

Financial Technology Adoption: Network Externalities of Cashless Payments in Mexico

Sean Higgins
Northwestern University

Motivation

New financial technologies are rapidly changing the way that households shop, save, borrow, and make other financial decisions

Motivation

New financial technologies are rapidly changing the way that households shop, save, borrow, and make other financial decisions

Payment technologies can benefit both sides of the market

- Consumers benefit from lower transaction costs
 - Costs of traveling to a bank (Bachas, Gertler, Higgins, Seira 2018)
 - Crime risks of carrying cash (Economides and Jeziorski 2017)
- Retail firms
 - Reduce risk of cash theft (Rogoff 2014)
 - Attract consumers who prefer these payment technologies

Motivation

Two-sided markets generate **indirect network externalities**

- Can lead to multiple adoption equilibria
- Moving to the Pareto-dominating equilibrium requires coordination (Katz and Shapiro 1986; Gowrisankaran and Stavins 2004)

Motivation

Two-sided markets generate **indirect network externalities**

- Can lead to multiple adoption equilibria
- Moving to the Pareto-dominating equilibrium requires coordination (Katz and Shapiro 1986; Gowrisankaran and Stavins 2004)

Thus, **coordination failures** can constrain financial technology adoption

Motivation

Two-sided markets generate **indirect network externalities**

- Can lead to multiple adoption equilibria
- Moving to the Pareto-dominating equilibrium requires coordination (Katz and Shapiro 1986; Gowrisankaran and Stavins 2004)

Thus, **coordination failures** can constrain financial technology adoption

And spillovers of financial technology adoption might be large

- Most research focuses on direct effects for households who adopt (Dupas and Robinson 2013; Callen et al 2019; Breza et al 2020)

This paper

Research question: Do coordination failures constrain financial technology adoption?

This paper

Research question: Do coordination failures constrain financial technology adoption?

Exploit natural experiment that shocked financial technology adoption on one side of market

- Mexico distributed 1 million debit cards to cash transfer beneficiaries

This paper

Research question: Do coordination failures constrain financial technology adoption?

Exploit natural experiment that shocked financial technology adoption on one side of market

- Mexico distributed 1 million debit cards to cash transfer beneficiaries

Combine administrative data on debit card rollout with rich collection of microdata on consumers and retail firms

Key results

1. Increased financial technology adoption by small retailers (corner stores)
 - No effect among supermarkets, which already had high adoption

Key results

1. Increased financial technology adoption by small retailers (corner stores)
 - No effect among supermarkets, which already had high adoption
2. Spillovers to other consumers not directly affected by shock:
 - Other consumers adopt cards (21% ↑)
 - Richer shift 13% of supermarket consumption to corner stores

Key results

1. Increased financial technology adoption by small retailers (corner stores)
 - No effect among supermarkets, which already had high adoption
2. Spillovers to other consumers not directly affected by shock:
 - Other consumers adopt cards (21% ↑)
 - Richer shift 13% of supermarket consumption to corner stores
3. Corner store sales ↑ 6% and supermarket sales ↓ 12%

Key results

1. Increased financial technology adoption by small retailers (corner stores)
 - No effect among supermarkets, which already had high adoption
2. Spillovers to other consumers not directly affected by shock:
 - Other consumers adopt cards (21% ↑)
 - Richer shift 13% of supermarket consumption to corner stores
3. Corner store sales ↑ 6% and supermarket sales ↓ 12%
4. Over half of total consumer gains are spillovers
 - Implies that indirect network externalities are large
 - Consumer gains from spillovers exceed debit card rollout costs by 37x

Spillovers of financial technology adoption difficult to study

Spillovers of financial technology adoption difficult to study

1. Technology adoption is endogenous
 - Exploit plausibly exogenous variation in consumers' adoption of financial technology from rollout of cards by government

Spillovers of financial technology adoption difficult to study

1. Technology adoption is endogenous
 - Exploit plausibly exogenous variation in consumers' adoption of financial technology from rollout of cards by government
2. May need large local shock to induce response by supply side
 - Shock is large: 18 pp \uparrow in households with cards (on base of 36%)

Spillovers of financial technology adoption difficult to study

1. Technology adoption is endogenous
 - Exploit plausibly exogenous variation in consumers' adoption of financial technology from rollout of cards by government
2. May need large local shock to induce response by supply side
 - Shock is large: 18 pp \uparrow in households with cards (on base of 36%)
3. To isolate demand-side spillovers, need shock to subset of consumers
 - Cost of adoption only reduced for cash transfer beneficiaries

Spillovers of financial technology adoption difficult to study

1. Technology adoption is endogenous
 - Exploit plausibly exogenous variation in consumers' adoption of financial technology from rollout of cards by government
2. May need large local shock to induce response by supply side
 - Shock is large: 18 pp \uparrow in households with cards (on base of 36%)
3. To isolate demand-side spillovers, need shock to subset of consumers
 - Cost of adoption only reduced for cash transfer beneficiaries
4. Data on firm technology adoption; outcomes for firms and other consumers
 - Combine nine data sets, both administrative and survey

Administrative data

1. Administrative data on debit card rollout
 - Number of beneficiaries and payment method \times locality \times month
 - Provided by Prospera (cash transfer program)
 - All card transactions by cash transfer recipients who receive card
 - Provided by Bansefi (government bank administering accounts)

Administrative data

1. Administrative data on debit card rollout
 - Number of beneficiaries and payment method \times locality \times month
 - Provided by Prospera (cash transfer program)
 - All card transactions by cash transfer recipients who receive card
 - Provided by Bansefi (government bank administering accounts)
2. Financial technology adoption and use by retail firms
 - Universe of point-of-sale (POS) terminal adoptions
 - Universe of card transactions by all cardholders (4.7 billion transactions)
 - Accessed on-site at Mexico's Central Bank

Administrative data

1. Administrative data on debit card rollout

- Number of beneficiaries and payment method \times locality \times month
 - Provided by Prospera (cash transfer program)
- All card transactions by cash transfer recipients who receive card
 - Provided by Bansefi (government bank administering accounts)

2. Financial technology adoption and use by retail firms

- Universe of point-of-sale (POS) terminal adoptions
- Universe of card transactions by all cardholders (4.7 billion transactions)
 - Accessed on-site at Mexico's Central Bank

3. Consumer card adoption

- Quarterly number of debit cards \times issuing bank \times municipality
 - Provided by National Banking and Securities Commission

Survey data

1. Income–expenditure survey: nationally representative household sample
 - All consumption including cash
 - Includes type of store at which each item purchased
 - Census tract identifiers accessed on-site at National Statistical Institute

Survey data

1. Income–expenditure survey: nationally representative household sample
 - All consumption including cash
 - Includes type of store at which each item purchased
 - Census tract identifiers accessed on-site at National Statistical Institute
2. Economic census: panel on sales and costs of universe of retailers
 - All sales including cash
 - Accessed on-site at National Statistical Institute

Survey data

1. Income–expenditure survey: nationally representative household sample
 - All consumption including cash
 - Includes type of store at which each item purchased
 - Census tract identifiers accessed on-site at National Statistical Institute
2. Economic census: panel on sales and costs of universe of retailers
 - All sales including cash
 - Accessed on-site at National Statistical Institute
3. Quarterly labor force survey
 - Wages for 20 million worker by quarter observations

Survey data

1. Income–expenditure survey: nationally representative household sample
 - All consumption including cash
 - Includes type of store at which each item purchased
 - Census tract identifiers accessed on-site at National Statistical Institute
2. Economic census: panel on sales and costs of universe of retailers
 - All sales including cash
 - Accessed on-site at National Statistical Institute
3. Quarterly labor force survey
 - Wages for 20 million worker by quarter observations
4. High-frequency price data
 - 10 million price quotes at barcode-level product \times store \times week level
 - Accessed on-site at National Statistical Institute

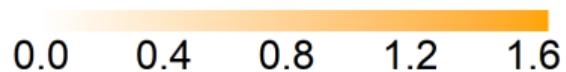
Context and identification

Debit cards and point-of-sale terminals over time (Mexico)

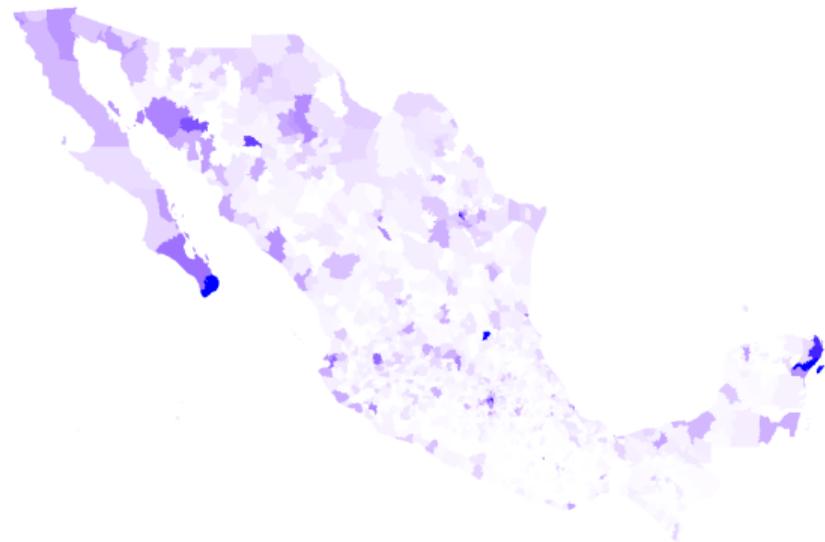
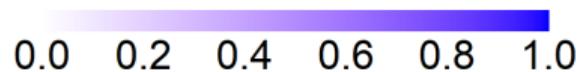
Debit cards and POS over time and space (Mexico)

2011-04

Debit cards per person



Proportion of retailers with POS terminal



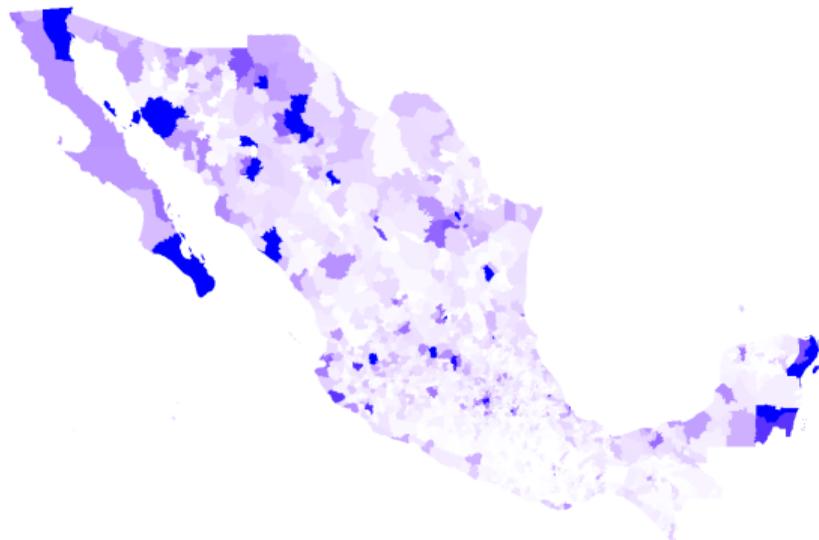
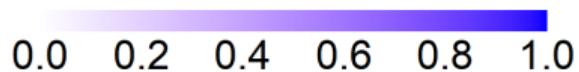
Debit cards and POS over time and space (Mexico)

2016-12

Debit cards per person



Proportion of retailers with POS terminal



Natural experiment from debit card rollout

Over 2009–2012, Mexico's conditional cash transfer program Prospera distributed about 1 million debit cards

- In urban localities (population > 15,000)

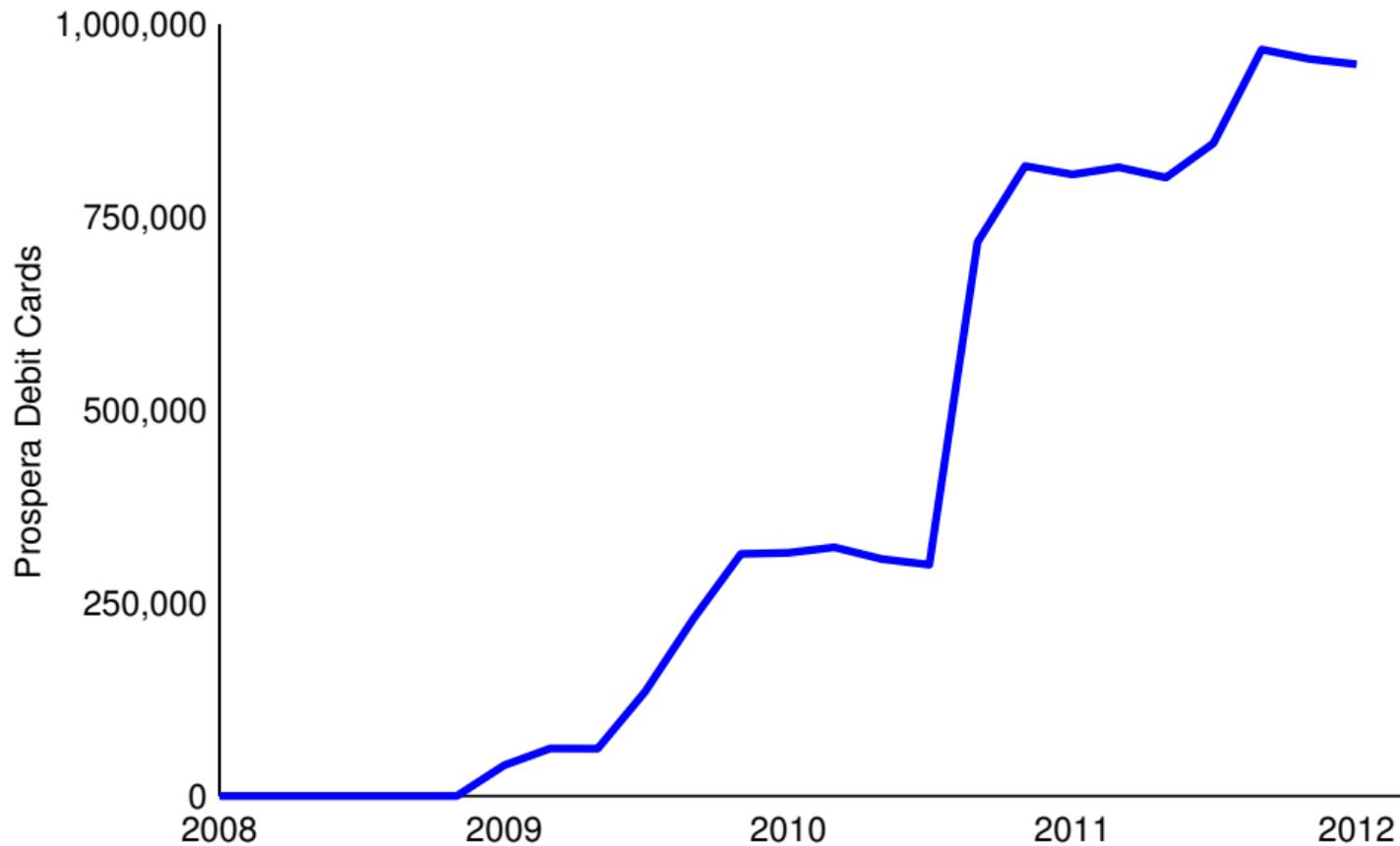
Pre-intervention: Urban recipients of government cash transfer program

- Receive transfers in a Bansefi bank account
- Paid every two months (\$150 average)

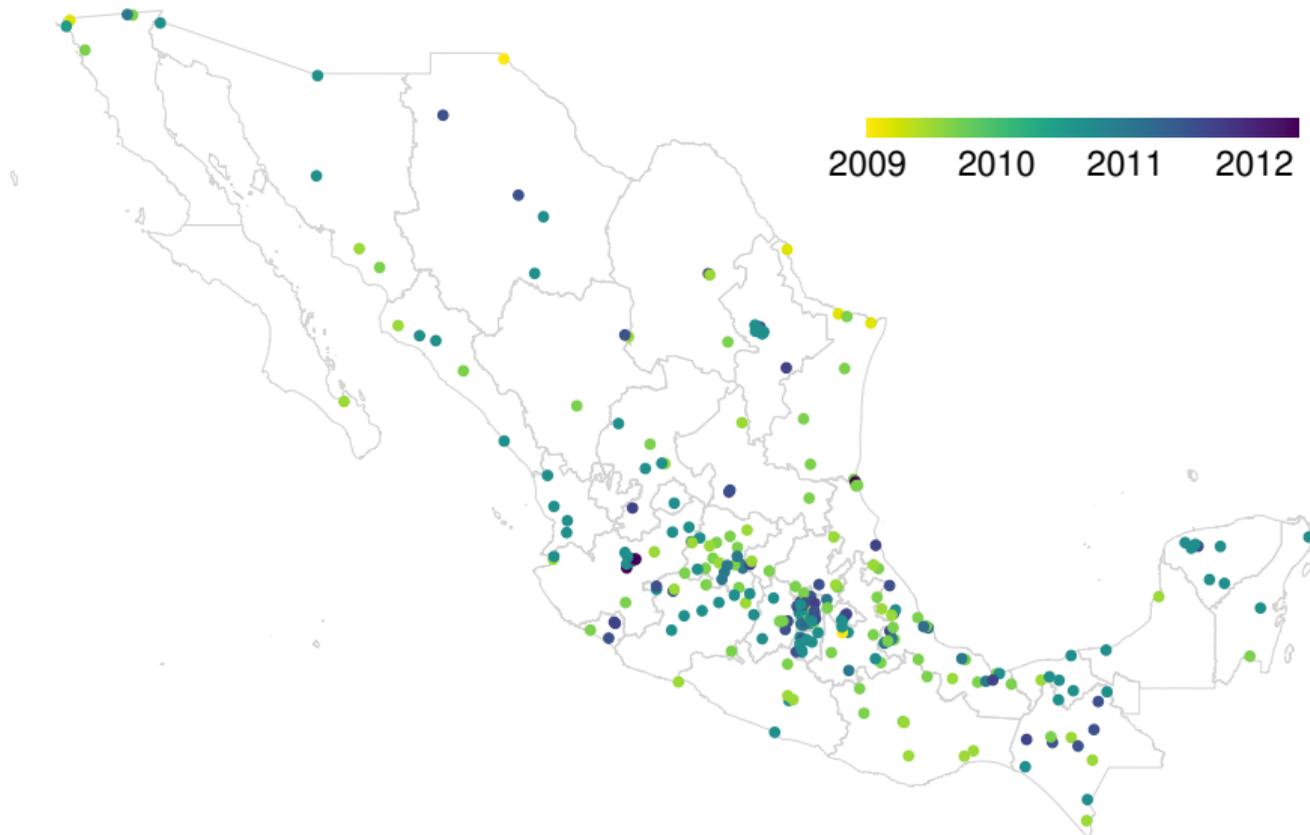
Intervention: Visa debit cards attached to accounts

- Can withdraw funds from any bank's ATM
- Use as debit cards at stores accepting Visa

Debit card rollout over time



Debit card rollout over time and space



Timing of debit card rollout

Some localities selected to be included in rollout

- Based on financial infrastructure
- In analysis, only include localities included in rollout

▶ Prospera ▶ Distance ▶ ATM use ▶ Transactions ▶ Savings ▶ Calendar ▶ Pamphlet ▶ Beneficiaries

Timing of debit card rollout

Some localities selected to be included in rollout

- Based on financial infrastructure
- In analysis, only include localities included in rollout

Conditional on included in rollout, timing not randomized but:

- Government faced capacity constraints and wanted administrative outcomes in early localities to be representative
- Test whether timing of card shock correlated with levels or changes in financial infrastructure or other locality observables [▶ Show](#)

Timing of debit card rollout

Some localities selected to be included in rollout

- Based on financial infrastructure
- In analysis, only include localities included in rollout

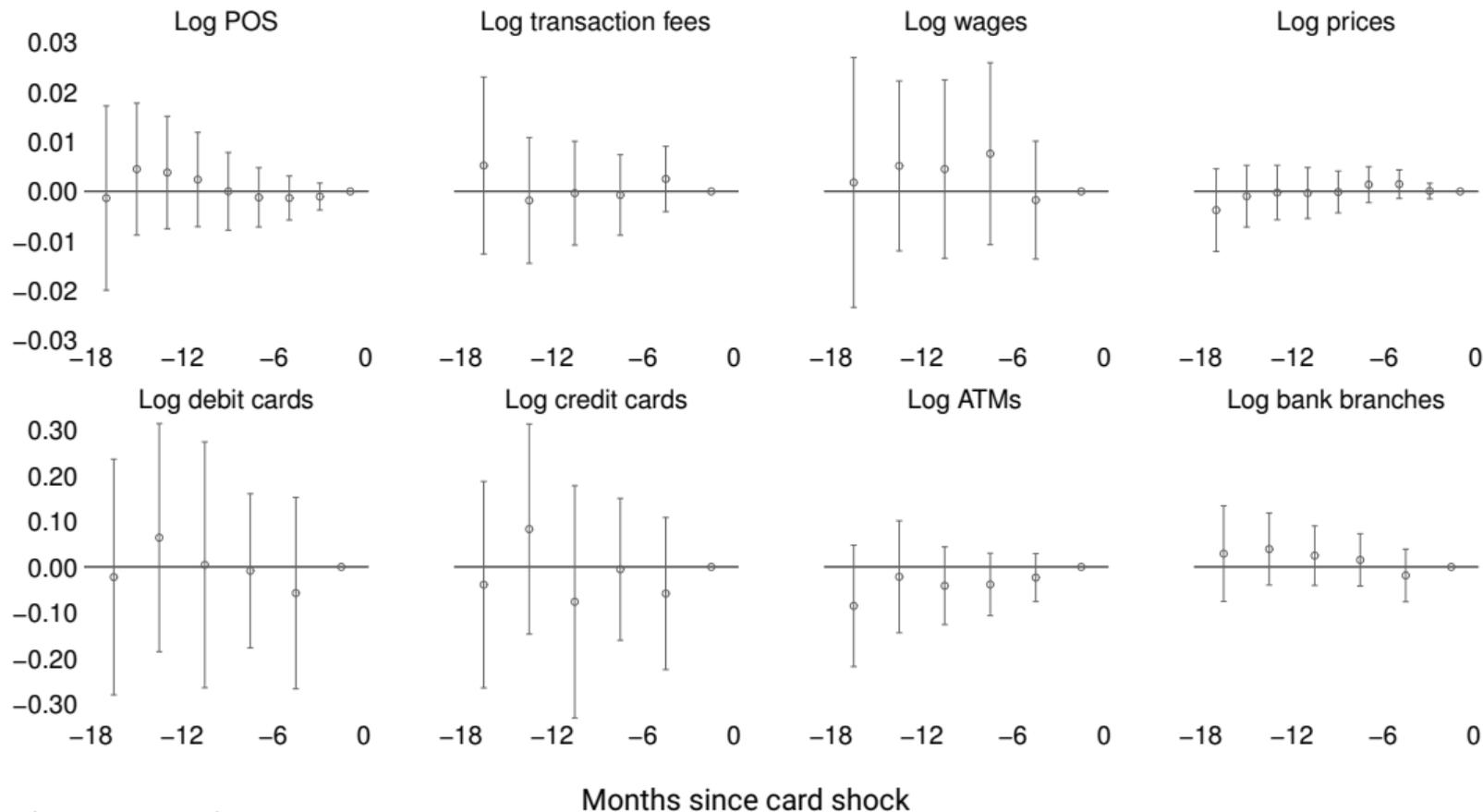
Conditional on included in rollout, timing not randomized but:

- Government faced capacity constraints and wanted administrative outcomes in early localities to be representative
- Test whether timing of card shock correlated with levels or changes in financial infrastructure or other locality observables [▶ Show](#)

No differential change in number of beneficiaries or benefit amounts [▶ Show](#)

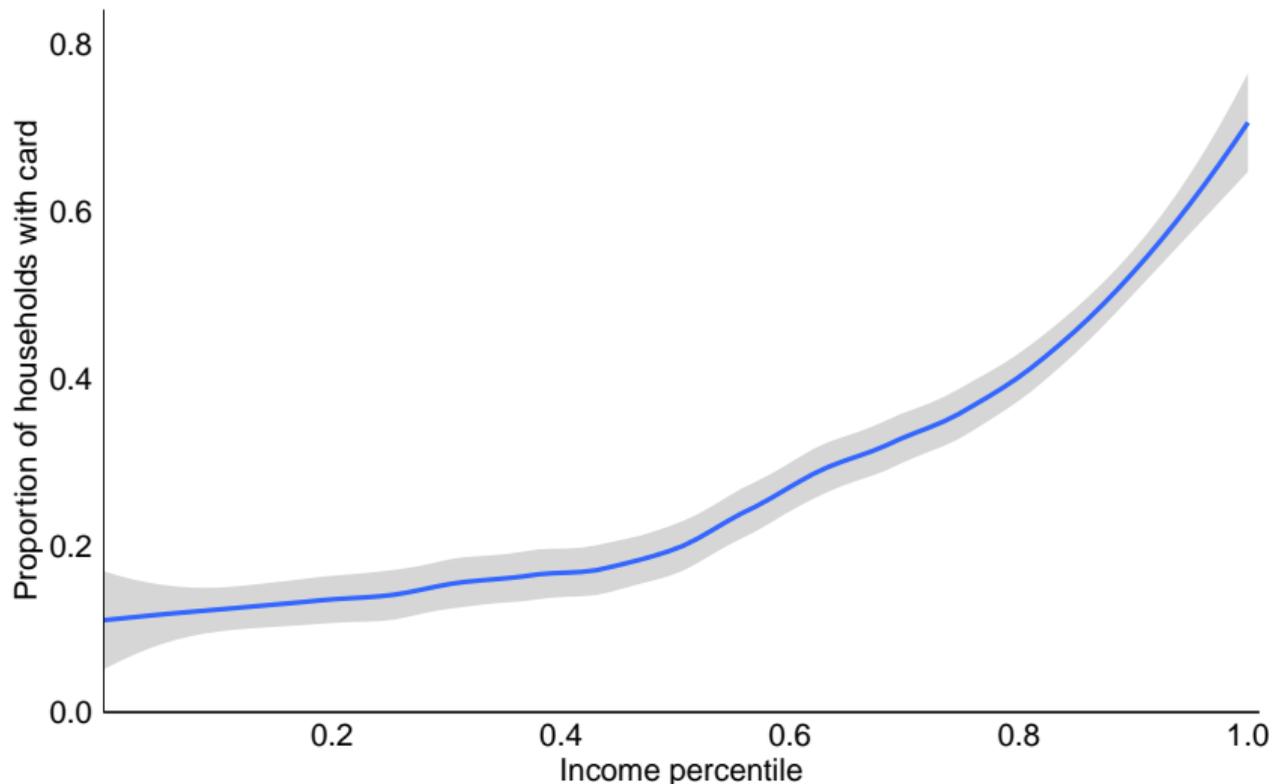
[▶ Prospera](#) [▶ Distance](#) [▶ ATM use](#) [▶ Transactions](#) [▶ Savings](#) [▶ Calendar](#) [▶ Pamphlet](#) [▶ Beneficiaries](#)

Balanced pre-trends in financial and other variables



Prevalence of debit and credit cards before rollout

Mexican Family Life Survey 2009 (restricted to urban localities)



Prevalence of POS terminals by store type

Overall: 32% of retailers had a POS terminal prior to rollout



Costs of POS adoption

Low-adoption equilibrium requires network externalities and fixed cost of adoption

Costs of POS adoption

Low-adoption equilibrium requires network externalities and fixed cost of adoption

POS rented to retailer from bank

- Requires firm to have an account at that bank
- Non-bank e-payment companies (e.g. Square) did not enter until 2013

Low initial cost (\$23) but \$27/month if transact $<$ \$2000/month on POS

- Constraint binds for 95% of corner stores

Per-transaction cost: 1.75% for retail

Potential tax cost (frequently mentioned in focus groups)

Non-monetary costs e.g. paperwork (but not required to be formal)

ACEPTAMOS TODAS LAS TARJETAS DE CRÉDITO...

