Proportion of Calm Days Based on Channels of Welfare for Impoverished Americans

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Introduction

- As the size of the welfare state grows, so too does the happiness index for a society (Ifcher 2011;Kim & Koh 2022).

- The difference between happiness indices for the least-advantaged and more advantaged peoples does not increase disproportionately. In other words, welfare benefits all members of a society equally, not just those at the lower rungs (Gainer 2012).

- Healthcare, relocation, employment, and other "empowering" forms of welfare help to increase an individual's non-material quality of life more than sustenance allowance and other programs in China (Zhou et al. 2023).

- The literature is scant about the happiness of welfare recipients in America, and about how effective each program is.

- This poster aims to answer, "Is the receipt of channels of welfare in America correlated with happiness as measured by the number of calm days?"

Methods and Measures

- This paper uses the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC) data set.
  - The NESARC was designed to assess the prevalence of alcohol use disorders (AUD) and their associated disabilities in the general population.

  - The survey is the largest ever comorbidity study of multiple mental health disorders among U.S. adults with 43,093 respondents.

  - The NESARC oversamples black, hispanic and 18 to 24 year old Americans.

- The measures used were age, size of household, income, receipt of Social Security, receipt of Supplemental Security Income, receipt of TAFDC, ESP, or EAP, receipt of Food Stamps, receipt of Medicare, receipt of Medicaid, and number of days spent feeling calm in the last four weeks.

  - These measures were used to compute poverty status, if someone was elderly, if someone received welfare, and if they spent most days feeling calm.

    - Logistic regression was used to measure the association between receiving welfare and days of calm. For Social Security and Medicare, a multiple regression also accounting for elderly status was used.
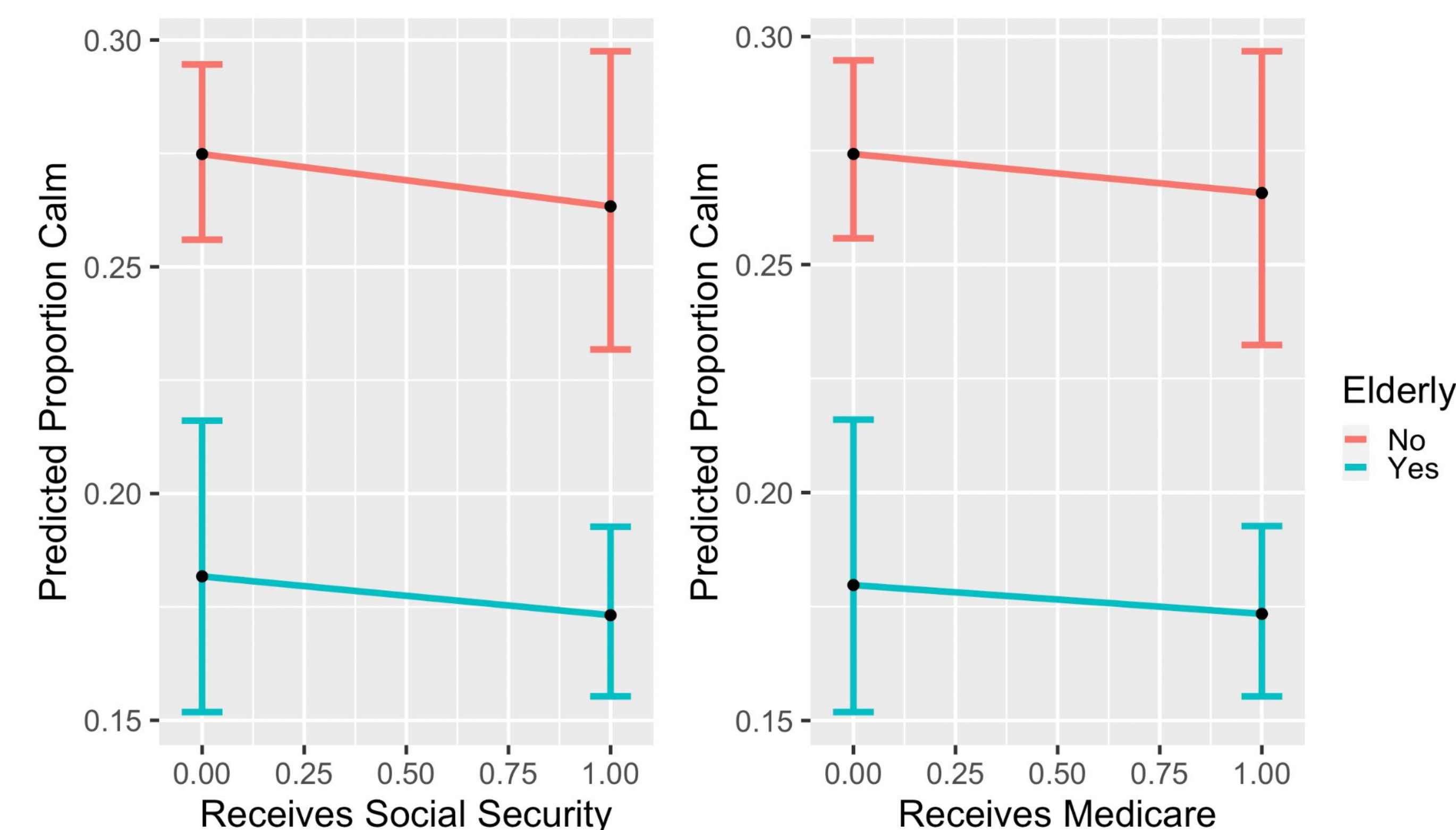
Results

