

Mortgage Prepayment, Race, and Monetary Policy

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²Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

³Harvard University

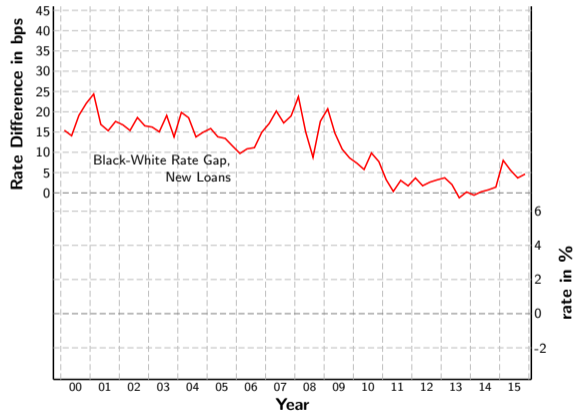
CFPB Conference

May 6, 2021

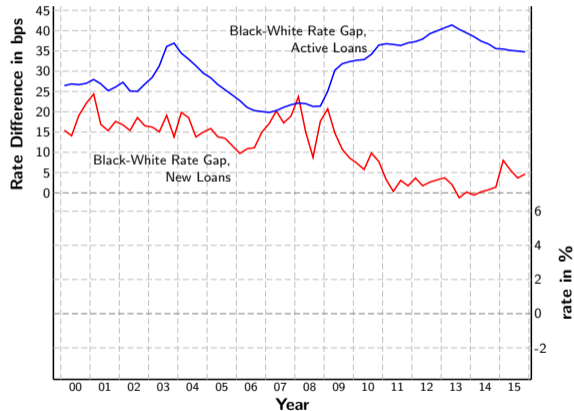
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Introduction

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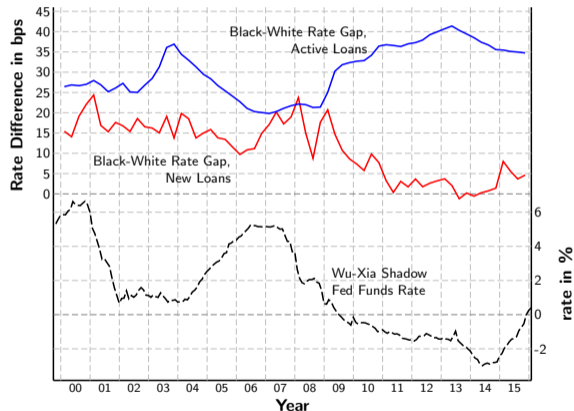


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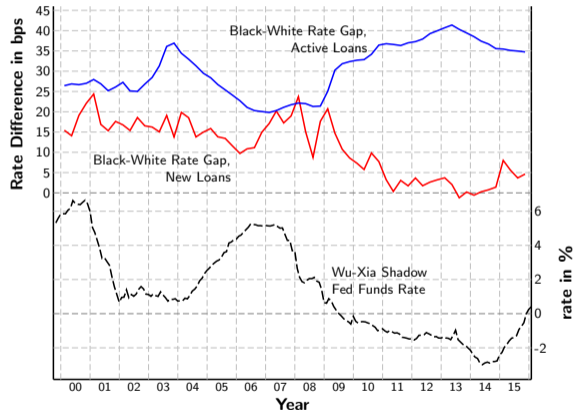
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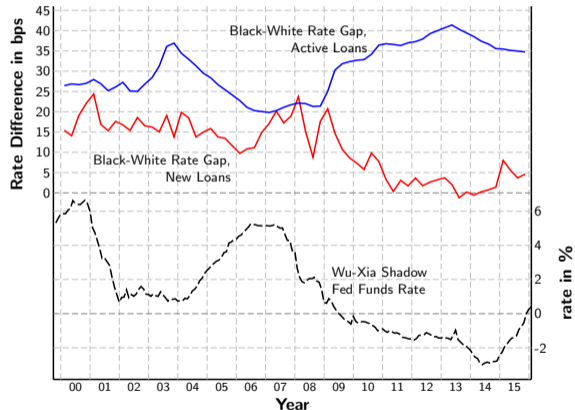
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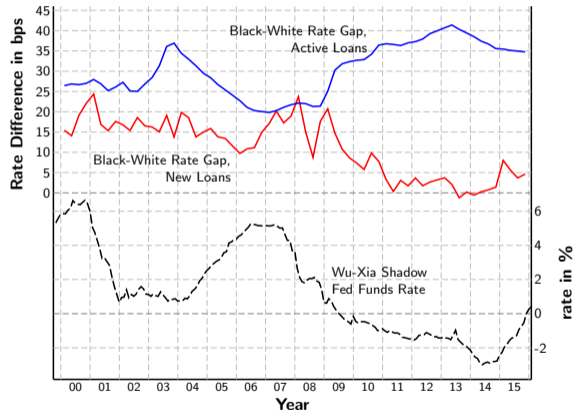
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 - FICO LTV
 - Difference in sensitivity to refi option

