

README

Overview

The code in this replication package constructs the analysis for Kearney, Levine, Pardue (2021) using Stata. One master file runs all of the code to generate the data for the 5 figures and 1 table in the paper, in addition to several statistics cited in the text. The replicator should expect the code to run for about 30 minutes.

Data Availability and Provenance Statements

Statement about Rights

I certify that the author(s) of the manuscript have legitimate access to and permission to use the data used in this manuscript.

Summary of Availability

All data in the replication package is available here, though some births data relies on aggregations from restricted-use microdata.

Details on each Data Source

The full terms of use for data sources with usage restrictions can be found in the LICENSES.pdf file.

Birth data

Birth data is collected from both public sources and aggregated from the National Center for Health Statistics' (NCHS) restricted-use microdata. Birth rates for all women 15-44 years old, and for women 15-44 disaggregated by age, Hispanic origin, marital status, and state (presented in Figures 1, 2, and 3) are gathered from Vital Statistics Final Births reports for 2015, 2019, and the 2020 Provisional Birth Report (Martin et al 2017, Martin et al. 2021, Hamilton et al 2021). Birth rates disaggregated by mother's education level, nativity, birth order (Figure 2), and by cohort (Figure 5) are calculated using public birth microdata across 1980-1989 from the NBER Natality Database and NCHS microdata from 1990-2019 (CDC NCHS 2020, NBER 2021b). We provide this birth data aggregated to the state-year level in the file `data\nchs\nchs_births_pop_1990_2019.dta` and the file `data\nchs\nchs_cohort_analysis`, which is used for Figure 5 only. The code to clean and aggregate the Natality microdata is also provided in `programs\aggregate_nchs_microdata`. Information on submitting a request to obtain NCHS microdata can be found on the NCHS website at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/nvss-restricted-data.htm>.

Population data

The paper uses single-age population counts, among all races from 1969-2019 and by race and Hispanic origin from 1990-2019, from the CDC SEER database (CDC NCI 2021). Data is

available freely at <https://seer.cancer.gov/popdata/download.html> and raw files are included in the data\pop\ folder.

To estimate population by other subgroup (education, Hispanic origin by nativity, and marital status), we apply population shares estimated from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). This data is obtained from IPUMS (Flood et al 2020). IPUMS-CPS does not currently provide the ability to store or reference custom extracts, but allows for redistribution for the purpose of replication. The archive contains the extracted data, codebook in the folders data\educ and data\hisp. The data citation in the main article has the full URL.

The paper cites statistics related to the share of the female Hispanic population of childbearing age. This data is calculated from the 2007 and 2018 American Community Survey. This data is obtained from IPUMS (Ruggles et al 2021). IPUMS-USA does not currently provide the ability to store or reference custom extracts, but allows for redistribution for the purpose of replication. The archive contains the extracted data in the folder data\sec_2a\hisp_nativity. The data citation in the main article has the full URL.

Long-term changes data

Figure 4 relates longer-term changes in birth rates to state-level social and economic trends. Data on these trends come from the following sources.

- a) **Female-Male Median Wage Ratio:** State-level female-male median wage ratios are calculated from the 2004-2008 and 2015-2019 American Community Survey (Ruggles et al, 2021). We calculate state-level median wage and salary income for all full-time, full-year (FTFY) women and men and take the ratio of those figures. We define FTFY workers as those who reported usually working at least 35 hours per week for 40 weeks in the past year. All wages are in 2019 dollars using the CPI-U. This data is calculated from the 2007 and 2018 American Community Survey. This data is obtained from IPUMS (Ruggles et al 2021). IPUMS-USA does not currently provide the ability to store or reference custom extracts, but allows for redistribution for the purpose of replication. The archive contains the extracted data in the folder data\long_term\longdiff-RHS-0408 and data\long_term\longdiff-RHS-1519. The data citation in the main article has the full URL.
- b) **LARC usage:** We measure the change in women's access and usage of long-acting, reversible contraceptives (LARCs) across states using the 2004 and 2017 CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) (CDC 2004; CDC 2017). Data and materials produced by federal agencies are in the public domain and may be reproduced without permission. The full dataset and documentation can be downloaded from https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/annual_data.htm. State-level means used in our analysis are available in data\long_term\longdiff-RHS-0408 and data\long_term\longdiff-RHS-1519.

