

For Online Publication Only:

Supplementary Materials

Materials and Methods

I. Matching algorithm

We start by matching our MP records to DMF. The match uses 6 variables: first name, middle initial, last name, day, month and years of birth. The match allows for errors in strings and in single digits for DOB. Specifically we convert all names/strings into sounds using the SOUNDEX function and match individuals based on this rather than based on the original strings to avoid dealing with changes in spelling and spelling mistakes. The procedure SPEDIS computes a measure of distance between strings and we use it to measure the quality of a match. We also allow for error in the dates.

Step 1: take as a possible match any pairs of observations meeting at least one of these criteria

- a. surname SOUNDEX codes match AND first letter of given names match AND year of birth is within 2 years
- b. first letter of surnames match AND given name SOUNDEX codes match AND year of birth is within 2 years
- c. first letter of surnames match AND first letter of given names match AND date of birth matches exactly
- d. surname SOUNDEX codes match AND date of birth matches exactly

Step 2: group the matches based on quality

First Best:

- birthdate matches exactly AND average SPEDIS score across surname and given name is 0 OR
- (birthdate matches exactly OR 2 of [birth month, day, year] match) AND (surname matches exactly OR one surname contains the other OR one surname contains the 1st three letters of the other) AND (given name matches exactly OR one given name contains the other OR one given name contains the 1st three letters of the other)

Second Best: if no "First Best" group

- (year of birth matches exactly OR date of birth differs by a month or less) AND (surname matches exactly OR one surname contains the other OR one surname contains the 1st three letters of the other) AND (given name matches exactly OR one given name contains the other OR one given name contains the 1st three letters of the other)

Third Best: if no "First best" or "Second best" group

- (year of birth is within 2 years) AND (surname matches exactly OR one surname contains the other OR one surname contains the 1st three letters of the other) AND (given name matches exactly OR one given name contains the other OR one given name contains the 1st three letters of the other)

Step 3: Retain only observations only if they were in one of the three categories in Step 2 AND average SPEDIS score across surname and given name is less than 9

Step 4. Retain only those observations with the "best" match AND the lowest average SPEDIS score across surname and given name is zero

Step 5. Retain only those observations with 5 or fewer matches to the DMF or state death records

These procedures rely heavily on two functions:

1. SOUNDEX: The SOUNDEX function encodes a character string according to an algorithm that was originally developed by Margaret K. Odell and Robert C. Russel (US Patents 1261167 (1918) and 1435663 (1922)). The algorithm is described in Knuth, The Art of Computer Programming, Volume 3. (See References.) Note that the SOUNDEX algorithm is English-biased and is less useful for languages other than English.

2. SPEDIS: SPEDIS returns the distance between the query and a keyword, a nonnegative value that is usually less than 100 but never greater than 200 with the default costs. SPEDIS computes an asymmetric spelling distance between two words as the normalized cost for converting the keyword to the query word by using a sequence of operations.

Matching to the 1940 Census and WWII

Matching to the 1940 Census and WWII records differs because date of birth is not available in these records, only year of birth. Each potential match is placed in one of four groups from most to least likely:

1. Birth year difference no more than one and an average "Levenstein distance" over given names and surnames no greater than three
2. Birth year difference no more than one and one given name is contained in the other and one surname is contained in the other, but the match does not fit into Group 1
3. Group 2 but allowing a birth year difference no more than two
4. Group 1 but allowing an average Levenstein distance over given names and surnames no greater than five.

Any matches in Group 1 are accepted over any in Groups 2 through 4; if there are no Group 1 matches, any matches in Group 2 are accepted over any in Groups 3 or 4; etc.

Levenstein distance is defined as the fewest number of single-character changes (substitution, deletion, or insertion) needed to transform one name into another; e.g. Ferry --> Ferrie has a distance of 2 (one substitution and one addition).

