

Putting Australian Aid into Perspective

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Outline

Motivation

Survey

- Descriptive statistics
- Characteristics associated with support
- Effect of information

Implications

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- Descriptive statistics
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Implications

Motivation – Previous studies

Information provided to treatment group

Every year the Australian government provides aid money to poorer countries. Since 2013 Australia has reduced the amount of aid it gives. At the same time, some countries, such as the United Kingdom, have increased the aid they give. The United Kingdom now gives about 70 cents out of every \$100 of its Gross National Income as aid (Gross National Income is a standard measure of the size of a country's economy). By comparison Australia gives 25 cents out of every \$100 of its Gross National Income as aid. Considering this, which of the following options best reflects your opinion about aid spending: [identical response categories to those used in the control question were provided].

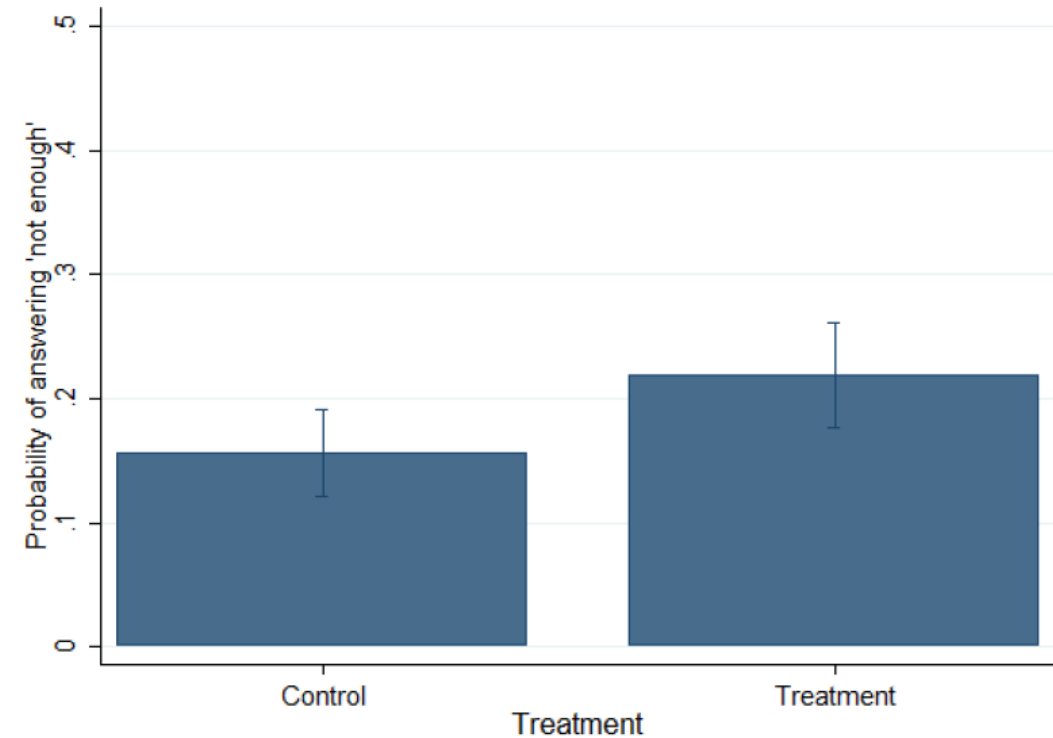
Source: Wood, 2016

Motivation – Previous studies

Information provided to treatment group

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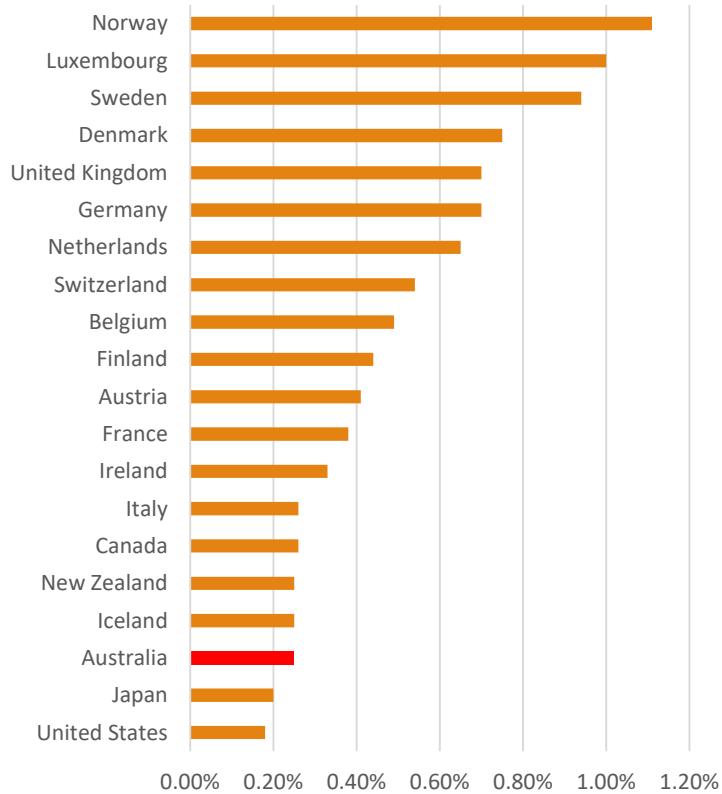
Effect of Information



Source: Wood, 2016

Motivation - Australia's rank in terms of Aid, Refugees and CO2 emissions across the richest 20 OECD countries

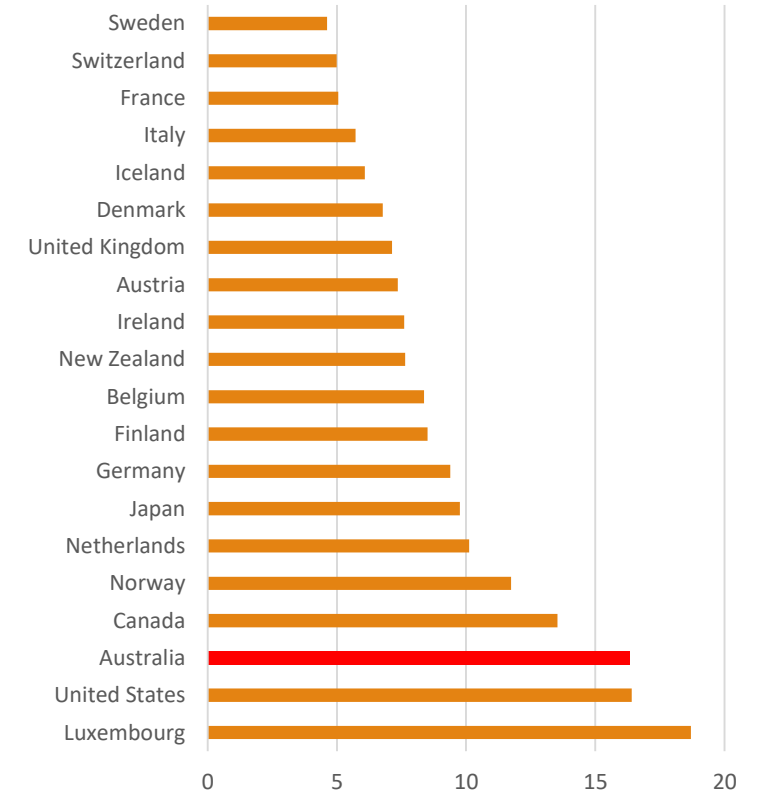
ODA as a share of GNI



Refugees Share of Population



CO2 emissions (tonnes per capita)



Outline

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Survey

- **Descriptive statistics**
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Implications

Survey questions - AID

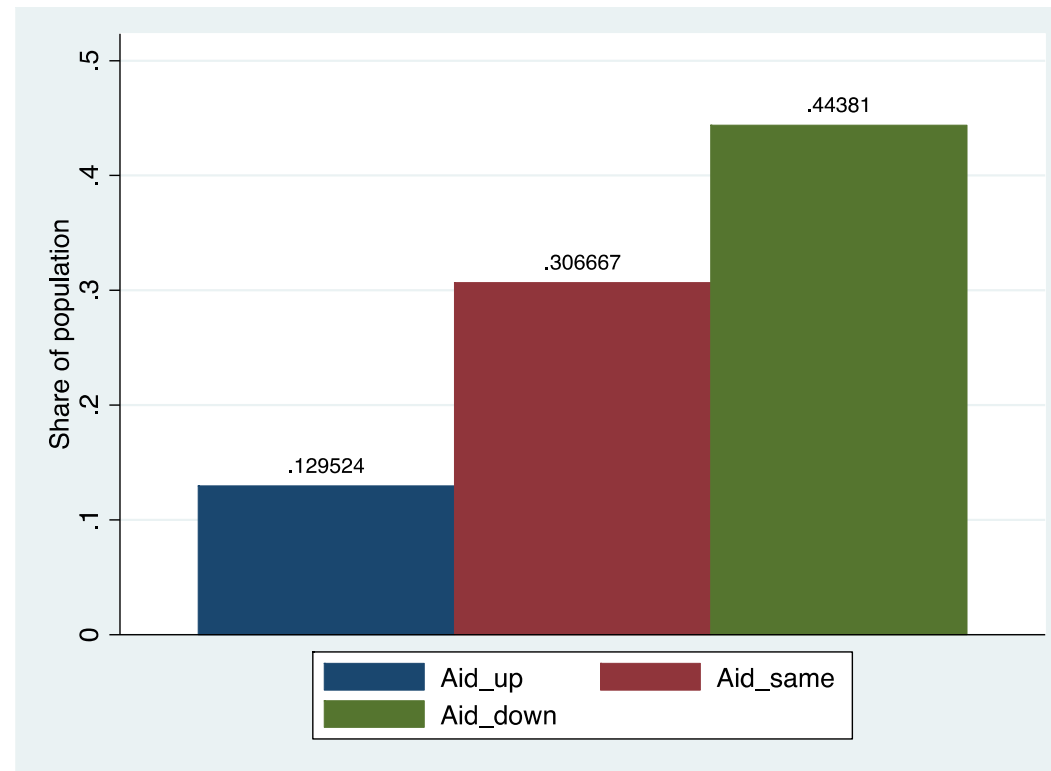
AID

Every year the Australian government provides aid money to poorer countries.

