

Exploiting Incentives of the Moving to Opportunity Experiment

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Motivation

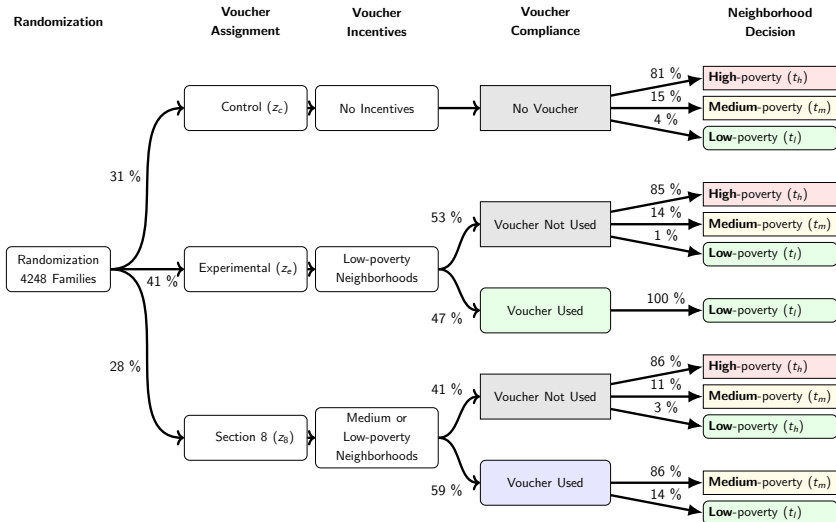
- Substantial literature has shown the importance of neighborhood effects on the economic well-being of its residents.
Durlauf (2012); Chetty, Hendren, Kline, Saez (2014); Galiani, Murphy, Pantano (2015) Durlauf and Seshadri (2018); Chetty and Hendren (2018a,2018b);
- Moving to Opportunity (MTO) is a primary housing experiment
- MTO randomly assigned vouchers for poor families to move from high-poverty neighborhoods to lower poverty areas
- Noncompliance: about 50% of families did not use the voucher
- Influential literature evaluates MTO via ITT/TOT effects
Kling, Liebman, and Katz (2007); Chetty, Hendren, Katz (2016); Ludwig et al. (2013)

Little or No impact on adult economic outcomes

Summary

- **Goal** Use voucher random assignment to evaluate neighborhood effects
- **Key Idea** Exploit the information on incentives of MTO design
- **How?**
 - Stylized model extends LATE framework to Multiple choices
 - Exploit MTO incentives using revealed preference analysis
- **Contributions**
 - Address the problem of noncompliance
 - Decompose TOT parameters into neighborhood effects
 - Revisit Adult Economic Outcomes
 - TOT effects are not significant, but neighborhood effects are
 - Reconcile MTO with some of recent literature of neighborhood effects

MTO: Voucher Assignments and Neighborhood Choices



1.3 Stylised Model

- **Neighborhood Choices:**
 - $T = t_h$, high-poverty (Housing Projects)
 - $T = t_m$, medium-poverty (Remaining Neighborhoods)
 - $T = t_l$, low-poverty (Poverty $\leq 10\%$ in 1990)
- **Voucher Groups:** Three Assignment Groups
 - $Z = z_c$, control group (No Voucher)
 - $Z = z_8$, Section 8 Voucher (No geographical restriction)
 - $Z = z_e$, experimental Voucher (Poverty $\leq 10\%$ in 1990)
- **Incentive Matrix (In)** describes the MTO incentives

| Vouchers | Z | Incentive Matrix | | |
|--------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|
| | | t_h | t_m | t_l |
| Control | z_c | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section 8 | z_8 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Experimental | z_e | 0 | 0 | 1 |

MTO Identification Problem

- **Response variable:** Unobserved vector of counterfactual choices

$$S_i = \begin{bmatrix} T(z_c) \\ T(z_8) \\ T(z_e) \end{bmatrix} \quad t_h, t_m \text{ or } t_l$$

- **27 Possible Response-types (Strata)**

| Vouchers | Z | Neighborhood | Response-types | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|----------|
| | | Counterfact. | s_1 | s_2 | s_3 | s_4 | s_5 | \dots | s_{27} |
| Control | z_c | $T_i(z_c)$ | t_h | t_h | t_h | t_h | t_m | \dots | t_l |
| Section 8 | z_8 | $T_i(z_8)$ | t_h | t_h | t_m | t_m | t_l | \dots | t_l |
| Experimental | z_e | $T_i(z_e)$ | t_h | t_m | t_m | t_l | t_l | \dots | t_l |

- **Identification:** Need to *eliminate* some of the 27 response-types

Connection with the LATE Model

- **Binary Model:** $Z \in \{z_0, z_1\}$, $T \in \{t_0, t_1\}$
- **Response variable:** 2×1 unobserved vector

