# **Unraveling Information Sharing in Consumer Credit Markets**

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<sup>1</sup>Chicago Booth <sup>2</sup>Northeastern University

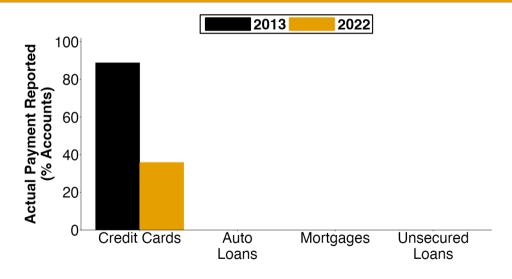
18 January 2024, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Gies Finance)

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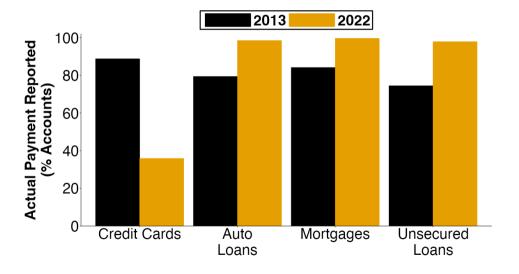
TransUnion (the data provider) has the right to review the research before dissemination to ensure it accurately describes TransUnion data, does not disclose confidential information, and does not contain material it deems to be misleading or false regarding TransUnion, TransUnion's partners, affiliates or customer base, or the consumer lending industry. Calculated (or derived) based on credit data provided by TransUnion through a relationship with the Kilts Center for Marketing at The University of Chicago Booth School of Business. No individual forms are identified in these data.

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# **Breakdown Of Information Sharing For Credit Cards But Not For Other Products**



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• Information sharing sensitive to innovations enabling targeting profitable customers (e.g., Diamond, 84; Ramakrishan & Thakor, 84; Pagano & Japelli, 93; Raith, 96; Bouckaert & Degryse, 06; Bergemann & Bonatti, 19; Jones & Tonetti, 20)

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What information is missing in YOUR credit report and why missing?

## Four Parts to Paper

- 1. Unraveling Information Sharing
- 2. Consumer Credit Profitability
- 3. Selection in Credit Card Lenders Sharing Information
- 4. Effects of Mandating Information Sharing

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Data: TransUnion US consumer credit reports

# Part 1. Unraveling Information Sharing

Describe breakdown of sharing information on actual payments in US consumer credit markets

Innovation ("Trended Data")

"The most important tool developed...since the credit score"

- Innovation uses history of actual payments information to reveal profitable consumers to target marketing
- Breakdown in sharing is an unintended response to innovation

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- Breakdown in sharing is an unintended response to innovation

Difference-in-differences: innovation  $\rightarrow$  information sharing  $\downarrow$ 

• \$\dip\$ 65 p.p. for credit cards vs. auto loans

Framework for consumer credit profitability

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Measurement error by not observing actual payments data

- Credit card spending  $R^2 = 0.51$
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Predict profitability in credit cards, auto loans, & unsecured loans

Actual payments information → predicting lifetime profits ↑
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Predict profitability in credit cards, auto loans, & unsecured loans

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   for credit cards, but not for auto or unsecured loans
  - +31% interchange revenue net of rewards
  - +4% financing charges (interest + fees) net of charge-offs

## Part 3. Selection in Credit Card Lenders Sharing Information

Higher profitability & higher spending lenders stop sharing

• Spending: +31% mean & +41% variance

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Difference-in-differences: innovation  $\rightarrow$  switching  $\uparrow$ 

- Heterogeneous exposure by % card balances with lenders who share information
- ullet More exposed ightarrow +13% new credit cards openings

# Part 4. Effects of Mandating Information Sharing: Evidence from Credit Card Limits

Effects of mandating sharing information on credit card limits

• Heterogeneous exposure by institutional feature of utilization

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Effects of mandating sharing information on credit card limits

- Heterogeneous exposure by institutional feature of utilization
- ↑ 23 point credit score moving from 0 to 100% exposure
- ↑ competition with substitution from inside to outside lenders

## Roadmap

- 1. Unraveling Information Sharing
- 2. Consumer Credit Profitability
- 3. Selection in Credit Card Lenders Sharing Information
- 4. Effects of Mandating Information Sharing

# 1.Unraveling Information Sharing

#### How do lenders use consumer credit reporting data?

- Credit risk (underwriting, account management), marketing & screening (pre-selected offers)

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- Voluntary. Non-reciprocal data access. Governed by Consumer Data Industry Association
- If share, Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) requires "accurately" & "with integrity"

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#### Why do lenders voluntarily share information?

- Regulatory pressure: FCRA guidance "encourages voluntary furnishing of information"
- Adverse selection & moral hazard (e.g., Pagano & Japelli, 1993; Padilla & Pagano, 2000)
- Sequential banking (e.g., Bizer & DeMarzo, 1992; De Giorgi et al., 2023)
- Limit scope of entry (e.g., Bouckaert & Degryse, 2006)

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Lenders trade-off potential benefits vs. costs of revealing private information

## Data: University of Chicago Booth's TransUnion Consumer Credit Panel

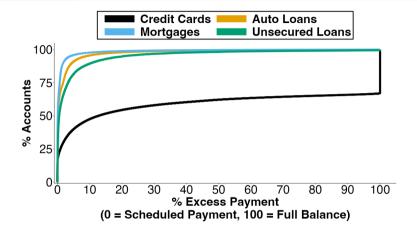
- Anonymized US consumer credit reporting data from TransUnion
- Sample of 1 in 10 consumers with US credit reports
- Monthly, individual credit tradelines + consumer-level data (e.g., credit scores)
- Apply standard data cleaning steps
   (Gibbs, Guttman-Kenney, Lee, Nelson, van der Klaauw, & Wang, 2023 for JEL)
- Study 84 credit card furnishers (92% market share) observed 2012 to 2015, top 6 (66%)

