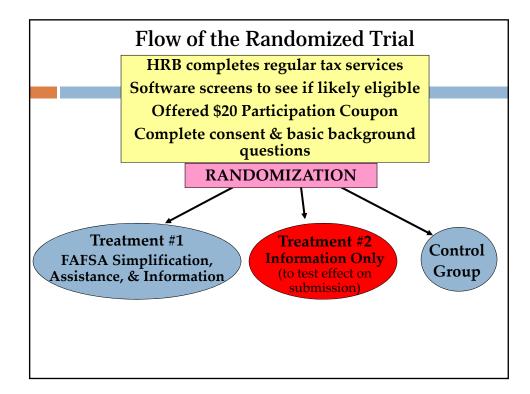


But...The Evidence Isn't There

- Consider the H&R Block Intervention
- In the US, there is generous financial aid available for families, but the application process is complex.
- The intervention was designed to help simplify the application process and provide accurate information.
- The intervention tried to merge complex financial forms to the regular tax filing.
- We randomly assigned individuals to one of three treatments – one was information for students a few months before final college decisions on attendance.

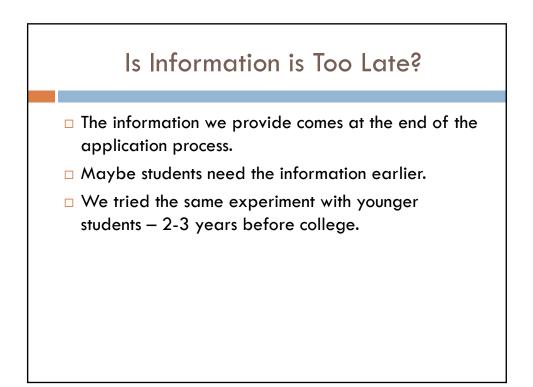


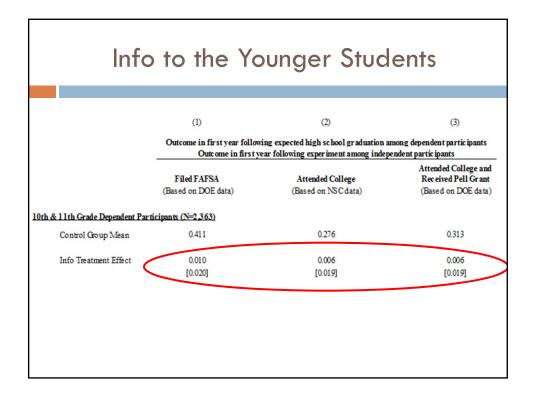
in college grants per your tax	year based on the	eligible for \$3,458. information we hav a the Department of	e from helping	
Even better, this financial a				
The following is a list of lo financial assistance you co	uld get from your sta	full and part-time tuition expenses, and estimates of the ir state or the federal government.		
			Part-Time	
College	Tuition	Estimated State and Federal Aid*	Tuition	Estimated State and Federal Aid*
Cleveland State University	7920	3458	3960	1732
Lakeland Community College	3333	3458	1322	1732
Cuyahoga Community College	3194	3458	1278	1732
Lorain County Community College	2890	3458	1334	1705

Effect on	Filing t	ne FAFSA
	Depe Partic <i>Control M</i>	ipants
FAFSA	.157**	.146**
Treatment	(.035)	(.033)
Info Only	012	034
Treatment	(.060)	(.055)
Controls	No	Yes
Ν	868	868
The controls include college experience and family income appear in parenthe	e, parents' educa e. Robust stand	tion levels,

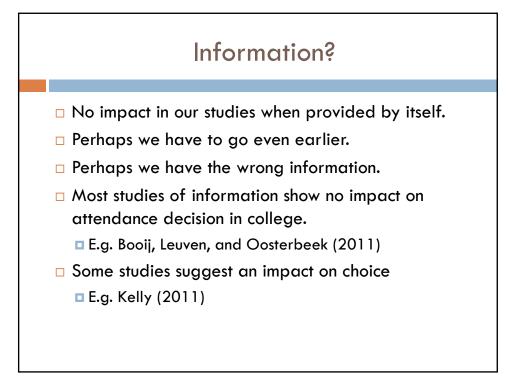
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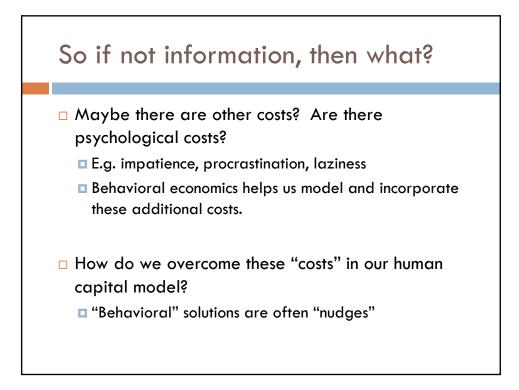
l Ci	ffect on 1	Filing t	he FAFS	A
	Independent with No Pri Exper <u>Control Ma</u>	or College ience	Exper	Participants r College rience ean = .353
FAFSA	.257**	.257**	.204**	.206**
Treatment	(.009)	(.009)	(.012)	(.012)
Info Only	011	013	.019	.023
Treatment	(.013)	(.013)	(.023)	(.022)
Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes
N	9237	9237	6637	6637