4 Response-types

| | Never-takers | Compliers | Always-takers | Defiers |
|--|--------------|-----------|---------------|---------|
| $S = \begin{bmatrix} T(z_0) \\ T(z_1) \end{bmatrix}$ | t_0 | t_0 | t_1 | t_1 |
| | t_0 | t_1 | t_1 | t_0 |

- **Identification:**
 - 1 Monotonicity $\mathbf{1}[T_i(z_0) = t_1] \leq \mathbf{1}[T_i(z_1) = t_1]$
 - 2 Eliminates Defiers
 - 3 Identifies $LATE = E(Y(t_1) - Y(t_0) | Compliers)$

Typical Monotonicity Assumptions are Not Sufficient

| Vouchers | Z | Incentive Matrix | | |
|--------------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|
| | | t_h | t_m | t_l |
| Control | z_c | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section 8 | z_8 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Experimental | z_e | 0 | 0 | 1 |

- ① If voucher changes from **control** z_c to **experimental** z_e , then family is induced to relocate to **low**-poverty neighborhoods t_l :

$$\mathbf{1}[T_i(z_c) = t_l] \leq \mathbf{1}[T_i(z_e) = t_l]$$

- ② If voucher changes from **control** z_c to **Section 8** z_8 , then family is induced to relocate to *either low* t_l or **medium** t_m :
- ③ If voucher changes from **experimental** z_e to **Section 8** z_8 , then family is induced to relocate to **medium** t_m poverty:

Three rules eliminate 13 Response-types out of 27, but **No** identification.

Exploiting Incentives Using Revealed Preferences

- Identification Strategy:
 - ① Incentives + Behavior Assumptions = Choice Restrictions
 - ② Choice Restrictions \Rightarrow Eliminate Response-types
 - ③ Elimination of Response-types \Rightarrow Identification
- Assuming **WARP** and that treat choice as a normal good:
 - ① If family i chooses t (instead of t') under z
 - ② And the change $z \rightarrow z'$ incentivizes t more (as much as) t'
 - ③ Then family i does not choose t' under z'
- Example: $T_i(z_c) = t_l \Rightarrow T_i(z_b) \neq t_h$

$$T_i(z) = t, \quad \ln(z', t') - \ln(z, t') \leq \ln(z', t) - \ln(z, t) \Rightarrow T_i(z') \neq t'$$

Incentives + Revealed Preferences \Rightarrow 7 Choice Restrictions

$$\underbrace{In = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Incentives}} + \underbrace{\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{WARP} \\ \\ \text{and} \\ \\ \text{Normal Choice} \end{array} \right)}_{\text{Choice Axioms}} \Rightarrow \underbrace{\left\{ \begin{array}{l} T_i(z_c) = t_l \Rightarrow T_i(z_8) \neq t_h \text{ and } T_i(z_e) = t_l \\ T_i(z_c) = t_m \Rightarrow T_i(z_e) \neq t_h \text{ and } T_i(z_8) \neq t_h \\ T_i(z_e) = t_m \Rightarrow T_i(z_c) = t_m \text{ and } T_i(z_8) = t_m \\ T_i(z_e) = t_h \Rightarrow T_i(z_c) = t_h \text{ and } T_i(z_8) \neq t_l \\ T_i(z_8) = t_h \Rightarrow T_i(z_c) = t_h \text{ and } T_i(z_e) = t_h \\ T_i(z_8) = t_l \Rightarrow T_i(z_e) = t_l \\ T_i(z_c) \neq t_h \Rightarrow T_i(z_8) = T_i(z_c) \end{array} \right.}_{\text{Generate 7 Choice Restrictions}}$$

- Subsume the previous monotonicity relations
- Eliminate 20 out of the 27 response-types
- Enable the identification of a range of causal parameters

The Response Matrix

- 7 Choice Restrictions eliminate 20 of the 27 Response-types

$$\mathbf{R} = \begin{array}{cccccc} & s_1 & s_2 & s_3 & s_4 & s_5 & s_6 & s_7 \\ \begin{bmatrix} t_h & t_m & t_l & t_h & t_h & t_m & t_h \\ t_h & t_m & t_l & t_m & t_l & t_m & t_m \\ t_h & t_m & t_l & t_l & t_l & t_l & t_h \end{bmatrix} & T_i(z_c) & T_i(z_8) & T_i(z_e) \end{array}$$

- s_1 - Always-takers, high-poverty neighborhoods t_h
- s_2 - Always-takers, medium-poverty neighborhoods t_m
- s_3 - Always-takers, low-poverty neighborhoods t_m
- s_4 - Full compliers
- s_5 - Partial compliers (t_h, t_l)
- s_6 - Partial compliers (t_m, t_l)
- s_7 - Partial compliers (t_h, t_m)

