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Adolescents' leisure activities in a local context

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Why does leisure matter for adolescents?

Effects of leisure on

- Health
- Educational success
- Risk behaviors
- Identity development
- Well-being
- ...

For a review: Caldwell & Faulk (2013)



Why does local context matter?

Hierarchical leisure constraints model (Crawford & Godbey, 1987)

- Intrapersonal constraints, e.g. perceived self-skill
- Interpersonal constraints: e.g. partners for leisure, financial and time resources
- Structural constraints: factors intervening between preferences and behavior
 - Availability & accessibility of facilities & opportunities
 - Reference group attitudes of appropriateness / social norms towards leisure

Past research

- Influences on physical (in)activity & sedentary behavior
 - Built environment (for a review: Ding et al., 2011; e.g., Mota et al., 2007; Roemmich et al., 2007; Romero, 2005)
 - Social environment (for a review: McNeill et al., 2006; e.g., Culmer & Scholar, 2014)
 - Neighborhood disorder (Carson & Janssen, 2012; Molnar et al., 2004)
 - Influences on social leisure
 - Modernization theory: “increasing spatial scale of social relations” (Bolt et al., 1998)
 - Social isolation in large cities (Jargowsky, 1997; Wellman, 1988)
- mixed evidence in all domains
- research mainly limited to the U.S.

Research questions

Do adolescents in deprived neighborhoods...

- do less sports?
- watch more television?
- meet their friends less (or more) often?

Data

- pairfam anchor data wave 1
- Birth cohort 1: aged 15-18 in wave 1 (N=2494)

Context data

- Microm data:
 - Commercial data source (mainly for marketing purposes)
 - Neighborhood level (~ 500 households)
- INKAR data:
 - Official statistics
 - Municipality level

Dependent variables & analytic strategy

Dependent variables:

- Sport (daily, $\geq 1x/\text{week}$, $\geq 1x/\text{month}$, less often, never)
- Meeting with friends (daily, $\geq 1x/\text{week}$, $\geq 1x/\text{month}$, less often, never)
- Watching TV (hours watched in the past week)

Analytic strategy:

- Cross-sectional model
- Ordered logit (sports / friends) & OLS (TV)

Local context variables

Dwelling:

- Type of building: (1-2 family dwelling, 3-5 family dwelling, 6-9 family dwelling, multistory building)

Neighborhood:

- Local unemployment rate
- Share of adolescents (aged 15-20)

Municipality:

- Mean household income
- Share of highly educated persons
- Municipality size (categories as provided with the SUF)

Control variables

Socio-economic status:

- Household economic deprivation
- Educational level
- Current labor force status
- Household composition
- Mother's years of education

Demographic variables

- Sex, age, relationship status

Personality traits

- Self-worth, shyness

Descriptive results

Leisure time: Do sports and meet with friends

	Do sports	Meet with friends
Daily	25,3 %	45,8 %
At least once a week	54,5 %	47,0 %
At least once a month	4,7 %	4,4 %
Less often	11,2 %	2,5 %
Never	4,3 %	0,3 %

Leisure time: **Ø 11,5 hours** watched TV past week

Estimation results: Doing sports

Type of building(ref.: 1-2 family dwelling)

3-5 family dwelling

6-9 family dwelling

Multistory building

Neighborhood

Unemployment rate

Share of adolescents (aged 15-20)

Municipality

Share of highly educated persons

Mean household income/1000

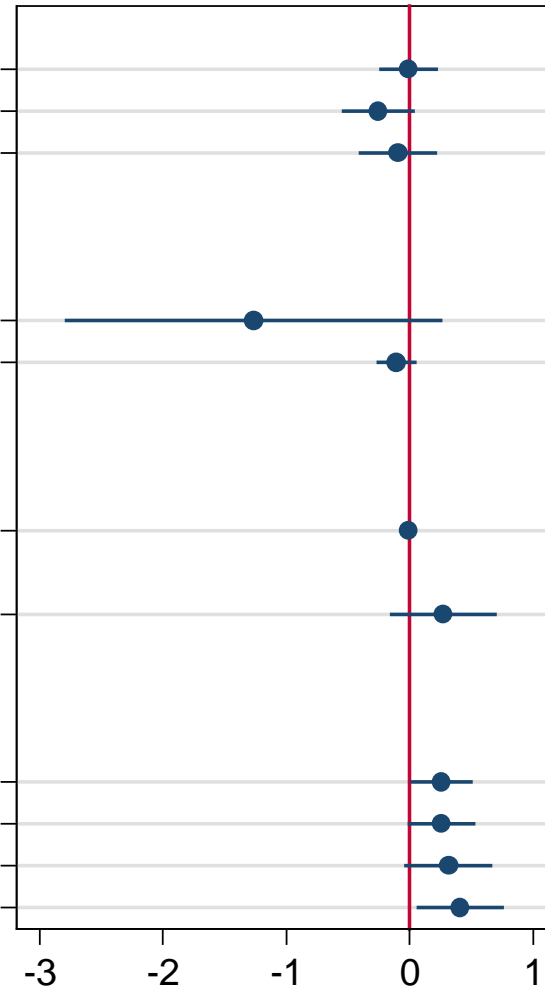
Municipality size (ref.: 1- u.5000)

