WELCOME TO THE NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES!

- The session will begin at 12pm EST.
- Please turn video off and mute the line.
- This session is being recorded.
- See ZOOM Help Center for connection issues: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us
  - If issues persist and solutions cannot be found through Zoom, contact Andres Arroyo at aa17@cornell.edu.

NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
Cornell University

NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILD WELFARE DATA

NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES SCHEDULE

- July 1, 2020 - Introduction to NDACAN
- July 8, 2020 - Historical Data
- **July 15, 2020 - Research Example using Historical Data**
- July 22, 2020 - Administrative Data (NCANDS, AFCARS, NYTD)
- July 29, 2020 - Linking Administrative Data in SPSS
- August 5, 2020 - Research Example using Linked Administrative Data

SESSION AGENDA

- Example of research project using historical data

CORRELATES OF FOSTER CARE CASELOADS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1982-2018

FAMILY INSTABILITY AND SOCIAL FORCES

1. What macro-level factors explain children's risk of substitute care?
   - Can they inform child welfare policy? Other policies with child welfare implications?
   - Can they help predict child welfare outcomes?
2. Does the importance of various factors change over time?
   - How much can we rely on prior studies? How often should we update them?

PRIOR RESEARCH

- Welfare generosity
  - Paxson and Waldfogel (2002, 2003), Swann and Sylvester (2006)
- Female incarceration
  - Swann and Sylvester (2006)
- Violent crime arrests
  - Swann and Sylvester (2006)

DATA AND METHODS

RESEARCH DESIGN

- Time-series cross-sectional data
  - Unit of analysis is state–year
- Fixed-effects weighted-least-squares log-log model

$$\ln(y_{ijt}) = \beta_X \ln(\mathbf{X}_{ijt}) + \beta_Z \mathbf{Z}_{ijt} + \gamma_i + \theta_{jt} + \varepsilon_{ijt}$$

  - Robust to nonlinearity in parameters; coefficients represent elasticities
  - Robust under violations of random effects assumptions
- Clustered standard errors at state level
  - Robust to serial autocorrelation

RESEARCH DESIGN

- Time-dependent effects

$$\ln(y_{ijt}) = \beta_{Wt}\ln(\mathbf{W}_{ijt}) + \beta_X\ln(\mathbf{X}_{ijt}) + \beta_Z\mathbf{Z}_{ijt} + \gamma_i + \theta_{jt} + \varepsilon_{ijt}$$

OUTCOME DATA: FOSTER CARE

- Voluntary Cooperative Information System (1982–1995)
- Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (1995–2018)

