**Codebook**

*The Long-Term Effects of Neighborhood Disadvantage on Political Behavior: The “Moving*

*to Opportunity” Experiment*

This file lists the variables included in the “combined\_dataset.csv” used in all analysis for the paper and supplementary materials.

Variables created in merge

1. posterior
   1. Measures the posterior probability of a match between an MTO participant and an observation in the voter file, produced by the fastLink algorithm in the merge step of data analysis.
2. matched
   1. Indicator for whether an observation was matched to the voter file with a valid observation (1 = matched, 0 = not matched); produced in the 1\_combine\_data.R file
3. badmatch
   1. Indicator for an impossible match in which a participant is listed as having voted before they reached age 18 (1 = yes, 0 = no)
4. r\_postturnout
   1. Rate of voting in elections after treatment and voting eligibility
   2. Calculated from:
      1. Numerator: number of elections in which the voter file lists a participant as having voted, excluding those before treatment assignment
      2. Denominator: number of elections in the participant’s state’s voter file, excluding elections that took place before treatment assignment and before the participant turned 18
      3. Rounded to the nearest .1 to preserve confidentiality
5. r\_pretreatturnout
   1. Rate of voting in elections before treatment, after voting eligibility
   2. Calculated from:
      1. Numerator: number of elections in which the voter file lists a participant as having voted, excluding those after treatment assignment
      2. Denominator: number of elections in the participant’s state’s voter file, excluding elections that took place after treatment assignment and before the participant turned 18
      3. Rounded to the nearest .1 to preserve confidentiality
6. r\_postregturnout
   1. Rate of voting in elections after treatment, after the voter’s registration date (note: this variable is missing for subjects who are not registered to vote/matched in the voter file)
   2. Calculated from:
      1. Numerator: number of elections in which the voter file lists a participant as having voted after treatment assignment
      2. Denominator: number of elections in the participant’s state’s voter file, excluding elections that took place after treatment assignment, before the participant turned 18, and before their registration date
      3. Rounded to the nearest .1 to preserve confidentiality

