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Questions you could ask about the identification design

1. **Cohort × Time confounds**: Older cohorts in 1940 have had more time for the treatment to affect them. A 40-year-old in 1940 who was treated might have 20+ years of labor market experience with the college nearby, while a 25-year-old treated person has only ~7 years: More of an interpretation problem than an identification issue

* **Restrict to cohorts with similar exposure windows** (e.g., only those 5-10 years post-high school in 1940)
* **Estimate dynamic effects** by cohort to see if effects vary by exposure length

1. **People die**: the magnitude of this concern depends on the treatment timing. A miniscule concern for more recent periods. For earlier periods, older people are more positively selected in treated and control counties so this should difference out. For the young in college counties, you could be concerned that college uniquely decreases mortality. This would lead to upward bias.
2. **Counties demand colleges**: should show up in the event study that I run. Only comparing to other counties that are getting colleges. Therefore, you could think that all have some demand for college and some places just get them sooner than others. You could probably tell stories both ways that would determine the bias: 1. College production is not increasing enough so local leaders demand a college (UCLA) -> this would lead to an upward bias. 2. A place is accelerating in college production, college educated people see the importance of college education and therefore demand more college education resources (Chula Vista) -> downward bias.
3. **Determining whether to use the earliest or latest pre-18 county of residence**: The tension is between avoiding endogenous migration and measuring actual exposure. Using the earliest location (e.g., birth county) avoids the problem that families selectively migrate to counties with new colleges, but it misclassifies treatment for people who move away before college age, diluting your estimates. Using the latest location before age 18 captures who was actually exposed to the college, but creates compositional bias if motivated families systematically move to counties that just opened colleges, making those counties look better for reasons unrelated to the college's causal effect.