Stringent and non-stringent matching procedures

II. State and county level data

- a. State data. State characteristics at the time of application include:
- 1-manufacturing wages (computed as the national manufacturing wages * ratio of state to national manufacturing earnings), education/labor laws (age must enter school age can obtain a work permit and whether a continuation school law is in place). These were obtained from Price Fishback at: http://www.u.arizona.edu/~fishback/Published_Research_Datasets.html. The information is available for all years from 1900 to 1930.
 - 2-state expenditures (education, charity and total expenditures on social programs). These were collected from various volumes of the Financial Statistics of the States and are available for 1915-1919, 1923-1930. We imputed missing values for 1923-1930 using linear interpolation within states.
- b. State Mother's Pensions Laws. Available for years 1914, 1916, 1919, 1922, 1925, 1926, 1929 and 1934. Missing values were imputed using the last observation within state. The data for each year of the MP Laws was gleaned from the following resources:
- **1914:** "Laws Relating to 'Mothers' Pensions' in the United States, Denmark, and New Zealand" from the U.S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Dependent Children Series, No. 1, Bureau Publication No. 7
 - **1916:** "Widows' Pension Legislation" from the Bureau of Municipal Research and Training School for Public Service in New York, No. 85, May, 1917
 - **1919:** Thompson, Laura A. 1919. "Laws Relating to 'Mothers' Pensions' in the United States, Canada, Denmark, and New Zealand." Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office (U.S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Legal Series No. 4, Bureau Publication No. 63)
 - **1922:** Eckman, Lulu L. 1923. "Public Aid to Children in Their Own Homes: A Tabular Summary of State Laws in Effect November 1, 1922." Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office (U.S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Legal Chart No. 3)
 - **1925:** Eckman, Lulu L. 1925. "A Tabular Summary of State Laws relating to Public Aid to Children in Their Own Homes in effect January 1, 1925 and the Text of the Laws of Certain States." Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office (U.S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Chart No. 3)
 - **1929:** "A Tabular Summary of State Laws relating to Public Aid to Children in Their Own Homes in effect January 1, 1929 and the Text of the Laws of Certain States." Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office (U.S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Chart No. 3)
 - **1934:** "A Tabular Summary of State Laws relating to Public Aid to Children in Their Own Homes in effect January 1, 1934." Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office (U.S. Department of Labor, Children's Bureau, Chart No. 3)
- c. County data for Ohio
- We include three county level variables available for a few years: total expenditures on relief, total expenditures on outdoor relief and total expenditures on children's homes. These were collected from various volumes of the Ohio General Statistics, available for 1915-1922. We imputed missing values for using linear extrapolation within counties.

III. Selection of controls from the 1900 (5%), 1910 (1%), 1920 (1%), and 1930 (5%) Censuses

The exercise of selecting controls from the censuses is difficult for two reasons. First there is very little information about the socio-economic status of women who are not married: prior to 1940 the census does not report education or earnings, and although occupation is available, very few women worked.¹ Also the Iowa census data suggest that a randomly chosen widow might not be very poor. Second, none of the census reports exact date of birth: 1900 and 1930 report year and month, and 1910 and 1920 only report year of birth. As a result it is more difficult to match these individuals with their death certificates. For this reason we allow a “softer” matching criteria for the census.

We selected all children under age 18 of women living in poor areas, and included black families and all children living in institutions. We further selected children by matching their characteristics to those of the MP applicants using propensity scores and then matched them to death certificates. Appendix Table 5 shows that despite our best efforts, our census samples differ substantially from MP children on observables: they are older when we observe them, they are disproportionately drawn from more recent cohorts, and they come from smaller families. There is also more measurement error for these samples in the age at death. Panel D of Figure 3 (as well as Appendix Table 5) shows that we match substantially fewer of these children to death certificates (in particular blacks).

Below is more detail on the controls chosen.

1-Black sample: All black children 18 and younger in poor minor civil divisions within MP states living in households and whose mother is marital status was “widowed”, “single/never married” “divorced” or “abandoned”

2-Controls in MP states:

- All white children 18 and younger
- living in poor minor civil divisions within MP states
- mothers’ marital status was “widowed”, “single/never married” “divorced” or “abandoned”

¹ Labor force participation among women in 1910 in the US is about 22% (Olivetti 2013) and this number is substantially lower among those with children (NEED CITE).

- matched by propensity score using gender, gender-specific year-of-birth dummies, age at application/observation dummies, number of siblings in each age category, dummies for (imputed) mother’s birthplace, number of letters in last name and state dummies.

3-Controls from neighboring states.

- All white children 18 and younger
- Living in poor minor civil divisions in control/neighboring states.
- Control states were selected based on a-geographic proximity, b-having no MP program, c-having an MP program with very few recipients according to Children’s Bureau publications.
- States chosen based on the following table:

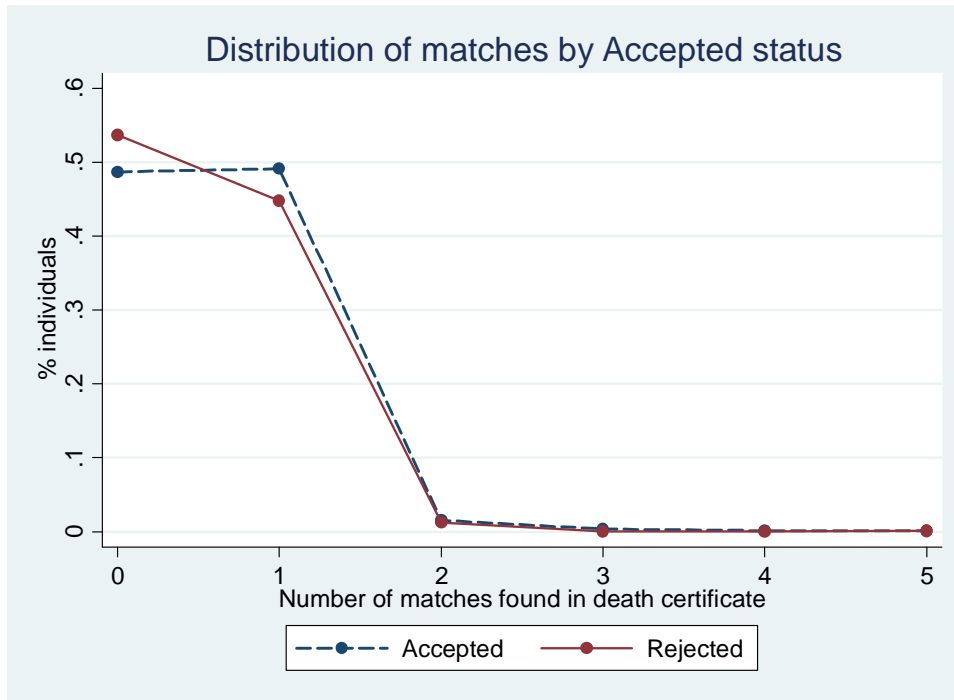
| MP state | Control state |
|-------------|---|
| Colorado | New Mexico (passed law in 1931). |
| Ohio | Kentucky (passed law in 1928) and Indiana |
| Connecticut | New Hampshire |
| Oklahoma | Missouri |
| Iowa | Missouri |
| Illinois | Indiana and Missouri |

- matched by propensity score using the same covariates as listed above

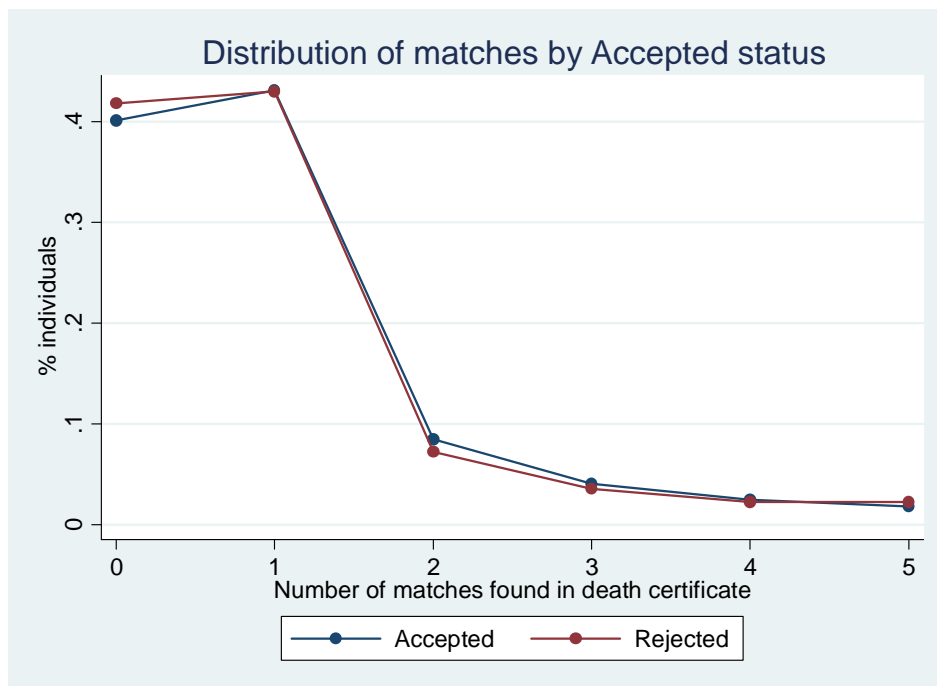
NB: A *poor* minor civil division is defined as a minor civil division in which a-average earnings of adults in households were below the 50th percentile of socio-economic index in the combined 1900-1930 censuses or b-average earnings of adults in households were below the 50th percentile of Duncan occupational score in the combined 1900-1930 censuses, or c-average earnings of married men in dual households was below the 50th percentile.