Administrative variables

1. x\_f\_ch\_male
   1. Indicator for sex for youth generation (1 = male, 0 = female)
2. x\_f\_ad\_male
   1. Indicator for sex for adult generation (1 = male, 0 = female)
3. f\_svy\_gender
   1. Sex indicator, all generations
4. ra\_year
   1. Year of random assignment
5. f\_svy\_yob\_imp\_ytgc
   1. Year of birth (includes some observations calculated from a respondent’s age if only their age was available in MTO records); available for youth generation only
6. f\_svy\_sample2007
   1. Administrative variable denoting whether a person was selected for the final survey and which sample they fell into: AD (adult), YT (youth), or GC (grown children)
7. f\_wt\_totsvy
   1. Weights for analyzing final survey data (includes survey weights and weights reflecting unequal probabilities of assignment to treatment)
8. f\_wt\_totsvy\_ad
   1. Weights for analyzing final survey data reported by adults (includes survey weights and weights reflecting unequal probabilities of assignment to treatment)
9. f\_wt\_totcore98
   1. Weights for analyzing administrative data (includes weights reflecting unequal probabilities of assignment to treatment)
10. ra\_group\_factor
    1. categorical variable measuring assignment to treatment: control (control group), experimental (treatment group assigned low-poverty vouchers), and section 8 (treatment group assigned section 8 vouchers)
11. f\_c9010t\_histatus\_dw[[1]](#footnote-1)
    1. Census tract share managerial/professional workers
12. f\_c9010t\_pblack\_dw
    1. Census tract share black inhabitants (interpolated)
13. f\_c9010t\_pcolldeg\_dw
    1. Census tract share college graduates
14. f\_c9010t\_pemp\_dw
    1. Census tract civilian employment rate (interpolated)
15. f\_c9010t\_perpov\_dw
    1. Census tract share under poverty line
16. f\_c9010t\_phisp\_dw
    1. Census tract share Hispanic inhabitants (interpolated)
17. f\_c9010t\_pfsfem\_dw
    1. Census tract share single female-headed homes (interpolated)
18. f\_c9010t\_pminorty\_dw
    1. Census tract share minority race
19. f\_c9010t\_pwelf\_dw
    1. Census tract share on welfare
20. Indicators for city of residence at baseline:
    1. x\_f\_site\_balt (Baltimore)
    2. x\_f\_site\_bos (Boston)
    3. x\_f\_site\_chi (Chicago)
    4. x\_f\_site\_la (Los Angeles)
    5. (omitted category: New York)
21. Indicators for age of core adult as of 2007:
    1. x\_f\_ad\_le\_35 (age 35 or younger)
    2. x\_f\_ad\_36\_40 (age 36-40)
    3. x\_f\_ad\_41\_45 (age 41-45)
    4. x\_f\_ad\_46\_50 (age 46-50)
22. Indicators for age of child as of 2007:
    1. x\_f\_ch\_age10 (child is age 10)
    2. x\_f\_ch\_age11
    3. x\_f\_ch\_age12
    4. x\_f\_ch\_age13
    5. x\_f\_ch\_age14
    6. x\_f\_ch\_age15
    7. x\_f\_ch\_age16
    8. x\_f\_ch\_age17
    9. x\_f\_ch\_age18
    10. x\_f\_ch\_age19
    11. x\_f\_ch\_age20
23. Indicators for education of core adult at baseline:
    1. x\_f\_ad\_edged (had a GED)
    2. x\_f\_ad\_edgradhs (completed high school)
    3. x\_f\_ad\_edgradhs\_miss (missing education)
    4. x\_f\_ad\_edinsch (in school at baseline)
24. Other core adult demographics at baseline:
    1. x\_f\_ad\_ethn\_hisp (adult is Hispanic, regardless of race)
    2. x\_f\_ad\_nevmarr (at baseline, adult had never been married)
    3. x\_f\_ad\_parentu18 (adult was <18 at birth of first child)
    4. x\_f\_ad\_race\_black (adult is African American)
    5. x\_f\_ad\_race\_other (adult is not African American or white)
    6. x\_f\_ad\_working (at baseline, adult was working for pay)
25. Other characteristics of household at baseline:
    1. x\_f\_hh\_disabl (household contained disabled person)
    2. x\_f\_hh\_noteens (household contained no teenagers)
    3. x\_f\_hh\_size2 (household contained 2 or fewer members)
    4. x\_f\_hh\_size3 (household contained 3 members)
    5. x\_f\_hh\_size4 (household contained 4 members)

