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BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES AND WELFARE REFORM: EVIDENCE FROM A RANDOMIZED EXPERIMENT

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HIGHLIGHTS

- We show that heterogeneity associated with welfare participation costs is relevant for evaluation of experimental welfare reforms.
- We find that a welfare program can impose an estimated cost up to 10 percent of quarterly earnings.
- The costs can be heterogeneous throughout the conditional earnings distribution.
- We propose a semi-parametric panel quantile estimator for a model that allows women to vary arbitrarily in preferences and costs of participating in welfare programs.

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