

Economics 172
Issues in African Economic Development

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Lecture 11 – February 20, 2007

Table 2 Adjusted differences between cases and comparison pluckers on days plucking at 6-month intervals prior to AIDS-related termination*

Years before termination	Difference†	Percentage difference‡	SE	P-value
3.0 years	-1.689	-4%	2.732	0.536
2.5 years	0.466	1%	2.224	0.834
2.0 years	2.400	6%	1.956	0.220
1.5 years	4.113	10%	1.871	0.028
1.0 years	5.605	13%	1.940	0.004
0.5 years	6.876	16%	2.191	0.002
Near termination	7.927	19%	2.684	0.003

“Pre”
t=0

Diff₀
= +1%

“Post”
t=1

Diff₁
= -17%

* The final regression model included age, a dummy variable for matched group, the variables for time and a dummy variable to indicate pluckers who went on to an AIDS-related termination.

† Difference in kilograms.

‡ Expressed as a per cent of the average kilograms plucked by comparison pluckers, 41.

Taking the difference-in-differences

- The difference-in-differences (DD) estimator takes the differences between equations (2) and (3) to eliminate omitted variable bias and deliver the true effect:

Equation (2) – Equation (3)

$$\begin{aligned} &= \{E(Y_{i1} | T_{i1}=1) - E(Y_{i1} | T_{i1}=0)\} \\ &\quad - \{E(Y_{i0} | T_{i1}=1) - E(Y_{i0} | T_{i1}=0)\} \end{aligned}$$

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$$= \text{Diff}_1 - \text{Diff}_0 = (-17\%) - (+1\%) = -18\%$$

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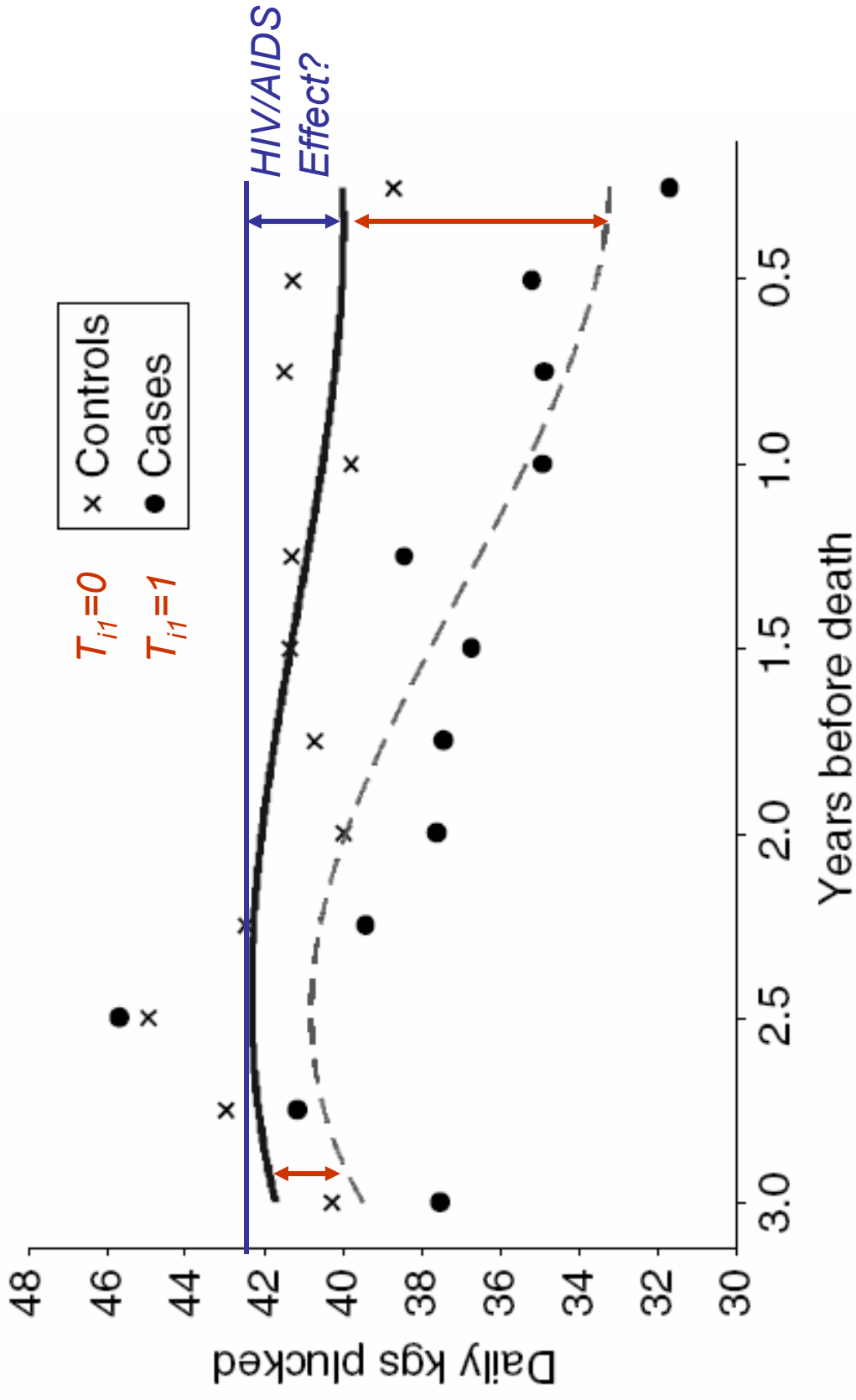