Unordered Monotonicity

- Identification depends only on properties of the response matrix R
- Unordered Monotonicity (Heckman and Pinto, 2018) holds

Unordered Monotonicity: $\forall z, z' \in \text{supp}(Z)$ and $\forall t \in \text{supp}(T)$:

$$\mathbf{1}[T_i(z) = t] \leq \mathbf{1}[T_i(z') = t] \quad \forall i$$

or $\mathbf{1}[T_i(z) = t] \geq \mathbf{1}[T_i(z') = t] \quad \forall i,$

- Which means that **choices are nested**

Unordered Monotonicity \Rightarrow Choices are Nested

Consider choice t_l Low-poverty neighborhood:

Support of Response Variable S

| | | s_1 | s_2 | s_3 | s_4 | s_5 | s_6 | s_7 | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| $R =$ | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_h | t_h | t_m | t_h | | Z_c |
| | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_m | t_l | t_m | t_m | | Z_8 |
| | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_l | t_l | t_l | t_h | | Z_e |

for $t_l, Z_c \rightarrow s_3$

$Z_8 \rightarrow s_3, s_5$

$Z_e \rightarrow s_3, s_5, s_4, s_6$

Nested Choices \Rightarrow Identification and Estimation

- D_z, D_t are binary indicators
- Comparison $z_8 - z_c$ for t_l gives \mathbf{s}_5 :

$$P(\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_5) = P(T = t_l | Z = z_8) - P(T = t_l | Z = z_c)$$
$$E(Y(t_l) | \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_5) = \frac{E(YD_{t_l} | Z = z_8) - E(YD_{t_l} | Z = z_c)}{E(D_{t_l} | Z = z_8) - E(D_{t_l} | Z = z_c)}$$

- **2SLS** estimation of $E(Y(t_l) | \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_5)$.

$$\text{First Stage } D_{t_l} = \gamma_1 D_{z_8} + \gamma_2 D_{z_c} + \epsilon$$

$$\text{Second Stage } Y \cdot D_{t_l} = \beta_0 + \beta_{IV} D_{t_l} + \epsilon$$

- Accounting for X : extend Abadie (2003) κ for multiple choices

Median-Poverty Neighborhood Choice t_m is also Nested

Support of Response Variable S

| | s_1 | s_2 | s_3 | s_4 | s_5 | s_6 | s_7 | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| $R =$ | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_h | t_h | t_m | t_h | $\left. \begin{array}{l} z_c \\ z_8 \\ z_e \end{array} \right\}$ |
| | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_m | t_l | t_m | t_m | |
| | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_l | t_l | t_l | t_h | |

for $t_m, z_e \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_2$

$z_c \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_2, \mathbf{s}_6$

$z_8 \rightarrow \mathbf{s}_2, \mathbf{s}_6, \mathbf{s}_4, \mathbf{s}_7$

High-Poverty Neighborhood Choice t_h is also Nested

Support of Response Variable S

| | s_1 | s_2 | s_3 | s_4 | s_5 | s_6 | s_7 | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| $R =$ | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_h | t_h | t_m | t_h | $\left. \begin{array}{l} z_c \\ z_8 \\ z_e \end{array} \right\}$ |
| | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_m | t_l | t_m | t_m | |
| | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_l | t_l | t_l | t_h | |

for $t_h, z_8 \rightarrow s_1$

$z_e \rightarrow s_1, s_7$

$z_c \rightarrow s_1, s_7, s_4, s_5$

Main Identification Results

- ① All Response-type Probabilities are identified

$$\mathbf{P}(S = s_1), \dots, \mathbf{P}(S = s_7)$$

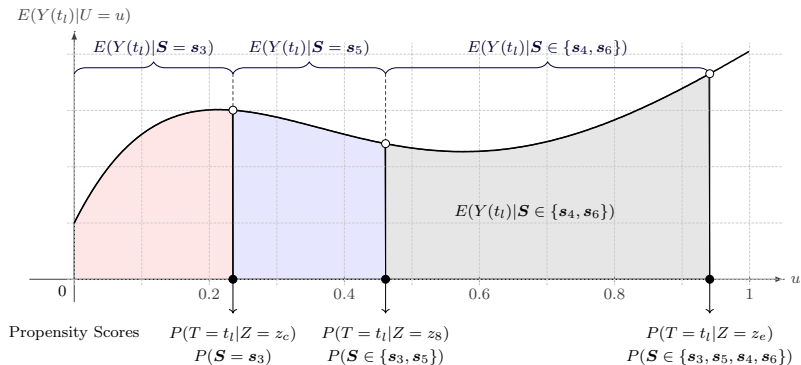
- ② Baseline Variables $\mathbf{E}(X|\mathbf{S} = s)$ are identified for all $s \in \text{supp}(S)$

$$E(X|S = s_1), \dots, E(X|S = s_7)$$

- ③ The following Counterfactual Outcomes are identified:

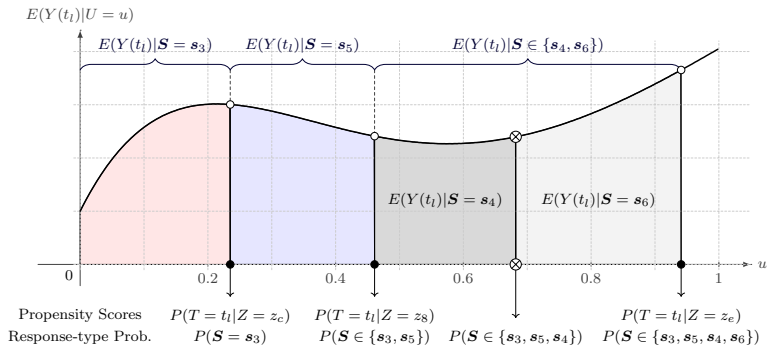
| High Pov. $Y(t_h)$ | Med. Pov. $Y(t_m)$ | Low Pov. $Y(t_l)$ |
|---|---|---|
| $\mathbf{E}(Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = s_1)$ | $\mathbf{E}(Y(t_m) \mathbf{S} = s_2)$ | $\mathbf{E}(Y(t_l) \mathbf{S} = s_3)$ |
| $\mathbf{E}(Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = s_7)$ | $\mathbf{E}(Y(t_m) \mathbf{S} = s_6)$ | $\mathbf{E}(Y(t_l) \mathbf{S} = s_5)$ |
| $\mathbf{E}(Y(t_h) S \in \{s_4, s_5\})$ | $\mathbf{E}(Y(t_m) S \in \{s_4, s_7\})$ | $\mathbf{E}(Y(t_l) S \in \{s_4, s_6\})$ |

Disentangling $E(Y(t_l)|S = s_4)$ and $E(Y(t_l)|S = s_6)$



Marginal Treatment Response $E(Y(t_l)|U_{t_l} = u)$

Disentangling $E(Y(t_l)|S = s_4)$ and $E(Y(t_l)|S = s_6)$



Marginal Treatment Response $E(Y(t_l)|U_{t_l} = u)$

Where do the Properties of the MTO Response Matrix come from?

| MTO Group | | Incentive Matrix | | |
|--------------|----------|------------------|-------|-------|
| Assignment | Z-values | t_h | t_m | t_l |
| Control | z_c | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Section 8 | z_8 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Experimental | z_e | 0 | 0 | 1 |

MTO has **Monotonic Incentives**:

Incentives increase across $z_c \rightarrow z_e \rightarrow z_8$ for all t

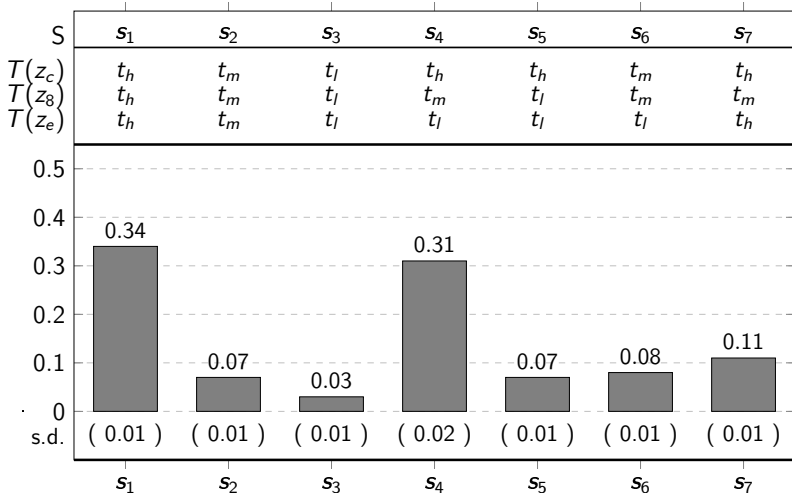
What does the TOT estimate?

| Voucher | Z | Response Matrix R | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | s_1 | s_2 | s_3 | s_4 | s_5 | s_6 | s_7 |
| Control | $Z = z_c$ | t_h | t_l | t_m | t_h | t_h | t_m | t_h |
| Section 8 | $Z = z_8$ | t_h | t_l | t_m | t_m | t_l | t_m | t_m |
| Experimental | $Z = z_e$ | t_h | t_l | t_m | t_l | t_l | t_l | t_h |

$$TOT(z_e, z_c) = (E(Y|Z = z_e) - E(Y|Z = z_c)) \cdot \frac{1}{\mathbf{P}(\text{Compliers}|Z = z_e)},$$

$$TOT(z_e, z_c) = \left(\frac{\mathbf{E}(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h)|S \in \{s_4, s_5\}) \mathbf{P}_{\{s_4, s_5\}} + \mathbf{E}(Y(t_l) - Y(t_m)|S = s_6) \mathbf{P}_{s_6}}{\mathbf{P}_{\{s_4, s_5\}} + \mathbf{P}_{s_6}} \right) \cdot (1 - \mathbf{P}(S = s_2|S \in \{s_2, s_4, s_5, s_6\})),$$

