Code and Data for "A Structural Meta-analysis of Welfare Reform Experiments and their Impacts on Children"

In this repo you will find code to replicate the analysis in A Structural Meta-analysis of Welfare Reform Experiments and their Impacts on Children by Mullins (2024).

Data and Cleaning

The experimental data used in this paper are proprietary and cannot be published due to a data sharing agreement with their owner, MDRC. Researchers wishing to replicate this paper can access this data by contacting MDRC and making a data request.

The SIPP data are taken from CEPR's uniform extracts and are included here in the data directory.

Below is a summary of the various scripts in the R directory used to clean the data.

- `cleanCTJF.R` loads and cleans the raw CTJF data.
- `cleanMFIP.R` and `cleanFTP.R` do the same for those respective datasets.
- `prep_SIPP.R` loads and prepares the SIPP data for estimation
- `final_prep.R` combines all datasets in to a single panel for estimation
- `final_prep_table.R` computes the summary statistics in Table 1

Estimation and Analysis

Estimation of first stage parameters is performed in `julia` using the script `estimate_model_childsample_K5.jl` which links to all the necessary source code. This script was run on a high performance cluster using 50 cores.

The estimation exercise that excludes experimental data is performed in `estimate_model_childsample_K5_noexp.jl`

Production parameters are estimated in the script `estimate_production.jl`.

The two counterfactuals from the paper are performed in `decomposition_counterfactual.jl` and `nonselected_counterfactual.jl`

Figures

The series of `R` scripts below generate all figures that appear in the paper.

- Figure 2 is created by `initial_dist_figure.R`
- Figures 3 and 4 are created by `model_fit.R`
- Figure 5 is created by `figure_no_experiment.R`
- Figures 6-10 by `production_figures.R`

- Figures 11-12 by `counterfactual_figures.R`