Replication File for "Policy Effects, Partisanship, and Elections: How Medicaid Expansion Affected Public Opinion Toward the Affordable Care Act"

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1 Data Files

Here we give an explanation of each data file in the replication package. All of these files begin with "dataset_."

- dataset_bootstraps_approval.txt – This file stores bootstrap estimates originally generated by "Figure E1 - geography placebos.R", and also called by this .R file.
- dataset_bootstraps_iv_approval.txt – This file stores bootstrap estimates originally generated by "Figure G1 a - instrumental variables approval.R", and also called by this .R file.
- dataset_bootstraps_iv_repeal.txt – This file stores bootstrap estimates originally generated by "Figure G1 b - instrumental variables approval.R", and also called by this .R file.
- dataset_bootstraps_repeal.txt – This file stores bootstrap estimates originally generated by "Figure E1 - geography placebos.R", and also called by this .R file.
- dataset_census.dta – This stores counts of demographic cells by state. It is only called by "table H1 - regressions two step.R".
- dataset_giscoords.dta – This stores GIS information for each state. It is called only by "figure 1 - expansion by state.do".
- dataset_individuals.dta – This contains the individual-level responses to questions about ACA approval. Per Roper Center guidelines, we do not include this file in the replication data. However, we provide as much information as we can on how readers can generate this file themselves. See section 2 below.
- dataset_individuals_both_questions.dta – This contains the individual-level responses from surveys asking both about ACA approval and ACA repeal. Per Roper Center guidelines, we do not include this file in the replication data. However, we provide as much information as we can on how readers can generate this file themselves. See section 2 below.
- dataset_individuals_r.dta – This contains the individual-level responses to questions about ACA *repeal*. Per Roper Center guidelines, we do not include this file in the replication data. However, we provide as much information as we can on how readers can generate this file themselves. See section 2 below.
- dataset_media.dta – Called by "figure 2 - media coverage.do."

2 Roper Center Data

According to the terms of use of the iPoll database, we are unable to share individual-level data. In this section we provide steps so that anyone else with access to the Roper Center can replicate our work exactly.

We have included a "setup.zip" file in the replication package. Once unzipped, the top directory of "setup" contains the following file of note:

- setup.do – creates the "dataset_individuals.dta" and "dataset_individuals_r.dta" files. All data files needed to build these data sets are included in subdirectories, *except* the individual-level Roper data which would normally live in the "ipoll/" subdirectory as "super_survey.dta" and "super_survey_repeal.dta." Those would be raw ".dat" files in fixed width format.

The "ipoll" subdirectory of "setup" contains the following file of note:

- polls metadata.csv – This stores metadata on each of the polls used to measure ACA approval. You can use this to identify the particular polls we downloaded from Roper. The file also includes the variable locations for approval, state, and other variables. It is called by "setup super survey.do" to compile the big individual level data set ("super_survey.dta").
- setup super survey.do – This .do file reads in "polls metadata.csv" and loops over each poll, reading in the raw data, appending each file together, and then cleaning the resulting individual-level data set.
- polls metadata repeal.csv – Same as "polls metadata.csv", but for questions about repeal.
- setup super survey repeal – Same as "setup super survey.do", but for questions about repeal.

Also, the "ipoll" subdirectory itself contains subdirectories for each individual poll. These subdirectories are empty, but you can download the raw files yourself if you have access to the Roper center.

In sum, the steps to replicate e.g. Table 1 of the paper are:

- download all the replication files to your computer
- unzip "setup.zip" into its own subdirectory
- use "polls metadata.csv" to determine which polls from iPoll you need to download
- download the necessary .dat files into each subdirectory in "setup/ipoll/". Note this is the most time-consuming step.
- set "setup" as the working directory. run "setup/ipoll/setup super survey.do" /to create "super_survey.dta"
- keep using "setup/" as the working directory. run "setup/setup.do" which calls on "super_survey.dta" (among other files that are already included) to create "dataset_individuals.dta". move "dataset_individuals.dta" up one directory.
- change working directory to one level up. run the .do file for table 1

3 Syntax Files

In general there is one .R or .do file for each figure or table. Each can be run independently. We assume you have first set your working directory. For the Stata figures, we set the graphics scheme to "s1manual", but the .do files will use whatever your default graphics scheme is.

In general, each .R or .do file will create either a graphics file (.eps or .pdf) or a .tex file in the current directory.

The titles of each syntax file should be self-explanatory. Three files in particular require comment:

- figure E1 - geography placebos.R – The "placebo" estimates take many hours to generate, and this file is set up to reduce computation time using parallel computing. To save time in replication, by default we comment out the code that generates the placebo estimates, so the script begins by simply loading pre-generated placebo estimates. (Note the OLS analog to this procedure, generated by "figure I3 - geography placebos ols.do", does not load pre-generated placebo estimates given it takes less time to run.)
- figure G1 a - instrumental variables approval.R – Because we bootstrap the second stage standard errors, this will take a while to run. To save time in replication, by default we comment out the code that generates the bootstrapped estimates, so the script begins by simply loading pre-generated estimates. (Note the OLS analog to this procedure, generated by "table I3 a - grouped ols regressions iv.do", does not load pre-generated estimates given it takes less time to run.)
- figure G1 b - instrumental variables approval.R – Similar comment as above (with "table I3 b - grouped ols regressions iv.do" producing the OLS analog).

In addition to the various .R and .do files, we note the following files included in the replication package:

- all R scripts.sh – This is a Bash script that cycles over all the .R files and runs each. It generates a log file, "logfile.txt." This file runs on Ubuntu Linux and may not run on other operating systems. If you don't know what a Bash script is or have no interest in running all the .R files concurrently, you can safely ignore this file. This file will output a log file called "logfile.txt."
- all stata scripts.do – This is a Stata .do file that cycles over all the other .do files and runs each. It generates a log file, "replication.log." If you do not wish to run all Stata files concurrently, you can safely ignore this file.

4 Statistical Software

4.1 R

4.1.1 Version

R was used to produce Table 1 and Table 2, and various files in the Online Appendices. We primarily used version 3.4.4. We have confirmed results replicate using both versions 3.4.4 and 3.5.1.

4.1.2 Additional Packages

The following additional packages are required to run the R syntax files. Install these using the "install.packages()" function. Our .R files call these at various points using the "library()" function.

- arm (for multilevel models)
- doSNOW (for bootstraps)
- readstata13 (for reading in the data)
- tcltk (for bootstraps)
- xtable (for outputting tables in .tex format)

4.2 Stata

4.2.1 Version

Stata was used to produce Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3 in the main manuscript, and various files in the Online Appendices. We primarily used version 15. We have confirmed results replicate using versions 14, 15, and 16.

4.2.2 Additional Packages

The following additional packages are required to run the Stata syntax files. Install these using "ssc install [package name]".

- egenmore (for use of the "nvals" command")

- ≻ listtex (for outputting certain tables as .tex files)
- ≻ spmap (for the map of expansion states)

Additionally, the files used to setup the iPoll data use the package:

- ≻ mdesc (for listing the number of observations missing state)