Welfare vs. Calm Days

- As shown in the table to the right, since all p-values are less than 0.05, all results are statistically significant.

- For all channels of welfare except Social Security and Medicare, the odds of being calm to not being calm is about 1.5.

  - Therefore receiving SSI, TAFDC, ESP, EAP, Food Stamps, or Medicaid all seem to increase one's odds of feeling calm by 1.5 times.

- Social Security and Medicare each seem to decrease one's odds of being calm by about .32, as shown in bold in the table.

Social Security and Medicare vs. Calm Days When Controlling for Elderly Status

- The association between Social Security and calm days is no longer statistically significant when controlling for elderly status (**Beta=-0.05867, p=0.543**).

  - The same goes for Medicare and calm days when controlling for elderly status, (**Beta=-0.04344,p=0.649**).

- Being elderly is a better predictor of calm days as compared to Social Security (**Beta=-0.53448, p=2.37e-07**) and Medicare (**Beta=-0.54518, p=1.08e-07**).

- As shown in the graph below, Social Security or Medicare receipt are not good predictors of the predicted proportion of calm participants, especially when compared to elderly status.

Logistic Regression Results	Beta	Odds Ratio (Calm:Not Calm)	p-value
Social Security	**-0.39029**	**0.6768583**	**1.27e-07**
Supplemental Security	0.37461	1.454423	3.94e-06
TAFDC	0.36296	1.4375734	0.00111
Food Stamps	0.45988	1.5838900	3.94e-10
Medicare	**-0.37780**	**0.6853662**	**2.93e-07**
Medicaid	0.35341	1.4239140	1.52e-06
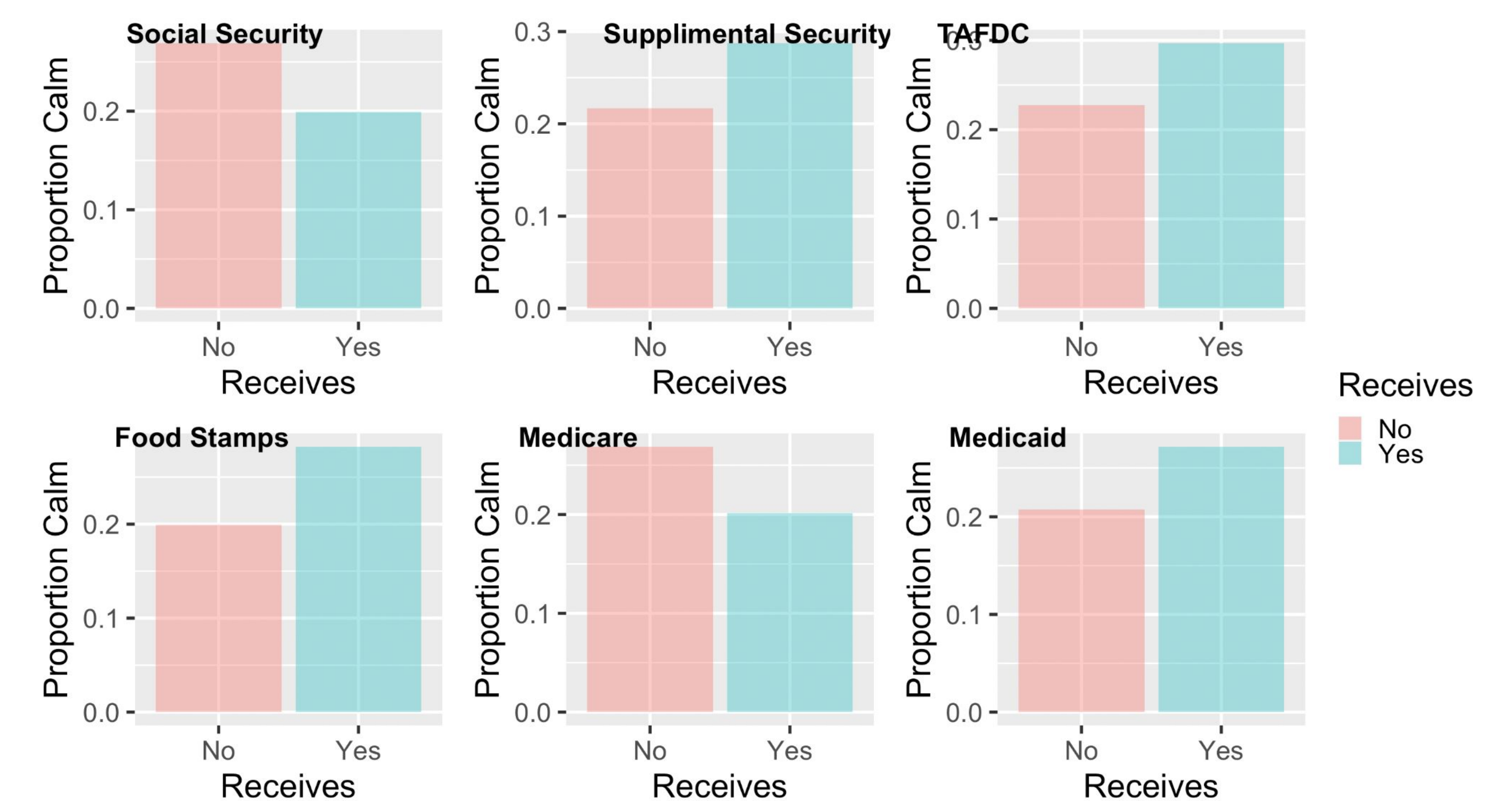
Discussion

- Receipt of welfare generally seems to be a good predictor of calmness for all channels save for Social Security and Medicare. For all other channels, it seems to predict calmness roughly equally, except Food Stamps has about a .1 odds ratio increase over the others.

  - This could mean increased funding towards Food Stamps could increase the happiness index of impoverished people more than other channels.

- Receipt of Social Security and Medicare do not predict calmness when controlling for elderly status.

  - Further research must be done to definitively determine what the link why between Social Security, Medicare, and calmness is what it is, because intuitively it does not make sense that receipt of Social Security and Medicare do not predict calmness, or that they even predict a decrease in calmness.

References

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