No individual firms are identified in these data

# **Example Credit Report: Credit Card Tradeline Information**

	Credit		Scheduled	Actual	Payment
Month	Limit	Balance	Payment	Payments	Status
1	\$20,000	\$2,700	\$53	\$2,700	OK
2	\$20,000	\$2,200	\$43	\$2,700	OK
3	\$20,000	\$2,700	\$53	\$2,200	OK

## For Credit Cards, Actual Payments Often Differ from Scheduled Payment



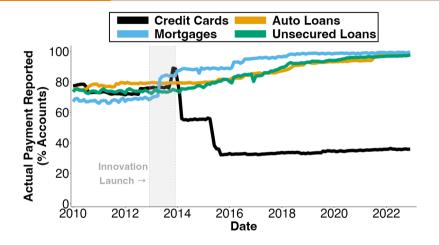
$$\%$$
 Excess Payment =  $\frac{\text{Actual Payments - Scheduled Payment}}{\text{Balance - Scheduled Payment}}$ 

# **Example Credit Report: Credit Card Tradeline Information**

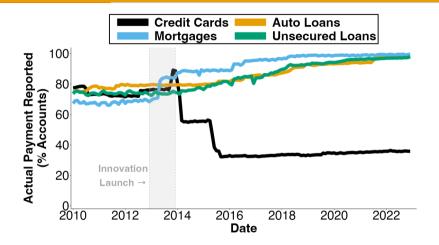
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2	\$20,000	\$2,200	\$43	\$2,700	OK
3	\$20,000	\$2,700	\$53	\$2,200	OK
4	\$20,000	\$2,300	\$46	\$0	OK
5	\$20,000	\$5,200	\$104	\$0	OK
6	\$20,000	\$8,700	\$174	\$0	OK

Credit card lenders stop sharing actual payments information with credit bureau

# **Credit Cards** ↓ **Sharing Actual Payments, Other Credit Products** ↑ **Sharing**



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165 million US consumers missing credit card actual payments information

## **Policy-Relevant Topic**



CFPB tells credit card CEOs: Practice of suppressing payment data has potential for consumer harm

By John McNamara - MAY 25, 2022

### Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) documents:

#### Non-Sharers are the 6 largest credit card lenders:

American Express, JPMorgan Chase, Citibank, Bank of America, Capital One, Discover

- 2 never share
- 1 stopped sharing in 2014
- 3 later stopped sharing (1x 2014, 2x 2015)

"None plan to furnish actual payments information voluntarily"

Innovation

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**Traditional credit reports** create point-in-time variables (e.g., current balance, any delinquency in last 7 years)

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"Trended Data is the most important tool developed by the credit reporting agencies since the advent of the credit score." – Director of Credit Card Risk, 2014

Trended Data creates a bundle of variables using credit reports over time (trends!)

- especially combining actual payments with balances

"Helps clients...calculate profit by providing an **estimate of consumer spend**...prioritize marketing investments and **target higher spending consumers**...optimize enhanced value propositions to the right spending segments." - Experian

Reveals heterogeneous credit cards behaviors driving profitability

Use for targeted marketing & credit risk

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Technically lenders could construct from raw data In practice they did not. Why not?

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Technically lenders could construct from raw data

In practice they did not. Why not?

# **Technological constraints:** E.g., Equifax (2013)

- "Took us time just to build the infrastructure to house the data"

# **Legal constraints:**

- Compliance concerns prevented lenders constructing trended data

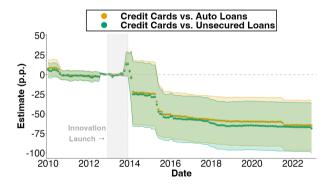
### **Cost constraints:**

- Constructing Trended Data would mean purchasing 12+ archives

# Difference-in-Differences Effect of Trended Data on Information Sharing

Credit cards more exposed as use for pre-selected marketing of credit card behaviors

 $\downarrow$  65 p.p. (s.e. 16) in sharing actual payments on credit cards vs. auto loans



$$Y_{p,t} = \sum_{ au 
eq extstyle ex$$

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- **UK** Principles of Reciprocity by industry body Steering Committee on Reciprocity:
  - (i) bans use of credit reports for pre-selected marketing to individuals
  - (ii) reciprocality in sharing data

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### Why?

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  - (i) bans use of credit reports for pre-selected marketing to individuals
  - (ii) reciprocality in sharing data
- Canada limits using credit reports for marketing (e.g., geographic not individual targeting)

Less trade-off of sharing actual payments data in UK or Canada: less risk of targeted marketing

2. Consumer Credit Profitability

#### t = 1:

- \$1,000 new spending ( $\rightarrow$  generates \$5 interchange revenue net of rewards)
- \$1,000 statement balance & \$10 minimum payment due

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- \$1,000 \$250 = \$750 revolving debt (→ generates interest revenue but risk of charge-off)
- \$12 interest + \$30 fee = \$42 financing charges

