

## Accepted Manuscript

Do siblings take your food away? Using China's one-child policy to test for child quantity-quality trade-offs

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PII: S1043-951X(17)30157-8  
DOI: doi:[10.1016/j.chieco.2017.10.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chieco.2017.10.006)  
Reference: CHIECO 1122  
To appear in: *China Economic Review*  
Received date: 19 January 2017  
Revised date: 22 October 2017  
Accepted date: 29 October 2017

Please cite this article as: Yun Liang, John Gibson , Do siblings take your food away? Using China's one-child policy to test for child quantity-quality trade-offs. The address for the corresponding author was captured as affiliation for all authors. Please check if appropriate. *Chieco*(2017), doi:[10.1016/j.chieco.2017.10.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chieco.2017.10.006)

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## **Do Siblings Take Your Food Away? Using China's One-Child Policy to Test for Child Quantity-Quality Trade-offs**

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### **Abstract**

We test for the existence of a trade-off between child quantity and child quality in Chinese families. We use changes over time and space in the local stringency of the one-child policy as a source of exogenous variation in family size. Investment in child quality is measured by intake of three nutrients, using seven waves of data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey. For all three nutrients a quantity-quality trade-off is apparent, which persists for fats if child-specific effects are introduced. The trade-off would be less apparent if exogenous sources of variation in family size were ignored.

**JEL**

**I12, J13, O15**

**Keywords:** Child Quality, Nutrients, One-Child Policy, Quantity-Quality Trade-off, China.

### **Acknowledgements:**

This research uses data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS). We thank the National Institute of Nutrition and Food Safety, China Center for Disease Control and Prevention; the Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; the National Institutes of Health (NIH; R01-HD30880, DK056350, and R01-HD38700); and the Fogarty International Center, NIH, for financial support for the CHNS data collection and analysis files since 1989. We thank those parties, the China-Japan Friendship Hospital, and the Ministry of Health for support for CHNS 2009 survey. We are grateful to helpful comments from two referees, from participants at the ESPE conference, and especially from Steven Stillman. We also thank the Human Ethics Committee of the Waikato Management School for ethical approval.

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