Lab 2: OLS and Matching

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Section 1

Setup

Setting up our script

Load packages

Before we get into any real coding, let's make sure that the preamble for our code looks good. Here is how I set it up:

A bunch of text detailing how the loading of the packages should print when this is run.

```
library(haven)
library(Imtest)
library(stargazer)
library(tidyverse)
## Set options

options(scipen = 999)

## Clear environment

rm(list = ls())

## Set directories

base_directory <- '/Users/rcaraher/Library/CloudStorage/OneDrive-UniversityofMassachusetts/Academic/Teaching/ECdata_directory <- file.path(base_directory, 'Data')
results_directory <- file.path(base_directory, 'Results')</pre>
```

A note about Working Directories

In R, I generally recommend you set your working directory to the source file location.

 You can do this in RStudio by going to: Session -> Set Working Directory -> To Source File Location. This folder is usually associate with a Git repo.

I save the data and results files on cloud storage. I use the base_directory object to tell R where that location is as a file path. The data_directory and results_directory add one more layer to the file path (to a Data and Results folder, respectively) to save a typing when loading data/saving results.

- If you have a similar workflow, the only line you should need to change is the file path for the base_directory object.
- The file.path() function provides an OS-agnostic way to specify file paths.

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Section 2

OLS in R

Loading Data

Let's read in the Census data and work with that for our lab.

```
census <- read_dta(file.path(data_directory, "census_sample_30_50.dta"))</pre>
```

Glimpse variables

The glimpse() function allows us to view the variables, the class, and the first few rows of data.

```
glimpse(census)
```

```
## Rows: 65,741
## Columns: 109
## $ year
            <dbl+1b1> 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000, 2000~
## $ hhwt
            <dbl> 25, 16, 26, 3, 22, 2, 7, 21, 8, 17, 7, 36, 14, 6, 10, 29~
## $ region
            ## $ stateicp
            ## $ statefips
            <dbl+lbl> 42, 6, 47, 6, 13, 12, 39, 6, 53, 53, 42, 48, 34, ~
            ## $ metro
## $ metaread
            <db1+1b1> 3240, 4482, 0, 8780, 0,
                                       0, 0, 6920,
            <dbl+lbl> 0, 2430, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0~
## $ city
## $ citypop
            ## $ puma
            <dbl> 3102, 7100, 600, 3503, 3300, 800, 1600, 1505, 300, 2003,~
## $ pumasupr
            ## $ conspuma
            <dbl> 405, 45, 444, 50, 88, 78, 372, 40, 505, 498, 409, 466, 3~
## $ cntrv
            ## $ gq
            ## $ perwt
            <dbl> 21, 16, 21, 2, 8, 5, 6, 24, 5, 26, 7, 42, 14, 4, 13, 29,~
            <dbl+lbl> 45, 45, 33, 46, 37, 48, 45, 37, 40, 38, 39, 32, 33, ~
## $ age
## $ sex
            <dbl+lbl> 2, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1~
```

Cleaning Data

Let's say we want to estimate the wage penalty of being a foreign-born worker. In other words, we want to run the following regression:

$$y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 F B_i + X_i \Omega + \epsilon_i$$

where y is log wage, FB is a indicator variable (i.e., 0 or 1) if the worker is a non-citizen, X_i is a vector of covariates, and ϵ_i is the error term.

We first need to make sure our data is cleaned and in the correct format to run these regressions.

Looking at the outcome variable

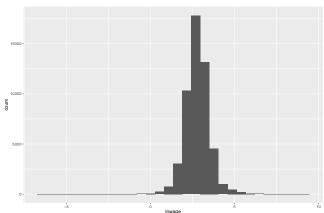
Let's do a quick histogram of the outcome variable to make sure it looks reasonable. We can use the ggplot commands here to generate the figure.

```
ggplot(data = census) +
  geom_histogram(aes(x = lnwage))
```

Looking at the outcome variable

- ## `stat_bin()` using `bins = 30`. Pick better value with `binwidth`.
- ## Warning: Removed 13925 rows containing non-finite outside the scale range





Cleaning the treatment variable

We can use the count() function to take a look at the treatment variable and see how it is organized.

```
count(census, citizen)
```

```
## # A tibble: 4 x 2

## citizen n

## < dbl+lbl> <int>
58406

## 1 0 [N/A] 58406

## 2 1 [Born abroad of American parents] 497

## 3 2 [Naturalized citizen] 2823

## 4 3 [Not a citizen] 4015
```

Cleaning the treatment variable

Let's set all those who are not a citizen (value of 3) as our foreign-born binary indicator We can use the mutate() and case_when functions to re-code variables (look at the documentation for these!).