	(1)	(2)	(3)
		ing expected high school graduation a ar following experiment among indep	
	Filed FAFSA (Based on DOE data)	Attended College (Based on NSC data)	Attended College an Rec eived Pell Gr an (Based on DOE data
nined Sample w/ treatment group	fixed effects (N=11,240)		
Info Treatment Effect	0.003	0.006	0.000
	[0.011]	[0.010]	[0.010
		[0.010]	[[





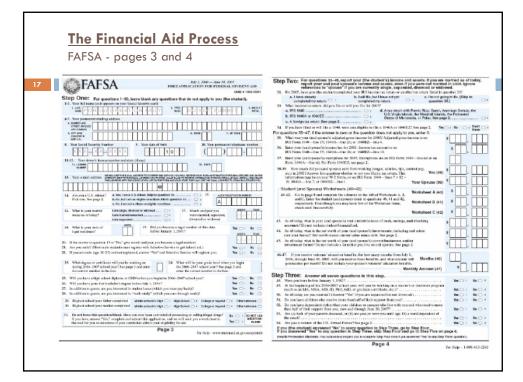


□ Nudge. Thaler and Sunstein (2008)

How (little) pushes can lead to large changes in outcomes

- □ What is the default?
 - In retirement programs the default is that you have to sign up for retirement benefits
 - Active enrollment as the default leads to dramatic increases in uptake.
- □ What are the defaults in our educational offerings?
- □ Can we change the defaults?

\rightarrow The use o	of the financia	al aid application	on (FAFSA)	
EXERCISE	A FREE APPLICATIO	106 — June 20, 2007 DS FOR FEBREAL STUDENT AID ME # 1945-001	Notes for questions 14 – 15 (page 3) If you are an digible continues, write in your eighter mine-tight a	Nice Registration Number, Consolly, you are an offi-
Call of the Control of	A first to prove here here here here here to an effect of a second state of the second	All F I FERGUE FILE AND CALLED CALLED FILE AND CALLED CALLED CALLED CALLED FILE AND CALLED CALLED CALLED CALLED CALLED FILE AND CALLED C	Here are definition of the second sec	The the contrastication of the second
 Participant destructions of CAPTER, beam of the second constraints of the second co	cons (such as low of any forgence), any start is a limited and constitution, in the start and a simulation of the start of the start and the start of th	Additional and a sign and a	Hele is a constraint of a range of and 7.75 (1992) (1994). The state of the state	And the interaction is a matter of conception of conceptin



