Replication package for "Stigma in Welfare Programs"

This documents how to replicate the analyses in "Stigma in Welfare Programs." Due to confidentiality restrictions, the linked data we use in this paper can only be accessed at secure facilities of the U.S. Census Bureau by researchers with Special Sworn Status. Unfortunately, we cannot make the data or intermediate results publicly available, but researchers can request access to the data by writing a proposal to the U.S. Census Bureau. Further information is available at https://www.census.gov/about/adrm/linkage/guidance.html and from the authors (nikolasmittag@posteo.de). All analyses in this paper were run in Stata.

1. Data Preparation

Our source data consists of administrative SNAP, TANF and GA records provided to us by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance in NY, as well as the ACS and CPS survey samples of NY. We use the internal, confidential version of the survey files, since they are geocoded and, for the ACS, contain a larger sample. The first step is to load the administrative records, extract the records corresponding to the sample and time period of survey respondents and create receipt and amounts received variables. The layout of the original files is confidential and the program files for this step were not disclosed, so we unfortunately cannot post them here.

1.welfare_stigma_data_cleaning.do: This file merges the extract from the administrative records to the ACS and CPS survey data and creates the relevant variables. Unless the variables are described and created in this file, they are the same as the variables on the original ACS or CPS survey files and documented in the relevant code books. This program produces two data sets that include the administrative variables linked to the ACS (acs_stigma_data.dta) and CPS (cps_stigma_data.dta) that are loaded by the file below that performs the analyses in the paper.

2. Replicating Analyses

2.welfare_stigma_data_analysis.do: This file loads the data sets created by the file above and reproduces Table 1 using the ACS data (lines 1-154) and Table 2 using the CPS data (lines 156-219). It also reproduces the first stage results in Appendix Table 3 as part of the code.