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WI22-QTP: Economic Security of People with Disabilities during the Pandemic

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Abstract

This study documents the economic impact of COVID19 on households with disabilities.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

There are multiple paths through which the COVID-19 pandemic may affect the economic security of working age adults with disabilities. Disruptions to the economy and risk of disease spread led some who were working prior to the pandemic to exit the labor market (???), thereby reducing income through wage earnings. This reduction in labor force participation has not been offset by a subsequent increase in Social Security claiming [CITE?].

Reduced consumption (??)

households often unable to pay their bills (??).

We begin our analysis by

We further explore mechanisms underlying changes

Taken together, the results of this study provide important detail about the depth and breadth of the inequity of financial hardship experienced in the pandemic. Our findings indicate heterogeneous effects for vulnerable segments of the population.

???

2 Prior Literature

2.1 COVID-19 and Financial Security

There is a burgeoning body of literature on the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for U.S. households. Most directly, several studies analyze changes in labor force participation and unemployment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. ?), with a few studies focusing on labor trends (???).

Reductions in income may be offset in part by reductions in consumption (?????). For example, ? find an overall 10 percent decline in consumer spending following the onset of the pandemic. However, the effects on consumption are heterogeneous across a number of dimensions. ? find that much of the reduction in spending is concentrated among higher income households—households in the top income quartile spent 13 percent less as of mid-July 2020 relative to January 2020, whereas households in the bottom income quartile reduced consumption by only 4 percent during the same period. For those experiencing a COVID related loss of income, ? find that receipt of pandemic-related unemployment benefits is associated with a 10 percent increase in consumer spending relative to the prior year.

Emerson and colleagues studied the effects of pandemic on people with disabilities in the UK ‘Understanding Society’, an annual household panel study (?). Respondents with disability were more likely to experience higher levels of financial stress.

Gignac and colleagues studied people with physical or mental health disabilities in Canada. People with a disability reported more financial concerns, more contract work, and unmet accommodations at work than those with no disability. (?)

Goda, et al sue Current Population Survey and monthly Google Trends data to show fewer labor force exits due to disability and applications for disability insurance (?)

? find White and Black women with disabilities experienced relatively greater employment losses during the pandemic compared to White men without disabilities. (?)

? also finds workers with a disability—have experienced the largest declines in the likelihood of (full-time) work and work hours.

Kathleen Mullen and Nicole Maestas

Previous economic downturns have led to increases in applications for and, eventually, receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits. In the pandemic-induced recession of 2020 and its aftermath, however, SSDI applications did not increase. One important factor may have been the prolonged closure of SSA field offices, since previous research finds that field office closures lead to persistent declines in SSDI beneficiaries in the surrounding communities. In this case, there may be pent-up demand for SSDI benefits as normal operations resume in areas where the economy has not fully recovered. Government support programs were materially different than in past recessions, which appears to have enabled people to weather the downturn and avoid applying for SSDI benefits. ?

3 Data and Methods

3.1 Summary Statistics

3.2 OLS Specifications

We provide descriptive regression analysis, following the form:

$$\delta outcome_i = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 * Post_i + \beta_2 * STUFF_i + \epsilon_i$$