4 3 [Not a citizen]

3 2 [Naturalized citizen]

0 2823

4015

Cleaning the control variables

We also want to control for marital status, experience, race, ethnicity, education, English-speaking, and gender. We can use a similar method to get these variables in the format appropriate for a linear regression.

```
## # A tibble: 5 x 3
##
    speakeng
                                 english
    <db1+1b1>
                                   <dbl> <int>
##
## 1 1 [Does not speak English]
                                          700
## 2 3 [Yes, speaks only English] 1 56082
## 3 4 [Yes, speaks very well]
                                    1 5151
## 4 5 [Yes, speaks well]
                                      1 2214
## 5 6 [Yes. but not well]
                                      0 1594
```

Regression and factor variables

When doing regression in R, it can be helpful to have categorical variables (such as race) as the factor class. When factor variables are included in a regression, R will automatically create dummy variables for each possible value (minus an omitted one). Let's make our (non-binary) categorical variables into factors.

```
print(count(census, racesingd), n = 5)
  # A tibble: 16 x 2
     racesingd
     <db1+1b1>
                                  <int>
## 1 10 [White]
                                  53434
## 2 12 ['Other race', Hispanic]
                                   2719
## 3 20 [Black]
                                   6403
    30 [AI (American Indian)]
                                    713
    31 [AN (Alaskan Native)]
                                    217
    i 11 more rows
census <- census |>
 mutate(race = as factor(racesingd),
         edu = as factor(educ99)
```

Section 3

Running a Regression

The lm() function

The default way to run a linear regression in R is with the lm() function. We can then examine the results using the summary() function on the object. Let's do a bivariate estimation.

```
bi_ols <- lm(lnwage ~ fb, data = census)
summary(bi_ols)</pre>
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = lnwage ~ fb, data = census)
##
## Residuals:
##
     Min
             10 Median 30
                                 Max
## -9.2645 -0.4137 -0.0053 0.4001 6.3820
##
## Coefficients:
##
             Estimate Std. Error t value
                                              Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept) 2.790872 0.003242 860.82 <0.0000000000000000 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
##
## Residual standard error: 0.7177 on 51814 degrees of freedom
    (13925 observations deleted due to missingness)
## Multiple R-squared: 0.003398, Adjusted R-squared: 0.003379
## F-statistic: 176.7 on 1 and 51814 DF, p-value: < 0.000000000000000022
```

Robust OLS

The default OLS standard error reported will not correctly adjust for heteroskedasticity. Using the coeffest() function from the sandwhich package, we can get adjust the var-cov matrix.

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Multivariate OLS

Let's add the additional control variables:

summary(mul_ols)

