

# Career Cost of Parenthood, Selective Fertility, and Dynamic Effects

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# Motivation

The differential impact of parenthood on the careers of women and men is widely suspected to be a major cause of gender disparities in the labor market.

- ▶ “Not surprisingly, children are the main contributors to women’s labor supply changes.” (Goldin, 2014)
- ▶ “Parenthood has sharply asymmetric impacts on labor market outcomes between the genders, depressing mothers’ earnings while leaving fathers’ earnings essentially unchanged.” (Bertrand, 2020)
- ▶ “...the remaining gender disparities in labor market outcomes are related to the fact that children impose significantly larger penalties on the career trajectories of women compared to men.” (Cortés & Pan, 2023)
- ▶ “The effects of parenthood (...) account for most of the observed gender inequality in labor market outcomes” (Kleven et al., 2023)

# Causal Identification Challenge

Fertility is endogenous

- ▶ Human capital, wealth, health, career prospects, the cost of parenthood

Effects of parenthood are dynamic

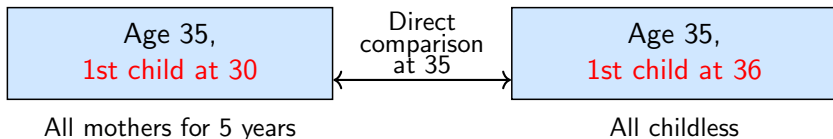
- ▶ Time spent in parenthood, career stage and age at the time of becoming a parent, number and age of children,

**Leading methods address one or the other**

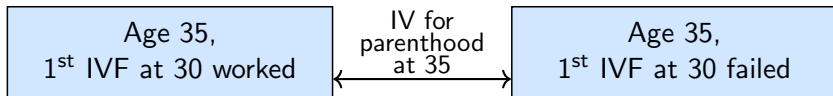
## ES and IV-IVF

“Some of the most compelling evidence of the crucial role children (...) has been produced over the past few years” (Bertrand, 2020)

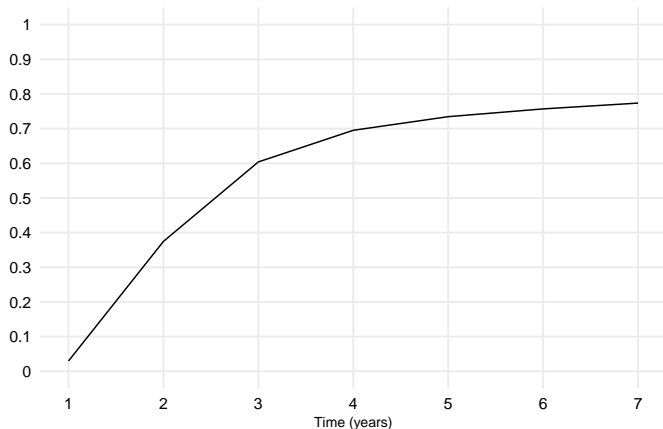
Event study (Kleven, Landais, & Sørensen, 2019):



IV-IVF (Lundborg et al., 2017):



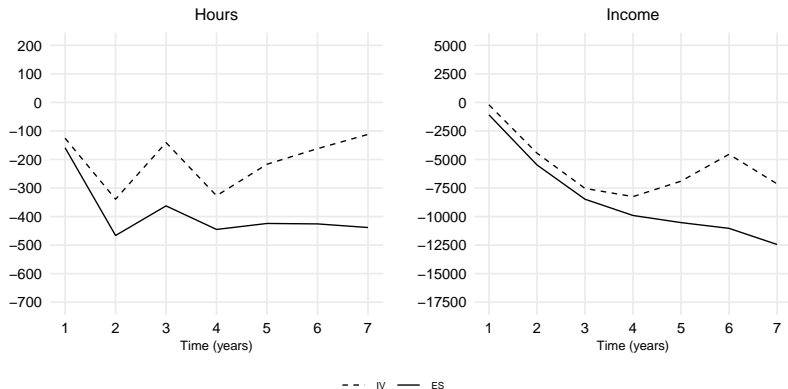
# Motherhood After 1<sup>st</sup> Procedure Fails



$$\tau_{RF} = 0.25\tau_{Parenthood} + 0.75\tau_{Earlier}$$

$$\tau_{IV} = \tau_{Parenthood} + 3\tau_{Earlier}$$

# IV vs ES



ES extern.

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    - ▶ Endogenous # of attempts & non-ACP fertility
    - ▶ No parametric ass. (Bensnes et al., 2023; Gallen et al., 2023)●

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    - ▶ No parametric ass. (Bensnes et al., 2023; Gallen et al., 2023)●
  - ▶ External validity
    - ▶ Extrapolation to when women choose to remain childless
    - ▶ Extrapolation to non-ACP families

# Model

- ▶ Particular moment since woman's first ACP
- ▶ Outcome when motherhood begins at first ACP:

$$Y(1)$$

- ▶ Childless outcome:

$$Y(0)$$

- ▶ Outcome when motherhood begins after first ACP:

$$Y(later)$$

Counterfactuals discussion

## Model (cont.)

Women differ in:

- ▶ Willingness to undergo ACP,  $W$ 
  - ▶ Would try  $W$  times in case all ACPs fail (integer)
- ▶ Reliance on ACP,  $R$ 
  - ▶ No child if ALL ACPs fail (dummy)
  - ▶ “Reliers”  $\supseteq$  “compliers” (no child if first ACP fails)

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Parameter of interest:

$$\tau_{ATR} = \mathbb{E}[Y(1) - Y(0)|R = 1]$$

# Assumption

## Assumption (Sequential Unconfoundedness)

$$(Y(1), Y(0), R, W) \perp D_j | A \geq j$$

- ▶  $A$  - number of attempts
- ▶  $D_j$  - success of attempt  $j$

In words: once sperm/eggs at ACP  $j$  are implanted, whether this results in a conception is as-good-as-random

- ▶  $e = \Pr(D_j = 1 | A \geq j)$  for all  $j$  for illustration.



## Intuition: Childless Outcome $Y(0)$

1. Childless women  $\subset$  reliers
2. Selective subgroup ONLY due to unobs. willing. to try ACPs
  - ▶ Cond. on  $W$  relier fertility is as good as random
  - ▶ Reliers with higher  $W$  underrepresented

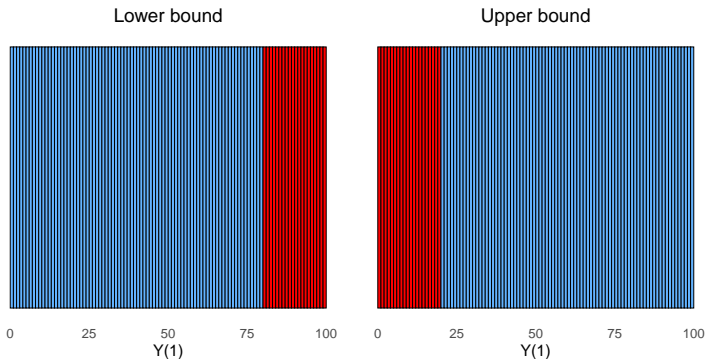
$$\Pr(C = 0 | R = 1, W = w) = (1 - e)^w$$

3. Observed number of ACPs is sufficient to account for it
  - ▶ Among childless  $A = W$
  - ▶ Higher weights to women who tried more

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E} \left[ Y \frac{(1 - C)}{(1 - e)^A} \right] &= \mathbb{E} [Y(0) | R = 1] \Pr(R = 1) \\ \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{(1 - C)}{(1 - e)^A} \right] &= \Pr(R = 1),\end{aligned}$$

## Intuition: Motherhood Outcome $Y(1)$

1. Treated group is a rep. sample but their types are unobserved
2. Identify  $\Pr(R = 1) = 0.8$  on control group
3. Assume most extreme distributions of types in treated group
4. Bound  $\mathbb{E}[Y(1)|R = 1]$



# Background

## Assisted conception procedures

- ▶ IUI (primary procedure): sperm injected into uterus
- ▶ IVF (secondary procedure): embryo inserted into uterus

## Data

- ▶ Dutch administrative data
- ▶ Labor market outcomes from 2011 to 2022

ACPs

Data

# Results: Bounds

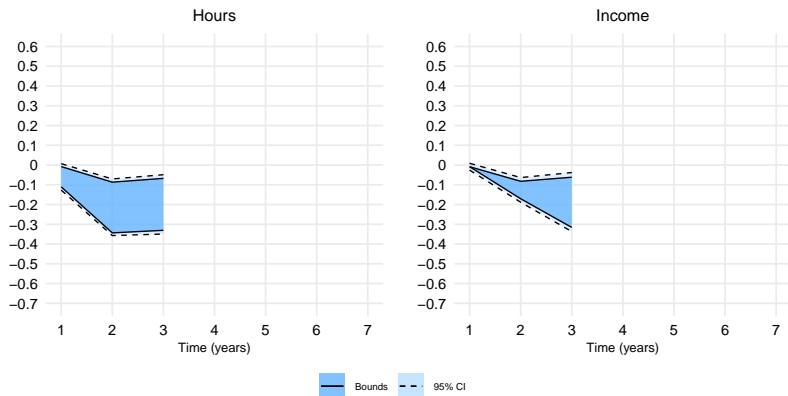


Figure 1: Bounds - short run

Baseline Lee bounds

Absolute effects

# Results: Bounds

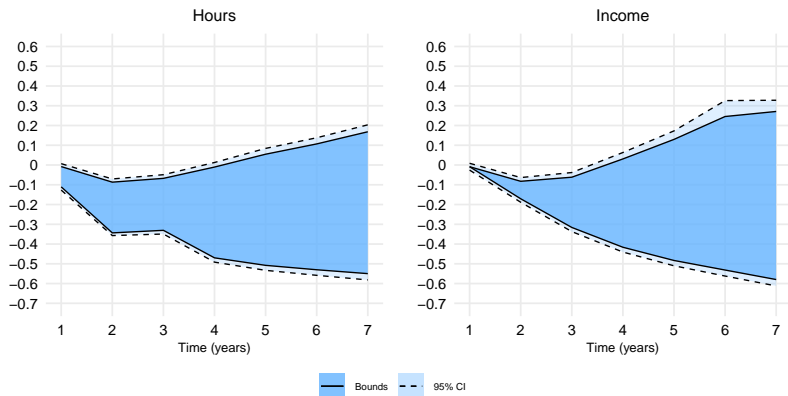


Figure 2: Bounds - medium run

Baseline Lee bounds

Absolute effects

# Monotonicity

- ▶ Some women whose first ACP succeeds eventually conceive more children without ACP
- ▶ It may be reasonable to assume that they would have eventually conceived at least one child if all ACPs had failed