RECUPERA TU ENERGÍA

SA Free

DVO

03

RECUPERA TU ENERGÍA
1-800-255-2581
1-800-255-5993
1-800-255-5994

LA SELECCIÓN MÁS MEJOR COMPARTIDA
Coca-Cola

SABOR

Recarga Aquí
Puro

Recarga Aquí
Puro

Recarga Aquí
Puro

Man in black shirt and jeans

Man in striped shirt

Interior of the store with shelves, people, and various goods

**1) Increased financial technology adoption
by small retailers**

POS adoption

Data: Universe of point-of-sale terminal “contract changes” (adoptions, cancellations, etc.), accessed at Mexico’s Central Bank

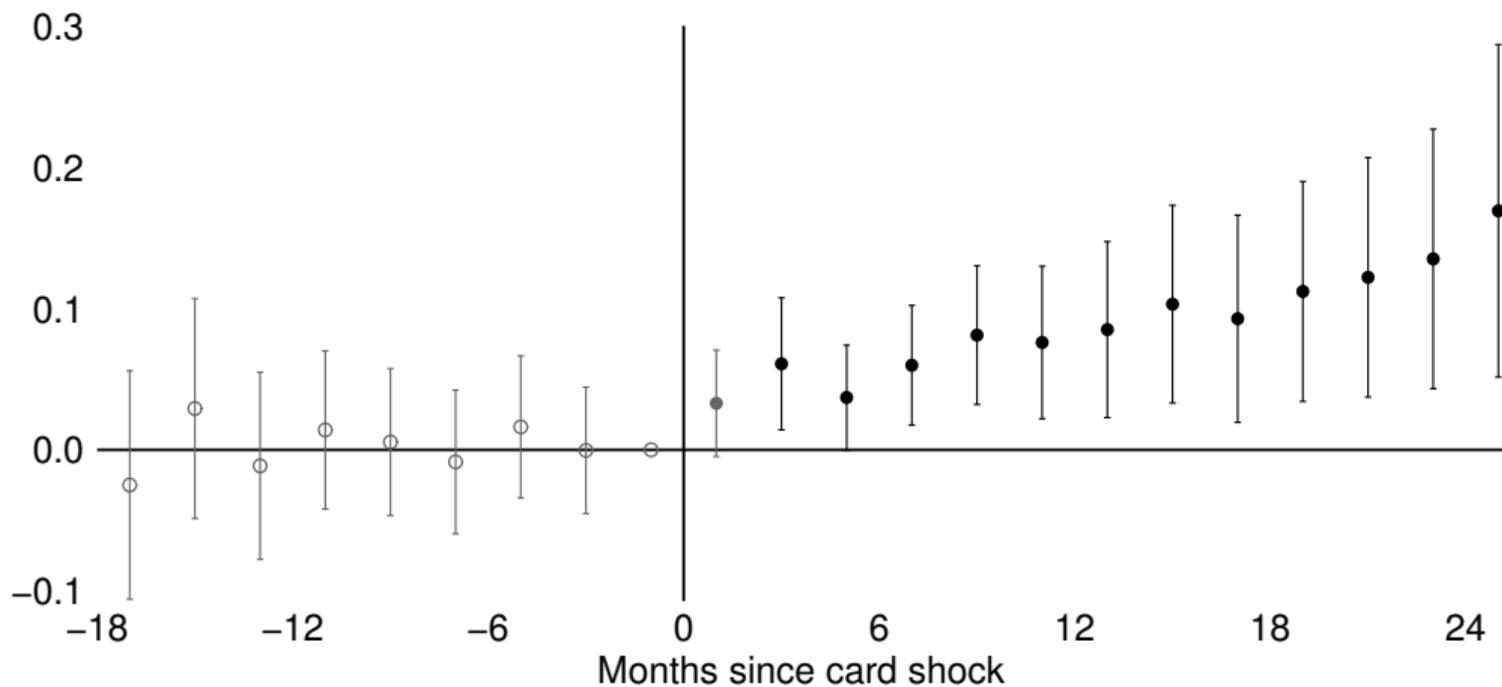
- 2006–2017
- 5 million contract changes; 1.7 million adoptions
- Combine with data set on all active POS contracts in 2017 to back out initial POS in 2006
- Construct number of POS by store type by locality over time

$$\log \text{Number of POS}_{jt} = \xi_j + \delta_t + \sum_{k=-18}^{24} \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$

- Estimate separately for each major store type
 - Store type is based on merchant category code (Ganong and Noel 2018)

Corner stores increase adoption of POS

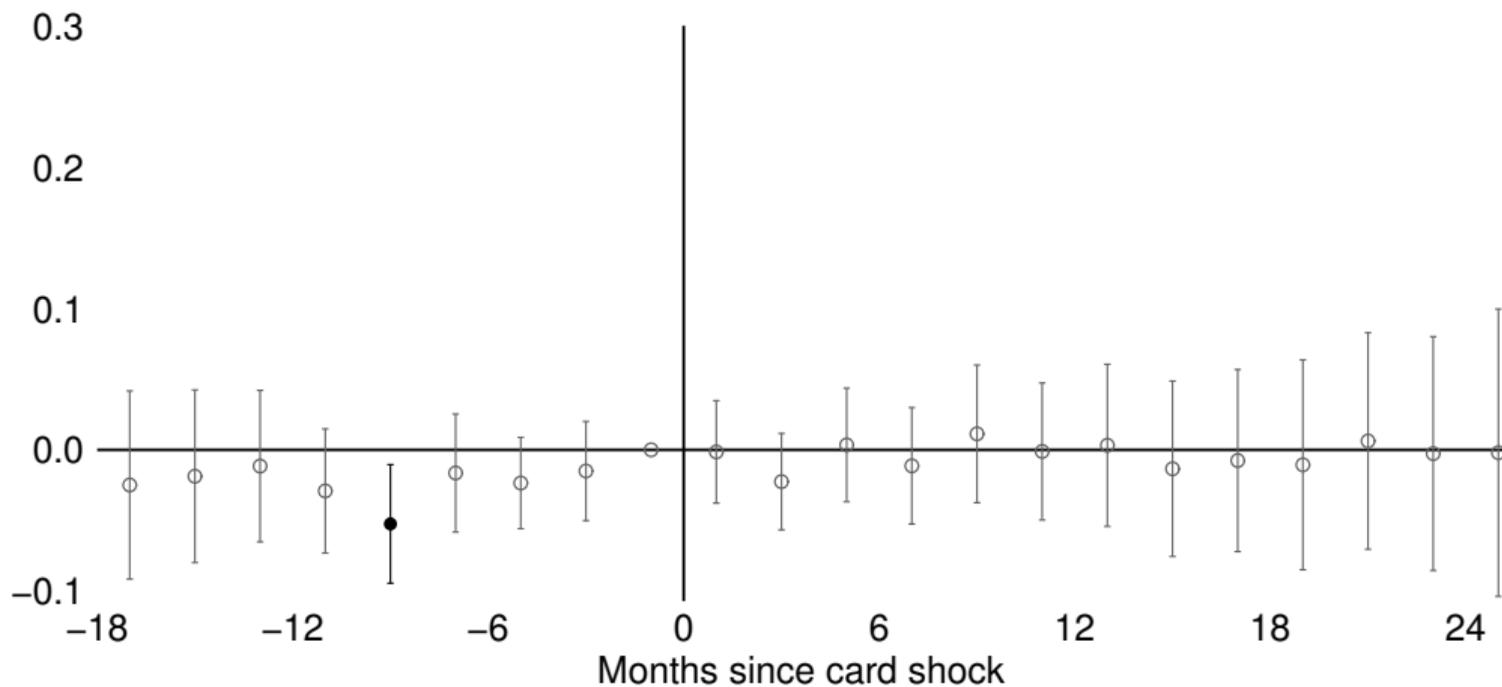
$$\log \text{Number of corner store POS}_{jt} = \xi_j + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$



► In levels ► Bank response ► Prices ► Card use

Supermarkets do not change adoption of POS

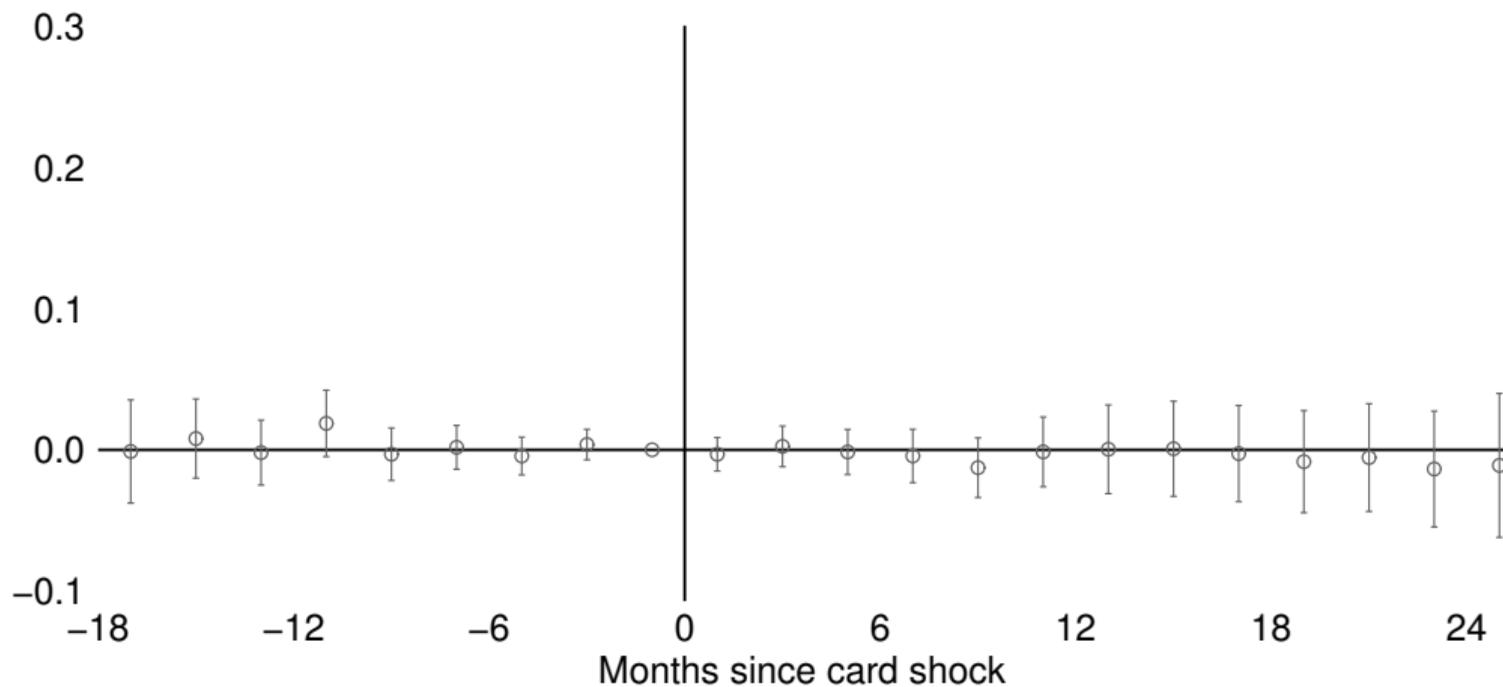
$$\log \text{Number of supermarket POS}_{jt} = \xi_j + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$



► In levels ► Bank response ► Prices

Other retailers do not change adoption of POS

$$\log \text{Number of other POS}_{jt} = \xi_j + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$



► In levels ► Bank response ► Prices

2) Spillovers to other consumers

Spillovers to other consumers' card adoption

Data: From Mexico's National Banking and Securities Commission

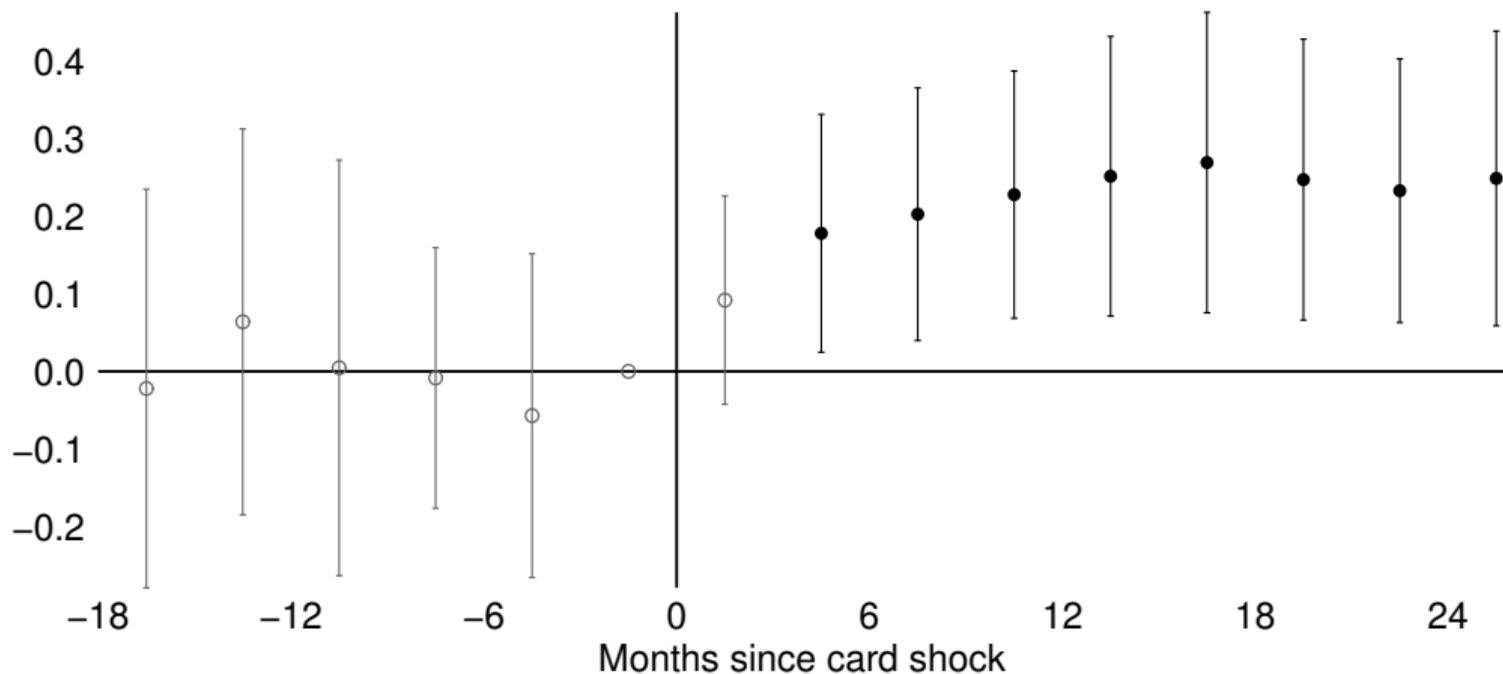
- Total debit cards by bank by municipality by quarter
- 2008Q4 (pre-rollout) to 2016Q4
- Remove cards issued by Bansefi (Prospera cards)

$$\log \text{Number of Debit Cards}_{jt} = \lambda_j + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$

- Doesn't rule out that new cards are adopted by the same household
 - But in a post-rollout survey of beneficiaries who received cards, only 5% reported anyone in household had any bank account at another bank

Spillovers to other consumers' card adoption

$$\log \text{Number of Debit Cards}_{jt} = \lambda_j + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$



► Credit + debit ► Balanced panel ► Word-of-mouth ► By ATM density ► Bank response

Increased consumption at corner stores

Data: Consumption module of repeated cross-section national survey

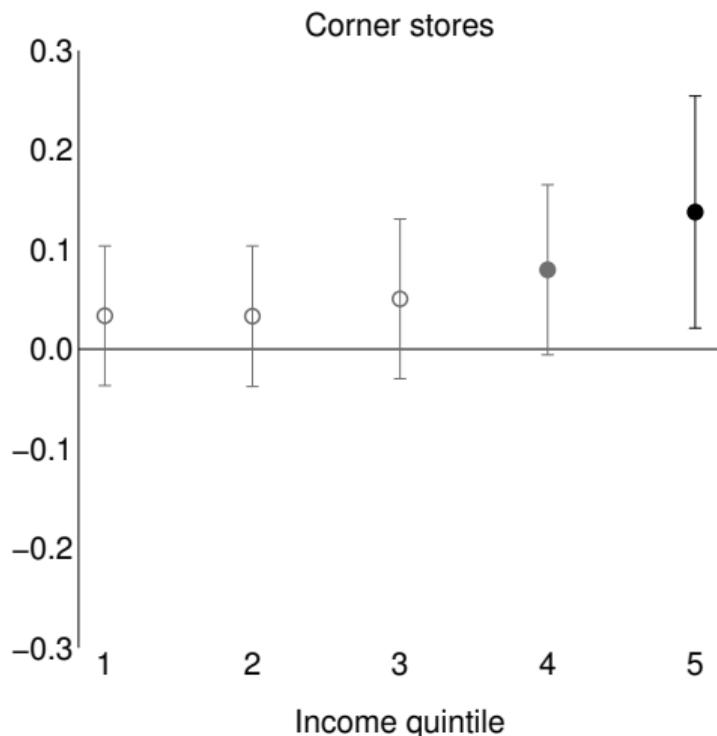
- ENIGH 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014
- Nationally representative
- For each item consumed, has store type
- Look at whether spending across store types changes after card shock
 - Look for heterogeneity throughout income distribution

$$\log \text{Spending}_{it}^s = \lambda_{j(i)} + \theta_{q(i)t} + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \sum_{q=2}^5 \psi_q \mathbb{I}(\text{quintile} = q)_{it} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

- As before, restrict to treated localities

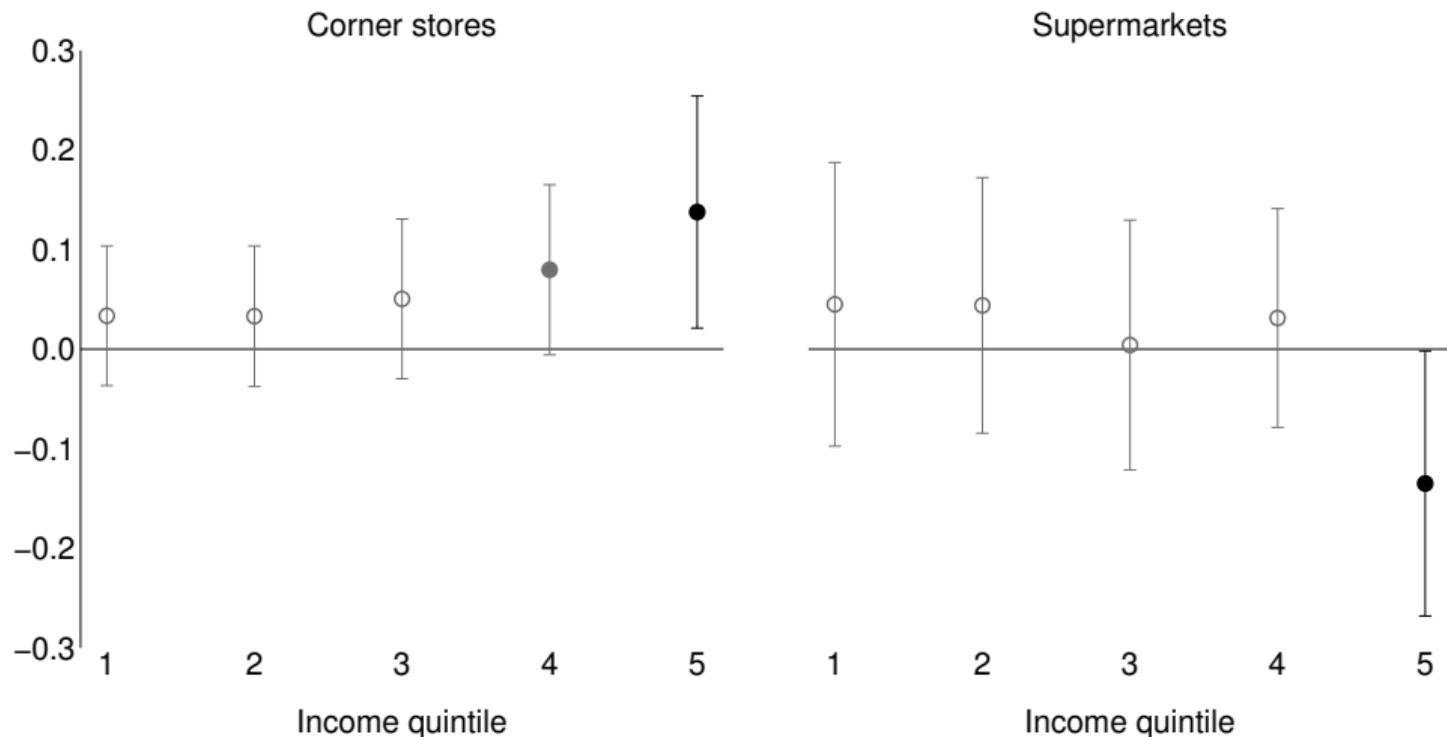
Increased consumption at corner stores

$$\log \text{Spending}_{it}^s = \lambda_{j(i)} + \theta_{q(i)t} + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \sum_{q=2}^5 \psi_q \mathbb{I}(\text{quintile} = q)_{it} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$



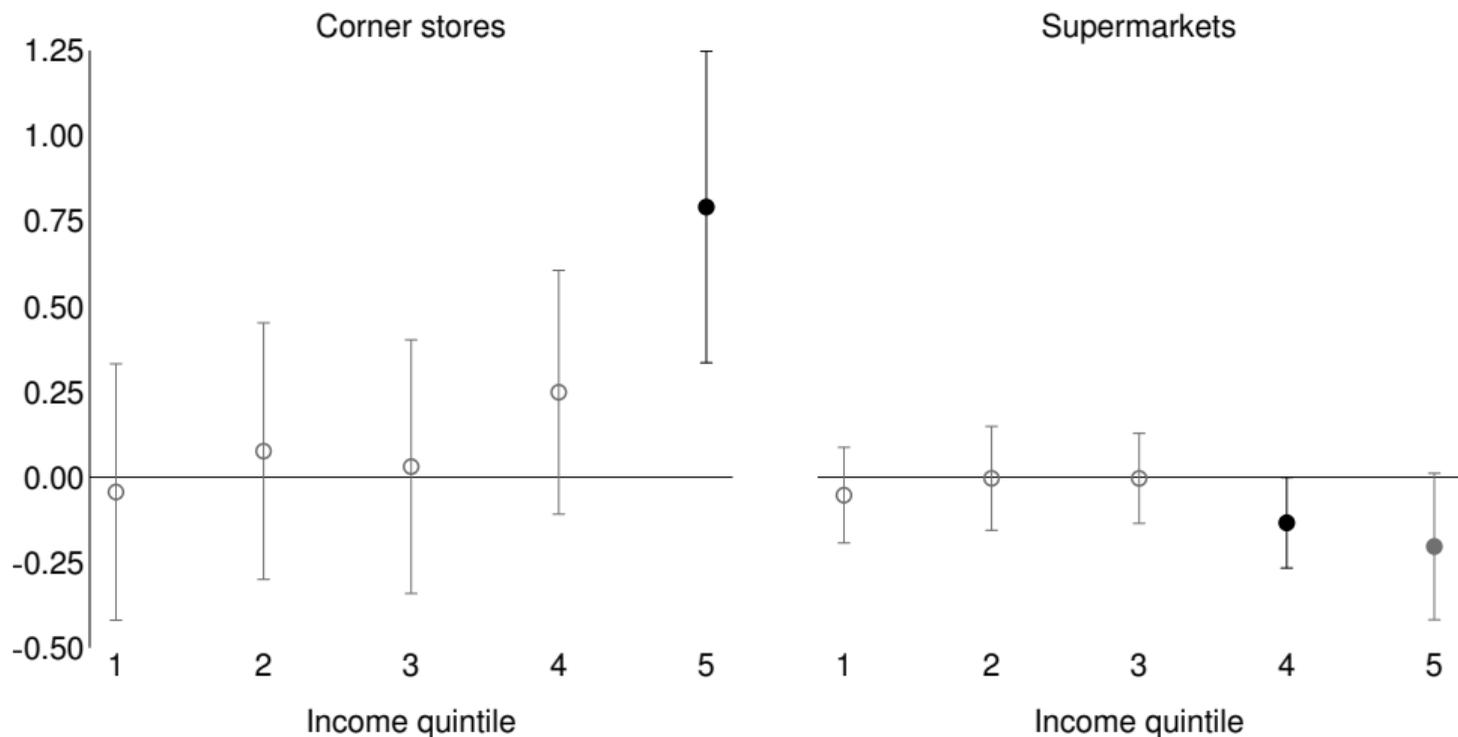
Increased consumption at corner stores

$$\log \text{Spending}_{it}^s = \lambda_{j(i)} + \theta_{q(i)t} + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \sum_{q=2}^5 \psi_q \mathbb{I}(\text{quintile} = q)_{it} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$