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = lnwage ~ fb + married + exp + exp2 + race + hisp +
##
      edu + english + gender, data = census)
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min
               10 Median
                               30
                                      Max
## -9.5400 -0.3374 0.0063 0.3441 6.6215
##
## Coefficients:
##
                                                Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)
                                              1.73602463 0.05732371 30.285
## fb
                                             -0.05992353 0.01574691 -3.805
## married
                                              0.09813295 0.00621820 15.782
                                              0.02827203 0.00394290 7.170
## exp
                                             -0.00046747 0.00008901 -5.252
## exp2
## race'Other race'. Hispanic
                                             -0.02922727 0.01965982 -1.487
## raceBlack
                                             -0.02547833 0.01014746 -2.511
## raceAT (American Indian)
                                             -0.12327925 0.02878191 -4.283
## raceAN (Alaskan Native)
                                              0.20213808 0.04966400 4.070
## raceAI/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native) 0.08305657 0.05598223 1.484
                                              0.13064643 0.04381043
                                                                       2.982
## raceAsian Indian
## raceChinese
                                              0.09138875 0.03554342
                                                                       2.571
## raceFilipino
                                              0.09752215 0.03823153
                                                                       2.551
## raceJapanese
                                              0.06221922 0.06371841
                                                                       0.976
## raceKorean
                                              0.02130718 0.05953784
                                                                       0.358
## raceAsian
                                              0.00853463 0.03661039
                                                                       0.233
                                              0.26516461 0.14251969
                                                                       1.861
## raceHawaiian
## racePI (Pacific Islander)
                                              0.00958198 0.09154558
                                                                       0.105
## raceAsian and PI (Pacific Islander)
                                             -0.05236747 0.14250953
                                                                      -0.367
## raceOther race, non-Hispanic
                                              0.00961830 0.10466211
                                                                       0.092
```

Big OLS Models

The built-in, default R method for linear regression is fine, but when we want to run high-dimensional models, it is much easier to work with other functions. Let's use the fixest package for this. Install it if you don't have it yet with install.packages("fixest").

library(fixest)

The FEOLS function

The feols function is the high-dimensional version of lm(). Let's use it to run the same bivariate OLS to make sure the results are the same. The syntax for this function is different. Make sure to look at the documentation with ?feols. We can also directly tell it to report a hetero. robust SE.

NOTE: 13,925 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 13,925).

FEOLS Results

RMSE: 0.717702 Adj. R2: 0.003379

Fully-Saturated Controls

To run a fully-saturated OLS model, it means we include all controls and interactions.

We could do this by explicitly multiplying the columns (i.e., race-black * married * edu_College * \dots) but there is a short cut!

We can create a new variable which assigns the same group number for each unique combination of our control variables!

Grouping

```
census <- census |>
 group_by(married, hisp, english, gender, race, edu) |>
 mutate(group = cur_group_id()) |>
 ungroup()
count(census, group)
## # A tibble: 1,097 x 2
##
  group
##
     <int> <int>
## 1
##
##
     4
     5
              8
##
     6
## 7
```

8

10 ## # i 1,087 more rows

10

Grouping

We can now run the OLS model! We could run this regression a few ways (including making the group variable a factor), but another way is to include it as a fixed-effect (it is computationally faster!)

```
fs_ols <- feols(lnwage ~ fb + exp + exp2 |
               group,
               vcov = "HC1".
               data = census)
## NOTE: 13,925 observations removed because of NA values (LHS: 13,925).
summary(fs_ols)
## OLS estimation, Dep. Var.: lnwage
## Observations: 51,816
## Fixed-effects: group: 972
## Standard-errors: Heteroskedasticity-robust
##
      Estimate Std. Error t value
                                          Pr(>|t|)
## fb -0.039374 0.017654 -2.23028 0.02573349125737646 *
## exp 0.028190 0.003896 7.23478 0.0000000000047284 ***
0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Signif. codes:
## RMSE: 0.641699
                   Adj. R2: 0.188036
```

Section 4

Matching

Intro to Matching

Including controls often isn't enough to ensure we are making apples-to-apples comparisons, especially if there is some systemic differences between the groups.

Matching methods are one way to make sure comparisons between the treated and control groups are more similar.

A common set of matching techniques use the propensity score, which estimates the **likelihood of treatment based on observable**.

The MatchIt package is able to do most types of modern matching methods.

library(MatchIt)

Let's make sure we drop all NA values for the variables we are using.

```
census_comp <- census |>
  dplyr::select(lnwage, fb, married, exp, exp2, race, hisp, edu, english, gender) |
  na.omit()
```

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Now let's use the matchit() function in R.