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```
revolving debt_t = statement\ balance_{t-1} - actual\ payments_t
```

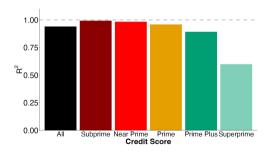
 $spending_t = statement \ balance_t - statement \ balance_{t-1} + actual \ payments_t$ 

# If actual payments, \( \) noise to measuring spending & revolving debt

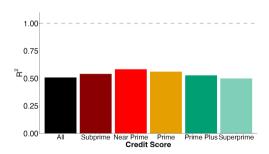
 $R^2$  from OLS regressions using Dec 2013 data on statement balances

Evaluate relative to  $R^2 = 1$  if actual payments, observed

**Revolving Debt:**  $R^2 = 0.94$  (0.60 Superprime)



**Spending:**  $R^2 = 0.51$ 



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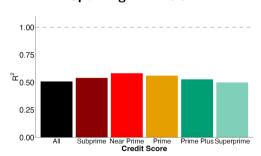
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0.75
Cr 0.50
0.25
0.00
All Subprime Near Prime Prime Prime Plus Superprime

Credit Score

**Spending:**  $R^2 = 0.51$ 



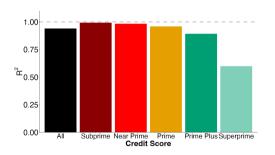
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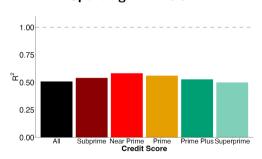
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Noise impedes targeting of pre-selected credit card offers

Bad news for academics & policymakers measuring revolving debt or consumption

#### Lenders predict profitable types to target marketing

$$\Pi_{PRE}^{CRED} = E_{t=0}[\Pi_{POST}^{CRED}|X_0] = E_{t=0}\Big[\sum_{t=1}^T \delta^t \Big(i_t + \alpha \ r_t + f_t - c_t\Big)|X_0\Big] - a$$

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#### Measuring in data

Auto Loans and Unsecured Loans:

Scheduled financing charges adjusted for ex-post prepayments and charge-offs

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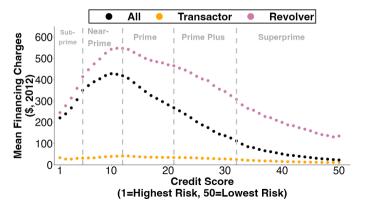
Estimate financing charges from minimum payments
Assume interchange net of rewards is 0.5% of spending

# **Develop New Methodology for Measuring Financing Charges**

Minimum payment  $(M_t)$  determined by:  $M_t = \max\{\$\mu, \ \theta\% \ b_t + r_t + f_t\}$ Infer  $\$\mu$  and  $\theta\%$  for each furnisher from (1) minimum payment (2) statement balance Observed minimum payment - predicted minimum payment = financing charges

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# Marginal Value of Actual Payments for Predicting Profits

 No Actual Payments Data: 100 credit score quantiles, and credit score interacted with other account-level information up to three years of balances, delinquency, utilization rates, estimated financing charges, card tenure, and credit limits

$$Y_{i,2012+j} = X'_{i,2012}\beta + \varepsilon_{i,2012+j} \tag{1}$$

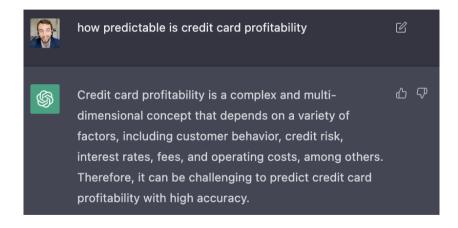
2. With Actual Payments Data: Model 1 +actual payments data interactions

$$Y_{i,2012+j} = X'_{i,2012}\beta + Z'_{i,2012}\lambda + \varepsilon_{i,2012+j}$$
(2)

Use data to December 2012 to predict outcomes 2013 to 2022

Evaluate by out-of-sample  $R^2$ 

# **Predicting Credit Card Profitability is Hard!**

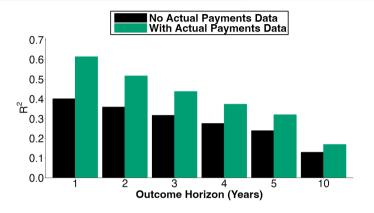


# **Actual Payments Predicts Profits On Credit Cards Not Auto or Unsecured Loans**

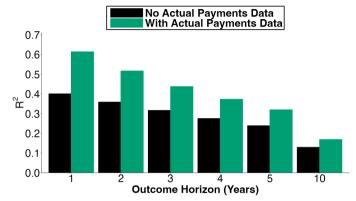
 $R^2$  Predicting Lifetime Profits

	Credit	Auto	Unsecured
Model	Cards	Loans	Loans
1. No Actual Payments Data			
2. With Actual Payments Data	0.2003	0.1928	0.3511

# Actual Payments Data Predicts Interchange Net of Rewards ( $R^2$ : +31%)



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1 year

 $R^2: 0.401 \rightarrow 0.614$ 

Portfolio value: +24%

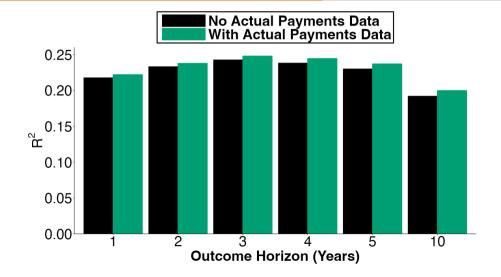
10 year

 $R^2$ : 0.129  $\rightarrow$  0.169

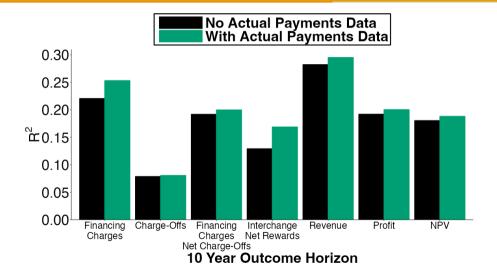
Portfolio value: +13%

Portfolio value of top 100,000 cards ranked by out-of-sample predictions

# Actual Payments Data Predicts Financing Charges Net Charge-Offs $(R^2: +4\%, Portfolio: +1\%)$



# Actual Payments Data Predicts Profitability ( $R^2$ : +4.2%, Portfolio: +2.7%) Especially Interchange Component



# Recap Of Key Findings So Far

- Breakdown of sharing actual payments data for US credit cards but not other products
