Social integration of UK migrants: The role of English language skills

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Outline of talk

1. What our research is about?
2. Data sets used in the project
3. Key findings and publications
4. Accessing the data:
   ▫ Pre-SafePod time
   ▫ After SafePods became available
What the research is about?

• Socioeconomic integration of immigrants is an important policy objective in developed countries.

• What are barriers for integration?
  ▫ Language skills.

• **Research question**
  How do English language skills affect
  ▪ Residential integration outcome; and
  ▪ Education, health and fertility outcomes of UK immigrants?
What outcomes do we study?

Analyse the causal effects of language skills on:

1. Residency in different types of enclave.
   - Ethnic enclave
   - Language enclave
   - Country-of-birth enclave
   - World-region-of-birth enclave (e.g., Europe, North Africa, etc.)

2. The extent of deprivation of the neighbourhood migrants live in;
   - Measured by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation

3. Fertility outcomes that have not been studied before.
   - Age at having first child
   - Number of biological children
   - Child health

4. Educational attainment and self-reported adult health.
Data used in the project

Datasets

- The Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study
  - Base: individual-level dataset from the England & Wales 2011 Census

- Indices of Multiple Deprivation

- Live Births to Sample Mothers
Key findings on residential outcomes

1. Better English skills lead migrants to live outside of a language enclave, but lead them to cluster in an ethnic enclave.

2. Evidence for poorer English skills leading to a more deprived neighbourhood.

Publication

Key findings on education, health and fertility outcomes

1. Strong evidence for better English skills to improve educational attainment.

2. Better English proficiency improves adult health.
   ▫ No significant effect on child health.

3. Evidence for poorer English skills leading to a higher chance of becoming a teenage mother.

Publications


• “Speak well, do well - English language proficiency and health and social outcomes of UK immigrants”, *Health Economics Research Unit Policy Brief*, 2016, University of Aberdeen.
How did the SafePod help my research?

- **Pre-SafePod time:**
  - Having to travel to London or Fareham, to access the data.
  - Can be a significant barrier to data access.
    - Inequalities in data access opportunities, depending on where you live.

- **After SafePods became available:**
  - Frankly, life changing!
  - The confidential data can be accessed from a remote area.
  - Availability of SafePods opens a door for accessing confidential data to those who have restricted mobility due to, for example:
    - Caring responsibility
    - Disability
    - Budget limitations
  - Mitigates inequalities in data access opportunities.
Thank you!

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