Plausibility discussion

Benefit of monotonicity

Graphic intuition

# Bounds with Monotonicity

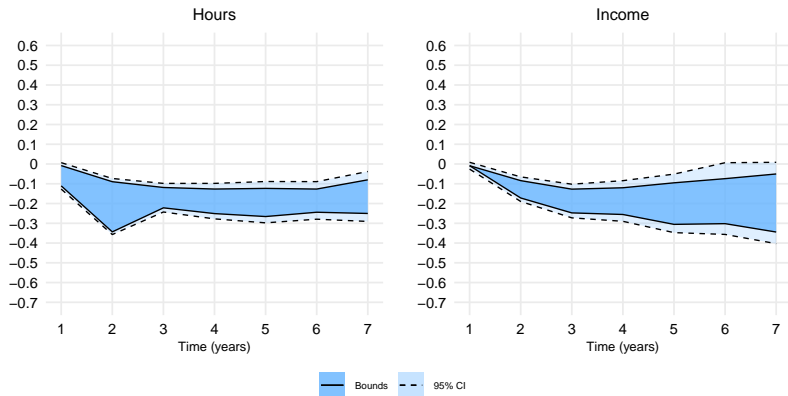


Figure 3: Bounds for percent effects

Absolute

How wide?

# Monotone Bounds - Gender Inequality

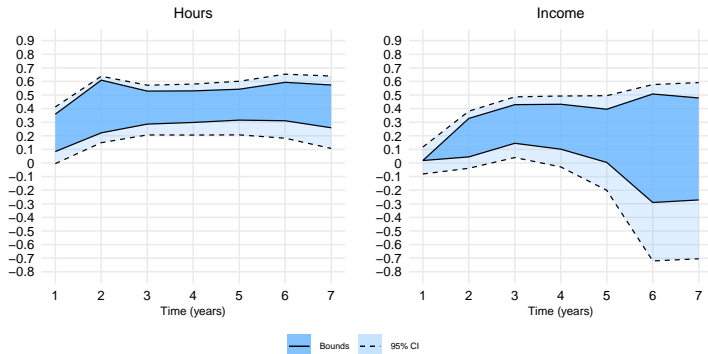


Figure 4: Share of gender inequality caused by parenthood



# Extensions

## Outcomes:

- ▶ Fatherhood Absolute Percentage
- ▶ Decomposing gender inequality Share explained by children
- ▶ Effect of delaying motherhood Absolute Cumulative

## Existing estimators:

- ▶ Are existing estimates biased? Naive IV-IVF equiv. Plac. ES Place. ineq.
- ▶ Are estimates less informative than existing? Confidence intervals

## Robustness:

- ▶ Bias due to depression Counterfact. Depr. effect Bounds non-depr. Arguments
- ▶ Inequality correcting for age De-aging partners
- ▶ Stable complier group Childless final period
- ▶ Estimator without DML Identification Effects
- ▶ Relaxing monotonicity Direction Partnered only

## Other:

- ▶ Heterogeneity Covariates Willingness to try
- ▶ Population imputation\* ES pop. Mother. imp. Childless imp. Effect imp. Gap

# Conclusion

- ▶ Method for evaluating the career cost of children robust to selective fertility and dynamic effects
  - ▶ Applicable to settings with sequential treatment assignment and non-compliance
- ▶ Application to Dutch data:
  - ▶ Sizable career impacts of motherhood
  - ▶ Parenthood causes up to 56% (44%) of gender inequality in post-child work hours (earnings)
- ▶ Comparison to existing approaches
  - ▶ IV-IVF might overstate penalty in the short run
  - ▶ ES might overstate penalty in both short and medium run

# Appendix

Literature

Identification Math

Treatment Success

Balance

Type Shares

Trimming Shares

Monotonicity

Bound Width

Extensions

Application to Other Settings

References

## Related Literature

Gender inequality in labor market outcomes.

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Main methodological ideas closely related to:

- ▶ Van den Berg & Vikström (2022): sequential treatment assignment.
- ▶ Lee (2005); Zhang & Rubin (2003): bounds with missing data.

[Back](#) [Literature](#)

## Bensnes et al. (2023); Gallen et al. (2023)

Main idea:

1. Estimate effect in first period after treatment (while there are no later-mothers)
2. For individuals who are treated in second period, plug in estimate from the first
3. Repeat for all periods . . .

Required (intuitive) assumptions:

1. Effect must be similar between women who do and who do not enter motherhood later
2. Effect cannot vary over the life-cycle

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# Literature (cont.)

Parenthood, labor market outcomes, and gender equality:

- ▶ Event studies: Angelov et al. (2016); Chung et al. (2017); Kleven, Landais, Posch, et al. (2019); Eichmeyer & Kent (2022),
- ▶ Abortion access: Miller (2011); Brooks & Zohar (2021)
- ▶ Infertility: Agüero & Marks (2008); Cristia (2008)
- ▶ Sibling sex mix: Angrist & Evans (1996); Iacovou (2001); Cruces & Galiani (2007); Maurin & Moschion (2009); Hirvonen (2009)
- ▶ Twins: Rosenzweig & Wolpin (1980); Bronars & Grogger (1994); Jacobsen et al. (1999); Vere (2011)
- ▶ Miscarriages: Hotz et al. (2005)

Methodological paper on dynamic compliance and treatment effects:

- ▶ Heckman et al. (2016); Han (2021); Van den Berg & Vikström (2022)

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Extrapolation requires carefully addressing mental health consequences of failure (and medical procedures)

[Back \(model\)](#) [Back \(extensions\)](#) [Depr. effect](#) [Bounds non-depr.](#) [Arguments](#)

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## Estimator Intuition: Math with Coins

- ▶ Each individuals flips a coin once
- ▶ Some may chose to flip again if heads come up
- ▶ Number of flips ( $P$ ) observed
- ▶  $Y$  only revealed for those who never flip heads

$$\mathbb{E}[Y] = \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{(1/2)^P} Y \mathbf{1}_{\{\text{no heads}\}}\right]$$

Back

# Formal Identification

$$\Delta_L = \mu_L - \mu_C$$

$$\Delta_U = \mu_U - \mu_C$$

$$\mu_C = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{Y}{\prod_j^P (1 - p_j(X_j))} \middle| \mathbf{1}_{Child} = 0 \right] \mathbb{E} \left[ \prod_j^P (1 - p_j(X_j)) \middle| \mathbf{1}_{Child} = 0 \right]$$

$$\mu_L = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{Y}{p_1(X_1)} \middle| D_1 = 1, Y < y(1 - s) \right] \mathbb{E} [p_1(X_1) | D_1 = 1, Y < y(1 - s)]$$

$$\mu_U = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{Y}{p_1(X_1)} \middle| D_1 = 1, Y > y(s) \right] \mathbb{E} [p_1(X_1) | D_1 = 1, Y > y(s)]$$

$$y(q) = G^{-1}(q)$$

$$G(q) = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\mathbf{1}(Y \leq q)}{p_1(X_1)} \middle| D_1 = 1 \right] \mathbb{E} [p_1(X_1) | D_1 = 1]$$

$$s = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\mathbf{1}_{Child}}{\prod_j^P (1 - p_j(X_j))} \middle| W = 0 \right] \mathbb{E} \left[ \prod_j^P (1 - p_j(X_j)) \middle| W = 0 \right],$$

where  $W = 1 - \prod_{j=1}^P (1 - D_j)$ .

# Narrowing the Bounds with Covariates (cont.)

Alternative extension of Lee bounds (to my knowledge)

- ▶ Take some function  $g(x)$
- ▶  $\mathbb{E}[g(X_1)|R = 1]$  can be identified on women who remain childless
- ▶ Take  $\mathbb{E}[Y(1)|R = 1] = \mathbb{E}[g(X_1) + \varepsilon|R = 1]$
- ▶ Only need to bound  $\mathbb{E}[\varepsilon|R = 1]$
- ▶  $g(X_1)$  can be directly chosen to minimize the spread in residuals, e.g. OLS of  $Y$  on  $X_1$  for women with  $D_1 = 1$ .
- ▶ Since residuals typically have a narrower distribution, this gives narrower bounds.
- ▶ Also, likely to improve asymptotic efficiency: only need to compare residuals in both groups,  $\mathbb{E}[g(X_1)|R = 1]$  is the same for treated and control.