- Timing due to credit bureau innovation revealing private credit card behaviors:
  - spending (driving interchange revenue)
  - revolving (driving interest revenue)
- Actual payments doesn't predict auto loan or unsecured loan profits
- Actual payments predicts credit card profits
  - especially spending driving interchange revenue net of rewards

3. Credit Card Lender Selection

# Revealing Credit Card Behaviors Heterogeneously Affects Lenders

Examine selection of lenders to inform motivations for sharing decisions

- Default Risk Doesn't Explain
- Non-Default Behaviors: (a) Revolving (b) Spending

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#### Credit card lenders' business models vary in reliance on interchange revenue:

	American Express	Capital One
Interchange Revenues (% Revenues)	55%	27%
Net Interchange Revenues (% Net Revenues)	68%	18%
Marketing Costs	\$5.5 bn	\$4.0 bn

Sources: American Express & Capital One Annual Accounts

### Marketing large expense for all lenders

# **Unraveling Driven By Some Credit Card Lenders Stopping Sharing**

Lender Classification	% 2012 Cards
Always: Share information in 2012 & 2015	18%
Stoppers: Share information in 2012 but not 2015	47%
Nevers: Never share information in 2012 & 2015	32%

# **Unraveling Driven By Some Credit Card Lenders Stopping Sharing**

Lender Classification	% 2012 Cards
Always: Share information in 2012 & 2015	18%
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Always worst residual types remain sharing information (Akerlof-esque)

#### Unraveling Driven By Some Credit Card Lenders Stopping Sharing

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#### Lenders' Responses to CFPB (2023):

#### **Stoppers**:

- Firm 4: "Doesn't believe benefits outweigh proprietary interests"
- Firm 6: "Other major issuers were no longer providing...left at competitive disadvantage"

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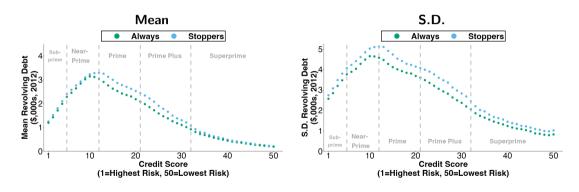
- Firm 4: "Doesn't believe benefits outweigh proprietary interests"
- Firm 6: "Other major issuers were no longer providing...left at competitive disadvantage"

#### Nevers:

- Firm 1: "Not required to do so. Not consistently furnished nor adequately studied"
- Firm 5: "Not required, furnishing is voluntary. Doesn't believe cost...is worth it"

#### Revolving Debt Higher for Lenders who Stop Sharing

Mean (S.D.) Residual Revolving Debt: Stoppers \$1,708 (\$3,414), Always \$1,538 (\$3,048)

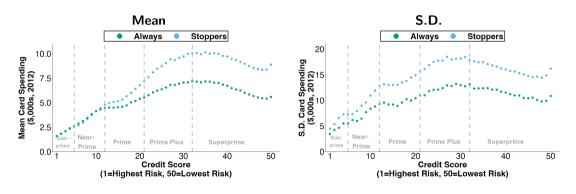


N.b. Fixed thresholds for credit score quantiles across all groups and charts

Financing charges net of charge-offs for Stoppers +36% mean, +8% higher S.D. vs. Always

#### **Spending Explains Differential Sharing Decisions**

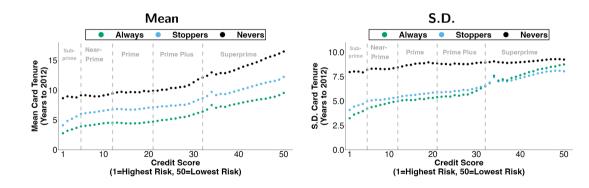
**Stoppers**' residual spending is +31% (\$1,643) higher mean, +41% (\$4,275) S.D. than **Always** (mean \$5,246, S.D., \$10,345)



Comparing to aggregate Federal Reserve data indicates Nevers > Always+Stoppers

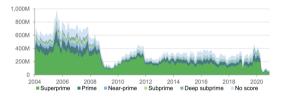
#### Card Tenure Varies Across & Within Credit Score, Across Lenders

Mean (S.D.) Card Tenure Months: **Nevers** 136.5 (106.0), **Stoppers** 97.6 (75.5), **Always** 71.0 (73.8)



### Why Lend To High Credit Score Transactors (Little-To-No Financing Charges)?

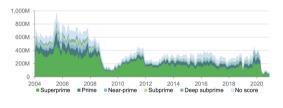
#### 60% credit card accounts high credit scores Credit Card Offers Mainly Superprime



Source: CFPB (2021)

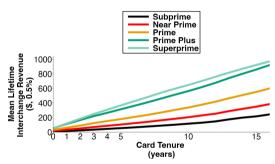
#### Why Lend To High Credit Score Transactors (Little-To-No Financing Charges)?

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Source: CFPB (2021)

## Lifetime Interchange Revenue By Card Tenure & Credit Score



Average transactor may have "low" net revenues each year...but longer tenure means NPV > 0Mean cost to acquire new account \$140 (range \$50–\$390) (R.K.Hammer, 2012)