4 Findings

summary tables

regressions

Coef plots

5 Conclusion

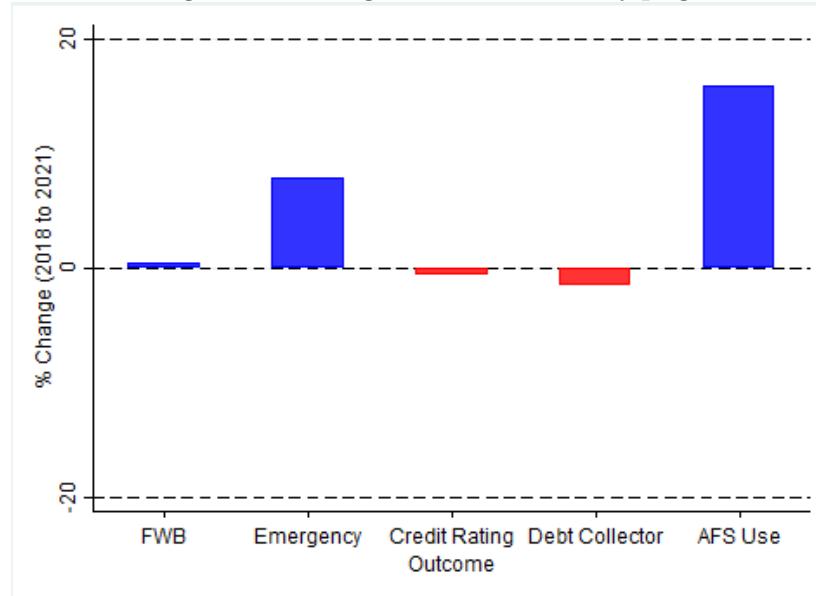
Implications for Social Security Programs

Increased eligibility for SSI and Medicaid, as well as SNAP and LIHEAP

6 Figures

{ChangeY_1821nodisability}

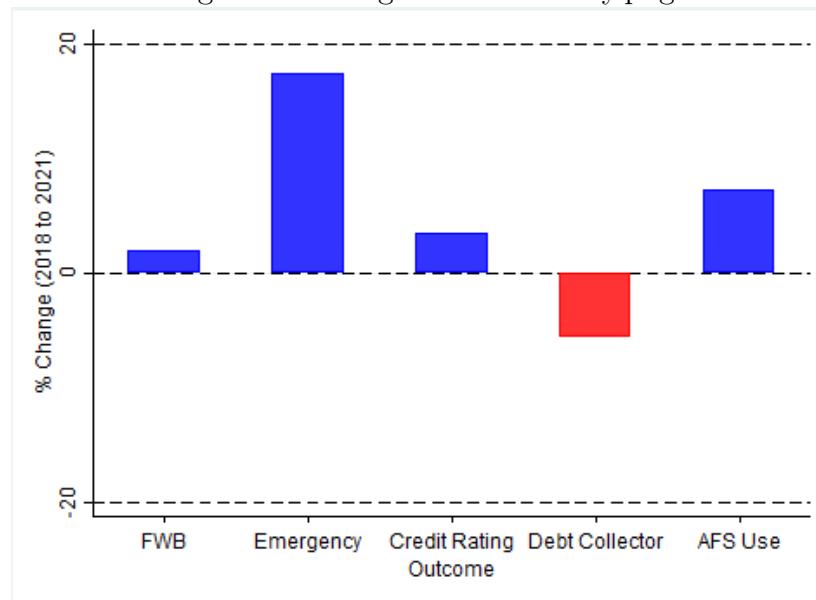
Figure 1: ChangeY1821nodisability.png



Here are some notes that go with the graph.

{ChangeY_18}

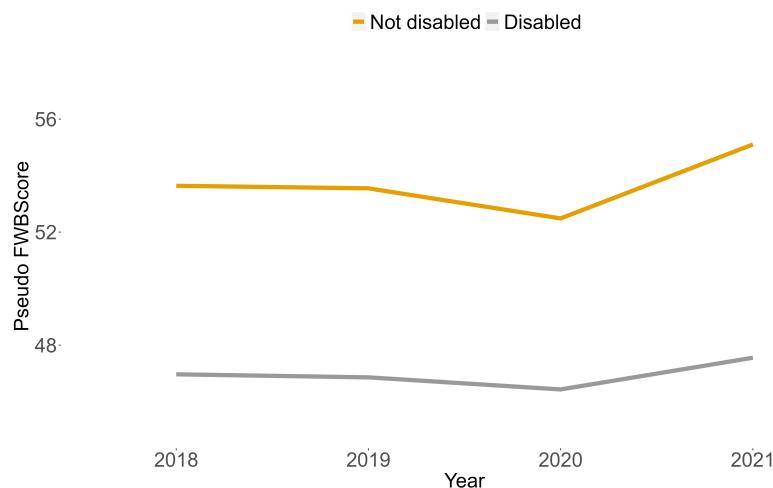
Figure 2: ChangeY1821disability.png



Here are some notes that go with the graph.