[Back \(DML\)](#)

[Back \(extensions\)](#)

# Assisted Conception Procedures

## In vitro fertilization (IVF)

- ▶ Relatively invasive procedure performed under sedation/anesthesia
- ▶ ~25% success rate

## Intrauterine insemination (IUI)

- ▶ Sperm injected directly into the uterus.
- ▶ ~10% success rate
- ▶ First-line infertility treatment in most countries

I use the moment embryos/sperm are transferred into the uterus

Is success as-good-as-random?

Background



# Data

- ▶ Administrative data from Statistics Netherlands
  - ▶ Data on fertility treatments from 2013 to 2017
  - ▶ Labor market outcomes from 2011 to 2021
- ▶ Unlimited IUI and first 3 IVF attempts covered by mandatory insurance (later IVF attempts cost 2500-5000 Eur per cycle)
- ▶ Sample of opposite sex couples cohabiting before first IUI attempt

Balance

Treatment success

Success prob. change

Background

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Treatment success is not completely random.

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Other (medical) factors relevant for IVF success appear to be largely unrelated to labor market outcomes (Lundborg et al., 2017).

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# Treatment Success

- ▶ I impute treatment success as having a child born within 10 months after treatment without subsequent treatments in between.
  - ▶ Validated to reflect medical records of treatment success (Lundborg et al., 2017).

Back

**Table 1:** First treatment outcomes and descriptives

|                      | Success<br>(1)        | Fail<br>(2)           | Difference<br>(1)-(2) | Dif. cond. age FE<br>(1)-(2) cond. age |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Work (W)             | 0.881<br>[0.324]      | 0.863<br>[0.344]      | 0.018<br>(0.009)      | 0.008<br>(0.009)                       |
| Work (P)             | 0.884<br>[0.320]      | 0.865<br>[0.341]      | 0.019<br>(0.009)      | 0.014<br>(0.009)                       |
| Hours (W)            | 1239.696<br>[605.070] | 1208.255<br>[634.840] | 31.441<br>(16.168)    | 17.578<br>(15.812)                     |
| Hours (P)            | 1473.383<br>[658.917] | 1438.880<br>[695.345] | 34.502<br>(17.699)    | 22.690<br>(17.587)                     |
| Income 1000s € (W)   | 28.049<br>[19.559]    | 27.434<br>[20.232]    | 0.615<br>(0.516)      | 0.942<br>(0.496)                       |
| Income 1000s € (P)   | 37.173<br>[26.484]    | 36.959<br>[29.443]    | 0.214<br>(0.746)      | 0.896<br>(0.732)                       |
| Bachelor deg. (W)    | 0.608<br>[0.488]      | 0.605<br>[0.489]      | 0.002<br>(0.013)      | 0.018<br>(0.012)                       |
| Bachelor deg. (P)    | 0.593<br>[0.491]      | 0.598<br>[0.490]      | -0.004<br>(0.013)     | 0.008<br>(0.012)                       |
| Age (W)              | 31.643<br>[4.016]     | 32.384<br>[4.383]     | -0.741<br>(0.111)     |  |
| Age (P)              | 34.672<br>[5.527]     | 35.459<br>[5.993]     | -0.787<br>(0.152)     |  |
| Observations         | 1,716                 | 13,788                |                       |  |
| Joint <i>p</i> -val. |                       |                       | 0.000                 | 0.536                                  |

*Note:* Labor market outcomes measured year before first treatment. (W) - woman, (P) - partner. Standard deviations in brackets. Standard errors in parentheses.

# Balance in Later Treatments

Table 2: Balance in later treatments

|                      | D2                 | D3                 | D4                 | D5                 | D6                 | D7                  | D8                 | D9                 | D10                |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Work (W)             | 0.013<br>(0.009)   | -0.002<br>(0.010)  | 0.023<br>(0.011)   | 0.008<br>(0.012)   | 0.030<br>(0.013)   | 0.007<br>(0.014)    | -0.008<br>(0.017)  | 0.016<br>(0.019)   | 0.041<br>(0.026)   |
| Work (P)             | 0.011<br>(0.010)   | 0.014<br>(0.010)   | 0.005<br>(0.011)   | 0.014<br>(0.012)   | -0.004<br>(0.013)  | -0.008<br>(0.014)   | 0.001<br>(0.017)   | 0.016<br>(0.020)   | 0.040<br>(0.027)   |
| Hours (W)            | 37.050<br>(17.373) | -0.615<br>(18.648) | 45.477<br>(20.127) | 39.327<br>(21.930) | 68.596<br>(24.489) | 25.780<br>(26.043)  | -5.734<br>(31.176) | 81.149<br>(36.869) | 29.860<br>(49.101) |
| Hours (P)            | 29.074<br>(19.336) | 28.347<br>(20.807) | 18.441<br>(22.614) | 35.597<br>(24.685) | -7.332<br>(27.215) | -15.344<br>(28.618) | 0.360<br>(34.381)  | 47.511<br>(41.158) | 49.279<br>(55.440) |
| Income 1000s € (W)   | 1.786<br>(0.548)   | 0.283<br>(0.592)   | 1.123<br>(0.647)   | 1.672<br>(0.710)   | 1.380<br>(0.786)   | 0.489<br>(0.831)    | 0.417<br>(1.030)   | 1.839<br>(1.240)   | -0.297<br>(1.714)  |
| Income 1000s € (P)   | 0.221<br>(0.820)   | 1.277<br>(0.846)   | 1.588<br>(0.923)   | 1.125<br>(1.018)   | -0.542<br>(1.123)  | -0.370<br>(1.212)   | 1.567<br>(1.423)   | 1.001<br>(1.666)   | -0.202<br>(2.277)  |
| Bachelor deg. (W)    | 0.002<br>(0.013)   | 0.026<br>(0.014)   | -0.020<br>(0.015)  | 0.001<br>(0.017)   | -0.003<br>(0.019)  | 0.003<br>(0.020)    | 0.023<br>(0.024)   | -0.012<br>(0.028)  | 0.045<br>(0.038)   |
| Bachelor deg. (P)    | 0.005<br>(0.013)   | 0.010<br>(0.014)   | 0.011<br>(0.016)   | 0.007<br>(0.017)   | -0.003<br>(0.019)  | 0.013<br>(0.020)    | 0.020<br>(0.024)   | 0.012<br>(0.029)   | -0.014<br>(0.039)  |
| Age (W)              | 0.001<br>(0.011)   | -0.007<br>(0.015)  | -0.040<br>(0.019)  | 0.024<br>(0.023)   | 0.013<br>(0.026)   | -0.001<br>(0.028)   | -0.046<br>(0.036)  | -0.027<br>(0.043)  | -0.017<br>(0.059)  |
| Age (P)              | 0.001<br>(0.011)   | -0.007<br>(0.015)  | -0.040<br>(0.019)  | 0.024<br>(0.023)   | 0.013<br>(0.026)   | -0.001<br>(0.028)   | -0.046<br>(0.036)  | -0.027<br>(0.043)  | -0.017<br>(0.059)  |
| Observations         | 12,955             | 10,759             | 8,714              | 6,969              | 5,403              | 3,938               | 2,718              | 1,848              | 1,173              |
| Joint <i>p</i> -val. | 0.071              | 0.737              | 0.057              | 0.439              | 0.420              | 0.991               | 0.836              | 0.508              | 0.437              |

Note: Each column describes the differences between those treated successfully and those treated unsuccessfully at the respective treatment attempt conditional on fixed effects for age-at-treatment interacted with fixed effects for treatment type. Labor market outcomes and age measured year before first treatment. (W) - woman, (P) - partner. Standard errors in parentheses.



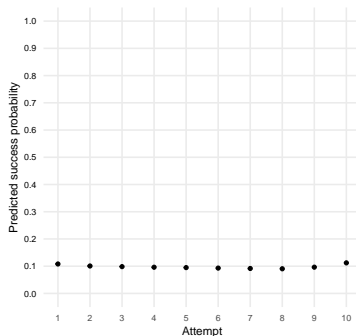
# Representative and Relevant Treatment group

Table 3: Full sample, relier sample, and representative sample

|                    | Success<br>(1)        | Fail<br>(2)           | Reliers<br>(3)        | Representative<br>(4) | Success vs rep.<br>(1)-(4) | Rel. vs rep.<br>(3)-(4) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Work (W)           | 0.882<br>[0.323]      | 0.863<br>[0.344]      | 0.820<br>[0.335]      | 0.800<br>[0.400]      | 0.082<br>(0.010)           | 0.020<br>(0.005)        |
| Work (P)           | 0.884<br>[0.320]      | 0.865<br>[0.342]      | 0.849<br>[0.345]      | 0.782<br>[0.413]      | 0.103<br>(0.010)           | 0.068<br>(0.005)        |
| Hours (W)          | 1240.315<br>[604.666] | 1207.860<br>[635.194] | 1117.711<br>[584.369] | 1068.897<br>[698.712] | 171.418<br>(16.915)        | 48.815<br>(8.442)       |
| Hours (P)          | 1474.530<br>[658.231] | 1438.590<br>[695.692] | 1390.699<br>[663.944] | 1242.166<br>[794.776] | 232.364<br>(19.241)        | 148.533<br>(9.591)      |
| Income 1000s € (W) | 28.065<br>[19.559]    | 27.418<br>[20.219]    | 24.976<br>[15.080]    | 20.846<br>[17.990]    | 7.219<br>(0.436)           | 4.130<br>(0.218)        |
| Income 1000s € (P) | 37.205<br>[26.482]    | 36.952<br>[29.452]    | 35.299<br>[23.982]    | 27.471<br>[28.686]    | 9.734<br>(0.694)           | 7.828<br>(0.346)        |
| Bachelor deg. (W)  | 0.480<br>[0.500]      | 0.451<br>[0.498]      | 0.398<br>[0.411]      | 0.411<br>[0.492]      | 0.069<br>(0.012)           | -0.012<br>(0.006)       |
| Bachelor deg. (P)  | 0.394<br>[0.489]      | 0.381<br>[0.486]      | 0.329<br>[0.397]      | 0.345<br>[0.475]      | 0.049<br>(0.012)           | -0.015<br>(0.006)       |
| Age (W)            | 31.638<br>[4.015]     | 32.388<br>[4.383]     | 33.480<br>[3.896]     | 28.375<br>[4.657]     | 3.263<br>(0.113)           | 5.105<br>(0.056)        |
| Age (P)            | 34.675<br>[5.513]     | 35.461<br>[5.996]     | 36.580<br>[3.927]     | 28.375<br>[4.663]     | 6.300<br>(0.113)           | 8.205<br>(0.057)        |
| Observations       | 1,714                 | 13,809                | 4,882                 | 376,157               |                            |                         |

