School of Public Health Mengcen Qian

PHPM1100062 Spring 2017

Problem Set 5

Due on 05/03 (Week 10)

1. Assume that we are interested in studying the effectiveness of a drug. Since we’ve learned the difference-in-difference approach, we can compare changes in outcomes (severity of the symptoms) between control and treated group to identify the treatment effect (the effect of the drug). Could you please use your own words to explain what is the difference between this approach and a pre & post design, where we compare changes in outcomes before and after the treatment for treated group only? (*Hint: you may either use a table, a graph or a regression model to illustrate the difference between the two approaches*)