Which of the following options best reflects your opinion about aid spending:

- A. The Australian government does not give enough aid;
- B. The Australian government gives about the right amount of aid;
- C. The Australian government gives too much aid;
- D. I don't know

Survey questions - AID



Survey questions - REFUGEES

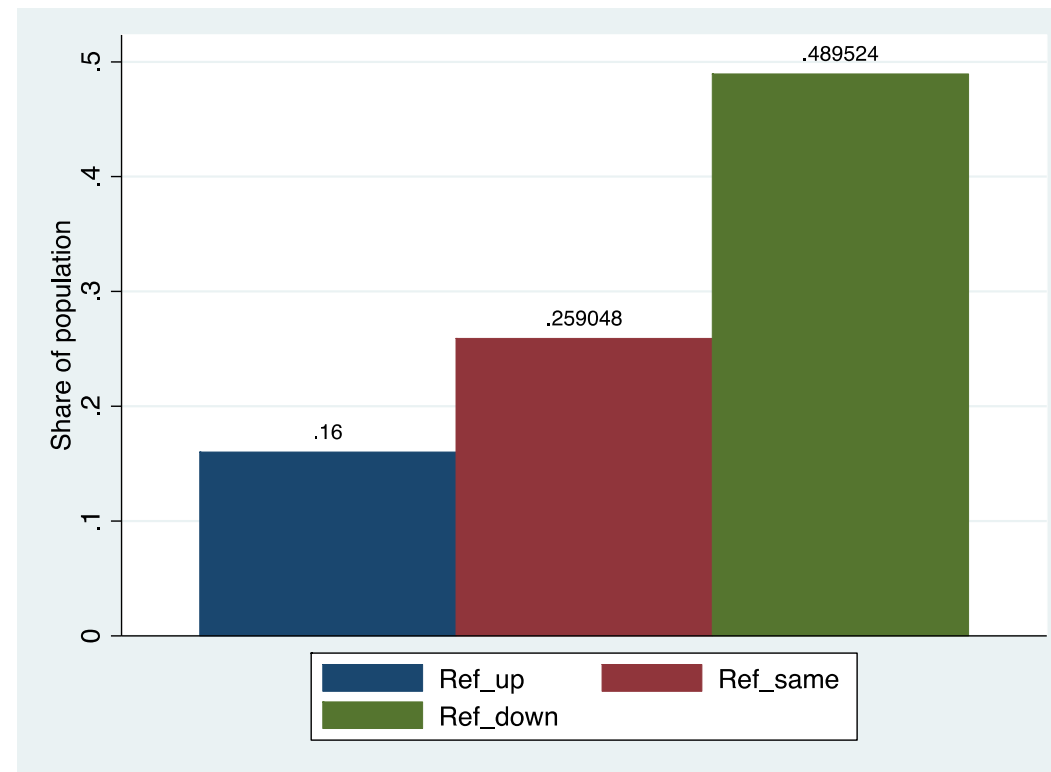
REFUGEES

Every year the Australian government provides refuge to people fleeing countries in conflict, such as Syria.

Which of the following options best reflects your opinion about the number of refugees Australia accepts:

- A. Australia does not accept enough refugees;
- B. Australia accepts about the right amount of refugees
- C. Australia accepts too many refugees;
- D. I don't know

Survey questions - REFUGEES



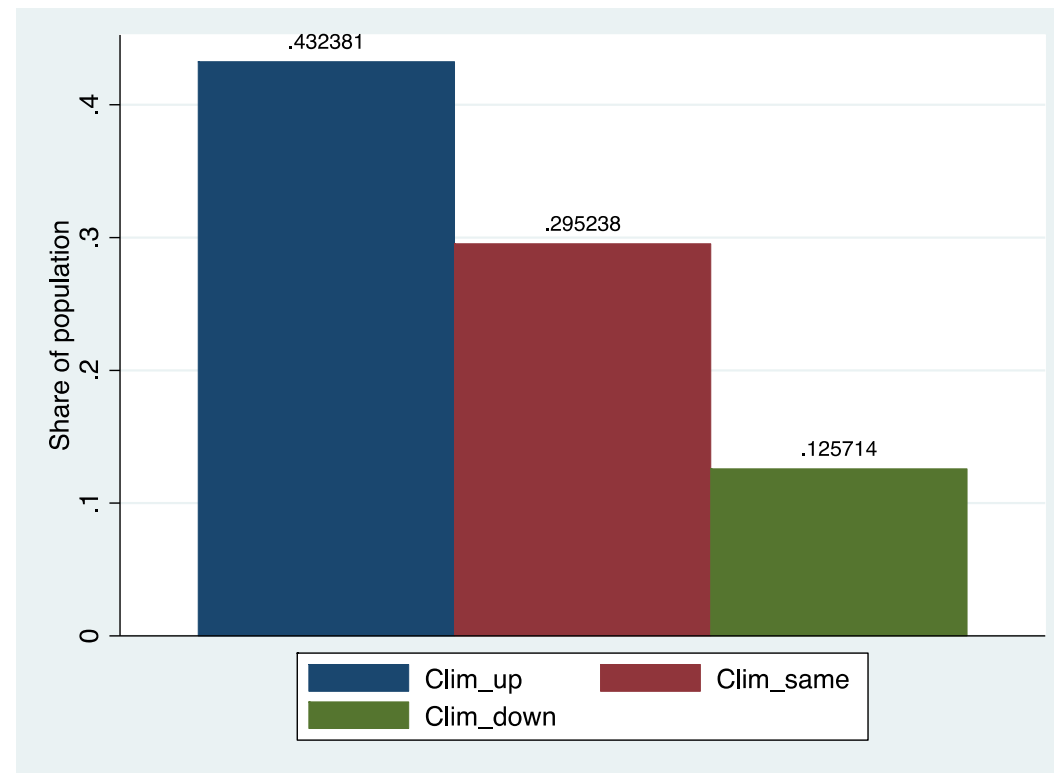
Survey questions – CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Which of the following options best reflects your opinion about Australia's policies on climate change:

- A. Australia is doing too little to address climate change;
- B. Australia is doing about the right amount to address climate change
- C. Australia is doing too much to address climate change;
- D. I don't know

Survey questions – CLIMATE CHANGE



Outline

Motivation

Survey

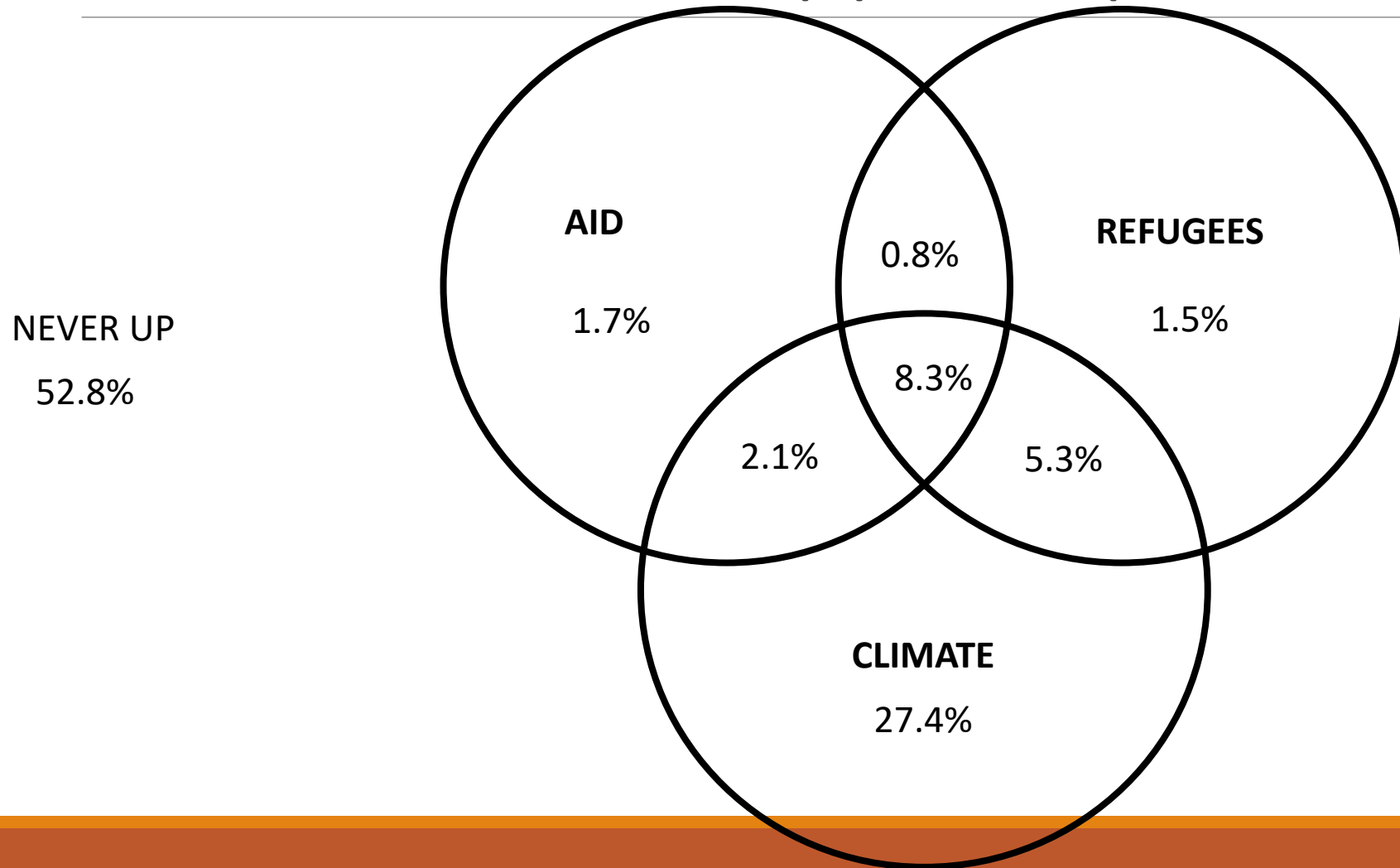
- Descriptive statistics
- **Characteristics associated with support**
- Effect of information

Implications

Characteristics associated with support

	AID	REFUGEES	CLIMATE CHANGE
FOR	+ University education - Vote for Coalition + Over 45 years old	+ University education - Vote for Coalition + Over 45 years old - Male	+ University education - Vote for Coalition + Richer Households
AGAINST	- University education + Vote for Coalition - Living in urban areas	- University education	+ Over 45 years old + Vote for Coalition + Male