Note: Labor market outcomes measured year before first treatment for main sample and year and 9 months before birth of first child for representative sample. Representative sample selected to match main sample by year of conception. Relier sample consists of women who remain childless 7 years after their first ART attempt with weights described under implementation. (W) - woman, (P) - partner. Standard deviations in brackets. Standard errors in parentheses.

# Predicted Success Prob. per Treatment



**Figure 5:** Predicted success probability holding  $X$  fixed at first attempt average

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# Attempts

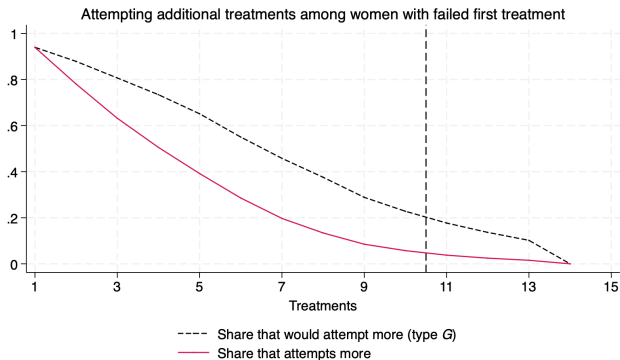


Figure 6: Number of treatments and type

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# Non-treatment Conception by Type

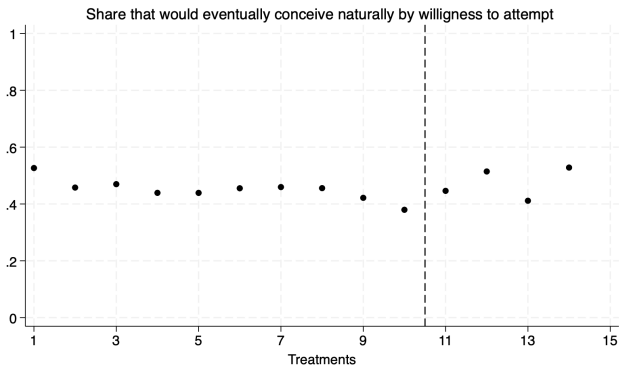


Figure 7: Conceiving naturally and willingness to attempt

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# Trimming shares

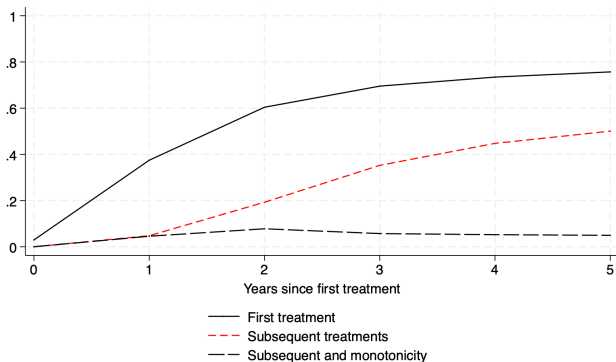


Figure 8: Trimming share under different information

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# Correction Term

$$\begin{aligned} \text{corr}_L(\text{data}, \eta_0) &= q_1(s_0(X_1), X_1) \prod_{j=1}^P \frac{1 - D_j}{1 - e_j(X_j)} (S - s(0, X_1)) \\ &\quad - q_1(s_0(X_1), X_1) \frac{D_1}{e_1(X_1)} (1_{\{Y < q_1(s_0(X_1), X_1)\}} - s_0(X_1)) \\ &\quad - \frac{D_1 - e_1(X_1)}{e_1(X_1)} z_L^+(1, X_1) s(0, X_1) \\ &\quad + \sum_k \mathbb{1}_{P \geq j} \prod_j^{k-1} \frac{1 - D_j}{1 - e_j(X_j)} \frac{e_k(X_k) - D_k}{1 - e_k(X_k)} (s_k(0, X_k) \beta_k(0, X_k)) \\ &\quad + \sum_k \mathbb{1}_{P \geq j} \prod_j^{k-1} \frac{1 - D_j}{1 - e_j(X_j)} \frac{e_k(X_k) - D_k}{1 - e_k(X_k)} q_1(s_0(X_1), X_1) (s(0, X_1) - s_k(0, X_k)) \end{aligned}$$

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# Bounds: Absolute

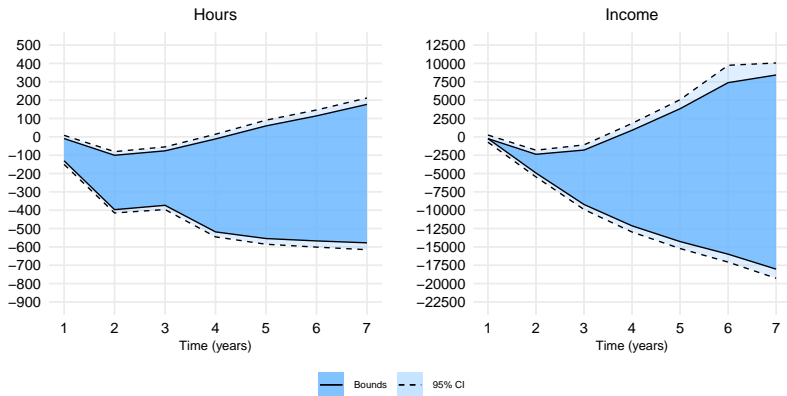


Figure 9: Bounds effects

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# Bounds: Hours - Comparison to Baseline Lee Bounds

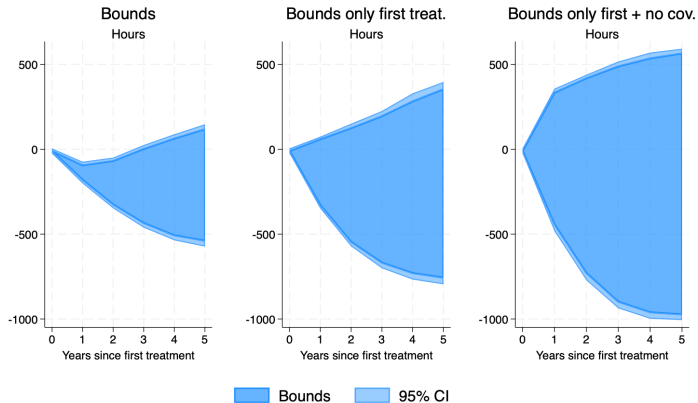


Figure 10: Comparison with baseline Lee: hours



# Bounds: Income - Comparison to Baseline Lee Bounds

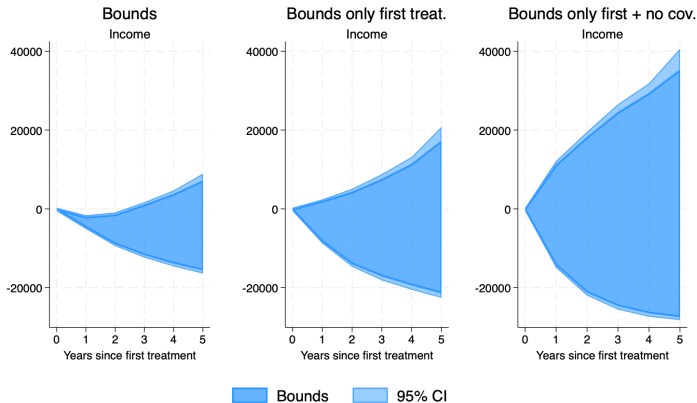


Figure 11: Comparison with baseline Lee: income

# Monotonicity (cont.)

Is monotonicity realistic?

## Monotonicity (cont.)

Is monotonicity realistic?

- ▶ Yes, if families are determined to have at least one child.
  - ▶ Decreasing marginal returns to children.
  - ▶ Stronger sufficient assumption: success cannot increase total (natural) births.

# Monotonicity (cont.)

Is monotonicity realistic?

- ▶ Yes, if families are determined to have at least one child.
  - ▶ Decreasing marginal returns to children.
  - ▶ Stronger sufficient assumption: success cannot increase total (natural) births.
- ▶ No, if first treatment success increases the likelihood of attempting to conceive naturally.

# Monotonicity (cont.)

Is monotonicity realistic?

- ▶ Yes, if families are determined to have at least one child.
  - ▶ Decreasing marginal returns to children.
  - ▶ Stronger sufficient assumption: success cannot increase total (natural) births.
- ▶ No, if first treatment success increases the likelihood of attempting to conceive naturally.
  - ▶ Couples may realize they are fertile and try more.