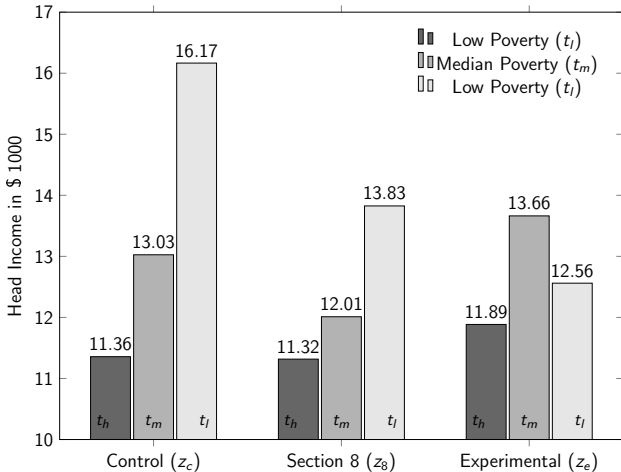
Figure 1 1: Response-type Probabilities



Pre-intervention Averag. by Response-types

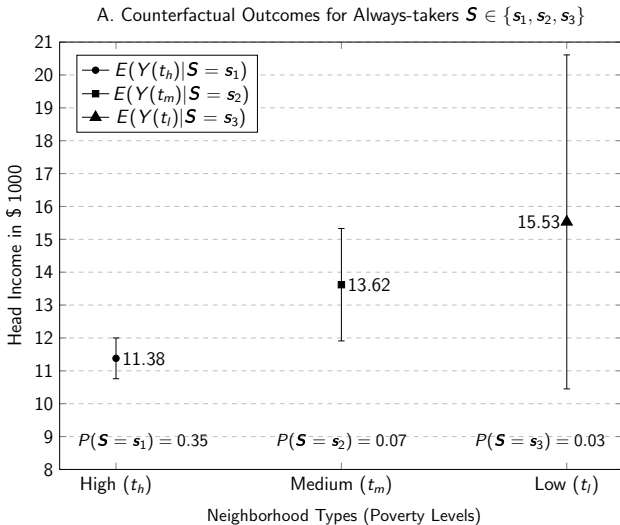
| Response-types | s_1 | s_2 | s_3 | s_4 | s_5 | s_6 | s_7 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Control (z_c) | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_h | t_h | t_m | t_h |
| Section 8 (z_8) | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_m | t_l | t_m | t_m |
| Experimental (z_e) | t_h | t_m | t_l | t_l | t_l | t_l | t_h |
| Family | | | | | | | |
| Disable Household Member | 0.21 | 0.13 | 0.14 | 0.13 | 0.14 | 0.16 | 0.12 |
| Household size is 2 or smaller | 0.19 | 0.14 | 0.44 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.32 | 0.16 |
| No teens (ages 13-17) | 0.55 | 0.70 | 0.63 | 0.72 | 0.54 | 0.55 | 0.54 |
| Neighborhood | | | | | | | |
| Victim last 6 months (baseline) | 0.39 | 0.38 | 0.56 | 0.43 | 0.47 | 0.45 | 0.42 |
| Chat with neighbor | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.36 | 0.46 | 0.70 | 0.56 | 0.66 |
| Welfare/economics | | | | | | | |
| Car Owner | 0.13 | 0.20 | 0.28 | 0.21 | 0.25 | 0.05 | 0.14 |
| Completed high school | 0.35 | 0.38 | 0.58 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.46 | 0.38 |

A. Income of the Head of the Family Mean

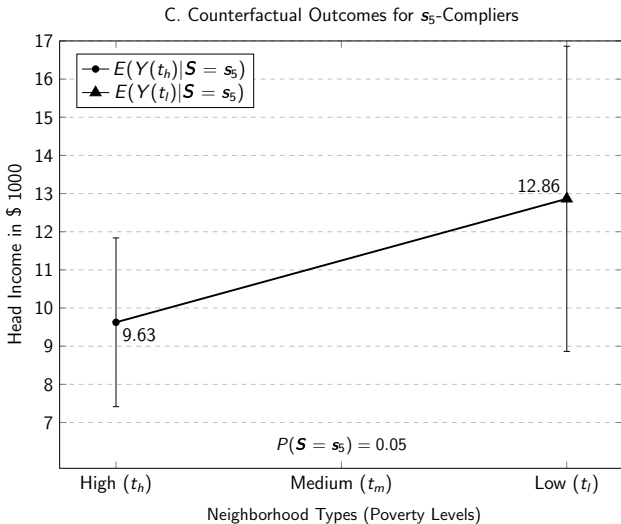


- ① **Control group:** Low-poverty \times High-poverty = US \$ 4.81k
- ② **Experimental group:** Low-poverty \times High-poverty = US \$ 2.51k
- ③ **Section 8 group:** Low-poverty \times High-poverty = US \$ 0.67k