{shed.fwb.trend}

Figure 3: shed.fwb.trend.png

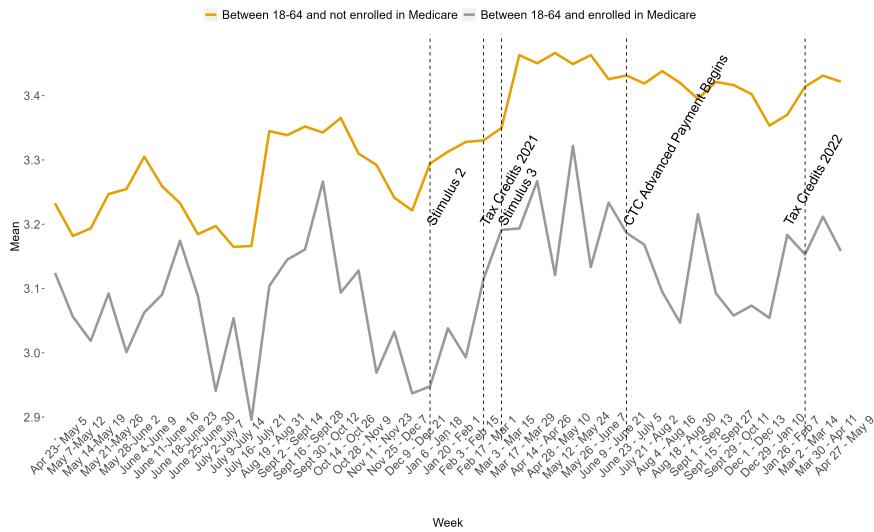


Here are some notes that go with the graph.

7 Tables

{mortconf.s

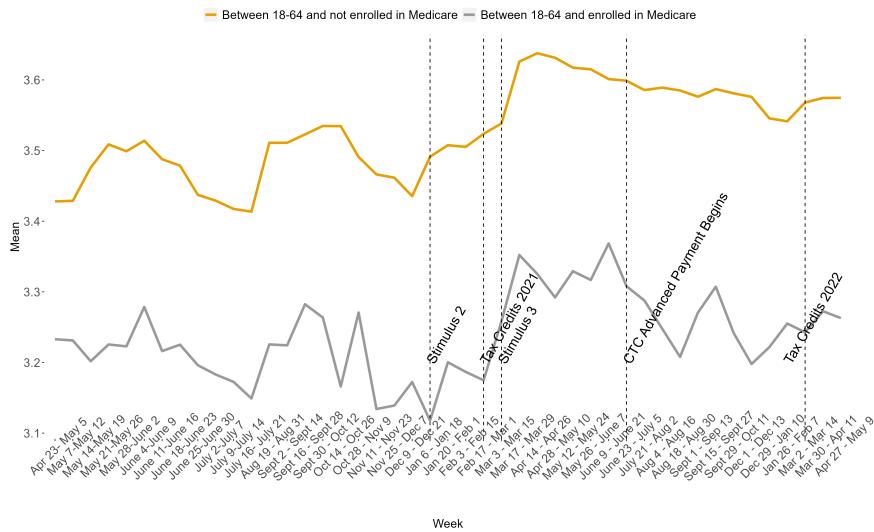
Figure 4: mortconf.sample2.weighted.png



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Figure 5: mortconf.sample2.unweighted.png



Here are some notes that go with the graph.

