

# Food Stamp Participation and Employment among Adult Only Households

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## Overview

This paper in a nutshell uses administrative data on food stamp participants and event history models to investigate the determinants of entry and exit into food stamps and employment.

The key finding is that new work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) reduced food stamp participation, reduced spell length and slight increase on employment.

Impressions

- Style

- Substance

Minor suggestions for Improvement

## Major Reform Motivates the Study

Carrot - transitional assistance to people trying to leave welfare

Stick - time-limited benefits and stringent, full-family sanctions.

All the data is post-reform period.

There are some changes

## Comments on Substance

The study uses these data to estimate hazard models of exit from and entry into the Food Stamp Program as well as longitudinal binary choice models of employment. The models are estimated jointly to account for the endogeneity of employment.

Paper promotes rich information in South Carolina's administrative records. Appears mostly detailed with start and stop dates.

This sample is really choice based.

## Appendix Table 1: Just means wanted to see variance

Looking at results large offsetting effects of ABAWD exempt status and population density. Much is made of the former but the impact of the latter is large compared to individual PI characteristics

Do people move?

Lillard's (1993) simultaneous hazards procedure to address problems of unobserved heterogeneity and endogeneity. Separate analyses are conducted by age group

Duration dependence and unobserved heterogeneity.

Multiple spells could help

## What's New?

### South Carolina Experience

Results seems similar to a wide body of literature: Staveley et al. (2002) Maryland, Currie and Grogger (2001), Kabbani and Wilde (2003) and Kornfield (2002)

### Why?

Increasing neat “behavioral” labor work examining what these people do with the money. Any insights regarding recertification?