Driven partly by changing number of trips

$$\text{Weekly trips}_{it}^s = \lambda_{j(i)} + \theta_{q(i)t} + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \sum_{q=2}^5 \psi_q \mathbb{I}(\text{quintile} = q)_{it} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$



3) Retail sales and profits

Retail sales and profits

Data: Mexico's Economic Census (panel)

- Revenues and costs by category
- Includes all sales (including cash) for universe of firms
- Caveat: only two points in time (2008 and 2013)
 - These bracket rollout; exploit variation in how long since shock
- 1 million retailers that existed in both waves, of which:
 - 354,820 are corner stores; 172,441 in card rollout localities
 - 20,879 are supermarkets; 13,782 in card rollout localities

Corner store sales and profits increase

$$y_{it} = \gamma_i + \delta_t + \sum_k \gamma_k \mathbb{I}(\text{received cards at } k)_{j(i)} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

	(1) Log Sales	(2) Log Inventory Costs	(3) Log Wage Costs	(4) Log Number Workers	(5) Log Rent Costs	(6) Log Capital	(7) Log Electricity Costs	(8) asinh Profits	(9) Charged VAT or Paid Social Security
<i>Panel A: Corner stores (N = 172,441)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	0.081** (0.036)	0.059* (0.034)	-0.022 (0.020)	0.000 (0.005)	-0.028 (0.025)	0.047 (0.083)	-0.029 (0.034)	0.212** (0.099)	0.014 (0.009)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	0.045 (0.037)	0.022 (0.035)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.000 (0.004)	0.022 (0.023)	0.024 (0.089)	0.005 (0.034)	0.143 (0.104)	0.031** (0.012)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	0.061* (0.034)	0.039 (0.032)	-0.022 (0.017)	0.000 (0.004)	-0.002 (0.022)	0.035 (0.082)	-0.011 (0.032)	0.175* (0.096)	0.023*** (0.008)
<i>Panel B: Supermarkets (N = 13,782)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	-0.143** (0.063)	-0.155** (0.062)	-0.151 (0.316)	-0.014 (0.019)	0.314 (0.300)	-0.064 (0.085)	0.180 (0.254)	-0.228 (2.353)	-0.054 (0.082)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	-0.119* (0.062)	-0.124** (0.062)	-0.346 (0.348)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.135 (0.256)	0.144 (0.116)	0.153 (0.259)	0.149 (2.341)	-0.013 (0.081)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	-0.131** (0.058)	-0.140** (0.057)	-0.246 (0.308)	-0.018 (0.019)	0.227 (0.242)	0.037 (0.086)	0.167 (0.253)	-0.045 (2.326)	-0.034 (0.080)
Firm and time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

► By period ► Prices ► Wages ► Fired ► Transaction fees ► Survival ► Consumption ► Size ► Owners ► Churning

Corner store sales and profits increase

$$y_{it} = \gamma_i + \delta_t + \sum_k \gamma_k \mathbb{I}(\text{received cards at } k)_{j(i)} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

	(1) Log Sales	(2) Log Inventory Costs	(3) Log Wage Costs	(4) Log Number Workers	(5) Log Rent Costs	(6) Log Capital	(7) Log Electricity Costs	(8) asinh Profits	(9) Charged VAT or Paid Social Security
<i>Panel A: Corner stores (N = 172,441)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	0.081** (0.036)	0.059* (0.034)	-0.022 (0.020)	0.000 (0.005)	-0.028 (0.025)	0.047 (0.083)	-0.029 (0.034)	0.212** (0.099)	0.014 (0.009)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	0.045 (0.037)	0.022 (0.035)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.000 (0.004)	0.022 (0.023)	0.024 (0.089)	0.005 (0.034)	0.143 (0.104)	0.031** (0.012)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	0.061* (0.034)	0.039 (0.032)	-0.022 (0.017)	0.000 (0.004)	-0.002 (0.022)	0.035 (0.082)	-0.011 (0.032)	0.175* (0.096)	0.023*** (0.008)
<i>Panel B: Supermarkets (N = 13,782)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	-0.143** (0.063)	-0.155** (0.062)	-0.151 (0.316)	-0.014 (0.019)	0.314 (0.300)	-0.064 (0.085)	0.180 (0.254)	-0.228 (2.353)	-0.054 (0.082)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	-0.119* (0.062)	-0.124** (0.062)	-0.346 (0.348)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.135 (0.256)	0.144 (0.116)	0.153 (0.259)	0.149 (2.341)	-0.013 (0.081)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	-0.131** (0.058)	-0.140** (0.057)	-0.246 (0.308)	-0.018 (0.019)	0.227 (0.242)	0.037 (0.086)	0.167 (0.253)	-0.045 (2.326)	-0.034 (0.080)
Firm and time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

► By period ► Prices ► Wages ► Fired ► Transaction fees ► Survival ► Consumption ► Size ► Owners ► Churning

Corner store sales and profits increase

$$y_{it} = \gamma_i + \delta_t + \sum_k \gamma_k \mathbb{I}(\text{received cards at } k)_{j(i)} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

	(1) Log Sales	(2) Log Inventory Costs	(3) Log Wage Costs	(4) Log Number Workers	(5) Log Rent Costs	(6) Log Capital	(7) Log Electricity Costs	(8) asinh Profits	(9) Charged VAT or Paid Social Security
<i>Panel A: Corner stores (N = 172,441)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	0.081** (0.036)	0.059* (0.034)	-0.022 (0.020)	0.000 (0.005)	-0.028 (0.025)	0.047 (0.083)	-0.029 (0.034)	0.212** (0.099)	0.014 (0.009)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	0.045 (0.037)	0.022 (0.035)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.000 (0.004)	0.022 (0.023)	0.024 (0.089)	0.005 (0.034)	0.143 (0.104)	0.031** (0.012)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	0.061* (0.034)	0.039 (0.032)	-0.022 (0.017)	0.000 (0.004)	-0.002 (0.022)	0.035 (0.082)	-0.011 (0.032)	0.175* (0.096)	0.023*** (0.008)
<i>Panel B: Supermarkets (N = 13,782)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	-0.143** (0.063)	-0.155** (0.062)	-0.151 (0.316)	-0.014 (0.019)	0.314 (0.300)	-0.064 (0.085)	0.180 (0.254)	-0.228 (2.353)	-0.054 (0.082)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	-0.119* (0.062)	-0.124** (0.062)	-0.346 (0.348)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.135 (0.256)	0.144 (0.116)	0.153 (0.259)	0.149 (2.341)	-0.013 (0.081)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	-0.131** (0.058)	-0.140** (0.057)	-0.246 (0.308)	-0.018 (0.019)	0.227 (0.242)	0.037 (0.086)	0.167 (0.253)	-0.045 (2.326)	-0.034 (0.080)
Firm and time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

► By period ► Prices ► Wages ► Fired ► Transaction fees ► Survival ► Consumption ► Size ► Owners ► Churning

Corner store sales and profits increase

$$y_{it} = \gamma_i + \delta_t + \sum_k \gamma_k \mathbb{I}(\text{received cards at } k)_{j(i)} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

	(1) Log Sales	(2) Log Inventory Costs	(3) Log Wage Costs	(4) Log Number Workers	(5) Log Rent Costs	(6) Log Capital	(7) Log Electricity Costs	(8) asinh Profits	(9) Charged VAT or Paid Social Security
<i>Panel A: Corner stores (N = 172,441)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	0.081** (0.036)	0.059* (0.034)	-0.022 (0.020)	0.000 (0.005)	-0.028 (0.025)	0.047 (0.083)	-0.029 (0.034)	0.212** (0.099)	0.014 (0.009)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	0.045 (0.037)	0.022 (0.035)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.000 (0.004)	0.022 (0.023)	0.024 (0.089)	0.005 (0.034)	0.143 (0.104)	0.031** (0.012)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	0.061* (0.034)	0.039 (0.032)	-0.022 (0.017)	0.000 (0.004)	-0.002 (0.022)	0.035 (0.082)	-0.011 (0.032)	0.175* (0.096)	0.023*** (0.008)
<i>Panel B: Supermarkets (N = 13,782)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	-0.143** (0.063)	-0.155** (0.062)	-0.151 (0.316)	-0.014 (0.019)	0.314 (0.300)	-0.064 (0.085)	0.180 (0.254)	-0.228 (2.353)	-0.054 (0.082)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	-0.119* (0.062)	-0.124** (0.062)	-0.346 (0.348)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.135 (0.256)	0.144 (0.116)	0.153 (0.259)	0.149 (2.341)	-0.013 (0.081)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	-0.131** (0.058)	-0.140** (0.057)	-0.246 (0.308)	-0.018 (0.019)	0.227 (0.242)	0.037 (0.086)	0.167 (0.253)	-0.045 (2.326)	-0.034 (0.080)
Firm and time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

► By period ► Prices ► Wages ► Fired ► Transaction fees ► Survival ► Consumption ► Size ► Owners ► Churning

Corner store sales and profits increase

$$y_{it} = \gamma_i + \delta_t + \sum_k \gamma_k \mathbb{I}(\text{received cards at } k)_{j(i)} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

	(1) Log Sales	(2) Log Inventory Costs	(3) Log Wage Costs	(4) Log Number Workers	(5) Log Rent Costs	(6) Log Capital	(7) Log Electricity Costs	(8) asinh Profits	(9) Charged VAT or Paid Social Security
<i>Panel A: Corner stores (N = 172,441)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	0.081** (0.036)	0.059* (0.034)	-0.022 (0.020)	0.000 (0.005)	-0.028 (0.025)	0.047 (0.083)	-0.029 (0.034)	0.212** (0.099)	0.014 (0.009)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	0.045 (0.037)	0.022 (0.035)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.000 (0.004)	0.022 (0.023)	0.024 (0.089)	0.005 (0.034)	0.143 (0.104)	0.031** (0.012)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	0.061* (0.034)	0.039 (0.032)	-0.022 (0.017)	0.000 (0.004)	-0.002 (0.022)	0.035 (0.082)	-0.011 (0.032)	0.175* (0.096)	0.023*** (0.008)
<i>Panel B: Supermarkets (N = 13,782)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	-0.143** (0.063)	-0.155** (0.062)	-0.151 (0.316)	-0.014 (0.019)	0.314 (0.300)	-0.064 (0.085)	0.180 (0.254)	-0.228 (2.353)	-0.054 (0.082)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	-0.119* (0.062)	-0.124** (0.062)	-0.346 (0.348)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.135 (0.256)	0.144 (0.116)	0.153 (0.259)	0.149 (2.341)	-0.013 (0.081)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	-0.131** (0.058)	-0.140** (0.057)	-0.246 (0.308)	-0.018 (0.019)	0.227 (0.242)	0.037 (0.086)	0.167 (0.253)	-0.045 (2.326)	-0.034 (0.080)
Firm and time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

► By period ► Prices ► Wages ► Fired ► Transaction fees ► Survival ► Consumption ► Size ► Owners ► Churning

Corner store sales and profits increase

$$y_{it} = \gamma_i + \delta_t + \sum_k \gamma_k \mathbb{I}(\text{received cards at } k)_{j(i)} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

	(1) Log Sales	(2) Log Inventory Costs	(3) Log Wage Costs	(4) Log Number Workers	(5) Log Rent Costs	(6) Log Capital	(7) Log Electricity Costs	(8) asinh Profits	(9) Charged VAT or Paid Social Security
<i>Panel A: Corner stores (N = 172,441)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	0.081** (0.036)	0.059* (0.034)	-0.022 (0.020)	0.000 (0.005)	-0.028 (0.025)	0.047 (0.083)	-0.029 (0.034)	0.212** (0.099)	0.014 (0.009)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	0.045 (0.037)	0.022 (0.035)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.000 (0.004)	0.022 (0.023)	0.024 (0.089)	0.005 (0.034)	0.143 (0.104)	0.031** (0.012)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	0.061* (0.034)	0.039 (0.032)	-0.022 (0.017)	0.000 (0.004)	-0.002 (0.022)	0.035 (0.082)	-0.011 (0.032)	0.175* (0.096)	0.023*** (0.008)
<i>Panel B: Supermarkets (N = 13,782)</i>									
Shock 3–4.5 years ago	-0.143** (0.063)	-0.155** (0.062)	-0.151 (0.316)	-0.014 (0.019)	0.314 (0.300)	-0.064 (0.085)	0.180 (0.254)	-0.228 (2.353)	-0.054 (0.082)
Shock 1.5–3 years ago	-0.119* (0.062)	-0.124** (0.062)	-0.346 (0.348)	-0.022 (0.019)	0.135 (0.256)	0.144 (0.116)	0.153 (0.259)	0.149 (2.341)	-0.013 (0.081)
<i>Pooled coefficient</i>									
Shock 1.5–4.5 years ago	-0.131** (0.058)	-0.140** (0.057)	-0.246 (0.308)	-0.018 (0.019)	0.227 (0.242)	0.037 (0.086)	0.167 (0.253)	-0.045 (2.326)	-0.034 (0.080)
Firm and time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

► By period ► Prices ► Wages ► Fired ► Transaction fees ► Survival ► Consumption ► Size ► Owners ► Churning

4) Quantifying the indirect network externalities

Quantifying the indirect network externalities

Goal: quantify what proportion of total consumer gains are spillovers to other consumers

- To do so, estimate consumer gains for three types of consumers
 1. Prospera beneficiaries who receive cards
 2. Existing cardholders
 3. New adopters

Estimate a demand model that combines features of

- Atkin, Faber, Gonzalez-Navarro (2018)
- Björnerstedt & Verboven (2016)
- Einav et al. (2017)

Consumer gains from supply-side POS adoption

For each shopping trip, consumer makes discrete–continuous choice

Consumer gains from supply-side POS adoption

For each shopping trip, consumer makes discrete–continuous choice

Discrete choice over which store

Consumer gains from supply-side POS adoption

For each shopping trip, consumer makes discrete–continuous choice

Discrete choice over which store

Continuous choice over goods at store

- Cobb-Douglas preferences over goods
- Preferences for store characteristics enter utility

$$u_{ist} = \left(\prod_g x_{igst}^{\phi_{a(i)gst}} \right)^{\alpha_{k(i)}} \cdot \exp(\theta_{k(i)} POS_{ist} + \xi_{a(i)k(i)st} + \varepsilon_{ist})$$

for consumer i of type k in census tract a at store type s at time t ; g indexes goods

Consumer gains from supply-side POS adoption

Plug in Marshallian demand $x_{igst} = \phi_{a(i)gst}(y_{it}/p_{a(i)gst})$

Integrate over ε_{ist} assuming extreme value 1 and integrate over POS_{ist}

Subtract off outside option $s = 0$ (open air markets)

Leads to equation for difference in log expenditure shares (at census tract \times consumer type \times store type \times time):

$$\log \phi_{akst} - \log \phi_{ak0t} = -\alpha_k(\log P_{ast} - \log P_{a0t}) + \theta_k \overline{POS}_{z(a)st} + \eta_{j(a)ks} + \delta_{kst} + \nu_{akst}$$

where $\log P_{ast} = \sum_g \phi_{agst} \log p_{agst}$ (Stone price index)

Consumer gains from supply-side POS adoption

$$\log \phi_{akst} - \log \phi_{ak0t} = -\alpha_k(\log P_{ast} - \log P_{a0t}) + \theta_k \overline{POS}_{z(a)st} + \eta_{j(a)ks} + \delta_{kst} + \nu_{akst}$$

Estimate with three consumer groups k

- Prospera beneficiaries
- Existing credit card holders
- Others (includes existing debit card holders and new adopters)

Endogeneity of demand

- Hausman instrument for prices
- Debit card shock as instrument for POS adoption

$-\theta_k/\alpha_k$ is price-equivalent value of no stores with POS \rightarrow all stores with POS

$-(\theta_k/\alpha_k)\Delta POS_{ks}$ is value to consumers of supply-side response to shock

▶ θ_k/α_k interpretation

▶ Consumer surplus derivation

Consumer gains from supply-side POS adoption

Dependent variable: difference in log expenditure shares

	Log prices ($-\alpha_k$)	Stores with POS (θ_k)	Share spent at corner
Prospera beneficiaries	-3.33* (1.92)	0.24 (0.31)	0.46
Credit card holders	-2.02 (1.29)	0.57** (0.22)	0.28
Others	-2.92** (1.26)	0.55*** (0.21)	0.37
First-stage joint F-test		46.56	
Number of observations		21,775	
Locality \times consumer type \times store type FE		Yes	
Store type \times consumer type \times time FE		Yes	

Consumer gains from supply-side POS adoption

Beneficiaries: 1.9% \uparrow consumer surplus on average

Existing cardholders: 0.5% \uparrow consumer surplus

New card adopters: depends on cost of adoption

- Bounds: 0–0.4% \uparrow consumer surplus

52–55% of **total** ΔCS is spillovers to non-beneficiaries

- Intuition:
 - Twice as many existing cardholders as beneficiaries
 - Existing cardholders richer, and absolute spending enters CS formula

Cost–benefit

Cost of producing debit cards: \$2.18 per card

Aggregate cost of card rollout = \$2.3 million

Aggregate value of consumer gains **only from spillovers** is 37 times as large

Conclusion

Coordination failures around indirect network externalities in two-sided markets constrain adoption of financial technologies

Large spillovers of an adoption subsidy targeted to a subset of consumers

- Over half of consumer surplus from policy shock to financial technology adoption accrue to other consumers

Results speak to political economy of government policy to subsidize financial inclusion of poor households

- Such spending may be politically popular even among richer tax payers due to spillovers

Appendix

Background on Prospera

Large program: 24% of Mexican households receive benefits

One of first conditional cash transfer programs

- Targeted to poorest households with children 0–18 or pregnant women
- Conditional on school attendance and health check-ups/vaccinations

Started in rural localities in 1997 as Progresa

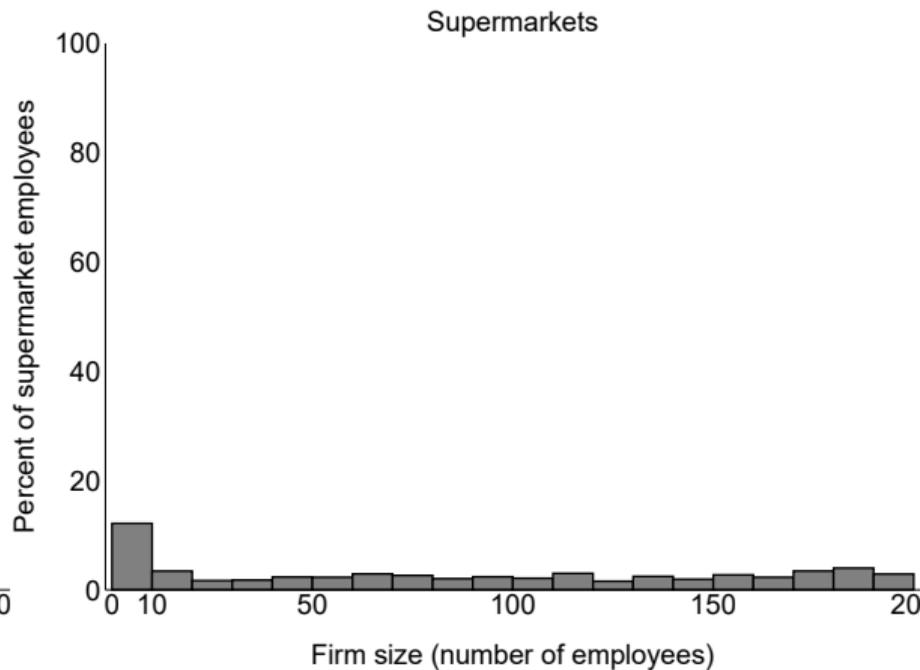
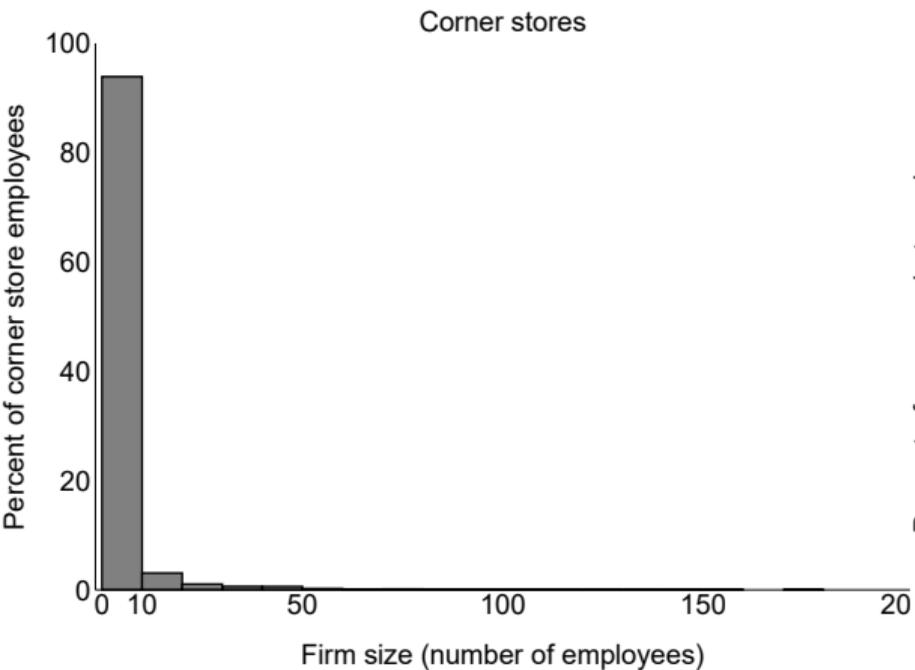
Expanded to urban areas in 2002–2003 as Oportunidades

Urban beneficiaries given Bansefi bank account in 2005

- Eligible to get a debit card on own, but no automatic transfers
- Debit card rollout automatically switched them to this type of account

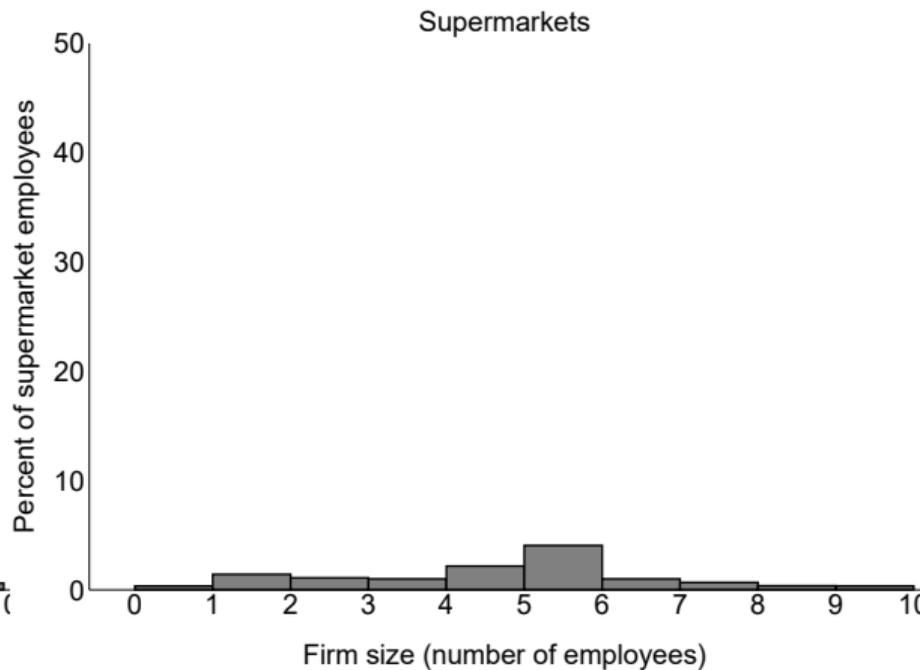
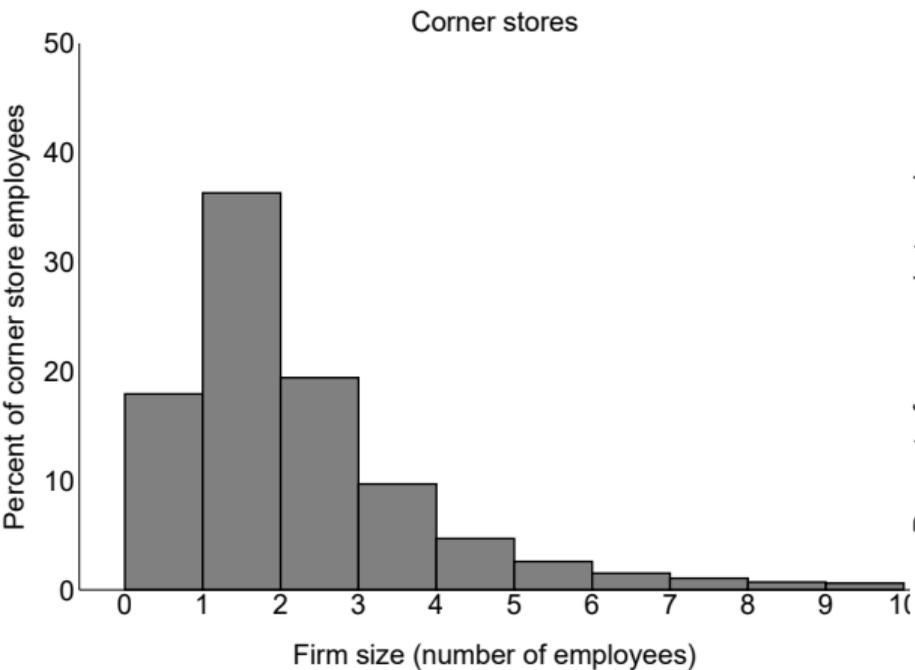
▸ Rollout

