

PS C236A/ Stat C239A
Problem Set 9
Due: November 13, 2009

The following questions are based on the *Water for Life* paper used in problem set 5.

Problem 1

- a. Using the data from the *Water for Life* paper, use GenMatch to create a matched data set. Provide justification for your chosen loss function. Present balance plots and discuss how reasonable your achieved balance is.
Hint: You may want to use the caliper or domains options.
- b. Using the matched data set obtained in part a, check if the design passes the placebo test reported in the paper. Remember that the authors found that water privatization had a 0 effect on non-infectious and non-parasitic diseases. Can you recover this estimate? Additionally, provide your estimate of privatization on child mortality in 1999.
- c. Based on your analysis, provide your assessment of the research design used in *Water for Life*.

Problem 2 Based on your analysis of the Blattman paper two weeks ago, write a couple of paragraphs on what you think of their design and results. What assumptions are made in their study and do you think that they hold?