Distribution of support up

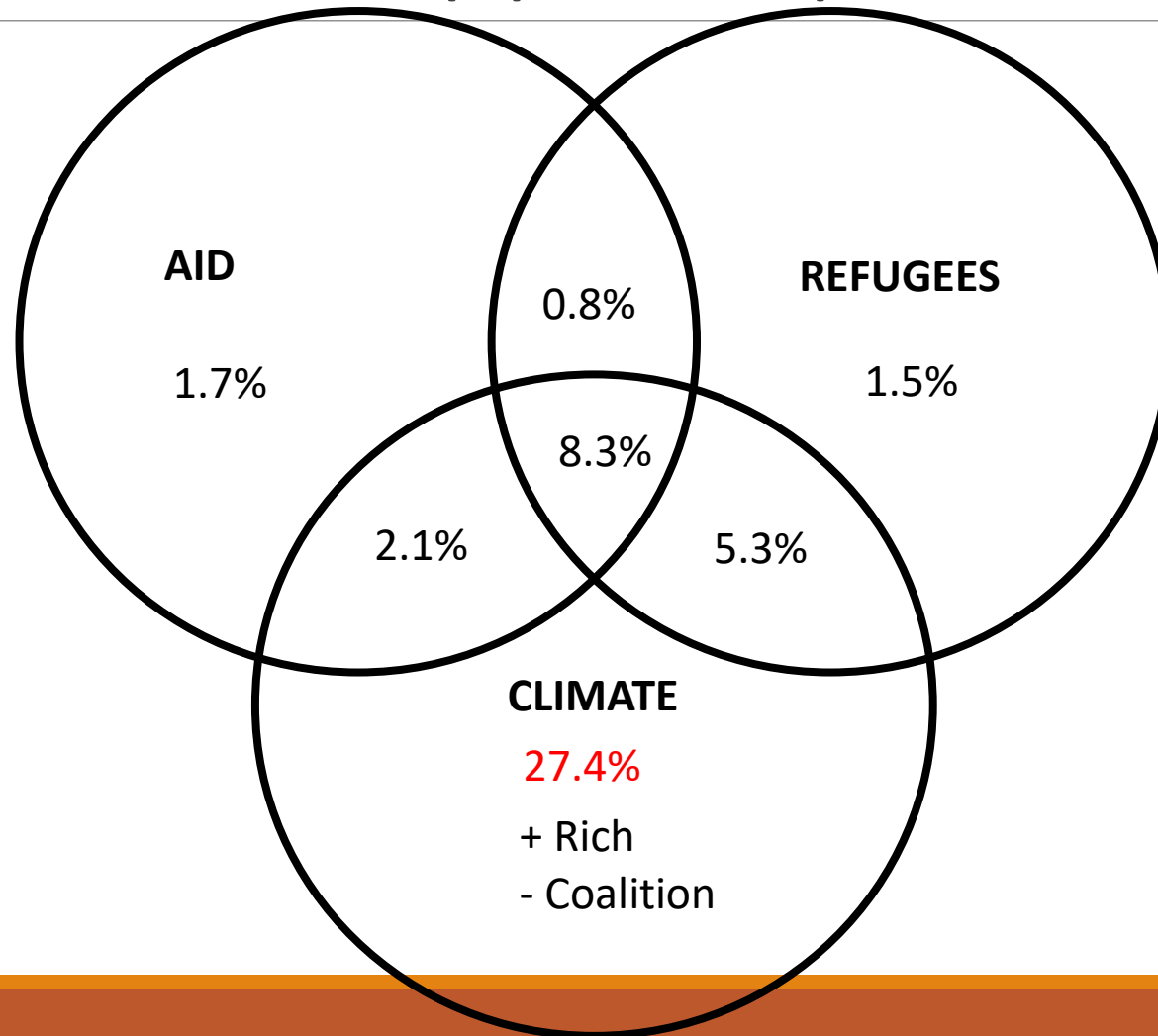


Distribution of support up

NEVER UP

52.8%

- Rich
- University education
- + Coalition

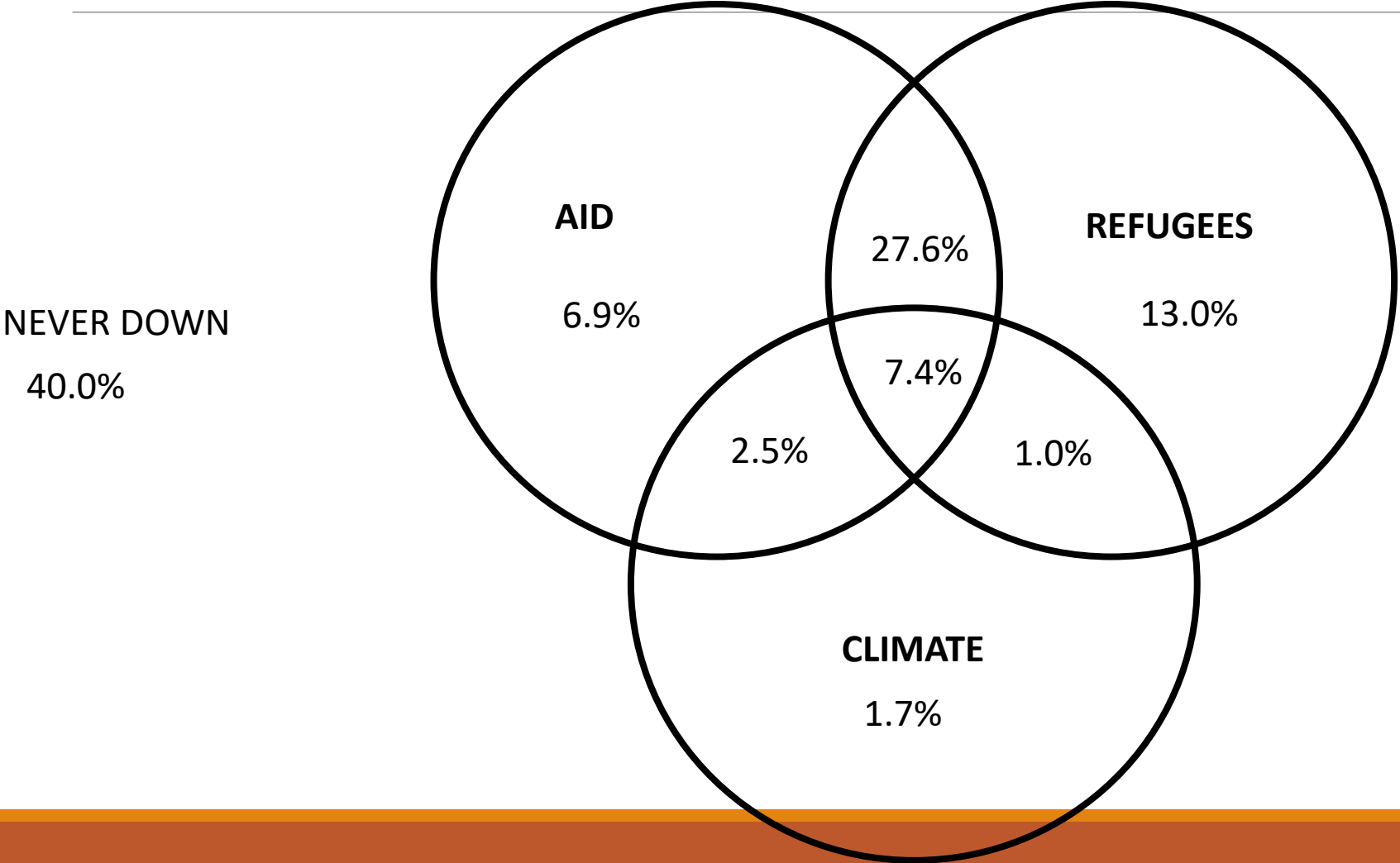


CLIMATE

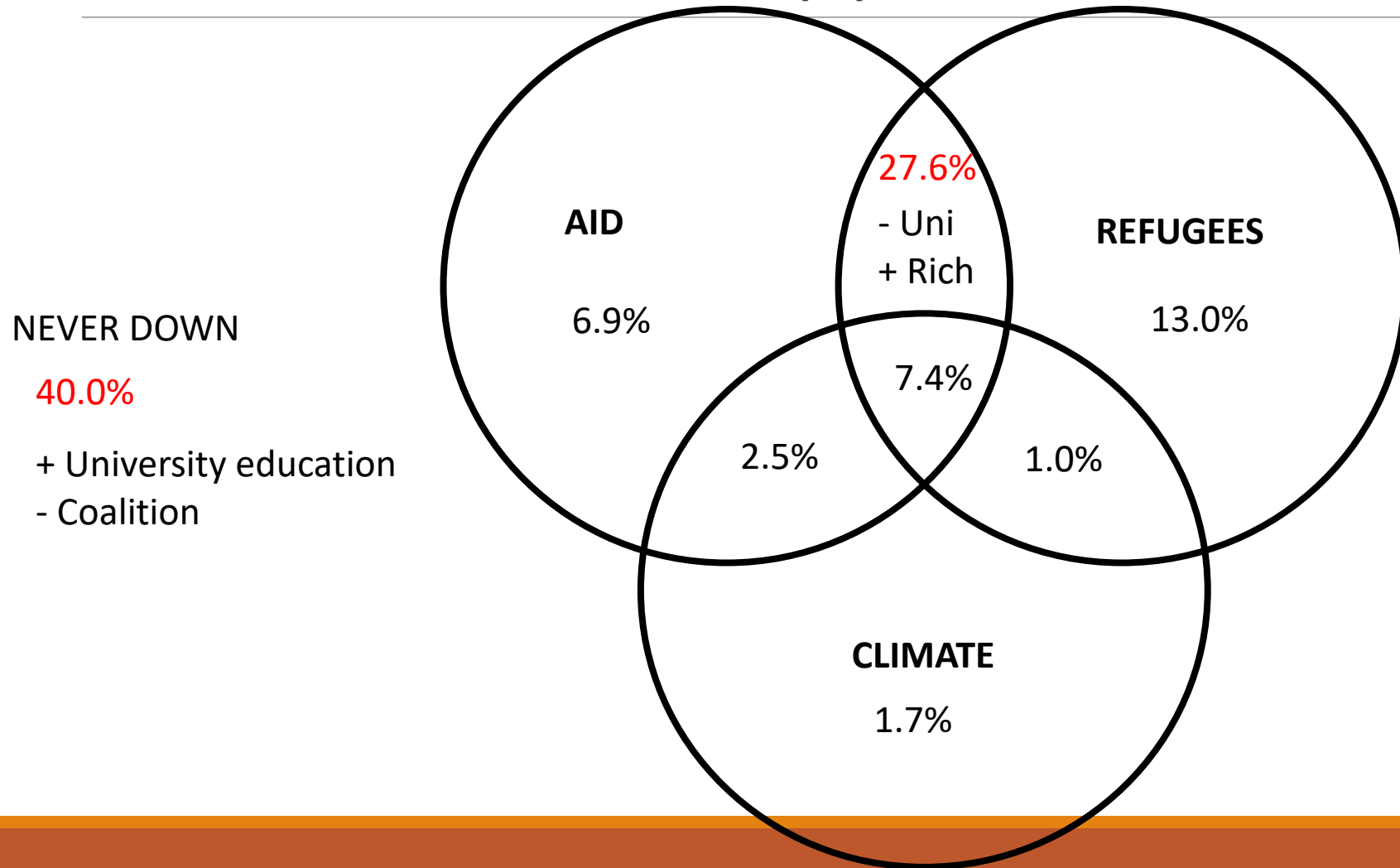
27.4%

- + Rich
- Coalition

Distribution of support down



Distribution of support down



Outline

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- **Effect of information**

Implications

Information that was randomly provided to a subset of respondents

Aid

Australia currently ranks 15th out of 20 of the richest OECD countries in the world in terms of aid spending as a share of the economy, behind nations like the United Kingdom and Canada, and is set to fall to 19th out of 20 by 2020

Refugees

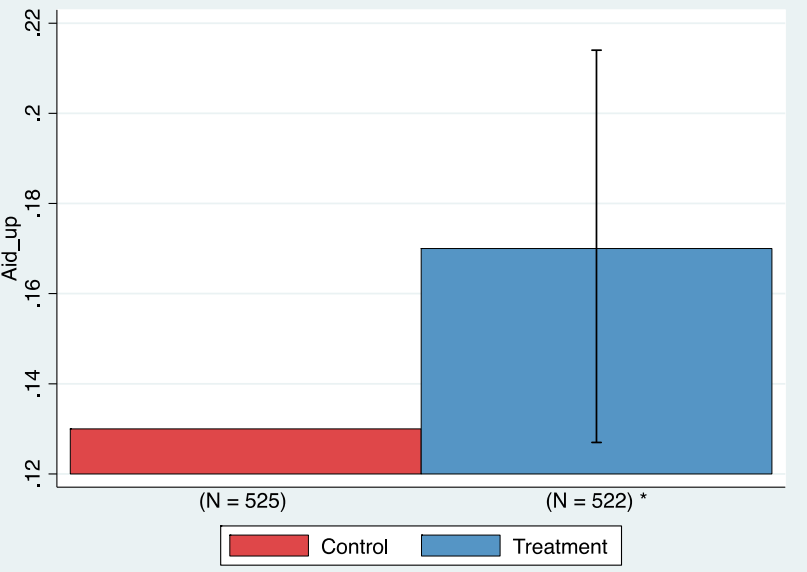
Low and middle income countries host 84% of the world's refugees. In Lebanon, 1 in every 6 people are refugees. In Australia, only 1 in every 1000 people are refugees. Even among rich nations, Australia hosts fewer refugees as a proportion of its population than 15 of the 20 richest OECD nations.