Figure 1 Mean kilograms of tea plucked per day on days of plucking for cases and controls (univariate analysis – curves are trend lines fit using polynomial regression for each group. Note that vertical access scale begins at 30 kg/day).

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- Sick workers often have family member “helpers”. So estimates are again likely to be lower bounds
- Is the assumption of no time-varying omitted variables reasonable? AIDS victims have higher absenteeism three years prior. What is the right “counterfactual”?

Key questions in the study of HIV/AIDS

- (0) Measuring the extent of the problem (today)
- (1) What impact does HIV/AIDS have on economic development in Africa?
 - Labor productivity / labor turnover
 - **Human capital accumulation (orphans)**
 - Investment and savings (as time horizons change)

Parent death and school participation in Kenya

- Evans and Miguel (2005) study the impact of parent death on school participation among primary school children in Kenya (using the deworming project dataset)
- Parent death leads to a drop of at least 5-6 percentage points in school participation
 - Impacts are particularly negative following maternal deaths, and for worse students

How do orphans, others compare at baseline?

	<u>Became</u> <u>Orphans</u>	<u>Never</u> <u>Orphans</u>	<u>B-N</u>
1997 School participation	0.83	0.81	0.02 (0.03)
1998 School participation	0.92	0.92	0.00 (0.01)
Weight-for-age (Z), 1998	-1.40	-1.45	0.05 (0.03)
Malaria in last month, 1998	0.40	0.39	0.01 (0.02)
Household has a latrine, 1998	0.81	0.82	-0.02 (0.02)
Household owns cattle, 1998	0.49	0.49	-0.00 (0.02)

Figure 1: Parent death and school participation over time
(relative to four years prior to parent death)