Distribution of retail employment share by firm size



► Profits

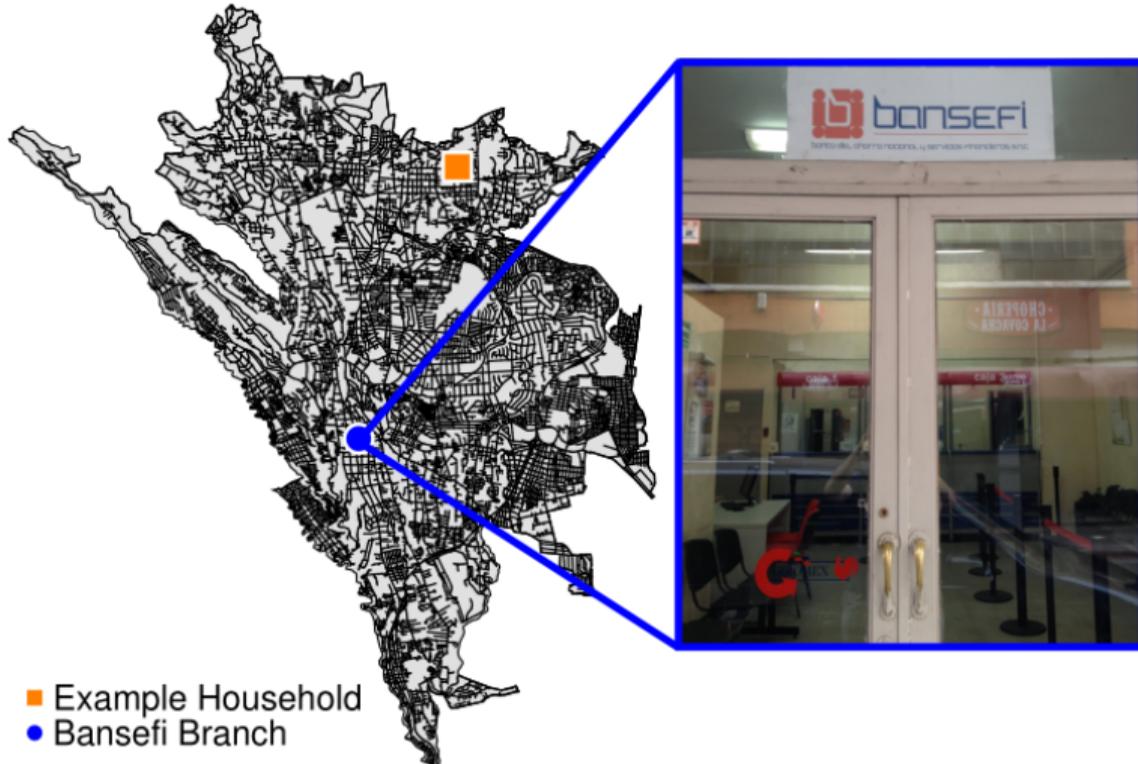
Employment share distribution of retailers with < 10 employees



► Profits

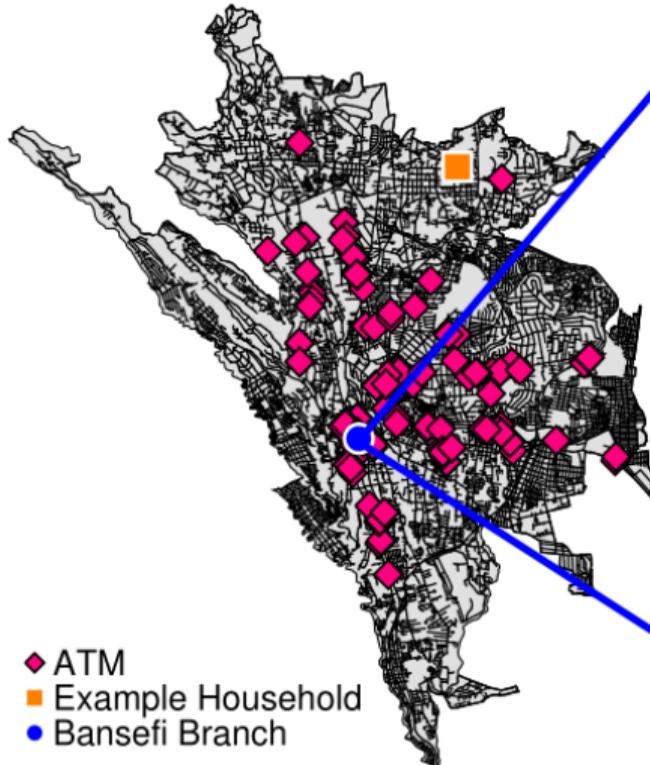
Debit cards reduce travel distance

Cuernavaca



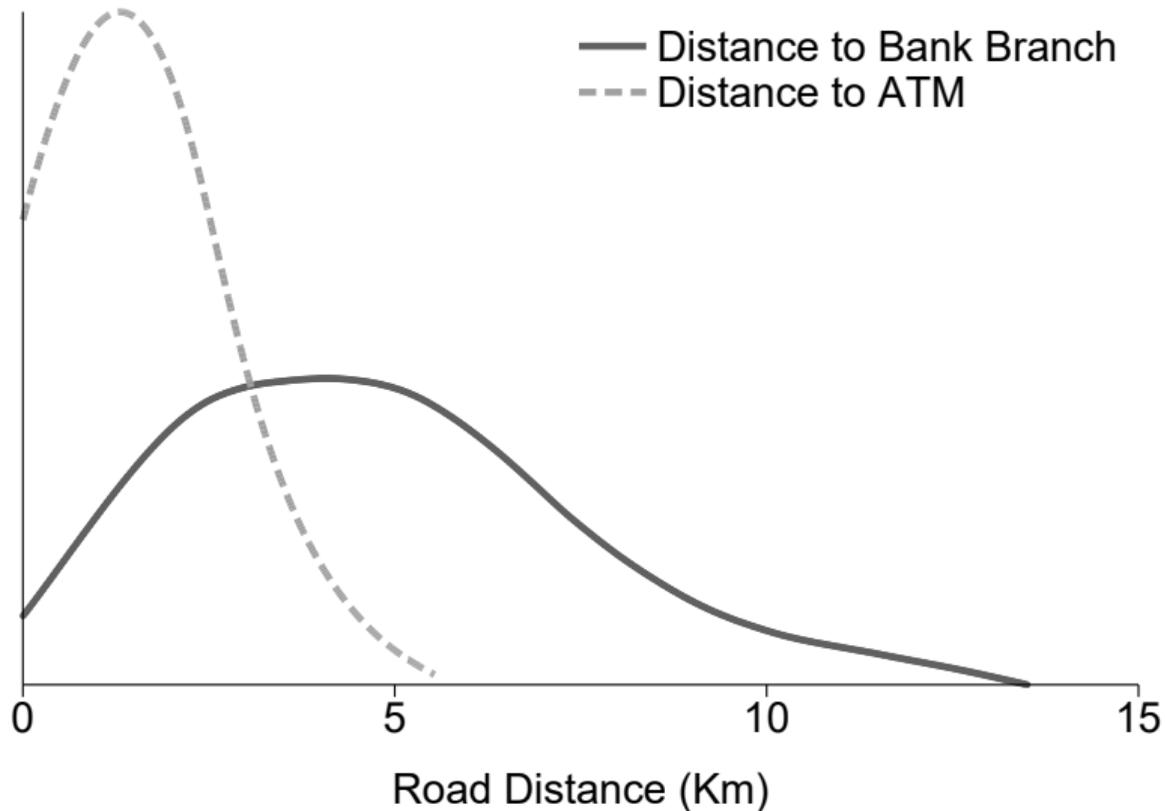
Debit cards reduce travel distance

Cuernavaca



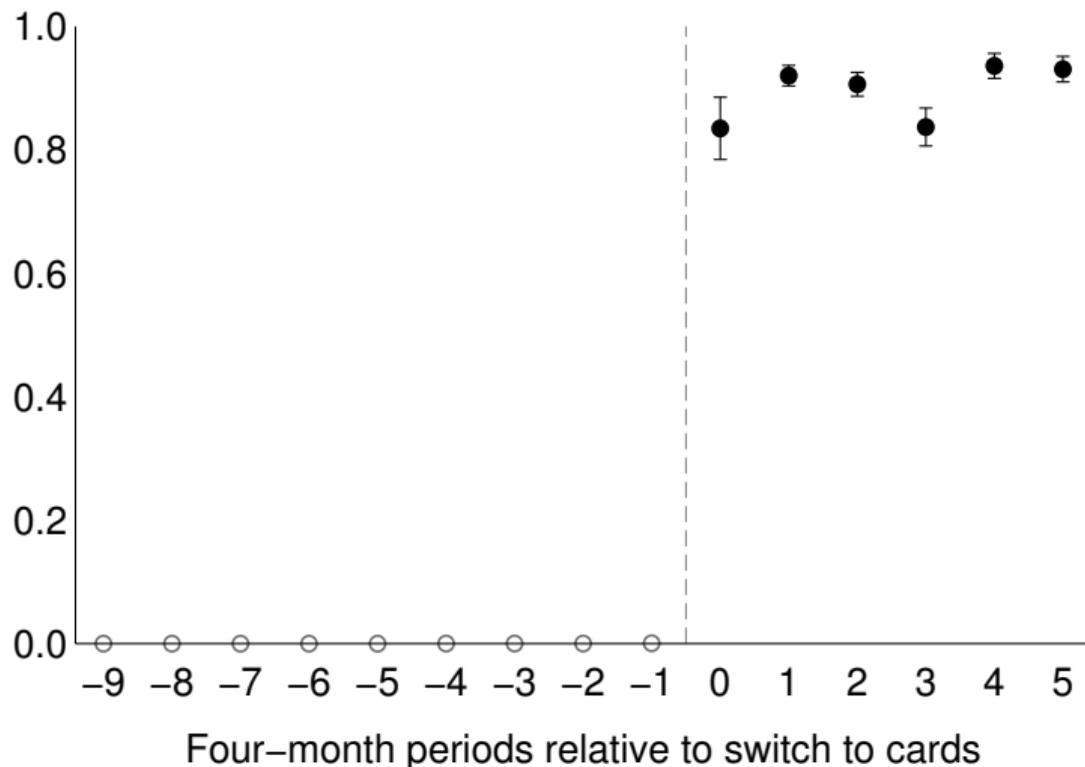
- ◆ ATM
- Example Household
- Bansefi Branch

Debit cards reduce travel distance

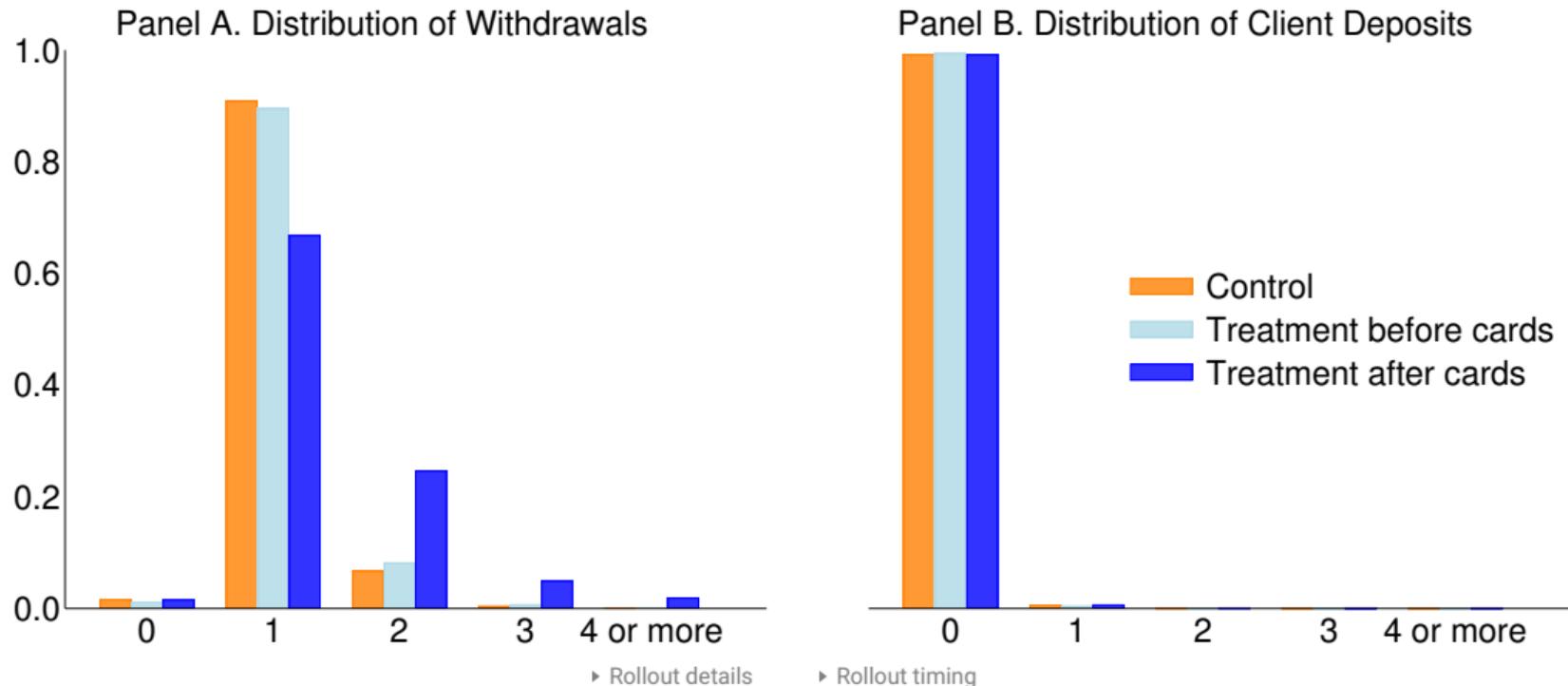


Recipients use their cards at ATMs

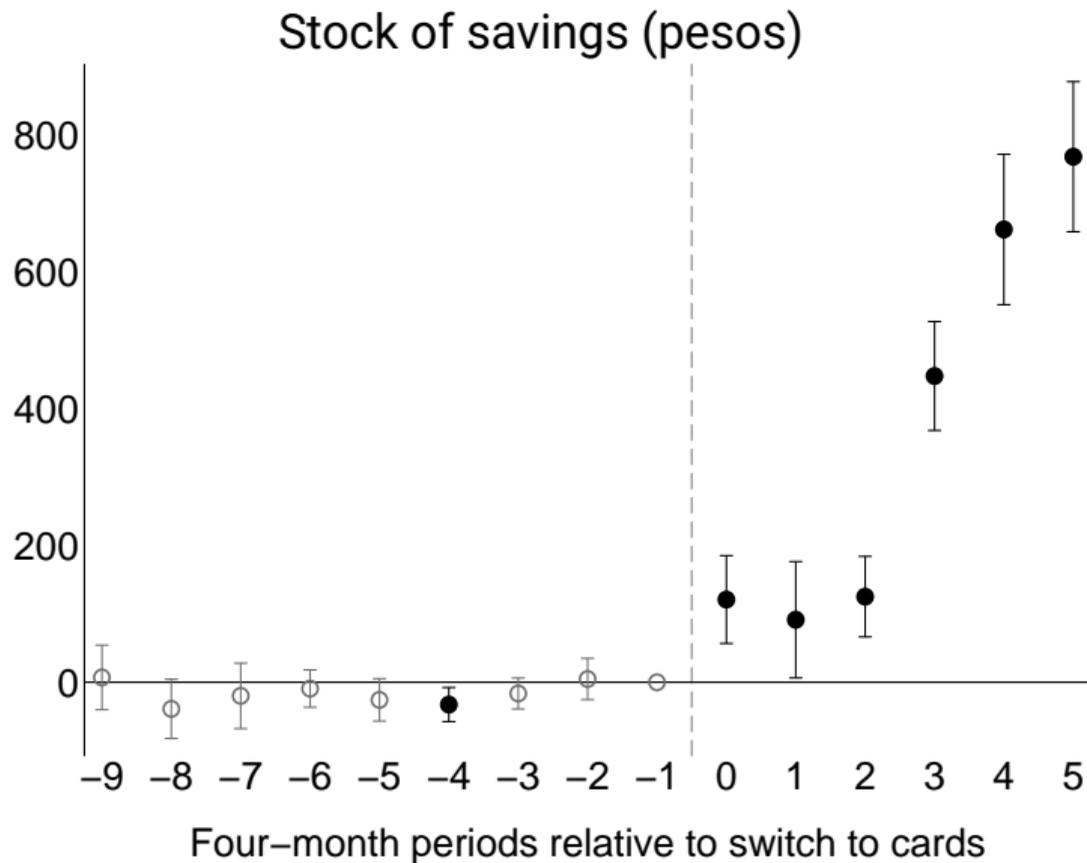
Proportion using debit cards to withdraw at ATMs



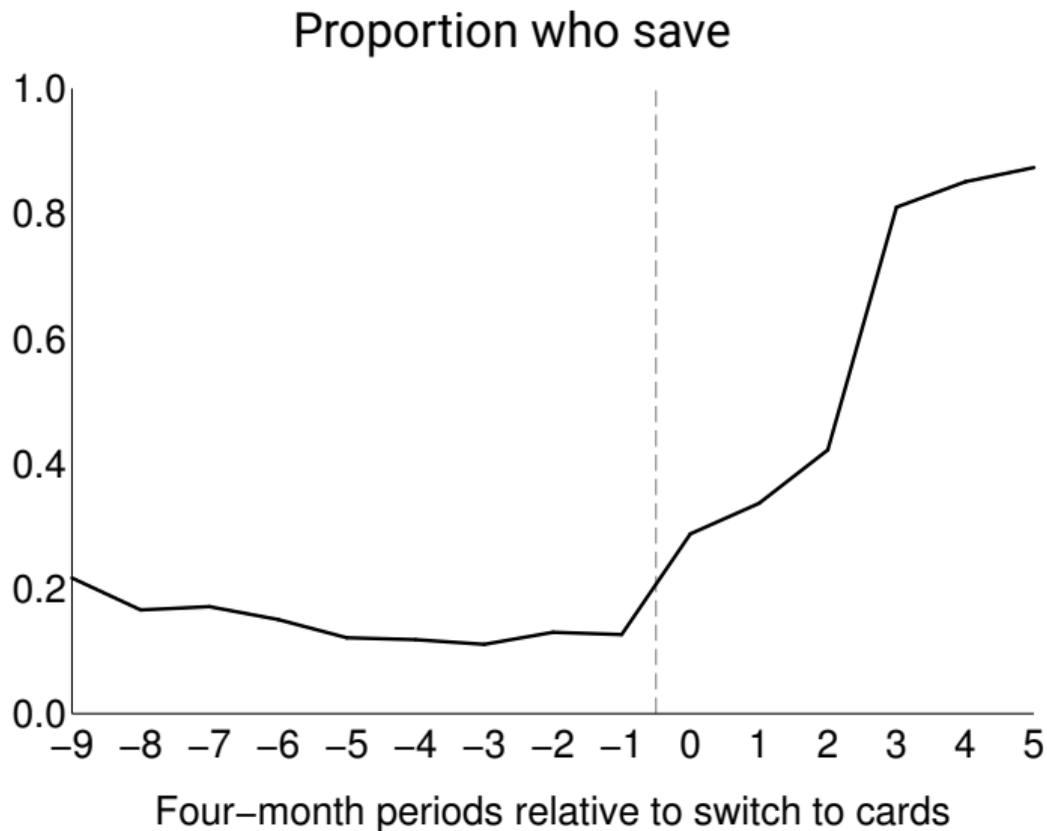
Recipients make more withdrawals



Debit cards lead to more savings

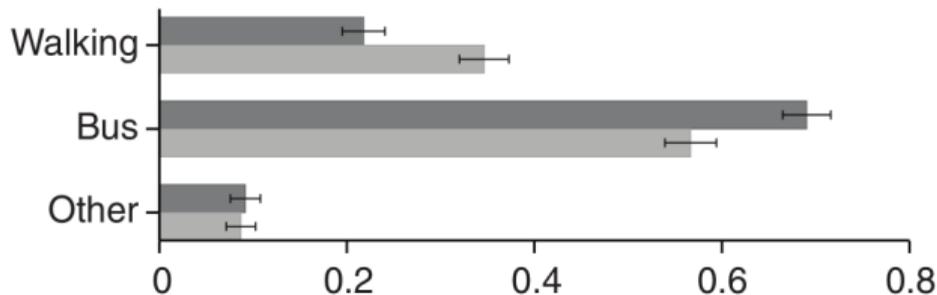


Some start saving right away; others after delay

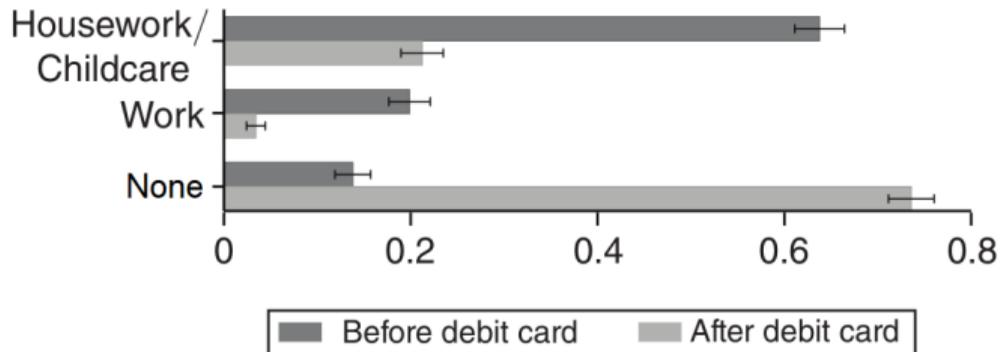


Mechanism 1: Travel costs to access money

Panel A. Transport taken to withdraw transfer

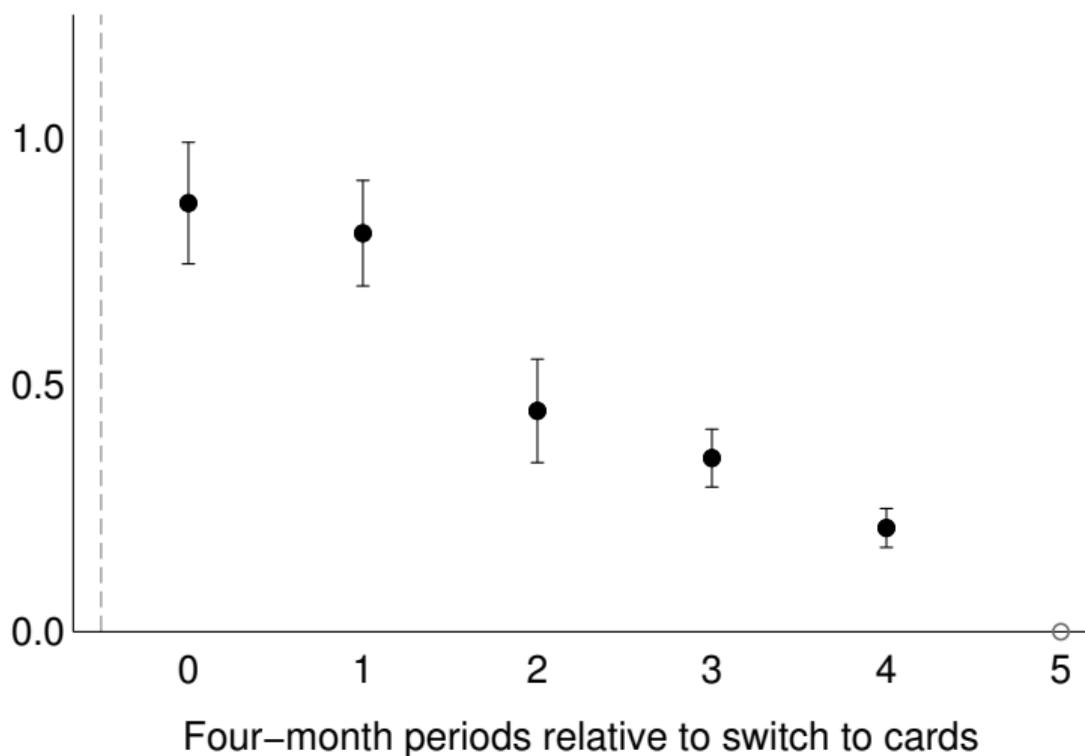


Panel B. Activity foregone to withdraw transfer

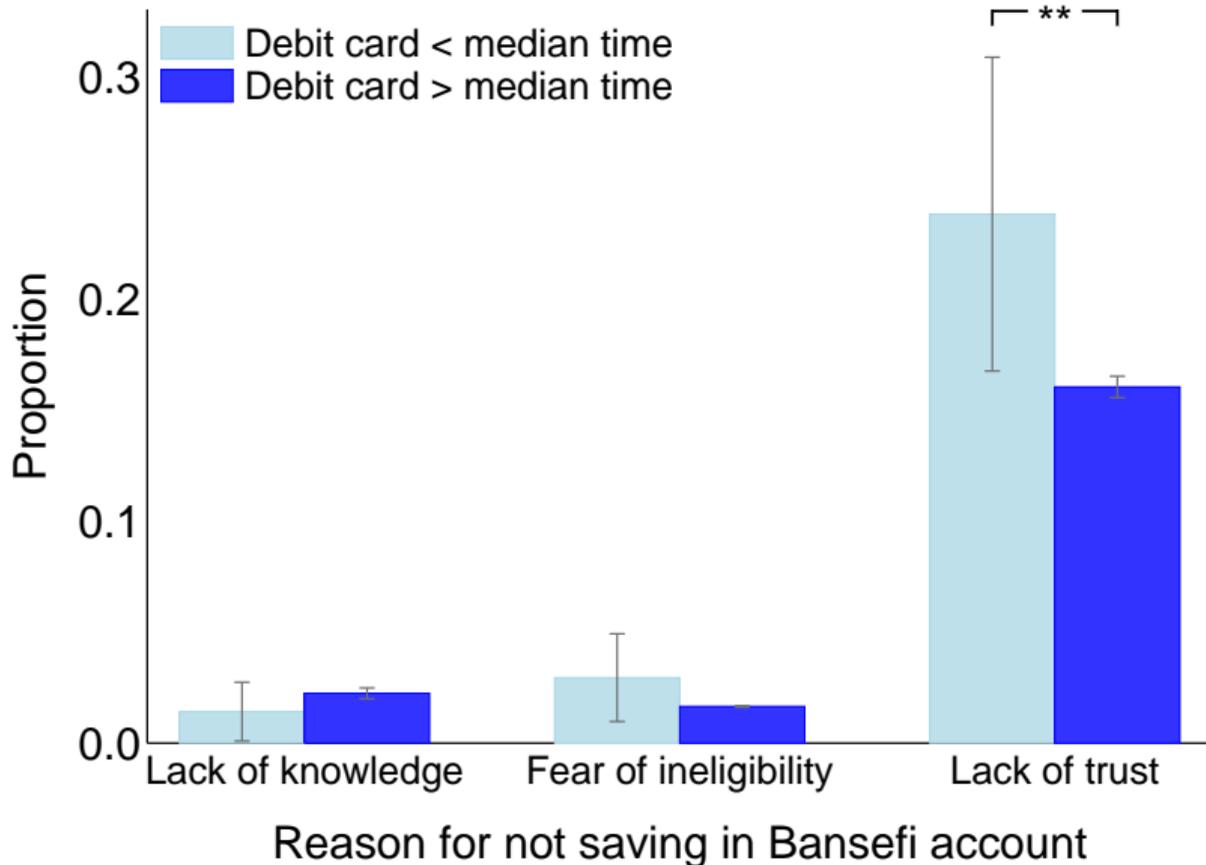


Mechanism 2: Checking balance to monitor bank, build trust

Number of balance checks over time



Mechanism 2: Checking balance to monitor bank, build trust



Increase in overall savings or substitution?