```
ps matchout <- matchit(fb ~ married + exp + exp2 + race +
                     hisp + edu + english + gender,
                    data = census comp,
                    method = "nearest".
                    link = "probit"
summary(ps_matchout)
##
## Call:
## matchit(formula = fb ~ married + exp + exp2 + race + hisp + edu +
##
      english + gender, data = census_comp, method = "nearest",
      link = "probit")
##
##
## Summary of Balance for All Data:
##
                                              Means Treated Means Control
                                                                 0.0340
## distance
                                                     0.3997
                                                     0.6495
                                                                0.6714
## married
                                                    20.3100 22.0917
## exp
## exp2
                                                   444.2075
                                                                522.7215
## raceWhite
                                                     0.4480
                                                                  0.8439
                                                                  0.0247
## race'Other race', Hispanic
                                                     0.2790
```

Let's look at the estimate probabilities:

```
census_comp <- census_comp |>
 bind cols(ps = ps_matchout$distance)
ggplot(data = census_comp) +
 geom_histogram(aes(x = ps))
   `stat_bin()` using `bins = 30`. Pick better value with `binwidth`.
 20000
 10000
```

0.50

We can also compare covariate balance before and after the matching.

Let's look at the estimate probabilities:

```
plot(summary(ps_matchout))
distance
married
                                                          • o
                                                          •
race'Other race', Hispanic
raceAl (American Indian)
raceAN (Alaskan Native)
raceAl/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native)
racePI (Pacific Islander)
raceAsian and PI (Pacific Islander)
raceOther race, non-Hispanic
                                                            b
eduNo school completed
edu9th gradě
                                                         60
                                                          0
edu12th drade, no diploma
eduHigh school graduate, or GED
eduSome college, no degree
eduAssociate degree, occupational program
eduBachelors degree
                                                          0
eduMasters degrée
eduProfessional degree
                                                                                                                                       O All
eduDoctorate degree

    Matched

aeňder
                                                                       0.2
                                                                                      0.4
                                                                                                                     nα
                                                                                                                                     1.0
                                                                                         Absolute Standardized
                                                                                             Mean Difference
```

Note: These are the same estimate propensity score that you would get from just running the probit regression:

```
## 1 12954 25908 38862 51816
## 0 0 0 0 0
```

Running the regression

We can now run the regression using matched propensity scores!

First we need to create the matched data object.

Then, we can do the regression.

```
match1 data <- match.data(ps matchout)
ps_lm1 <- lm(lnwage ~ fb + married + exp + exp2 + race +
                     hisp + edu + english + gender,
            data = match1_data)
summary(ps_lm1)
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = lnwage ~ fb + married + exp + exp2 + race + hisp +
##
      edu + english + gender, data = match1_data)
##
## Residuals:
##
       Min
               1Q Median
                                      Max
## -8 9058 -0 3782 -0 0151 0 3503 4 4634
##
## Coefficients:
##
                                               Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)
                                              1.8681177 0.1389454 13.445
## fb
                                             -0.0812118 0.0189349 -4.289
## married
                                              0.1273640 0.0192070 6.631
## exp
                                              0.0333812 0.0124825 2.674
                                             -0.0006698 0.0002910 -2.302
## exp2
                                             -0.0345887 0.0254826 -1.357
## race'Other race', Hispanic
## raceBlack
                                             -0.0157729 0.0379669 -0.415
## raceAI (American Indian)
                                              0.0483157 0.1649588 0.293
## raceAT/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native) -0.0172194 0.1523438 -0.113
## raceAsian Indian
                                              0.0893885 0.0492324 1.816
## raceChinese
                                              0.0092814 0.0454886 0.204
                                              0.0445163 0.0466622 0.954
## raceFilipino
                                              0.0243702 0.0715646 0.341
## raceJapanese
## raceKorean
                                             -0.0399359 0.0670611 -0.596
## raceAsian
                                             -0.0815057 0.0462727 -1.761
```

10-Nearest Neighbors

Now let's try matching with the 10-nearest neighbors. It is also easy to do with matchit().

