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Workfare, Wellbeing and Consumption: Evidence from a Field Experiment with Kenya's Urban Poor

Syon P. Bhanot, Jiyoung Han, Chaning Jang

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Highlights

- A 10-day lab-in-field randomized experiment with 432 low-income individuals in Nairobi, Kenya
- Tests impact of two forms of welfare program design: workfare and voucher restrictions
- Finds that working improved psychological wellbeing relative to waiting for payments
- Finds that vouchers partially restricted to staple foods crowded-in spending on these foods
- Results suggest that welfare program design is important, beyond just the financial aspect

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