



Job Search and Related Work First Strategies

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Job Search Assistance “Works”



- Caution: findings not from Food Stamps/SNAP
- Three programs: AFDC, U.S. and European UI
- Clear evidence of declines in benefits and caseload
- Mixed evidence on whether earnings and income rise (some variation by program)
- See Klerman, Koralek, Miller, Wen (2013) for a review of this literature
(http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/job_search.pdf)

Active Ingredients?



- Ability to estimate contribution of enforcement *versus* services varies by program
 - A little evidence for AFDC—both seem to contribute
 - Stronger for UI
- In particular for UI evidence is consistent with:
 - A large impact of enforcement, and
 - A small to zero impact of assistance
- Ongoing research (at Abt)
 - DHHS/ACF random assignment study of assistance strategies
 - DOL/CEO multi-armed random assignment study to estimate the incremental effect of assistance, over and above enforcement

Implications for Evaluation



- Job Search Assistance is a low-cost intervention
 - Estimated impacts are small (not capturing entry effects)
 - Perhaps \$1,000 per year (NEWS LFA)
- Detecting small impacts requires large samples
- Low cost means small impacts could still pass a cost-benefit test
- How large are the required samples?
 - NEWWS suggests at least 3,000 (1,500T + 1,500C)
 - Larger if cluster random assignment to capture entry effects
 - Inefficiency of the latter implies need to be confident that programs really will be broad-based



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IMPACT