```
##
## Call:
## matchit(formula = fb ~ married + exp + exp2 + race + hisp + edu +
      english + gender, data = census comp, method = "nearest",
##
##
      link = "probit", ratio = 10)
##
  Summary of Balance for All Data:
##
                                             Means Treated Means Control
## distance
                                                    0.3997
                                                           0.0340
## married
                                                    0.6495
                                                                0.6714
                                                   20.3100 22.0917
## exp
## exp2
                                                  444,2075
                                                               522,7215
```

Regression Results

```
match10 data <- match.data(ps10 matchout)
ps_lm10 <- lm(lnwage ~ fb + married + exp + exp2 + race +
                     hisp + edu + english + gender,
            data = match10_data)
summary(ps_lm10)
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = lnwage ~ fb + married + exp + exp2 + race + hisp +
##
      edu + english + gender, data = match10_data)
##
## Residuals:
       Min
               1Q Median
                               30
                                      Max
## -8 9518 -0 3416 0 0018 0 3387 6 5775
##
## Coefficients:
##
                                               Estimate Std. Error t value
## (Intercept)
                                              1.6566025 0.0656115 25.249
## fb
                                             -0.0586327 0.0158846 -3.691
## married
                                              0.1257161 0.0082032 15.325
## exp
                                              0.0368904 0.0051903 7.108
                                             -0.0006589 0.0001219 -5.406
## exp2
                                             -0.0258613 0.0198663 -1.302
## race'Other race', Hispanic
## raceBlack
                                             -0.0439011 0.0114842 -3.823
## raceAI (American Indian)
                                              0.0686631 0.0785642 0.874
## raceAT/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native) 0.0911084 0.0739437 1.232
## raceAsian Indian
                                              0.1185954 0.0442123 2.682
## raceChinese
                                              0.0790666 0.0359419 2.200
                                              0.0793211 0.0387470 2.047
## raceFilipino
                                                                     0.756
## raceJapanese
                                              0.0486162 0.0643481
## raceKorean
                                              0.0044247 0.0601164
                                                                     0.074
## raceAsian
                                             -0.0040271 0.0370360 -0.109
```

IPW re-weighting

There are some econometric issues with doing simple propensity score matching.

However, inverse propensity score weighting mitigates these issues.

Intuition: Those who were likely to be treated but did not are likely more similar to those who are treated.

Computing IPW weights for the ATT

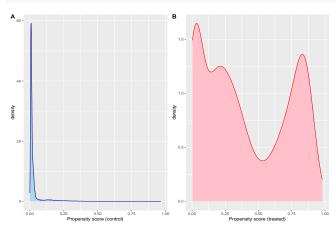
Density Plots

Let's make plots which show the propensity score density before and after re-weighting. The cowplot package has some useful functions for plotting figures side-by-side.

```
library(cowplot)
##
## Attaching package: 'cowplot'
## The following object is masked from 'package:lubridate':
##
       stamp
p1 <- ggplot(data = filter(census_comp, fb == 0)) +
  geom_density(aes(x = ps), color="darkblue", fill="lightblue") +
  labs(x = "Propensity score (control)")
p2 <- ggplot(data = filter(census_comp, fb == 1)) +
  geom density(aes(x = ps), color="red", fill="pink") +
  labs(x = "Propensity score (treated)")
pg \leftarrow plot grid(p1, p2, labels = c('A', 'B'),
                align = "h", nrow = 1, ncol = 2, scale = 1)
```

Density Plots Unweighted

print(pg)

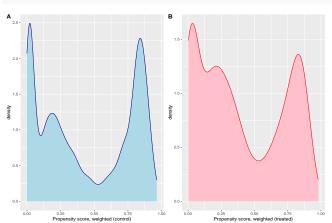


Density Plots Weighted

Now, let's re-weight using the IPW weights and compare the density plots.

Density Plots Weighted

print(pg2)



Now let's run the regression using IPW weights.

