 159
## 160
        0.020369904
## 161
        0.016445118
## 162 0.028457640
```

```
0.025213222
## 163
## 164
                  NA
        0.025213222
## 165
## 166
                  NA
## 167
                  NA
## 168
                  NA
## 169
                  NA
## 170
                  NA
## 171
                  NA
## 172
        0.018847866
## 173
        0.013407066
## 174
        0.005372952
## 175
        0.017780085
## 176
        0.008944414
## 177
        0.007236378
## 178
        0.013458823
## 179
        0.024504782
        0.018770426
## 180
## 181
                  NA
## 182
                  NA
## 183
                  NA
## 184
                  NA
## 185
                  NA
## 186
        0.010329582
## 187
        0.008815106
## 188
        0.005506764
##
  189
        0.007002527
##
  190
        0.005173870
## 191
        0.002819800
## 192
        0.005439442
        0.006334092
## 193
## 194
        0.014000117
## 195
        0.010303897
## 196
                  NA
## 197
                  NA
## 198
                 NA
## 199
                  NA
## 200
                  NA
## 201
                  NA
## 202
        0.024216874
## 203
        0.022006591
## 204
        0.011782865
##
  205
        0.012626003
##
  206
        0.015560167
## 207
        0.006908200
        0.009387154
## 208
## 209
        0.005502900
## 210
        0.003287005
## 211
                  NA
## 212
                  NA
## 213
                  NA
## 214
                  NA
## 215
                 NA
## 216
                  NA
```

```
## 217 0.031818311
## 218
       0.029304177
## 219
        0.017281736
## 220
        0.018775130
## 221
        0.023834757
## 222
        0.012232355
## 223
        0.030608312
## 224
        0.031305354
## 225
        0.029821972
## 226
                 NA
## 227
                 NA
## 228
                 NA
## 229
                 NA
## 230
        0.035761288
## 231
        0.023260248
## 232
        0.009746053
## 233
        0.008208953
##
  234
        0.011090323
## 235
        0.004698703
## 236
        0.011026488
## 237
        0.027770672
## 238
        0.032340656
## 239
        0.052097329
## 240
        0.041434817
## 241
                 NA
## 242
                 NA
## 243
                 NA
## 244
                 NA
## 245
                 NA
## 246
                 NA
## 247
        0.022689668
## 248
        0.015967688
##
  249
        0.005712041
## 250
        0.021535635
## 251
        0.013408693
## 252
        0.007285044
## 253
        0.011770163
## 254
        0.012715760
## 255
        0.010856996
## 256
                 NA
## 257
                 NA
## 258
                 NA
## 259
                 NA
## 260
                 NA
## 261
                 NA
        0.025311960
## 262
## 263
        0.027469693
## 264
        0.006908501
## 265
        0.014425531
## 266
        0.015023630
## 267
        0.014915291
## 268
        0.015988968
## 269
        0.022918538
## 270 0.019456250
```