Fig. S1: Number of matches to death certificates

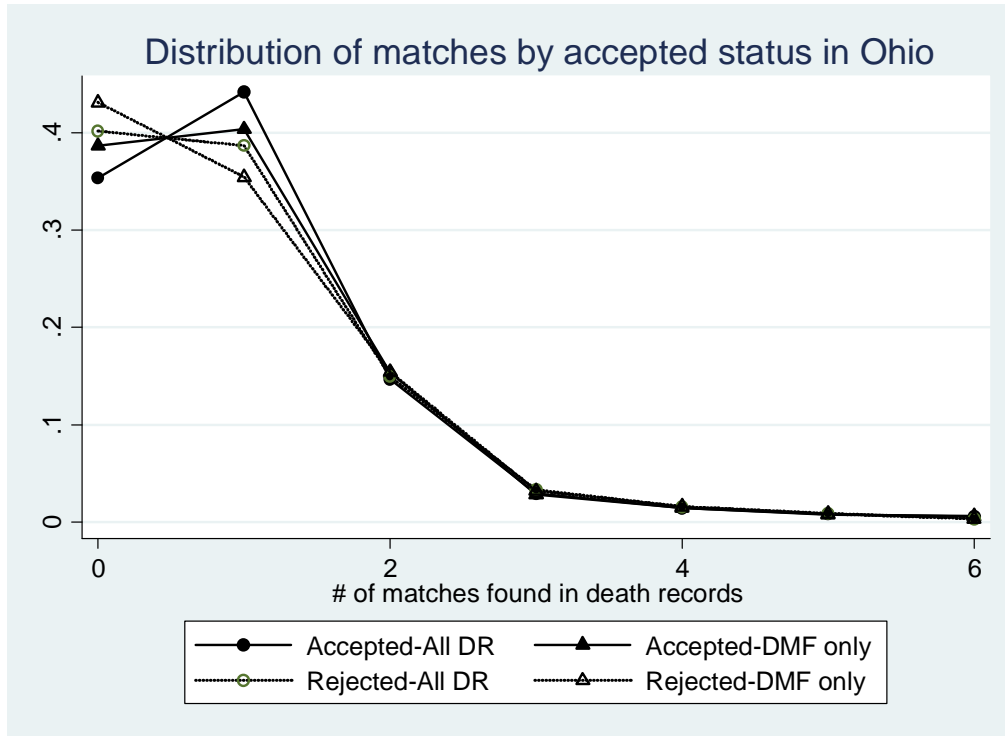
Panel A: Estimation Sample



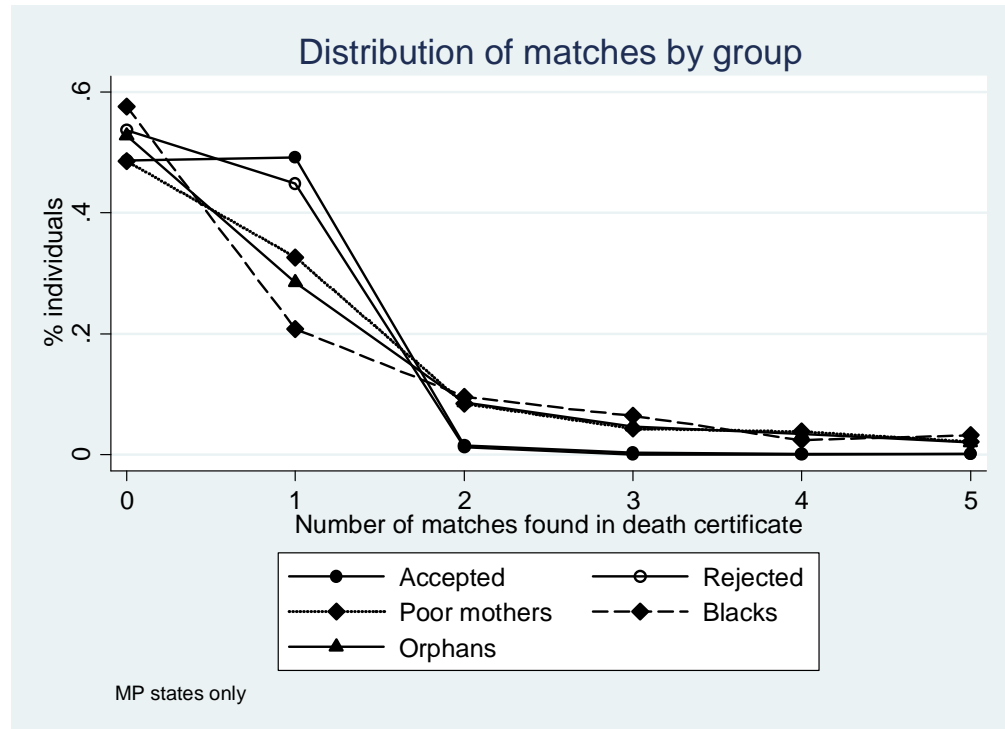
Panel B: Distribution of matches with less stringent matching criteria



Panel C: Ohio Sample with additional matches to state death certificates



Panel D: matches for possible census controls



Note: MP matches are stringent but census controls are matched with looser criteria.