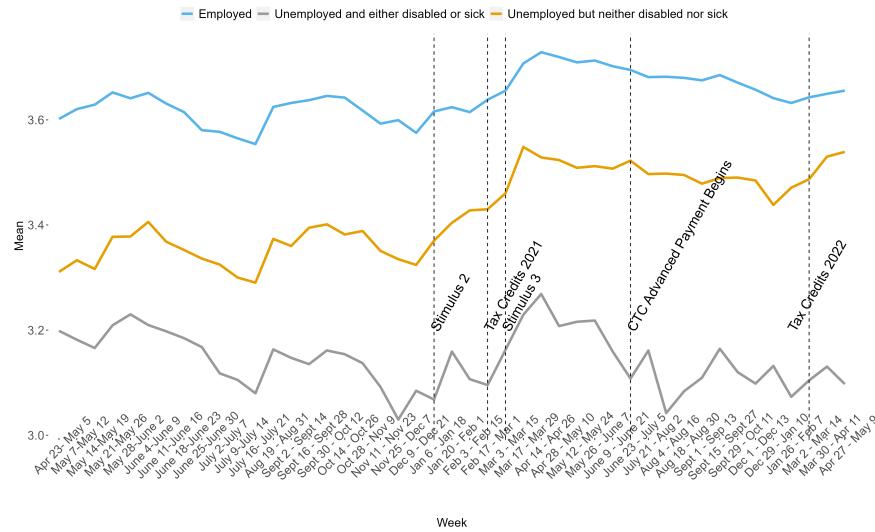
Table 1: Stuff

{tab:newtab

All	50.2
A household	48.1
B household	50.2
Primary Person White	42.9
Primary Person Black	61.3
Primary Person Latina	66.8

{mortconf.s

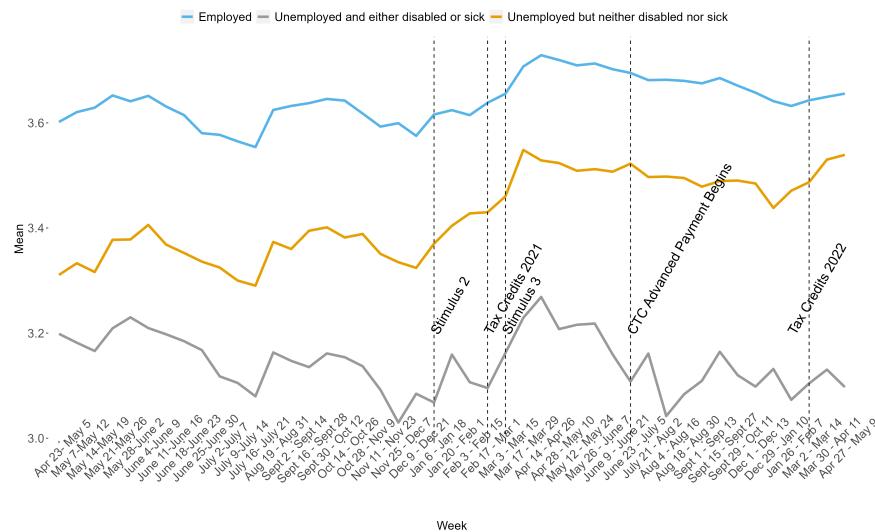
Figure 6: mortconf.sample1.weighted.png



Here are some notes that go with the graph.

{mortconf.s

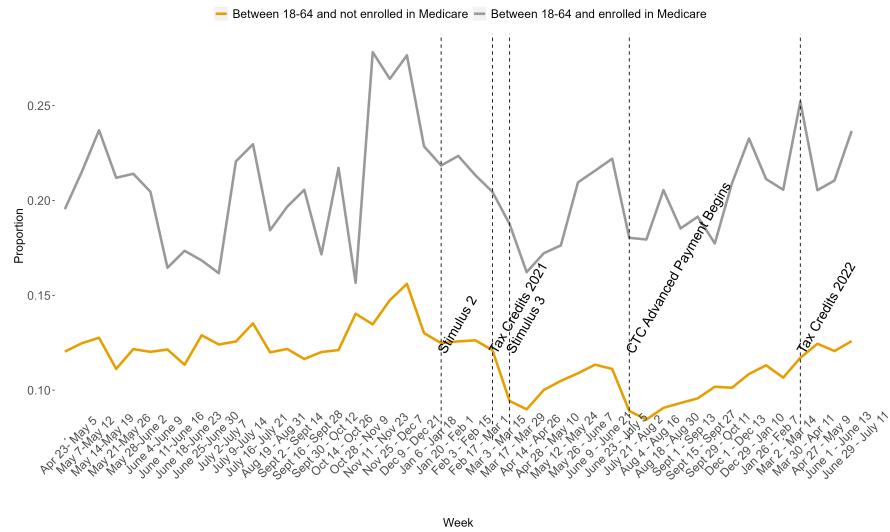
Figure 7: mortconf.sample1.unweighted.png