#### Difference-in-Differences: Effects of Innovation On New Credit Card Openings

Exposure Measure: % consumer's card balances in Dec 2012 where actual payments shared:

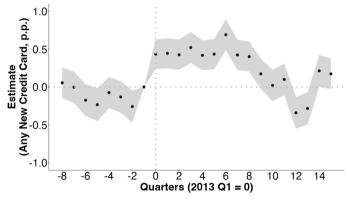


$$EXPT_i \equiv \frac{\sum_c 1\{F_c \in \mathbf{Sharers}\} \times b_{i,c}}{\sum_c b_{i,c}}$$

Balanced panel of consumers 2011 to 2016

#### **Innovation Caused** ↑ **Account Openings**

**Outcome:** Any New Credit Card Opened (t-1 mean: 3.2%)



$$Y_{i,t} = \sum_{\tau \neq -1} \delta_{\tau} \Big( D_{\tau} \times \textit{EXPT}_i \Big) + \gamma_i + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

#### Recap Of Key Findings So Far

- Breakdown of sharing actual payments data for US credit cards but not other products
- Timing due to credit bureau innovation revealing private credit card behaviors:
  - spending (driving interchange revenue)
  - revolving (driving interest revenue)
- · Actual payments doesn't predict auto loan or unsecured loan profits
- Actual payments predicts credit card profits
  - especially spending driving interchange revenue net of rewards
- Adverse selection in sharing
  - Higher mean and variance spending, revolving debt, financing charges
  - Longer tenure
- Innovation was competitive threat to profitable incumbents
  - $\uparrow$  switching prompted  $\downarrow$  sharing information

4. Effects of Mandating

**Information Sharing** 

#### Effects of Mandating Information Sharing: Evidence from Credit Card Limits

#### Institutional Background

- 1990s mostly *not* sharing credit limit information
  - ightarrow Regulatory pressure and threats by agencies to restrict access
- 2000s most **but not all** lenders sharing credit limit information (Hunt, 05)
  - → Federal Trade Commission (FTC) rules mandates sharing credit limit information
- Full coverage in 2010s

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#### How credit limits matter

- 20% to 30% of credit score is credit utilization  $= \frac{\text{statement balance}}{\text{credit limit}}$
- If no credit limit shared, use highest historical account balance
  - $\rightarrow$  Typically overstates utilization
  - $\rightarrow$  Consumers appear riskier to outside lenders



### Difference-in-Differences for Causal Effects of Mandating Information Sharing

**Consumer-level exposure:** Difference between the *revealed* credit limits  $(r_i \equiv \sum_c r_{i,c})$  and credit limits that could be previously *inferred*  $(h_i \equiv \sum_c h_{i,c})$ 

$$EXPL_i = \frac{r_i - h_i}{r_i}$$

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 $\uparrow EXPL_i \rightarrow \downarrow$  utilization  $\rightarrow \uparrow$  credit score

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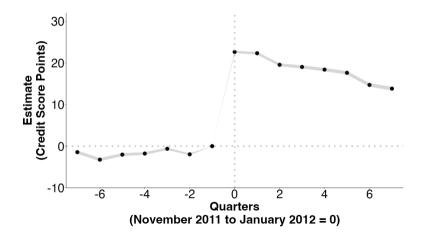
 $\uparrow EXPL_i \rightarrow \downarrow utilization \rightarrow \uparrow credit score$ 

**Difference-in-Differences with Varying Treatment Intensity**Balanced panel of 1.09 m consumers. Clustering at consumer-level.

$$Y_{i,t} = \sum_{\tau \neq -1} \delta_{\tau} \Big( D_{\tau} \times \textit{EXPL}_i \Big) + \gamma_i + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

#### **Information Revelation ↑ Credit Scores**

Difference-in-Differences Estimate ↑ 22.6 [22.4, 22.9] on mean 776 (t-1)



#### **Information Revelation** \( \text{Competition} \)

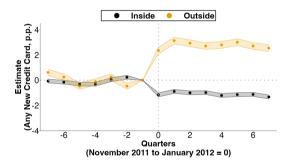
Outcomes by **inside** and **outside** lenders

#### **Information Revelation** \( \text{Competition} \)

#### Outcomes by inside and outside lenders

#### Any New Credit Cards Opened

-56% inside, +32% outside

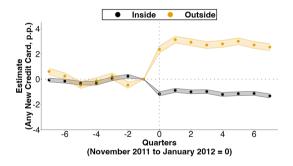


#### Information Revelation Competition

#### Outcomes by inside and outside lenders

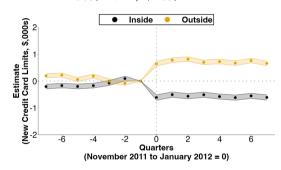
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#### Credit Limits of New Credit Cards Opened

-90% inside. +48% outside

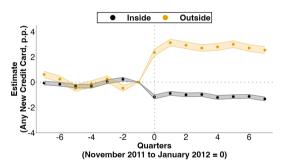