```
## 271
                 NA
## 272
                 NA
## 273
                 NA
## 274
                 NA
## 275
                 NA
## 276
                 NA
## 277
        0.019411754
        0.017718114
## 278
## 279
        0.011167041
## 280
        0.011685826
  281
        0.010766910
##
  282
        0.004880455
##
  283
        0.005649917
##
  284
        0.002751088
## 285
        0.002670764
## 286
                  NA
## 287
                 NA
## 288
                 NA
## 289
                 NA
## 290
        0.060699405
## 291
        0.059903213
  292
        0.017206487
        0.024864220
## 293
## 294
        0.030390790
## 295
        0.018827764
   296
        0.028809898
##
  297
        0.045089006
##
   298
        0.063971465
##
  299
        0.063460395
  300
        0.063704578
##
##
  301
        0.028832779
##
   302
        0.028086323
##
   303
        0.021562226
##
  304
        0.014025620
##
   305
        0.019861003
##
  306
        0.015843243
  307
        0.003101641
## 308
        0.003434026
## 309
        0.035930877
        0.025946031
## 310
## 311
        0.017204807
## 312
        0.005637100
## 313
        0.010949751
## 314
                 NA
## 315
        0.010949751
## 316
                 NA
## 317
                 NA
## 318
                 NA
## 319
                 NA
## 320
                  NA
## 321
                  NA
## 322
        0.048773383
## 323
        0.047808348
## 324 0.017631029
```

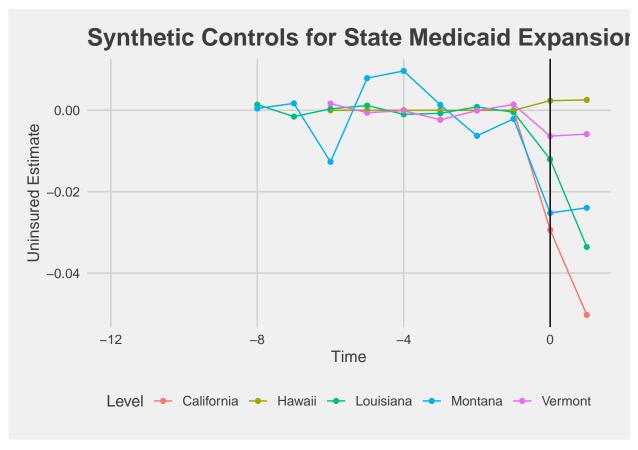
```
## 325
       0.020219342
## 326
        0.030303265
  327
        0.026801666
##
  328
        0.044087920
##
   329
        0.057171245
## 330
        0.050297387
## 331
                  NA
## 332
                  NA
## 333
                  NA
## 334
                  NA
## 335
                  NA
## 336
                  NA
##
   337
        0.024974180
##
   338
        0.013287017
##
   339
        0.008981010
##
   340
        0.021687191
##
   341
        0.015190771
##
   342
        0.013272527
##
  343
        0.025904094
##
   344
        0.016452813
## 345
        0.020944668
## 346
                  NA
## 347
                  NA
## 348
                  NA
## 349
                  NA
## 350
                  NA
## 351
                  NA
##
   352
        0.029513766
##
        0.029650892
   353
        0.017023197
   354
##
##
   355
        0.015466803
##
   356
        0.019512161
##
   357
        0.020173250
##
   358
        0.020060400
##
   359
        0.008700856
        0.010423563
## 360
## 361
                  NA
## 362
                  NA
## 363
                  NA
## 364
                  NA
## 365
                  NA
##
  366
                  NA
##
   367
        0.039934894
##
        0.016914412
   368
   369
        0.017567666
## 370
        0.015252767
##
  371
        0.022296467
## 372
        0.013415540
        0.030680730
## 373
## 374
        0.051359055
## 375
        0.041139401
## 376
                  NA
## 377
                 NA
## 378
                  NA
```

```
## 379
                  NA
## 380
                  NA
## 381
                  NA
## 382
        0.025919399
##
   383
        0.020737037
##
   384
        0.011394258
##
   385
        0.013221952
##
  386
        0.014814745
##
   387
        0.011940612
##
   388
        0.013017724
##
   389
        0.015153156
## 390
        0.013923056
##
  391
                  NA
## 392
                  NA
## 393
                  NA
## 394
                  NA
## 395
                  NA
## 396
                  NA
## 397
        0.014430121
##
   398
        0.015174543
##
  399
        0.019039339
## 400
        0.010862182
## 401
        0.017190587
## 402
        0.011993532
## 403
        0.012347530
## 404
        0.039792746
## 405
        0.025713117
## 406
                  NA
## 407
                  NA
## 408
                  NA
## 409
                  NA
## 410
                  NA
                  NA
## 411
## 412
        0.033305410
## 413
        0.032944633
## 414
        0.011697036
## 415
        0.011840466
## 416
        0.015890432
## 417
        0.017517170
        0.017118866
## 418
## 419
        0.020048810
## 420
        0.018601262
## 421
                  NA
## 422
                  NA
## 423
                  NA
## 424
                  NA
## 425
                  NA
## 426
                  NA
## 427
        0.047350747
## 428
        0.057606456
## 429
        0.025716653
## 430
        0.029087267
## 431
        0.033907525
## 432 0.029063150
```