- c) **Student Loan Debt Per Capita:** We calculate the change in student debt using the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Student Loan Borrowing by State dataset (Federal Reserve Bank of New York 2021). We take average debt per capita by state as of Q4 2004-Q4-2008 and the averages across Q4 2015-Q4 2019 (averages across year are weighted by the state's estimated population, included in the dataset). This data is publicly accessible at <https://www.newyorkfed.org/medialibrary/interactives/householdcredit/data/xls/student-loan-by-state.xlsx> and available in data\long_term\ nyfed-student-debt-per-capita-0419. The New York Fed grants users a non-exclusive license, subject to the Terms, to use, copy, and distribute Content for personal or business purposes. © 2021 Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Content from the New York Fed subject to the Terms of Use at newyorkfed.org. Full terms of use can be found here: <https://www.newyorkfed.org/privacy/termsofuse.html>.
- d) **Average Gross Rent:** State-level average gross rent figures are calculated as the average monthly cost of renting a 2- or 3-bedroom apartment among all renters in each state, following Moretti (2013). Rental costs are gathered from monthly gross rent data in the 2004-2008 and 2015-2019 American Community Survey (Ruggles et al, 2021). All figures are updated to real 2019 dollars using the CPI-U. Accessed from IPUMS at <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/> and available in data\long_term\longdiff-rentcost-0419.
- e) **Child Care Expenses:** We estimate the change in childcare expenses across states using self-reported childcare expenditures from the Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC) (Flood 2020). Child care expenses were collected as a part of the Supplemental Poverty Measure Module, which began in 2010 (for reference year 2009). We calculate state-level average reported child care expenses using the 2010 CPS ASEC (2009 reference year) in the earlier periods and the 2016-2020 CPS ASEC (2015-2019 reference years) measuring expenses in the later period. We update expenditures to 2019 real dollars using the CPI-U. We restrict estimates to include families with children under 12 and positive childcare expenses (due to a large share of households reporting no child care expenses). Accessed from IPUMS at <https://cps.ipums.org/cps/> and available in data\long_term\childcare_asec_09_1519.
- f) **Religious Importance:** We estimate changes in the importance of religion using the 2007 and 2014 US Religious Landscape Survey produced by the Pew Research Center (Pew 2008; Pew 2015). In both surveys, respondents were asked about the importance of religion in their life ("Very important," "somewhat important," "not too important," "don't know"). In each state-year we calculate the percent of respondents who reported that religion is either somewhat or very important in

their lives. Accessed from the Pew Research Center at https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/?post_type=dataset and available in data\long_term\long-diff-religion. Data is publicly accessible, but has a usage license. The Pew Center provides users with a personal, revocable, nonexclusive, nontransferable license to use the Services, to the extent attribution is to the Center or is not attributed to another, and the text, graphics, information, and other content made available through or from the Services. Full terms and conditions can be found here: <https://www.pewresearch.org/about/terms-and-conditions/>. Pew Research Center bears no responsibility for the analyses or interpretations of the data presented here. The opinions expressed herein, including any implications for policy, are those of the author and not of Pew Research Center.

State level economic and policy factors used in annual regressions, 2000-2019

In the section, “POTENTIAL EXPLANATIONS FOR DECLINING US BIRTH RATES,” the paper looks at the effect of a number of economic and policy variables. They all are available in the folder data\annual_policy\policyvars01_19.

- a) **Unemployment rates** obtained from University of Kentucky’s Center for Poverty Research National Welfare Database (UKCPR 2021). Data are publicly accessible. Available at <https://ukcpr.org/resources/national-welfare-data>.
- b) **State minimum wage**: obtained from University of Kentucky’s Center for Poverty Research National Welfare Database (UKCPR 2021). We update minimum wages to 2019 dollars using CPI-U (BLS 2021b). Wage data available at <https://ukcpr.org/resources/national-welfare-data>. UKCPR data are publicly accessible. BLS CPI-U was retrieved from <https://data.bls.gov/pdq/SurveyOutputServlet> as Series CUUR0000SA0. BLS data are publicly available. BLS.gov cannot vouch for the data or analyses derived from these data after the data have been retrieved from BLS.gov.
- a) **Maximum TANF benefit for a family of three**: obtained from University of Kentucky’s Center for Poverty Research National Welfare Database (UKCPR 2021). UKCPR data are publicly accessible. Available at <https://ukcpr.org/resources/national-welfare-data>. We update TANF benefits to 2019 dollars using CPI-U (BLS 2021b). BLS data are publicly available. BLS.gov cannot vouch for the data or analyses derived from these data after the data have been retrieved from BLS.gov.
- b) **Abortion parental notification laws**: Obtained from Guttmacher Institute’s “Parental Involvement in Minors’ Abortions” database (Guttmacher 2021). Dates of enactment of notification laws are gathered from the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws state governments page (NARAL 2021). Data are publicly

accessible, but the Guttmacher Institute data requires attribution. Full terms of use are available here: <https://www.guttmacher.org/terms-of-use>.

