Disability Insurance in the Great Recession: Ease of Access, Program Enrollment, and Local Hysteresis*

Readme for Replication Package

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1 Overview

The code in this replication package permits reproduction of results reported in the version of this paper to be published in the *AEA Papers & Proceedings*, as well as results reported in a longer companion version to be released as an NBER working paper. (Both versions use the paper title shown above.) Most of the code is applicable to both versions; in cases where a given program applies only to the AEA version or only to the NBER version, we make this clear.

Alongside the code, we provide a full set of raw data files drawn from a panoply of public-use sources, as well pre-processed GIS files derived from publicly available but proprietary data.

The code comprises shell scripts to retrieve source data, a Python program to pre-process the GIS layer, and Stata programs to prepare and analyze the data. Users who download our data alongside our code may skip the shell and Python/GIS steps and proceed directly to Stata. The Stata file `_main.do` runs all of the data-preparation and data-analysis code. The replicator should expect `_main.do` to run for about 45 minutes.

2 Data Availability and Provenance

2.1 Statement about rights

We certify that the authors of the manuscript have legitimate access to and permission to use the data used in this manuscript.

*Per AEA's recommendation, this readme follows the template at https://social-science-data-editors.github.io/template_README/. The views expressed in the paper and in these replication materials are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Social Security Administration or those of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or its staff. All errors are ours.

2.2 License for data

The data for this project are licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public License, as described in the enclosed file `LICENSE.txt`.[1]

2.3 Summary of availability

All data are publicly available from online sources at zero monetary cost. In a couple of cases detailed below, we rely on older vintages of datasets that were available online until recently but that have subsequently been replaced by newer vintages. Our replication package includes data files sufficient to reproduce our results using the same data files we used in our analysis.

2.4 Details on each data source

Data from the US Social Security Administration

County-level and ZIP-level SSDI caseloads.

Downloaded from US Social Security Administration (2016a,b). We obtained these data by running the Bash program `fetch_ssa.sh`, which is included in this replication package. That file contains the specific URLs we accessed; the data are self-describing. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data files:

- `data/raw/ssa/caseloads/county/oasdi_sc[YY].xlsx` (Excel format)
- `data/raw/ssa/caseloads/zip/oasdi_zip[YY].xlsx` (Excel format)

where "`[YY]`" is the two-digit year (retaining leading zeroes).

Award rates and average processing times at SSA hearing offices.

Downloaded from US Social Security Administration (2020). We obtained these data by running the Bash program `fetch_ssa.sh`, which is included in this replication package. That file contains the specific URLs we accessed; the data are self-describing. The reports can also be accessed at `https://www.ssa.gov/appeals/DataSets/archive/archive_data_reports.html` by selecting the reports listed for each fiscal year under "ALJ Disposition Data" and "Hearing Office Workload Data". A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive, with the proviso that we have redacted the names of the administrative law judges appearing in the data. (We do not use these names in our analysis and redact them to avoid including gratuitous personal information in our replication materials.) The data are in the public domain.

[1] `LICENSE.txt` is copied from `https://aeadataeditor.github.io/aea-de-guidance/LICENSE-template.html` (with the year and copyright holder filled in), as accessed on March 9, 2021. See `https://aeadataeditor.github.io/aea-de-guidance/Licensing_guidance.html` for details.

Data files:

- `data/raw/ssa/offices/judges/judges_fy[YYYY]_[month].xml` (XML format)
- `data/raw/ssa/offices/workload/workload_fy[YYYY]_[month].xml` (XML format)

where "`[YYYY]`" is the four-digit year and "`[month]`" is the full month name in lowercase.

Field office assignments from the SSA Hearing Office Locator.

Downloaded from US Social Security Administration (2013) via the Internet Archive Wayback Machine. We obtained these data by running the Bash program `fetch_wayback.sh`, which is included in this replication package. That file contains the specific URL we accessed to retrieve each "snapshot" from the Hearing Office Locator; the data are self-describing.[2] A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data files: `data/raw/ssa/wayback/[YYYY]/wayback_[YYYY]_r[RR].html` (HTML format), where "`[YYYY]`" is the four-digit year and "`[RR]`" is the two-digit SSA region, numbered from "01", "02", . . . , "10".

Data from the US Census Bureau

Tract-level population counts from the 2010 Decennial Census and 5-year 2010 American Community Survey.

