**NEET or NEETH? How should we classify homemakers in the U.S.?**

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### Introduction

- **Original UK definition of NEETs:** Youth aged 15-24 not currently enrolled in school, not currently working, and not currently in a training program.
- **In the U.S., NEETs are typically defined as youth aged 16-24 (for exception, see work by DeSilver at Pew) and are recognized in pejorative terms (e.g. "Disconnected Youth," "Disengaged Youth," "Idle Youth").
- I argue for a new definition: Youth aged 16-29 not in education, employment, training, or homemaking; AKA NEETH.

### Research Questions

1. How should we define NEETs in the U.S.?
2. What range of age should be used?
3. What is their prevalence?
4. What is the probability of being a NEET or NEETH by gender controlling for covariates?

### Data & Sample

- **Data:** IPUMS-CPS, October Education Supplement, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org.
- **Due to sample sizes, we exclude those of Asian decent, and racial/ethnic "other"; those we were unable to ascertain metro status or nativity status.
- **Control for gender, race/ethnicity, nativity, educational attainment, metro status, Census division, relationship status, presence of parent in household, and presence of an own child in household.

### Analytic Strategy

- **Descriptive statistics:** Examine trends by age and NEET type.
- **Multivariate:** Predict NEET & NEETH and examine gender differences.

### Research Findings

#### Specifying homemakers as NEET and capping age at 24 masks the group struggling post-recession.

Figure 1. Percentage by NEET Type in the U.S. by Age Group, 2007 & 2017

Aged 16-19 | Aged 20-24 | Aged 25-29
---|---|---
NEET | 6.4% | 9.1% | 8.4%
NEET Homemaker | 1.5% | 6.3% | 7.5%
NEETH | 2.0% | 1.9% | 3.8%
Always NEET | 10.4*** | 13.3% | 16.4%

#### Specifying homemakers as non-NEET changes the relationship between gender and the risk of being a NEET.

Figure 2. Probabilities of Being a NEET or NEETH w/ Controls Among Those Aged 16-29 in the U.S. by Gender, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NEET</th>
<th>NEETH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>10.4***</td>
<td>5.1%**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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