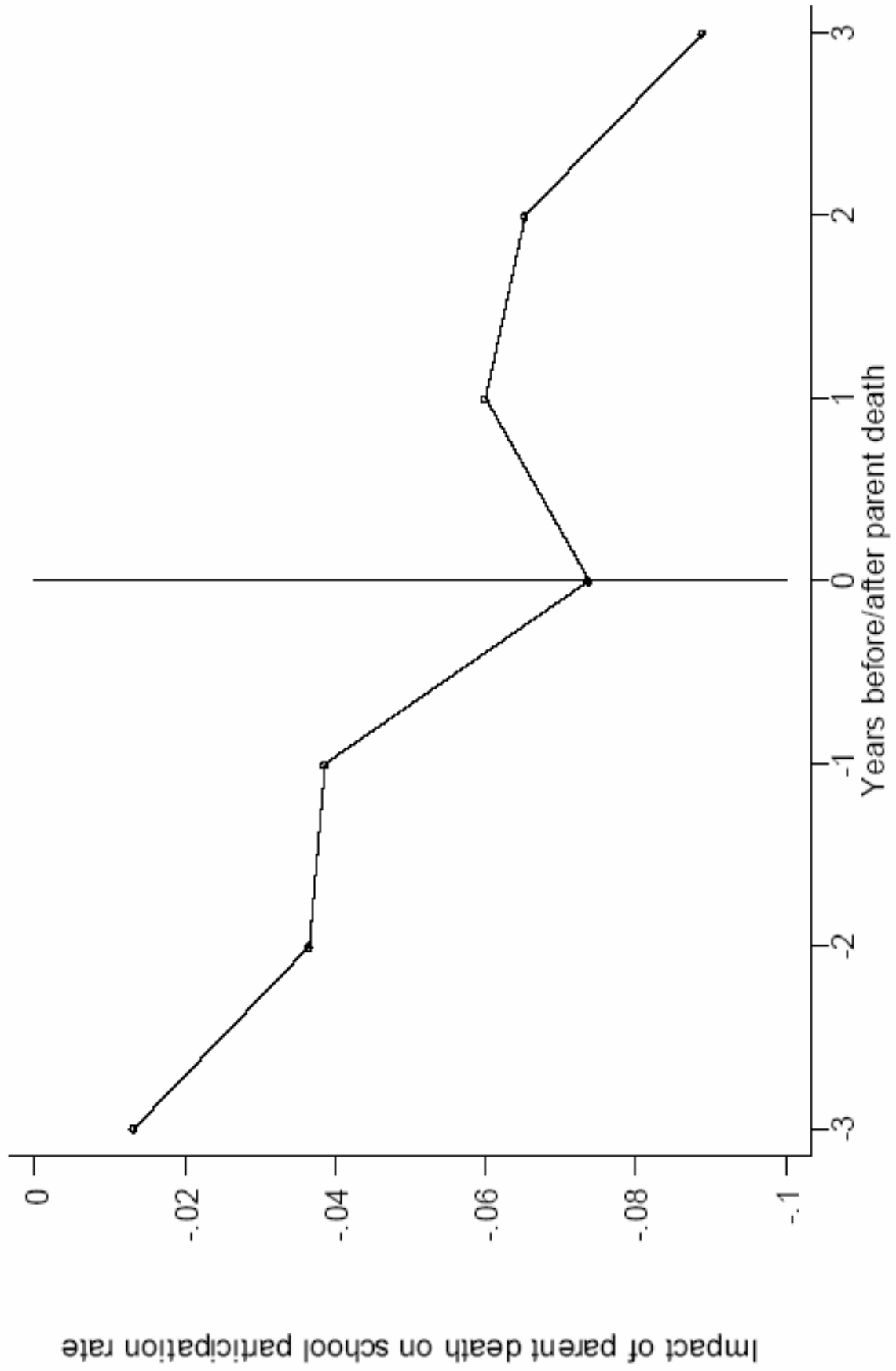


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