Climate Change

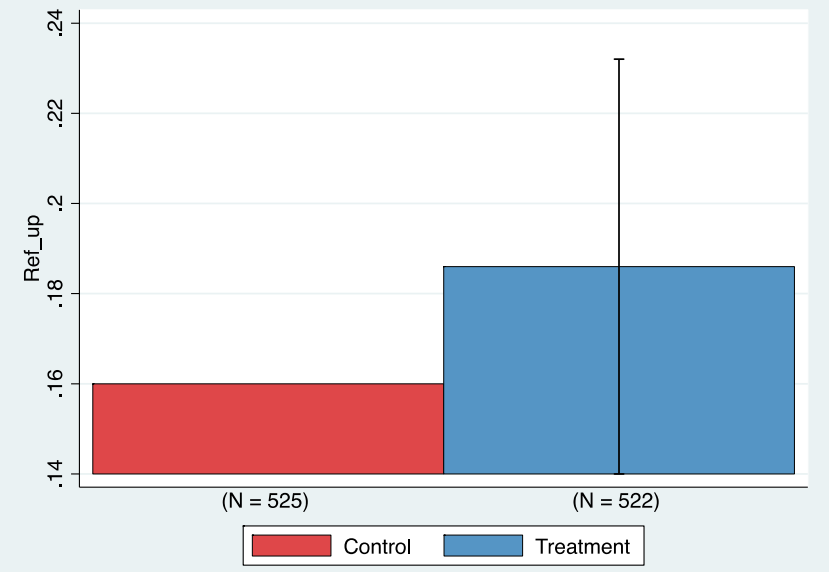
Australia is one of the largest emitters of carbon dioxide per person in the world, producing around 4 to 5 times the global average, while Australia's emissions reduction targets are amongst the lowest for developed nations.

Information effect on increasing support

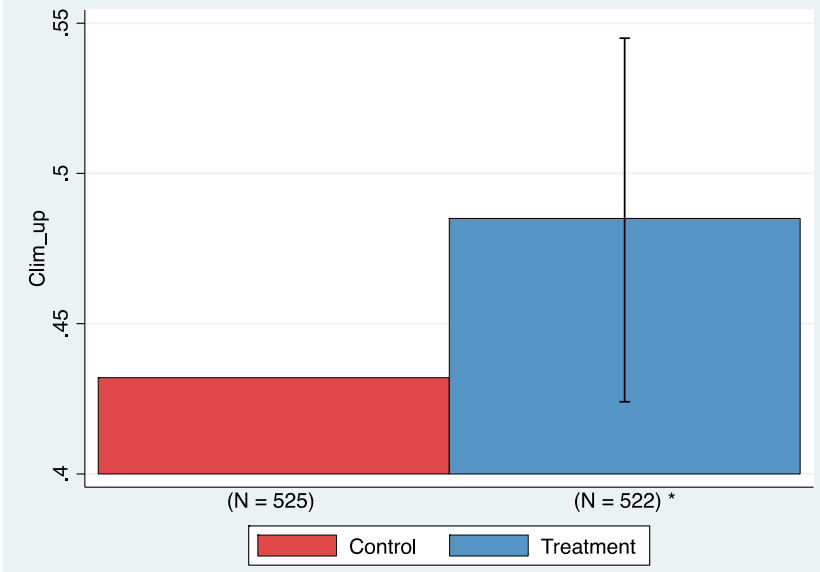
Aid



Refugee

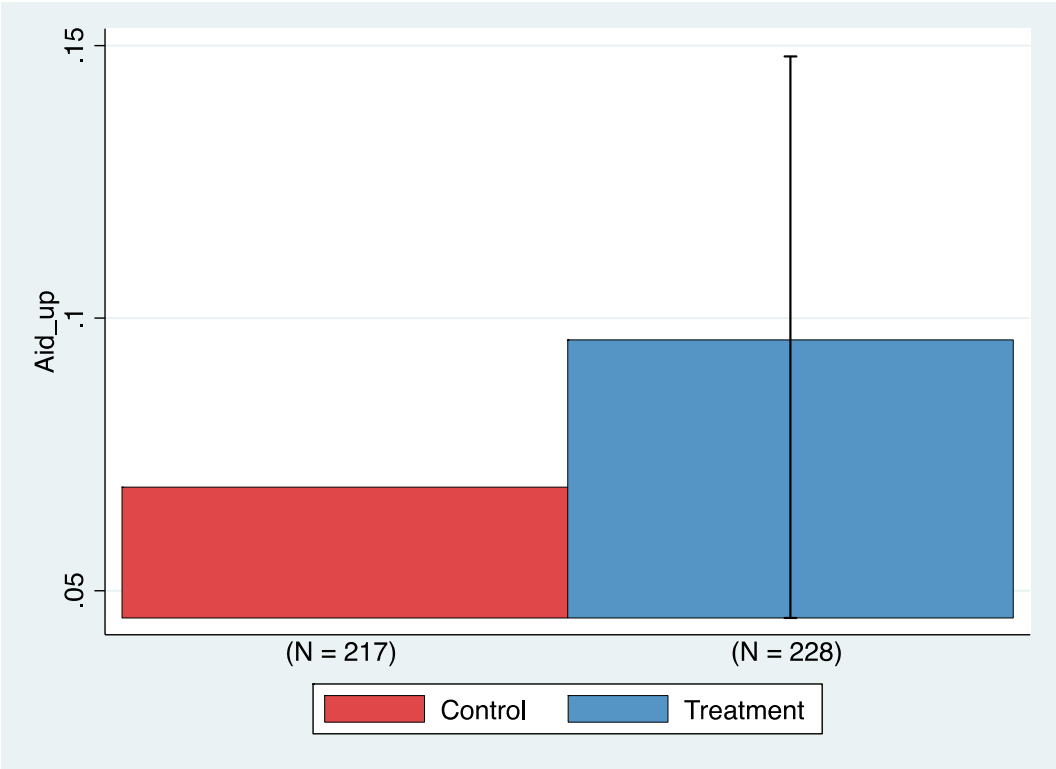


Climate Change

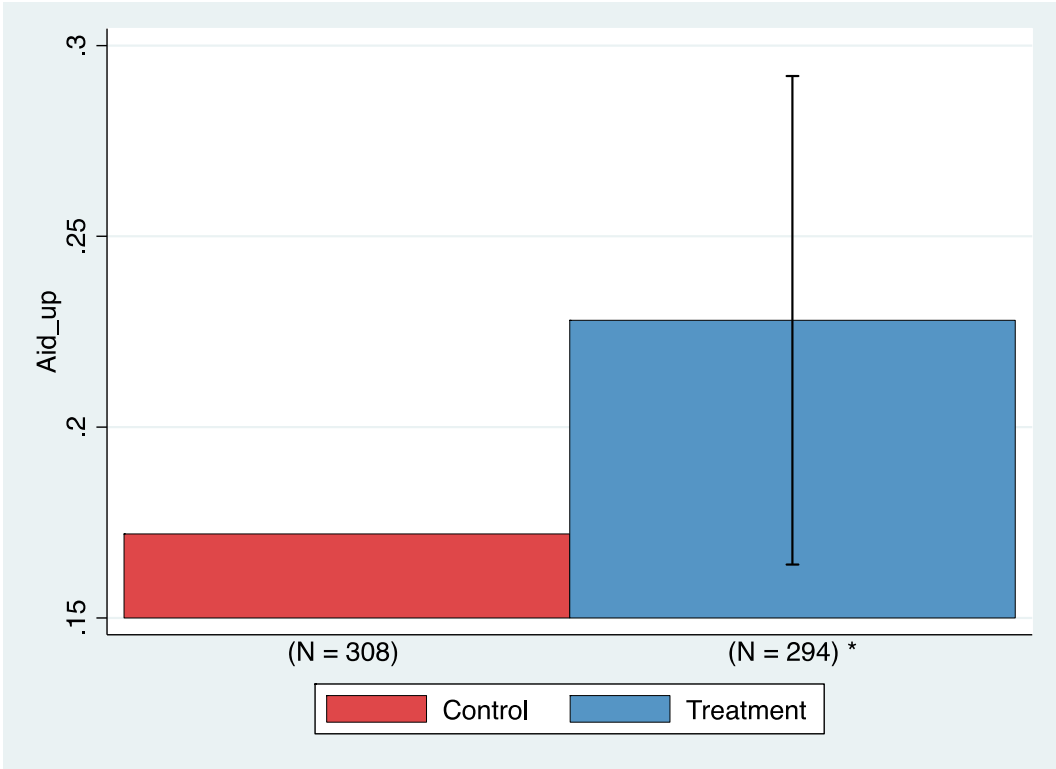


Difference by political support (1)

