

How Do Household Energy Transitions Work?

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Abstract

Brief summary of what we did.

Introduction

China is deploying an ambitious plan to transition up to 70% of all households in northern China to clean space heating, including Beijing. To meet this target the Beijing municipal government announced a two-pronged program that designates coal-restricted areas and simultaneously offers subsidies to night-time electricity rates and for the purchase and installation of electric-powered, air-source heat pumps to replace traditional coal-heating stoves. The program is being rolled out on a village-by-village basis; however there is uncertainty as to when villages will receive the program. The variability in when the policy is applied to each village allows us to treat the roll-out of the program as a quasi-randomized intervention. Households may also be differentially affected by this program due to factors such as financial constraints, preferences and social capital, and there is uncertainty about whether and how this intervention may affect indoor and outdoor air pollution, as well as health behaviors and health outcomes.

Specific Aims and Overarching Approach

This study builds on three data collection campaigns in winter 2018/19, winter 2019/20, and winter 2021/22, as well as a partial campaign in winter 2020/21 (CIHR-funded) with the following specific aims: