

A SNAP in Age Eligibility: The Early Effects of Work Requirements on Program Participation and Financial Struggles

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Research Question

What is the effect of SNAP work requirements age extension on program participation, food insecurity, non-employment, and well-being outcomes?

The paper focuses on the outcomes of able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs)

- ABAWDs are defined as childless individuals with no disabilities

Leverages the policy change in 2023 that extended the age eligibility for SNAP work requirements from 18-49 to 18-54 years old and its effect on program take-up and labor market outcomes

Method and Results

Difference-in-Differences (DiD) Approach

Age requirement extension:

1. Decreased SNAP participation
2. Decrease in food insecurity
3. No significant change in non-employment

Questions for the Author

1. States can get waivers from these requirements, wouldn't this mean there is time-varying treatment?
2. What method do you use to correctly specify the diff-in-diff estimand with conditional parallel trends?

Suggestions

It is standard practice to show diff-in-diff results in event-study format to visually assess parallel trends and dynamic treatment effects

Use triple-differences to compare states with and without waivers to better isolate the effect of the policy change

There needs to be a discussion of the assumptions that would allow for the identification of causal effects

- Stable Unit Treatment Value Assumption (SUTVA)
- No Anticipation