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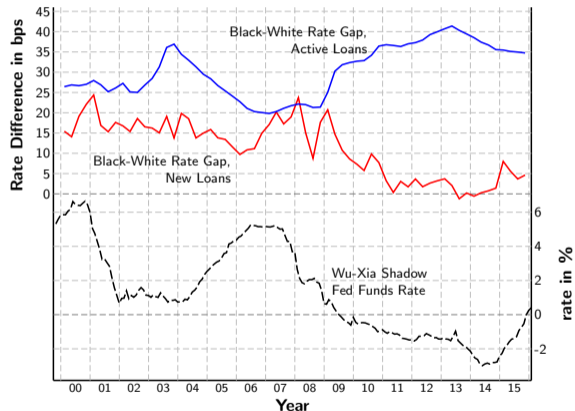
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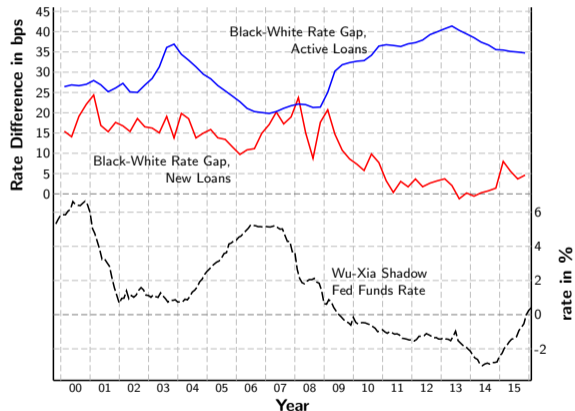
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 - QE: Refinances, Home buying

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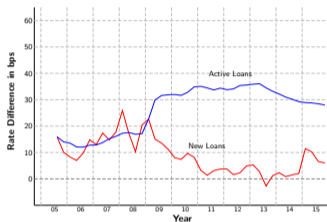
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 - QE: Refinances, Home buying
 - Disparate impact across races

Rates in the Stock and the Flow

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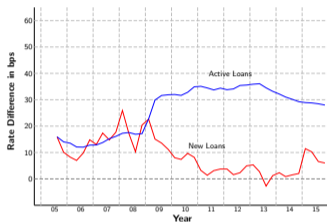
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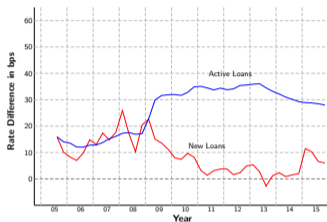
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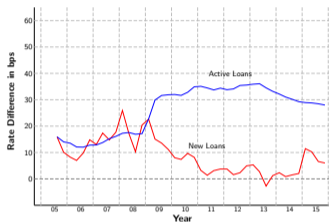
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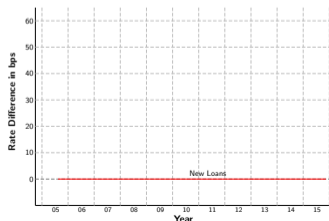
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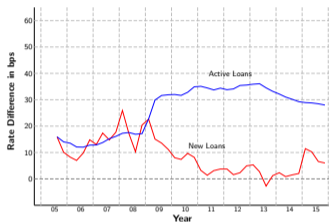
Assuming all borrowers get same rate



