Mitigating the Risks of Financial Inclusion with Loan Contract Terms

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Second Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Conference

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Preliminary, comments welcome!

Study Design and Data Summary Statistics

Policy Priority: Expanding Credit

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(Minister of the Treasury, 2014).

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Study Design and Data Summary Statistics

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- Expanding credit to new borrowers:
 - ✓ Smooth consumption, allows investment. Welfare-improving by revealed preference.
 - × High risk population due to asymmetric information problems. Unsophisticated or time-inconsistent individuals could borrow "too much" relative to unbiased benchmark.

Study Design and Data Summary Statistics

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 - Effect of variation in interest rates and minimum payments on purchases, payments, debt and default.

Study Design and Data Summary Statistics

Population and Study Sample

 Product: Store credit card for clients with limited credit history targeted at low income individuals promoted in stores.

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 - $^{\circ}\,$ for 57% this was first credit card of any kind.
 - $^{\circ}$ for 47% this was the first banking product.
 - Relatively new to formal credit of any sort, lower-than-average credit scores.
 See credit score distribution

Study Design and Data Summary Statistics

Study Design and Data

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- Arm assignment ran from March 2007 to May 2009. All clients returned to standard terms.
- Data:
 - Monthly bank statement data (03/07 05/09, 06/13 06/14).
 - Annual Credit Bureau data (2007 2013). Match 99% of sample.
 - ENIGH, MxFLS (unmatched)

Study Design and Data Summary Statistics

Timeline



Summary statistics

	(1) Start of experiment
Credit bureau-supplied information	
Demographic information	
Age	39
% Male	53
% Married	63
Monthly Income (Pesos)	13,842
	(1)
	Beginning of
	the experiment
Credit card information (Pesos)	
Payments	711
	(1,473)
Purchases	338
	(1,023)
Debt	1,198
	(3,521)
Credit limit	7,879
	(6,117)
Credit score	045
	(52)

Study Design and Data Summary Statistics

Results

Attrition Purchases and Repayment Debt and Delinquencies Other Findings

Environment: High Rates of Card Exit



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Environment: High Rates of Card Exit



- 33% of control group exits bank during the experiment $\simeq 15\%$ annual exit rate.
- Similar rates for similar populations also in other data. Market card Exits

Estimation Outline

• Estimate treatment effects (and Lee (2009) Bounds to deal with card exits):

$$Y_{it} = \sum_{g=1}^{8} \beta_{gt} T_{ig} + \sum_{s=1}^{9} S_{is} + \epsilon_{it}$$

and graph for each treatment arm $g~\{\hat{\beta}_{gt}\}_{t=1}^{26}$ and Lee Bounds.

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$$\beta_{\rm (r=45\%, MP=5\%), t} - \beta_{\rm (r=15\%, MP=5\%), t}$$

2. Effect of a minimum payment increase holding interest rate fixed at 45%:

$$\beta_{\rm (r=45\%, MP=5\%), t} - \beta_{\rm (r=45\%, MP=10\%), t}$$

Effects on Card Exit



Effects on Card Exit



• \uparrow **MP** \implies \uparrow Cancellations (14%, 1.6 pp^{**}), \uparrow Revokations (10%, 1.2 pp^{***}).

Effects on Card Exit



↑ MP ⇒ ↑ Cancellations (14%, 1.6 pp**), ↑ Revokations (10%, 1.2 pp***).
 ↓ R ⇒ ↓ Cancellations (30%, 3.3 pp***), ↓ Revokations (6%, 2.1 pp***).

Cancellations by Payment Behavior) Revokations by Payment Behavior) Treatment Estimations

Effect on Purchases and Repayment



Effect on Purchases and Repayment



• \uparrow **MP** \implies \uparrow Purchases (18%, MXN \$92^{***}), \uparrow Repayments (8%, MXN \$53^{**}).

Effect on Purchases and Repayment



• \downarrow R \implies \uparrow Purchases (13%, MXN \$65^{***}), \downarrow Repayments (9%, MXN \$64^{***}).

urchases by Payment Behavior) (Payment by Payment Behavior) (Treatment Estimation

Effect on Debt and Delinquencies



Effect on Debt and Delinquencies



• \uparrow MP $\implies \downarrow$ Debt (35%, MXN \$789^{***}), - Delinquency (3%, 1pp).