```
## 433 0.044784373
## 434
        0.056749460
## 435
        0.050990444
## 436
                 NA
## 437
                 NA
## 438
                 NA
## 439
                 NA
## 440
                 NA
## 441
        0.020608802
## 442
        0.022048040
## 443
        0.015599868
## 444
        0.008088038
##
   445
        0.013159929
## 446
        0.008535682
## 447
        0.025746359
## 448
        0.016022580
## 449
        0.025664740
## 450
        0.020907135
## 451
                 NA
## 452
                 NA
## 453
                 NA
## 454
                 NA
## 455
                 NA
## 456
                 NA
## 457
        0.033914460
## 458
        0.041295571
##
   459
        0.017297247
##
   460
        0.008136164
##
   461
        0.020617640
        0.034636697
## 462
## 463
        0.019149175
## 464
        0.022571882
##
  465
        0.020860528
## 466
        0.186525375
##
  467
        0.177409073
## 468
        0.033990494
## 469
        0.036296763
## 470
        0.033725217
## 471
        0.035453791
## 472
        0.018036996
## 473
        0.018209079
## 474
        0.026027332
## 475
        0.032358508
## 476
        0.028499108
## 477
        0.029250937
## 478
        0.029081826
## 479
                 NA
## 480
        0.029081826
## 481
                 NA
## 482
                 NA
## 483
                 NA
## 484
                 NA
## 485
                 NA
## 486
                 NA
```

```
## 487 0.110723919
## 488
        0.101778665
## 489
        0.057728247
## 490
        0.061435385
## 491
        0.069222936
## 492
        0.057052234
## 493
        0.050489999
        0.041422082
## 494
## 495
        0.041420582
## 496
                  NA
## 497
        0.060665978
## 498
        0.064928561
        0.018389838
## 499
## 500
        0.010860700
## 501
        0.019628311
## 502
        0.012534444
## 503
        0.018582771
## 504
        0.022142179
## 505
        0.026226049
## 506
        0.015884485
## 507
        0.016186055
## 508
        0.002078094
        0.002508740
## 509
## 510
        0.002105746
## 511
                 NA
## 512
                 NA
## 513
                 NA
## 514
                 NA
## 515
                 NA
## 516
                 NA
## 517
        0.026111207
## 518
        0.027128900
## 519
        0.011602160
## 520
        0.009522832
## 521
        0.015042443
## 522
        0.020203797
## 523
        0.014192372
## 524
        0.017845801
## 525
        0.015807247
## 526
                 NA
## 527
                 NA
## 528
                 NA
## 529
                 NA
## 530
                 NA
## 531
                 NA
## 532
        0.017261121
## 533
        0.015182772
## 534
        0.008005999
## 535
        0.020101524
## 536
        0.012862472
## 537
        0.008056480
## 538
        0.021470530
## 539
        0.035984751
## 540
        0.028022682
```

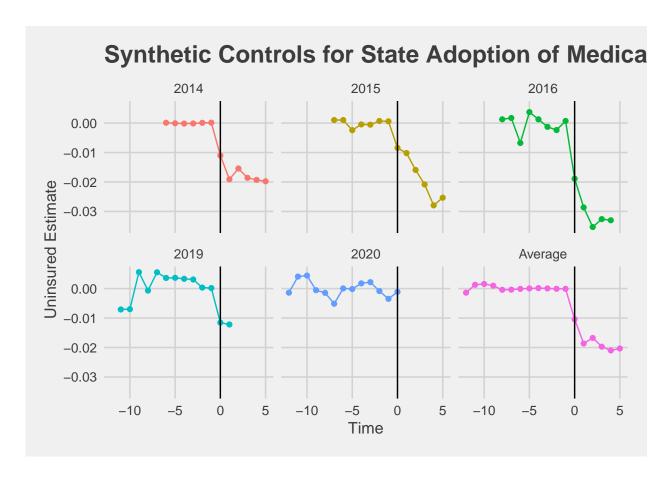
- ## Warning: Removed 31 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range
  ## (`geom\_point()`).
- ## Warning: Removed 31 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range
  ## (`geom\_line()`).



• Estimate a multisynth model using time cohorts. For the purpose of this exercise, you can simplify the treatment time so that states that adopted Medicaid expansion within the same year (i.e. all states that adopted epxansion in 2016) count for the same cohort. Plot the treatment effects for these time cohorts.

