Is Thursday the New Friday?
The Four-Day School Week and Teen Traffic Safety
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Background
The four-day school week schedule is being adopted by rural school districts across 24 U.S. states. The reduced schedule offers financial savings for districts and school-family balance for communities, but the effects of the schedule are not fully understood. For this analysis I wanted to learn if the additional weekend night leads to increased traffic risks for students.

Data and Methods
• School districts in nine U.S. States
• Fatal Accident Involvement from the Fatality Accident Reporting System (FARS) for driving age teens is primary outcome variable
• Difference-in-Differences design using Doubly Robust estimand proposed by Callaway & Sant’Anna (2021)

Conclusion
• No evidence of four-day school week negatively affecting teen traffic safety
• No significant effect on 26-31 year old group
• Day of Week and Time of Day Analyses also show no evidence of teen traffic safety being affected by four-day school week
• Some evidence does suggest teen female involvement in fatal accidents decline
• Concerns about increased risky behaviors from additional weekend night is not supported by this analysis

An extra weekend night has no effect on teen traffic safety in four-day school week schools

Event Study – Dynamic Effects of Average Treatment Effect (Four-Day School Week) on the Treated 15-18 Year Olds Involved in Fatal Accident

Note: Figure plots coefficient estimates from Callaway & Sant’Anna (2021) Doubly Robust estimator with 95% confidence intervals from a regression of each outcome variable separately on district and year fixed effects and a treatment indicator that takes a value of 1 when a school district adopts a four-day school week. Pre-treatment period coefficients fails a Wald Test where null hypothesis is pre-treatment coefficients all equal to zero (violates parallel trends assumption).