

Econometrics Game

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Prompt

Welcome to the Econometrics Game! Your task is to assess the causal effect of the 2006 Massachusetts Health Care Reform on an outcome of your choice. For example, [Miller \(2012\)](#) analyzes the effect of the healthcare reform on healthcare utilization and health outcomes for children under 18 years old. She finds a significant improvement in reported health outcomes and a reduction in ER visits along with an increase in office visits and checkups. Other outcomes may also be of interest. For example, using credit report data, [Mazumder and Miller \(2016\)](#) analyze the impact of the reform on financial outcomes such as credit scores and the probability of personal bankruptcy. [Finkelstein et al. \(2012\)](#) confirm the positive effects of access to health insurance on health and financial outcomes and healthcare utilization in the context of the Oregon Health Insurance Experiment.

Data

You have been provided with individual-level data for all adults (aged 18-64) for 2002-2010 from the Current Population Survey. The March data includes questions on health insurance coverage. The data have been downloaded from www.ipums.org. You can find data definitions and the codebook on the “Select Data” tab of the [ipums CPS website](#), though a brief description of the dataset we have provided is below:

The file “cpsinsure.dta” is a repeated cross-sectional dataset consisting of 881,161 observations for 16 variables including age, gender, race, marital status, employment status, income, poverty, health status, years of schooling, and an indicator for individuals with any health insurance. You may use this or any other publicly available data to answer your question.

References

- FINKELSTEIN, A., S. TAUBMAN, B. WRIGHT, M. BERNSTEIN, J. GRUBER, J. P. NEWHOUSE, H. ALLEN, K. BAICKER, AND O. H. S. GROUP (2012): “The Oregon Health Insurance Experiment: Evidence from the First Year*,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 127, 1057–1106.
- MAZUMDER, B. AND S. MILLER (2016): “The Effects of the Massachusetts Health Reform on Household Financial Distress,” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 8, 284–313.
- MILLER, S. (2012): “The Impact of the Massachusetts Health Care Reform on Health Care Use among Children,” *American Economic Review*, 102, 502–07.