**Table S1. Mothers' Pension Program Characteristics
States with no individual-level MP data**

| State | State funds | Deserted or divorced eligible | Children age eligibility | Residency required | Citizenship required | Benefit for 1st child | Benefit for each add'l child |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1-Alaska | yes | No | 17 | * | no | 15 | 10 |
| 2-Arizona | no | No | 16 | Varies | yes | 20 | * |
| 3-Arkansas | yes | Yes | 15 | Yes | yes | 10 | 5 |
| 4-California | yes | No | 15 | Yes | no | * | * |
| 5-Delaware | yes | Yes | 14 | Yes | no | 9 | 5 |
| 6-Florida | no | Yes | 16 | * | no | 25 | 8 |
| 7-Indiana | no | Yes | 16** | * | no | * | * |
| 8-Kansas | no | Yes | 16 | Yes | no | * | * |
| 9-Louisiana | no | No | 16 | * | no | 15 | 10 |
| 10-Maine | yes | Yes | 14 | * | no | * | * |
| 11-Maryland | yes | No | 14 | Yes | no | 12 | * |
| 12-Massachusetts | yes | Yes | 14 | Yes | no | * | * |
| 13-Michigan | no | Yes | 17 | * | no | 12 | 12 |
| 14-Missouri | no | Yes | 16 | Yes | no | 16 | 8 |
| 15-Nebraska | no | Yes | 14 | Yes | no | 10 | 10 |
| 16-Nevada | no | Yes | 15 | Yes | no | 25 | 15 |
| 17-New Hampshire | yes | Yes | 16 | Yes | no | 10 | 5 |
| 18-New Jersey | yes | No | 16 | Yes | no | 9 | * |
| 19-New York | no | * | 16 | Yes | yes | * | * |
| 20-South Dakota | no | Yes | 16 | * | no | 15 | 7 |
| 21-Tennessee | no | No | 15 | * | yes | 10 | 5 |
| 22-Texas | no | No | 16 | * | no | 12 | * |
| 23-Utah | no | No | 16 | Yes | no | * | * |
| 24-Vermont | yes | Yes | * | * | no | 8 | 8 |
| 25-Virginia | no | No | 16 | * | no | 12 | * |
| 26-West Virginia | no | Yes | 13 | * | yes | 15 | 5 |
| 27-Wyoming | no | No | 14 | * | no | 20 | 10 |

Source: Children's Bureau (1922c) Note:

States not included in Table 1 or Appendix Table 1 are excluded did not enact Mothers' Pension programs by 1920.

*No information provided in report. **Boys eligible until age 16, girls until 17.

Table S2. Representativeness of MP Data Collected

| State | MP data collected for 1930 | | | | Published Statistics 1931* | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | New beneficiaries | | | | All beneficiaries receiving transfers | | | |
| | # families | # children | Mean monthly grant | Mean family size | # families | # children | Mean monthly grant | Mean family size |
| Idaho | 75 | 184 | 20.22 | 2.45 | 230 | 619 | 13.16 | 2.69 |
| Illinois | 68 | 192 | 19.99 | 2.82 | 6087 | 17004 | 26.11 | 2.79 |
| Iowa | 81 | 185 | 29.51 | 2.28 | 3242 | 7829 | 20.81 | 2.41 |
| Minnesota | 40 | 123 | 28.54 | 3.08 | 3455 | 9990 | 29.35 | 2.89 |
| North Dakota | | | | | | | | |
| Ohio | 365 | 800 | 19.63 | 2.19 | 7708 | 21262 | 21.68 | 2.76 |
| Oklahoma | 78 | 158 | 11.53 | 2.03 | 1896 | 5166 | 7.29 | 2.72 |
| Oregon | 76 | 174 | 25.86 | 2.29 | 862 | 2127 | 21.35 | 2.47 |
| Washington | 316 | 723 | 23.75 | 2.29 | 2517 | 5605 | 19.66 | 2.23 |
| Wisconsin | 37 | 74 | 25.93 | 2.00 | 7052 | 18188 | 21.66 | 2.58 |

*Published data come from Children's Bureau (1931). Pennsylvania not represented because we only have data for 4 early years

**Published data come from Children's Bureau (1928a).

Table S3. Data on Children in Families Receiving Mothers' Pensions 1911-1930
All children born 1900-1925, under age 19 at the time of application

| State | All records collected (boys and girls in all counties with records collected) | | | | Boys in counties with rejected applicants (estimation sample) | | |
|--------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| | # counties | # children receiving transfers | # families receiving transfers | Average monthly allowance | # rejected applicants | # rejected | # accepted |
| Connecticut | 1 | 192 | 67 | 12.1 | 20 | 10 | 89 |
| Idaho | 19 | 3,117 | 1,112 | 20.35 | 179 | 78 | 776 |
| Illinois | 10 | 2,271 | 829 | 17.95 | 116 | 56 | 670 |
| Iowa | 8 | 2,957 | 841 | 31.92 | 174 | 73 | 739 |
| Minnesota | 17 | 3,276 | 1,023 | 23.62 | 176 | 26 | 527 |
| North Dakota | 8 | 1,390 | 484 | 33.03 | 163 | 67 | 563 |
| Ohio | 24 | 13,643 | 5,607 | 12.42 | 2131 | 978 | 4,825 |
| Oklahoma | 5 | 1,504 | 582 | 13.27 | 181 | 72 | 701 |
| Oregon | 12 | 3,351 | 1,499 | 23.13 | 736 | 308 | 1,128 |
| Washington | 23 | 10,681 | 4,661 | 22.67 | 911 | 535 | 3,977 |
| Wisconsin | 7 | 1,079 | 497 | 23.95 | 34 | 16 | 77 |
| Total | 126 | 42,071 | 17,201 | | 4,658 | 2,219 | 14,070 |

Note: We collected an additional 40,000 records which are not included here because the application date is after 1930, the cohorts are out of the specified range, the state/county did not collect information on rejected applicants, or the amount or date of application is missing.