# Monotonicity (cont.)

Is monotonicity realistic?

- ▶ Yes, if families are determined to have at least one child.
  - ▶ Decreasing marginal returns to children.
  - ▶ Stronger sufficient assumption: success cannot increase total (natural) births.
- ▶ No, if first treatment success increases the likelihood of attempting to conceive naturally.
  - ▶ Couples may realize they are fertile and try more.
  - ▶ First child may “save the relationship” resulting in more attempts to conceive.

# Monotonicity (cont.)

Is monotonicity realistic?

- ▶ Yes, if families are determined to have at least one child.
  - ▶ Decreasing marginal returns to children.
  - ▶ Stronger sufficient assumption: success cannot increase total (natural) births.
- ▶ No, if first treatment success increases the likelihood of attempting to conceive naturally.
  - ▶ Couples may realize they are fertile and try more.
  - ▶ First child may “save the relationship” resulting in more attempts to conceive.
- ▶ Robustness: restrict to only couples that stay together

Effects

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Benefit of monotonicity

Graphic intuition

# Benefit of Monotonicity

- ▶ Women who conceive a second child naturally are not the women who would remain childless.



# Benefit of Monotonicity

- ▶ Women who conceive a second child naturally are not the women who would remain childless.
- ▶ This restricts which women among successfully treated could have remained childless had all treatment attempts failed.

# Benefit of Monotonicity

- ▶ Women who conceive a second child naturally are not the women who would remain childless.
- ▶ This restricts which women among successfully treated could have remained childless had all treatment attempts failed.
- ▶ Narrower bounds.

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# Monotonicity: Intuition (1)

Identify distribution of motherhood outcomes from group whose first treatment succeeds:

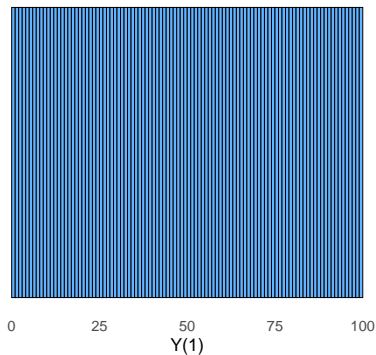


Figure 12: Distribution of potential motherhood outcomes

## Monotonicity: Intuition (2)

Without monotonicity: 20 with highest/lowest outcomes:

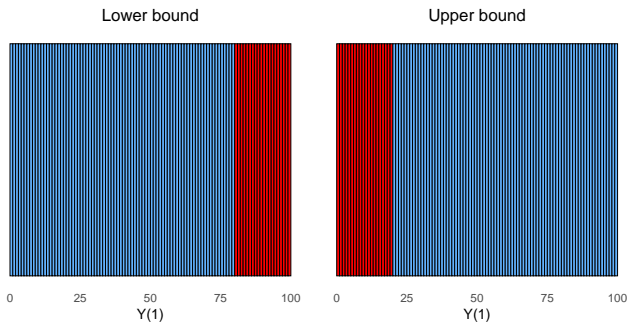


Figure 13: Distribution of potential motherhood outcomes

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## Monotonicity: Intuition (3)

With monotonicity: first, drop 10 who conceive again naturally:

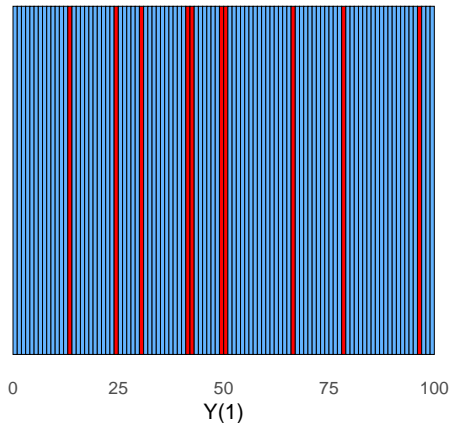


Figure 14: Distribution of potential motherhood outcomes

## Monotonicity: Intuition (4)

With monotonicity: second, drop another 10 with highest/lowest outcomes:

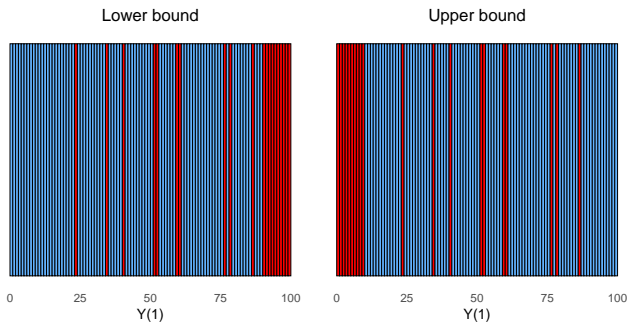


Figure 15: Distribution of potential motherhood outcomes

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# Monotonicity: Intuition (5)

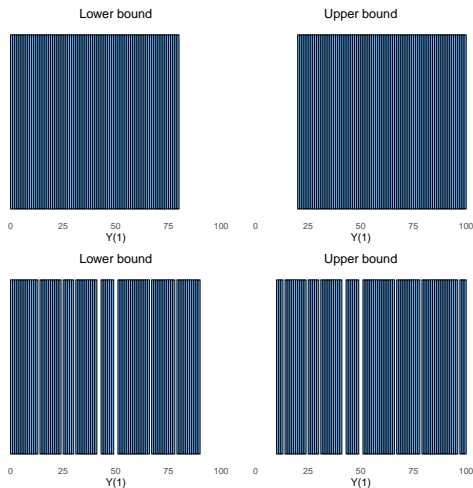


Figure 16: Distribution of potential motherhood outcomes

# Monotone Bounds: Absolute

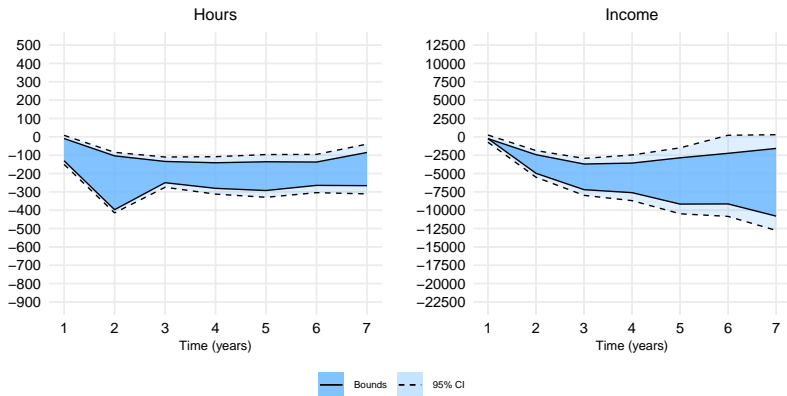


Figure 17: Monotone bounds: absolute terms

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# How Wide are the Bounds?

6 years after first treatment:

- ▶ Bounds:
  - ▶ 1 SD of pre-treatment hours
  - ▶ 1 SD of pre-treatment earnings
- ▶ Monotone bounds:
  - ▶ 0.15 SD of pre-treatment hours
  - ▶ 0.25 SD of pre-treatment earnings

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# Extensions

## Outcomes:

- ▶ Fatherhood Absolute Percentage
- ▶ Decomposing gender inequality Share explained by children
- ▶ Effect of delaying motherhood Absolute Cumulative

## Existing estimators:

- ▶ Are existing estimates biased? Naive IV-IVF equiv. Plac. ES Place. ineq.
- ▶ Are estimates less informative than existing? Confidence intervals

## Robustness:

- ▶ Bias due to depression Counterfact. Depr. effect Bounds non-depr. Arguments
- ▶ Correcting for parental leave Max leave
- ▶ Inequality correcting for age De-aging partners
- ▶ Stable complier group Childless final period
- ▶ Estimator without DML Identification Effects
- ▶ Relaxing monotonicity Direction Partnered only

## Other:

- ▶ Heterogeneity Covariates Willingness to try
- ▶ Population imputation\* ES pop. Mother. imp. Childless imp. Effect imp. Gap

# Monotone Bounds: Women who Remain Childless

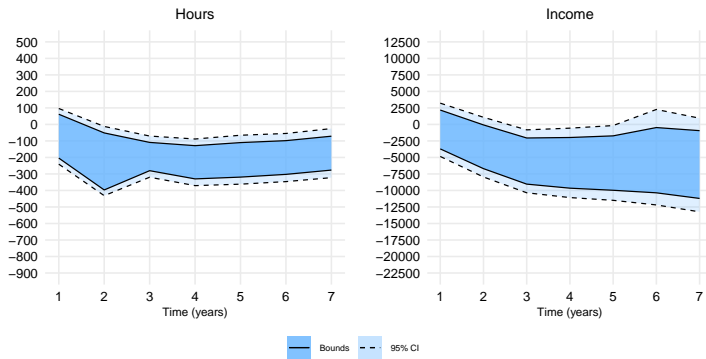


Figure 18: Monotone bounds using final status

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# Event Study: Population vs IUI Sample

