

Presenting Economics Research

ECON 490

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General Guidelines (1/2)

Be clear about the big picture

- Highlight the research question
- Connect each slide back to this research question

Make sure that definitions, interpretation, etc. is consistent across slides

Avoid too much text

- Sentence fragments > full sentences
- My lecture slides get wordy... but we don't have a textbook!

General Guidelines (2/2)

For showing results, figures > tables (where possible)

- Don't show information you don't want to discuss!
- Be careful screenshotting tables

Pay attention to font size

• **Bigger is better...** but not too big

Table 2

The impact of driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants on their labor market outcomes.

Sample Outcome	Panel A: likely undocumented immigrant men			Panel B: likely undocumented immigrant women		
	Employed	Log (weekly hours of work)	Log (real hourly Wage)	Employed	Log (weekly hours of work)	Log (real hourly Wage)
Driver's licenses	0.007 (0.005)	0.016** (0.007)	0.011 (0.011)	0.003 (0.009)	-0.003 (0.009)	0.017 (0.024)
Enforcement index	-0.002 (0.004)	-0.011** (0.005)	-0.018* (0.010)	0.005 (0.005)	-0.002 (0.006)	-0.011 (0.015)
Age	0.006*** (0.001)	0.004*** (0.001)	0.050*** (0.003)	0.010*** (0.001)	0.010*** (0.001)	0.055*** (0.002)
Years in U.S.	-0.001*** (0.000)	0.001*** (0.000)	0.007*** (0.000)	0.001*** (0.000)	0.002*** (0.000)	0.008*** (0.001)
Metro area	0.009*** (0.001)	0.018*** (0.002)	0.076*** (0.011)	-0.015*** (0.005)	-0.033*** (0.005)	-0.043*** (0.013)
Married	-0.001* (0.000)	0.001 (0.001)	0.020*** (0.002)	0.002 (0.001)	0.001 (0.001)	0.019*** (0.004)
Years of education	0.004 (0.003)	-0.043*** (0.010)	0.039*** (0.013)	0.007 (0.006)	-0.028* (0.014)	0.077*** (0.017)
No. of children	0.001* (0.000)	0.003*** (0.001)	0.020*** (0.001)	-0.007*** (0.001)	-0.007** (0.003)	-0.031*** (0.002)
GDP growth	0.181*** (0.055)	0.234*** (0.050)	0.260* (0.137)	0.173*** (0.057)	0.049 (0.084)	0.275 (0.303)
State fixed-effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year fixed-effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State-specific time trend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	199,540	171,068	171,068	99,275	83,573	83,573
R-squared	0.015	0.019	0.059	0.017	0.012	0.047

Notes: All regressions include a constant term. Standard errors are clustered at the state level. * $p < 0.1$; ** $p < 0.05$; *** $p < 0.01$.DON'T DO
THIS!

Main Results – *Likely-Undocumented Men*

	Employment	Log(Weekly Hours Working)	Log(Real Hourly Wage)
<i>Effect of UILP</i>	0.007 (0.005)	0.016** (0.007)	0.011 (0.011)
<i>Average of Outcome within Sample</i>	94%	~39.6 hours	~\$18.50

$$Y_{ist} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{UILP}_{st} + \beta_2 \text{EI}_{st} + X'_{ist} \beta_3 + \beta_4 Z_{st} + \gamma_s + \theta_t + \gamma_s t + \epsilon_{ist}$$

Do I need to show a regression equation? Only if it helps you and the audience! **Key point = tell people how to interpret estimates.**

Tips for Presenting

Don't try to memorize (or read) a script – speak freely!

- Scripts “feel” safer, but they create more stress (“*what happens if I miss a line?*”)
- Notecards or slide notes are better

Key is practice and ***repetition***

- Make a (short!) list of key points for each slide
- With repetition, you'll be more familiar with slides and less likely to get lost
- As you practice, ***update slides*** – delete sticking points, rephrase things, etc.

In general, take questions at the end of slides

Tips for Being a Good Audience Member

Be attentive and friendly

- Read relevant material beforehand (depending on context)
- Read slides and look at the speaker

Friendly questions are encouraged

- Take a moment to make sure your question is clear
- No points for showing off!

What if I Hate Presenting?

You're in good company!

- In undergrad, I hated presenting
- Worked through most of college, didn't know anyone in class

Think about presenting to your friends in class

- Or me, if you don't know anyone else!
- I'm always happy to meet to practice, discuss tips, etc.