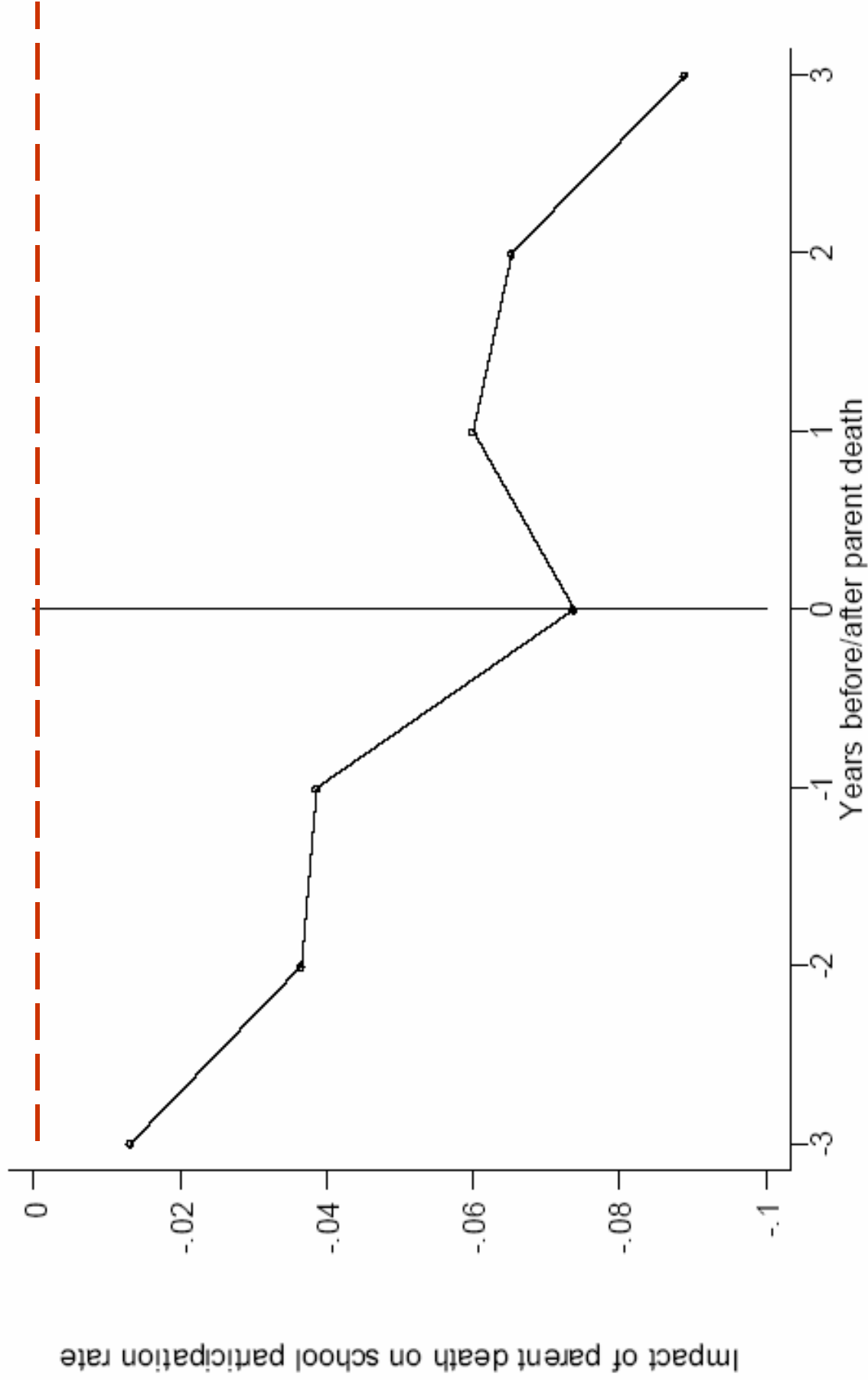