```
# multisynth model time cohorts
```

```
ppool_syn_time <- multisynth(uninsured_rate ~ adopted,</pre>
                             State,
                             year,
                             medicaid_expansion_clean,
                             n_{leads} = 6,
                             time cohort = TRUE)
                                                     # time cohort set to TRUE
# save summary
ppool_syn_time_summ <- summary(ppool_syn_time)</pre>
ppool_syn_time_summ
##
## Call:
## multisynth(form = uninsured_rate ~ adopted, unit = State, time = year,
       data = medicaid_expansion_clean, n_leads = 6, time_cohort = TRUE)
##
## Average ATT Estimate (Std. Error): -0.016 (0.006)
## Global L2 Imbalance: 0.001
## Scaled Global L2 Imbalance: 0.008
## Percent improvement from uniform global weights: 99.2
## Individual L2 Imbalance: 0.005
## Scaled Individual L2 Imbalance: 0.018
## Percent improvement from uniform individual weights: 98.2
##
##
   Time Since Treatment
                                               Std.Error lower_bound upper_bound
                           Level
                                    Estimate
                       0 Average -0.01039793 0.004731448 -0.02038151 -0.001681147
##
##
                       1 Average -0.01864128 0.005918010 -0.03017164 -0.006974274
##
                       2 Average -0.01674715 0.005971125 -0.02819730 -0.005390146
##
                       3 Average -0.01971271 0.006150733 -0.03181973 -0.008017841
##
                       4 Average -0.02100310 0.006051889 -0.03298715 -0.009754213
##
                       5 Average -0.02033303 0.005577805 -0.03088554 -0.009006378
ppool_syn_time_summ$att %>%
 ggplot(aes(x = Time, y = Estimate, color = Level)) +
  geom_point() +
  geom_line() +
  geom vline(xintercept = 0) +
  theme_fivethirtyeight() +
  theme(axis.title = element text(),
        legend.position = 'None') +
  ggtitle('Synthetic Controls for State Adoption of Medicare') +
  xlab('Time') +
  ylab('Uninsured Estimate') +
  facet_wrap(~Level)
## Warning: Removed 32 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range
## (`geom_point()`).
## Warning: Removed 32 rows containing missing values or values outside the scale range
## (`geom line()`).
```



## **Discussion Questions**

• One feature of Medicaid is that it is jointly administered by the federal government and the states, and states have some flexibility in how they implement Medicaid. For example, during the Trump administration, several states applied for waivers where they could add work requirements to the eligibility standards (i.e. an individual needed to work for 80 hours/month to qualify for Medicaid). Given these differences, do you see evidence for the idea that different states had different treatment effect sizes?

#### • Answer:

- When analyzing on a state-by-state basis there does seem to be a slight difference between treatment effect, with some states having a slightly positive ATT and others having an ATT of nearly -0.04. This somewhat dissolves when considering time cohorts, where each group falls between 0 and -0.02. Even here, the range of ATT is very small and not as large as I would have expected given the different conditions for treatment.
- Do you see evidence for the idea that early adopters of Medicaid expansion enjoyed a larger decrease in the uninsured population?

#### • Answer:

- It can be difficult to assess this robustly given that there appears to be a continued decline in the uninsured population for some years after treatment in the early adopters. However, in the year of treatment there does not appear to be a significant difference in the treatment effect.

## General Discussion Questions

 Why are DiD and synthetic control estimates well suited to studies of aggregated units like cities, states, countries, etc?

#### • Answer:

- DiD can effectively control for unmeasured, time-invariant variables by comparing changes over time between treatment and control groups, assuming similar trends absent the treatment. It allows you to draw insights despite unknown confounders that are often present in natural experiments and thus are useful for large-scale policy changes that affect multiple regions. SCM allows for a similar analysis when the DiD assumption of pre-treatment similarities does not hold, making it easier to perform a treatment analysis at regional scales when multiple factors may influence the outcome.
- What role does selection into treatment play in DiD/synthetic control versus regression discontinuity? When would we want to use either method?

#### • Answer:

- DiD and SCM handle nonrandom selection by assuming parallel trends or matching pretreatment characteristics, respectively, making them suitable for analyses with multiple periods. Regression discontinuity uses a sharp cutoff for treatment assignment,making it suitable for natural experiements where treatment is assigned by a specific threshold. DiD or SCM are more suitable for broader policy impacts across units whill regression discontinuity applies when precise cutoff-based treatment assignment allows for quasi-experimental conditions.