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Consumption	-175.36** (81.31) [-353.11, -1.52]	-150.51** (70.43) [-306.24, -2.30]	-136.52** (61.75) [-276.37, -4.75]	-155.11** (62.07) [-288.02, -33.10]
Income	98.16 (170.03) [-290.77, 486.11]	106.01 (150.31) [-230.64, 468.97]	75.50 (127.77) [-219.75, 376.72]	38.11 (106.12) [-175.00, 251.64]
Asset index	0.06 (0.08) [-0.12, 0.24]	0.06 (0.08) [-0.12, 0.24]	0.07 (0.07) [-0.08, 0.23]	0.03 (0.08) [-0.20, 0.24]
<i>p</i> -value consumption vs. income	[0.047]	[0.041]	[0.056]	[0.057]
Number of observations	9,246	9,246	9,246	7,754
Number of households	2,868	2,868	2,868	2,200
Time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Household fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Household characteristics × time	No	No	No	Yes
Winsorized	No	1%	5%	5%

► Rollout details

► Rollout timing

Why was it hard to save informally?

Money might be “hot” in hand or when being saved at home (Ashraf 2009)

▶ Rollout details

▶ Rollout timing

Why was it hard to save informally?

Money might be “hot” in hand or when being saved at home (Ashraf 2009)

May be easier for other household members to access the money when saved at home (Anderson and Baland 2002; Jakiela & Ozier 2016; Schaner 2015)

▶ Rollout details

▶ Rollout timing

Why was it hard to save informally?

Money might be “hot” in hand or when being saved at home (Ashraf 2009)

May be easier for other household members to access the money when saved at home (Anderson and Baland 2002; Jakiela & Ozier 2016; Schaner 2015)

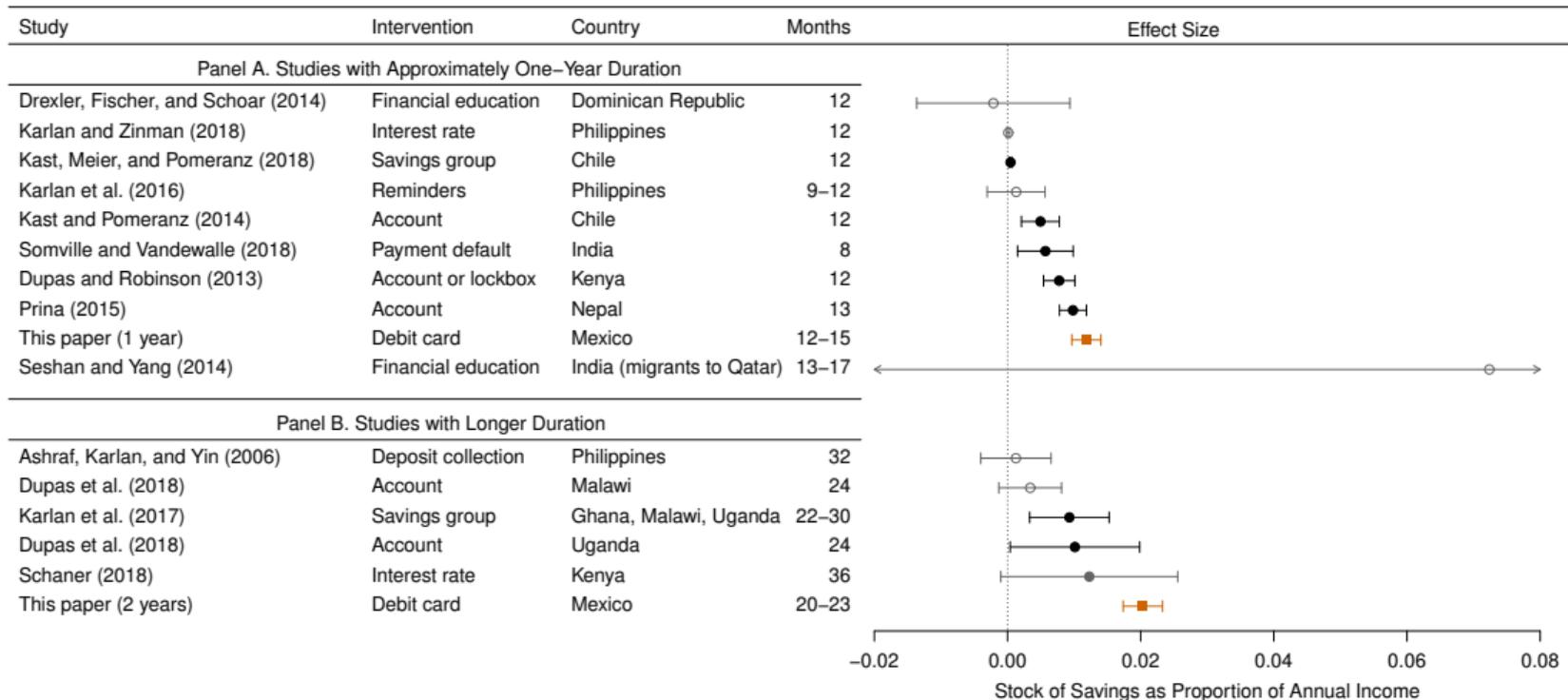
We find evidence consistent with this:

- Spending on temptation goods (alcohol, tobacco, sugar, etc.) falls by 14%, compared to 5% fall in overall consumption
- Effect of debit cards on savings concentrated among women with low baseline bargaining power

▶ Rollout details

▶ Rollout timing

Comparing effect sizes across studies



Calendar of transfer dates

Oportunidades

Calendario Fijo de Retiro
de Apoyos Monetarios



Entidad: 15 MEXICO

Folio Titular: [REDACTED]

Zona de Atención: 150303

Nombre Titular: [REDACTED]

Municipio: 33 ECATEPEC DE MORELOS

Identificador de Familia: [REDACTED]

Localidad: 1 ECATEPEC DE MORELOS

Fase de Incorporación: 35

AGEB: [REDACTED] Código Postal: 55450

Esquema de Apoyos: Urbano 1

Domicilio: [REDACTED]

Colonia: [REDACTED]

Estimada Titular:

Los apoyos del bimestre de corresponsabilidad	los puede retirar a partir del
Noviembre - Diciembre del 2008	Lunes 20 de Abril del 2009
Enero - Febrero del 2009	Lunes 1 de Junio del 2009
Marzo - Abril del 2009	Lunes 13 de Julio del 2009
Mayo - Junio del 2009	Lunes 14 de Septiembre del 2009
Julio - Agosto del 2009	Lunes 16 de Noviembre del 2009
Septiembre - Octubre del 2009	Lunes 11 de Enero del 2010

Bimestre de Generación de Calendario: Corresponsabilidad Noviembre - Diciembre del 2008

Titular beneficiaria: Usted podrá retirar sus apoyos con su Tarjeta de Débito a partir de la fecha indicada en cajeros automáticos ó establecimientos autorizados (que aceptan tarjetas VISA).

Recuerde que en cajeros automáticos podrá realizar dos operaciones (retiros ó consultas) gratuitas al bimestre, también puede utilizar su Tarjeta para comprar en establecimientos que aceptan Tarjetas de Débito VISA.

Pamphlet provided with debit card

Bienvenido al mundo de tu *Tarjeta de Débito...*

0100, PRUEBA
0100, ALPINA
Rio Magdalena 115, 01090
Alvaro Obregon, DF
0100, PRUEBA

010001000200

L@Red de la Gente
Un mundo que crece para ti

!!!CUIDADO!!!

- * Memoriza tu NIP (Número de Identificación Personal), que es tu clave secreta para hacer algunas operaciones.
- * No proporciones tu NIP a nadie ni lo guardes junto con tu Tarjeta de Débito.
- * No le des tu número de Tarjeta de Débito a gente que te lo solicite sin razón.
- * Si no vas a utilizar tu tarjeta, consérvala en un lugar seguro.
- * Reporta de inmediato el robo o extravío de tu Tarjeta de Débito, al Tel.:
01 800 821 3844

IMPORTANTE

- 1.- **DESPRENDE** tu Tarjeta de Débito.
- 2.- **FIRMALA** en el espacio que se encuentra al reverso de tu Tarjeta de Débito donde se indica: Firma Autorizada.
- 3.- **ACTÍVALA** llamando al Tel.:
01 800 821 3822
- 4.- **CONSERVA** este documento. Contiene información importante que puedes utilizar en el futuro.

L@Red de la Gente
Un mundo que crece para ti

USO EN CAJERO AUTOMÁTICO

Puedes realizar operaciones en cualquier cajero con logotipos

1. Introduce o desliza tu Tarjeta de Débito como lo indica el cajero automático.
2. Teclea tu NIP (Número de Identificación Personal) que te ha sido entregado.
3. Selecciona la operación que deseas realizar: Retiro, Consulta de Saldo, Cambio de NIP, Venta Genérica (tiempo aire para teléfonos celulares), etc.
4. Una vez que has realizado la operación, no olvides retirar tu Tarjeta de Débito y el comprobante de la operación realizada.

COMPRA O RETIRO DE EFECTIVO EN ESTABLECIMIENTO

Puedes realizar compras en cualquier establecimiento afiliado a VISA ELECTRON.

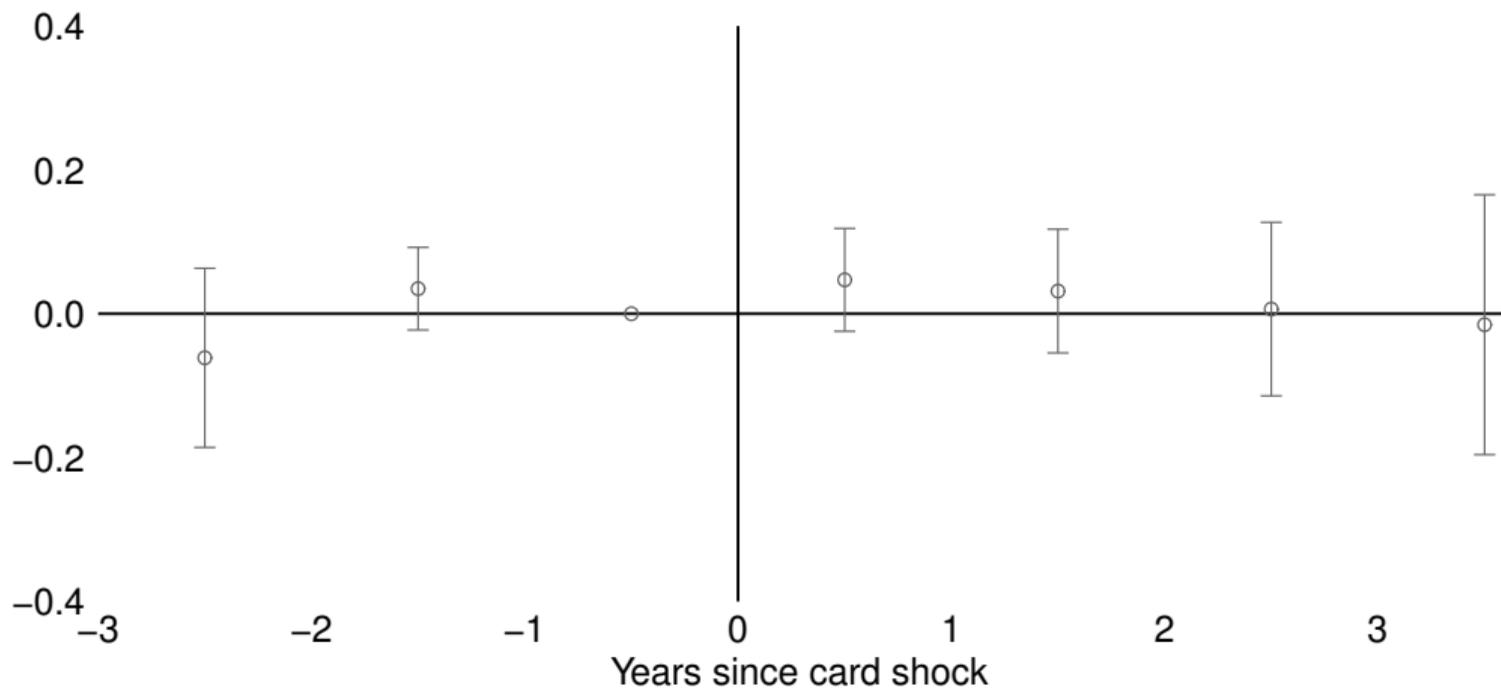
1. Al pagar en un establecimiento con Tarjeta de Débito, no la pierdas de vista.
2. Cuando te entreguen el voucher (comprobante de pago), verifica que la cantidad impresa sea la misma de tu compra.
3. Firma tu voucher. No permitas que impriman más de un voucher.
4. Conserva tus vouchers para confirmar las operaciones que has realizado con tu Tarjeta de Débito.
5. Con tu Tarjeta de Débito puedes retirar efectivo de tu cuenta en Gigante, Comercial Mexicana y WalMart. Entrega tu tarjeta al cajero (a) y solicita la cantidad que deseas retirar.

Paga con tu tarjeta y gana de Boletazo

BANCO DEL AHORRO NACIONAL Y SERVICIOS FINANCIEROS, S. N. C., INSTITUCIÓN DE BANCA DE DESARROLLO, RÍO MAGDALENA No. 115, COL. TIZAPÁN SAN ANSELMO, PUEBLA, ALVARO OBREGÓN, C. P. 68010, MÉXICO, D. F. CONSULTAR 940-3300

No change in number of beneficiaries

$$\log \text{Number of Beneficiaries}_{jt} = \xi_j + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$



► Rollout details

► Rollout timing

► Pre-trends

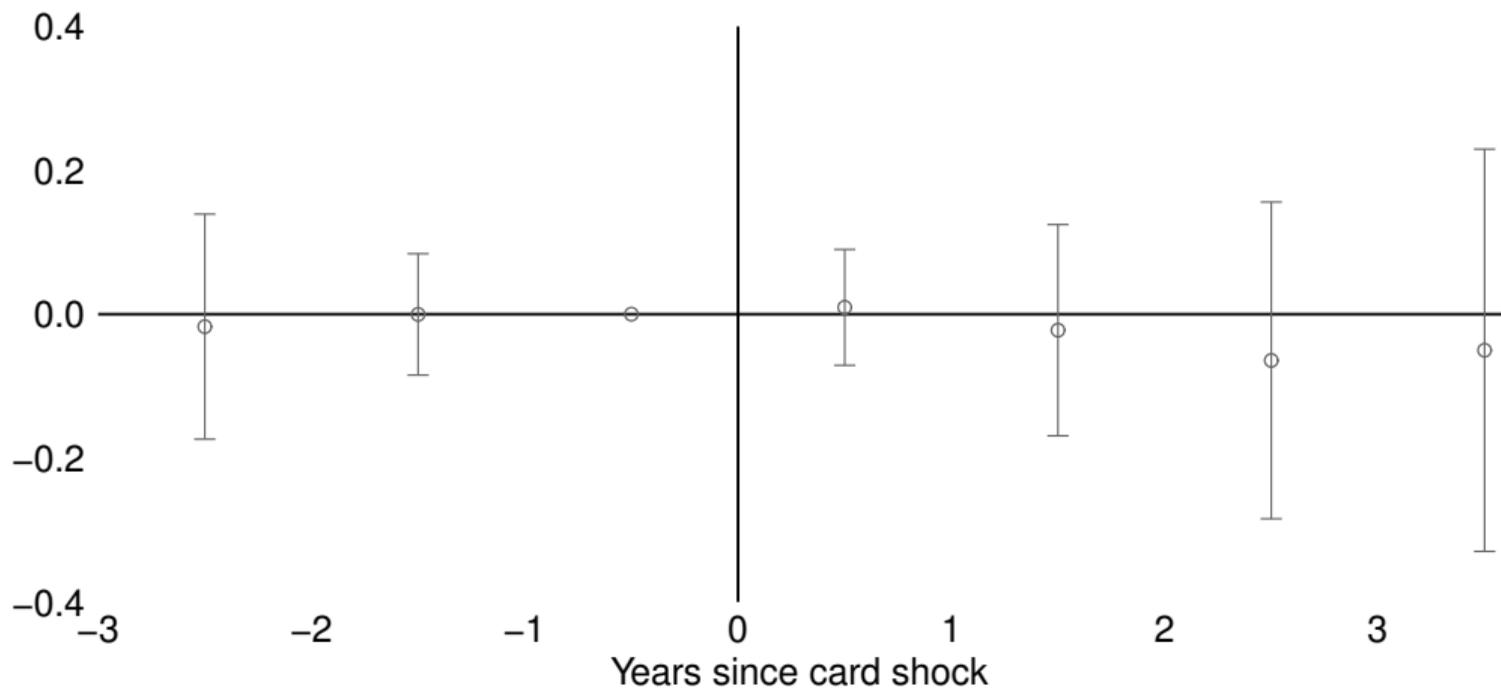
Rollout not correlated with observables

Test using discrete time hazard

Panel A: Banco de México, CNBV, population, Prospera, and electoral data			Panel B: INEGI measures used to track development				
Variable	(1) Mean	(2) Standard deviation	(3) Discrete time hazard	Variable	(1) Mean	(2) Standard deviation	(3) Discrete time hazard
Log point-of-sale terminals	5.82	1.84	0.006 (0.007)	% illiterate (age 15+)	6.13	3.94	0.007 (0.005)
Δ log point-of-sale terminals	0.68	0.17	-0.012 (0.026)	Δ % illiterate	-0.01	0.01	-0.757 (1.118)
Log bank accounts	9.97	3.53	0.002 (0.004)	% not attending school (6-14)	4.23	1.94	-0.011 (0.006)
Δ log bank accounts	2.07	4.02	0.001 (0.004)	Δ % not attending school	-0.03	0.02	-0.435 (0.686)
Log commercial bank branches	2.55	1.44	0.014 (0.018)	% without primary education (15+)	40.20	10.18	-0.000 (0.003)
Δ log commercial bank branches	0.65	0.97	-0.009 (0.018)	Δ % without primary education	0.17	0.04	0.264 (0.371)
Log government bank branches	0.64	0.59	0.031 (0.019)	% without health insurance	46.51	15.82	0.000 (0.001)
Δ log government bank branches	0.18	0.41	0.001 (0.016)	Δ % without health insurance	-0.05	0.08	-0.003 (0.108)
Log commercial bank ATMs	3.12	1.77	-0.018 (0.013)	% with dirt floor	5.31	5.30	-0.000 (0.002)
Log government bank ATMs	0.16	0.37	-0.009 (0.022)	Δ % with dirt floor	-0.02	0.02	0.494 (0.361)
Log population	11.29	1.27	0.016 (0.012)	% without toilet	5.81	3.50	-0.006 (0.004)
Δ log population	0.10	0.18	-0.021 (0.031)	Δ % without toilet	-0.02	0.04	-0.024 (0.167)
Log Prospera beneficiaries	7.09	1.11	-0.003 (0.010)	% without water	6.23	9.00	0.000 (0.001)
Δ log Prospera beneficiaries	0.07	0.38	-0.000 (0.015)	Δ % without water	-0.04	0.05	0.088 (0.109)
% vote share PAN	29.01	15.00	0.000 (0.001)	% without plumbing	3.62	6.20	0.004 (0.002)
Δ % vote share PAN	-0.51	17.49	0.001 (0.001)	Δ % without plumbing	-0.06	0.06	0.111 (0.139)
Mayor – PAN (× 100)	19.31	39.55	-0.000 (0.000)	% without electricity	4.32	2.19	0.006 (0.006)
Δ mayor – PAN (× 100)	-11.97	58.17	0.000 (0.000)	Δ % without electricity	0.02	0.03	0.109 (0.629)
				% without washing machine	33.81	14.47	0.001 (0.001)
				Δ % without washing machine	-0.10	0.05	-0.017 (0.252)
				% without refrigerator	17.31	10.13	-0.002 (0.001)
				Δ % without refrigerator	-0.08	0.06	0.043 (0.268)

Rollout not correlated with political party

$$\mathbb{I}(\text{Mayor}_{jt} = \text{PAN}) = \xi_j + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$



► Pre-trends

Benefits of POS adoption

From focus groups:

- Increased security
 - Less risk of losing revenue to robbery
 - Less risk employees skim off cash or inventory
- Convenience
 - Eliminate need to physically travel to bank to deposit sales
- Increased sales, and avoiding losing customers who adopt cards
 - One participant estimated a 15–20% increase in sales after adopting
 - Another reported losing clients as card adoption in the area increased

► Costs of POS adoption

Card use by new cardholders

Data: From Bansefi: all transactions made by Prospera beneficiaries

106 million transactions in 961,617 accounts

Observe all types of account transactions

- Deposits
- Withdrawals at ATMs
- Withdrawals at bank branches
- Spending on debit card