Downloaded from US Census Bureau (2020a, 2021) via the Census Bureau's API. We obtained these data by running the Bash program `fetch_census.sh`, which is included in this replication package. That file contains the specific API calls as well as links to webpages detailing the meaning of each variable. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. (We have used shell utilities to pre-process these files by removing special characters and changing the delimiters, to facilitate processing in Stata.) The data are in the public domain.

Data files: `data/raw/census/demogs/tract_pop_[char]/tract_pop_[char]_fips[FF].raw` (pipe-delimited format), where "`[char]`" indicates the dimension by which population is reported ("`educ`", "`ethnicity`", "`race`", or "`sexbyage`") and "`[FF]`" is the two-digit FIPS code (including leading zeroes).

Tract-level employment counts from LODES.

Downloaded from US Census Bureau (2020b) by accessing file-specific URLs. We obtained these data by running the Bash program `fetch_lodes.sh`, which is included in this replication package. That file contains the specific URLs from which we retrieved the data. The data can also be accessed via the user interface at `https://lehd.ces.census.gov/data/` by retrieving the Residence Area Characteristics (RAC) files state-by-state for the years 2003–2015. See the codebook at `https://lehd.ces.census.gov/data/lodes/LODES7/LODESTechDoc7.5.pdf`. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

[2] In 2013, the Hearing Office Locator tool switched from providing static content to providing dynamic content, after which point it is no longer possible to determine office assignments at a given point in time.

Data files: `data/raw/census/lodes/[st]/[st]_rac/S000_JT01_[YYYY].csv` (comma-delimited format), where "`[st]`" is the state's abbreviation (in lowercase) and "`[YYYY]`" is the four-digit year.

List of State FIPS codes.

Downloaded from US Census Bureau (2013). The first column provides a state's two-digit FIPS code; the second and third provide state abbreviations and names. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data file: `data/raw/census/state_codes/state.txt` (pipe-delimited text format)

Data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Downloaded from US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021b). Data can be directly downloaded from `https://download.bls.gov/pub/time.series/la/la.data.64.County`. See codebook at `https://download.bls.gov/pub/time.series/la/la.txt`. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data file: `data/raw/bls/laus/la.data.64.County` (fixed-width text format).

Labor Force Statistics.

Downloaded from US Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021a). We obtained the data as follows:

- Go to `https://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/srgate`.
- Enter the series ID "LNU04000000" and click "Next".
- Specify year range 2003 to 2015. Click the checkbox for "include annual averages". Change the output type to "Text" (comma-delimited text format). Click "Retrieve data".
- Copy and paste the comma-delimited table into a text editor.
- Save the file as `LNU04000000.csv`.

The data show the US unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) in the indicated year and month, with annual averages in the last column. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data file: `data/raw/bls/lfs/LNU04000000.csv` (comma-delimited text format).

Data from the US Department of Agriculture

County-to-commuzing-zone crosswalk.

Downloaded from Economic Research Service (2012). We obtained the year-2000 commuting zones using the URL `https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/DataFiles/48457/cz00_eqv_v1.xls?v=6893.3`. The data are self-describing. A copy of the data is provided as part of this

archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data file: `data/raw/usda/cz00_eqv_v1.xls` (Excel format).

County rural/urban classifications.

Downloaded from Economic Research Service (2004). We obtained the year-2003 Rural-Urban Continuum Codes, using the URL https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/DataFiles/53251/ruralurbancodes2003.xls. The data are self-describing. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data file: `data/raw/usda/ruralurbancodes2003.xls` (Excel format).

Data from other providers

Tract-to-ZIP and ZIP-to-county crosswalks.

Downloaded from US Department of Housing and Urban Development (2021). We obtained these files by setting the data year and quarter to "1st Quarter 2012" and setting the crosswalk type first to "TRACT-ZIP" and then to "ZIP-COUNTY". See codebook at https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/usps_crosswalk.html#codebook. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data files:

- `data/raw/hud/TRACT_ZIP_032012.xlsx` (Excel format)
- `data/raw/hud/ZIP_COUNTY_032012.xlsx` (Excel format)

County-level population.

Downloaded from Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (2019). We obtained population data from https://seer.cancer.gov/popdata.thru.2018/yr1990_2018.19ages/us.1990_2018.19ages.adjusted.txt.gz. At the time we conducted our analysis, the data spanned 1990–2018; data extending beyond 2018 can be downloaded from https://seer.cancer.gov/popdata/. See the codebook applicable to our 1990–2018 extract at https://seer.cancer.gov/popdata.thru.2018/popdic.html. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data file: `data/raw/seer/us.1990_2018.19ages.adjusted.txt` (fixed-width text format).

GIS layer for US ZIP codes.