5- u. 20000

20- u. 50000

50- u. 100000

100.00 +



Estimation results: Meeting with friends

Type of building(ref.: 1-2 family dwelling)

- 3-5 family dwelling
- 6-9 family dwelling
- Multistory building

Neighborhood

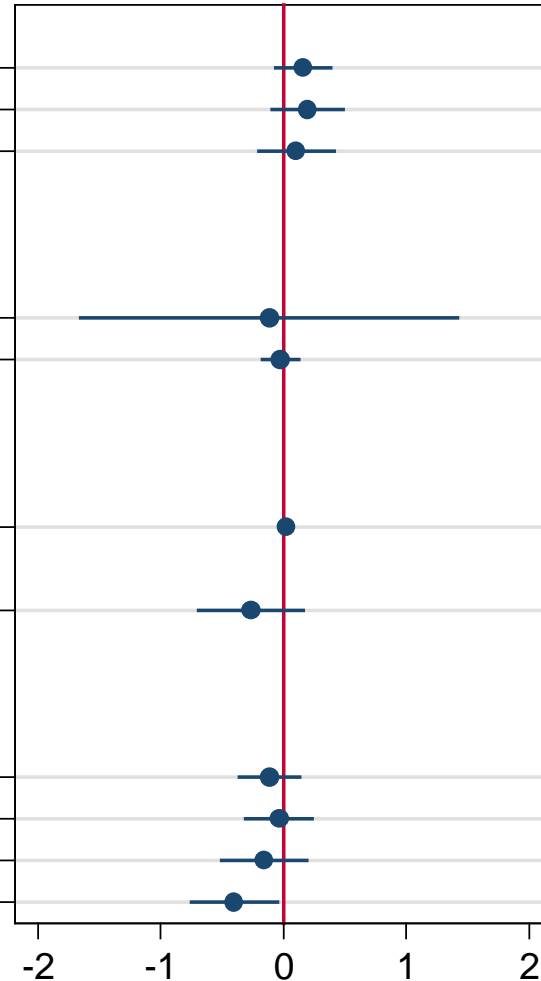
- Unemployment rate
- Share of adolescents (aged 15-20)

Municipality

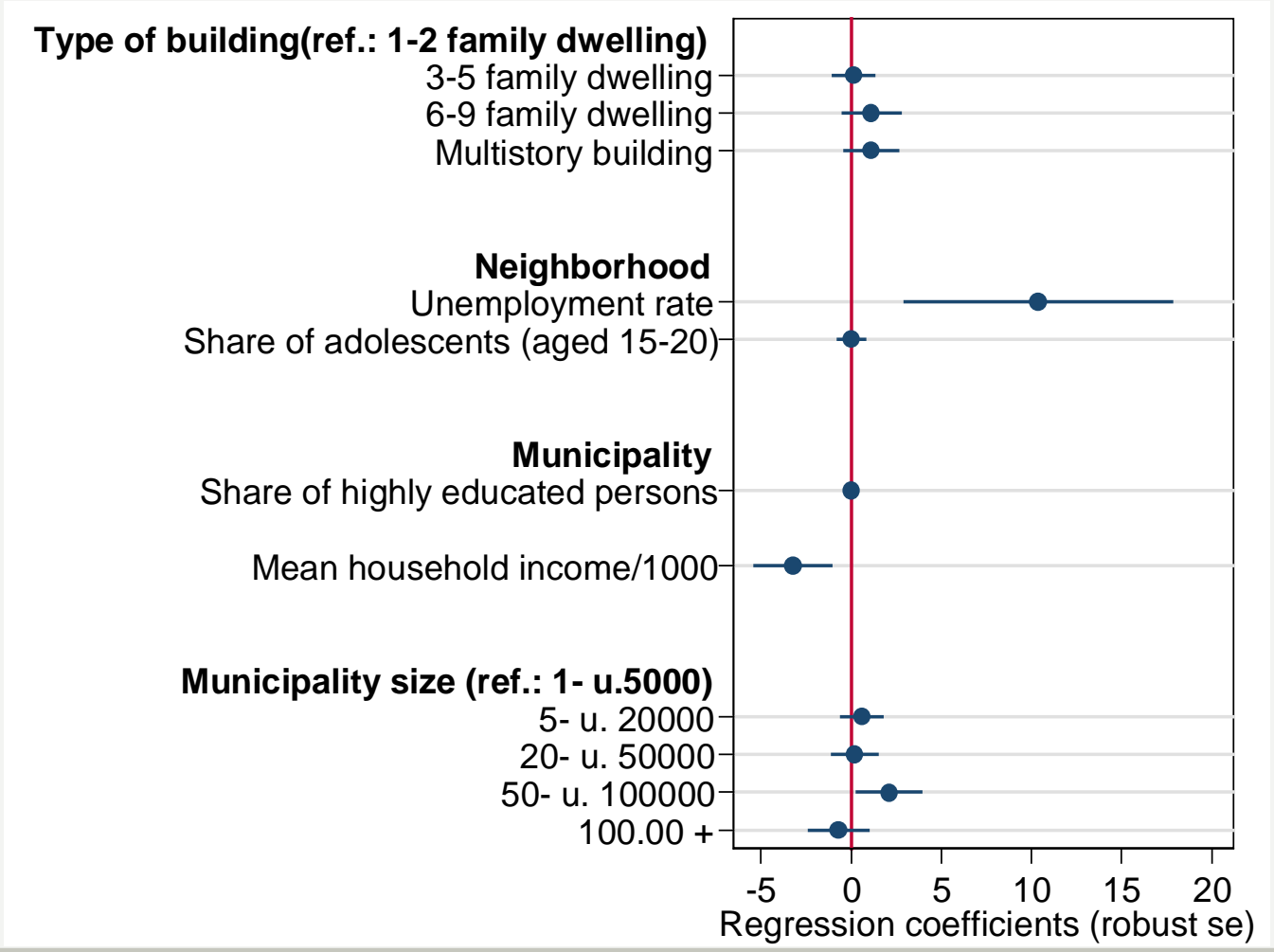
- Share of highly educated persons
- Mean household income/1000