For debit card transactions, observe string of store name

▸ Transactions at ATM/branch

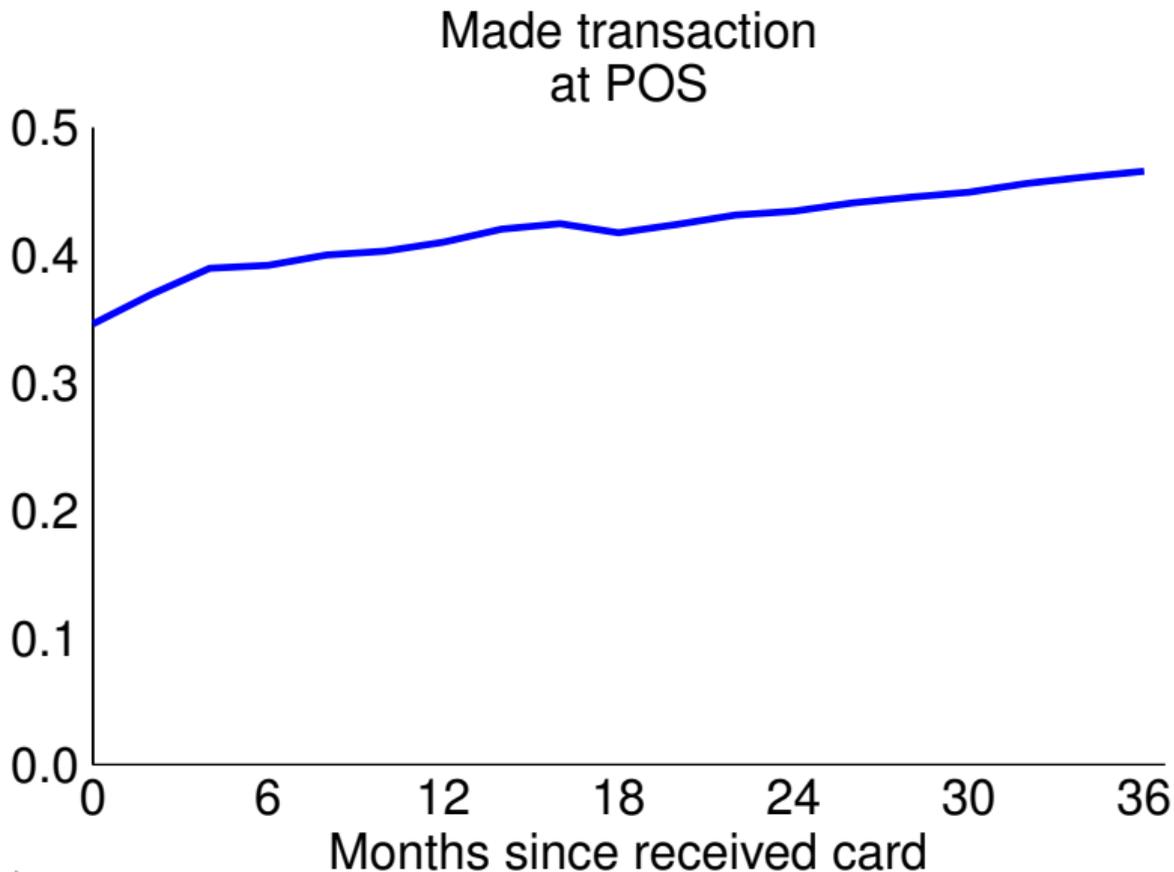
▸ Distance

▸ Savings

▸ Calendar of transfer dates

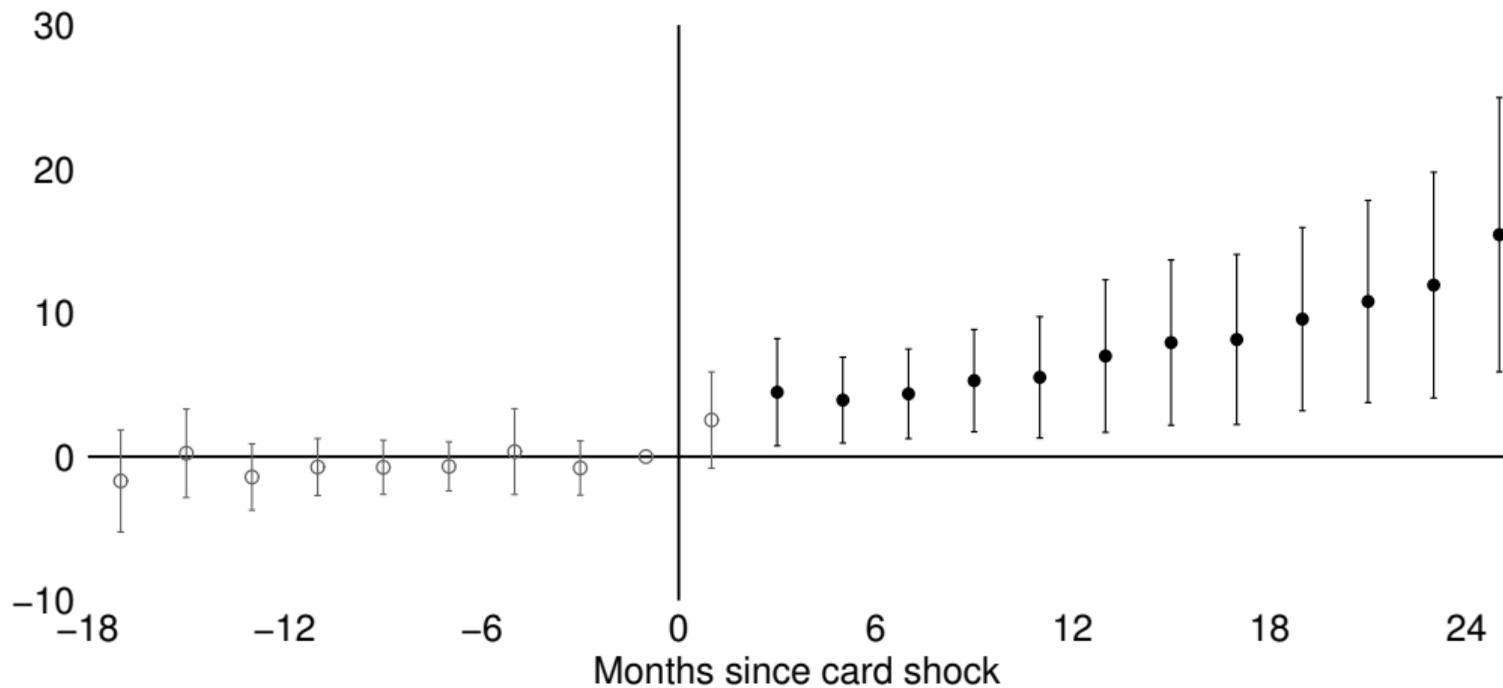
▸ Pamphlet

New cardholders make purchases at POS



Corner stores increase adoption of POS

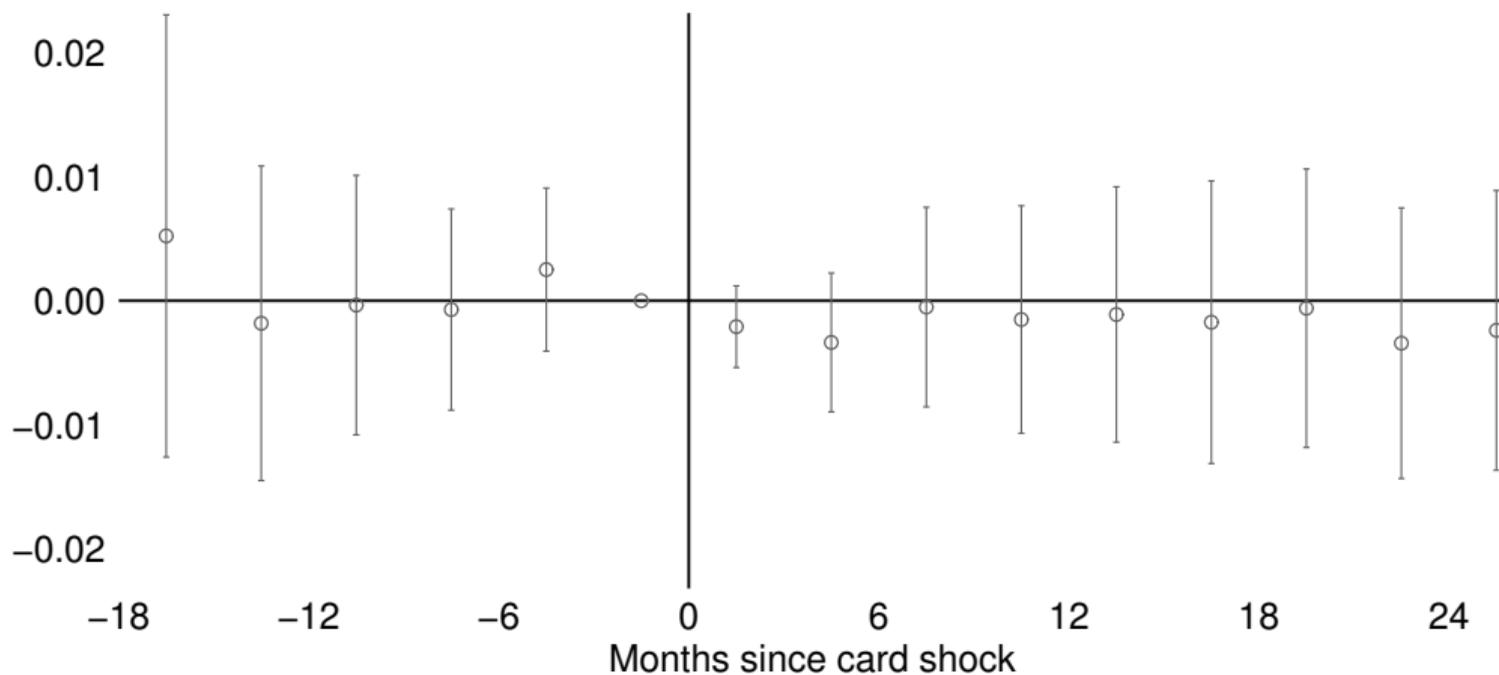
$$\text{Number of POS}_{jt} = \xi_j + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$



► In logs

Banks do not appear to respond to shock

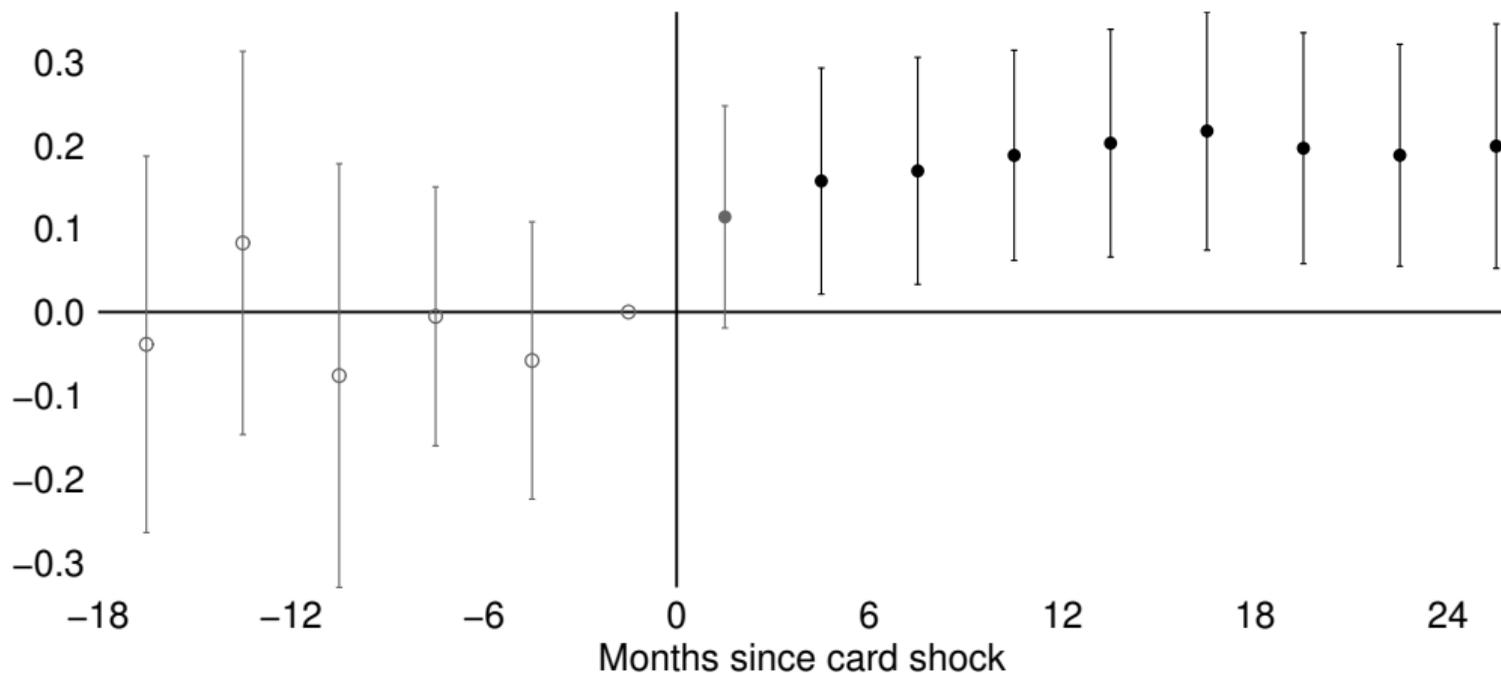
$$\log \text{Transaction fee}_{jt} = \lambda_j + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{jt}^k + \varepsilon_{jt}$$



▸ Adoption costs ▸ POS adoption ▸ Debit card spillovers ▸ Profits

Spillovers to other consumers' card adoption

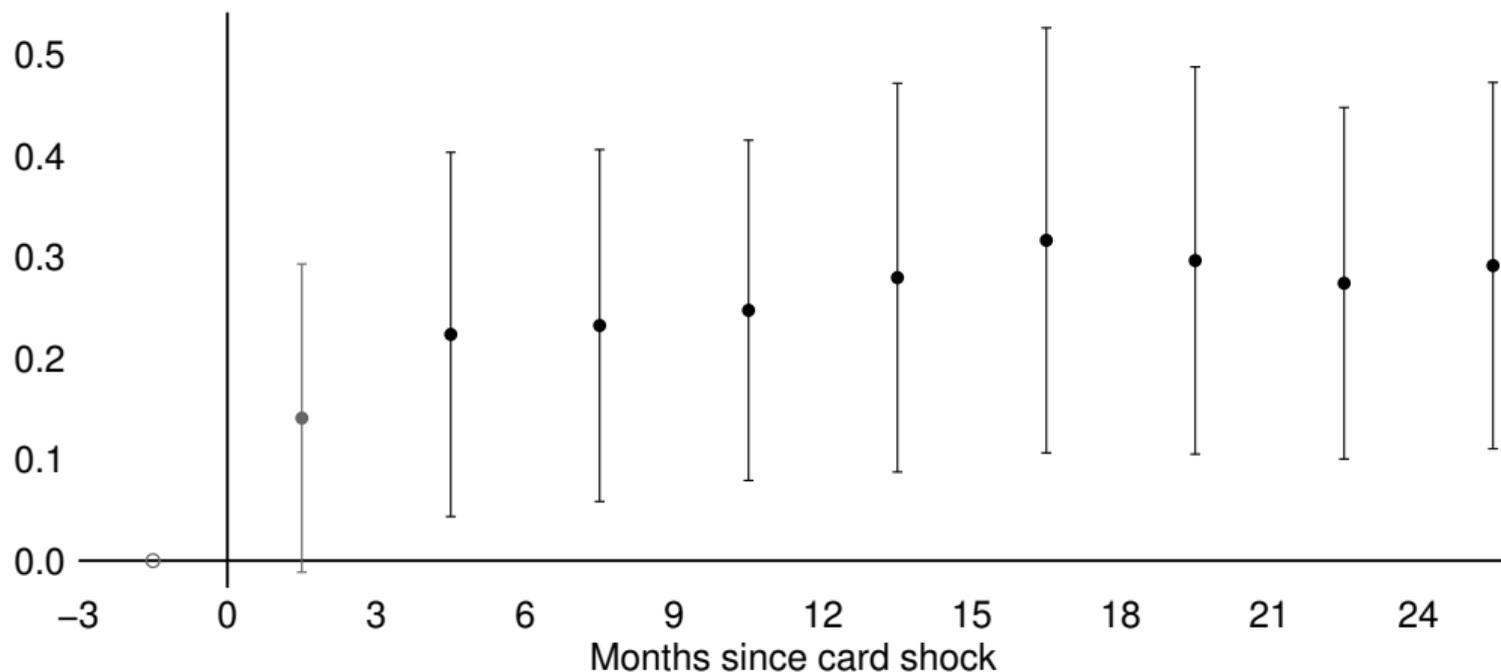
$$\log \text{Number of Credit and Debit Cards}_{mt} = \xi_m + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{mt}^k + \varepsilon_{mt}$$



Spillovers to other consumers' card adoption (balanced over time)

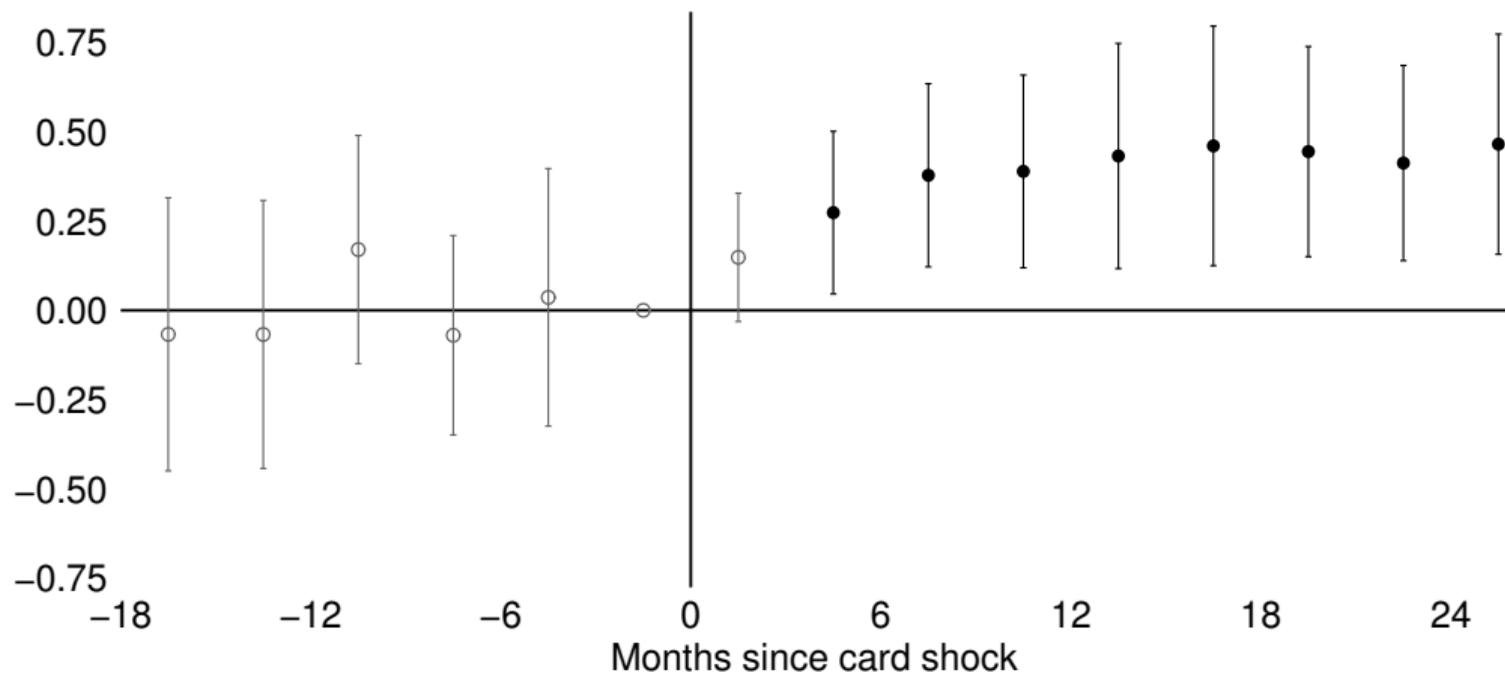
All 255 municipalities in rollout:

$$\log \text{Number of Debit Cards}_{mt} = \xi_m + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{mt}^k + \varepsilon_{mt}$$



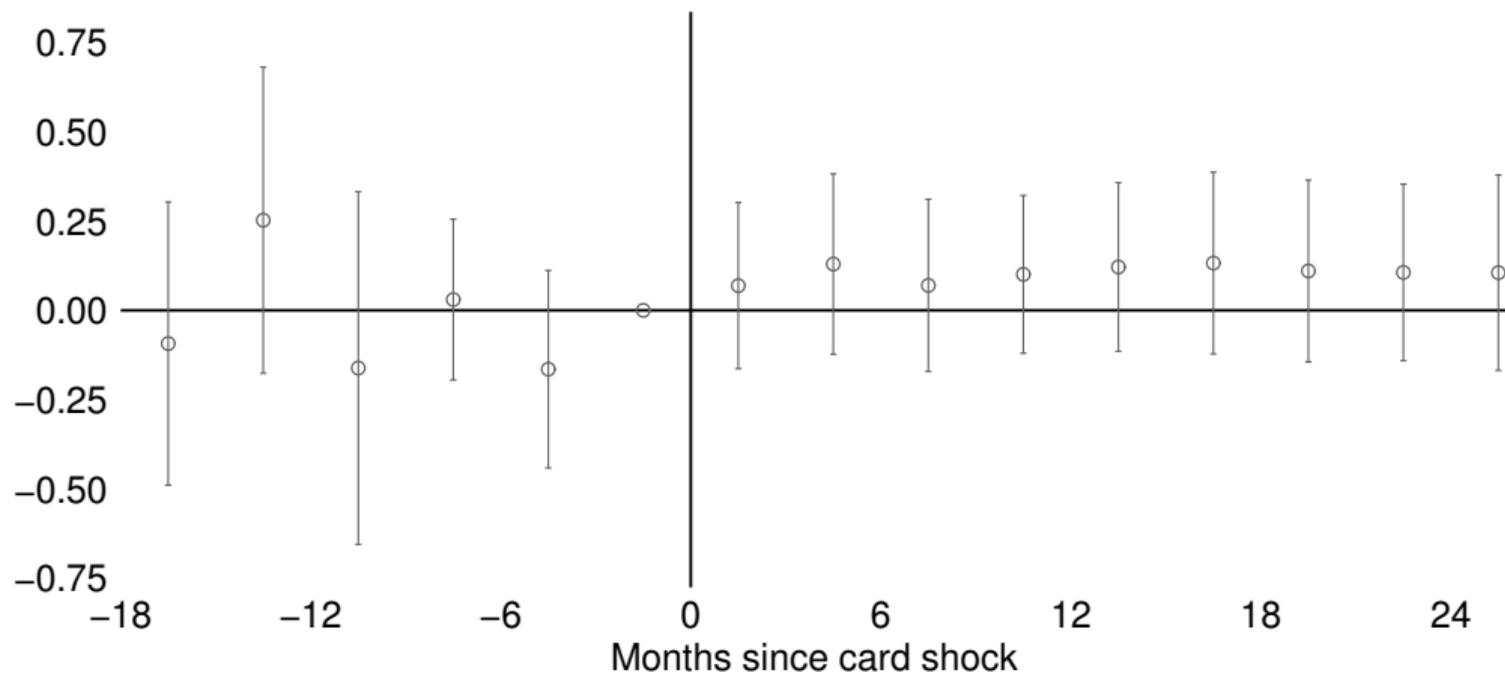
Word-of-mouth learning?

Municipalities with below-median beneficiary transactions at supermarkets



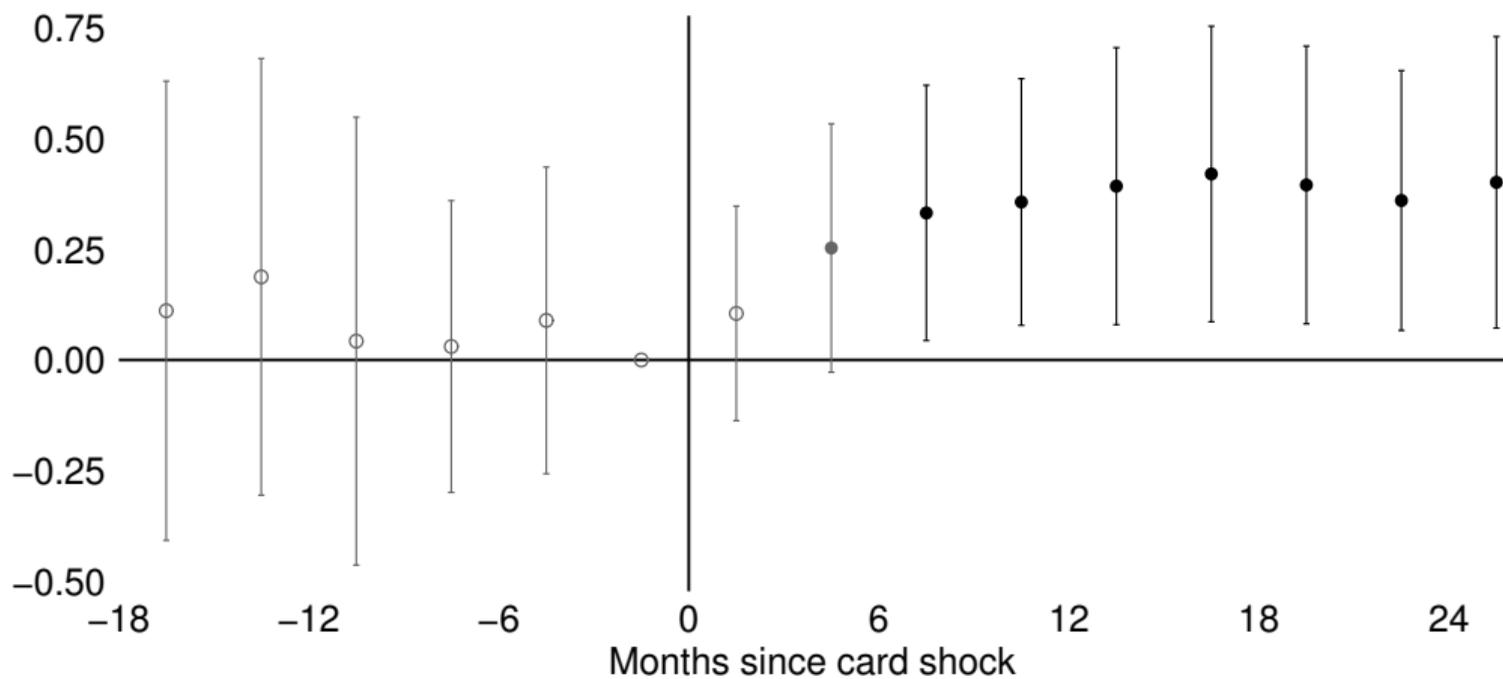
Word-of-mouth learning?