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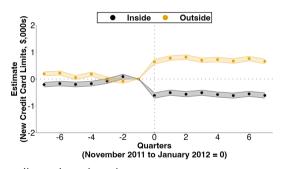
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-90% inside, +48% outside



 $\uparrow$  competition desirable in credit card market given

persistently high market concentration & high returns on assets (in excess of risk)

#### **Conclusions**

#### 1. Empirically document fragility of information sharing in highly developed market

- Unraveling of information sharing an unintended response to innovation
- Information sharing sensitive to innovations enabling targeting profitable customers
- Supports policy mandating information sharing

#### 2. Two new insights on credit card market: importance of spending and card tenure

- Spending a 2<sup>nd</sup> source of uncertainty separate to default risk
- ullet Card tenure varies across and within credit score o need to measure lifetime profits
- High credit score cards can be profitable from interchange over lifetime

#### My Research Agenda

#### 1. Economics of Credit Information

- Job Market Paper
- Paper for Journal of Economic Literature
- "Disaster flags" masking defaults during natural disasters
- How years of credit visibility impacts future credit access (work-in-progress)

#### 2. Behavioral Household Finance

- Effects of payday loans on consumers (Review of Financial Studies)
- 3 papers testing nudging consumers to reduce credit card debt / studying Autopay
- Effects of paternalistic policy \( \tau \) credit card minimum payments (work-in-progress)
- Short paper on buy now, pay later (BNPL)
- Dynamics of budging heuristics (work-in-progress)

#### Thank you!

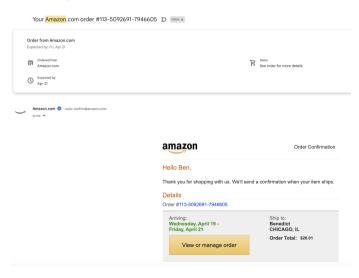


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#### 3 Examples of Firms Stopping Sharing Information

#### 1. Amazon Stops Sharing Order Details



#### 3 Examples of Firms Stopping Sharing Information

- 1. Amazon Stops Sharing Order Details
- 2. Apple Stops Sharing Location Data



# Apple's ad privacy change impact shows the power it wields over other industries

PUBLISHED SAT, NOV 13 2021-11:28 AM EST | UPDATED SAT, NOV 13 2021-11:30 AM EST

### 3 Examples of Firms Stopping Sharing Information

- 1. Amazon Stops Sharing Order Details
- 2. Apple Stops Sharing Location Data
- 3. Twitter Stops Sharing API for Free

What connects these?

### $\textbf{Incumbents Stop Sharing Information} \rightarrow \textbf{Limit Potential Disruptive Innovations}$

#### Selection markets with heterogeneous consumers where ability to target drives profits

- $\bullet$  t = 0: Incumbent firms with market power from informational rents share data
- ullet t = 1: New technological innovation potentially threatened incumbents
- ullet t = 2: Incumbents respond by  $\downarrow$  information sharing to foreclose on (potential) entrants

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#### 3 Examples

#### 1. Amazon Stops Sharing Order Details

- Response to scraping technology

#### 2. Apple Stops Sharing Location Data

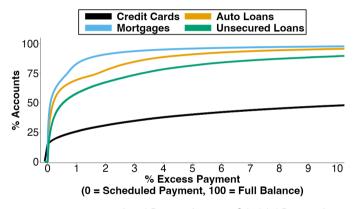
- Response to tracker technology

#### 3. Twitter Stops Sharing API for Free

- Response to ChatGPT technology

#### **CDF Excess Payment: Actual Payments Relative to Scheduled Payments**

Excess Payment Less Than 10%:



 $\% \ \, \mathsf{Excess} \ \, \mathsf{Payment} = \frac{\mathsf{Actual} \ \, \mathsf{Payment} \ \, \mathsf{Amounts} \, \cdot \, \mathsf{Scheduled} \, \, \mathsf{Payment} \, \, \mathsf{Amounts}}{\mathsf{Balance}}$ 

#### Trade-offs of information sharing

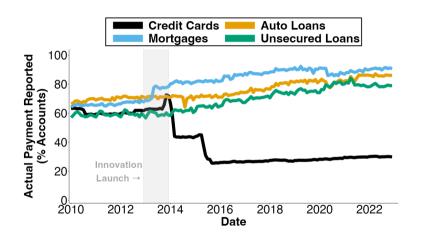
#### **Lenders Trade-Offs**

Benefits	Costs
Technology	Short-Run Targeting
Reduce Information Asymmetries	Long-Run Increased Competition

#### **Trade-Offs for Credit Reporting Agencies:**

- Use technology to produce data products to sell to lenders
- Incentive compatibility constraint for lenders to share information.