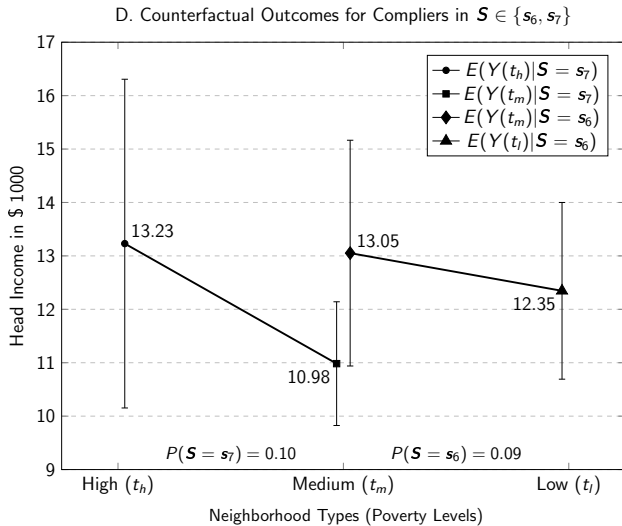
Income Head of Household - Always Takers s_1, s_2, s_3



Income Head of HH : s_5 -compliers ($t_h \leftrightarrow t_l$)

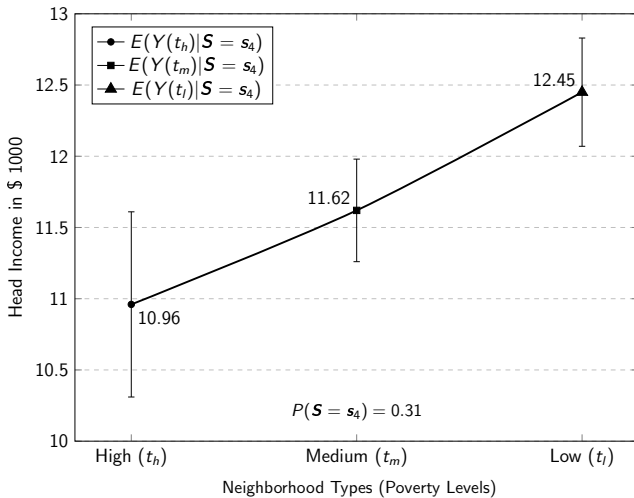


Income Head of HH : s_7 ($t_h \leftrightarrow t_m$) and s_6 ($t_m \leftrightarrow t_l$)



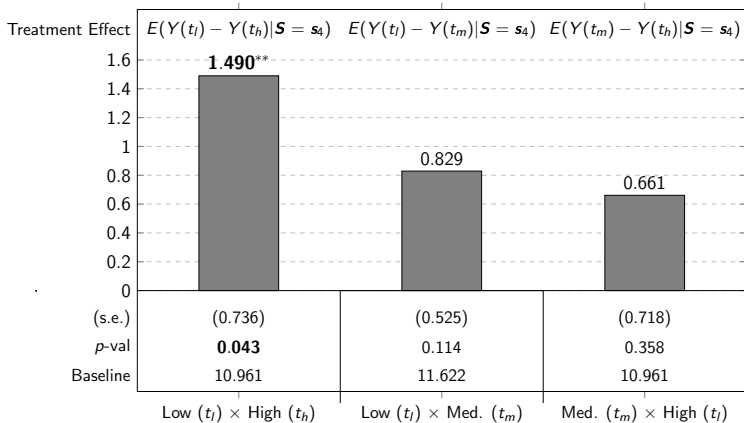
Income Head of Household - Full Compliers s_4

B. Counterfactual Outcomes for s_4 -Compliers



Income Head of HH - Neigh. Effects Full Compliers s_4

Treatment Effects on Income of the Head of the Family



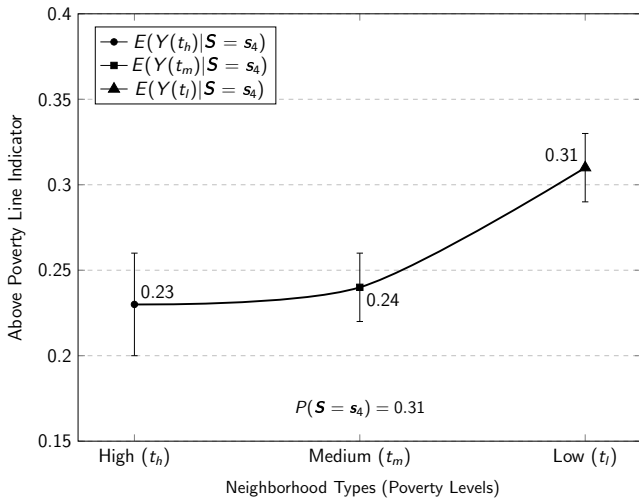
$TOT(z_e, z_c)$ Analysis of Income Head of HH