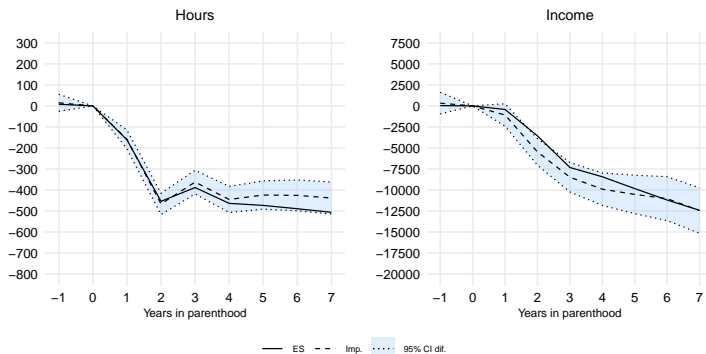


Figure 19: ES for population and women with first IUI success

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# Imputing Population Motherhood Outcomes Using IUI Sample

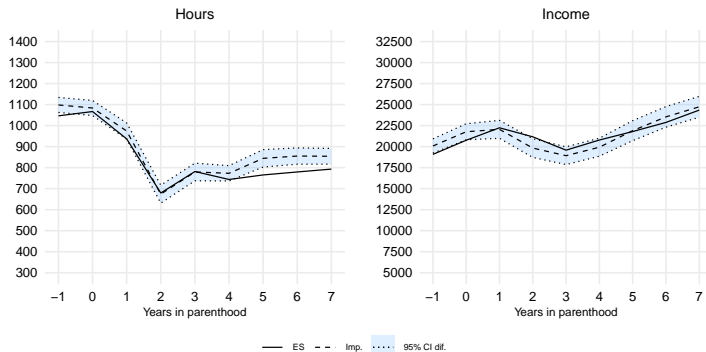


Figure 20: Population Outcomes vs IUI-imputation (age & education)

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# Imputing Population Childless Outcomes Using IUI Sample

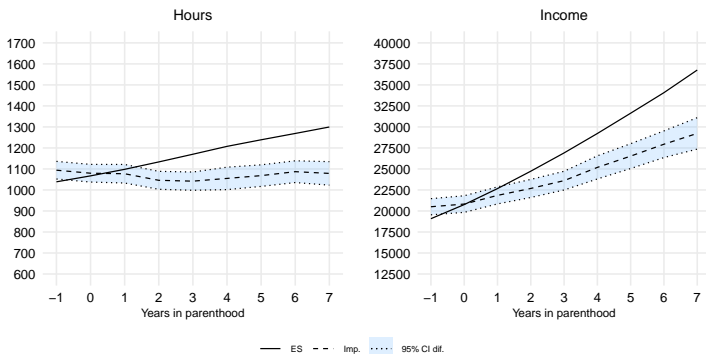


Figure 21: Population Outcomes vs IUI-imputation (age & education)

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# Event Study vs IUI-imputation for Population

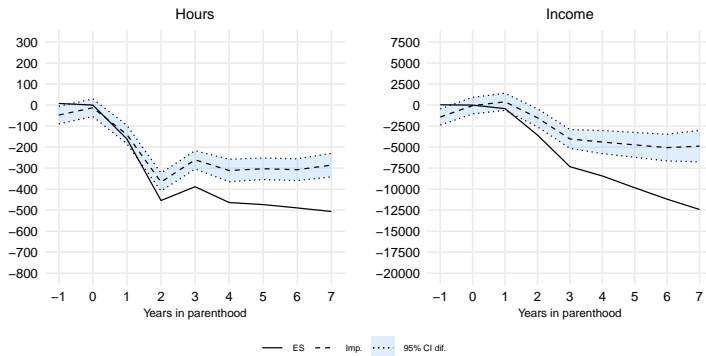


Figure 22: Event study vs IUI-imputation for population (age & education)

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# Event Study vs IUI-imputation: Inequality

$$\text{Ineq. cause by children} = \frac{\tau}{\text{Ineq. w/o children} + \tau}$$



# Event Study vs IUI-imputation: Inequality

$$\text{Ineq. cause by children} = \frac{\tau}{\text{Ineq. w/o children} + \tau}$$

# Event Study vs IUI-imputation: Inequality

$$\text{Ineq. cause by children} = \frac{\tau}{\text{Ineq. w/o children} + \tau}$$

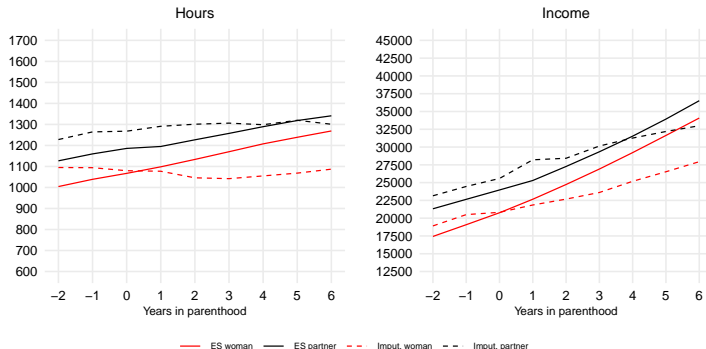
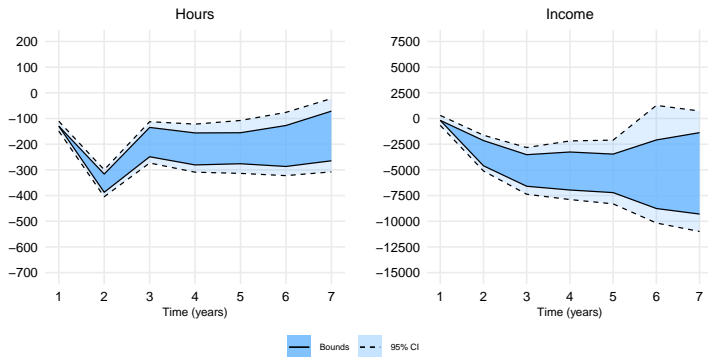


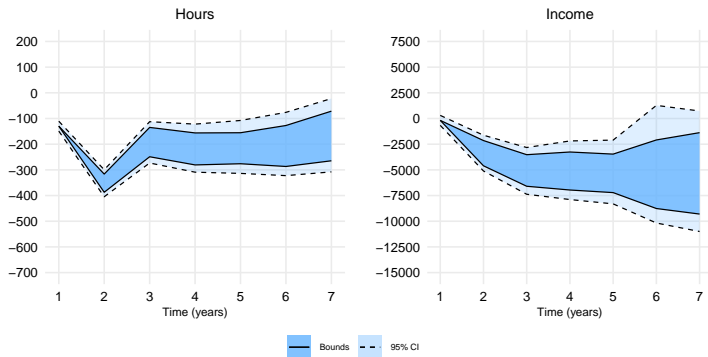
Figure 23: Event study vs IUI-imputation for population gaps (age & education), partner outcomes shifted 3 years

# Simple estimator



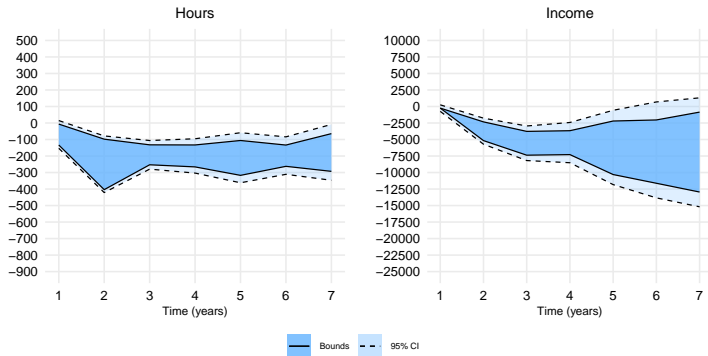
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# Simple estimator



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# Relaxing Monotonicity Direction



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# Heterogeneity by Covariates

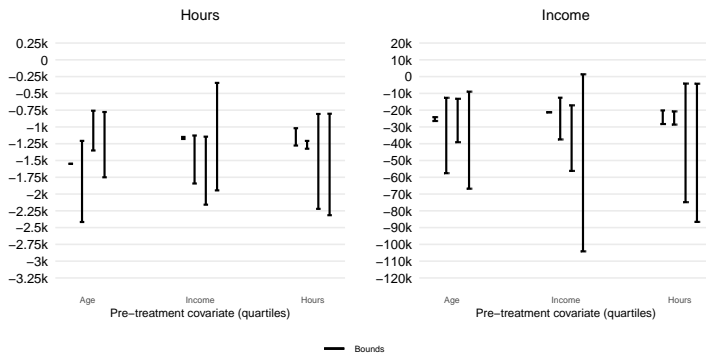


Figure 24: Cumulative outcomes after 6 years, pre-treatment covariates

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# Heterogeneity by Willingness to Undergo Procedures

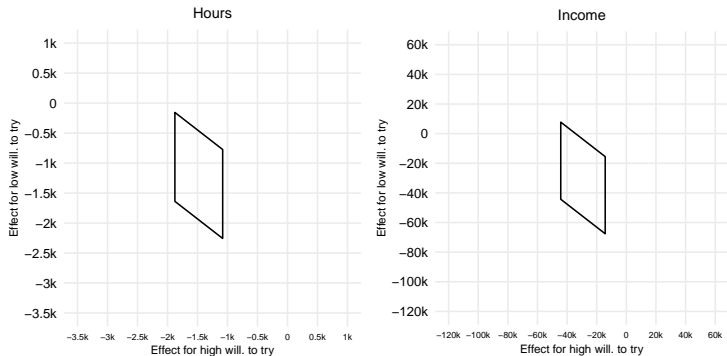


Figure 25: Cumulative outcomes 6 years after,  $G$  above or below 6

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# Monotone Bounds: Excluding Depression