#### Breakdown in sharing credit card actual payments with US credit bureau



#### Institutional details on credit reporting data

Sharing information with US credit reporting agency is:

- Voluntary
- Non-Reciprocal

If share information, law (Fair Credit Reporting Act) requires:

- Loan Terms: origination amount, # payments, scheduled payment, open and close dates
- Loan Performance: balance, delinquency status, and credit limit (post-2010)

**Actual payments** data *not* required by law.

US credit reporting data used by lenders for:

- Credit risk (underwriting, portfolio management)
- Marketing (pre-selected credit offers)

#### Trade-offs of non-reciprocal information sharing

#### **Benefits of Sharing**

- 1. Technology
- 2. Reduce Information Asymmetries

#### **Costs of Sharing**

- 1. Short-Run Targeting
- 2. Long-Run Increased Competition

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- 2. Long-Run Increased Competition

#### **Pre-Trended Data:**

Incumbents report data. Why? e.g., firm inertia, fear of regulators, limits scope of entry.

#### **Post-Trended Data:**

Adverse selection  $\downarrow$ , consumer switching costs  $\downarrow \Rightarrow$  information sharing  $\downarrow$ 

#### Credit Bureaus Launched Innovation from 2013: "Trended Data"

**Traditional credit reports** create point-in-time variables (e.g., current balance, any delinquency in last 7 years)

Trended Data creates a bundle of variables using credit reports over time (trends!)

- especially combining actual payments data with balances
- Reveals **credit cards** behaviors driving profitability beyond delinquency
  - Revolving debt
  - New spending
  - Interest rates



Reveals not just credit risk but who profitable consumers are.

#### How is "Trended Data" used by lenders?

#### • Targeted marketing:

"Helps Clients...calculate profit by providing an estimate of consumer spend...prioritize marketing investments and target higher spending consumers...optimize enhanced value propositions to the right spending segments." - Experian

"A national bank wanted to build more market share and also proactively target consumers who are more likely to be high spenders in the next 12 months. They needed a solution to more accurately predict propensity to spend while creating profitable returns on marketing investments." - Equifax

#### • Credit risk:

"Including trended data materially improved modeling of loan performance."

- Fannie Mae (consistent with Equifax, Experian, TransUnion, FICO, & VantageScore)

#### Why launched then?

- CARD Act limited credit card fees (Agarwal et al., 15) & interest (Nelson, 22)
- Interchange revenues become increasingly important source of credit card revenue

## **Measuring Credit Card Behaviors**

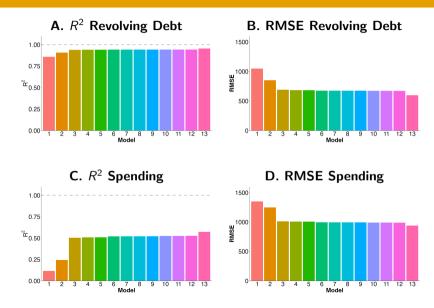
OLS regressions for December 2023 for furnishers where actual payments information shared. One observation per account (i).

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 b_{i,t} + \beta_2 b_{i,t-1} + \beta_3 \tilde{\Delta} b_{i,t} + \beta_4 \mathbf{1} \{b_{i,t} > 0\} + \beta_5 \mathbf{1} \{b_{i,t-1} > 0\} + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

where  $b_{i,t}$  is statement balance for account i at time t

$$ilde{\Delta} b_{i,t} \equiv egin{cases} b_{i,t} - b_{i,t-1} & ext{if } b_{i,t} - b_{i,t-1} \geq 0 \ 0 & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

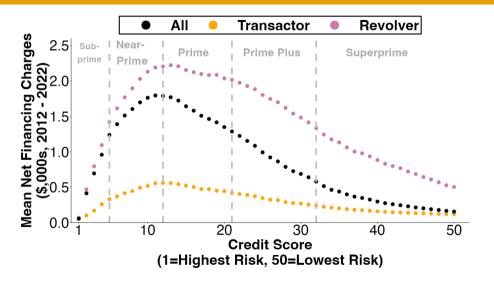
#### Measurement Error in Credit Card Behaviors



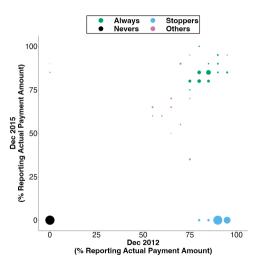
## **Consumer Credit Profitability Relies on Predicting Consumer Behaviors**

	Auto Loans	Unsecured Loans	Credit Cards	
Duration	Fixed-Term		Open-Ended	
Revenue Streams	Financing Charges (Interest, Fees)		Financing Charges (Interest, Fees),	
			Interchange	
Uncertain Behaviors	Delinquency,		Delinquency,	
	Prepayment		Revolving Amount & Duration,	
			Spending	
Collateral	Secured	Unsecured		