Coalition

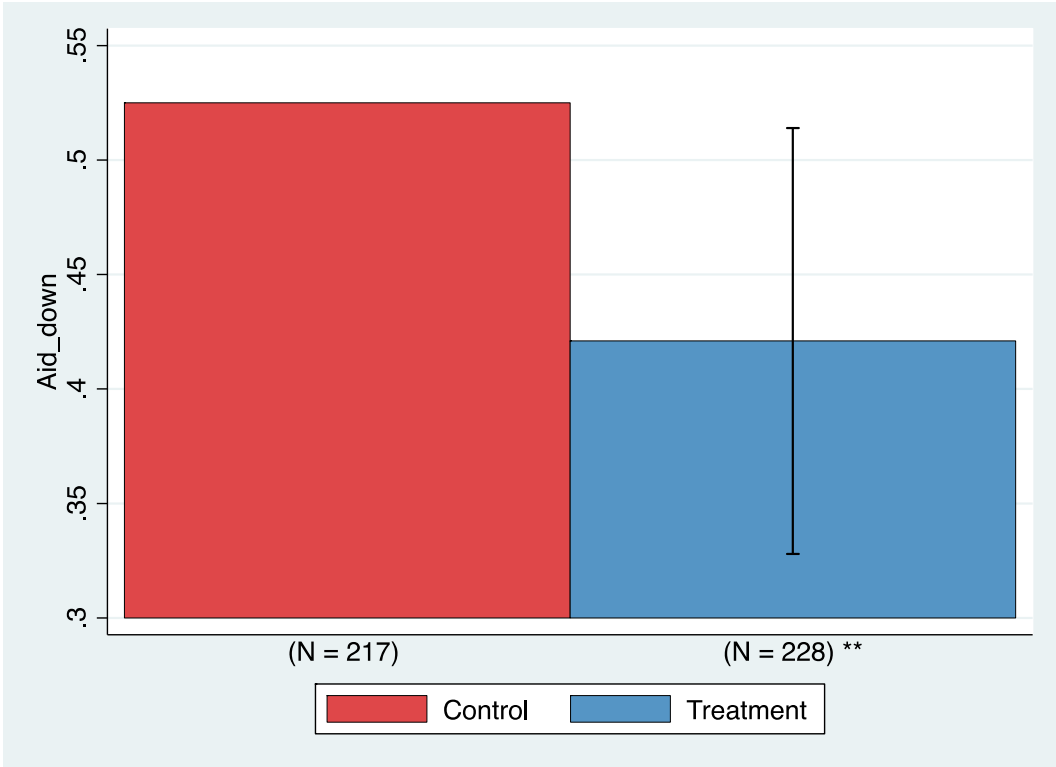


Not Coalition

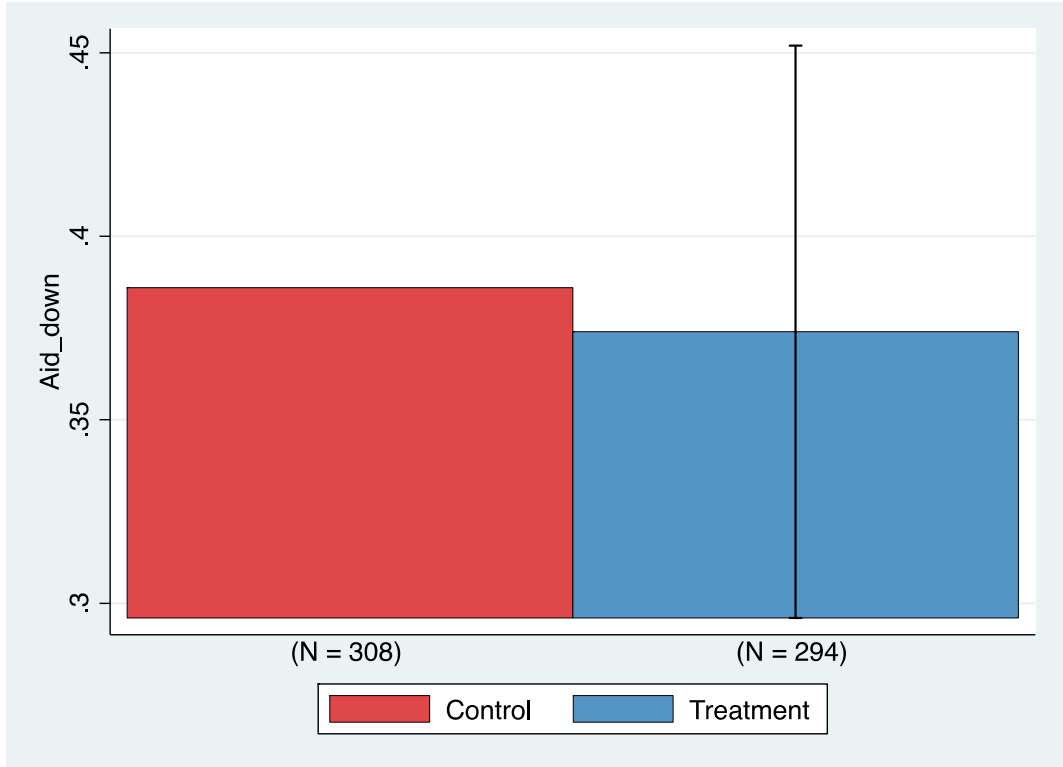


Difference by political support (2)