Downloaded from Esri (2018), the maker of ArcGIS. We use version 10.4, which is no longer provided on the ESRI website; however, a newer version is available at the same location (https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=8d2012a2016e484dafaac0451f9aea24). The data are proprietary and owned by Esri and its licensor(s), and there are limits on redistribution of the raw geodata. We include Stata coordinate and database files derived from

the GIS layer, as well as a list of pairs of adjacent ZIP codes, but not the raw layer itself. We also include the Python and Stata code we used to construct these derived files.

Data file: `data/raw/gis/USA_Zip_Code_Boundaries.lpk` (ArcGIS layer format). Note that this raw file is *not included in the data repository.*

ZIP-level housing price index.

Downloaded from Federal Housing Finance Agency (2020). HPI is "housing price index"; the variables are otherwise self-describing. The file can also be downloaded at `https://www.fhfa.gov/DataTools/Downloads/Pages/House-Price-Index-Datasets.aspx`. A copy of the data is provided as part of this archive. The data are in the public domain.

Data file: `data/raw/fhfa/HPI_AT_BDL_ZIP5.xlsx` (Excel format).

2.5 Preliminary code during the editorial process

Code for data processing and analysis is provided as part of the replication package. It is available at [TBD] for review. It will be uploaded to the AEA Data and Code Repository once the paper is ready for publication.

2.6 Dataset list

Source data (file paths relative to `data/raw/`)

Given the large number of raw data files used in this project, we list here only the subdirectory in which each dataset is located. See Section 2.4 for description of the filenames associated with each raw dataset. Except where indicated, data are public-use and provided by US government agencies.

File path	Source	Notes	Provided
`bls/laus/`	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Local unemployment rates	Yes
`bls/lfs/`	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Labor force statistics	Yes
`census/demogs/`	Census Bureau	Tract-level population counts from 2010 Decennial Census and 5-year American Community Survey; public-use	Yes
`census/lodes/`	Census Bureau	Tract-level employment counts from LODES database	Yes
`census/state_codes/`	Census Bureau	List of state FIPS codes	Yes
`fhfa/`	Federal Housing Finance Agency	ZIP-level housing price index	Yes

File path	Source	Notes	Provided
`gis/`	Esri (ArcGIS)	ZIP-level GIS layer; publicly available but proprietary data with restrictions on redistribution	No
`hud/`	US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development	Tract-to-ZIP and ZIP-to-county crosswalks	Yes
`seer/`	Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER)	County-level population	Yes
`ssa/caseloads/`	Social Security Administration	ZIP- and county-level SSDI caseloads	Yes
`ssa/offices/judges/`	Social Security Administration	Data on Administrative Law Judges	Yes (names redacted)
`ssa/offices/workload/`	Social Security Administration	Average processing time by hearing office	Yes
`ssa/wayback/`	Social Security Administration (via Wayback Machine)	Field offices associated with each hearing office	Yes
`usda/`	US Dept. of Agriculture	County-to-CZ crosswalk and rural-urban continuum codes	Yes

Derived data (file paths relative to `data/derived/`)

All of the files listed below are included in the replication package. Furthermore, all of these files can be reconstructed by running the included code on the included raw data, with the exceptions of `zip_neighbors.dta`, `zipcodes_coord.dta`, and `zipcodes_db.dta`. Those three files are derived from a proprietary GIS layer, which is omitted from the replication package.

File name	Created by	Notes
`cty_ssdi.dta`	`prep_cty_ssdi.do`	2007 SSDI enrollment rate by county
`czone_shocks.dta`	`prep_shocks.do`	Great Recession shocks by commuting zone
`hoffice_chars.dta`	`prep_hoffice_chars.do`	Hearing office characteristics
`xwalk_cty_czone.dta`	`prep_geo_xwalks.do`	Crosswalk: counties to commuting zones
`xwalk_cty_fips.dta`	`prep_geo_xwalks.do`	Crosswalk: county names to FIPS codes
`xwalk_cty_metro.dta`	`prep_geo_xwalks.do`	Metro-area status by county
`xwalk_foffice_hoffice.dta`	`prep_ssa_xwalk.do`	Crosswalk: field offices into hearing offices