- c) **State abortion delay or mandatory waiting period:** Indicator variables for laws through 2010 is obtained from Kearney and Levine (2015) and updated using the Guttmacher Institute's "Counseling and Waiting Periods for Abortion" database. Dates of enactment of new laws is gathered from NARAL (2021). Data from Kearney and Levine and updates are available in data\annual_policy\policyvars01_19. Data are publicly accessible, but the Guttmacher Institute data requires attribution. Full terms of use are available here: <https://www.guttmacher.org/terms-of-use>.
- d) **State mandatory sex education laws and mandatory contraception instruction laws: indicators on these laws through year 2010** are obtained from Kearney and Levine (2015); updated information was obtained from and the Guttmacher Institute's "Sex and HIV Education" report (Guttmacher 2021d). The enactment dates of new laws is gathered from the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States' State Profiles (SEICUS 2021). Data from Kearney and Levine (2015) are publicly available in Appendix A for a small fee here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0167629615000041?via%3Dihub>, for use with attribution. Updated dataset is available in the folder data\annual_policy\policyvars01_19. Data are publicly accessible, but the Guttmacher Institute data requires attribution. Full terms of use are available here: <https://www.guttmacher.org/terms-of-use>. SEICUS data are publicly accessible.
- e) **Child support enforcement expenditures:** data from 2001-2010 are taken from Kearney and Levine (2015), data on expenditures from 2010-2015 are collected from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (HHS 2014) and data for 2015 through 2019 are collected from HHS Preliminary FY 2019 Program Report (HHS 2019). California's 2016 enactment of required sexual education and contraception instruction is noted in the California Department of Education's Health Initiatives FAQ (CDE 2020). Data from Kearney and Levine and updates are available in folder data\annual_policy\policyvars01_19. HHS and CDE data are publicly accessible.
- f) **Medicaid expansions:** Information about the implementation of state Medicaid expansions after the Affordable Care Act was gathered from the Kaiser Family Foundation's "Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions: Interactive Map" (KFF 2021). We use the year of implementation (rather than adoption) as our indicator of Medicaid expansion in this analysis. Data is available in data\annual_policy\policyvars01_19. KFF data is publicly accessible, and KFF

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- g) **State mandates for private health insurance contraception coverage:** The classification of state mandates for contraception coverage in private health insurance plans are gathered from the Guttmacher Institute’s “Insurance Coverage of Contraceptives”; information about the dates of implementation are collected from the National Conference of State Legislatures’ “Insurance Coverage for Contraception Laws” (Guttmacher 2021; NCSL 2021). Data is available in data\annual_policy\policyvars01_19. Guttmacher data are publicly accessible, but the Guttmacher Institute requires attribution. Full terms of use are available here: <https://www.guttmacher.org/terms-of-use>. NCSL owns the intellectual property rights for all material on the NCSL website. All intellectual property rights are reserved. You may view and/or print pages from www.ncsl.org for your own personal use subject to restrictions set in these terms and conditions. Permission is required to republish NCSL data. Full terms of use are available here: <https://www.ncsl.org/aboutus/ncslservice/ncsl-website-terms-and-conditions.aspx>.

Demographic variables included as control variables, including the percent of each state married, percent White, non-Hispanic and percent Hispanic; percent who have less than a high school diploma, percent high school diploma, and percent with some college education come from the 2001-2019 CPS Merged Outgoing Rotation Group Sample (NBER 2021). The CPS is created by the Census Bureau and the BLS (Census 2021). Data is retrieved from NBER. CPS MORG data is accessed from <https://www.nber.org/research/data/current-population-survey-cps-merged-outgoing-rotation-group-earnings-data> and available in data\annual_policy\policyvars01_19. Data is publicly accessible.