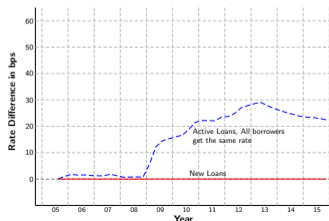
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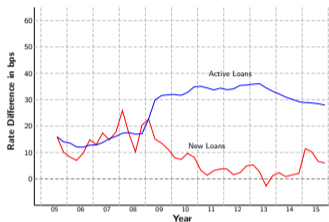
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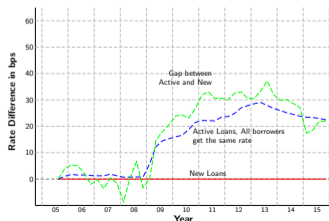
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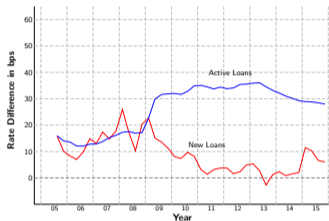
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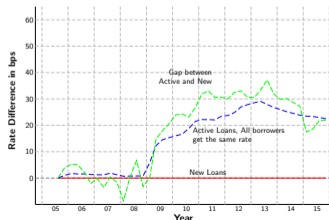
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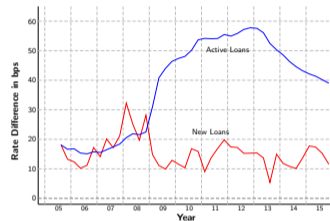
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Gerardi, Willen and Zhang

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Fannie and Freddie Only



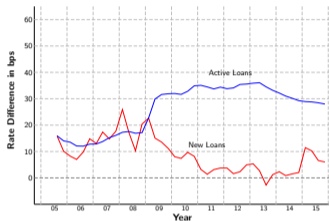
Prepayment and Race

May 6, 2021

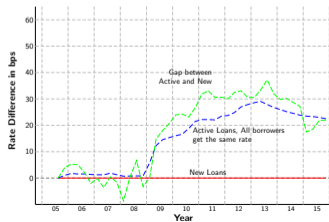
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Rates in the Stock and the Flow

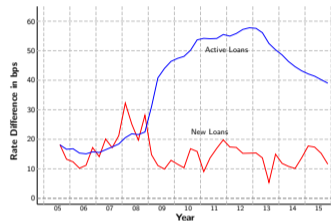
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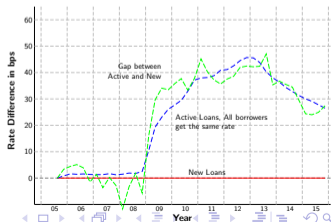
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QE and Rates

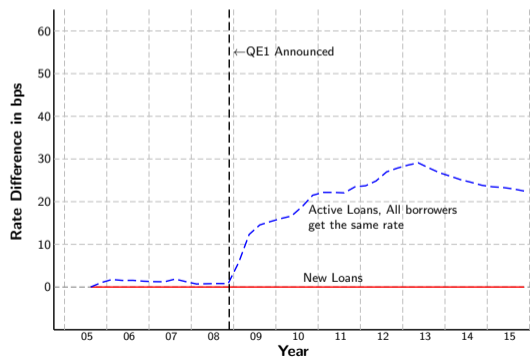
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QE and Rates

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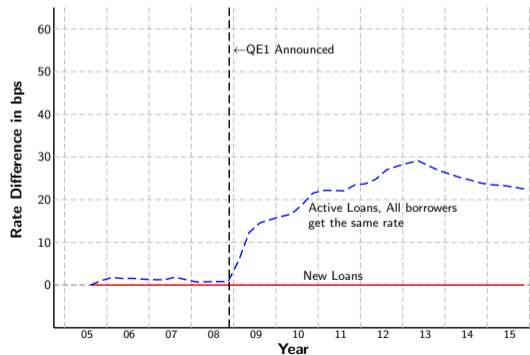
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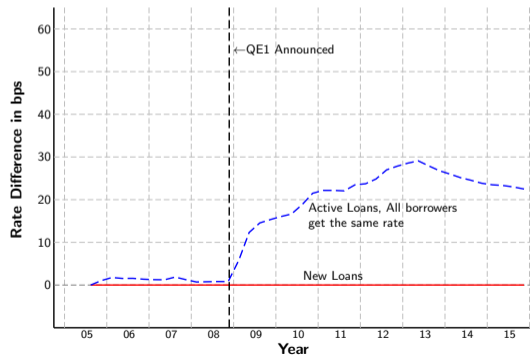
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 - Subsequent QE was anticipated
- Regression



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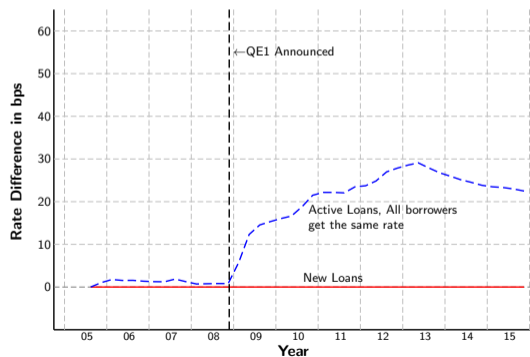