| | TOT (2SLS) | Treat. Eff. | Estimate | P(S) |
|------|--------------|--|----------------|---------------|
| est. | 1.219 | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_4)$ | 1.490** | 0.310 |
| s.e. | (0.791) | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_5)$ | 3.237 | 0.052 |
| | | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_m) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_6)$ | -0.705 | 0.087 |
| | | TOT (via T.Effs) | 1.191 | |

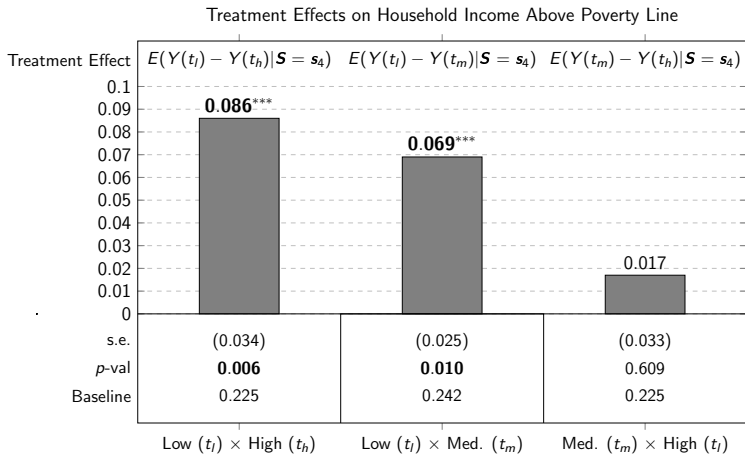
$TOT(z_e, z_c)$ via 2SLS, $Y = \beta_0 + \beta C + \gamma_X X + \epsilon$ for all the participants assigned to either experimental z_e or control group z_c . Compliance C instrumented by site \times voucher assignment z_e . All estimates use MTO weighting and controlled for baseline variables X . Robust standard errors.

Income Above Poverty Line - Full Compliers s_4

B. Counterfactual Outcomes for s_4 -Compliers



Income Above Poverty Line - Effects Full Compliers s_4

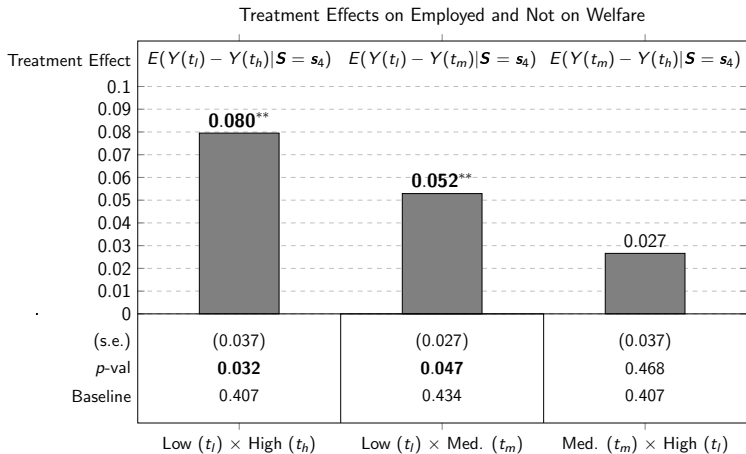


$TOT(z_e, z_c)$ Analysis of Household Income Above Poverty Line

| | TOT (2SLS) | Treat. Eff. | Estimate | P(S) |
|-------|--------------|--|-----------------|---------------|
| est. | 0.033 | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_4)$ | 0.086*** | 0.310 |
| s.e. | (0.037) | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_5)$ | 0.015 | 0.052 |
| p-val | 0.376 | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_m) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_6)$ | -0.128 | 0.087 |
| | | TOT (via T.Effs) | 0.035 | |

$TOT(z_e, z_c)$ via 2SLS, $Y = \beta_0 + \beta C + \gamma_X X + \epsilon$ for all the participants assigned to either experimental z_e or control group z_c . Compliance C instrumented by site \times voucher assignment z_e . All estimates use MTO weighting and controlled for baseline variables X . Robust standard errors.