Table S4. Generosity of Transfers in Real Terms

| State | 1911-1930 transfers in all MP records as a function of income | | | | 1919 transfers in estimation sample as a function of income | | |
|--------------|---|---|-------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | Monthly MP amount | Monthly wages in manufacturing in state | Amount as % of manufact. wage | Estimated % of total family income in MP families | Monthly MP amount | Household income. urban two parent households* | Farm Laborer Income in region** |
| Idaho | 19.76 | 121.88 | 16% | | 20.9 | | 59.2 |
| Illinois | 16.46 | 117.23 | 14% | 29% ^a | 16.8 | 126.91 | 42.21 |
| Iowa | 30.59 | 103.91 | 29% | 44% ^b | 25.92 | 124.18 | 50.81 |
| Minnesota | 23.67 | 104.11 | 23% | 50% ^c | 19.56 | 124.60 | 50.81 |
| Montana | 29.42 | 134.38 | 22% | | | 161.19 | 59.2 |
| North Dakota | 33.03 | 120.31 | 27% | | 34.23 | | 50.81 |
| Ohio | 11.07 | 115.2 | 10% | 100% ^e | 9.875 | 121.11 | 42.21 |
| Oklahoma | 13.27 | 108.46 | 12% | | 14.33 | 130.90 | 36.19 |
| Oregon | 19.42 | 114.6 | 17% | | 22.35 | 136.96 | 65.3 |
| Washington | 20.94 | 121.01 | 17% | | 23.4 | 130.31 | 65.3 |
| Wisconsin | 20.31 | 102.04 | 20% | | 25 | 114.06 | 42.21 |

*Computed from ICPSR study “COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES, 1917-1919.”

**State average imputed using the census region average reported in:

<http://hsus.cambridge.org/HSUSWeb/table/seriesprev.do>. The original data source is:

Lebergott, *Manpower in Economic Growth: The American Record since 1800* (McGraw-Hill, 1964), Tables A-23 and A-24, pp. 257ff.

- N= . Computed from MP records using observations with maternal earnings. Records from Montgomery county show maternal income as varying from 50 cents per week, up to 10 dollars a week, making the percentage even higher (Dahlquist 2011).
- N=244. Computed using the average family pension 1915-1919 in Iowa MP records and average income from the 1915 Iowa Census.
- N=62, Clay County MP records 1930.
- N=2,404. 1926 Pennsylvania Study.
- N=100. First 100 cases in Hamilton County Ohio. 1914 (Bullock, 1915). Computed as the average MP pension divided by monthly wages of mothers. Other sources of income not reported.

Table S5: Income and Wealth by family composition in the Iowa 1915 Census
Sample: Boys 0-18 living in families with at least one child under 14

| Household with | No married man in household | | | | Married woman and married man |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Widow | Divorced Female | Single woman | married woman | |
| N of individuals ages 0-18 | 604 | 97 | 143 | 970 | 14,792 |
| Total family earnings | 684 | 316 | 280 | 504 | 1,109 |
| % below 30th percentile of family earnings | 52 | 73 | 80 | 66 | 17 |
| Number of kids under 14 in family | 2.6 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.7 | 3.1 |
| Number of people in family | 5.4 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 5.3 | 6 |
| Earnings per capita | 127 | 93 | 76 | 95 | 185 |
| % own house/farm | 50% | 7% | 15% | 27% | 47% |
| Value of house/farm (if owns) | 7,372 | 2,146 | 6,697 | 12,498 | 11,042 |

Author's tabulations from the Iowa 1915 census.

Table S6. Predicting Household Income for boys under 18 using the Iowa 1915 census.