- Regression
 - Post-period: 6 months before QE1 announcement

	(1)	(2)
Black (d)	0.232*** (0.016)	0.202*** (0.015)
Hispanic White (d)	0.134*** (0.019)	0.110*** (0.016)
postQE1 (d)	-0.220*** (0.004)	-0.002*** (0.000)
Black * postQE1	0.120*** (0.004)	-0.007*** (0.001)
Hispanic White * postQE1	0.118*** (0.005)	0.003** (0.002)
Constant	6.239*** (0.004)	6.135*** (0.004)
Vintage Year-Qtr FE		X

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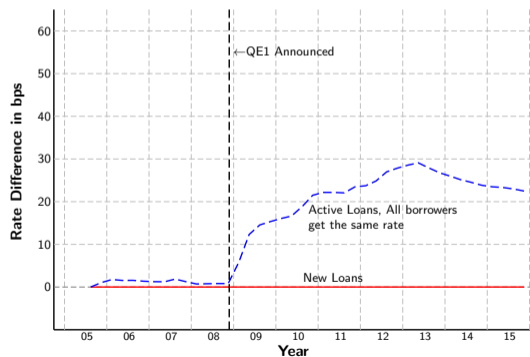


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 - Borrowers who got mortgages after QE got the same rates

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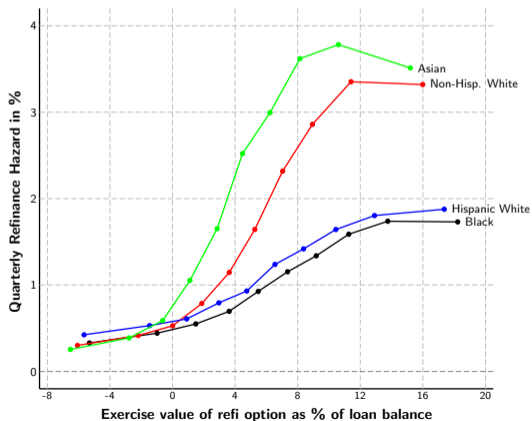
Differences in Refinancing Behavior

Dependent Variable: Prepay Refinance (d)						
	GSE Loans					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Black (d)	-0.746*** (0.086)	-0.380*** (0.049)	-0.330*** (0.038)	-0.255*** (0.032)	-0.148*** (0.025)	-0.149*** (0.025)
Hispanic White (d)	-0.687*** (0.118)	-0.454*** (0.066)	-0.462*** (0.064)	-0.421*** (0.057)	-0.278*** (0.038)	-0.289*** (0.036)
Asian (d)	0.436*** (0.143)	0.258*** (0.093)	0.268*** (0.097)	0.256** (0.098)	0.180** (0.068)	0.176** (0.068)
LTV Change		-0.001 (0.004)	-0.050*** (0.004)	-0.046*** (0.004)	-0.045*** (0.004)	-0.038*** (0.004)
Female (d)			-0.061*** (0.012)	-0.060*** (0.012)	-0.078*** (0.013)	-0.079*** (0.014)
Call Option			0.308*** (0.021)	0.315*** (0.021)	0.316*** (0.021)	0.721*** (0.061)
SATO			-1.597*** (0.128)	-1.549*** (0.122)	-1.518*** (0.123)	-4.560*** (0.427)
Risk Score Change				0.775*** (0.085)	0.764*** (0.084)	0.778*** (0.077)
Loan Age	X	X	X	X	X	X
Underwriting Vars		X	X	X	X	X
HMDA Vars			X	X	X	X
Vintage Year-Qtr FE	X	X	X	X	X	X
State FE		X	X	X		
Zip Code FE					X	
Zip Code-by-Year-Qtr FE						X
# Observations	15,460,588	11,983,398	11,547,035	11,469,141	11,469,141	11,318,445
# Loans	792,823	622,936	601,094	601,028	601,028	590,643
R ²	0.008	0.012	0.019	0.020	0.022	0.079

- Underwriting controls explain ~ 50%.
- Controlling for socio-demographics, risk score change, refi incentive, ZIP code FEs explains additional ~ 30%.
- Altogether explain almost 80% of difference between Black and White borrowers.
- Can explain about 60% of difference between Hispanic and White borrowers.