File name	Created by	Notes
`xwalk_state_fips.dta`	`prep_geo_xwalks.do`	Crosswalk: state FIPS codes into state names
`xwalk_tract_zip.dta`	`prep_geo_xwalks.do`	Crosswalk: Census tractcs into ZIP codes
`xwalk_zip_cty.dta`	`prep_geo_xwalks.do`	Crosswalk: ZIP codes into counties
`zip_border_panel.dta`	`create_border_panel.do`	Estimation sample of paired cross-border ZIP codes; used as input in main analyses
`zip_census.dta`	`prep_census.do`	Total and group-level population by ZIP code
`zip_foffice_ssdi.dta`	`prep_zip_foffice_ssdi.do`	SSDI enrollment and field office assignment by ZIP code
`zip_full_panel.dta`	`create_full_panel.do`	Data on adjacent ZIP codes, from multiple sources
`zip_hoffice_ssdi.dta`	`prep_zip_hoffice_ssdi.do`	SSDI enrollment and hearing office assignment by ZIP code
`zip_hpi.dta`	`prep_hpi.do`	FHFA housing price index by ZIP code
`zip_jobshares.dta`	`prep_jobshares.do`	LODES sectoral employment shares by ZIP code
`zip_lodes.dta`	`prep_lodes.do`	LODES employment by ZIP code
`zip_neighbors.dta`	`prep_shapefiles.do` (note: input data omitted from repository)	List of adjacent ZIP code pairs
`zipcodes_coord.dta`	`prep_shapefiles.do` (note: input data omitted from repository)	ZIP code coordinates for creating maps
`zipcodes_db.dta`	`prep_shapefiles.do` (note: input data omitted from repository)	ZIP code elements for creating maps

3 Computational Requirements

3.1 Software requirements

- **Stata** (the code was last run with version 15.1): used for data preparation and data analysis.
  - We use the following packages available through `ssc` (versions as of March 10, 2021):

`egenmore`, `estout`, `filelist`, `ftools`, `gtools`, `labutil`, `reghdfe`, `shp2dta`, `spmap`.

  - We have bundled these packages with our code. Replicators can also reinstall them from source by running `code/_config.do` with the local macro `install_ados` set equal to 1.

- **Bash** (code was last run with GNU Bash version 3.2.57): used for data retrieval, which replicators can skip if relying on the data provided in the repository. Outside of data retrieval, which relies heavily on Bash, our Stata programs also invoke the (Bash) shell in two places:

  - `maps.do` attempts to use the shell utility `sips` to convert output files from `.pdf` format into `.png` format, as the raw `.pdf` files are quite large. If `sips` is unavailable, the program should should simply skip the `.png` version and retain the `.pdf` version instead.

  - The custom command `nicepdf` (included with the code) relies on the shell utility `pdfcrop` to crop the output files; if that utility is unavailable, the code should simply skip that step, without breaking.

- **ArcGIS** (code was last run with ArcMap 10.7): used to convert the GIS layer into Stata-readable formats. Replicators relying on our data files will not need to use ArcGIS.

- **Python** (code was last run with Python 2.7.15): used within the ArcGIS environment. As with ArcGIS itself, replicators relying on our data files will not need to use Python.

3.2 Memory and runtime requirements

The code was last run on a **6-core Intel-based desktop with MacOS version 11.1**. On the most recent run, retrieving copies of the source data files from the original data providers took about one hour; pre-processing the GIS layer took about 45 minutes; and the main steps of data preparation and analysis took a combined total of about 45 minutes.

Since we include the source data as well as the pre-processed GIS files, replicators only have to undertake the last of these steps, so that the effective runtime should be about 45 minutes on a comparably powerful computer.

4 Description of Code

- The program `code/_main.do` will execute all code for this project.

- The program `code/_config.do`, which is among the programs executed by `code/_main.do`, will create subdirectories as needed and set necessary configurations.

- Programs in `code/build` retrieve the source data and extract and reformat all datasets referenced above.

- Programs in `code/share` generate all figures and tables, including those appearing in the companion NBER working paper that accompanies this publication.

4.1 License for code

Except where indicated, the code for this project is licensed under a Modified BSD License, as described in the enclosed file `LICENSE.txt` (see Footnote 1), with copyright retained by Kearney, Price, and Wilson.

The file `nicepdf.ado` is copyright Brendan M. Price (as detailed in an accompanying license file), and code in `code/aux/ado/ssc/` was developed by the authors indicated therein. The code folder also includes, under `code/aux/fonts/`, bundled Computer Modern fonts, which are redistributed here under the terms of the SIL Open Font License, Version 1.1. A copy of that license is included alongside each set of font files.

5 Instructions to Replicators

To reproduce our results:

1. Copy the code and data files to a computer equipped with Stata version 15.1 or higher.
2. Navigate to the `code/` directory. (The code will break if executed from a different directory.)
3. Open a Stata session and enter the command `do _main.do`. Alternatively, run a batch job from a terminal by entering the command `stata -b _main.do` (changing `stata` as needed if you use a different command such as `stata-se` to access Stata from terminal).