Baseline survey data

1. x\_f\_c1\_behprb
   1. Child has behavioral problem
   2. Question wording: During the past two years, has this CHILD gone to a special class or school or gotten special help in school for behavioral or emotional problems? (1 = yes, 0 = no)
   3. x\_f\_c1\_behprb\_miss: indicator for missingness
2. x\_f\_c1\_expel
   1. Child expelled
   2. Question wording: During the past two years, has this CHILD ever been suspended or expelled from school? (1 = yes, 0 = no)
   3. x\_f\_c1\_expel\_miss: indicator for missingness
3. x\_f\_c1\_gifted
   1. Child is gifted
   2. Question wording: Does this CHILD go to a special class for gifted students or do advanced work in any subjects? (1 = yes, 0 = no)
   3. x\_f\_c1\_gifted\_miss: indicator for missingness
4. x\_f\_c1\_lrnprb
   1. Child diagnosed with learning problem
   2. Question wording: During the past two years, has this CHILD gone to a special class or school or gotten special help in school for learning problems? (1 = yes, 0 = no)
   3. x\_f\_c1\_lrnprb\_miss: indicator for missingness
5. x\_f\_c1\_schcll
   1. School called about child in past two years (1= yes, 0 = no)
   2. Question wording: During the past two years, has anyone from this CHILD's school asked someone to come in and talk about problems this CHILD was having
   3. with schoolwork or behavior?
6. x\_f\_ch\_schplay
   1. Child has problems that make activities difficult (1 = yes, 0 = no)
   2. Question wording: yes to at least one of: Does this CHILD have any physical, emotional, or mental problems that (1) makes it hard for this CHILD to play active games or sports? or (2) Makes it hard for this CHILD to get to school?
   3. x\_f\_ch\_schplay\_miss: indicator for missingness
7. x\_f\_ch\_specmed
   1. Child requires special medication (1 = yes, 0 = no)
   2. Question wording: Does this CHILD have any physical, emotional, or mental problems that means this CHILD needs special medicine or equipment?
8. x\_f\_c2\_hosp
   1. Child was in hospital before age 1 (1 = yes, 0 = no)
   2. Question wording: Was this CHILD ever in the hospital before his/her first birthday because this CHILD was sick or injured?
   3. x\_f\_c2\_hosp\_miss: indicator for missingness
9. x\_f\_c2\_lowbw
   1. Child weighed less than 6 pounds at birth
   2. Question wording: How much did this CHILD weigh when he/she was born? (input pounds and ounces)
   3. x\_f\_c2\_lowbw\_miss: indicator for missingness
10. x\_f\_c2\_read
    1. Child read to at least once per day (1 = more than once a day or about once a day; 0 = about once a week, about once a month, or almost never)
    2. Question wording: How often do you or someone in your home have a chance to read a book or story to CHILD?
    3. x\_f\_c2\_read\_miss: indicator for missingness
11. x\_f\_hood\_5y
    1. Household head had lived in neighborhood 5 or more years (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. Question wording: How long have you lived in your neighborhood?
12. x\_f\_hood\_chat
    1. Household head chatted with neighbors at least once a week (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. Question wording: How often do you stop to chat with a neighbor in the street or hallway? (1 = almost every day or once a week; 0 = once a month, a few times a year, or almost never)
13. x\_f\_hh\_victim
    1. Household contained a member who had been a victim of a crime in the past 6 months (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. Yes if subject answered yes to 1 of the following: Please tell me if any of the following things have happened to you or anyone who lives with you in the past 6 months:
       1. Was anyone's purse, wallet, or jewelry snatched from them?
       2. Was anyone threatened with a knife or gun?
       3. Was anyone beaten or assaulted?
       4. Was anyone stabbed or shot?
       5. Did anyone try to break into your home?
14. x\_f\_hh\_afdc
    1. Household receiving AFDC/TANF at baseline (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. Question wording: Are you getting AFDC (welfare) now?
15. x\_f\_hh\_car
    1. Household owned car (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. Question wording: Do you have a car that runs?
16. x\_f\_hood\_nbrkid
    1. Very likely to tell on neighborhood kid (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. Question wording: If you saw a neighbor's child getting into trouble, how likely is it that you would tell your neighbor about it? (yes if very likely, no if somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely)
17. x\_f\_hood\_nofamily
    1. Household head has no family living in neighborhood (1 = no family, 0 = a few or many family)
    2. Question wording: How many of your family members live in the same neighborhood as you? (none, a few, or many)
18. x\_f\_hood\_nofriend
    1. Household head has no friends living in neighborhood (1 = no friends, 0 = a few or many friends)
    2. Question wording: How many of your friends live in the same neighborhood as you? (none, a few, or many)
19. x\_f\_hood\_unsafenit
    1. Household head thinks streets at night are very unsafe (1 = very unsafe, 0 = unsafe, safe, or very safe)
    2. Question wording: The next questions ask about safety in your neighborhood. By safety, we mean being safe from being robbed, attacked, or shot. How safe are the streets near your home at night? (very safe, safe, unsafe, or very unsafe)
20. x\_f\_hood\_verydissat
    1. Household head is very dissatisfied with neighborhood (1 = very dissatisfied, 0 = somewhat dissatisfied, in the middle, somewhat satisfied, or very satisfied)
    2. Question wording: Which of the following statements best describes how satisfied you are with your neighborhood? (very dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, in the middle, somewhat satisfied, or very satisfied)
21. x\_f\_hous\_fndapt
    1. Household head very sure they could find an apartment (1 = very sure, 0 = fairly sure, 50-50, not very sure, or not at all sure)
    2. Question wording: How sure are you that you will be able to find an apartment in a different area of Boston? (very sure, fairly sure, 50-50, not very sure, or not at all sure)
22. x\_f\_hous\_mov3tm
    1. Household head had moved more than 3 times in past 5 years (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. Question wording: Have you moved more than three times in the past five years? (yes, no)
23. x\_f\_hous\_movdrgs
    1. Household head’s most important or second most important reason for moving is drugs and gangs (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. Question wording: What is the main reason you want to move? (better schools for my children, to be near my job, to have better transportation, to get a job, to get away from drugs and gangs, to get a bigger or better apartment, to be near my family, other, or I don’t want to move); then, What is the second most important reason you want to move? (same choices)
24. x\_f\_hous\_movschl
    1. Household head’s most important or second most important reason for moving is schools (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. (see previous question)
25. x\_f\_hous\_sec8bef
    1. Household head had applied for section 8 before (1 = yes, 0 = no)
    2. Question wording: Have you ever applied for a Section 8 voucher or certificate before today? (yes, no)