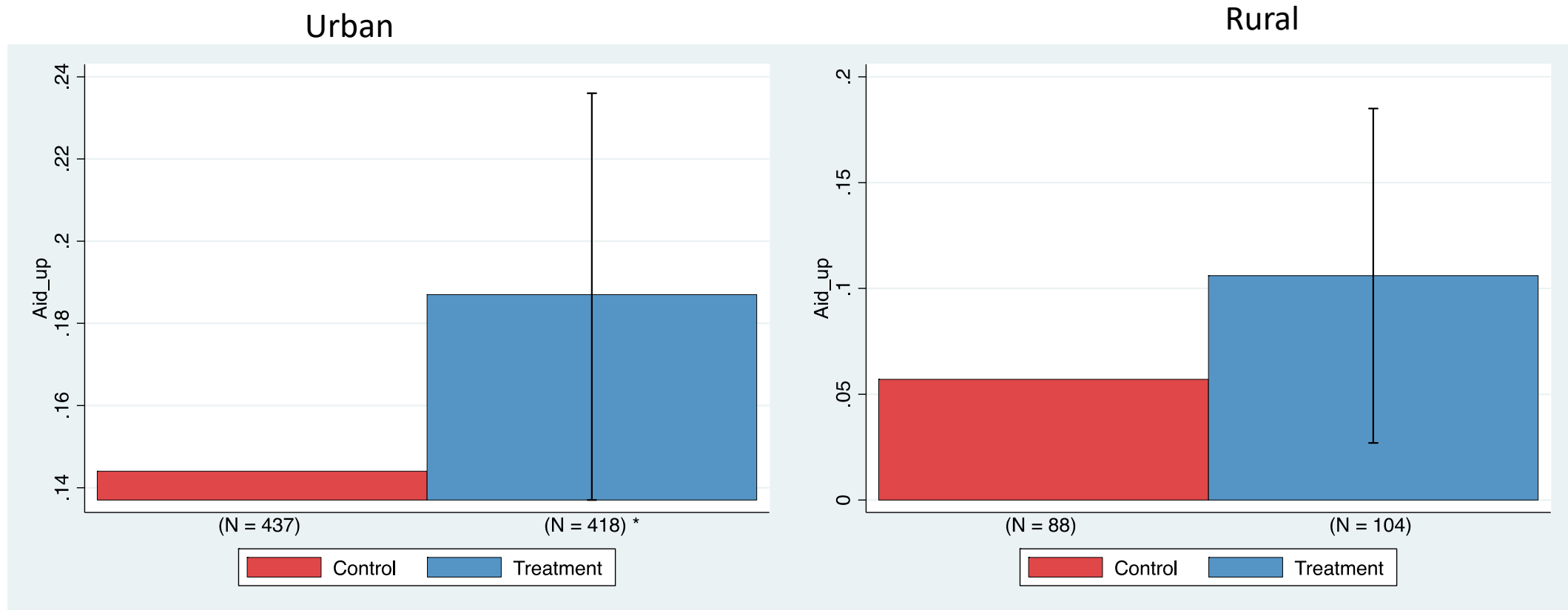
Coalition



Not Coalition

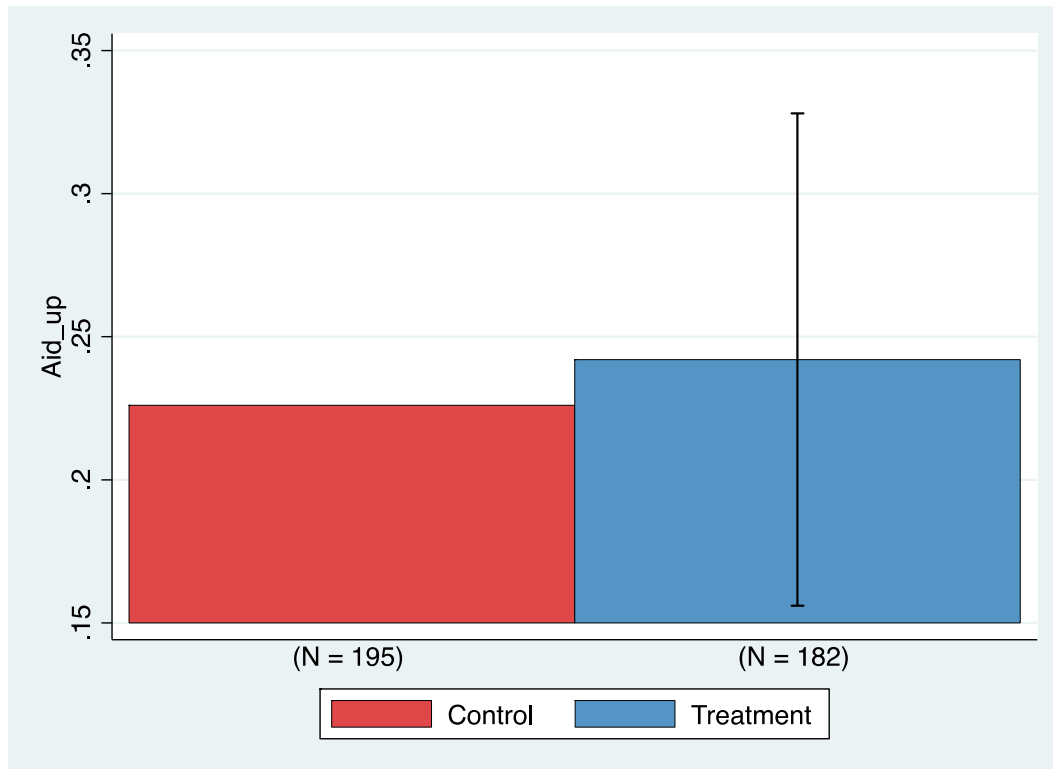


Difference by location

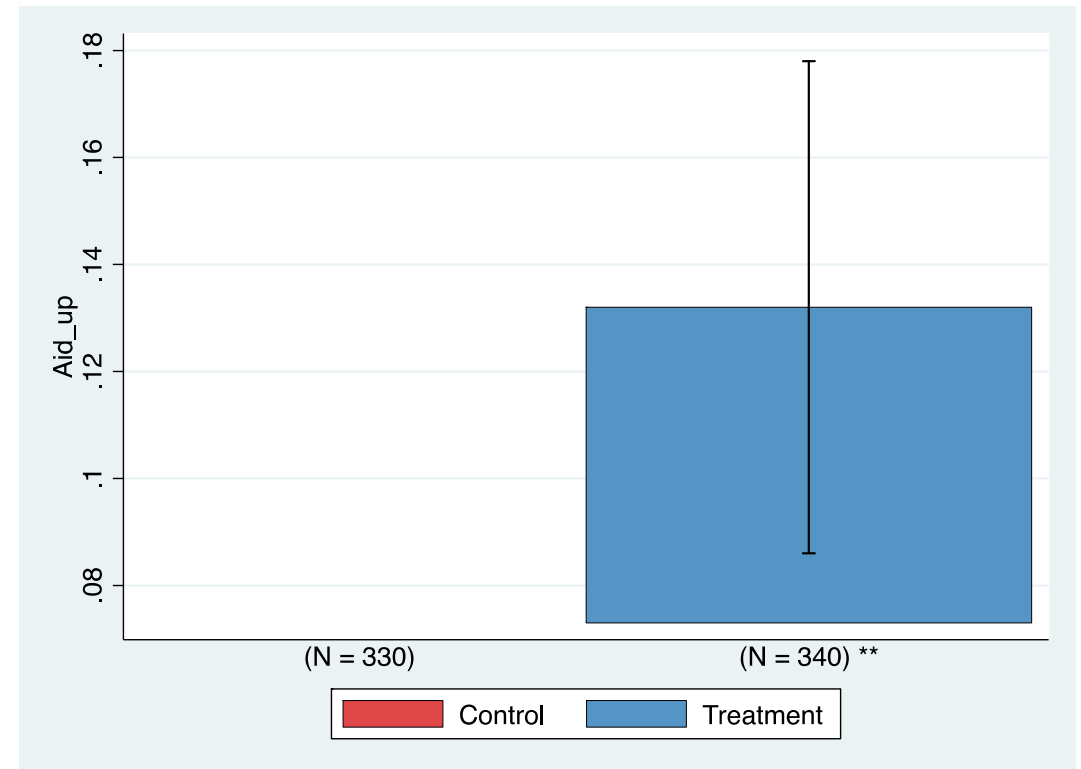


Difference by education*

University

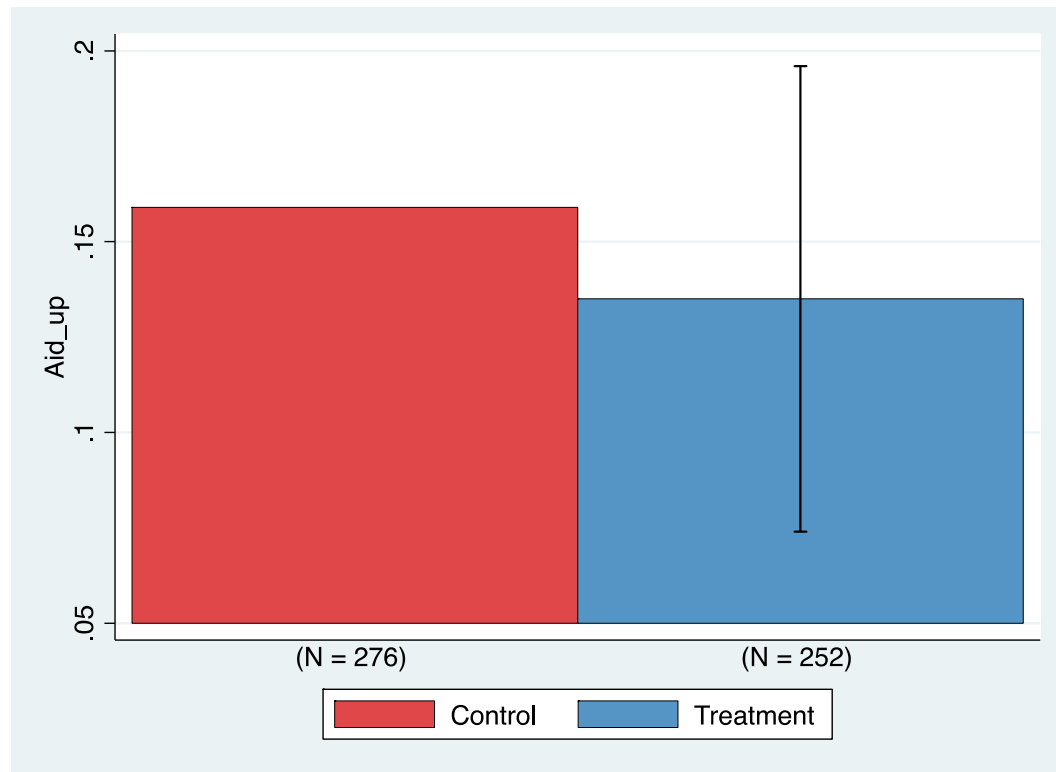


Not University

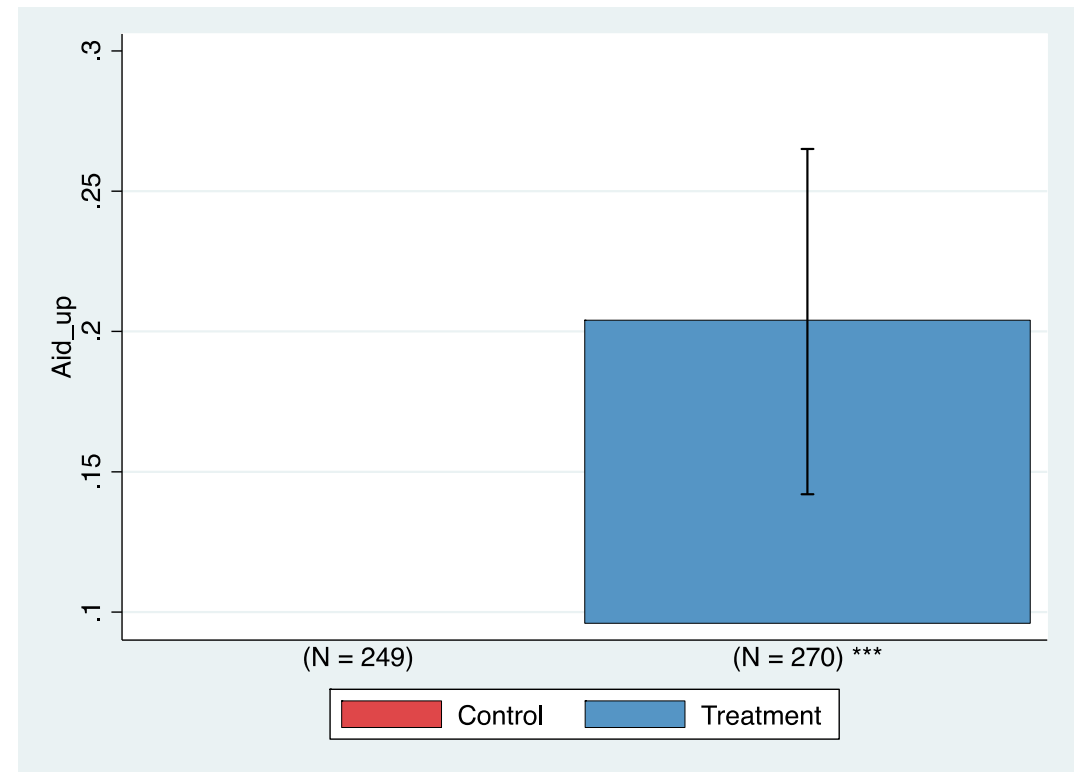


Difference by age*

Over45



Under45



Summary of relationship between respondent characteristics and level of support for aid

	EXISTING LEVEL OF SUPPORT	INFORMATION HAS AN EFFECT
POLITICAL SUPPORT	Non-coalition voters	Mixed (more of an effect on Coalition voters)
GEOGRAPHY	Urban areas	Urban areas
EDUCATION*	University education	Less than university education
AGE*	People over 45	People 45 or under

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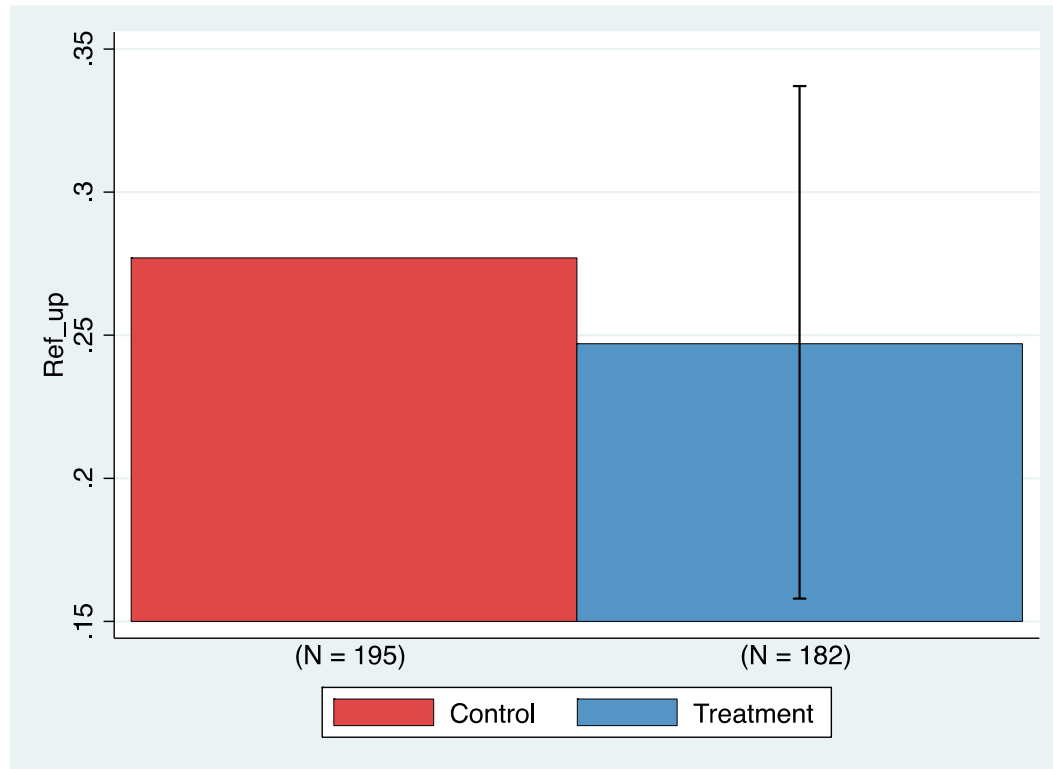
Implications

1. Diversity in who supports a range of 'similar' issues means a more nuanced approach to building public support is required
2. Levels of support for aid are low, however they can be increased through information about Australia's place in the world
3. Information tends to boost support among non-coalition voters and reduce anti-aid sentiment among coalition voters
4. The effect of information is largely contained to people under the age of 45, with less than university education, who live in urban areas
5. There is huge potential to use this type of rigorous approach to learn how to boost public support for increasing aid

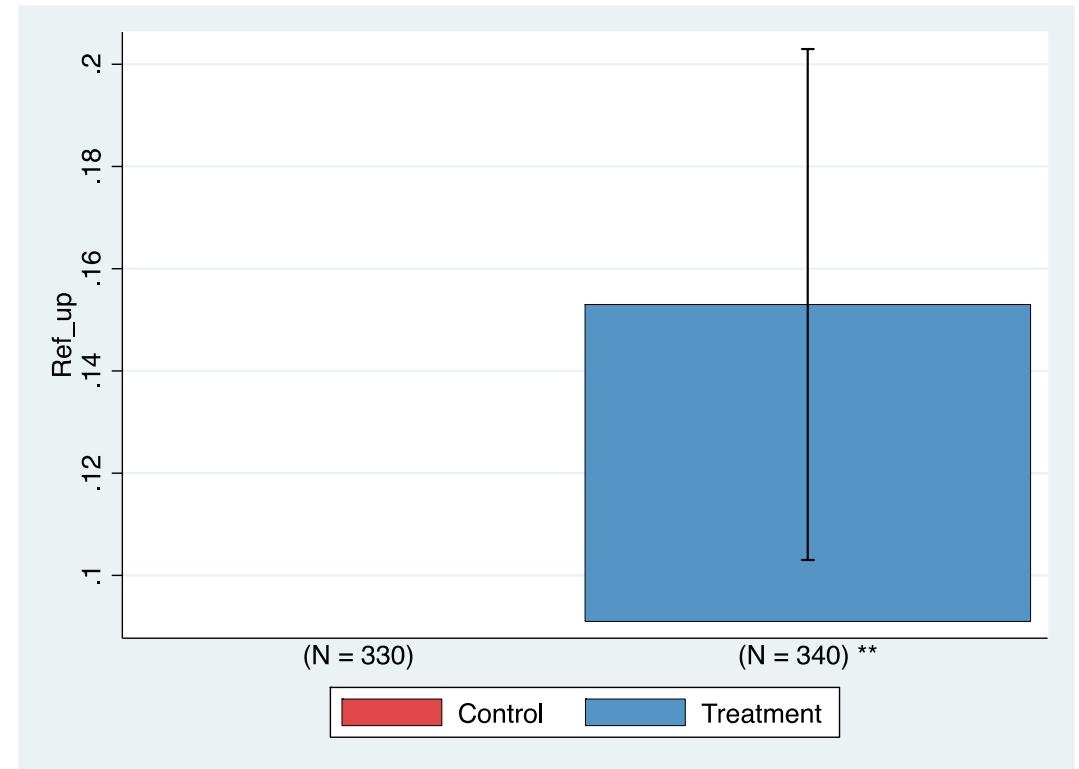
EXTRA SLIDES

Difference between academic groups (2)

