

Work Requirements Under Review: Impacts of SNAP Time Limits on Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents

Paper by: Catria Gadwah-Meaden

Discussant: Hussain Hadah^{1,2}

November 13, 2025

¹The Murphy Institute, Tulane University

²Economics Department, Tulane University



THE MURPHY INSTITUTE
TULANE UNIVERSITY

Research Questions

How do work requirements for SNAP recipients affect able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs)?

How do work requirements for SNAP recipients affect the employment outcomes of ABAWDs?

The paper uses the staggered take-up of work requirements after the great recession as a **policy variation**

Method and Results

Uses **difference-in-differences (DiD)** to estimate the causal effect of work requirements

- Uses Callaway & Sant'Anna (2021)

The adoption of work requirements led to a:

1. **11% decrease in SNAP participation**
2. **No effect on employment outcomes**

Questions for the Author

1. What do you mean that you fail to find of work requirements on employment outcomes that are not attenuated by the inclusion of covariates?
2. Using Callaway & Sant'Anna (2021) forces you to assign dichotomous treatment status---prevents you from using the county to PUMA treatment assignment used in the literature. Did you try to use a continuous treatment variable using other DiD methods?

Suggestions

Showing the DiD results before conditional parallel trends assumption is, in my opinion, important for transparency

To prevent confusion, I suggest explaining in details the policy variation as a result of the three-month 10 percent unemployment rate cutoff to individual counties during the Great Recession

You mention that DDD to take advantage of additional conditions to identify a more robust causal effect. Not having a package to do the estimation is not a valid reason to not use DDD.