| Sample: households with at least one child under 14 | All households N=9,180 | | No married man in household N=1,537 | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | OLS | TOBIT | OLS | TOBIT |
| Has married male | 594.7193*** [42.333] | 971.8404*** [73.482] | | |
| Has married female | 247.5388*** [46.033] | 420.8946*** [67.103] | | |
| Has a widow | 215.4419** [87.284] | 552.4015*** [122.111] | 62.4707 [81.904] | 211.9840* [124.493] |
| Name length | 9.6298 [8.152] | 13.4332 [9.088] | 20.4402 [12.527] | 38.7576 [23.571] |
| Age | 8.4870*** [2.546] | 10.1344*** [2.768] | 11.9447** [5.510] | 32.9156*** [8.998] |
| # kids age 0 | 68.0026 [66.915] | 93.9281 [71.460] | 130.7938 [148.409] | 187.5139 [302.117] |
| # kids age 1 | -82.3495** [33.016] | -79.7430** [36.599] | -56.5537 [107.867] | -102.3321 [228.169] |
| # kids age 2 | 1.8798 [68.177] | 5.2731 [71.645] | -70.6111 [76.811] | -49.6923 [186.586] |
| # kids age 3 | -51.4231 [39.507] | -51.0020 [43.298] | -53.3489 [92.820] | -199.0365 [197.879] |
| # kids age 4 | -107.4332** [39.018] | -109.9140** [42.836] | -28.5116 [80.788] | 30.2525 [174.726] |
| # kids age 5 | -23.6402 [36.385] | -17.3844 [40.223] | -79.9145 [62.949] | -88.7561 [138.691] |
| # kids age 6 | -11.1874 [38.959] | -19.6485 [42.938] | -12.4238 [63.961] | 15.1178 [143.189] |
| # kids age 7 | -4.7253 [50.472] | 2.1926 [54.590] | 6.4409 [69.167] | 124.2948 [128.365] |
| # kids age 8 | -0.2556 [35.911] | 10.5778 [40.007] | -115.1911 [71.859] | -78.4309 [141.303] |
| # kids age 9 | 53.3898 [42.019] | 64.5410 [46.578] | -69.1891 [73.576] | -18.3048 [131.537] |
| # kids age 10 | 5.1554 [39.668] | 5.3444 [43.974] | -14.3600 [65.048] | 17.1245 [121.781] |
| # kids age 11 | -23.5175 [43.744] | -21.1387 [48.545] | 128.3780 [83.755] | 209.7717 [135.293] |
| # kids age 12 | 13.2001 [40.720] | 20.8331 [45.756] | 58.7942 [65.876] | 138.8205 [114.202] |
| # kids age 13 | 121.6027** [50.389] | 133.2005** [55.313] | 24.5044 [83.445] | 92.9688 [129.619] |
| # kids age 14 | 57.0520 [42.468] | 77.0113 [47.312] | 26.4178 [83.052] | 116.0365 [125.303] |
| # kids age 15 | 176.6892*** [57.654] | 204.6295*** [62.650] | 211.0864** [82.759] | 441.9761*** [125.765] |
| # kids age 16 | 237.8189*** | 285.7827*** | 449.1488*** | 743.7591*** |

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | [54.078] | [59.011] | [91.929] | [133.375] |
| # kids age 17 | 237.3049*** | 269.5818*** | 232.3904** | 439.7864*** |
| | [55.597] | [61.000] | [93.350] | [123.524] |
| R-squared | 0.114 | | 0.137 | |
| Mean | 1016 | | 486.2 | |

Table S7: Robustness Checks

Coefficient on Accepted on the probability of surviving past age 70

| | Accepted=1 | | N | % effect |
|--|------------|---------|--------|----------|
| | beta | se | | |
| Panel A: Logit | | | | |
| Unique matches and missing dropped | 0.268*** | [0.078] | 7,884 | 11% |
| Unique matches and missing imputed as dead | 0.204*** | [0.059] | 15,952 | 15% |
| Random match and missing imputed as dead | 0.207*** | [0.058] | 16,288 | 15% |
| All matches treated as observations, missing imputed as dead | 0.194*** | [0.057] | 16,777 | 14% |
| Keep highest quality match | 0.212** | [0.093] | 5,860 | 8% |
| Panel B: MLE (Logit model) | | | | |
| All matches and missing imputed as dead | 0.201*** | [0.055] | 16,288 | 14% |
| Allowing for measurement error in matching | 0.201*** | [0.055] | 16,288 | 14% |
| Sample matched on propensity score | 0.207*** | [0.055] | 16,288 | 15% |
| Drop individuals with 3 or matches | 0.199*** | [0.055] | 16,196 | 14% |
| Individuals with 1 or 2 matches, missing dropped | 0.251*** | [0.075] | 8,152 | 10% |
| Less Stringent matching criteria | 0.187** | [0.056] | 14,987 | |
| Panel C: results for Ohio | | | | |
| Original data | | | | |
| No county controls | 0.308*** | [0.099] | 5,469 | 23.56% |
| Add county*year controls | 0.311*** | [0.099] | 5,469 | 23.79% |
| Drop missing | 0.325*** | [0.113] | 3,042 | 14.14% |
| Additional deaths, manual search | | | | |
| No county controls | 0.270*** | [0.093] | 5,469 | 18.23% |
| Add county*year controls | 0.273*** | [0.093] | 5,469 | 18.43% |
| Drop missing | 0.251** | [0.113] | 3,494 | 13.38% |

* p<0.10, ** p<0.05. All models are estimated using county and cohort fixed effects and include state characteristics at the time of application which are manufacturing wages, education/labor laws (age must enter school, age can obtain a work permit and whether a continuation school law is in place), state expenditures in logs (education, charity and total expenditures on social programs) and state laws concerning MP transfers (whether work is required, whether reapplication is required, the maximum legislated amount for the first child and the legislated amount for each additional child). County controls for Ohio consist of total expenditures on relief, total expenditures on outdoor relief and total expenditures on children's homes.