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{food.insuf}

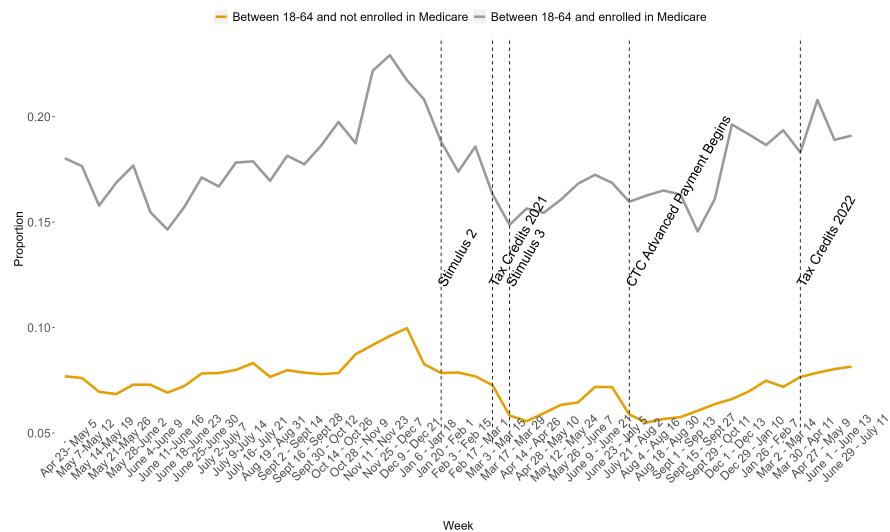
Figure 8: food.insuf.sample2.weighted.png



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{food.insuf}

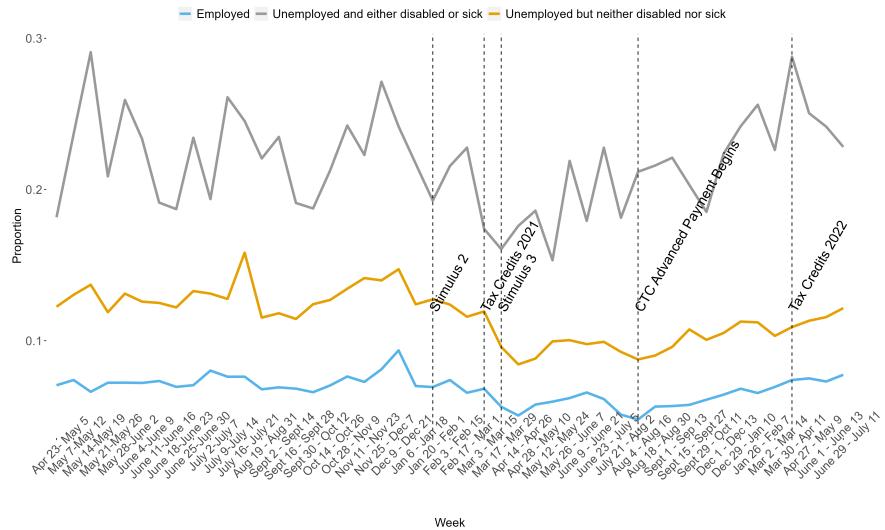
Figure 9: food.insuf.sample2.unweighted.png



Here are some notes that go with the graph.