Employed and No Welfare - Effects Full Compliers s_4

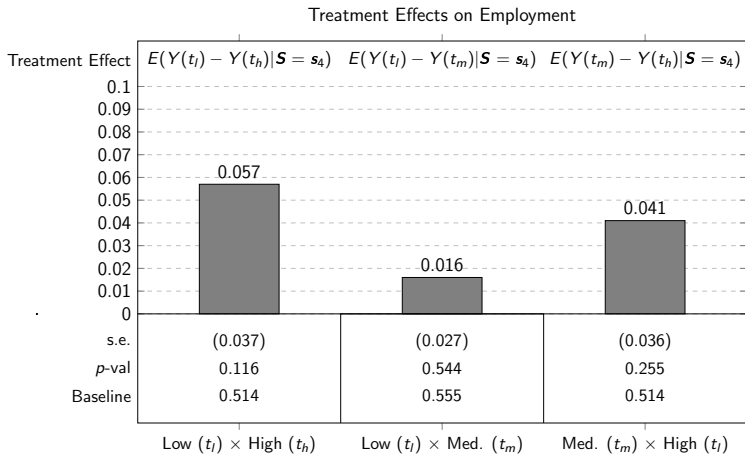


$TOT(z_e, z_c)$ Analysis of Employed and Not on Welfare

| | TOT (2SLS) | Treat. Eff. | Estimate | $P(\mathbf{S})$ |
|------|--------------|--|----------------|-----------------|
| est. | 0.065 | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_4)$ | 0.080** | 0.320 |
| s.e. | 0.040 | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_5)$ | 0.196 | 0.048 |
| | | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_m) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_6)$ | -0.060 | 0.083 |
| | | TOT (via T.Effs) | 0.062 | |

$TOT(z_e, z_c)$ via 2SLS, $Y = \beta_0 + \beta C + \gamma_X X + \epsilon$ for all the participants assigned to either experimental z_e or control group z_c . Compliance C instrumented by site \times voucher assignment z_e . All estimates use MTO weighting and controlled for baseline variables X . Robust standard errors.

Employed - Effects Full Compliers s_4

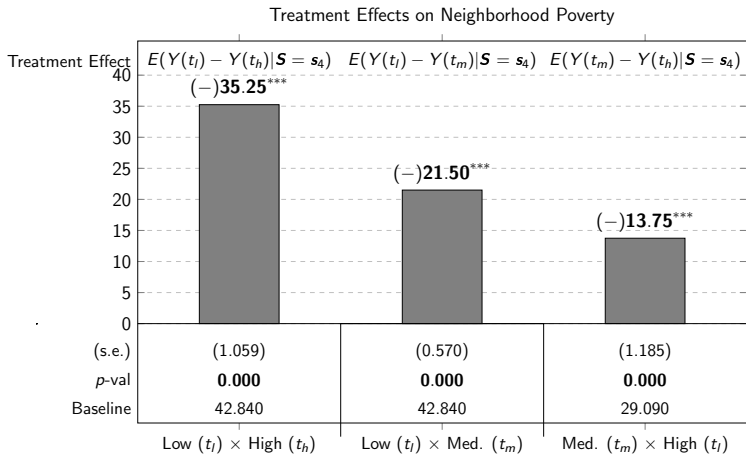


$TOT(z_e, z_c)$ Analysis of Employed

| | TOT (2SLS) | Treat. Eff. | Estimate | P(S) |
|------|--------------|--|--------------|---------------|
| est. | 0.058 | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_4)$ | 0.057 | 0.314 |
| s.e. | (0.040) | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_5)$ | 0.109 | 0.051 |
| | | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_m) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_6)$ | 0.040 | 0.084 |
| | | TOT (via T.Effs) | 0.057 | |

$TOT(z_e, z_c)$ via 2SLS, $Y = \beta_0 + \beta C + \gamma_X X + \epsilon$ for all the participants assigned to either experimental z_e or control group z_c . Compliance C instrumented by site \times voucher assignment z_e . All estimates use MTO weighting and controlled for baseline variables X . Robust standard errors.

Neighborhood Poverty - Effects Full Compliers s_4



TOT(z_e, z_c) Analysis of Neighborhood Poverty

| | TOT (2SLS) | Treat. Eff. | Estimate | $P(\mathbf{S})$ |
|------------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| est. | -30.60*** | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_4)$ | -35.25*** | 0.311 |
| s.e. | (1.240) | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_h) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_5)$ | -28.917 | 0.066 |
| | | $E(Y(t_l) - Y(t_m) \mathbf{S} = \mathbf{s}_6)$ | -22.798 | 0.078 |
| TOT (via T.Effs) | | | -30.11 | |

TOT(z_e, z_c) via 2SLS, $Y = \beta_0 + \beta C + \gamma_X X + \epsilon$ for all the participants assigned to either experimental z_e or control group z_c . Compliance C instrumented by site \times voucher assignment z_e . All estimates use MTO weighting and controlled for baseline variables X . Robust standard errors.