

STA 235 - JITT 2

Please answer before Sunday Feb 7th, 11:59 PM

* Required

1. Email *

2. EID *

Introduction to Causal Inference

3. After watching the assigned video and readings, in your own words, what is a counterfactual? *

This is a copy of Table 1.1 in Mastering Metrics, where Angrist and Pischke show a health index and other characteristics for husbands and wives related to health insurance.

Health Characteristics and Demographics of insured and uninsured couples in the NHIS

| | Husbands | | | Wives | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Some HI | No HI | Difference | Some HI | No HI | Difference |
| a. Health | | | | | | |
| Health Index | 4.01 [0.93] | 3.7 [1.01] | 0.31 (0.3) | 4.02 [0.92] | 3.62 [1.01] | 0.39 (0.04) |
| b. Characteristics | | | | | | |
| Nonwhite | 0.16 | 0.17 | -0.01 (0.01) | 0.15 | 0.17 | -0.02 (0.01) |
| Age | 43.98 | 41.26 | 2.71 (0.29) | 42.24 | 39.62 | 2.62 (0.30) |
| Education | 14.31 | 11.56 | 2.74 (0.10) | 14.44 | 11.8 | 2.64 (0.11) |
| Family Size | 3.5 | 3.98 | -0.47 (0.05) | 3.49 | 3.93 | -0.43 (0.05) |
| Employed | 0.92 | 0.85 | 0.07 (0.01) | 0.77 | 0.56 | 0.21 (0.02) |
| Family Income | 106,467 | 45,656 | 60,810 | 106,212 | 46,385 | 59,828 |
| Sample size | 8,114 | 1,281 | | 8,264 | 1,131 | |

Notes: Columns shows the average characteristics according to headings, where HI refers to Health Insurance (HI). Standard deviations are in brackets, and standard errors are reported in parentheses.

Source: Angrist & Pischke (2015). "Mastering Metrics".

4. Looking at the previous table, is health insurance associated with better health? Why or why not? *

5. If you had a dataset with all the information shown in the table, with a sample size of over 18,000 observations and all the covariates shown there, would you be able to make a causal claim about the effect of health insurance on health? Why or why not? What other variables would you need? *

6. Can you articulate what a selection bias issue would be in this setting? *

Feedback and questions

This section is optional.

7. Did you find the last lecture...

Mark only one oval.

☐ Too fast-paced

☐ Pace was ok

☐ Too slow-paced

8. Do you have any questions related to the material we covered in the previous class?

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