Overview of Data Files and Programs for "Navigating the Notches: Charity Responses to Ratings"

Jennifer Mayo[1]

[1]University of Missouri

April 24, 2024

1 Guide to Programs

The programs included in the replication files include 11 Stata do-files and two python files. The Stata code was last run using Stata/SE 18.0, with the files listed as follows:

1. **Admin Bunching Estimates (Table B.2).do**: This Stata do-file generates the administrative expenses bunching estimates in Table B.2.
2. **adminbunchest.do**: This Stata do-file is the program required to generate the administrative expenses bunching estimates (Table B.2).
3. **bunchest.do**: This Stata do-file is the program required to generate the overall score bunching estimates (Table 2).
4. **Bunching Estimates (Table 2).do**: This Stata do-file generates the overall score bunching estimates in Table 2.
5. **Bunching Figure 5.do**: This Stata do-file generates the descriptive bunching Figure 5.
6. **Donor responses.do**: This Stata do-file creates the following Tables and Figures related to the donor responses to charity ratings:
    - Table 3
    - Table 4
    - Appendix Table C.3
    - Appendix Table C.4
    - Appendix Table C.5
    - Appendix Table C.6
    - Appendix Figure D.5
    - Appendix Figure D.6
7. **Fin Score Bunching Estimates (Table B.1).do**: This Stata do-file generates the financial score bunching estimates in Table B.1.
8. **finbunchest.do**: This Stata do-file is the program required to generate the financial score bunching estimates (Table B.1).
9. **Histograms.do** This Stata do-file generates the following descriptive Figures:

- Figure 3
- Figure 4
- Appendix Figure B.1
- Appendix Figure B.2
- Appendix Figure D.1
- Appendix Figure D.2
- Appendix Figure D.3
- Appendix Figure D.4

10. **RatedUnrated.do**: This Stata do-file generates Appendix Figure D.7 and Appendix Table C.7, which involve comparing rated charities to similar unrated ones.

11. **Summary statistics.do**: This Stata do-file generates the summary statistics in Table 1 and Appendix Table C.2.

Charity Navigator has a completely new API since I scraped the data in 2019, meaning that the following python files no longer work. However, I still include two examples to help users generate their own:

1. **EIN_collection.py**: This Python file scrapes the EINs of rated organizations.

2. **Overall_score.py**: This Python file scrapes the overall scores of rated organizations.

To begin the replication, ensure that Stata, Python, and LaTeX are installed, and edit all programs to point to the same local directory. This directory should likewise include all datasets listed in Section 2. The do files can be run in any order.

2 Datasets for Analysis

The programs listed in Section 1 rely on the following datasets:

1. **CPI.dta**: This dataset contains annual CPI data (1980-2021), sourced from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The base period is 1982-1984. This variable is used to deflate all charity financial variables.

2. **Fin and A&T scores.dta**: This dataset contains the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency scores scraped from Charity Navigator's website in 2019.

3. **Fin scores.dta**: This dataset contains just the Financial Health scores scraped from Charity Navigator's website in 2019.

4. **FinancialMetrics.dta**: This dataset contains the financial metrics that Charity Navigator uses to generate their ratings. These were scraped from Charity Navigator's website in 2019.

5. **Form990efile2010_17.dta**: This dataset contains cleaned electronic filings of Form 990 data for rated charities. These data were scraped from the Amazon Web Services repository of e-filed Form 990 data that was maintained by the IRS until 2021. This data repository is no longer available; see https://registry.opendata.aws/irs990/ for details. However, the underlying data can still be accessed publicly, either by requesting the data from the IRS or

by processing the XML files published at https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search-bulk-data-downloads. This file contains select data on Section 501(c)3 charities for fiscal years 2010 - 2017.

6. **Form990objects.dta**: This dataset contains the Form 990 objects that Charity Navigator uses to generate their ratings. These were scraped from Charity Navigator's website in 2019.

7. **Overall score.dta**: This dataset contains the overall scores scraped from Charity Navigator's website in 2019.

8. **RatedvsUnrated.dta**: This dataset contains the relevant Form 990 information (scraped from the now defunct IRS website) for both rated and unrated charities.

3 Assembling Datasets

The datasets *Overall score.dta*, *Fin score.dta*, *Fin and A&T scores.dta*, *FinancialMetrics.dta* and *Form990objects.dta* are at the EIN-ratingid level. The datasets *Form990efile2010_17.dta* and *RatedvsUnrated.dta* are at the EIN-fiscal year level. They can be linked to the Charity Navigator data using EIN and any of the Form 990 objects.