Volunteers Needed
For a scientific study
Investigating whether people can distinguish between scientific studies and kidney-harvesting scams.
(Healthy type-O adults only)
Take one
Today’s Plan

• Discuss the midterm
• Regression discontinuity
• Application

• Midterm is Friday of next week (October 23)
The Midterm Exam

- Key Terms, Short Answer, Mini-Essay
- Key terms:
  - Definition: 1 sentence.
  - Relevance: 1-3 sentences
  - Example: 1-3 sentences
- Short Answer: 1 sentence is all it takes, sometimes just 1 word.
- Mini-Essay: 3-6 Sentences.
  - There will be multiple points we’re looking for
Regression Discontinuity

• We are always looking for:
  • two equivalent groups
  • one group receives treatment, one does not.

• Regression discontinuity designs exploits sharp cut points:

• The idea is that units on both either side of the cut point are very similar.
  • E.g. Income thresholds to qualify for medicare
  • E.g. Birth date cutoffs to start kindergarten
  • E.g. Test scores to earn a scholarship
  • E.g. Wealth cutoff to qualify for World Bank loans
Group Work

• Groups of 2-3, 1 paper per group. Put each student name on the paper.
• My theory is that, for families in Haiti, having a parent migrate to the US increases educational attainment by the children left back home.
  • IV = Parent migrated to US or not (dummy variable)
  • DV = Years of schooling completed by child
1. Describe (in 1-3 sentences) a causal mechanism that would cause a positive effect of parental migration on child educational attainment.
2. Describe (in 1-3 sentences) a causal mechanism that would cause a negative effect of parental migration on child educational attainment.
3. Name at least two extraneous variables that might confound our results if we used a cross-sectional design with observational data:
   a) One must be observable and measurable
   b) One must be unobservable
4. Imagine we were able to run a true experiment with 2 years between treatment and post-test.
   1. How would we draw our sample and assign our groups?
   2. What is the treatment condition and what is the control condition?
   3. Discuss the possibility for selection bias, differential attrition, and endogenous change.
5. Can you think of any as-if randomization we might exploit to approximate a randomized control trial?
Assignment in Pairs

• Pick a job might want when you’re 35.
• Specific skill or general intelligence?
• What skills/certifications are most critical?
• How would you get them?
• What relationships are most critical?
• How would you get them?
• What is the career ladder? List the graduate degrees and prior experience that is necessary to land that job.
• Where did you learn what you know about this job?
• What else do you need to know about this job and where will you learn it?