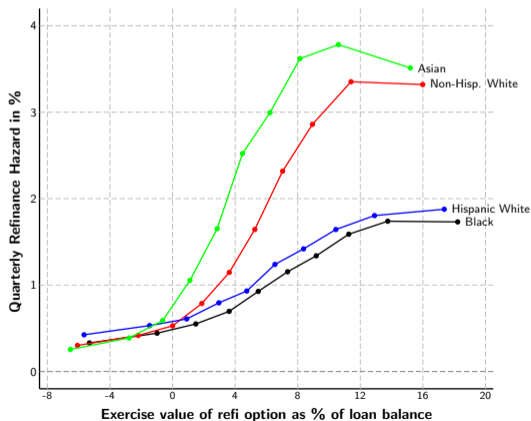
Refi Incentive

- Bin scatter plot of *Call Option* and refi propensity by race/ethnicity:



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Dependent Variable: Prepay Refinance (d)

	GSE Loans		FHA Loans	
	(1)	(2)	(5)	(6)
Black (d)	-0.178*** (0.027)	0.465*** (0.073)	-0.158*** (0.025)	0.233** (0.100)
Hispanic White (d)	-0.293*** (0.038)	0.284*** (0.065)	-0.297*** (0.040)	0.062 (0.081)
Call Option	0.310*** (0.021)	0.320*** (0.022)	0.193*** (0.020)	0.209*** (0.021)
Black * Call Option		-0.100*** (0.007)		-0.068*** (0.009)
Hispanic White * Call Option		-0.097*** (0.007)		-0.068*** (0.008)
Loan Age	X	X	X	X
Underwriting Vars	X	X	X	X
HMDA Vars	X	X	X	X
Vintage Year-Qtr FE	X	X	X	X
Zip Code FE	X	X	X	X
# Observations	10,816,263	10,816,263	3,636,573	3,636,573
# Loans	563,001	563,001	177,437	177,437
R ²	0.022	0.022	0.023	0.023

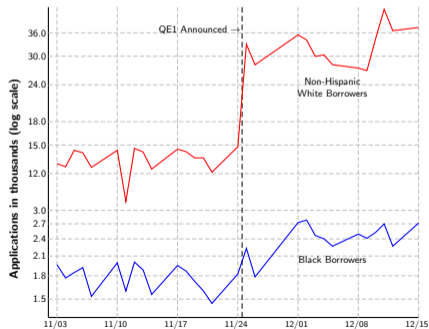
- 1 std. dev. \uparrow in *Call Option*:
 - White: 2.1 ppts \uparrow
 - Black: 1.4 ppts \uparrow
- Agarwal et al. (2013): [ADL Details](#)

QE and Prepayment

- Event Study
 - QE Announced on 11/25/2008

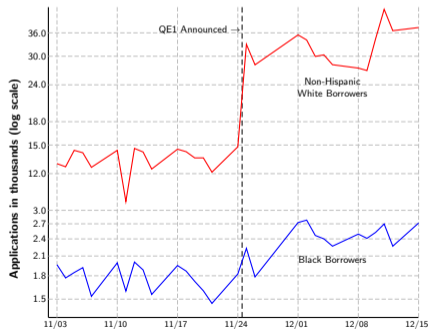
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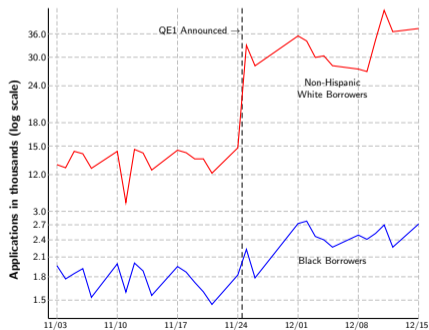
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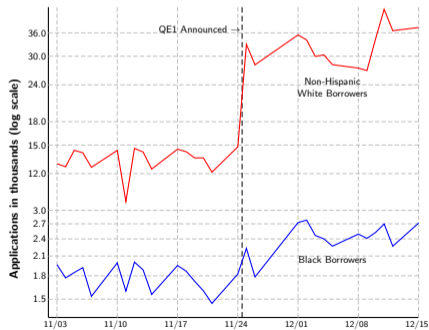
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- White Refi Applications went up 80% relative to Black *that day*.



