



Pension information and retirement planning in France: An evaluation of public policy

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Summary

- A very policy relevant and interesting paper
- Assessing the effectiveness of pension information in France
 - Looking at whether asset accumulation behaviour has changed after having received pension information



The Pension Reform Act 2003-775

- 2007- 2010: progressive implementation- selected cohorts receive their pension information
- Two types of information
 - >55 years, every 5 years until reached 65: an estimate of future pension
 - 35-50 years, every 5 years: info on pension rights
- This research focuses on information for 55+



Progressive Implementation

Treatment

ALENDRIER 2007-2030

Année de naissance	Année d'envoi													
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1949	58 ans					63 ans								
1950		58 ans					63 ans							
1951		57 ans			60 ans					65 ans				
1952			57 ans			60 ans					65 ans			
1953			56 ans				60 ans					65 ans		
1954				56 ans	57 ans			60 ans					65 ans	
1955					55 ans	56 ans			60 ans					65 ans
1956						55 ans				60 ans				
1957	50 ans						55 ans					60 ans		
1958		50 ans						55 ans	56 ans				60 ans	
1959			50 ans						55 ans					60 ans
1960				50 ans						55 ans				60 ans
1961					50 ans						55 ans			
1962						50 ans						55 ans		
1963		45 ans					50 ans						55 ans	
1964			45 ans					50 ans						55 ans
1965				45 ans					50 ans					

Year with discontinuity

Control

Source: <http://www.info-retraite.fr>



Research design: Comments (1)

- Use sharp RD design and quantile regressions to estimate average treatment effect
- Discontinuity in 2011 for cohort from 1955
 - Why not for the cohort from 1956?



Research design: Comments (2)

- For cohorts 1954, 1955 (received information in 2010 and 2011):

Do you expect them to adjust their saving behaviour/holding of financial assets this quickly after having received pension information?

- Per capita household gross financial assets are from 2010 in wave 4



Data

- Using SHARE data (wave 4, 2011)
 - Per capita HH Gross financial assets in 2010
 - Per capita household savings for long-term investments
 - Control for years of education, partner's years of education, marital status, income

Do you also take into account the position within the household (household head)?

SHARE has some questions on numeracy => can possibly capture financial literacy better than education



Results

- Pension information has a significant positive impact on wealth accumulation of households for the highest quartile of the wealth distribution
- Stronger effect on long-term savings than on financial assets
- Households in the lowest percentiles are not able to increase their savings

Why does the pension information not reach the poor and less educated?



More general comments

- Some more background information on the French pension system would be nice
- Think about policy implications
 - E.g. Need for differentiation based on specific characteristics