{food.insuf}

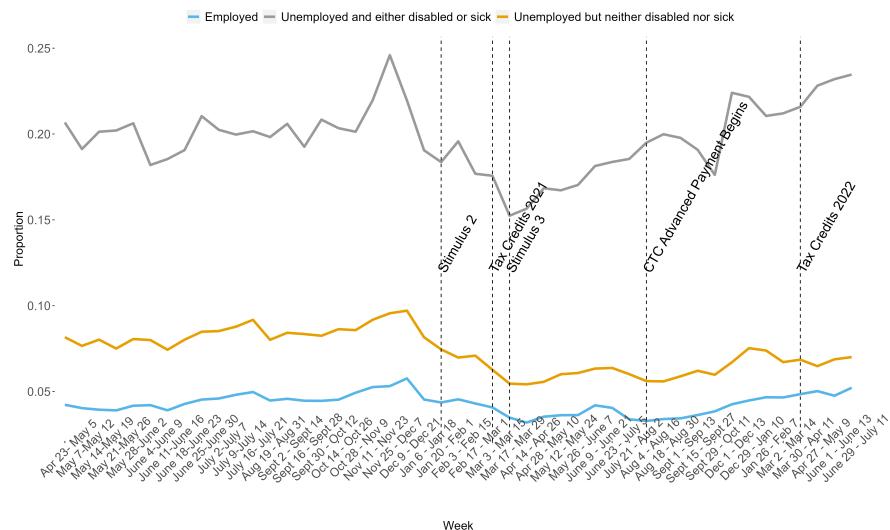
Figure 10: food.insuf.sample1.weighted.png



Here are some notes that go with the graph.

{food.insuf}

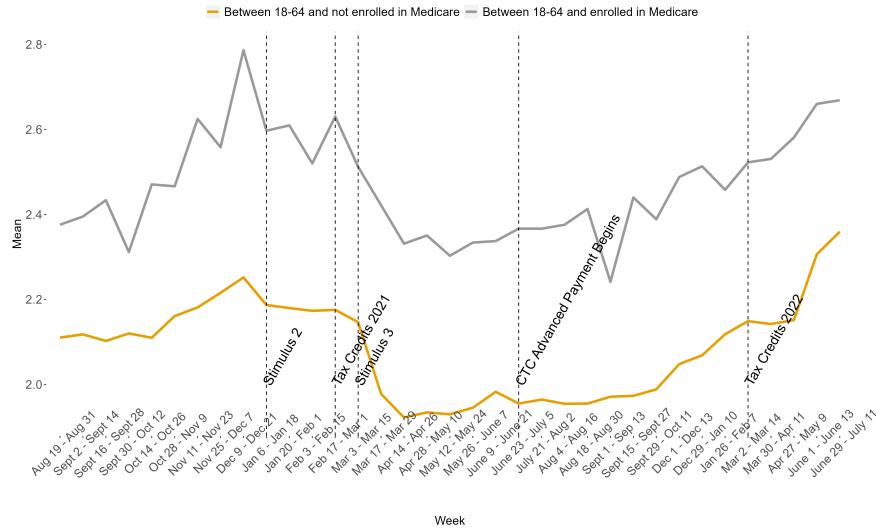
Figure 11: food.insuf.sample1.unweighted.png



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{dif.expns.}

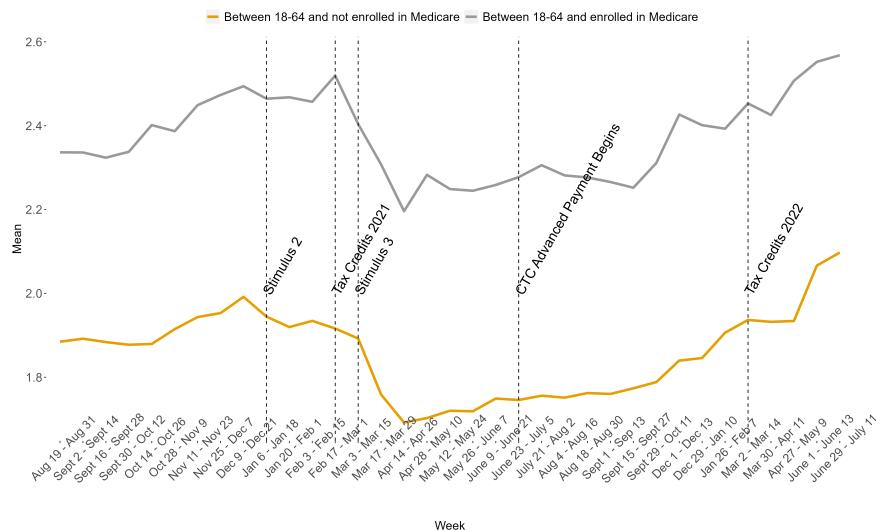
Figure 12: dif.expns.sample2.weighted.png