FAFSA - pages 5 and 6		
Step Four: Complete this step if you (the electert) assessed "No" to all quantiers in Step Three. Go to peg who is a parent for this step.	7 to determine Step FIVE: Complete this step only if you (the student) answared "Yes" to any	Step Three quest
55. What is your pureries motion deares or of reday? 56. Month and your they work deares of the second are set of each of the second are set of the second are seco	Viat 86. Go in page 7 to discussion how many payle are in your independences of the page 7 to discussion how will be college with college. at that have 1.2000 and the college with college with a set.	ing at least he Frine be
Nº44 What are the Social So	and be and the second s	
	executorements 1990 - The fact-skip (adam) detect and can be proposed and the fact is the fact is detect context we all office, at your public liberty, or by withing your high otherd guidance connected. Hyper complete ment, address, city and used of the collage. The state with your prefer	et the finderal school o and school firm.
	1 9 CR 4010	
 Go to page 7 to determine how many people are to your prenet/ bounded. Go to page 7 to determine how many in question 54 your prenets) will be colling a statute intervent hely. It four that cather have. 		
Construction of the second		<u> </u>
69. If the answer to question is its "7%," give months and year ingel months and year to the parter to be also that the languest	VEAS AN ADVESS AND STORE AND STORE	'
 For 2005, how your parents completed their IRS income tax return or another tax notam listed in question 717 My parents have already My parents have already My parents have not princip.	42 CR BODE	- UD •
completed tack search	St. OR WOLLS	- Ť,
IRB 104A or 1040EZ	Housewise, or REPERFECTION SAME OF	Ξm,
72. If your parameters have filed or will file a 1040, were they eligible to file a 1040A or 1040627 See page 2.	No Bert Room	
For quartiene 73-93, if the answer is zero or the quarties does not apply, enter 0. 75. What was your parent's algorid growing enter 87, 2007 Algorid growing one to on 105 Form 1040-The 52, 20140-The 21: or 1046-The 21-enter 4.		1 Tuarture O
 Enter your parents' income tax for 2005, income tax amount is an IIIS form 1040—Inv 57, 3340A—Inv 56, or 1040EZ—Inv 10. 		epked.
Enter your parents' comptions for 2003. Enamptions are on IEB Form 2040—line 6d or or Form 1040A—line 6d. for Form 104EZ, ess page 2.		2006 🗢 or
76-77. How much did your paratic sum from working (sugae, salutier, tyt, combat pay, etc.) in 2003 Answer this quoties whether or so your paratic fields in neuro. This information may be set that "%-2 forms, or on IRS form 1040—1049.	entry successful () you didn't on a folger instance of () and () and () in the interest of the second of the	
7 + 12 + 13; 1048A Erro 7; or 10486Z Erro 1. Mother/ Steprestive: (77) 3	which is provide to intermediate that will write the original dynamic completed in the second	
Parent Worksheets (20-90) 78-80. Ge to page 6 and complete the columns on the right of Worksheet A. (78)	come repeated (in Aria, per early the parameterization of the Service) at Tablepatients to very the interaction repeated in the epidemic of the Interaction Repeated and the Interact and the Interaction yes approx degree at (refeat 1) the Interaction Repeated Aria and Inter yes approx degree at (refeat 1) the Interaction Repeated Aria and Inter yes approx degree at (refeat 1) the Interaction Repeated Aria and Inter yes approx degree at (refeat 1) the Interaction Repeated Aria and Interaction Repeated Aria and Interaction yes approx degree at (refeat 1) the Interaction Repeated Aria and Interaction Repeated Aria and Interaction yes approx degree at (refeat 1) the Interaction Repeated Aria and Interaction Repeated Aria and Interaction yes approx degree at (refeat 1) the Interaction Repeated Aria and Interaction Repeated Aria and Interaction yes approx degree at (refeat 1) the Interaction Repeated Aria and Interaction Repeated Aria	Stop Four eiga hel ev
B. and C. Enfort the permute totals to quantizers 70, 79 and 90, respectively. Even basish year permute any here flow of the Worksheet Euros, check. Worksheet 8 (79) a rach first carefully.	survey and a second secon	
Worksheet C (##) \$	The form was filled on by measured other Hill. Preparit local Screen Namerica Kill SCHOOL UI data was componence or your parcels. file	
81. As of lodge, what is your point if to be correct before of cosh, unings, and checking reconnection 9 82. As of helps, what is the set worth of your points' investments, is challen and action over	presentationsplate the year.	*
your pirents' honor? Wer worth mous current value mixes debt. See page 2.	+ 10. region system of ten	
As actualize whitis the net worth of jour paratis' currant businesses and/or investment forms? Do not hadd a farm that your paratis live or and opertie. See page 2. Now go to Step 518.		••••
	portomplatifisha Page 6	