Effect on Debt and Delinquencies



• $\downarrow \mathbf{R} \implies \downarrow \text{Debt} (27\%, \text{MXN } 604^{***}), \downarrow \text{Delinquency} (10\%, 3.3pp^{***}).$

(Treatment Estimations)

Payment bunching by MP

Effects on Bank Revenues

• Use different approaches to computing bank revenues (payments less purchases adjusting for balances held and defaults). Revenues Definition

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- Use different approaches to computing bank revenues (payments less purchases adjusting for balances held and defaults). Revenues Definition
- Across different definitions, treatment effects are negative.
- Implied elasticity of bank net revenues about with respect to interest rates \approx .7.
- Implied elasticity with respect to minimum payments pprox -.15

	Revenues
r=15% MP=5%	-925.5***
r=45%, MP=10%	(81.63) -292.7***
	(29.91)
r=45%, MP=5%	1860.9***
	(163.3)
R-squared	0.0186

Summary

- Extremely high rates of card-exit.
 - 33% of the sample exit the experiment.
 - Exit rates comparable in Credit Bureaus for similar populations.
- Decreasing interest and increasing minimum payments both rates reduced debt.
- Elasticity of debt with respect to interest rate pprox .4
- Elasticity of debt with respect to minimum payments pprox -.35
- Elasticity of card exit with respect to interest rate and minimum payments are pprox .18.
- Elasticity of bank net revenues about with respect to interest rates \approx .7 and with respect to minimum payments $\approx -.15$
- Exit caused by contractual variation only small part of overall exit rates.

Other Findings and To Dos

- Heterogeneity: Significant heterogeneity by stratum. Negligible exit and zero ATEs for older clients who paid their balances in full pre-experiment. Strongest effects for newer clients who made low monthly payments pre-experiment.
- **Cost of default:** Bank revocation associated with a 3 times lower probability of getting a new card ± 5 months from date of revocation. Credit score decreases sharply for those with revoked cards (from 620 ten months before to 550 five months after).
- External effects: No treatment effect on other loans or bills (e.g. phone bills), in the total amount in arrears for other loans and other credit cards or credit scores.
- **Payment habit formation:** After the experiment, all cardholders were returned to the same interest rate (around 47%) and minimum payment levels (around 4%). Using 2011 data to estimate the effects of previous treatment on current debt and purchase behavior (controlling for current debt?).
- How to reconcile large underlying default rates with insensitivity to relatively large changes in contractual terms.

THANKS!

Appendix

Sampling weights by strata

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	Cardholder's payment behavior				
	Minimum payer (1)	Part-balance payer (2)	Full-balance payer (3)	(4)	
Months of credit card use					
6 to 11 months	9.8	1.6	0.6	12	
12 to 23 months	10.7	1.7	0.7	13	
24+ months	61.5	9.8	3.8	75	
Total	82	13	5	100	

Sampling Weights Treatment Regressions Differential effects Other Delinquency Measures Payment Bunching Borrower Welfare

Payment as a proportion of debt in the beginning of the experiment



Payment / Amount due

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Level and growth in credit cards by deciles

Return to motivation Return to experiment description



Growth in credit cards by income decile (2002 - 2010)

First loan distribution by type of credit (2010)

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Credit score for experimental sample (2007) and market data (2016)

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Experiment description

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• Bancarization of these clients was done through commercial stores.





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Long Term Effects: Getting a New Card?



