README

This folder contains raw data and programs to reproduce all figures in Hoynes and Schanzenbach. 2018. “Safety Net Investments in Children,” Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, spring. All files were run on Stata version 15.

**do:** This file contains several do files.

* create\_data.do: Creates the main caseload and expenditure data for each program by poverty level and employment status. This file calls the following raw files which users download before running:
  + SNAP QC files: Available through Mathematica at <https://host76.mathematica-mpr.com/fns/>
* create\_fig34\_cps: Creates figures 3 and 4. This file calls IPUMS data extract CPS00035.zip. Users can submit the same extract from IPUMS (<https://cps.ipums.org>) using the 1976-2016 March supplement and the following variables:
  + H YEAR: Survey year
  + H SERIAL: Household serial number
  + H MONTH: Month
  + H CPSID: CPSID, household record
  + H HFLAG: Flag for the 3/8 file 2014
  + P PERNUM: Person number in sample unit
  + P WTSUPP: March supplement weight
  + P CPSIDP: CPSID, person record
  + P AGE: Age
  + P MOMLOC: Person number of first mother (from programming)
  + P SPLOC: Person number of spouse (from programming)
  + P FAMKIND: Kind of family
  + P EMPSTAT: Employment status
  + P LABFORCE: Labor force status
  + P EDUC: Educational attainment recode
* create\_fig5: Creates figure 5 from published Census table P-24, available at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-income-people.html>.
* create\_fig\_poverty: Creates figures showing transfer programs by income and poverty status (figures 6, 7, 11, 13, and Appendix Figures 1 and 3).
* create\_fig\_worker: Creates figures showing transfer programs by employment status (figures 8, 12, 14, and Appendix Figure 2).
* create\_fig10: Creates figure 10 from CPS extract.
* EITChistbins.do: Creates the share of EITC and CTC benefits going to each poverty bin from the SOI PUF files. The PUF files are available through NBER or the SOI division of the IRS. Documentation and additional information is available at <http://users.nber.org/~taxsim/gdb/>.
* marchextract\_BPEA.do: CPS variables used to create Medicaid, public housing, and SSI estimates. To create the CPS called by this file, users should first run:
  + ./do/CPScleaning/lateryears\_recode.do,
  + ./do/CPScleaning/marchcpsfamilyhh\_taxsim.do
  + ./do/CPScleaning/marchcpsfamilyhh\_aftertaxsim.do

on raw CPS March supplements, available through NBER at <http://www.nber.org/data/current-population-survey-data.html>. A version of this final run is saved in this folder as ./dta/cps\_BPEA.dta for ease of replication.

**log:** This folder contains log files of each do file.

**out:** This folder contains several excel sheets summarizing core childhood safety net programs.

* BPEA\_tablenumbers.xlsx: Spreadsheet with data points for each figure.
* timeseries\_nber.xlsx: Spreadsheet containing the share of families receiving each tax credit (EITC, CTC) by poverty status and year. This is the full output from ./do/EITChistbins.do.
* timeseries.xlsx: The main collapsed data produced by create\_data used to create the final income and poverty figures.
* timeseries\_worker.xlsx: The main collapsed data produced by create\_data used to create the employment status figures.

**temp:** This is an empty folder that will temporarily store intermediate dta files when running ./do/create\_data.do.

**raw:** This folder contains several raw datasets that will be called by create\_data.do to create the final data.

* ./Medicaid/: contains administrative annual Medicaid enrollment (Mcaidtotals.xlsx) and expenditure (Children’s Medicaid expenditures.xlsx) information. Detailed sources are included in the “sources” tab of each workbook.
* ./pop/: folder containing intercensal (1990-2016) population estimates by age from Census Bureau. Combined from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest.html>.
* ./PublicHousing/outlays: Contains annual program-level outlays from OMB Historical Tables (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/historical-tables/>) and number of recipient households and individuals from HUD (before 1994, available <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/assthsg.html#2009>) and CBPP (from 2004, available <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/rental-assistance-to-families-with-children-at-lowest-point-in-decade>). Used to estimate expenditures on housing programs and the share of program recipients that are families with children.
* ./QC/: Folder containing SNAP data. As mentioned above, users should download the SNAP Quality Control (QC\_ files (zip format) from Mathematica for 1996-2015.
  + ./QC/old\_qc\_data: This subfolder includes SNAP QC files for 1990 through 1994. Values for 1995 for the final figures are obtained by linearly interpolating the collapsed data between 1994 and 1996.
* AFDC9097.dta: This data includes AFDC QC data for 1989 through 1997. These data are used to estimate SNAP benefits and earned income for AFDC recipients.
* afdc\_max\_benefits\_1980\_2015.dta: Dta file on annual maximum AFDC and TANF benefits from Committee on Ways and Means, Green Book (select years, <https://greenbook-waysandmeans.house.gov/>) and University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research.
* annual\_afdc\_tanf\_case.dta: Dta file on annual AFDC and TANF caseloads from HHS TANF Caseload data. 2014 data available here: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/caseload-data-2014>.
* annual\_afdc\_tanf\_exp.dta: Dta file on annual AFDC and TANF total and cash expenditures from HHS TANF Financial data. 2014 data available here: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/tanf-financial-data-fy-2014>. Cash expenditures are defined as federal and state MOE/SSP expenditures on basic assistance.
* annualreport\_ssi\_2016.xlsx: Administrative SSI expenditure data by recipient type from SSA Annual Report of the Supplemental Security Income Program (2016), available <https://www.ssa.gov/oact/ssir/SSI16/ssi2016.pdf>.
* cpiu.xlsx: CPI-U-RS by year.
* eitc\_IRS\_SOI\_returns.xls: Annual EITC expenditures to families with children, compiled from IRS SOI Table 2.5 (<https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-individual-income-tax-returns-publication-1304-complete-report>).
* p24.xls: Census published table of income by educational attainment used to create Figure 5 (<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-income-people.html>).
* pov\_guidelines\_1977\_2015.dta: Poverty guidelines by family size and state for 1977 through 2015. Compiled from ASPE, 2017 data available here: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/2017-poverty-guidelines#guidelines>.
* pov\_thresholds\_1980\_2015.dta: Poverty threshold by family structure for 1980-2015. Compiled from Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>.
* spmthresh14.dta: Includes the SPM threshold for a family of 4. Used to create the anchored threshold (base year 2014) following Wimer, et al., 2015.
* tanfhh.dta: TANF caseloads by year, state, and family size compiled from HHS Characteristics and Financial Circumstances of TANF Recipients, various years. 2015 report available here: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/resource/characteristics-and-financial-circumstances-of-tanf-recipients-fiscal-year-2015>.
* TANFwork.xlsx: Administrative data on fraction of TANF caseload with earned income and average income, select years. From HHS (<https://archive.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/character/index.html>).
* UKCPR\_National\_Welfare\_Data\_041220.xlsx: Annual state safety net and transfer program information from the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research. Includes information on maximum AFDC/TANF benefit. Available: <http://www.ukcpr.org/data>.
* xwalk\_fipst: State abbreviation-FIPS code crosswalk used to merge data.

In addition, users should ensure they are able to run [taxsim27](http://users.nber.org/~taxsim/stata.html).