#### 2012 to 2022 Financing Charges Net of Charge-Offs



#### Classifying Credit Card Lenders By Actual Payment Sharing Decisions



#### **Interchange Stats**

#### **Always**

1 year:  $R^2$  0.401  $\rightarrow$  0.614 3 year:  $R^2$  0.317  $\rightarrow$  0.437

#### Always+Stoppers

1 year:  $R^2$  0.401  $\rightarrow$  0.614 3 year:  $R^2$  0.317  $\rightarrow$  0.437

#### **Portfolio Values**

1 year Always: +24% (\$171 +42)

1 year **Always+Stoppers**: +25% (\$319 +42)

10 year Always: +13% (\$473 +63)

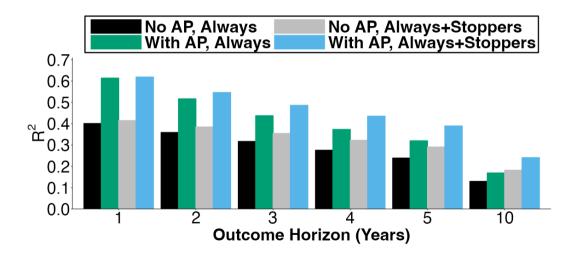
10 year **Always+Stoppers**: +18% (\$531 +42)

5 year:  $R^2$  0.239  $\rightarrow$  0.320 10 year:  $R^2$  0.129  $\rightarrow$  0.169

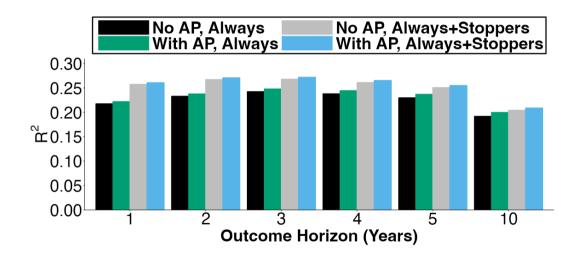
5 year:  $R^2 \ 0.239 \rightarrow 0.320$ 

10 year:  $R^2 \ 0.129 \to 0.169$ 

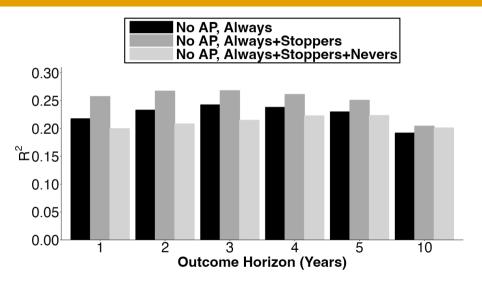
## **Predicting Interchange Net of Rewards**



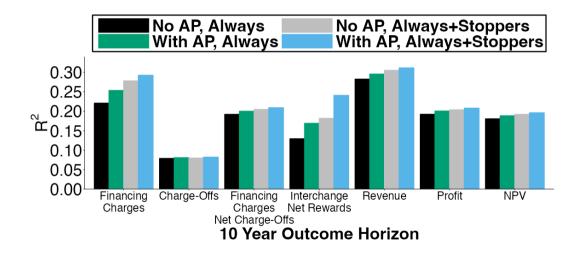
## **Predicting Financing Charges Net of Charge-Offs**



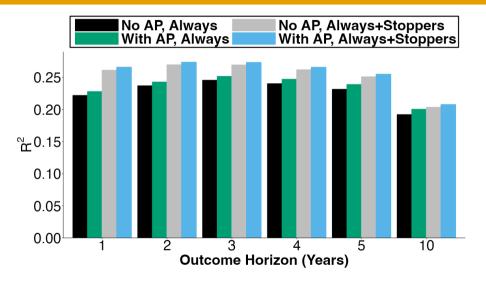
## **Predicting Financing Charges Net of Charge-Offs**



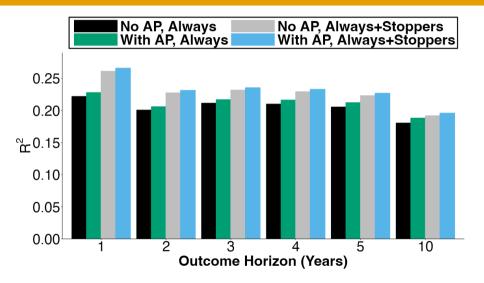
#### **Predicting Lifetime Profits and its Components**



## **Predicting Profits**



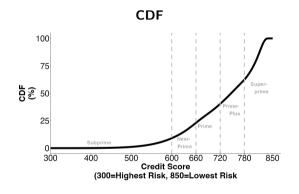
## **Predicting NPV**



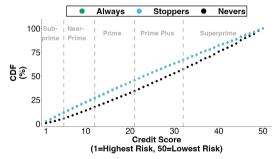
## Predictive Results May Underestimate Importance of Interchange Revenue

- Assume flat 0.5% margin of interchange net of rewards
- Interchange net of rewards may increase if lenders convert an account from a standard to a rewards card (which also generates annual fee revenue)
- Exclude lenders that **Never** share actual payments information

#### **CDF** of Credit Score

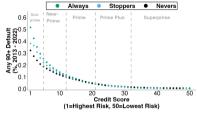


# CDF By Lenders' Actual Payments Information Sharing Decision

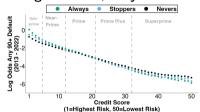


#### Credit Card Default Rates (2013–2022) Conditional on 2012 Credit Score

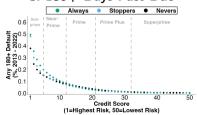
A. 90+ Days Past Due



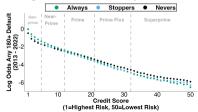
B. Log Odds 90+ Days Past Due



C. 180+ Days Past Due



#### D. Log Odds 180+ Days Past Due



## Selection in Sharing Actual Payments Data Residual of Credit Risk

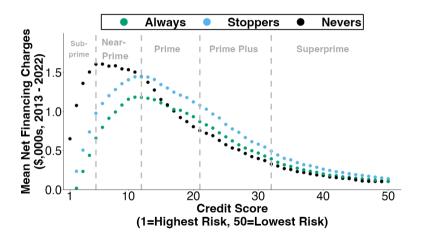
	Aiways	Stoppers	INCVCIS
Residual Tenure	71.0	97.6	136.5
(S.D.)	(73.8)	(75.5)	(106.0)
Residual Statement Balance	2,004.3	2,294.8	2,576.5
(S.D.)	(3,405.9)	(3,842.4)	(4,130.1)
Residual Proxy Spending	2,486.2	2,800.2	3,286.2
(S.D.)	(4,036.2)	(4,987.6)	(6,998.7)
Residual Financing Charges	130.1	235.0	156.5
(S.D.)	(351.3)	(534.5)	(440.8)
Residual Revolving Debt	1,538.1	1,707.6	N/A
(S.D.)	(3,047.7)	(3,413.6)	
Residual Spending	5,228.3	6,896.5	N/A
(S.D.)	(10,257.8)	(14,345.9)	

**Always** 

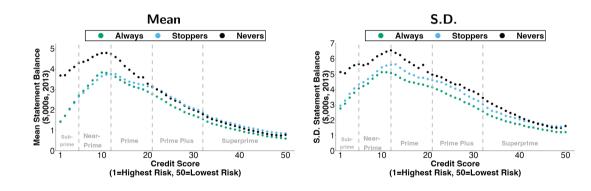
Stonners

Nevers

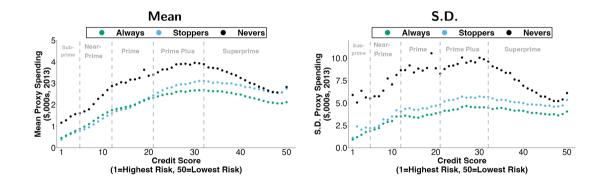
#### Financing Charges Net of Charge-Offs (2013 - 2022)



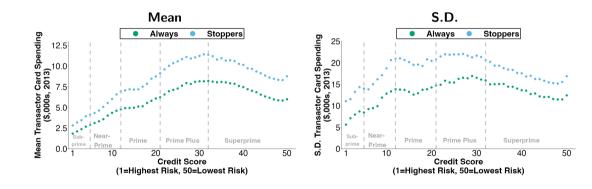
#### 2013 Statement Balance



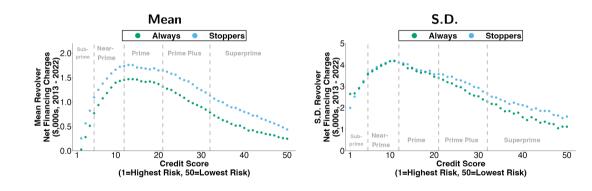
## **2013 Proxy Spending**



#### 2013 Spending of 2012 Transactors



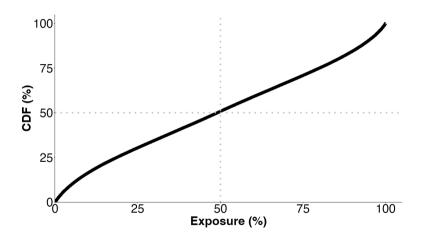
#### Financing Charges Net of Charge-Offs (2013 - 2022) of 2012 Revolvers



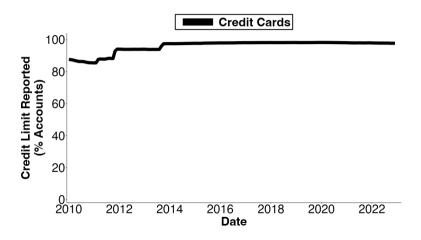
## **Selection in Sharing Actual Payments Data**

	Always	Stoppers	Nevers
Credit Score	720.73	719.70	744.23
(S.D.)	(87.10)	(89.61)	(76.16)
Tenure	68.52	95.18	141.21
(S.D.)	(76.65)	(79.13)	(109.75)
Credit Limit	8,574.75	9,460.33	10,403.06
(S.D.)	(7,626.41)	(9,487.96)	(9,446.22)
Statement Balance	2,077.10	2,351.69	2,456.91
(S.D.)	(3,535.00)	(3,954.01)	(4,323.95)
Utilization	36.26	39.08	29.49
(S.D.)	(38.75)	(39.97)	(35.24)
Proxy Spending	2,454.67	2,752.78	3,369.77
(S.D.)	(4,059.19)	(5,044.94)	(7,917.64)

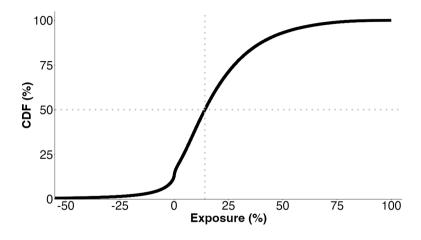
## **CDF of Trended Data Exposure Measure**



#### **Credit Limit Coverage**



#### **CDF** of Credit Limit Exposure Measure



Mean 17%, Median 14%