Note that `_main.do` starts by executing `_config.do`, which does several important things:

- It sets the global macro `$projdir` equal to the directory from which `_config.do` is executed. All other Stata files define filepaths in relation to `$projdir`.
- It creates all necessary subdirectories, beyond those present in the replication package itself.[3]
- It sets the `adopath` to draw exclusively on `.ado` files located within the project directory. This avoids any inadvertent external dependencies on custom programs not residing inside this project, and it ensures that replicators will run the code using the same version of dependent packages that we used in our analysis.
- It sets various other configurations, mostly pertaining to graphics.
- The local macro `install_ados` can be set to 1 to reinstall custom commands from `ssc`.

Note also that `_main.do` declares three local macros—`run_fetch`, `run_build`, and `run_share`—that govern whether to execute data-retrieval, data-preparation, and data-analysis programs, respectively.

- **fetch**: Since we provide raw data files, `run_fetch` is disabled by default (i.e., set to 0).
  - Should replicators wish to download fresh extracts of the source data, running the

[3]Note that the newly created subdirectories `logs/` and `output/` mirror the hierarchical structure of `code/`, to make it easy to determine which program created a given log file or output file.

data-fetching code will retrieve most of the raw data files we use (via the Bash command `curl`); however, certain files—the BLS Labor Force Statistics, the HUD crosswalks, and the GIS layer—must be retrieved manually per the instructions in Section 2, as we do not have direct URLs to these particular files.

- **build**: `run_build` is enabled by default (set to 1). Running this step will execute the Stata programs used to create the files stored in `data/derived/` (and thus overwrite those files).
  - The code launching `prep_shapefiles.do` is deliberately commented out, since we do not provide the raw data files that this program takes as input. The three files produced by this program are provided under `data/derived`.
- **share**: `run_share` is enabled by default (set to 1). Running this step will execute the Stata programs used to create the charts and tables appearing in both the published *AEA Papers & Proceedings* version and the version to be posted as an NBER working paper.

The programs are designed to be executed in the order indicated in `_main.do`.

5.1 List of figures, tables, and programs

The provided code reproduces all figures and tables appearing in either the *AEA Papers & Proceedings* version of the paper or the companion NBER working paper, as well as all numbers reported in the *AEA P&P* paper and many, though not all, of the numbers appearing in the NBER version. All of these programs are provided in the repository.

Figure/table #	Program (within `code/`)	Output file (within `output/`)
AEA Figure 1	`share/aeapp.do`	`share/aeapp/aeapp_fig1.pdf`
AEA Figure 2	`share/aeapp.do`	`share/aeapp/aeapp_fig2.pdf`
NBER Figure 1	`share/nber_aggtrends.do`	`share/nber_aggtrends/nber_fig1.pdf`
NBER Figure 2	`share/nber_maps.do`	`share/nber_maps/nber_fig2.png`
NBER Figure 3	`share/nber_maps.do`	`share/nber_maps/nber_fig3.png`
NBER Figure 4	`share/nber_maps.do`	`share/nber_maps/nber_fig4.pdf`
NBER Figure 5	`share/nber_histogram.do`	`share/nber_histogram/nber_fig5.pdf`
NBER Figure 6	`share/nber_eventstudies.do`	`share/nber_eventstudies/nber_fig6.pdf`
NBER Figure 7	`share/nber_eventstudies.do`	`share/nber_eventstudies/nber_fig7.pdf`
NBER Figure 8	`share/nber_eventstudies.do`	`share/nber_eventstudies/nber_fig8.pdf`
NBER Figure 9	`share/nber_eventstudies.do`	`share/nber_eventstudies/nber_fig9.pdf`
NBER Figure 10	`share/nber_eventstudies.do`	`share/nber_eventstudies/nber_fig10.pdf`
NBER Table 1	`share/nber_sumstats.do`	`share/nber_sumstats/nber_tab1.tex`

Figure/table #	Program (within code/)	Output file (within output/)
NBER Table 2	share/nber_regtables.do	share/nber_regtables/nber_tab2.tex
NBER Table 3	share/nber_regtables.do	share/nber_regtables/nber_tab3.tex
NBER Figure A1	share/nber_maps.do	share/nber_maps/nber_figa1.pdf
NBER Table B1	build/create_border_panel.do	build/create_border_panel/nber_tabb1.tex

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