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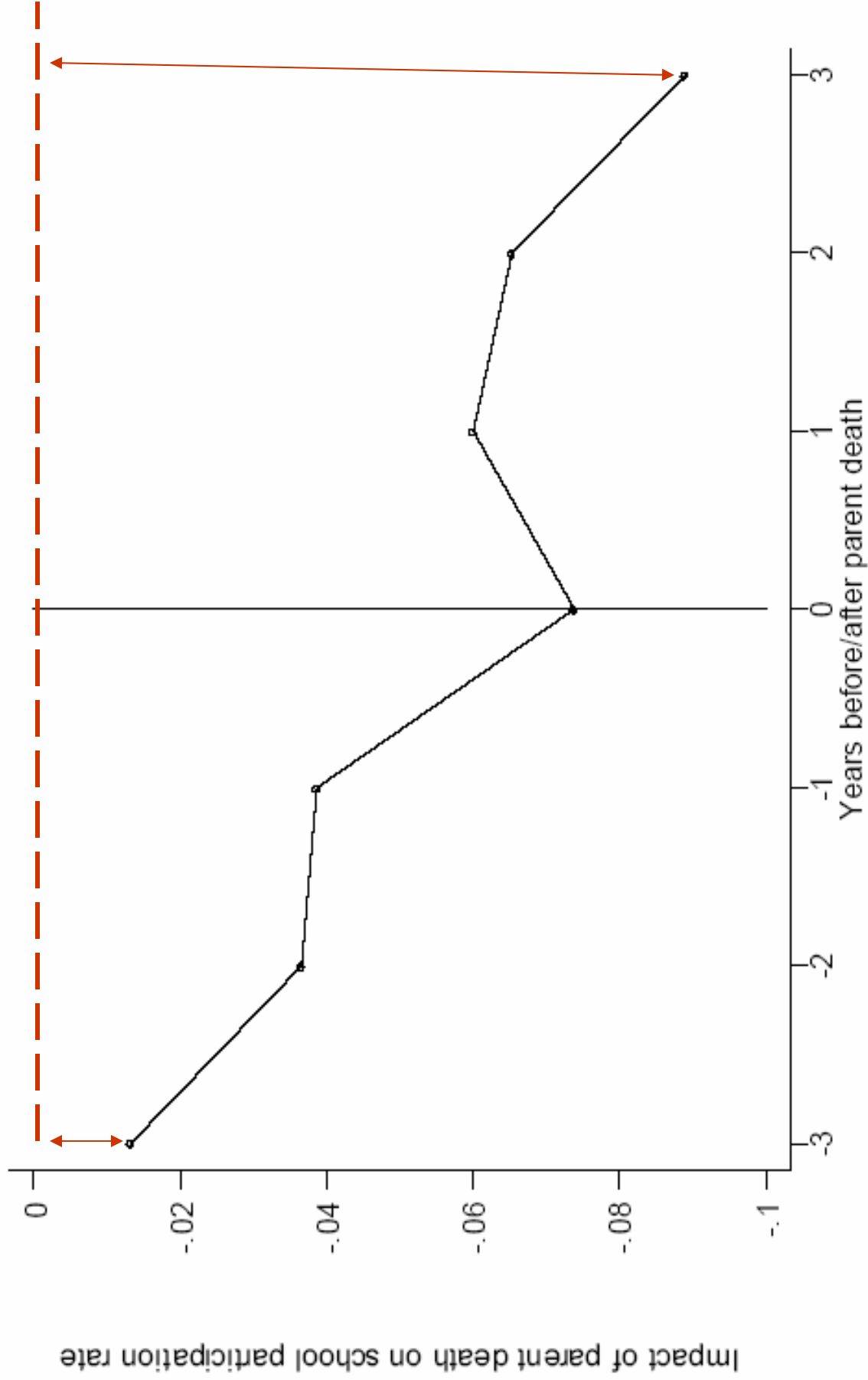
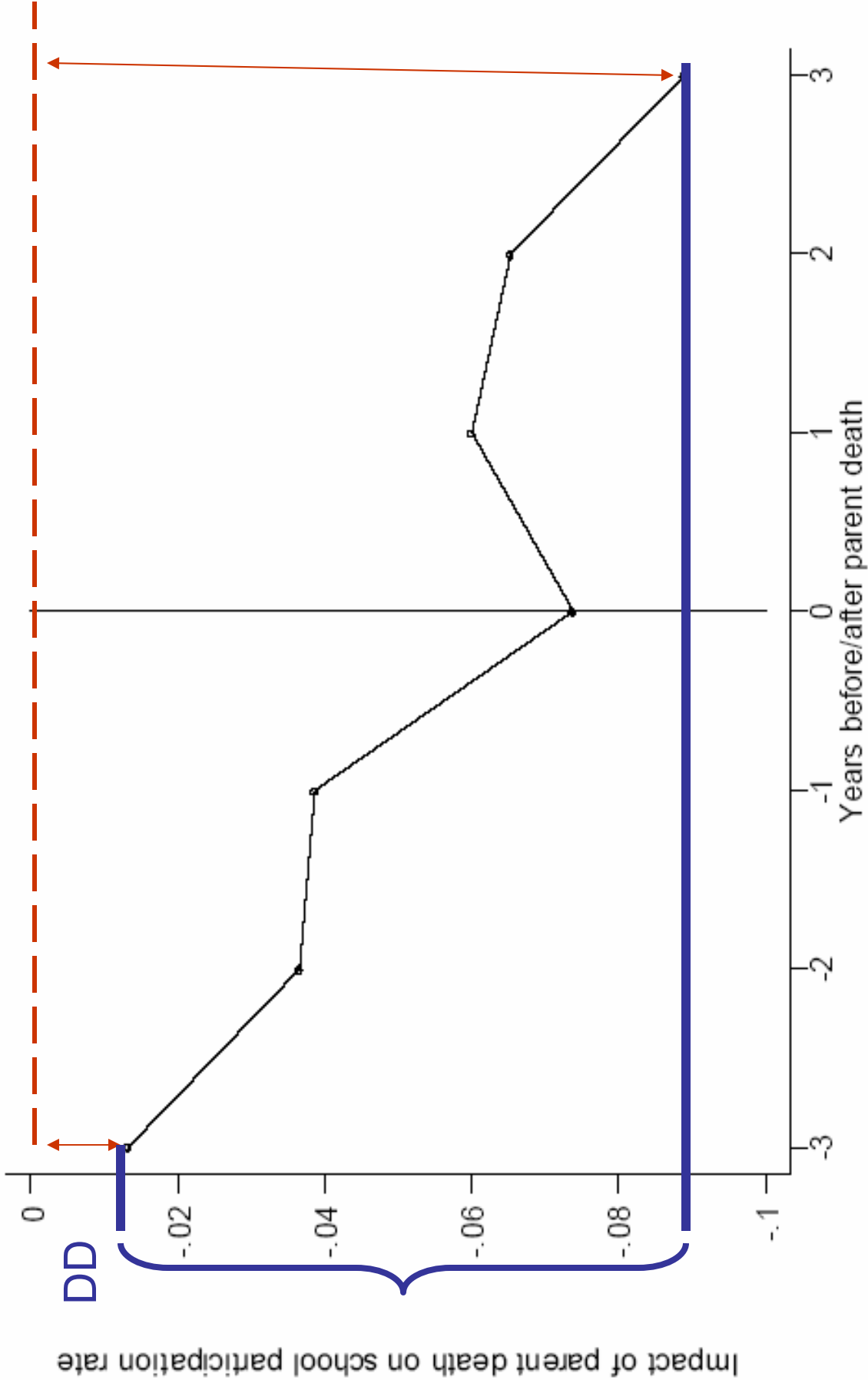