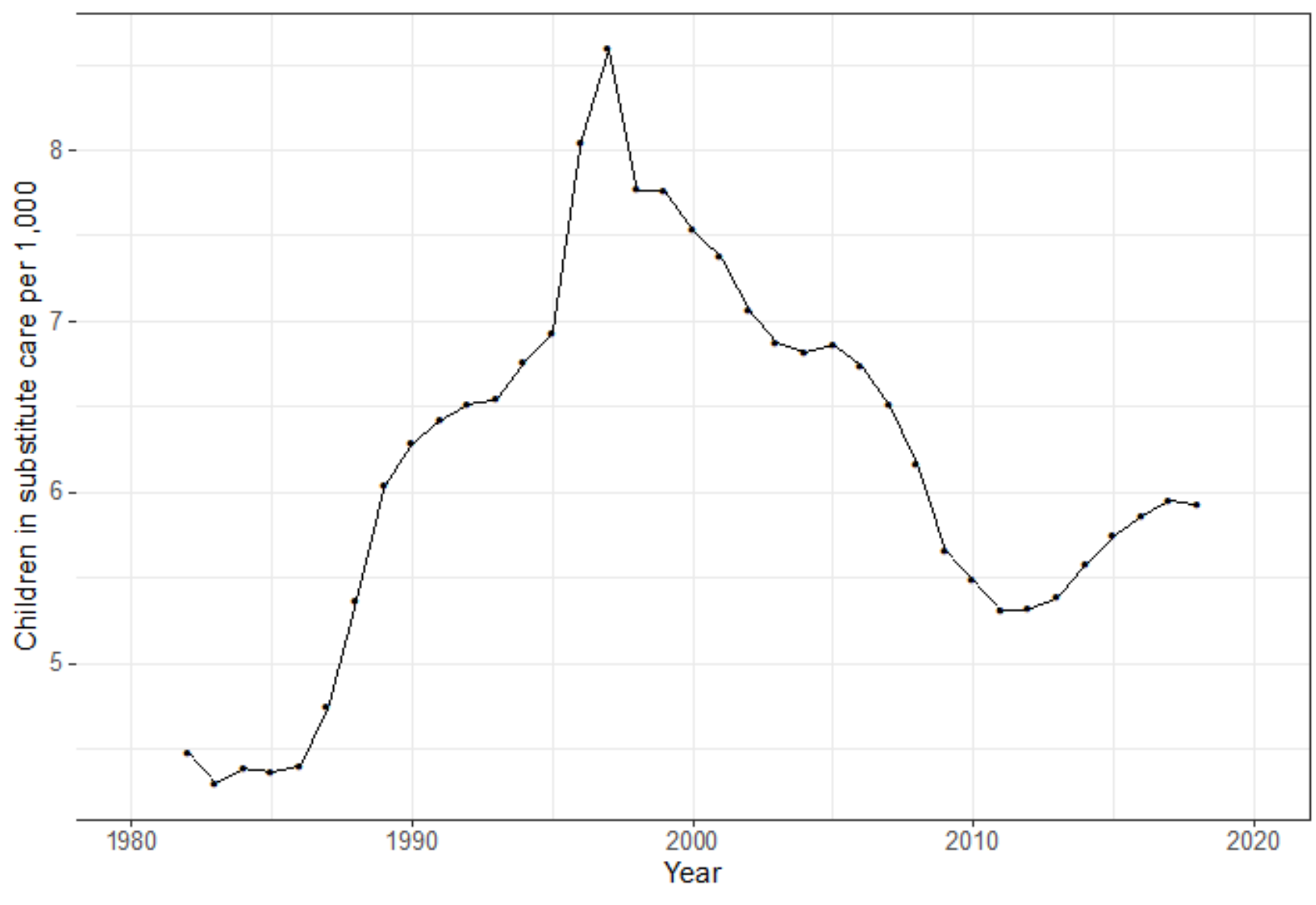
EXPLANATORY DATA: MACRO-LEVEL FACTORS

- Denominators and racial composition: U.S. Census Bureau intercensal estimates via SEER
- Violent crime rates: FBI via Uniform Crime Reporting
- Imprisonment rates: National Prisoner Statistics via BJS
- Welfare generosity, unemployment, minimum wage, poverty rate: University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research
- State government partisan control: National Council of State Legislatures