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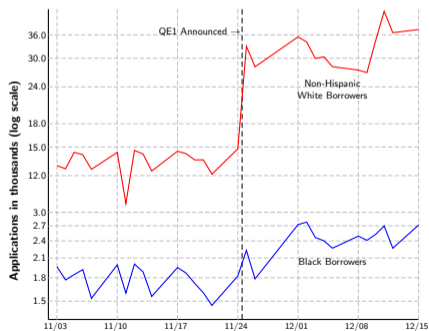
- Regression estimates. Refinance hazard increased
 - 5× for Black



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- Regression estimates. Refinance hazard increased

- 5× for Black
- 2× for Non-Hisp. White



Conclusion

- Additional Findings

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- (1) Default [▶ Details](#)

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- (2) Loan Pricing [▶ Details](#)

- Investors pay more for loans from black borrowers
- Lower prepayment speeds imply that black borrowers should pay *lower* rates

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- Future Directions

(1) Explanations of Refi Differences

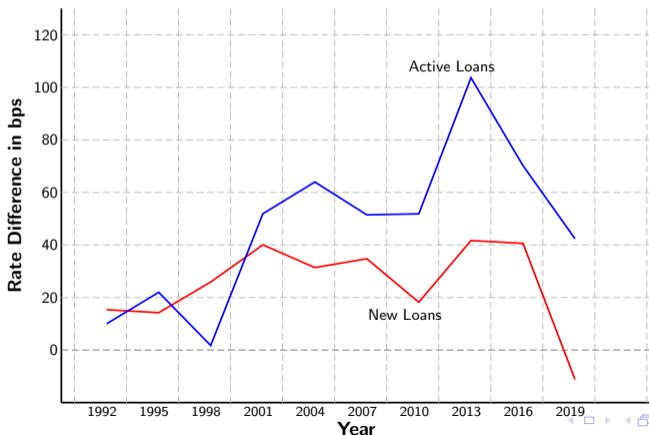
- DiD study using FHA streamline requirements
- Decomposition into time and state dependence based on Andersen et al. (2020).

- Agarwal, S., J. C. Driscoll, and D. I. Laibson (2013). Optimal mortgage refinancing: A closed-form solution. *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking* 45(4), 591–622.
- Andersen, S., J. Y. Campbell, K. M. Nielsen, and T. Ramadorai (2020, October). Sources of inaction in household finance: Evidence from the danish mortgage market. *American Economic Review* 110(10), 3184–3230.
- Bartlett, R., A. Morse, R. Stanton, and N. Wallace (2019). Consumer-lending discrimination in the fintech era. *Working paper*.
- Beraja, M., A. Fuster, E. Hurst, and J. Vavra (2018). Regional Heterogeneity and the Refinancing Channel of Monetary Policy*. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 134(1), 109–183.
- Bhutta, N. and A. Hizmo (2020). Do minorities pay more for mortgages?
- Zhang, D. H. and P. S. Willen (2020). Do lenders still discriminate? a robust methodology for detecting differences in menus. *Working Paper*.

SUPPLEMENTAL SLIDES

Rate Gap in SCF

- Difference in average mortgage rates for Black and Non-Hispanic White borrowers based on data from the SCF (1992–2019).



» Back

FHA Refinance Results

Dependent Variable: Prepay Refinance (d)

	FHA Loans			
	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Black (d)	-0.600*** (0.053)	-0.364*** (0.031)	-0.235*** (0.028)	-0.163*** (0.028)
Hispanic White (d)	-0.401*** (0.076)	-0.384*** (0.042)	-0.400*** (0.047)	-0.315*** (0.041)
Asian (d)	0.417*** (0.088)	-0.020 (0.059)	0.071 (0.073)	0.034 (0.073)
LTV Change		-0.015*** (0.003)	-0.038*** (0.003)	-0.014*** (0.002)
Female (d)			-0.082*** (0.016)	-0.101*** (0.017)
Call Option			0.194*** (0.020)	0.595*** (0.081)
SATO			-0.293** (0.122)	-3.302*** (0.509)
Risk Score Change			0.843*** (0.084)	0.836*** (0.083)
Loan Age	X	X	X	X
Underwriting Vars		X	X	X
HMDA Vars			X	X
Vintage Year-Qtr FE	X	X	X	X
State FE		X		
Zip Code FE			X	
Zip Code-by-Year-Qtr FE				X
# Observations	6,184,502	4,316,733	3,732,349	3,559,947
# Loans	291,587	209,827	182,517	170,234
R ²	0.004	0.012	0.017	0.145

Logit Refinance Results

- Average marginal effects:

Dependent Variable: Prepay Refinance (d)						
	GSE Loans				FHA Loans	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(7)	(8)
Black (d)	-0.686*** (0.033)	-0.421*** (0.030)	-0.353*** (0.029)	-0.282*** (0.030)	-0.585*** (0.037)	-0.419*** (0.024)
Hispanic (d)	-0.654*** (0.057)	-0.475*** (0.024)	-0.489*** (0.030)	-0.449*** (0.031)	-0.405*** (0.059)	-0.389*** (0.028)
Asian (d)	0.466*** (0.132)	0.275*** (0.070)	0.259*** (0.070)	0.247*** (0.070)	0.455*** (0.088)	-0.030 (0.043)
Loan Age	X	X	X	X	X	X
Underwriting Vars		X	X	X		X
HMDA Vars			X	X		X
Vintage Year-Qtr FE	X	X	X	X	X	X
State FE		X	X	X		X
# Observations	15,460,588	11,983,398	11,547,035	11,469,141	6,184,502	4,316,733

Agarwal et al. (2013) Optimal Refi Formula

- A borrower should refinance when current market rate falls below the original rate by at least:

$$\frac{1}{\psi} [\phi + W(-\exp(-\phi))]$$

where W is the Lambert W-function and

$$\psi = \frac{\sqrt{2\rho + \lambda}}{\sigma}$$

$$\phi = 1 + \psi(\rho + \lambda) \frac{\kappa/M}{(1-\tau)} \tag{1}$$

$$\lambda = \mu + \frac{i_0}{\exp[i_0\Gamma] - 1} + \pi \tag{2}$$

$$\tag{3}$$

- ρ – discount rate
- μ – expected probability of moving
- σ – std. dev. of mortgage rate
- $\frac{\kappa/M}{1-\tau}$ – ratio of the tax-adjusted refinancing cost and the remaining mortgage value
- Γ – remaining maturity of the mortgage
- i_0 – original mortgage rate

Agarwal et al. (2013) Optimal Refi Formula

- Two variables:
 - ADL Dummy* – 1 if the difference between the borrower's current interest rate and the market rate (PMMS survey) is greater than the ADL threshold.
 - ADL* – continuous variable that measures how much higher/lower the difference between the current rate and market rate is from the ADL threshold.

	Dependent Variable: Prepay Refinance (d)					
	GSE Loans					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Black (d)	-0.118*** (0.021)	0.309*** (0.048)	-0.136*** (0.021)	0.065** (0.029)	-0.149*** (0.020)	0.044 (0.028)
Hispanic White (d)	-0.197*** (0.025)	0.172*** (0.045)	-0.224*** (0.026)	-0.019 (0.026)	-0.234*** (0.025)	-0.049* (0.025)
Call Option	0.225*** (0.016)	0.232*** (0.016)				
Black * Call Option		-0.068*** (0.005)				
Hispanic White * Call Option		-0.064*** (0.005)				
ADL Dummy			0.525*** (0.079)	0.605*** (0.086)		
Black * ADL Dummy				-0.572*** (0.061)		
Hispanic White * ADL Dummy				-0.625*** (0.067)		
ADL					0.530*** (0.049)	0.560*** (0.049)
Black * ADL						-0.550*** (0.054)
Hispanic White * ADL						-0.564*** (0.059)
Loan Age	X	X	X	X	X	X
Underwriting Vars	X	X	X	X	X	X
HMDA Vars	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vintage Year-Qtr FE	X	X	X	X	X	X
Zip Code FE	X	X	X	X	X	X
# Observations	10,544,968	10,544,968	10,544,968	10,544,968	10,544,968	10,544,968
# Loans	557,848	557,848	557,848	557,848	557,848	557,848
R ²	0.016	0.016	0.011	0.011	0.012	0.012

Default Results

Dependent Variable: Default (d)									
	GSE Loans					FHA Loans			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Black (d)	0.443*** (0.076)	0.285*** (0.053)	0.223*** (0.043)	0.146*** (0.030)	0.135*** (0.029)	0.733*** (0.057)	0.466*** (0.038)	0.421*** (0.033)	0.318*** (0.033)
Hispanic White (d)	0.422*** (0.097)	0.274*** (0.066)	0.235*** (0.061)	0.194*** (0.049)	0.188*** (0.049)	0.165*** (0.044)	0.155*** (0.047)	0.085* (0.046)	0.071 (0.044)
Asian (d)	0.026 (0.018)	0.028** (0.012)	0.048*** (0.014)	0.027** (0.012)	0.021* (0.012)	-0.125*** (0.023)	-0.052** (0.024)	-0.041 (0.026)	-0.052 (0.039)
Equifax Risk Score		-0.449*** (0.062)					-0.894*** (0.075)		
LTV Origination		0.010*** (0.001)					0.014*** (0.001)		
LTV Change		0.034*** (0.003)	0.036*** (0.004)	0.037*** (0.004)	0.039*** (0.004)		0.036*** (0.004)	0.037*** (0.004)	0.051*** (0.006)
Female (d)			-0.017*** (0.005)	-0.016*** (0.005)	-0.015*** (0.005)			-0.027* (0.014)	-0.025 (0.015)
Loan Age	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Underwriting Vars		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
HMDA Vars			X	X	X			X	X
Vintage Year-Qtr FE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
State FE		X	X				X		
Zip Code FE				X				X	
Zip Code-by-Year-Qtr FE					X				X
# Observations	14,883,532	11,555,401	11,135,402	11,135,402	10,983,861	5,484,924	3,840,247	3,328,566	3,154,707
# Loans	792,823	622,936	601,094	601,094	590,534	291,587	209,827	182,527	169,608
R ²	0.006	0.012	0.013	0.016	0.084	0.006	0.011	0.012	0.146

