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Andrew S. Griffen, Makiko Nakamuro, Tomohiko Inui

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Fertility and Maternal Labor Supply in Japan: Conflicting Policy Goals?

By Andrew S. Griffen, Makiko Nakamuro and Tomohiko Inui¹

Using panel data on Japanese mothers, this paper estimates the impact of fertility on maternal labor supply using twins as an instrument for the total number of children. We find that having twins actually has a longer term *positive* impact on maternal labor force participation in Japan. To understand this result, we present evidence that the effects of age and cost of children can generate this finding, are particularly salient in Japan and differ in important ways between twins and non-twin families of the same size. Implications for fertility and labor supply policy in Japan are discussed. (*JEL*: J01, J08, J13, J22)

Keywords: Maternal labor supply, fertility, twins

¹Andrew S. Griffen, University of Tokyo, Email: griffen@e.u-tokyo.ac.jp; Makiko Nakamuro, Keio University, Email: makikon@sfc.keio.ac.jp; Tomohiko Inui, Gakushuin University and RIETI, Email: tomohiko.inui@gakushuin.ac.jp. This study was conducted as part of a project entitled “Analysis on Service Industries: Productivity, Economic Welfare, and Policy Evaluation” undertaken by the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI). We gratefully acknowledge financial support from a Grant-In-Aid for Scientific Research (A), entitled “The Assessments of the Quality and the Productivity of Non-marketable Services” Research Representative: Takeshi Hiromatsu, No. 3243944. Andrew S. Griffen gratefully acknowledges research support from the Kagami Foundation. We thank the editor and two anonymous referees whose comments greatly improved the paper. We would also like to thank seminar participants at RIETI, the University of Tokyo, GRIPS, Seoul National University, Sogang University, the Japanese Economic Association Meetings and the WEAI as well as Masahisa Fujita, Kyoji Fukao, Yoko Konishi, Masayuki Morikawa, Keiichiro Oda, Midori Wakayabashi, Juan Pantano, Chul-In Lee, George Kudrna and Isabelle Sin, who provided extremely helpful comments and discussion. Finally, we would also like to thank the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for granting permission to use the Longitudinal Survey of Newborns in the 21st Century. Any remaining errors are our own.

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