```
ipw_lm <- lm(lnwage ~ fb + married + exp + exp2 + race +
                      hisp + edu + english + gender,
             weights = ipw_wght,
             data = census_comp)
summary(ipw_lm)
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = lnwage ~ fb + married + exp + exp2 + race + hisp +
      edu + english + gender, data = census_comp, weights = ipw_wght)
##
##
## Weighted Residuals:
##
       Min
                10 Median
                                30
                                       Max
## -4.2716 -0.0494 -0.0066 0.0343 6.8012
##
## Coefficients:
                                                             Std. Error t value
##
                                                  Estimate
## (Intercept)
                                                1.95106910
                                                             0.04473928 43.610
## fb
                                               -0.08431998
                                                             0.00589199 -14.311
## married
                                                0.12856817
                                                             0.00625568 20.552
## exp
                                                0.02655036
                                                             0.00408869 6.494
                                                             0.00009488 -5.179
## exp2
                                               -0.00049146
## race'Other race', Hispanic
                                                             0.00806695 -9.717
                                               -0.07839033
                                              -0.02949151
                                                             0.01271862 -2.319
## raceBlack
## raceAT (American Indian)
                                                0.03845865
                                                             0.04977876 0.773
## raceAN (Alaskan Native)
                                                0.51708625
                                                           45.81671133 0.011
## raceAT/AN (American Indian/Alaskan Native) -0.10846268
                                                             0.04862937 -2.230
## raceAsian Indian
                                                0.13984796
                                                             0.01564662
                                                                        8 938
## raceChinese
                                               -0.00843883
                                                             0.01506582
                                                                        -0.560
## raceFilipino
                                                0.03417714
                                                             0.01733028
                                                                         1.972
```

Collecting Regression Results

Let's now collect all of our regressions and export a nice table!

The stargazer package is great for exporting simple tables from data frames.

```
library(stargazer)
##
## Please cite as:
   Hlavac, Marek (2022), stargazer: Well-Formatted Regression and Summary Statistics Tables.
   R package version 5.2.3. https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=stargazer
coefficients <- c(bi_ols$coefficients[2], mul_ols$coefficients[2],</pre>
 fs ols$coefficients[1], ps lm1$coefficients[2], ps lm10$coefficients[2],
 ipw_lm$coefficients[2]
labels <- c("Bivariate OLS", "Multivariate OLS", "Fully saturated OLS",
            "Propensity score matching (regression)".
            "Propensity score with 10 nearest-neighbors".
            "Propensity score with inverse probability weights")
tab <- data.frame("Model" = labels, "Estimate" = coefficients)
```

Collecting Regression Results

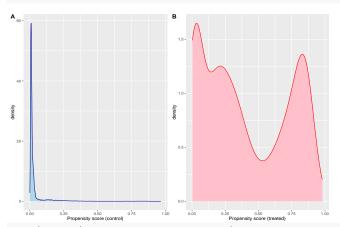
```
stargazer(tab, summary = F,
 type = "latex".
 float = FALSE.
 out = file.path(results_directory, "ps1_tabp5_2.tex")
##
## % Table created by stargazer v.5.2.3 by Marek Hlavac, Social Policy Institute, E-mail: marek.hlavac at gmail
## % Date and time: Tue, Feb 25, 2025 - 12:16:25
## \begin{tabular}{@{\extracolsep{5pt}} ccc}
## \\[-1.8ex]\hline
## \hline \\[-1.8ex]
## & Model & Estimate \\
## \hline \\[-1.8ex]
## 1 & Bivariate OLS & $$-$0.185$ \\
## 2 & Multivariate OLS & $$-$0.060$ \\
## 3 & Fully saturated OLS & $$-$0.039$ \\
## 4 & Propensity score matching (regression) & $$-$0.081$ \\
## 5 & Propensity score with 10 nearest-neighbors & $$-$0.059$ \\
## 6 & Propensity score with inverse probability weights & $$-$0.084$ \\
## \hline \\[-1.8ex]
## \end{tabular}
```

Saving Figures

Let's also make sure to save our density plots!

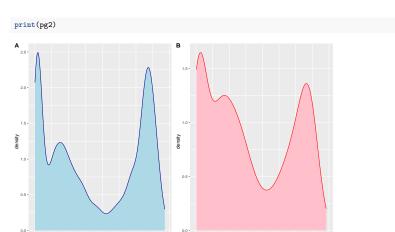
We will use the ggsave() function after we print the plots.

print(pg)



```
ggsave(file.path(results_directory, "ps1_dens_1.pdf"),
    width = 12, height = 8, units = "in")
```

Saving Figures



0.00

Propensity score, weighted (control)

ggsave(file.path(results_directory, "ps1_dens_2.pdf"),

width = 12, height = 8, units = "in")

0.00

1.00