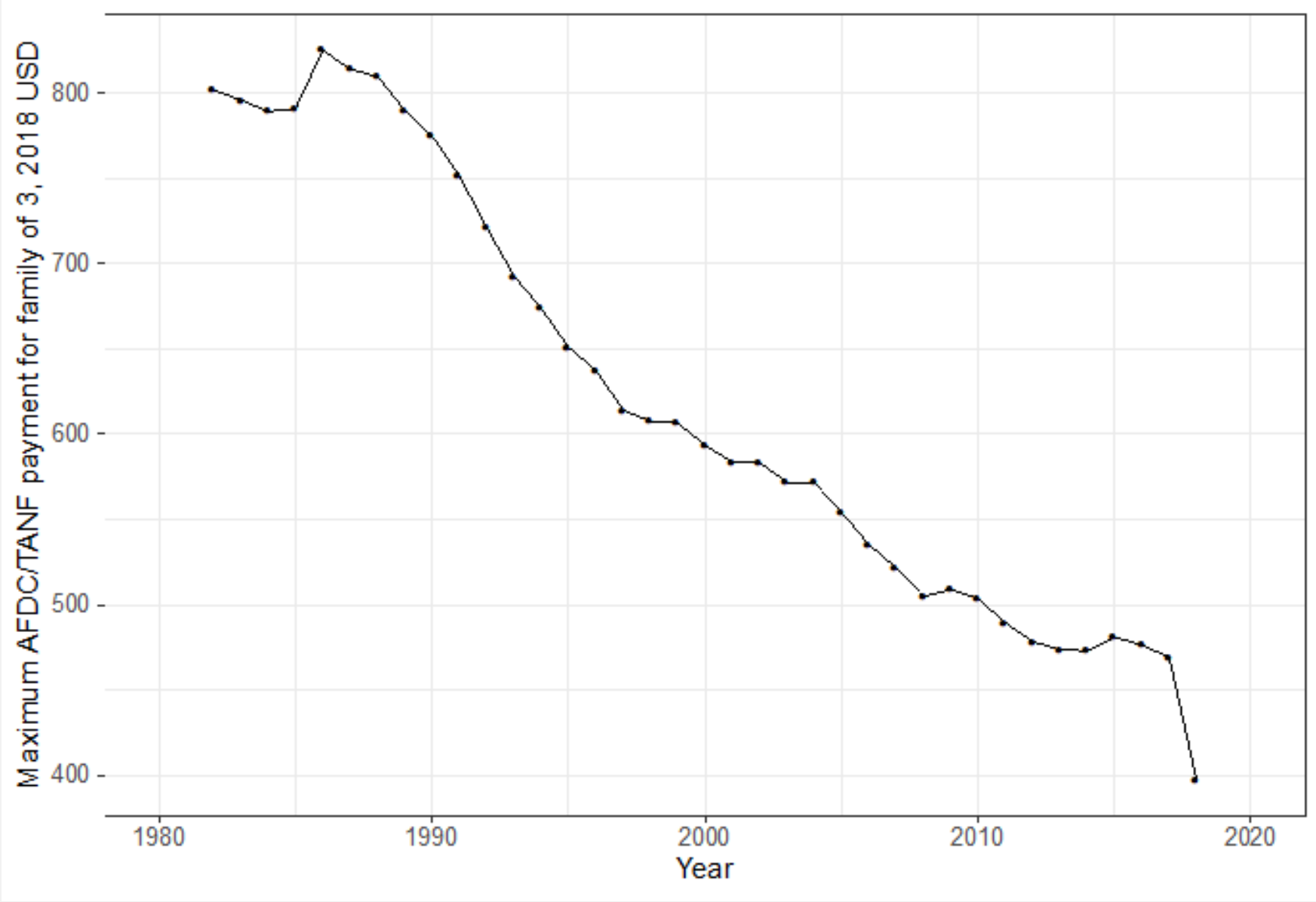
IMPUTATION OF MISSING DATA

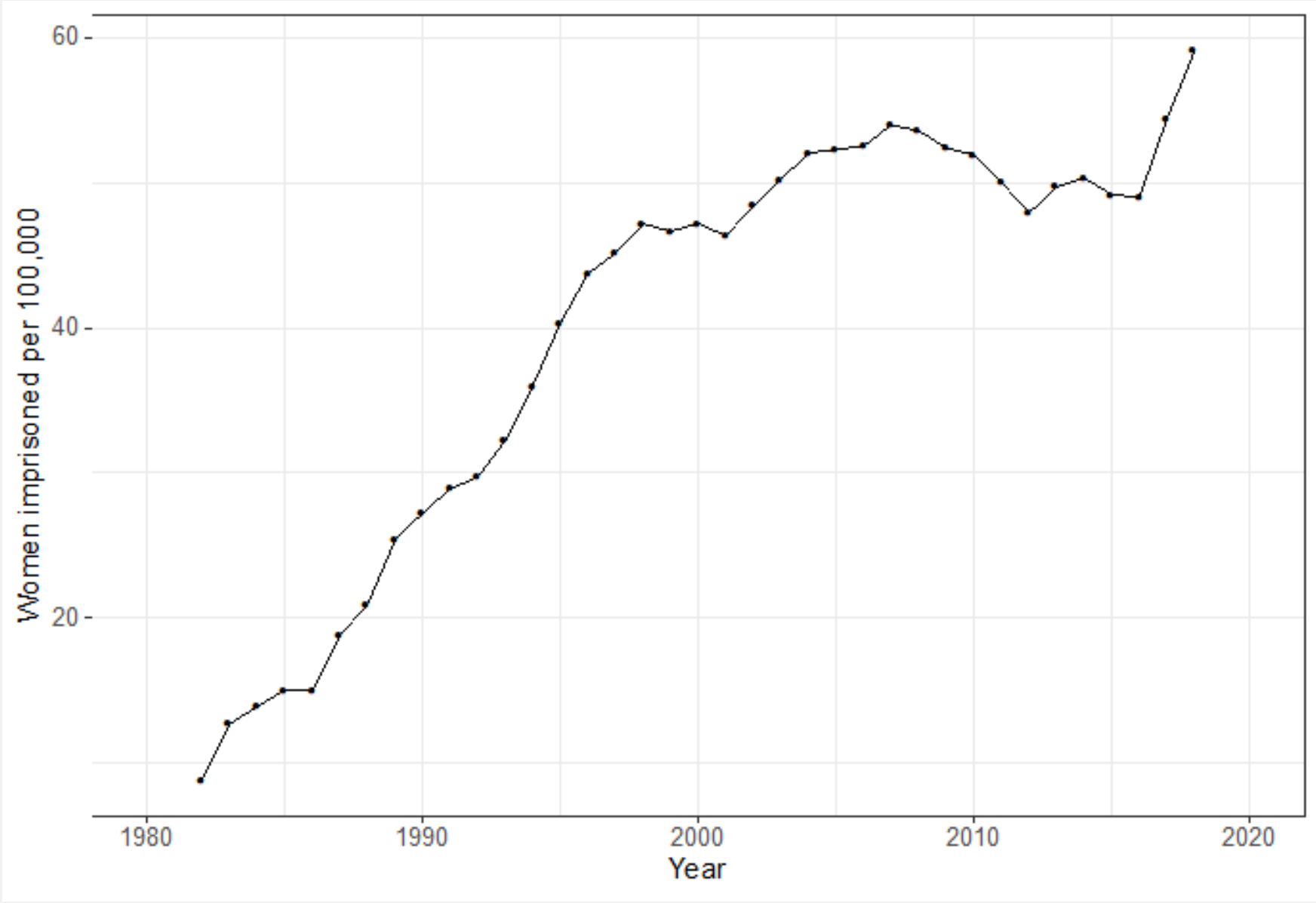
- Small amount of outcome and explanatory data are missing (<10%)
- Assumed missing at random (MAR)
- Multiple imputation by chained equations (MICE)
  - 10 imputations