Table S8. Summary Statistics for Ohio, WWII and 1940 Samples

| | Ohio large sample with unique matches | | WWII sample with unique matches | | Sub-sample matched to 1940 | |
|--|---|----------|------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|----------|
| | Rejected | Accepted | Rejected | Accepted | Rejected | Accepted |
| Year of application | 1,921.01 | 1,921.06 | 1,922.84 | 1,923.21 | 1,922.00 | 1,922.52 |
| YOB of child | 1,912.45 | 1,912.84 | 1,914.81 | 1,915.71 | 1,913.86 | 1,914.26 |
| Child age (years) | 8.5 | 8.19 | 8.03 | 7.48 | 8.12 | 8.33 |
| Number of kids in family (imputed) | 3.41 | 3.75 | 3.5 | 3.76 | 3.64 | 3.79 |
| Age of oldest kid in record | 11.53 | 11.53 | 11.44 | 11.02 | 10.99 | 11.45 |
| Age of youngest kid in record | 5.33 | 4.68 | 5.21 | 4.49 | | 4.87 |
| Length of family name | 6.38 | 6.37 | 6.17 | 6.25 | 6.58 | 6.5 |
| Widow | 0.52 | 0.49 | 0.53 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.55 |
| Divorced | 0 | 0 | 0.02 | 0.03 | 0.01 | 0.03 |
| Husband abandoned, in prison/hospital | 0.14 | 0.19 | 0.18 | 0.21 | 0.16 | 0.2 |
| Mother's marital status unknown | 0.33 | 0.32 | 0.26 | 0.22 | 0.29 | 0.22 |
| Day or month of birth missing | 0 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.02 |
| Number of children | 336 | 2,032 | 291 | 2,155 | 140 | 956 |

Table S9: Relationship Between Single Parenthood and Income 1915-2010

| | 1915 Iowa | | 1940 US | | 1960 US | | 1980 US | | 2010 US | |
|---|-----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| | Single | 2 parent | Single | 2 parent | Single | 2 parent | Single | 2 parent | Single | 2 parent |
| Family income (\$2013) | 14,918 | 25,831 | 8,502 | 21,068 | 20,458 | 53,191 | 28,030 | 74,623 | 32,664 | 99,648 |
| Average Rank Within State (1-lowest income 100-highest income) | 33 | 53 | 28 | 51 | 18 | 54 | 20 | 56 | 23 | 55 |
| Share bottom 20% of income distbn. | 0.48 | 0.15 | 0.51 | 0.19 | 0.71 | 0.15 | 0.63 | 0.13 | 0.56 | 0.13 |
| Income relative to poverty line | NA | NA | NA | NA | 84% | 188% | 127% | 273% | 147% | 301% |
| share of children by family type: | 4% | 96% | 4% | 96% | 6% | 94% | 14% | 86% | 17% | 83% |

Calculated from the 1915 Iowa census and the 1940, 1960, 1980, and 2010 decennial censuses.

**Table S10: Relationship between Family Income and Child Grade in School,
Children ages 7-14**

| | 1915 | 1940 | 1960 | 1980 | 2010 |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Panel A: US (and Iowa for 1915) | (Iowa) | US | US | US | US |
| Ln(family income) | 0.0144 [0.00339] | 0.00693 [0.000937] | 0.045 [0.00120] | 0.035 [0.000490] | 0.0209 [0.000564] |
| Constant | 4.314 [0.0337] | 6.984 [0.0108] | 6.447 [0.0134] | 6.611 [0.00562] | 7.101 [0.00658] |
| Observations | 7,768 | 135,078 | 275,491 | 1,438,268 | 929,414 |
| R-squared | 0.762 | 0.746 | 0.86 | 0.895 | 0.895 |
| | 1915 | 1940 | 1960 | 1980 | 2010 |
| Panel B: Iowa Only | (Iowa) | (Iowa) | (Iowa) | (Iowa) | (Iowa) |
| Ln(family income) | 0.0144 [0.00339] | 0.00282 [0.00657] | -0.00603 [0.00660] | 0.0261 [0.00505] | 0.0239 [0.00668] |
| Constant | 4.314 [0.0337] | 7.236 [0.0729] | 7.019 [0.0743] | 6.582 [0.0569] | 7.051 [0.0756] |
| Observations | 7,768 | 1,998 | 4,385 | 17,952 | 9,306 |
| R-squared | 0.762 | 0.788 | 0.89 | 0.914 | 0.913 |

** p<0.05, * p<0.1. Standard errors in brackets. Each column reports the coefficient of ln(family income) on grade in school. Regressions include gender and single year of age dummies.