University

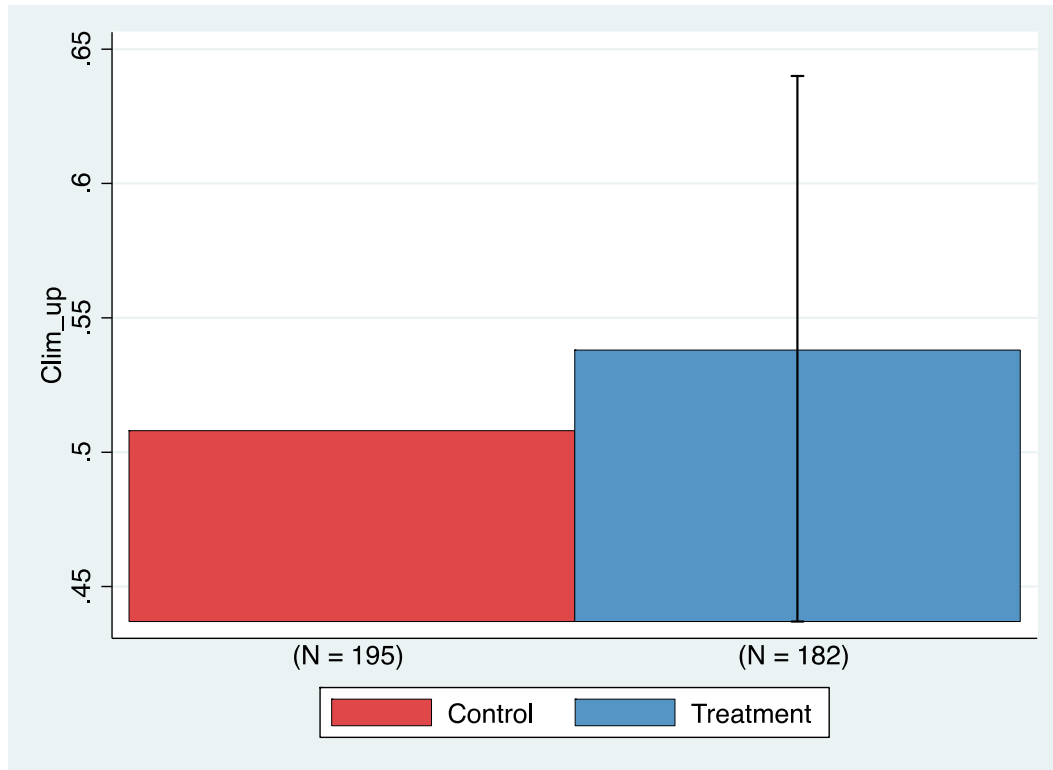


Not University

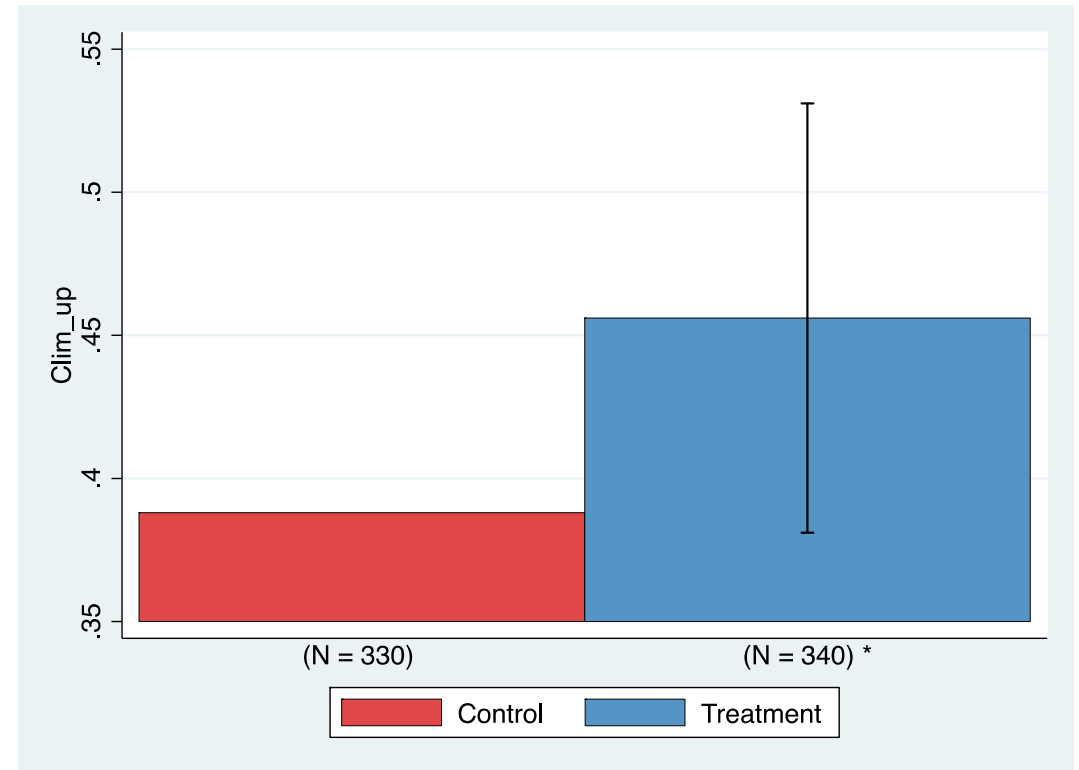


Difference between academic groups (3)