Dataset list

Data file	Source	Notes	Provided
data/nchs/nchs_1990_2020.dta	NCHS	Derived from confidential NCHS microdata	Yes
data/nchs/nchs_cohort_analysis.dta	NCHS	Derived from confidential NCHS microdata	Yes
data/pop/us.1969_2019.singleages	CDC SEER	US Single-Age Population Estimates	Yes
data/pop/us.1990_2019.singleages	CDC SEER	US Single-Age Population Estimates, by Race/Ethnicity	Yes
data/sec_2a/hisp_nativity.dta	ACS	Microdata used for population	Yes

		estimates of Hispanic women by nativity	
data/annual_policy/ policyvars01_19.dta	Multiple	All sources listed	Yes
data/decomp/cps_19902019.dta	CPS	Used to estimate population shares	Yes
data/decomp/ state_year_age6grp_educ_raceeth_pop1544_aggteens.dta	NCHS	Derived from NCHS microdata	Yes
data/long_term/longdiff-RHS-0408	Multiple	All data sources listed	Yes
data/long_term/longdiff-RHS-1519	Multiple	All data sources listed	Yes

Computational requirements

Software Requirements

- Stata (code was last run with version 13)
 - maptile (as of 2021-09-15)
 - estout (as of 2021-09-15)
 - spmap (as of 2021-09-15)
 - statastates (as of 2021-09-15)
 - the program “0_setup.do” will install all dependencies locally, and should be run once.

Memory and Runtime Requirements

Summary

Approximate time needed to reproduce the analyses on a standard 2022 desktop machine: 10-60 minutes.

Details

The code was last run on a **5-core Intel-based laptop with Windows version 10, with 8 GB of RAM and 107 GB of memory**. Computation took approximately 30 minutes.

Description of programs/code

0_setup.do – installs necessary STATA packages; only needs to be run once.

main_prog.do – runs the full analysis to create figures, tables, and numbers cited in the text

programs/fig_1.do - reads in birth rates from CDC Final Births Reports to produce figure 1 - birth rates overall.

programs/figs_2a_2b.do - reads in birth rates from CDC Final Births Reports to produce figures 2a and 2b - birth rates by mother's age group and birth rates by mother's race/ethnicity.

programs/fig_2c.do - reads in births data from CDC WONDER and population data from the CPS to create figure 2c, births among Hispanic women by nativity and Mexican origin.

programs/fig_2d.do - reads in aggregated births data and population data from the CPS to create figure 2d, births by mother's educational level.

programs/fig_2e.do - reads in birth rate data from the CDC Final Births Reports to produce figures 2e - birth rates by marital status.

programs/fig_2f.do - reads in aggregated births data and population from CDC SEER to create figure 2f, birth rates by parity.

programs/fig_3.do - reads in aggregated births data and population from CDC SEER to create figure 3, a map displaying percent change in average birth rates from 2004-2008 to 2015-2018.

programs/fig_4.do - generates data presented in figure 4, relationship between changes in birth rates and potential explanatory factors, and that section. Relates changes in states birth rates (2004-2008 to 2015-2018) to changes in economic/social characteristics described in the data appendix. Produces scatterplot data, regression output, and presents average changes in economic/social x-variables over this time period.

programs/sec_2_a_stats.do - uses ACS data to produce various statistics cited in section 2a: percent of Hispanic women native-born, percent of women unmarried, and percent of women by education level.

programs/table_1_population.do - calculates population bases of 63 age X education X race/ethnicity groups for table 1. Calculates population shares using CPS data, and applies these to total population counts from CDC SEER data.

programs/table_1.do - creates table 1: largest groups contributing to birth rate decline. Merges CDC Wonder births data with annual CPS population counts of women across 63 age X education X race/ethnicity groups

programs/annual_regressions.do - generates statistics presented in Section 3a, annual regression of policy variables on birth rates from 15-44, using aggregated births data, SEER population data, and policy variables described in data appendix.

programs/agecomp_seer.do - cleans CDC SEER single-age population estimates, 1969-2019, for use in cohort analysis.

programs/age_race_comp_seer.do - cleans CDC SEER single-age by race/ethnicity estimates, 1990-2019, used as population base in calculating birth rates.

programs/aggregate_nchs_microdata.do - (included for reference) cleans NCHS microdata used in estimating birth rates by education attainment, by Hispanic origin and nativity, by parity, long-term regressions, and cohort analysis.

Instructions to Replicators

- Run `0_setup.do` to install necessary STATA packages.
- Edit `main_prog.do` to adjust the default path.
- Run `main_prog.do` to run all steps in sequence.

List of tables and programs

- Figure 1 – created by `fig_1.do`
- Figure 2 – created by `figs_2a_2b.do`, `fig_2c.do`, `fig_2d.do`, `fig_2d.do`, `fig_2e.do`, `fig_2f.do`
- Figure 3 – created by `fig_3.do`
- Figure 4 – created by `fig_4.do`
- Figure 5 – created by `fig_5.do`
- Table 1 – created by `table_1.do`

The provided code reproduces:

- All numbers provided in text in the paper and all tables and figures in the paper

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