Here are some notes that go with the graph.

{dif.expns.}

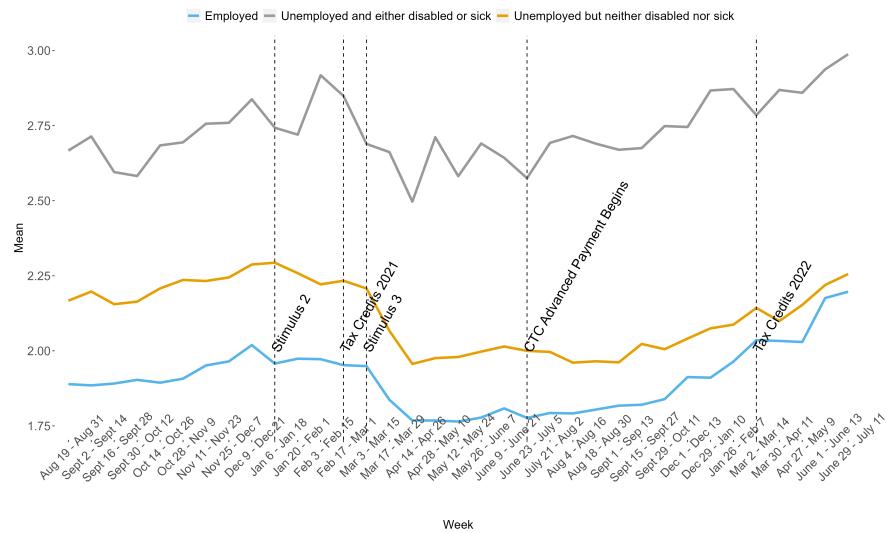
Figure 13: dif.expns.sample2.unweighted.png



Here are some notes that go with the graph.

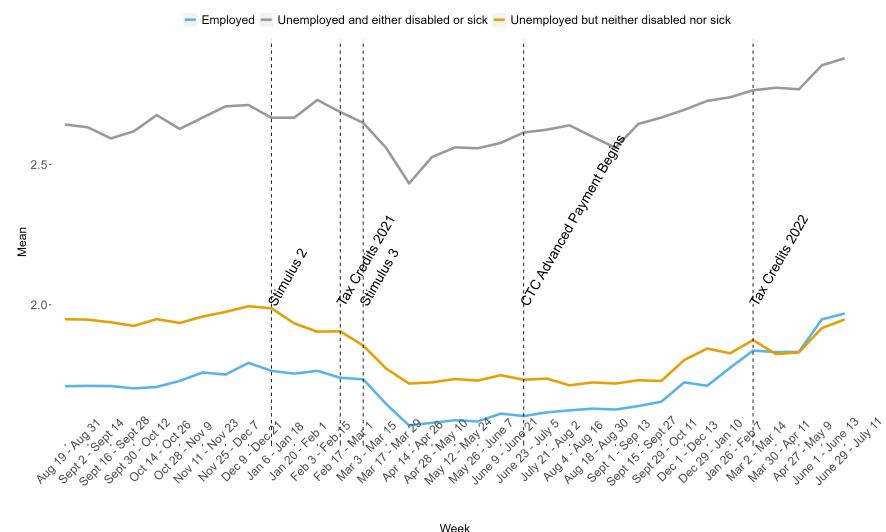
{dif.expns}

Figure 14: dif.expns.sample1.weighted.png



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Appendix



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