Treatment Regressions

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	Payments (1)	Purchases (2)	Debt (3)	Net revenue (4)	Cost (5)	Delinquencies (6)	Cumulative delinquencies (7)	Revoked cards (8)	Cancelled cards (9)	Credit score (10)	Attrition (11)
I:15% P:5%	-64***	65**	-604***	-544***	-352***	-0.024***	-0.033***	-0.021***	-0.033***	1.93	-0.049***
I:15% P:10%	(25) 106***	(26) 254***	(123) -902***	(57) -407***	(57) -501***	(0.008) -0.030***	(0.009) -0.025***	(0.007) -0.008	(0.006) -0.012*	(1.69) 4.74***	(0.010) -0.005
	(29)	(30)	(118)	(56)	(56)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.008)	(0.007)	(1.7)	(0.010)
1:25% P:5%	-61** (25)	9.81 (23)	-319** (138)	-409*** (59)	-263*** (61)	-0.019** (0.009)	-0.032*** (0.009)	-0.018** (0.007)	-0.021*** (0.007)	3.45** (1.71)	-0.034*** (0.010)
I:25% P:10%	90***	175***	-857***	-251***	-409***	-0.015*	-0.007	-0.001	-0.004	3*	0.007
I:35% P:5%	11	18	-333***	-194***	-66	-0.011	-0.003	0.002	-0.019***	0.376	-0.014
I:35% P:10%	(29) 99*** (22)	(26) 151*** (28)	(128) -677*** (124)	(63) -183*** (50)	(64) -314*** (50)	(0.009) -0.007 (0.000)	(0.009) -0.000 (0.000)	(0.008) 0.003 (0.008)	(0.007) -0.003 (0.007)	(1.71) 2.41 (1.71)	(0.010) 0.013 (0.010)
I:45% P:10%	(32) 53** (26)	(20) 92*** (26)	-789*** (119)	-0.593 (63)	-229*** (62)	-0.006	0.010 (0.009)	0.012	0.016** (0.007)	(1.71) 2.91* (1.71)	0.039*** (0.010)
Constant	677*** (22)	506*** (26)	2240*** (100)	745*** (49)	1470*** (50)	0.132*** (0.007)	0.310*** (0.007)	0.205*** (0.006)	0.111*** (0.005)	612*** (1.33)	0.393*** (0.008)
Observations p-value Treatments p-value Strata R-squared Dependent Variable Mean	87093 0.000 0.000 0.023 655	87093 0.000 0.000 0.029 510	87093 0.000 0.000 0.019 1559	144000 0.000 0.000 0.009 623	144000 0.000 0.000 0.042 968	87093 0.000 0.004 0.018 0.117	144000 0.000 0.000 0.048 0.276	144000 0.000 0.000 0.030 0.178	144000 0.000 0.000 0.005 0.119	135361 0.000 0.100 0.065 615	144000 0.000 0.000 0.009 0.374

Note: These are cross-sectional regressions where the dependent variable is below the column number. Probability weights are used according to the population. Robust standard errors are shown in parenthesis. Monetary variables are measured in 2007 MXN pesos.

Cancellations by client

Return to results



Revoked by bank

Return to results



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Purchases

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Debt

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Payment

Return to results



Sampling Weights Treatment Regressions Differential effects Other Delinquency Measures Payment Bunching Borrower Welfare

Delinquencies

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Full-payers Minimum-payers C. delinquencies Minimum payment C. delinquencies Minimum payment 6 1 4 2 -1 0 .2 -2 Sep/07 Mar/07 Mar/08 Sep/08 Mar/09 Mar/07 Sep/07 Mar/08 Sep/08 Mar/09 2 C. delinquencies Interest rate C. delinquencies Interest rate 1 0 -2 -1 -4

-2

Mar/07

Sep/07

Mar/08

Sep/08

Mar/09

-6

Mar/07

Sep/07

Mar/08

Sep/08

Mar/09

Percentage of delinquent months

Return to results

- This measure has a similar trend to cumulative delinquencies, but different magnitudes.
- After 26 months of treatment:
 - Increasing MP leads to a 1.36*** pp increase (13%) in the percentage of months delinquent per account.
 - Decreasing R leads to a 1^{**} pp decrease (9%) in the percentage of months delinquent per account.



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Payment as a proportion of amount due

Return to results



Payment as a percentage of amount due

Note:

(1) Bins have a width of 2.5 pp each.

(2) The rightmost bin of each graph includes those who pay more than 50 pp.