University

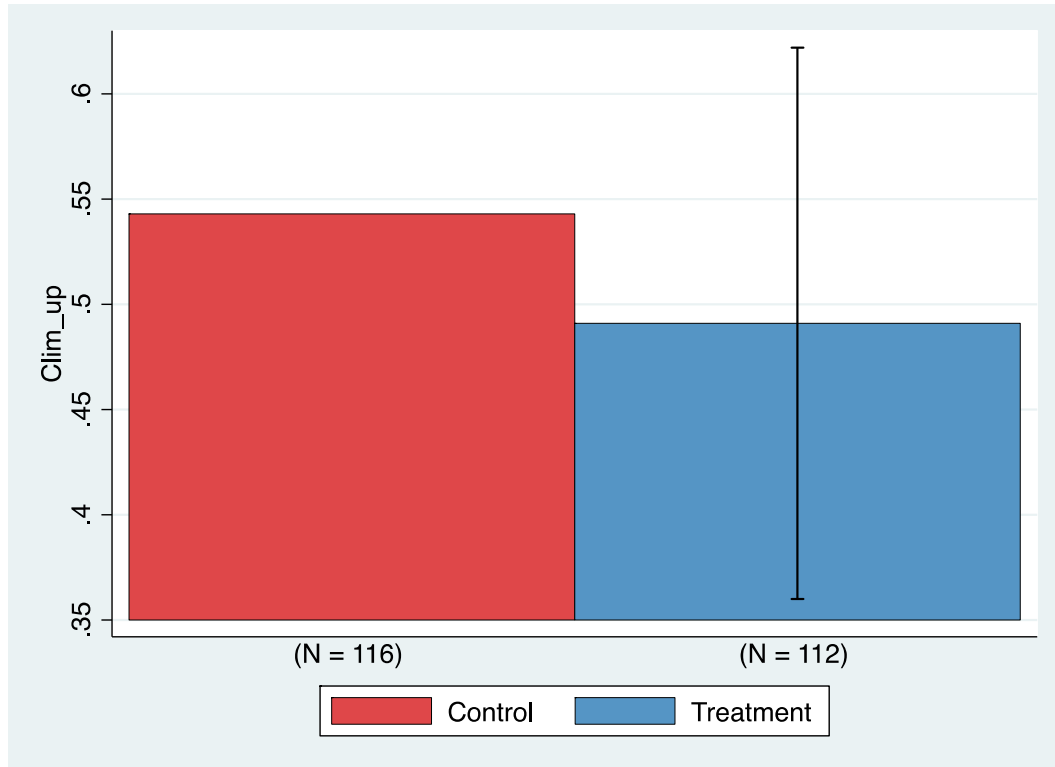


Not University

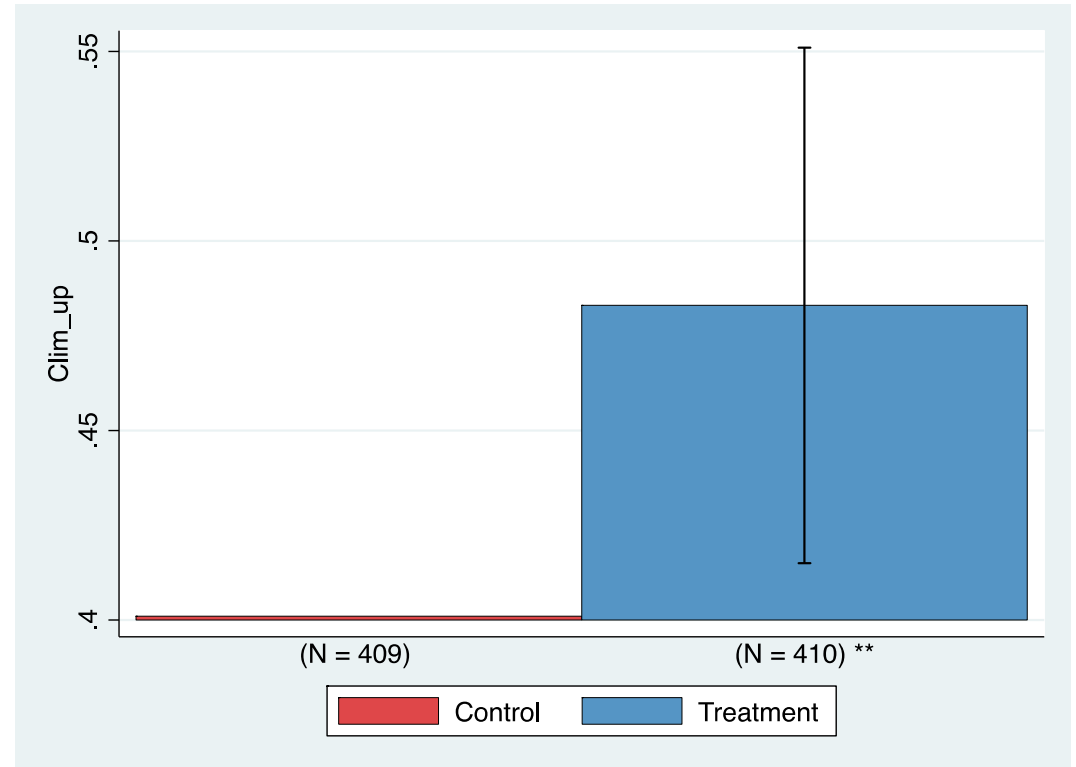


Difference between income groups

Rich

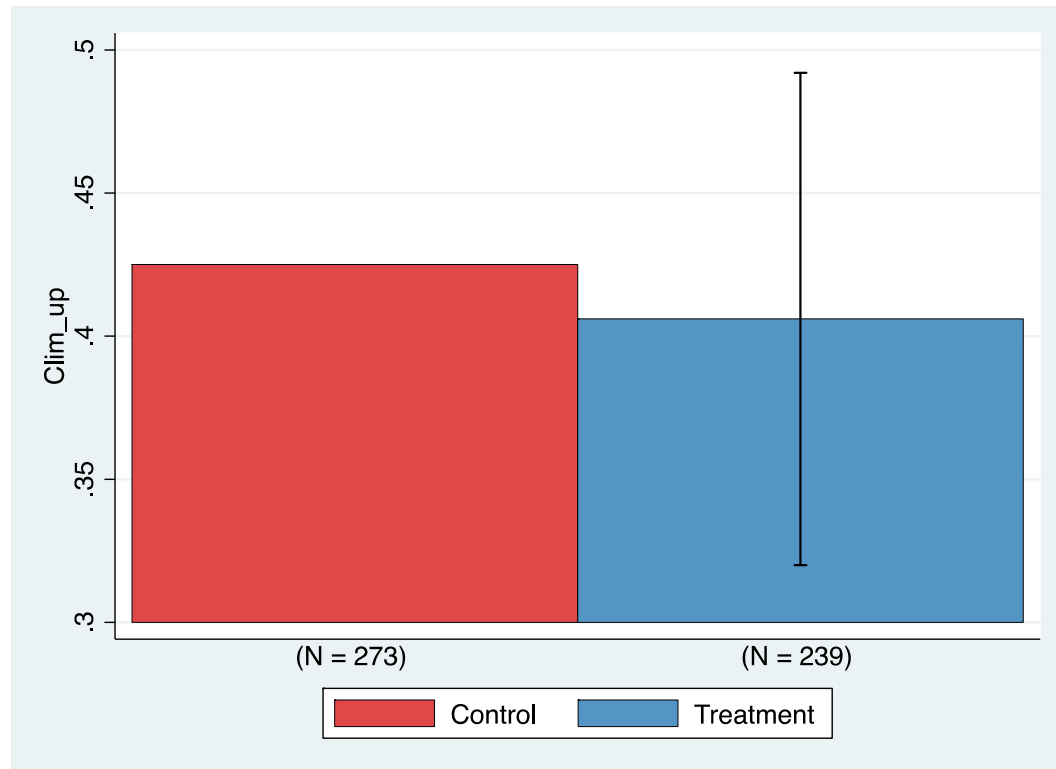


Poor

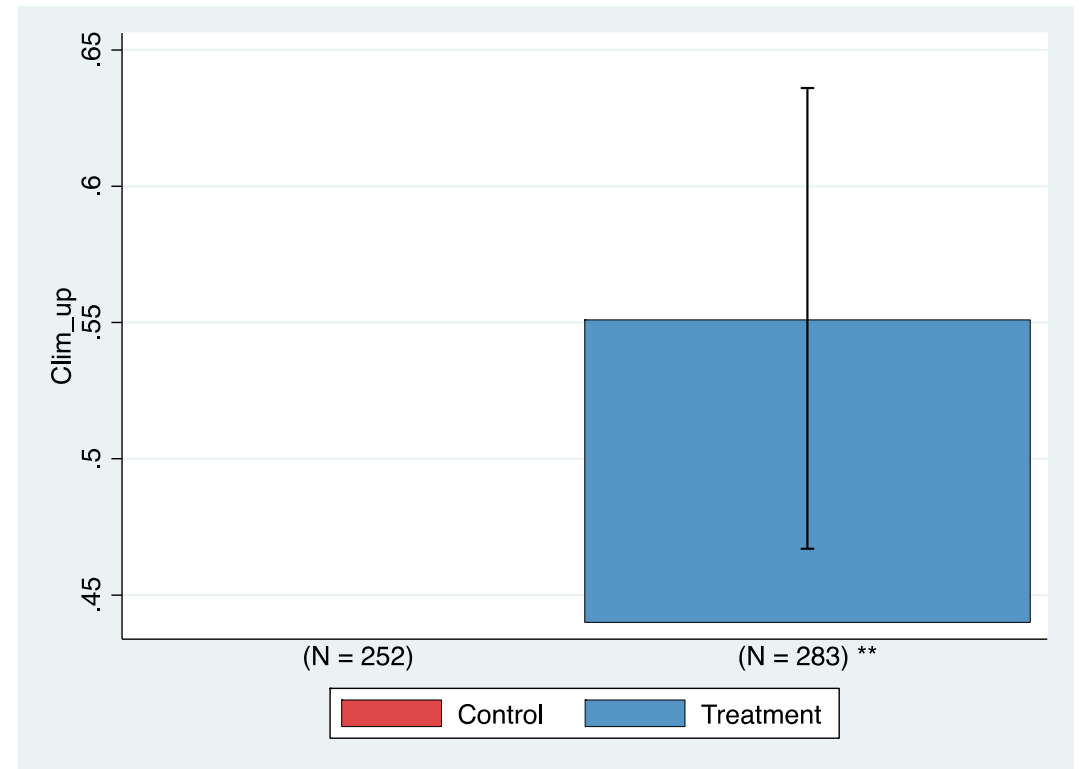


Difference by gender

Male

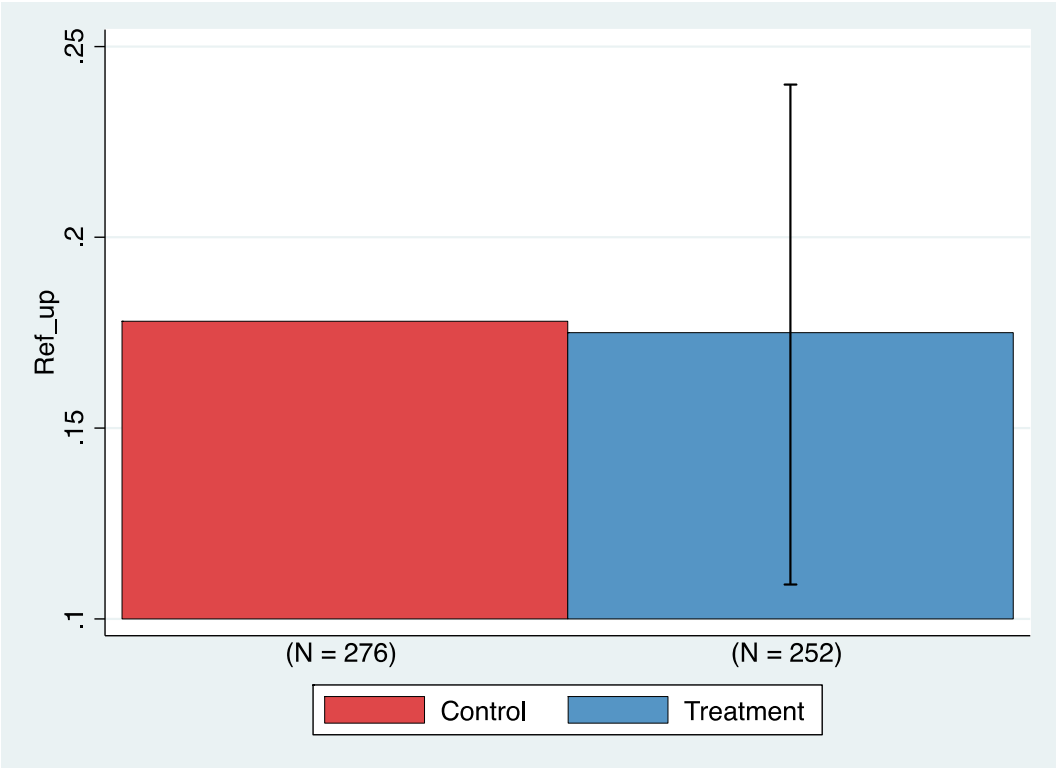


Female

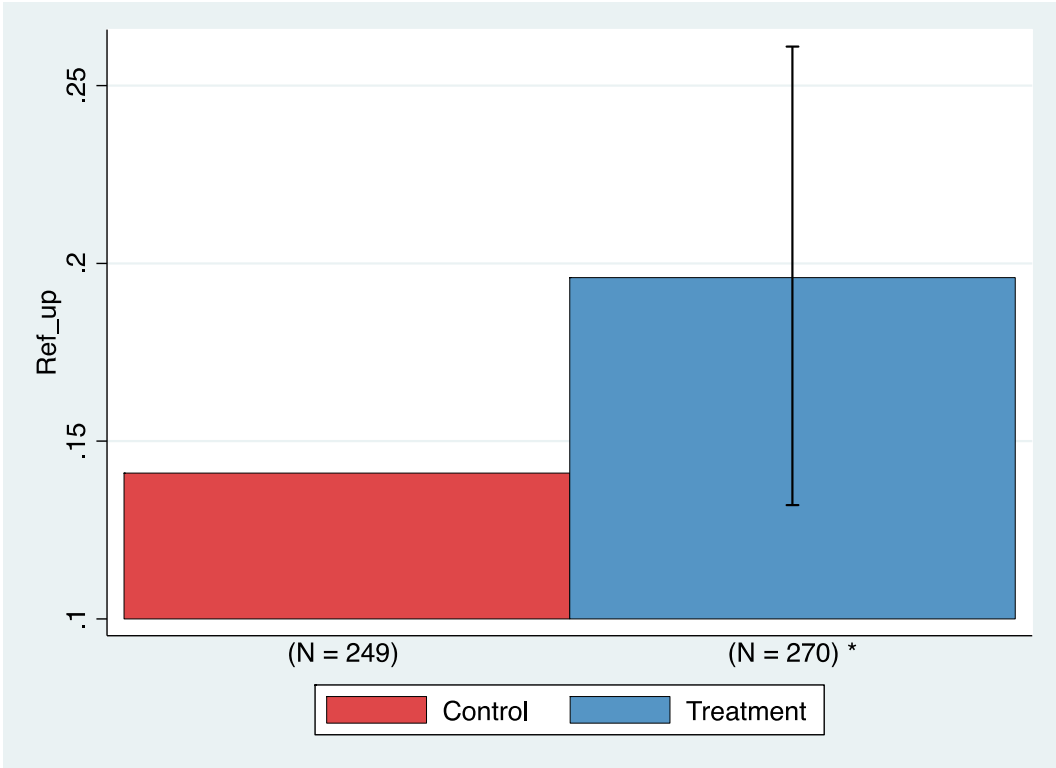


Difference by age (2)

Over45

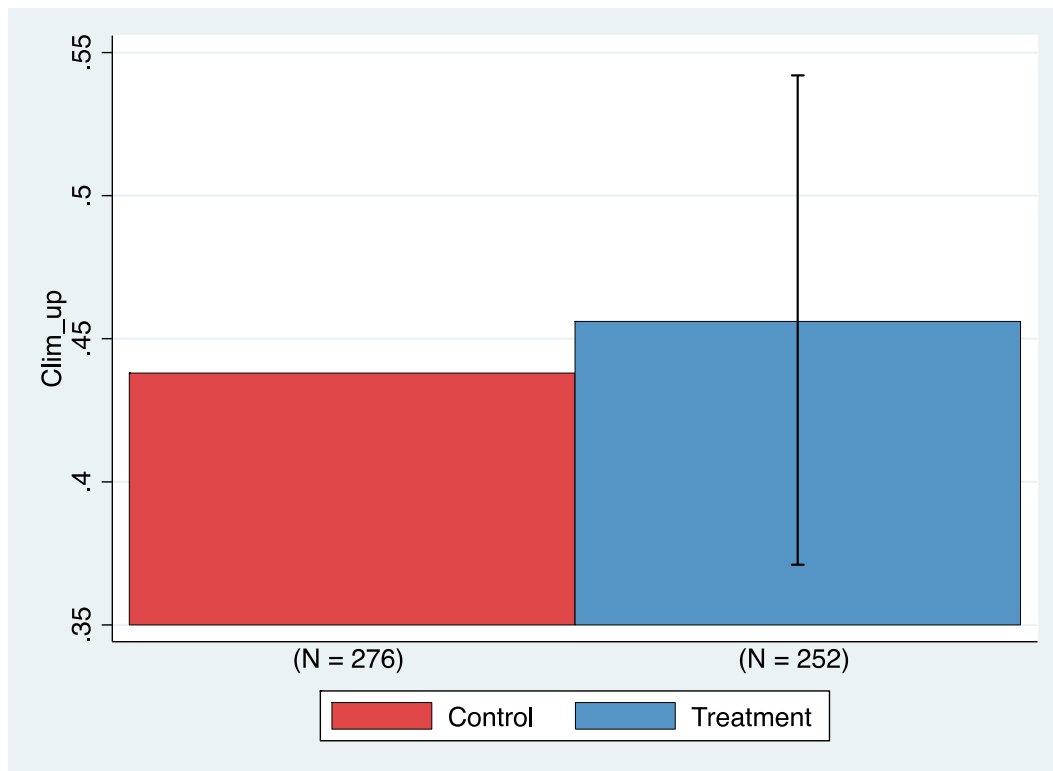


Under45



Difference by age (3)

Over45



Under45