RESULTS

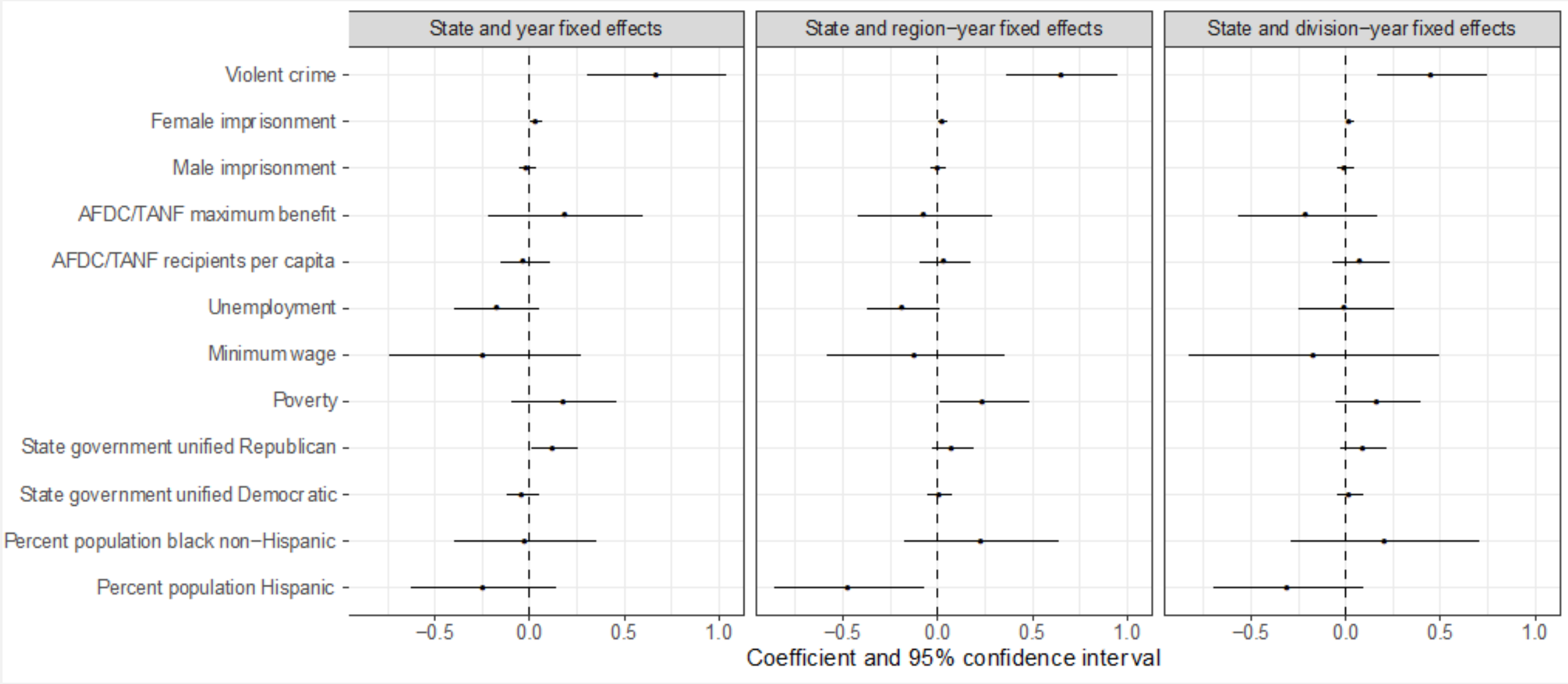

Children in substitute care per 1,000
8
7
6
5
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year