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Key questions in the study of HIV/AIDS

- (0) Measuring the extent of the problem (today)
- (1) What impact does HIV/AIDS have on economic development in Africa?
- (2) Why does HIV/AIDS continue to spread in Africa?
- (3) What can / should public policy do about HIV/AIDS?

Key questions in the study of HIV/AIDS

- (0) Measuring the extent of the problem (today)
- (1) What impact does HIV/AIDS have on economic development in Africa?
- (2) Why does HIV/AIDS continue to spread in Africa?**
- (3) What can / should public policy do about HIV/AIDS?

Why does HIV continue to spread?

- Lack of information, awareness about HIV/AIDS?
 - Probably not a good explanation anymore
- What else?

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- Value of unsafe sex: $S > 0$
- Assume the agent is HIV- in her/his youth

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Key term: benefits of unsafe sex (financial, physical, etc.)

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Benefits (+) Costs (-)

Why does HIV spread? An extension

- Imagine people do not know their infection status. S/he thinks she has likelihood $R \in [0, 1]$ of already being HIV+

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- “Nothing to lose”: cost of unsafe sex smaller than before

Why does HIV spread? An extension

- What are implications of this model for public health messages that stress how widespread the HIV virus already is?
- What are the implications of this model for efforts to boost ARV treatment (e.g., Botswana)?

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- (1) People are altruistic
 - Allow the benefits of unsafe sex to be a function of R :
 $S = S(R)$. This may offset the “nothing to lose” effect
- (2) Not all sexual choices are voluntary (e.g., rape)
- (3) Social / cultural norms regarding “acceptable” sexual behavior, especially regarding safe sex
- (4) Pockets of poor information about HIV/AIDS
- (5) Others?

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- (5) Subsidize treatment for anti-retroviral medical treatment (ARVs). (Compliance? Profits?)
- (6) Development of an HIV vaccine

- For next time: finish the HIV/AIDS section

Whiteboard #1

Whiteboard #2

Whiteboard #3

Whiteboard #4

Whiteboard #5

