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Research and Design: Data Analysis

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Research Question:

The 2010 Affordable Care act was the largest healthcare reform bill in the United States since the 1965 passage of Medicare and Medicaid. The act required insurance companies to accept patients with pre-existing conditions, taxed the uninsured, and expanded access to Medicaid and provided federal government subsidized health insurance to children and the poor.

Donald Trump campaigned on the act’s removal in the 2016 election, and many of the states he won in 2016 benefitted disproportionately from the Medicaid expansion and federal government subsidies on healthcare. This paper seeks to examine weather there is a correlation between electing democrats in 2016 and ACA spending.

Significance of Question

Examining this question will tell us weather the ACA was politically popular and expanded the base of democrat support, or weather those the act benefitted most actually helped the Republicans win in 2016.

Variables needed and Sources of Data

For this analysis, I will need state and possibly congressional district ACA spending data from before and after the introduction of the ACA (ACA spending per state/congressional district), as well as data on the number of votes per party from the 2016 election. I could also use the 2012 election when Obama was on the ballot again.

I have not yet found a good dataset for Obamacare spending data, but I am planning on using federal government statistics. For election data, I am planning on using some of the MIT datasets found at:

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/file.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/IG0UN2/ELBYL3&version=7.0>

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/PEJ5QU>

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/42MVDX>

Discussion of Analysis:

I am thinking of running a simple linear or multivariate regression with party elected being the outcome variable and federal government spending being the predictor variable. This will tell us if increased Obamacare spending is correlated with electing democrats or republicans, and will tell us if the act politically helped or harmed the democrats. I may also use logistic regression.