Pricing Implications

1. What if any pricing implications are there?

- Lower minority prepayment speeds (refi + sale) \Rightarrow Black/Hispanic loans are more valuable to lenders/investors.
 - \Rightarrow Equilibrium interest rates should be lower at origination for minority borrowers (all else equal).
- Conduct a back-of-the-envelope calculation using low balance “spec pools” to try to determine how much more valuable securities with minority loans are to investors.
 - 50–100 bps increase in “gain-on-sale”.
 - Assuming full pass-through of MBS prices to borrowers \Rightarrow 5–15 bps lower rates.

Do Investors Price Racial Differences in Prepayment?

2. Do investors actually price prepayment differences between minority and White borrowers?
 - Need data on MBS prices to answer this question.
 - Construct a TRACE-eMBS-HMDA matched dataset.
 - Match public 2018–2019 HMDA data to eMBS loan level collateral data for conforming mortgages – unique match rate of $\sim 45\%$.
 - Keep pools in which we can identify at least 60% of mortgages.
 - TRACE contains all MBS transactions prices involving dealers.
 - Estimate regressions of prepayment speeds and prices on race – measured at both tract-level and loan-level.
 - Evidence that pools with more Black borrowers are significantly less likely to prepay.
[▶▶ Details](#)
 - Evidence of higher MBS prices for pools with higher fraction of minority borrowers at the tract-level. [▶▶ Details](#)

Do Investors Price Racial Differences in Prepayment?

- Estimate pool-month regressions of $factor_t$ (percent of original balance remaining in the pool in month t), on average census tract composition of race in the pool.
 - Include controls, including time since origination, avgloan size, avg credit score, avg LTV, etc.
- Consistent with loan-level results, pools with more Black borrowers are significantly less likely to prepay and end up with higher factors.

	(1) factor
(mean) tract_black	0.149***
Loan size	
under 85k	0
85-110k	-0.00411***
110-125k	-0.00544***
125-150k	-0.0114***
150-175k	-0.0175***
175-200k	-0.0275***
over 200k	-0.0436***
Constant	1.037***
FICO controls	Yes
LTV controls	Yes
Time controls	Yes
SATO controls	Yes
couponXmon FE	Yes
seller FE	Yes
Observations	248516
R^2	0.561

* $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Do Investors Price Racial Differences in Prepayment?

- Estimate regressions of “payuyps” on census tract composition of race for newly issued, 30 year MBS pools.
 - MBS prices typically quoted in units of \$ per \$100 balance and in terms of “pay-ups” to the To-Be-Announced (TBA) price for a given coupon.

$$Payup_{i,t,t',c} = p_{i,t,t',c} - p_{t,t',c}^{TBA} \quad (4)$$

- $p_{t,t',c}^{TBA}$ – TBA price at time t for settlement time t' for coupon c .
- For t' outside of standard TBA settlement dates (once a month), we use a linear interpolation.

	(1) ≥\$85k trades	(2) ≥\$1mil trades
(mean) tract_black	0.998***	1.411***
Loan size		
under 85k	0	0
85-110k	-0.376***	-0.369***
110-125k	-0.609***	-0.591***
125-150k	-0.715***	-0.687***
150-175k	-0.927***	-0.907***
175-200k	-1.147***	-1.132***
over 200k	-1.244***	-1.251***
Constant	-30.61***	-16.09**
FICO/LTV controls	Yes	Yes
Refi incentive controls	Yes	Yes
Trade size controls	Yes	Yes
seller FE	Yes	Yes
couponXweek	Yes	Yes
Observations	14374	13570
R^2	0.731	0.754

* $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$