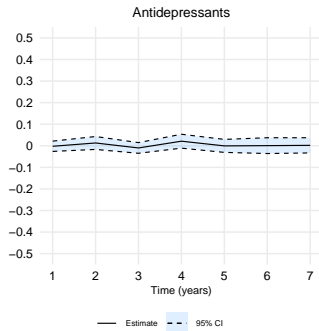


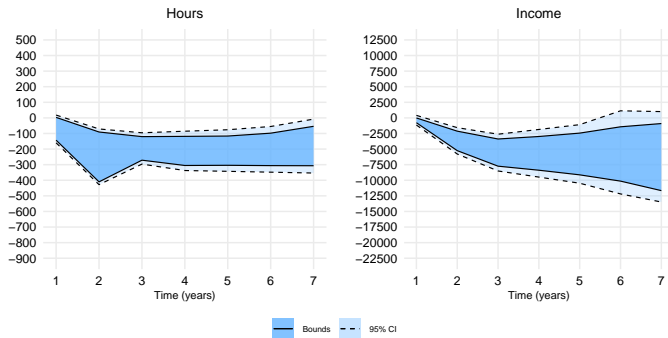
Figure 26: Sequential-IV estimates for effect on antidepressant take-up

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# Monotone Bounds: Excluding Depressed



**Figure 27:** Monotone bounds for women who would not start antidepressants if they were to remain childless

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[Back \(model\)](#)

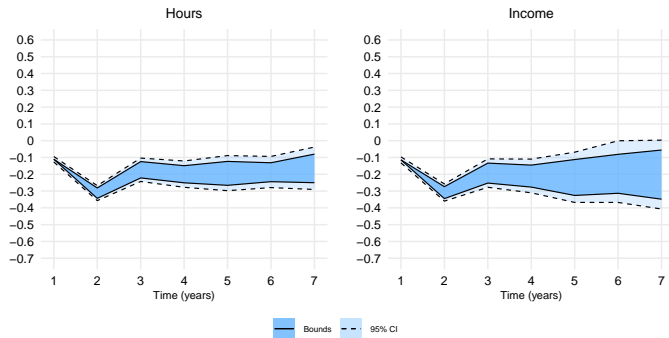
# Arguments Regarding Mental Health

- ▶ Mental health consequences of not having a child are arguably a part of the relevant counterfactual
- ▶ IUI is significantly less invasive than IVF
- ▶ “Effects” of severe health shocks (including mental health shocks and psychical shocks that are followed by invasive treatments) are “relatively” small
- ▶ Partners’ mental health might also suffer, which could alleviate concerns for inequality estimates

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# Monotone Bounds: Assuming Maximum Leave



**Figure 28:** Monotone bounds scaling outcomes in years with childbirth by max. leave fraction

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# Monotone Bounds: Correcting for Partner's age

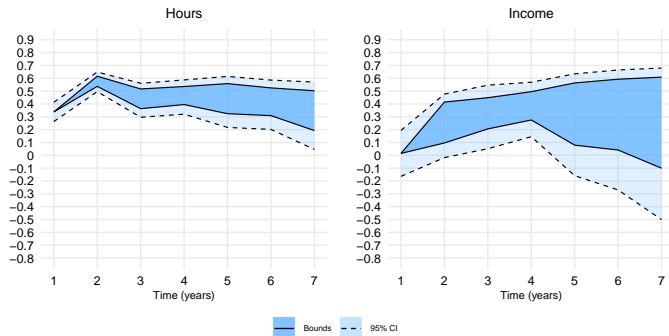


Figure 29: Monotone bounds using male income at same age as female

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# Monotone Bounds: Fatherhood Penalty

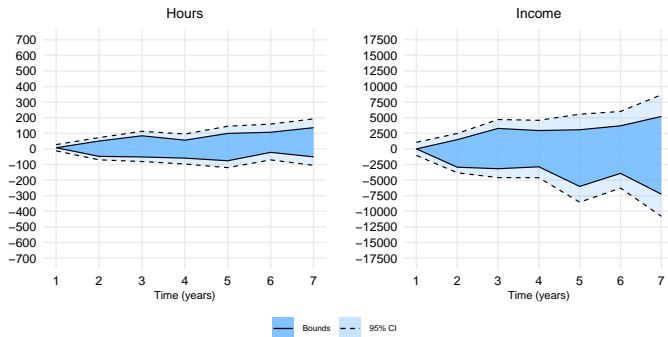


Figure 30: Monotone bounds for partners

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# Monotone Bounds: Fatherhood Penalty in Percent

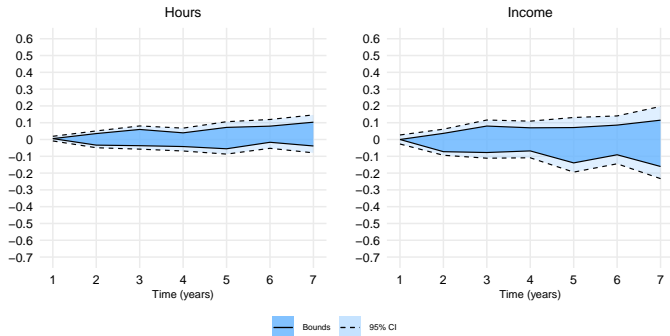


Figure 31: Monotone bounds for partners in percent

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# Monotone Bounds: Explaining Gender Inequality

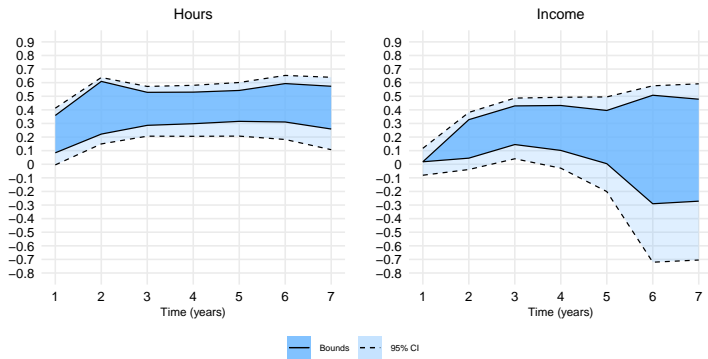


Figure 32: Share of gender inequality explained by parenthood

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# Are Bounds Less Informative?