Implications for Borrower Welfare

	4.5
	(1)
	Arrears in telephone
1:15. P:5	1.1
-, -	(6.4)
I:15, P:10	6.1
	(6.6)
I:25, P:5	-6.1
	(6)
I:25, P:10	1.2
	(6.5)
I:35, P:5	-3.1
	(6.3)
I:35, P:10	2.4
	(6.4)
I:45, P:10	-4.2
	(6.4)
Cons (I:45, P:5)	71***
	(4.4)
R-squared	0.0001
Observations	143,916
P-value of IR	0.656
P-value of MP	0.5446


Sampling Weights Treatment Regressions Differential effects Other Delinquency Measures Payment Bunching Borrower Welfare

Implications for Borrower Welfare

	All type	of loans		Only credit cards			
Dependent variable:	At least one delinquent loan (1)	Total amount in arrears (2)		At least one delinquent loan (3)	Total amount in arrears (4)		
I:15, P:5	0097	664		0028	447		
	(.0066)	(536)		(.0057)	(413)		
I:45, P:10	012	-615		0044	-335		
	(.0066)	(492)		(.0057)	(384)		
Cons (I:45, P:5)	.28***	9,450***		.19***	6,741***		
	(.0047)	(351)		(.004)	(272)		
R-squared	0.0001	0.0001		0.0000	0.0001		
Observations	143,916	143,916		143,916	143,916		
P-value of IR	.5973	.3762		.9537	.4261		
P-value of MP	.4656	.2098		.8831	.331		

Appendix

Sampling Weights Treatment Regressions Differential effects Other Delinquency Measures Payment Bunching Borrower Welfare

Credit score

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
	Jun/07	Jun/08	Jun/09	Jun/10	Jun/11	Dec/11	Jun/12	Dec/12	Jun/13	Dec/13	Apr/14
I: 15, P: 5	0.26 (0.68)	-0.70 (1.02)	0.73 (1.18)	0.46 (1.26)	-0.18 (1.30)	-0.62 (1.33)	-1.19 (1.33)	-1.91 (1.31)	-1.52 (1.30)	-1.54 (1.31)	-1.44 (1.32)
I: 45, P: 10	0.45 (0.68)	1.55 (1.00)	1.79 (1.17)	2.38 (1.25)	1.47 (1.30)	0.90 (1.33)	0.58 (1.33)	0.18 (1.31)	-0.48 (1.30)	-0.32 (1.32)	-1.03 (1.32)
Constant (I:45, P:5)	668.19***	660.61***	649.88***	643.72***	639.85***	635.41***	635.90***	635.76***	638.38***	637.52***	639.20***
	(0.48)	(0.72)	(0.84)	(0.90)	(0.93)	(0.95)	(0.94)	(0.93)	(0.91)	(0.93)	(0.93)
Observations	142,241	118,165	135,359	134,569	133,184	133,084	132,465	131,280	130,518	128,727	126,684
R-squared	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0000	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
P-value of IR	.9905	.6593	.7779	.7574	.96	.8148	.8369	.604	.64	.6225	.408
P-value of MP	.6658	.1683	.5642	.4158	.6875	.4582	.6504	.2888	.3743	.2844	.3632

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Appendix

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Prediction of NPV of Revenue by Credit Score



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Appendix

Sampling Weights Treatment Regressions Differential effects Other Delinquency Measures Payment Bunching Borrower Welfare

Credit limit and duration of the card in the market Credit cards from all banks opened between 2004 and 2007



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Sampling Weights Treatment Regressions Differential effects Other Delinquency Measures Payment Bunching Borrower Welfare

Other Findings: Bank Revenues

• Consider the identity for month *t*

$$Due_t = Due_{t-1} + Buy_t - Pay_t + (i/12) * Debt_t + Fees_t$$

where $Debt_t$ is the average (over the month) of the daily amount due.

Rewrite

$$Pay_t - Buy_t = Due_{t-1} - Due_t + (i/12) * Debt_t + Fees_t$$

• Consider an agent observed from t = 1 and is in the experiment until T when the card exits or the experiment ends. Then, given a discount rate β

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} \beta^{t} (\mathsf{Pay}_{t} - \mathsf{Buy}_{t}) = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \beta^{t} (\mathsf{Due}_{t-1} - \mathsf{Due}_{t}) + \sum_{t=1}^{T} \beta^{t} ((i/12) * \mathsf{Debt}_{t} + \mathsf{Fees}_{t})$$

 LHS is a measure of discounted net revenue accruing to the bank. We begin by analyzing this measure of revenue to the bank.