How should scarce legal service resources be allocated to refugees and asylum seekers?

Gradient Fund
Charlene R. Ramos
May 11, 2024

Introduction

Literature Review

Björkegren, Daniel, Joshua E. Blumenstock, and Samsun Knight. "(Machine) Learning What Policies Value." June 3, 2022, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.00727.

- Research Question: How to use machine learning to estimate how much individuals benefit from anti-poverty intervention
- Data from Mexico's PROGRESA anti-poverty program (large conditional cash transfer program in Mexico)
    (1) Standard household survey conducted in October 1998 (baseline) and November 1999 (endline): household demographics, socioeconomic characteristics, health care utilization, educational attendance for 14,333 households
    (2) Survey conducted in 2021 by authors to understand preferences of Mexican residents over how households should be prioritized for social assistance. Sample of 315 Mexican residents to elicit preferences for which types of households should receive transfers, and what types of program impacts were most desirable.
- Conclusion:

Congressional Budget Office. *The Demographic Outlook: 2024 to 2054.* January 2024, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://tinyurl.com/37zcmst9.

- Research Question:
- Data from Department of Homeland Security and Census Bureau
- Conclusion:

Dunn et al. "Early Predictability of Asylum Court Decisions." Proceedings of the 16th edition of the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law, June 2017, at pp. 233–236, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://tinyurl.com/mpjt4sb5.

- Research Question: How to use machine learning to predict judges' decisions in asylum court decisions
- Data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) which issues notice to appear (NTAs): final application decision, language spoken by the applicant, nationality of the applicant, base city, attorney, date of the NTA, hearing location, case type, judge features such as gender and work history
- Conclusion:

Greiner, D. James and Cassandra Wollos Pattanayak. "Randomized Evaluation in Legal Assistance: What Difference Does Representation (Offer and Actual Use) Make?" *Yale Law Journal* 121, no. 8 (June 2012): 2118–2214, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://tinyurl.com/m3e27cbm.

- Research Question: Does legal representation make a difference for low-income clients in civil cases?
- Data from Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Conclusion:

Greiner, D. James. "What We Know and Need to Know about Outreach and Intake by Legal Services Providers." *South Carolina Law Review* 67, no. 2 (Winter 2016): 287–294, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/sclr/vol67/iss2/8/.

- Research Question: What is the role of legal services providers in increasing access to justice?
- Data: N/A
- Conclusion:

Hainmueller et al. "Protecting Unauthorized Immigrant Mothers Improves their Children's Mental Health." *Science* 357, no. 6355 (August 31, 2017): 1041–1044, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aan5893.

- Research Question:
- Data from Department of Health Analytics at the Oregon Health Authority for Emergency Medicaid (Government program that provides coverage for emergencies and labor and delivery services for low-income individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid. The program mainly serves unauthorized immigrants, but lawful permanent residents with less than 5 years of residency can also obtain coverage.)
- Conclusion:

Haushofer et al. "Targeting Impact versus Deprivation." National Bureau of Economic Research, Working Paper Series, June 2022, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://www.nber.org/papers/w30138.

- Research Question:
- Data from GiveDirectly, originally from the Government of Kenya's Single Registry for Social Protection
    - (1) Baseline household census in all villages
    - (2) Baseline household surveys
    - (3) Endline household surveys
- Conclusion:

Hunt, Will. "Reshoring Chipmaking Capacity Requires High-Skilled Foreign Talent." Center for Security and Emerging Technology, February 2022, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://doi.org/10.51593/20210065.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. "Too Few Immigration Attorneys: Average Representation Rates Fall from 65% to 30%." January 24, 2024, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://trac.syr.edu/reports/736/.

- Research Question:
- Data from TRAC Immigration (nonpartisan, nonprofit data research center affiliated with Syracuse University)
- Conclusion:

Data

IPUMS. *IPUMS CPS*. 2023, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V11.0.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. "About the Data on Asylum" November 16, 2022, accessed May 11, 2024 at https://tinyurl.com/yn9s2vbx.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. *Asylum Decisions by Judge, Oct 1993–Sep 2023.* Accessed May 11, 2024 at https://tinyurl.com/3zanp3xj.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. *Immigration Court Asylum Backlog, Sep 2012–Dec 2023.* Accessed May 11, 2024 at https://tinyurl.com/3pw26wcj.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. *Immigration Court Asylum Decisions, Oct 2000–Apr 2024.* Accessed May 11, 2024 at https://tinyurl.com/5n8pe5rn.

Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse. *Immigration Court Asylum Filings, Oct 2000–Nov 2022.* Accessed May 11, 2024 at https://tinyurl.com/3dkay4yr.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection. "CBP Public Data Portal." Accessed May 11, 2024 at https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-public-data-portal.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection. *Nationwide Encounters.* Accessed May 11, 2024 at https://www.cbp.gov/document/stats/nationwide-encounters.

Methodology

$$\sum_h \sum_{t=0}^{\bar{t}} W(Y_{h,t}(T_h)) = \sum_h \sum_{t=0}^{\bar{t}} W(Y_{h,t}^0 + T_h \cdot \Delta_{h,t}))$$

$$\hat{Y}_t^0(X_h) \text{ of } \mathbb{E}[Y_{h,t}^0 | X_h, t]$$

$$\hat{\Delta}_t(X_h) \text{ of } \mathbb{E}[Y_{h,t}^1 - Y_{h,t}^0 | X_h, t]$$

$$d\hat{W}(X_h) \equiv \sum_{t=0}^{\bar{t}} \left[W(\hat{Y}_t^0(X_h) + \hat{\Delta}_t(X_h)) - W(\hat{Y}_t^0(X_h)) \right]$$

$$r^*(X_h) \equiv 1(d\hat{W}_h \geq q_{1-\phi}^{d\hat{W}})$$

Results

Discussion

Conclusion

Bibliography