Interim survey (adult sample)

1. a22
   1. Moves since random assignment
   2. Question wording: How many times have you moved since [YEAR OF RANDOM ASSIGNMENT]? (enter a number)

Final survey (adult sample)

1. hrl1
   1. Marital status
   2. Question wording: Are you currently married, in a romantic relationship, or not currently in a relationship? (1 = married, 2 = in a romantic relationship, 5 = not currently in a romantic relationship)
2. hsn21
   1. Visits with close friends
   2. Question wording: During the past thirty days about how often have you visited with close friends at their homes? (1 = Every day (includes 6-7 times a week), 2 = Several days a week (includes 3-5 times a week), 3 = Twice a week, 4 = About once a week, 5 = 2 or 3 times in the past month, 6= Once in the past month, 7 = Not at all in the past month)
3. hsn31
   1. Church attendance
   2. Question wording: In the past 12 months, how often have you gone to church or attended other religious services? (1 = Never in the past 12 months, 2 = Several times in the past 12 months (includes 1-11 times), 3 = Once a month (includes 1-3 times a month), 4 = Once a week (includes 1-3 days a week), 5 = More than once a week, 6 = volunteered: no church or place of worship)
4. hnb3\_b\_1
   1. Seen drug use
   2. Question wording: Have you seen people using or selling illegal drugs in your neighborhood during the past 30 days?(1 = yes, 5 = no)
5. hnb9b\_b\_1
   1. Safety at night
   2. Question wording: How safe do you feel on the streets near your home at night? (1 = very safe, 2 = safe, 3 = unsafe, 4 = very unsafe)
6. hnb2a\_b\_1
   1. Trash in neighborhood a big problem
   2. Question wording: Now I would like to ask you about problems that occur in some neighborhoods. I will read a series of questions, and for each please tell me if it is a big problem, a small problem, or not a problem in your neighborhood. In your neighborhood, how big of a problem is litter or trash on the streets or sidewalk? (1 = a big problem, 2 = a small problem, 3 = no problem)
7. hnb2b\_b\_1
   1. Graffiti in neighborhood a big problem
   2. Question wording: (see previous)… how big of a problem is graffiti or writing on the walls? (1 = a big problem, 2 = a small problem, 3 = no problem)
8. hnb2d\_b\_1
   1. Abandoned buildings a big problem
   2. Question wording: (see previous)… how big of a problem is abandoned buildings? (1 = a big problem, 2 = a small problem, 3 = no problem)
9. hnb6b
   1. Experienced unfair racial treatment in neighborhood
   2. Question wording: Can you think of one or more occasions in the last 6 months when you felt you were treated unfairly because of your race or ethnicity? …in your own neighborhood? (1 = yes, 5 = no)
10. hnb6d
    1. Experienced unfair racial treatment in police interaction
    2. Question wording: (see previous)…in dealing with the police, such as a traffic accident? (1 = yes, 5 = no)
11. hnb1\_b\_1
    1. Satisfaction with neighborhood
    2. Question wording: Which of the following statements best describes how satisfied you are with your neighborhood? (1 = very satisfied, 2 = somewhat satisfied, 3 = in the middle, 4 = somewhat dissatisfied, 5 = very dissatisfied)
12. hnb2f\_b\_1
    1. Problem: police come when called
    2. Question wording: (In your neighborhood, how big of a problem is) police not coming when called? (1 = a big problem, 2 = a small problem, 3 = no problem)
13. f\_in\_tanf\_fam
    1. Household receives TANF
    2. Question wording: Now I’d like to ask you about cash assistance some families receive on a regular basis. For example, they may get a monthly check. Some people call this assistance “welfare,” AFDC, TANF or “public aid.” I’ll use the word “welfare.” Are you Fill[or your child/or your children] regularly receiving welfare benefits now? (1 = yes, 5 = no)
14. hed2
    1. High school diploma/GED
    2. Question wording: Do you have a high school diploma or a GED? (1 = GED, 2 = high school diploma, 3 = both, 4 = neither)
15. hed4
    1. Educational attainment
    2. Question wording: What is the highest degree you have received? (1 = associate degree occupational/vocational, 2 = associate degree academic, 3 = bachelor’s degree, 4 = master’s degree, 5 = professional school degree, 6 = doctorate degree)

