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INSIDE THE WAR ON POVERTY: THE IMPACT OF FOOD STAMPS ON BIRTH OUTCOMES

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Erratum: Dated 10/26/11

The published paper inadvertently used the white FSP participation rate to inflate the *black* point estimates in Table 1 and Appendix Table 4 (in online appendix). Thus the rows in those tables labeled "Estimate inflated" and "% impact inflated" are incorrect. Throughout the paper all of the point estimates and point estimates divided by the mean are correct. Further, all *white* inflated numbers are also correct. The inflated numbers in all other tables (Table 5, Table 6) are correct.

This error causes some sentences in the text to also be incorrect.

p. 388 "Changes in mean birth weight are small, increasing roughly half a percent for blacks and whites who participated in the program (effect of the treatment on the treated). Impacts were larger at the bottom of the birth weight distribution, reducing the incidence of low birth weight among the treated by 7% for whites and between 5% and 11% for blacks."

Revised text: "Changes in mean birth weight are small, increasing roughly <u>a quarter to a half</u> a percent for blacks and whites who participated in the program (effect of the treatment on the treated). Impacts were larger at the bottom of the birth weight distribution, reducing the incidence of low birth weight among the treated by 7% for whites and <u>3%</u> for blacks." *[changed text is underlined]*

p. 394 "The results indicate that the impact of FSP on participants' birth weight (labeled 'Estimate, inflated') is between 15 and 20 grams for whites and 13 to 42 grams for blacks. The estimate expressed as a percentage of mean birth weight (labeled '% Impact inflated') is between 0.5% and 0.6% for whites and between 0.4% and 1.4% for blacks."

Revised text: "The results indicate that the impact of FSP on participants' birth weight (labeled 'Estimate, inflated') is between 15 and 20 grams for whites and <u>8 to 12 grams</u> for blacks. The estimate expressed as a percentage of mean birth weight (labeled '% Impact inflated') is between 0.5% and 0.6% for whites and between <u>0.2% and 0.4%</u> for blacks." *[changed text is underlined]*

p. 395 "Exposure to FSP reduces LBW by a statistically significant 1% for whites (7–8% when inflated by participation rate) and a less precisely estimated 0.7% to 1.5% for blacks (5% to 12% when inflated by participation rate)."

Revised text: Exposure to FSP reduces LBW by a statistically significant 1% for whites (7–8% when inflated by participation rate) and a less precisely estimated 0.7% to 1.5% for blacks (2% to 3% when inflated by participation rate)." *[changed text is underlined]*

Table 1: Impact of Food Stamp Introduction on Birth Outcomes, by Race *[REVISED]*

	Birthweight (in grams)				Fraction < 2,500 grams			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
A. WHITES								
Ave FSP (0/1)	2.039	2.635	2.089	2.175	-0.0006	-0.0006	-0.0006	-0.0006
	(0.947)*	(0.896)**	(1.039)*	(0.975)**	(0.0003)*	(0.0003)*	(0.0003)*	(0.0004)
% Impact (coef/mean)	0.06%	0.08%	0.06%	0.06%	-1.02%	-1.02%	-0.97%	-0.97%
Estimate inflated	15.68	20.27	16.07	16.73	-0.0047	-0.0047	-0.0045	-0.0045
% Impact inflated	0.47%	0.61%	0.48%	0.50%	-7.82%	-7.82%	-7.44%	-7.44%
Observations	97785	97785	97785	97785	97785	97785	97785	97785
R-squared	0.54	0.55	0.55	0.56	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.19
mean of dependent variable	3350	3350	3350	3350	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
B. BLACKS								
Ave FSP (0/1)	3.454	4.120	5.466	1.665	-0.0015	-0.0016	-0.0019	-0.0009
	(2.660)	(2.317)	(2.579)*	(2.330)	(0.0010)	(0.0010)	(0.0012)	(0.0012)
% Impact (coef/mean)	0.11%	0.13%	0.18%	0.05%	-1.13%	-1.22%	-1.49%	-0.68%
Estimate inflated	7.51	8.96	11.88	3.62	-0.0032	-0.0035	-0.0042	-0.0019
% Impact inflated	0.24%	0.29%	0.38%	0.12%	-2.46%	-2.66%	-3.24%	-1.47%
Observations	27374	27374	27374	27374	27374	27374	27374	27374
R-squared	0.32	0.33	0.34	0.35	0.15	0.15	0.17	0.18
mean of dependent variable	3097	3097	3097	3097	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
1960 CCDB * linear time	x	x	x		x	x	x	
REIS controls	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
cty per cap real income	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
yr x qtr fixed effects	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
county fixed effects	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
state * linear time		x				x		
state * year fixed effects			x				x	
county * linear time				x				x