The Impact of Metco on MCAS Test Scores: An OLS and 2SLS analysis

Two datasets are provided for use in this analysis.

1) "Metco district enrollment.dta" includes data on each school district that was **receiving** Metco transfer students from Boston in the 2001-2 school year. It includes the following variables: the name of the district; its distance from the **sending** district (Boston);[1] the total number of Metco students enrolled in that district; the total number of students enrolled in the district; and the district number.

2) "metco_mcas2002.dta" includes data on performance on the statewide MCAS scores for every school in the state in the 2001-2 school year. An overview of the variables included is provided on the next page.

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[1] The Metco program also included a transfer of students from Springfield to surrounding districts, but these districts will not be included in this analysis.

metco_mcas2002.dta variables

metco_mcas2002.dta contains grade-school-level MCAS data for the 2001-2002 school year, as well as some school characteristics.

type is a categorical variable that gives information about what type of district the school is in.
1 == regular public school district (one that is generally named after a single town and whose district number is between 1 and 350)
2 == public school district formed by towns combining together (district number between 600 and 780)
3 == collaborative (a district where several districts collaborate to offer special programs and whose district number is between 504 and 576)

metcodistrict is a dummy for whether the district received Metco students.

springfieldmetco is a dummy for whether the district received Metco students and is in the Springfield area.

The rest of the unlabeled variables have a three- or four-letter code. The first letter refers to the race. There are seven categories:
a – Asian
b – Black
w – White
h – Hispanic
m – Mixed
n – Native American
t1 – Total

The second letter refers to the type of test. There are two categories:
e – English Language Arts
m – Mathematics

The third and fourth letters/digits show what information about the race/test pair the variable gives. There are nine categories:
n1 – the number of people included in the mean
p1 – the percentage of people of that race in the district included in the mean
m – mean
n2 – the number of people included in the data on the four MCAS score levels
p2 – the percentage of people of that race in the district included in the data on the four MCAS score levels
a – percentage of those included who fall in the "advanced" level
b – percentage of those included who fall in the "proficient" level
c – percentage of those included who fall in the "needs improvement" level
d - percentage of those included who fall in the "failing/warning" level

[So, for instance, the variable hmn1 gives the number of people used to calculate hmm, the average math MCAS score for Hispanics.]

Other variables are labeled in the dataset.

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