Final survey (youth sample)

1. yhl1d
   1. Children living with you
   2. Question wording: Do you have children of your own who live with you? (1 = yes, I have children and they live with me, 2 = I have children but they don’t live with me, 5 = no, I don’t have children)
2. ysn12
   1. Visits with close friends
   2. Question wording: During the past year, how often have you visited or spent time with [this friend/these friends]? (1 = most every day, 2 = a few times a week, 3 = a few times a month, 4 = about once a month, 5 = less than once a month, 6 = never)
3. ysn13
   1. Church attendance
   2. Question wording: Many churches, synagogues, and other places of worship have special activities for young people—such as youth groups, Bible classes, or choir. In the past 12 months, how often did you attend such youth activities: Did you go… (1 = once a week or more, 2 = once a month or more (but less than once a week), 3 = less than once a month, 4 = never)
4. ynb2\_b\_1
   1. Neighborhood satisfaction
   2. Question wording: Now I’d like to talk about the neighborhood you live in. Which of the following statements best describes how satisfied you are with your neighborhood? (1 = very satisfied, 2 = somewhat satisfied, 3 = in the middle, 4 = somewhat dissatisfied, 5 = very dissatisfied)
5. ynb3b\_b\_1
   1. Neighborhood safety
   2. Question wording: Now I would like to get a sense of how safe you think your neighborhood is. How safe do you feel … on the streets near your home at night? (1 = very safe, 2 = safe, 3 = unsafe, 4 = very unsafe)
6. ynb4e
   1. Unfair police treatment
   2. Question wording: (Were you treated unfairly because of your race or ethnicity) … In dealing with the police, such as a traffic accident? (1 = yes, 5 = no)
7. ynb6\_b\_1
   1. Seen drug use/sale recently
   2. Question wording: Have you seen people using or selling illegal drugs in your neighborhood during the past 30 days? (1 = yes, 5 = no)
8. yed1
   1. Currently in school
   2. Question wording: The next questions are about your educational experiences. Are you currently attending or enrolled in regular school? If you are currently on summer vacation, please say so. ( 1= yes, 5 = no, 6 = on summer vacation)
9. yed3a
   1. Highest grade of school completed
   2. Question wording: What is the highest grade or year of school you have completed? (grade 1 – 11, 12 = 12th grade, 13 = first year of college, 14 = second year of college, 15 = third year of college, 16 = fourth year of college, 17 = vocational/training, 18 = other)
10. yed3c
    1. Received HS diploma
    2. Question wording: Have you received a regular high school diploma? Do not include a GED. (1 = yes, 5 = no)
11. yed3e
    1. College attendance
    2. Question wording: (Are you attending / Did you attend) a two-year college, a four-year college, a trade or business school, or another type of college/school? (1 = two-year school, 2 = four-year college, 3 = trade or business school, 4 = another type, 5 = none)
12. yem1
    1. Employment status
    2. Question wording: Now I’d like to ask a few questions about any jobs you may have. Last week, did you do any work for pay? (1 = yes, 5 = no, 7 = volunteer disabled, 8 = volunteer unable to work)
13. yrb35\_u34
    1. Welfare receipt
    2. Question wording: Now I’d like to ask you about cash assistance for which some families receive money on a regular basis. For example, they may get a monthly check. Some people call this assistance "welfare," AFDC, TANF or "public aid." I will use the word “welfare.” Are you (or your child/or your children) regularly receiving welfare benefits now? (1 = yes, 5= no)

Roster variables (information reported by adult respondents to the final survey about all members of the household not captured in other final surveys)