Municipalities with above-median beneficiary transactions at supermarkets



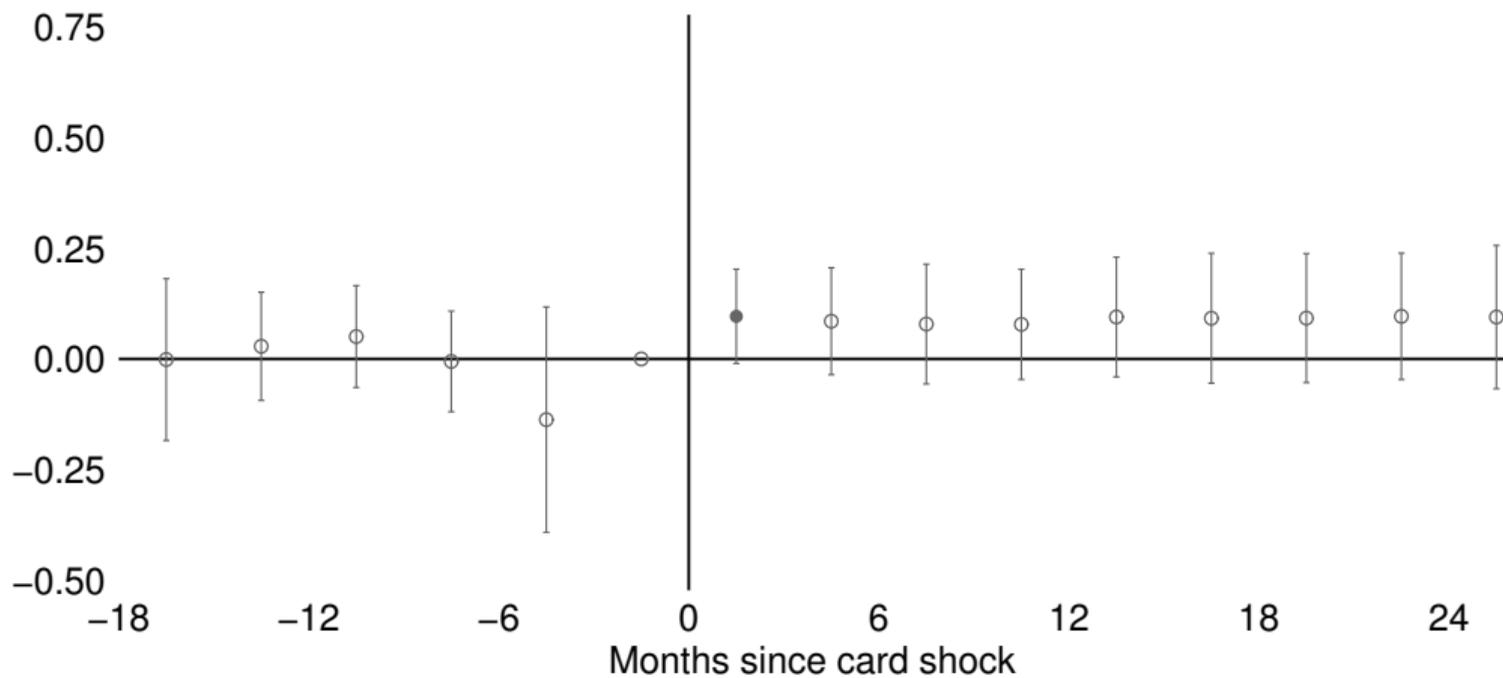
By ATM density

Municipalities with below-median ATMs per person



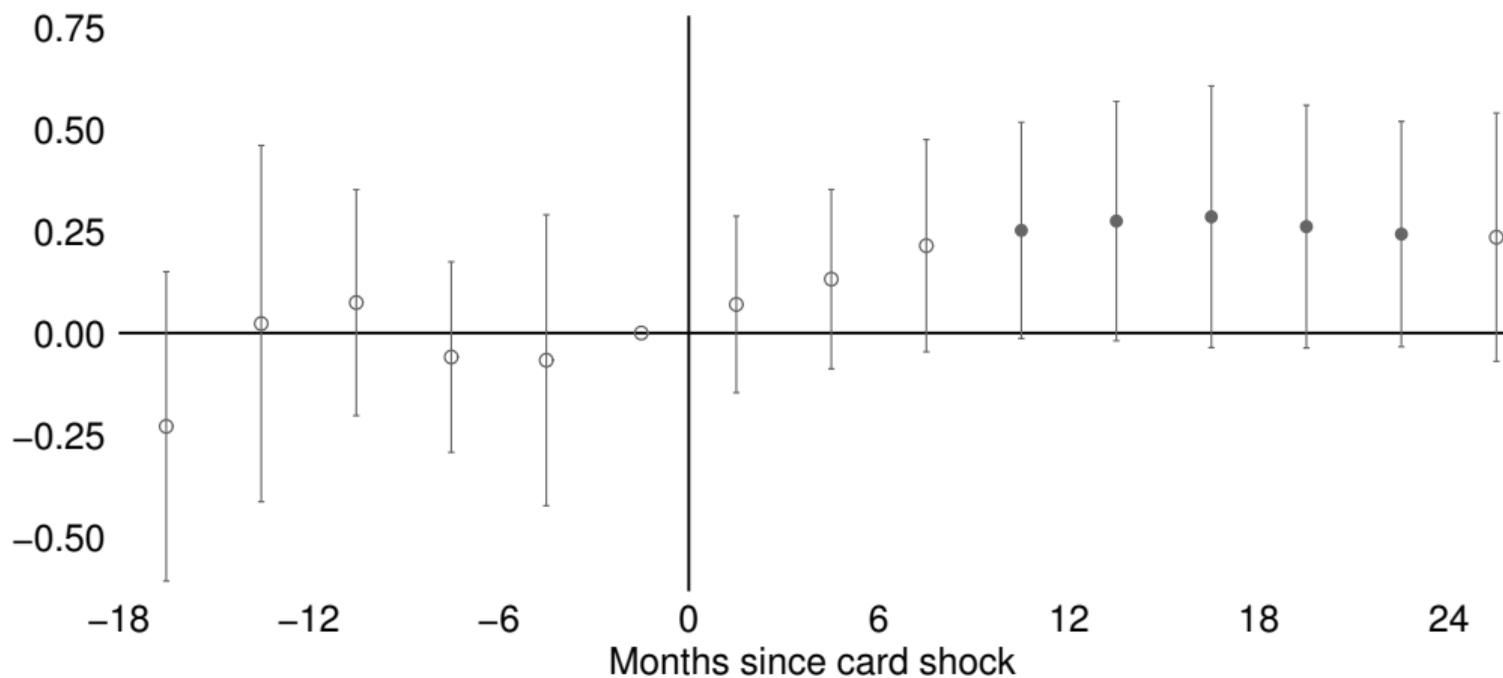
By ATM density

Municipalities with above-median ATMs per person



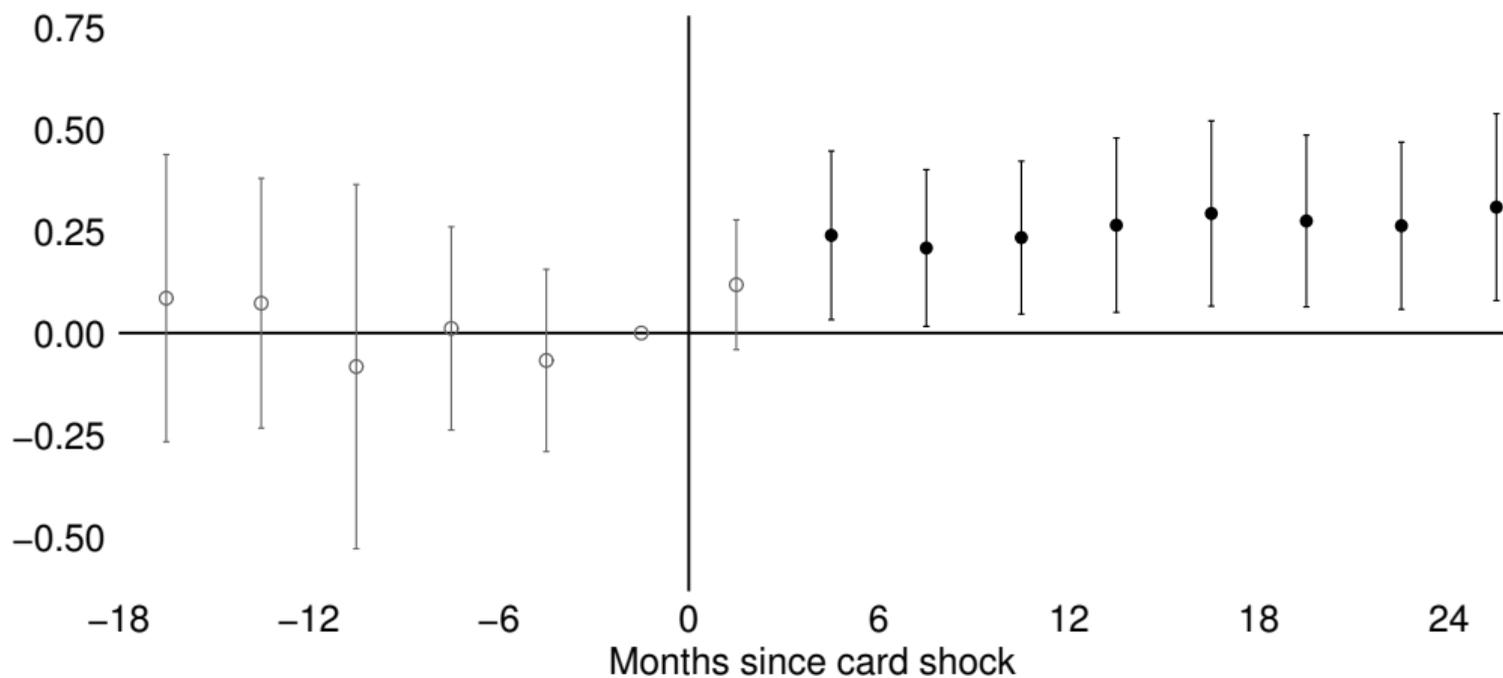
By social connectedness

Municipalities with below-median social connectedness



By social connectedness

Municipalities with above-median social connectedness



Prices

Data: High-frequency store by product by week price data, 2002–2014

- Microdata used to construct Mexico's Consumer Price Index
- ~10 million price quotes
- Product codes are barcode-equivalent (e.g., 600ml Coca-Cola bottle)
- Restrict to food, drink, tobacco categories

Specification: Event study difference-in-differences

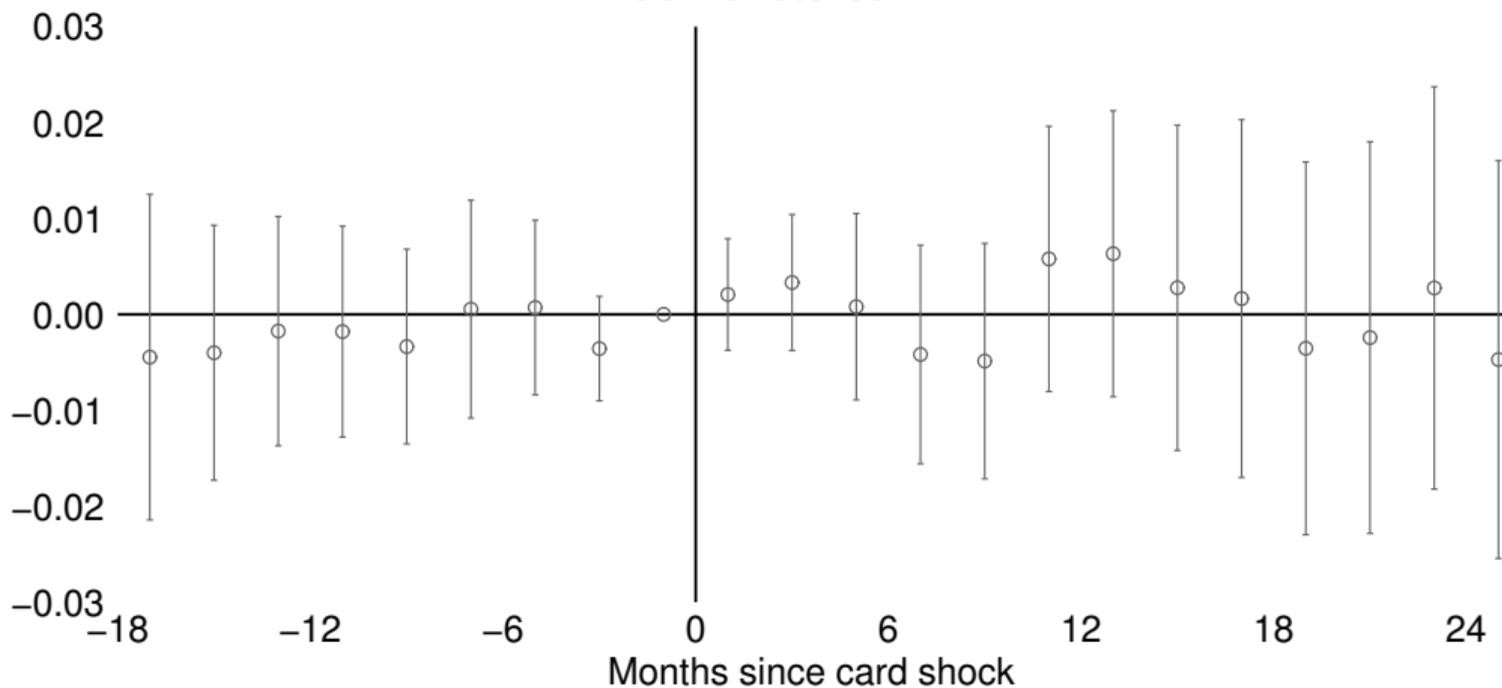
$$\log Price_{gst} = \eta_{gs} + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{m(s)t}^k + \varepsilon_{gst}$$

- η_{gs} are barcode-level-good by store fixed effects
- $D_{m(s)t}^k = 1$ if municipality m received the card shock k periods ago
- As before, aggregated to 2-month periods

No price effect

$$\log Price_{gst} = \eta_{gs} + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{m(s)t}^k + \varepsilon_{gst}$$

Corner stores

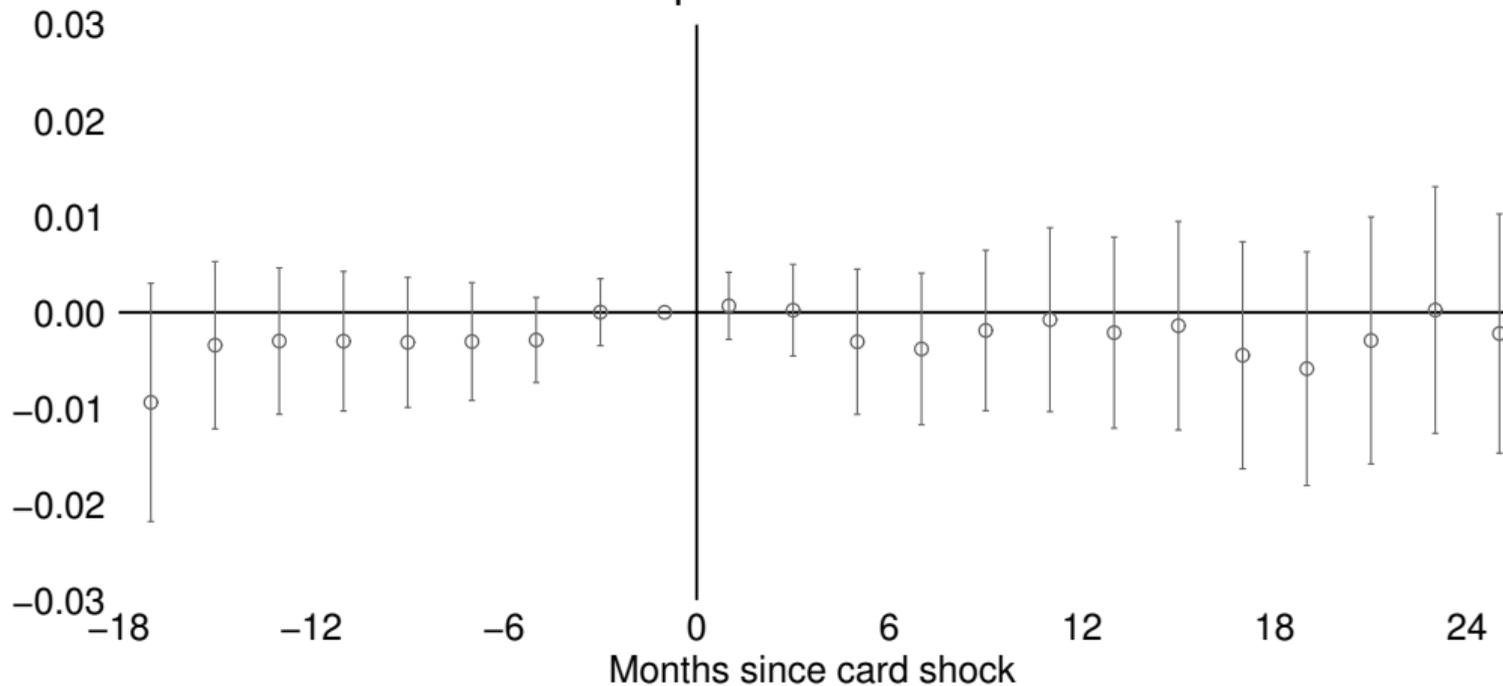


▸ Adoption ▸ Consumption ▸ Profits

No price effect

$$\log Price_{gst} = \eta_{gs} + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{m(s)t}^k + \varepsilon_{gst}$$

Supermarkets

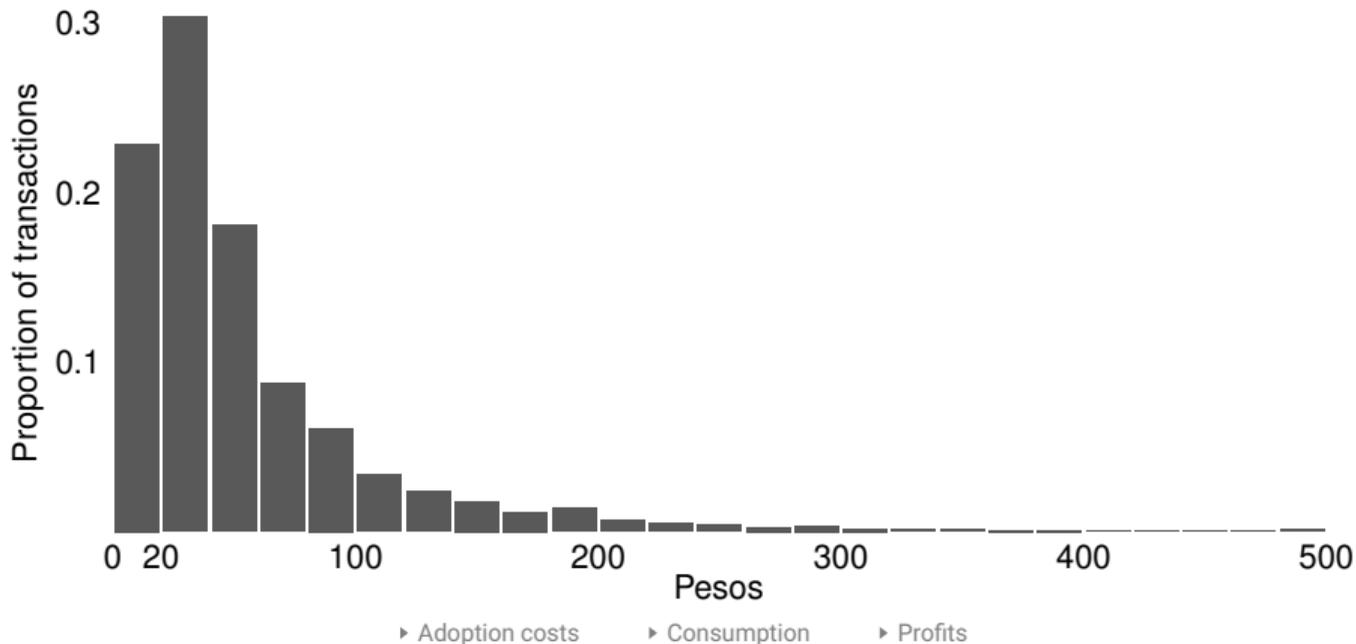


▸ Adoption ▸ Consumption ▸ Profits

Transaction sizes

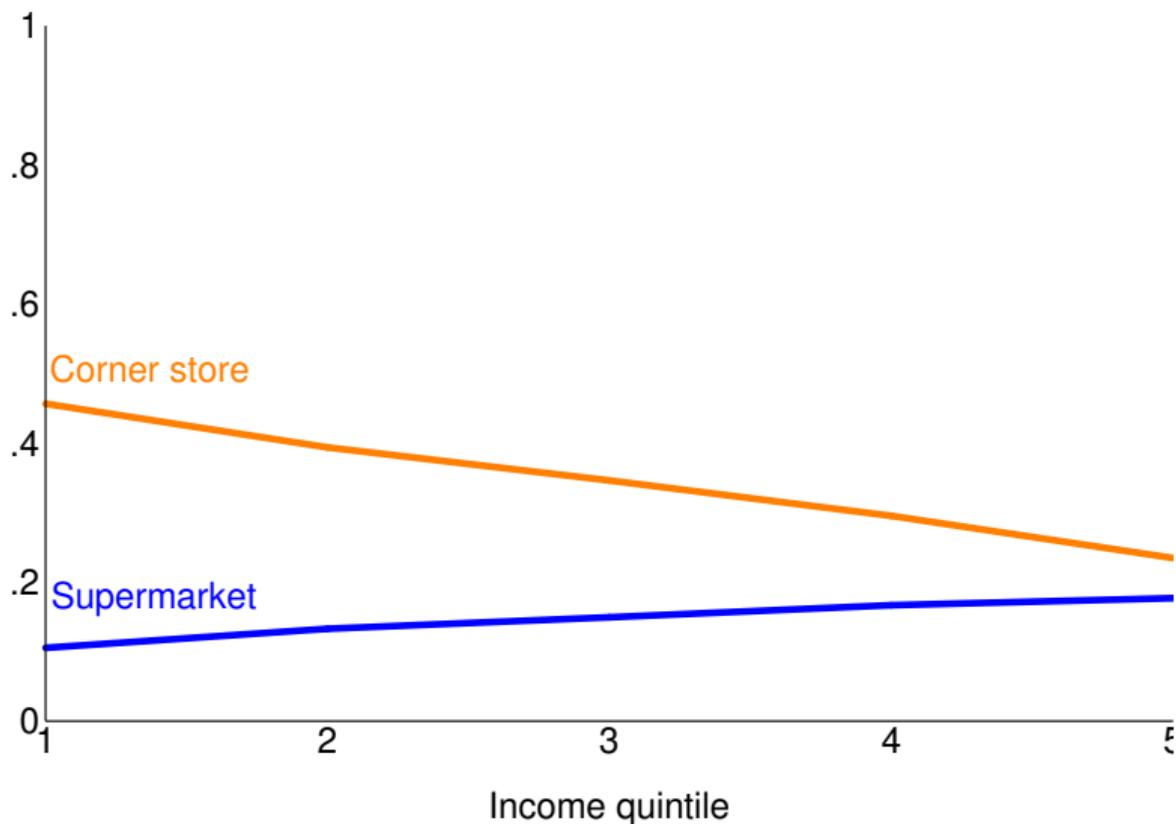
Data: universe of transactions at corner stores (by all cardholders)

Result: >20% less than US\$2, >50% less than US\$4



Consumption shares by store type (control)

Proportion of total consumption by store type



Consumption across stores

$$\log \text{Spending}_{it}^S = \lambda_{j(i)} + \delta_t + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

$$\log \text{Spending}_{it}^S = \xi_{j(i)Card(i)} + \psi_{Card(i)t} + \delta_t + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \omega D_{j(i)t} \times \mathbb{I}(Card)_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

$$\log \text{Spending}_{it}^S = \xi_{j(i)Ben(i)} + \psi_{Ben(i)t} + \delta_t + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \omega D_{j(i)t} \times \mathbb{I}(Ben)_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

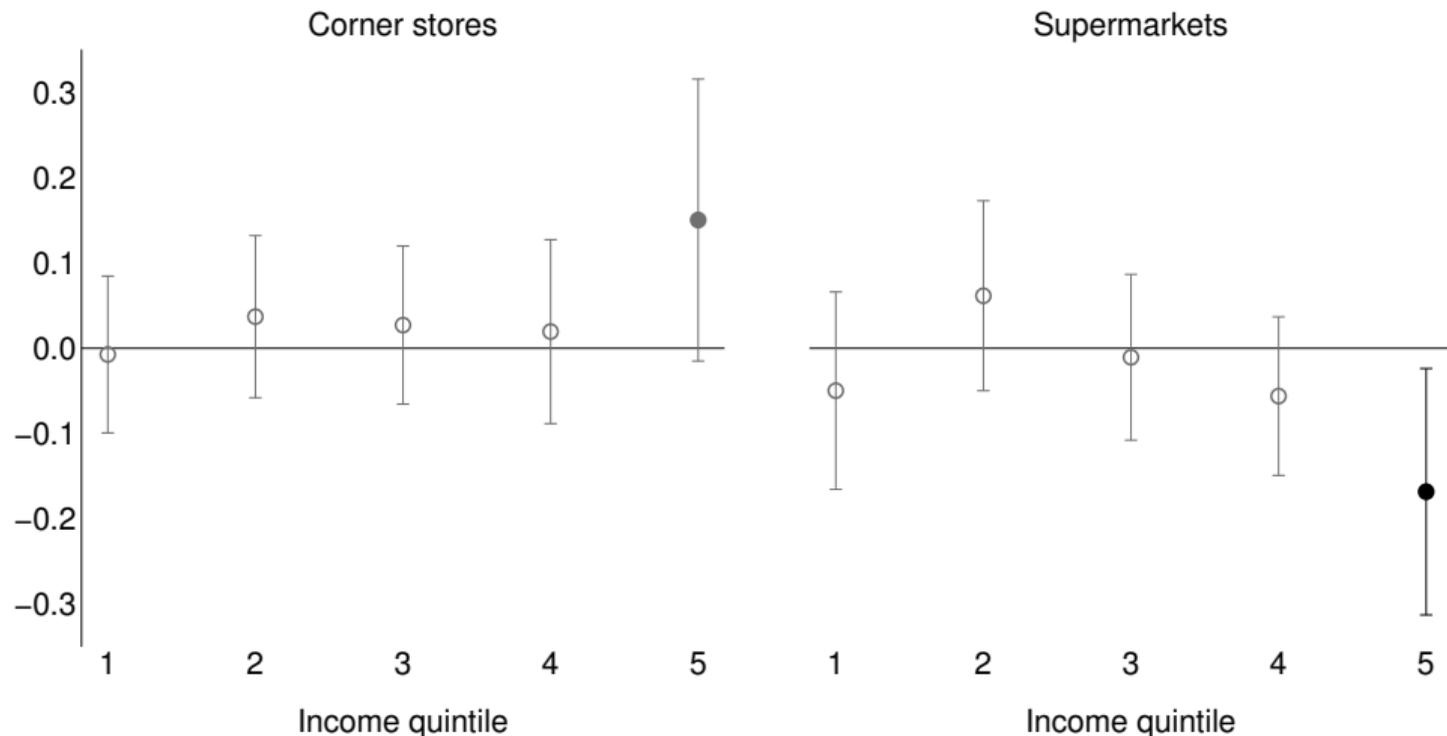
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Dependent variable: log spending at...								
	Corner stores			Supermarkets			Total		
Diff-in-diff	0.067 (0.032)	0.051 (0.033)	0.076 (0.033)	-0.018 (0.043)	0.003 (0.050)	-0.016 (0.045)	0.029 (0.030)	0.029 (0.033)	0.041 (0.030)
Diff-in-diff × has credit card		0.061 (0.040)			-0.058 (0.062)			-0.012 (0.040)	
Diff-in-diff × Prospera beneficiary			-0.127 (0.060)			-0.030 (0.133)			-0.161 (0.063)
P-value DID + (DID × interaction)		[0.009]	[0.423]		[0.250]	[0.732]		[0.581]	[0.073]
Number of households	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810
Number of localities	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220
Locality fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Locality by card/beneficiary fixed effects		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Card/beneficiary by time fixed effects		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes

► Consumption

► Profits

Consumption across stores: quantity of food (kg and liters)

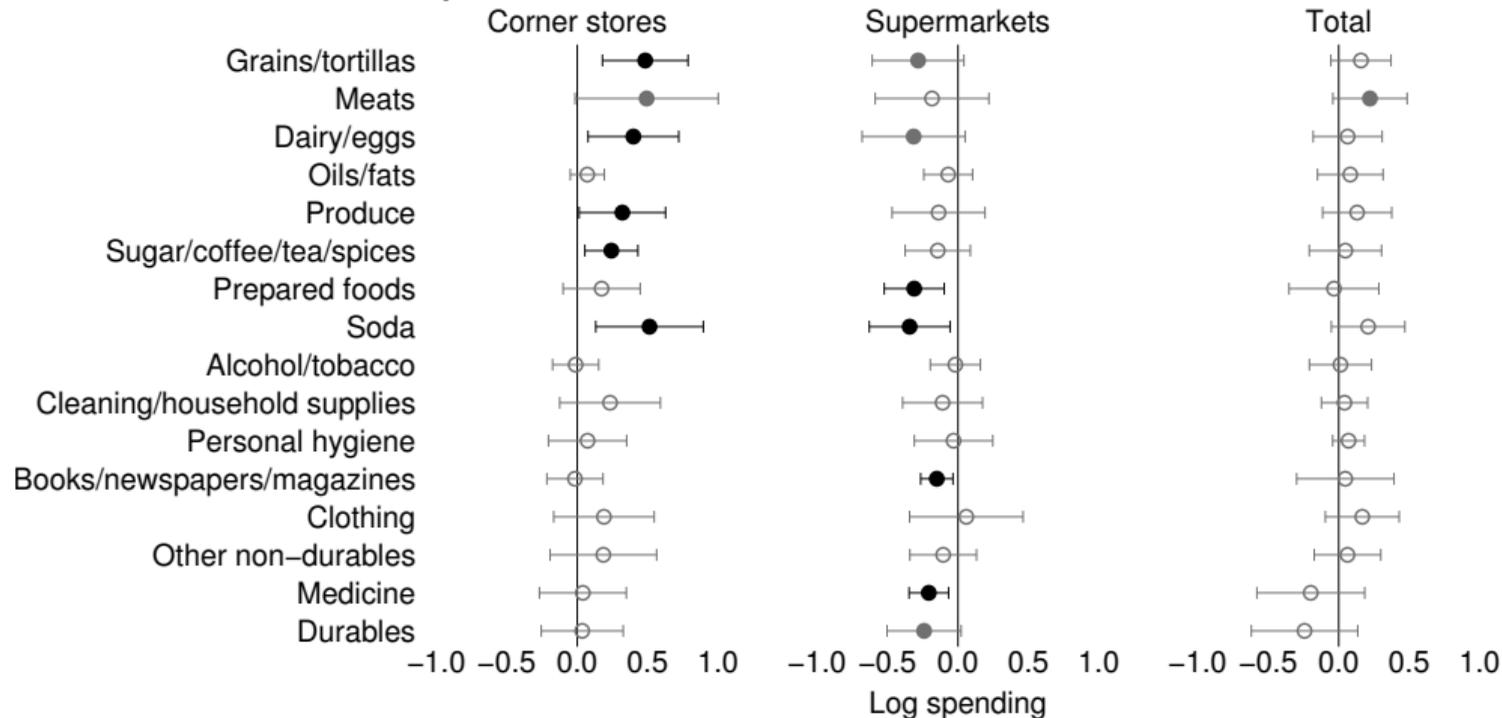
$$\log \text{Quantity}_{it}^s = \lambda_{j(i)} + \theta_{q(i)t} + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \sum_{q=2}^5 \psi_q \mathbb{I}(\text{quintile} = q)_{it} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$



Consumption across stores: by product category

$$\log \text{Spending}_{it}^{gs} = \lambda_{j(i)} + \theta_{q(i)t} + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \sum_{q=2}^5 \psi_q \mathbb{I}(\text{quintile} = q)_{it} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Results for richest quintile



Consumption across stores: by product category (food)

$$\log \text{Spending}_{it}^S = \lambda_{j(i)} + \theta_{q(i)t} + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \sum_{q=2}^5 \psi_q \mathbb{I}(\text{quintile} = q)_{it} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

	(1) Grains/ tortillas	(2) Meats	(3) Dairy/ eggs	(4) Oils/ fats	(5) Produce	(6) Sugar/ coffee/tea/ spices	(7) Prepared foods	(8) Soda	(9) Alcohol/ tobacco
<i>Panel A: Corner stores</i>									
Quintile 1	-0.051 (0.096)	0.145 (0.175)	0.292 (0.154)	-0.015 (0.101)	0.307 (0.137)	0.329 (0.145)	-0.031 (0.149)	-0.060 (0.141)	0.089 (0.057)
Quintile 2	0.033 (0.099)	0.080 (0.167)	0.068 (0.130)	0.159 (0.078)	0.052 (0.120)	0.055 (0.115)	-0.243 (0.145)	0.180 (0.136)	0.070 (0.071)
Quintile 3	-0.025 (0.109)	0.003 (0.160)	0.140 (0.132)	0.097 (0.073)	0.221 (0.133)	0.135 (0.124)	-0.056 (0.129)	0.191 (0.129)	0.128 (0.079)
Quintile 4	0.144 (0.103)	0.167 (0.145)	0.162 (0.124)	0.013 (0.074)	0.130 (0.145)	0.019 (0.102)	-0.060 (0.150)	0.234 (0.131)	-0.053 (0.079)
Quintile 5	0.483 (0.154)	0.493 (0.258)	0.399 (0.163)	0.072 (0.061)	0.321 (0.156)	0.243 (0.096)	0.173 (0.139)	0.514 (0.194)	-0.011 (0.083)
Baseline mean	5.772	4.289	4.765	0.740	3.660	1.683	2.501	4.332	0.580
Number of observations	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810
Number of localities	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220
Locality fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quintile × time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

► Consumption

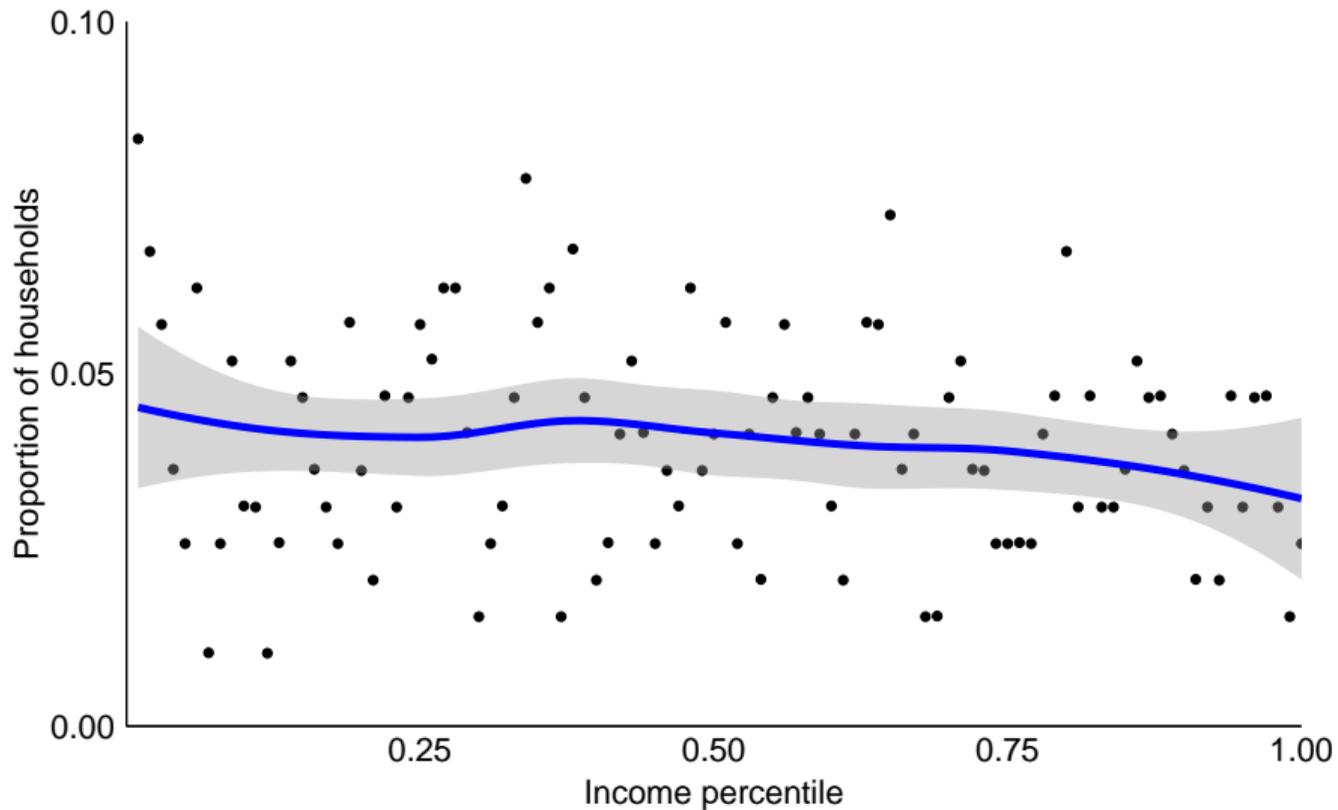
Consumption across stores: by product category (food)

$$\log \text{Spending}_{it}^S = \lambda_{j(i)} + \theta_{q(i)t} + \gamma D_{j(i)t} + \sum_{q=2}^5 \psi_q \mathbb{I}(\text{quintile} = q)_{it} \times D_{j(i)t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

	(1) Grains/ tortillas	(2) Meats	(3) Dairy/ eggs	(4) Oils/ fats	(5) Produce	(6) Sugar/ coffee/tea/ spices	(7) Prepared foods	(8) Soda	(9) Alcohol/ tobacco
<i>Panel B: Supermarkets</i>									
Quintile 1	-0.024 (0.142)	-0.013 (0.122)	-0.092 (0.121)	0.018 (0.079)	-0.069 (0.138)	0.011 (0.099)	0.004 (0.069)	-0.096 (0.089)	0.039 (0.036)
Quintile 2	0.210 (0.151)	0.151 (0.128)	0.161 (0.132)	0.121 (0.068)	0.086 (0.143)	0.250 (0.120)	-0.024 (0.073)	0.009 (0.093)	-0.007 (0.038)
Quintile 3	-0.034 (0.125)	0.121 (0.123)	-0.070 (0.121)	0.076 (0.073)	-0.004 (0.111)	0.207 (0.113)	-0.022 (0.071)	-0.004 (0.087)	0.095 (0.054)
Quintile 4	-0.030 (0.113)	0.057 (0.141)	-0.167 (0.108)	-0.087 (0.071)	-0.049 (0.124)	-0.048 (0.092)	0.013 (0.088)	-0.125 (0.095)	-0.092 (0.054)
Quintile 5	-0.283 (0.165)	-0.184 (0.205)	-0.315 (0.185)	-0.069 (0.088)	-0.138 (0.167)	-0.144 (0.117)	-0.311 (0.108)	-0.343 (0.145)	-0.019 (0.090)
Baseline mean	2.065	2.122	2.042	0.542	1.895	0.956	0.634	1.311	0.242
Number of observations	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810	49,810
Number of localities	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220
Locality fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quintile × time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

► Consumption

Corner store owners evenly distributed by income



Corner store churn

$$y_{jt} = \lambda_j + \delta_t + \beta D_{jt} + \varepsilon_{jt}$$

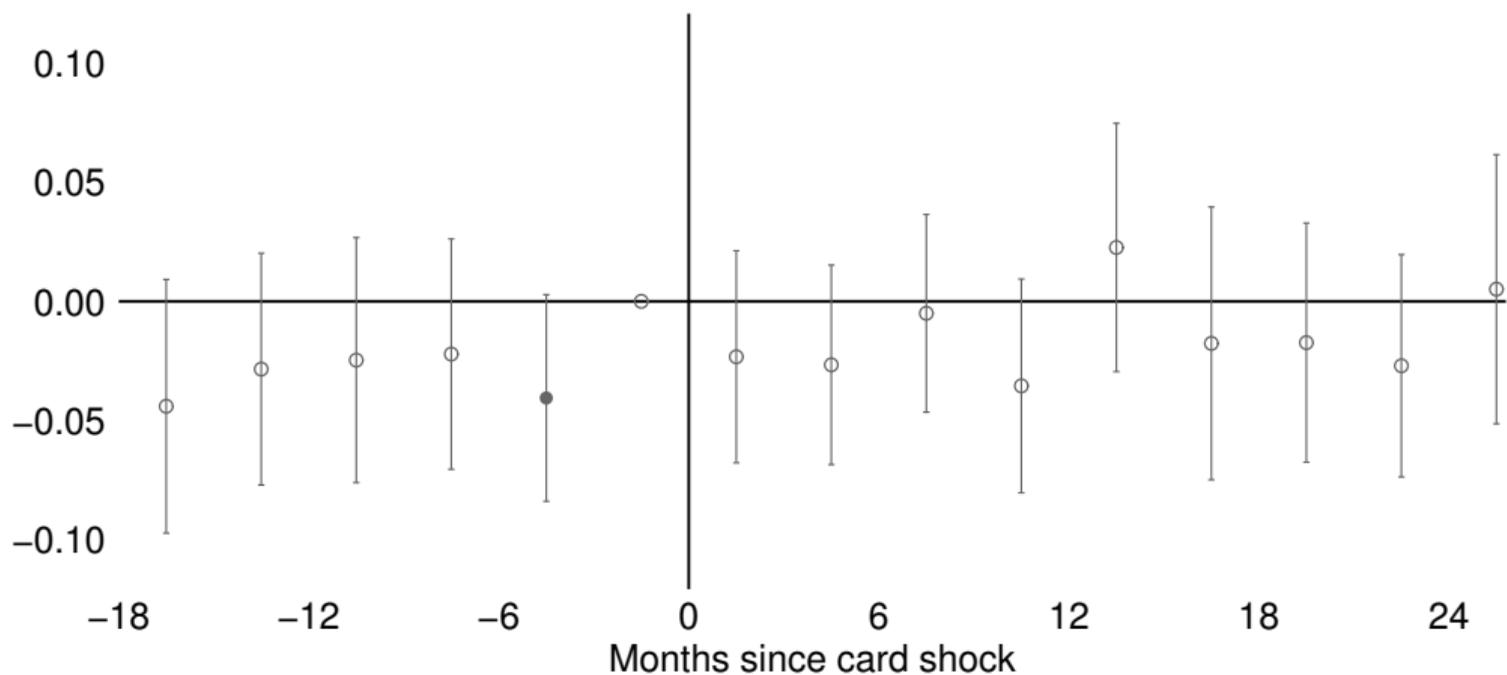
	(1) Only 2008 stores	(2)	(3) All stores	(4)
	Number of Corner Stores	Log Number of Corner Stores	Number of Corner Stores	Log Number of Corner Stores
	-3.056*** (1.171)	-0.048 (0.040)	0.076 (0.642)	0.006 (0.056)
Number of localities	250	250	250	250
Locality fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time fixed effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

► Profits

No wage effect

$$\log Wage_{it} = \lambda_{m(i)} + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{m(i)t}^k + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Supermarkets

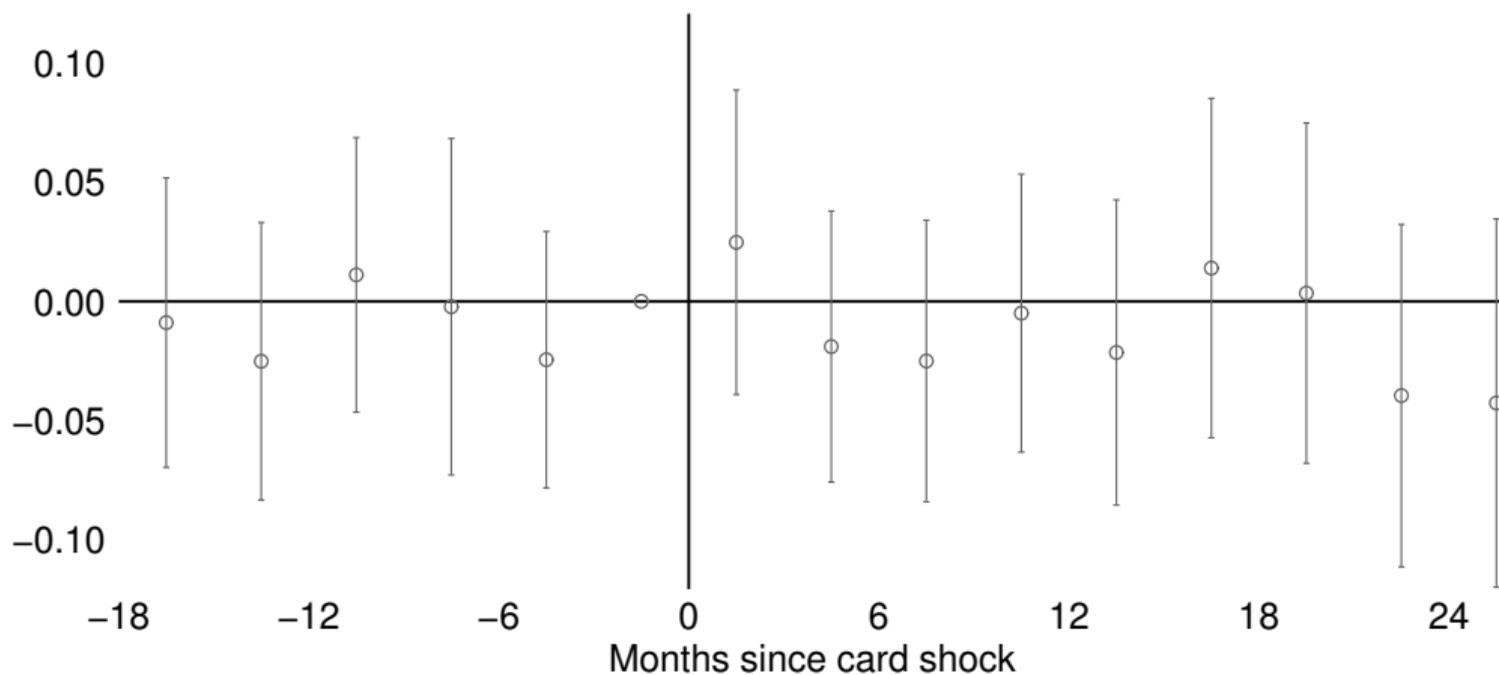


► Profits

No wage effect

$$\log Wage_{it} = \lambda_{m(i)} + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{m(i)t}^k + \varepsilon_{it}$$

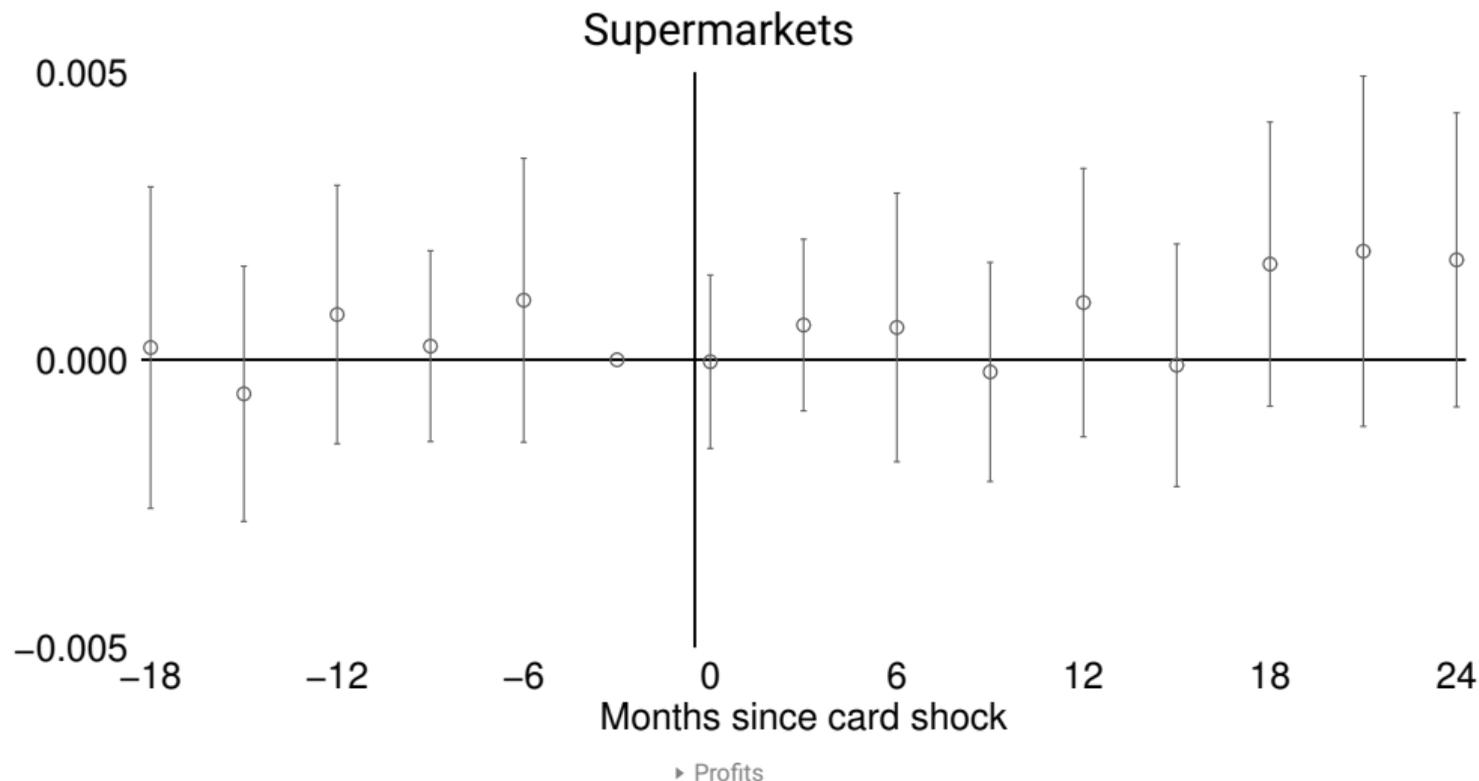
Corner stores



► Profits

No effect on probability fired

$$\text{Fired}_{it} = \lambda_{m(i)} + \delta_t + \sum_k \phi_k D_{m(i)t}^k + \varepsilon_{it}$$



Consumer gains from supply-side POS adoption

$-\theta_k/\alpha_k$ is price-equivalent value of no stores \rightarrow all stores with POS:

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{\theta_k}{\alpha_k} &= \frac{d \log \phi_{akst} / d \overline{POS}_{z(a)st}}{d \log \phi_{akst} / d \log P_{ast}} \\ &= \frac{d \log P_{ast}}{d \overline{POS}_{z(a)st}} \end{aligned}$$

$-(\theta_k/\alpha_k)\Delta POS_{ks}$ is value to consumers of supply-side response to shock

- ΔPOS_{ks} is observed change in adoption in response to shock

Next: plug in $-\frac{\theta_k}{\alpha_k}\Delta POS_{ks}$ for $d \log P_s$ in standard consumer surplus formula



Consumer gains from supply-side POS adoption

First-order approximation of compensating variation:

$$CV = e(P^0, U^0) - e(P^1, U^0)$$

First-order Taylor expansion of $e(P^0, U^0)$ around P^1 :

$$\approx \left[e(P^1, U^0) + \sum_s \frac{\partial e(P^1, U^0)}{\partial P_s} (P_s^0 - P_s^1) \right] - e(P^1, U^0)$$

Shephard's lemma and duality:

$$\approx - \sum_s x_s^1 (P_s^1 - P_s^0) \approx - \sum_s P_s^1 x_s^1 \left(\frac{P_s^1 - P_s^0}{P_s^1} \right) \approx \sum_s P_s^1 x_s^1 \left(\frac{\theta}{\alpha} \Delta POS_s \right)$$

Proportional Δ consumer surplus $\approx \sum_s \phi_s^1 (\theta/\alpha) \Delta POS_s$