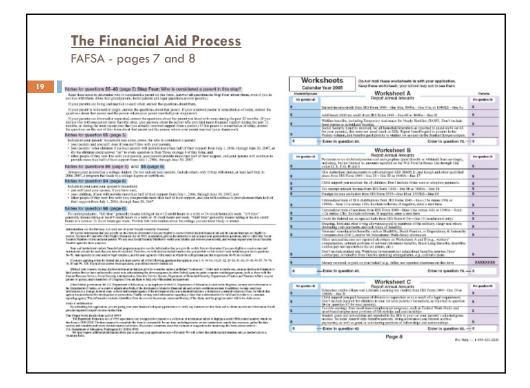
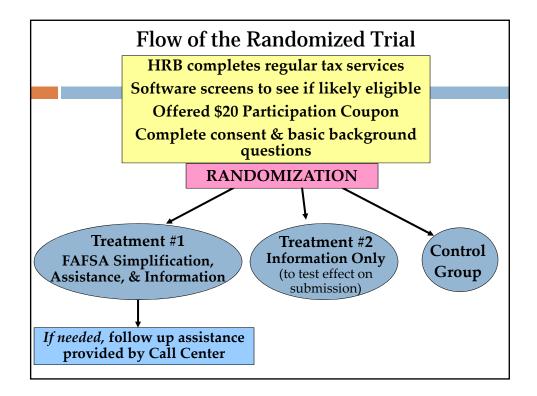
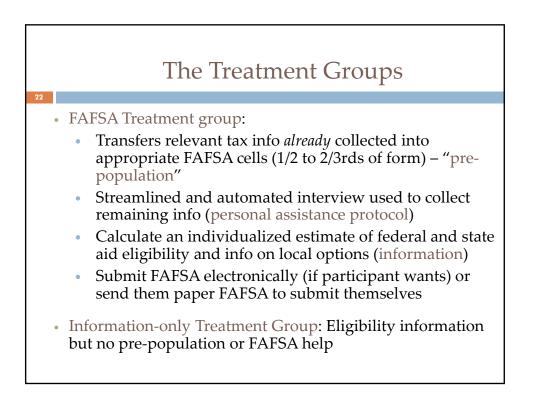


Table 1. Complexity of the FAF	SA Versus	IRS 1040
	1040 EZ	FAFSA
# of pages (excl.)	1	5
Total number of questions	37	127
Non-financial items		
Identifying information	6	22
Demographic/family information	2	18
Financial items		
Earned income	1	5
Other income	2	33
Assets	0	6
Deductions/credits/allowances	2	12
Tax amounts from tables, calc. lines	6	6
Withholdings, refund prefs.	5	0
# of items required for computation	8	72
of tax/refund or aid amt		
Length of signing statement	59 words	232 words
Official estimate of time to prepare	8 hours	1 hour
Source: Extract from Dynarski, Scott-Claytor	n (2006)	



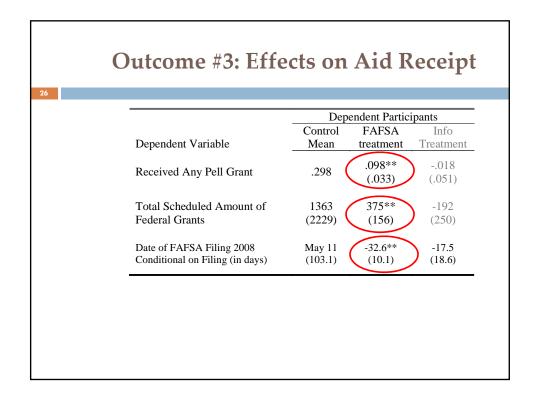


Effect or	n Filing tl	he FAI	SA
	Partic	ndent ipants <i>ean</i> = .402	_
FAFSA Treatment	.157** (.035)	.146** (.033)	-
Info Only Treatment	012 (.060)	034 (.055)	
Controls	No	Yes	
Ν	868	868	
college experie	clude race, gender nce, parents' educa ome. Robust stand ntheses.	tion levels,	-

				ion to T he FAFS	
24					
		Independent with No Pri Exper <i>Control Me</i>	or College ience	with Prio Exper	Participants r College rience <i>ean</i> = .353
	FAFSA	.257**	.257**	.204**	.206**
	Treatment	(.009)	(.009)	(.012)	(.012)
	Info Only Treatment	011 (.013)	013 (.013)	.019 (.023)	.023 (.022)
	Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes
	N	9237	9237	6637	6637
	The controls includ	le race, gender,	age, prior college	e experience, pare	nts' education

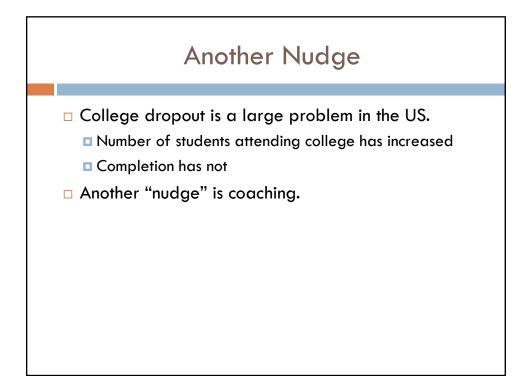
The controls include race, gender, age, prior college experience, parents' educatio levels, and family income. Robust standard errors appear in parentheses.