Municipality size (ref.: 1- u.5000)

- 5- u. 20000
- 20- u. 50000
- 50- u. 100000
- 100.00 +



Estimation results: Hours watched TV



Conclusion

- Negative effect of local unemployment rate & municipality level mean household income on sports & TV
 - also when controlling for individual socio-economic status
 - Both levels play a role
 - Caused by
 - social norms towards leisure (but no effect of share of graduates)
 - physical environment?
- No effects on meeting with friends
 - Differences may exist regarding where friends meet and what they do together

Limitations

- Measurement of leisure:
 - limited number of activities (e.g., cinema/concerts, arts courses)
 - no details regarding activities (e.g., structured vs. unstructured activities)
 - rough measurement of frequencies
- Local context variables:
 - No measures for recreational infrastructure, built environment & neighborhood disorder

Future research

- Disentangle municipality and neighborhood effects
- Explore additional local data
- Investigate gender differences

Thank your for your attention!

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VARIABLES	(1) Do sports (Marginal Effects)	(2) Meet friend (Marginal Effects)	(3) Hours watched tv
Female	-0.7303***	-0.1634*	-0.3595
Migration status (ref.: No migration background)			
1st generation	0.7215***	0.6125**	-0.4146
2nd generation	0.4204**	0.2559	-0.1852
Educational level (ref.: Left school w/o degree)			
Lower-level secondary school	1.2848**	0.0471	-5.6628*
Medium-level secondary school	1.6735***	-0.1305	-5.9400**
Higher-level secondary school	2.0719***	-0.4925	-8.1810***
Comprehensive school	1.5628***	-0.2115	-6.2695**
Labor force status (ref.: Enrolled)			
Not working	0.2778	-0.1767	3.3145
Working	-0.5773***	-0.4035***	-1.3179*
Single	0.1860**	0.1869*	0.4587
Age anchor	-0.1549***	-0.0008	-0.2251
Economic deprivation of hh	-0.0914**	-0.0965**	0.1386
Living with one parent	-0.0535	0.0910	0.8301
Mother's years of education	0.0282*	-0.0418**	-0.2487***
Observations	2,494	2,494	2,494

VARIABLES	(1) Do sports (Marginal Effects)	(2) Meet friend (Marginal Effects)	(3) Hours watched tv
Selfworth	0.2027***	0.0862	0.1736
Shyness	-0.1331**	-0.3280***	0.8889***
Type of building (ref.: 1-2 family dwelling)			
3-5 family dwelling	-0.0061	0.1611	0.1424
6-9 family dwelling	-0.2569*	0.1970	1.1341
Multistory building	-0.0958	0.1059	1.1184
Unemployment rate	-1.2670	-0.1161	10.3849***
Share of adolescents	-0.1065	-0.0237	0.0275
Share of highly educated pers.	-0.0082	0.0268*	0.0122
Mean household income/1000	0.2727	-0.2646	-3.2429***
Municipality size (ref.: 1- u. 5000)			
5- u. 20000	0.2592**	-0.1122	0.6023
20- u. 50000	0.2561*	-0.0377	0.2022
50- u. 100000	0.3135*	-0.1588	2.1096**
100.000 +	0.4107**	-0.3990**	-0.7039
Observations	2,494	2,494	2,494