**Free School Meals Data**

Data from official Scottish Government sources were used.  School meals data was obtained from the Scottish Government’s Healthy Living Survey (HLS), an annual census of all publicly-funded Scottish schools, collected in a single week in February 2014.  The data analysed was collected for 342 schools (with an additional 20 being lost to missing data) and 36,086 pupils.  Data on school buildings was obtained via the 2014 School Estates Core Facts Survey in which local authorities collect information on the size, condition, suitability and capacity of all publicly-funded schools.  The survey allows for the ongoing monitoring of school refurbishment.  The two datasets were linked using school and local authority names as identifiers.

An additional explanatory variable was the price paid for a meal. This data was derived by accessing pricing information via local authority or school websites.

Official Scottish Government data (Scottish Government, 2014) provided information on the percentage of the population within each local authority falling into one of six categories: Large Urban, Other Urban, accessible Small Towns, Remote Small Towns, Accessible Rural, Remote Rural.  We combined ‘neighbouring’ pairs to reduce this to three categories: Urban, Small Town and Rural.

Scottish Government’s Healthy Living Survey (HLS) <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/Pub-SS-ALM>

School Estates Core Facts Survey

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/PubSchooEstates>

**Table – Data Dictionary for variables used in the paper**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable Type** | **Variable name** | **Variable Label** |
|  | Local Authority(A) | Local Authority |
|  |  |  |
| School based covariates | Loge(Pres+RegdForFSM)(AO) | Present and Registered for Free School Meal on census day (Loge as skew) |
|  | LogeRegdForFSM-LogRoll2(AR) | proportion of the school roll in the census day who were registered for a FSM (loge as skew) |
|  | LogPropNoElgFSM-PresTakMeal(AW) | Proportion of school roll who are not registered for FSMs but take up a school meal on census day (loge as skew) |
|  | CapacityPercent(AK) | the capacity of the school |
|  |  |  |
| School based factors | Condit3Cats(AZ) | Condition: a fourfold classification, from A [Good] to D [Bad]. More details may be found in Scottish Executive (2007). |
|  | Suitab3Cats(BA) | Suitability: a fourfold classification, A (Good) to D (Bad). More details may be found in Scottish Government (2008) |
|  |  |  |
| Local Authority covariates | MealCost-£(BB) | the common cost of a school meal in the LA (pounds sterling) |
|  | Urban(BI) | the percentage of the population of the LA in urban areas |
|  | Rural(BK) | the percentage of the population of the LA in rural areas |
|  | SchoolNestingLabels | ID for each school within a Local Authority |
|  |  |  |
| Outcome (logistic model) - Number of trials | PupilsPresent&RegdforFSM(J) | Number of pupils present on census day who were registered for a free school meal |
| Outcome (logistic model) - Number of events | PupilsPresentTakingFSM(K) | Number of pupils present on census day who took up a free school meal |
| Outcome (linear model) | LogPresTakFSM(AX) | Number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals and present who took a Free School Meal on the census day |