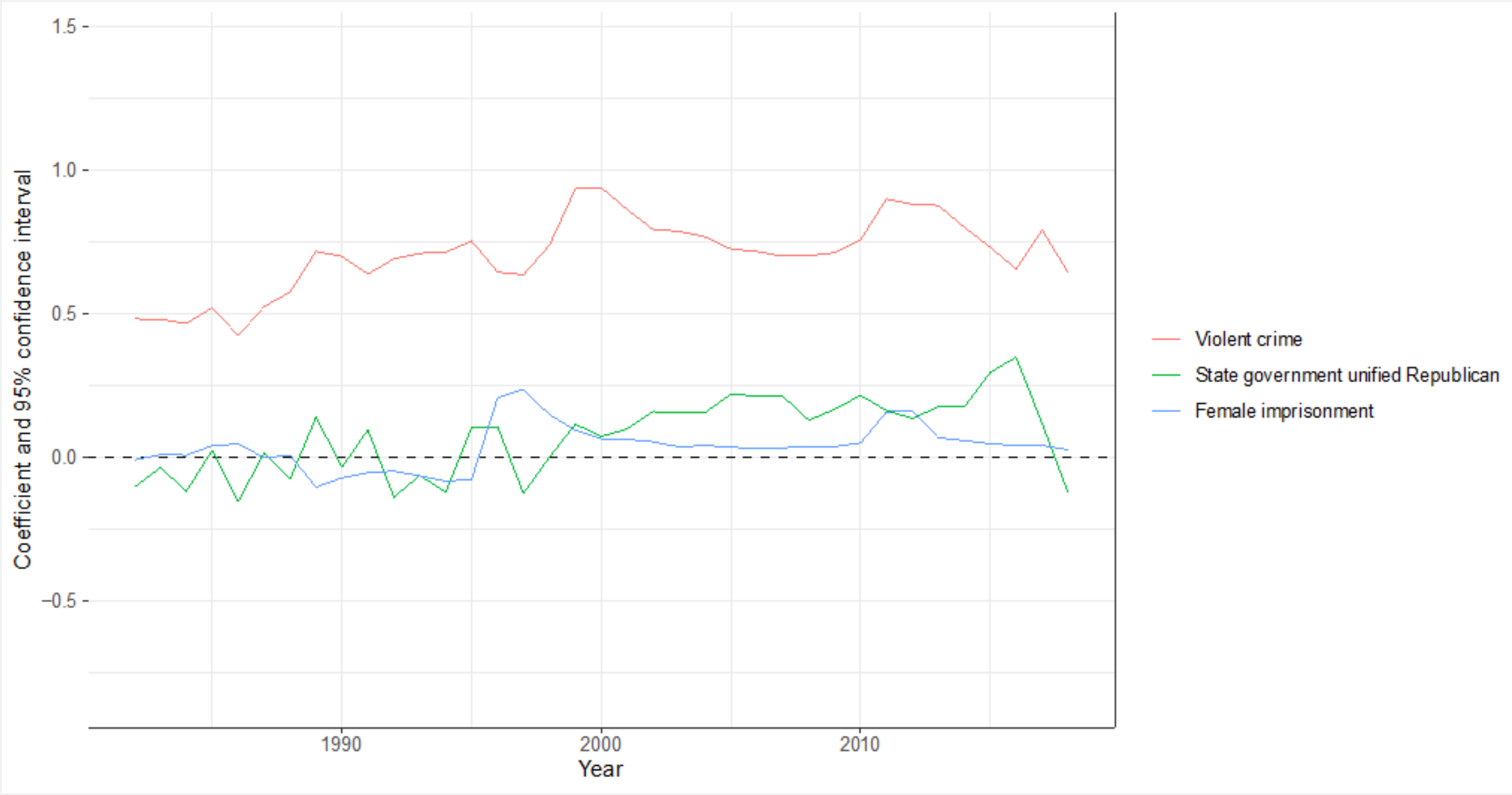
Violent crime arrests per 100,000
700
600
500
400
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year


Maximum AFDC/TANF payment for family of 3, 2018 USD
800
700
600
500
400
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year


60
40
20
Women imprisoned per 100,000
1980
1990
2000
2010
2020
Year

PERIOD ELASTICITIES




1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0
−0.5
Coefficient and 95% confidence interval
1990
2000
2010
Year
Violent crime
State government unified Republican
Female imprisonment

CONCLUSIONS

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

- Violent crime as a proxy
  - Drug use, social control, etc.
- The importance of unobservables
  - State and year intercepts explain a large proportion of observed variance in outcomes

CONCLUSIONS

- Historical research is strengthened by attention not only to changing levels but also to changing associations
- Time-dependent effects suggest research needs updating to have valid policy implications

FUTURE RESEARCH

- Clarification of interpretation of measures and associations
  - Additional covariates
  - Stocks vs. inflows
- Extension of time series
- Robustness to related outcomes
  - Investigations, substantiations of abuse and neglect

QUESTIONS?

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NEXT WEEK…

- July 22, 2020

- Presenters:
- Clayton Covington & Erin McCauley

- Topic:
- Administrative data