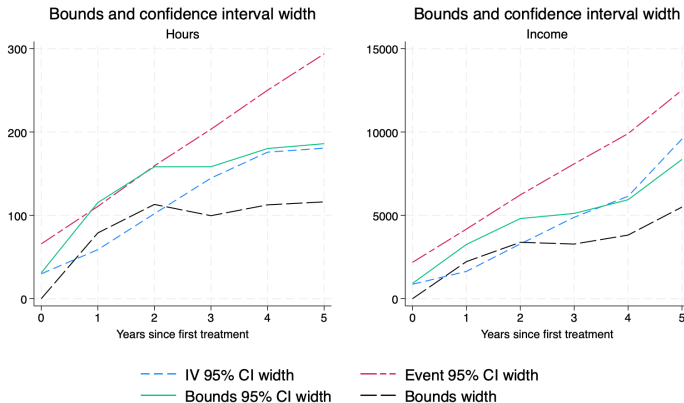


Figure 33: Confidence intervals for different methods



# Naive Comparison

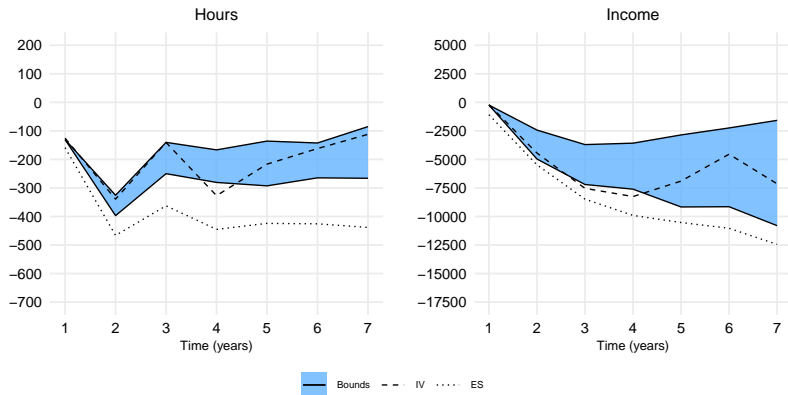


Figure 34: Estimates based on different methods

IV→women with lowest treated hours get children after ACPs fail

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# Monotone Bounds and IV

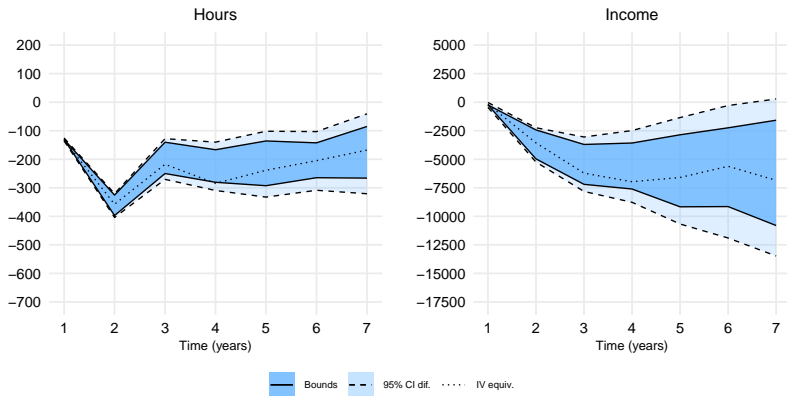


Figure 35: Bounds and IV equivalent for the same population

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# Placebo Event

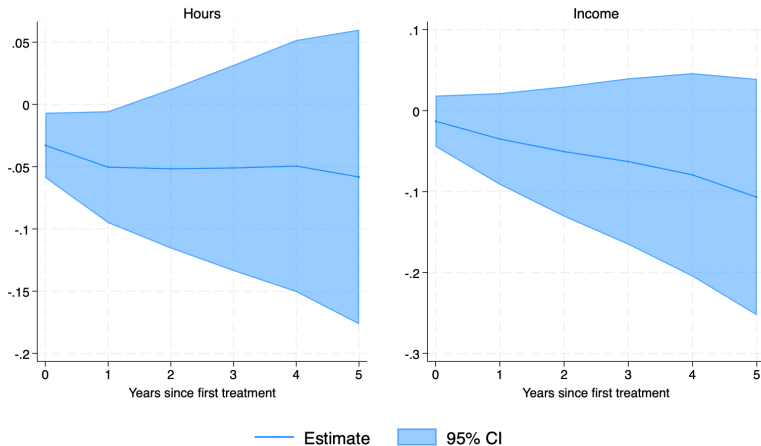


Figure 36: Placebo event study

# Inequality treating ES bias as causal

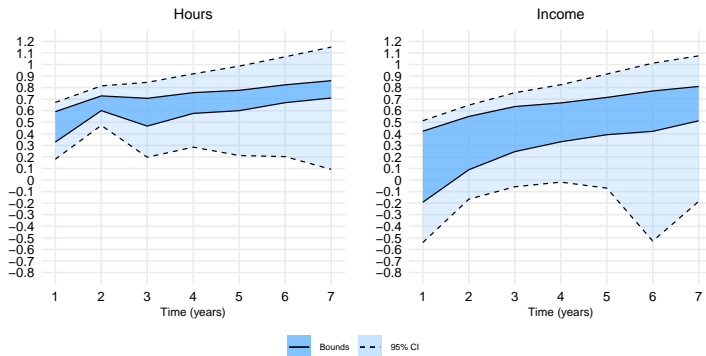


Figure 37: Placebo effects as share of bounds for the same population

Two possible interpretations:

- ▶ Event study severely overstates the penalty
- ▶ Large share of penalty is due to trying to conceive not parenthood per se

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# Yearly effect of Delaying Motherhood

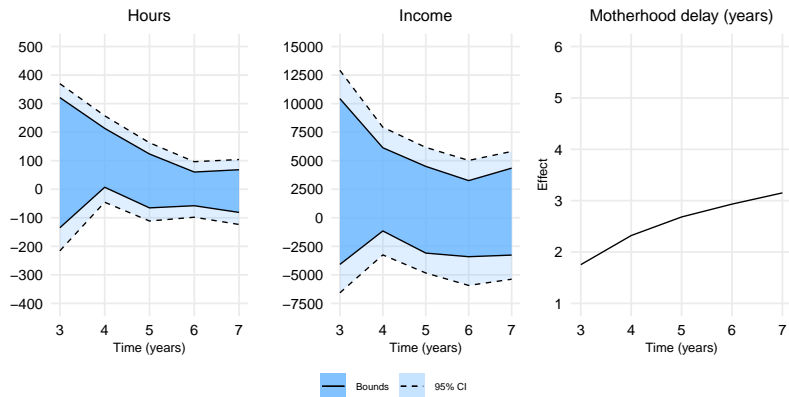


Figure 38: Effect of delaying relative to motherhood at first attempt

**Opposite of what is frequently assumed!**

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# Cumulative effect of Delaying Motherhood

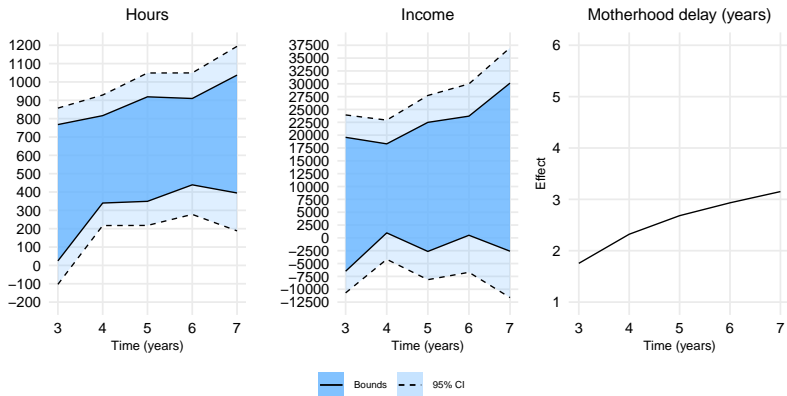


Figure 39: Effect of delaying relative to motherhood at first attempt

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# Monotone Bounds: Women who Remain Childless

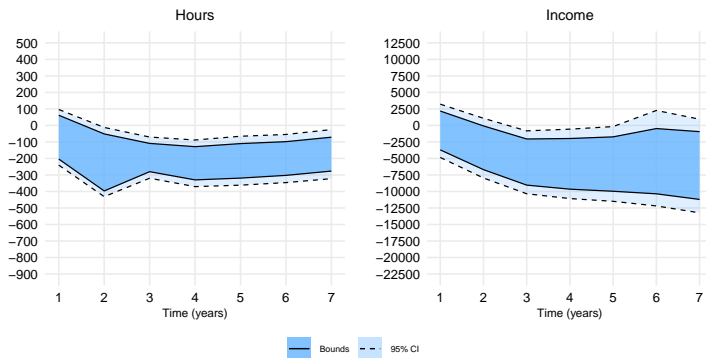


Figure 40: Monotone bounds using final status

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# Relaxing Monotonicity to Partnered Women

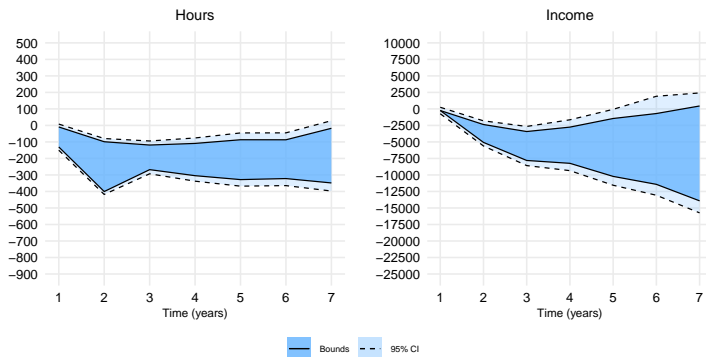


Figure 41: Monotone bounds using women who stay partnered

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[Back \(monotonicity\)](#)



# Testing the Plug-in Approach

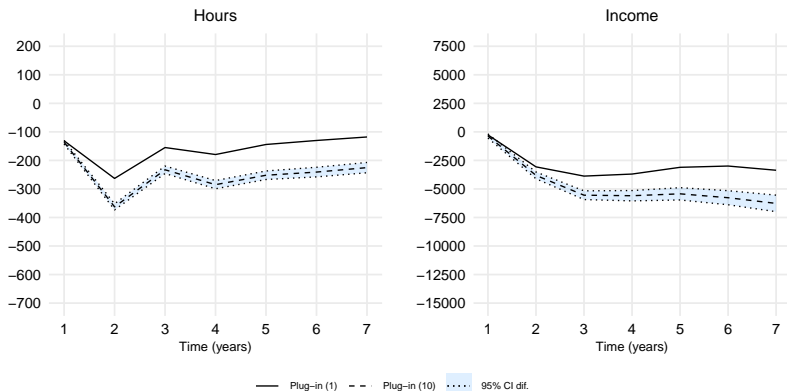


Figure 42: Plug-in estimators exploiting different number of treatments

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# Application to Other Settings

Key features:

1. Dynamic treatment effects.
2. Individuals (may choose to) “re-apply” for random treatment assignment.
3. Some may obtain treatment endogenously.

# Application to Other Settings

Key features:

1. Dynamic treatment effects.
2. Individuals (may choose to) “re-apply” for random treatment assignment.
3. Some may obtain treatment endogenously.

Few examples:

- Education, medical trials, research grants, job training.

Examples

# Application to Other Settings (Examples)

- ▶ Education: grade retention, school admission lotteries, special and gifted education programs.
- ▶ Medical trials: individuals assigned to control may eventually choose to participate in other medical trials or selectively receive a different treatment.
- ▶ Research grants: after unsuccessful application can apply for another or receive funding other ways.
- ▶ Job training: those not assigned to training may re-apply, some assignments may be non-random.

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# Estimated Bias and Placebo Event Study

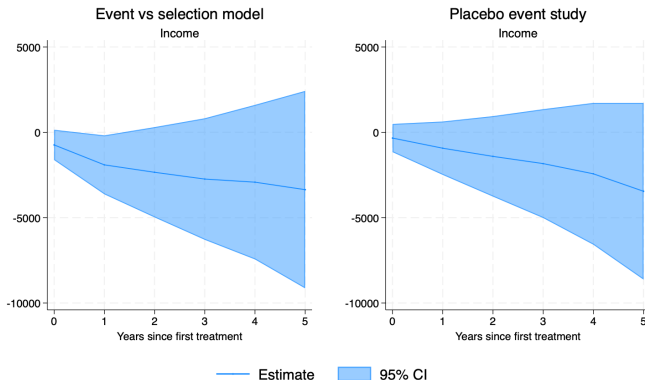


Figure 43: Difference between selection model estimate and event study estimate compared to placebo event study estimate

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