UI Column Outline

* UI played a huge role in the immediate policy response to the pandemic
  + In order to protect workers’ health and pocketbooks, UI generosity and eligibility expanded in unprecedented ways
    - $600/week supplement
    - PUA for people not typically eligible
  + A lot of people got a lot more UI assistance than they would have gotten under more typical circumstances, including many who had more than %100 of their weekly earnings replaced by UI
* The pandemic UI experience stood in stark contrast with the how UI typically serves people, including during other crises
  + FIGURE 1: UI recipients as a share of unemployed workers, different shading for regular and special programs, starting as early as possible
    - During expansions, the share of unemployed workers receiving UI is fairly low, in part because the laid-off workers UI focuses on serving are a smaller share of the unemployed during these periods
      * In 2006, it was X%
      * In 2019, it was Y%
    - The share rises in recessions, in part because Congress acts to supplement the regular UI system with emergency programs
      * During the 2001 recession, ABC happened and X% of unemployed workers got UI
      * During/after the Great Recession, XYZ happened and Y% of unemployed workers got UI
    - Notably, even the response to the Great Recession, which at times provided up to 99 weeks of UI benefits, left the share of unemployed workers receiving UI well below what we saw during the pandemic
  + The much broader coverage of UI during the pandemic illustrates what could be achieved through large scale reforms aimed at increasing eligibility and generosity, like several proposed by X, Y, and Z in recent years.
* There are significant differences across states in UI coverage, providing some low-hanging fruit for coverage gains
  + FIGURE 2: a version of Figure 1 that shows a high-eligibility and a low-eligibility state OR a version of Figure 1 that does box and whisker plots for each year using all UI programs
    - In HIGHEST UI STATE, X% of unemployed workers were on UI in 2019
    - In contrast, LOWEST UI STATE saw only Y% of unemployed workers on UI in 2019
    - The gap between these two states is persistent
  + Leaving unemployed workers without UI coverage is bad because…
* States currently getting UI to larger shares of unemployed workers provided a roadmap for making the system serve workers better
  + Example 1
  + Example 2
  + Example 3