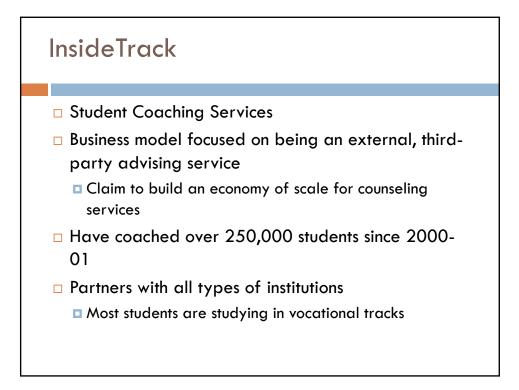
	Partic	Dependent Participants <i>Control Mean</i> = .268	
	(1)	(2)	
FAFSA treatment	.077** (.033)	.069** (.032)	
Info Only Treatment	.034 (.056)	.009 (.051)	
Controls N	No 868	Yes 868	

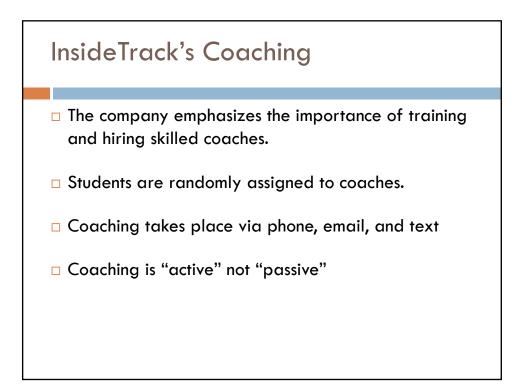


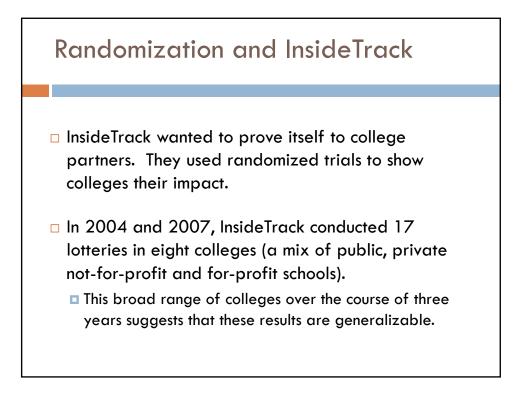
Overview of H&R Block Results

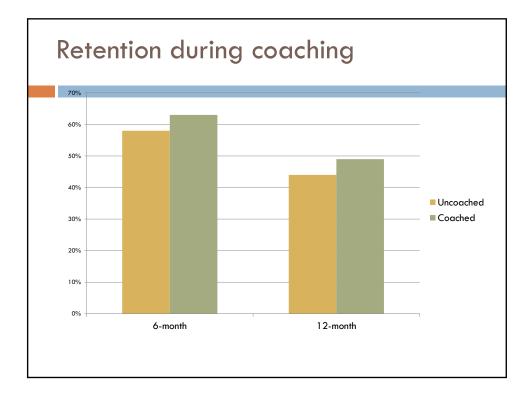
- Average Interview was 8 minute
- DOE reported rejection rate was lower than normal
- Process completed more rapidly
- Increase in FAFSA Filing
- Enrollment Effects
- o Increased Receipt of Aid
- College persistence effects through 3 years
- \circ No effects of information
- The "nudge" was small but effective.



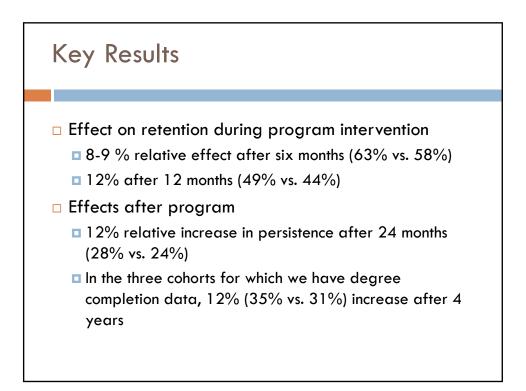














- Perceived cost of college is too high
 - Coaching can help students calibrate costs
 - Coaching can reduce costs as students build study skills
- Perceived costs might be too high because of bad information
 - Coaching can help students get the right information
- Students are too impatient; they can't see the longrun benefits
 - Coaching can help students internalize the value of educational effort