1. hho3
   1. High school education
   2. Question wording: Has [he/she] graduated from high school, or does [he/she] have a GED? (1 = GED, 2 = high school, 3 = neither)
2. hho4
   1. College education
   2. Question wording: Has [he/she] ever attended college or does [he/she] attend college now? (1 = yes, 5 = no)
3. hho5
   1. Employment status
   2. Question wording: Is [he/she] now working for pay full-time or part-time? (1 = full-time, 2 = part-time, 3 = not working)
4. hho6
   1. Marital status
   2. Question wording: What is [his/her] marital status? (1 = single, 2 = married, 3 = divorced, 4= widowed)
5. hho7
   1. Has biological children
   2. Question wording: How many biological children does [he/she] have? (0 = none, 1 = one, 2 = two, 3 = three or more)
6. hho10a
   1. Time in jail/prison
   2. Question wording: Has [he/she] (ever) spent any time in jail or prison? (1 = yes, 5 = no)

Additional variables present in the “clusters.csv” dataset were created during data processing or the creation of clusters. We include their coding here for convenience. In the clustered dataset, all individual-level variables are averaged within clusters.

1. cluster
   1. A unique ID for each cluster of observations
2. n\_cluster
   1. the number of observations in the cluster
3. evervoted\_pre
   1. indicator for whether a respondent had a pretreatment turnout rate greater than 0, generated from the variable r\_pretreatturnout
   2. 1 = turnout > 0, 0 otherwise
4. evervoted\_post
   1. indicator for whether a respondent had a posttreatment turnout rate greater than 0, generated from the variable r\_postturnout
   2. 1 = turnout > 0, 0 otherwise
5. sex\_f
   1. recoding of all sex indicator variables, derived from x\_f\_ch\_male, x\_f\_ad\_male, and f\_svy\_gender
   2. 1 = female, 0 = other
6. age\_group
   1. categorical recoding of age at random assignment, derived from ra\_year, f\_svy\_yob\_imp\_ytgc, and f\_svy\_sample2007
   2. “young\_kid” = youth generation member younger than 13 at random assignment, “old\_kid” = youth generation member 13 or older at random assignment, “adult” = adult at random assignment
7. local\_poverty\_posttreat
   1. tract poverty rate; renamed version of f\_c9010t\_perpov\_dw
8. tract\_unemp
   1. tract unemployment rate; one minus f\_c9010t\_pemp\_dw
9. tract\_welf
   1. tract welfare rate; renamed version of f\_c9010t\_pwelf\_dw
10. tract\_femalehead
    1. tract female headed household rate; renamed version of f\_c9010t\_pfsfem\_dw
11. tract\_minority
    1. tract percent minority; renamed version of f\_c9010t\_pminorty\_dw
12. tract\_poverty
    1. tract poverty rate; renamed version of f\_c9010t\_perpov\_dw
13. tract\_college
    1. tract college graduation rate; renamed version of f\_c9010t\_pcolldeg\_dw
14. grad\_hs
    1. indicator for youth having graduated high school at the final survey; derived from f\_svy\_yob\_imp\_ytgc, yed3c, and hho3
    2. 1 if graduated high school, 0 otherwise; missing if less than age 19 at time of final survey
15. attend\_coll
    1. indicator for youth having attended any college at the final survey; derived from f\_svy\_yob\_imp\_ytgc, yed3e, hho4
    2. 1 if attended college, 0 otherwise; missing if less than age 19 at time of final survey
16. work
    1. indicator for youth employment at final survey; derived from f\_svy\_yob\_imp\_ytgc, yem1, hho5
    2. 1 if employed, 0 otherwise; missing if less than age 23 at time of final survey
17. parent
    1. indicator for youth parenthood at final survey; derived from yhl1d, hho7
    2. 1 if a parent, 0 otherwise
18. jail
    1. indicator for youth having spent time in jail or prison at final survey; derived from hho10a
    2. 1 if spend time in jail/prison, 0 otherwise

1. This and all other Census tract variables were calculated in the following manner. HUD recorded all Census tracts in which a household lived between the time of random assignment (1994-8) and the time of the final evaluation around 2010. For each participant, the characteristics of all the Census tracts in which they lived were averaged, with each tract weighted by the length of time for which they lived in that tract. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)