

The Bureau of Economics at the FTC

Michael R. Baye

Director of the Bureau of Economics, FTC

&

Kelley School of Business, Indiana University

These are my views and do not necessarily represent those of the Federal Trade Commission or any of the Individual Commissioners.

Overview

- Missions of the FTC & Recent Examples
 - Competition (Antitrust)
 - Consumer Protection
 - Public Policy/Advocacy/R&D
- Role of Research in the Bureau of Economics
- Opportunities for Academics





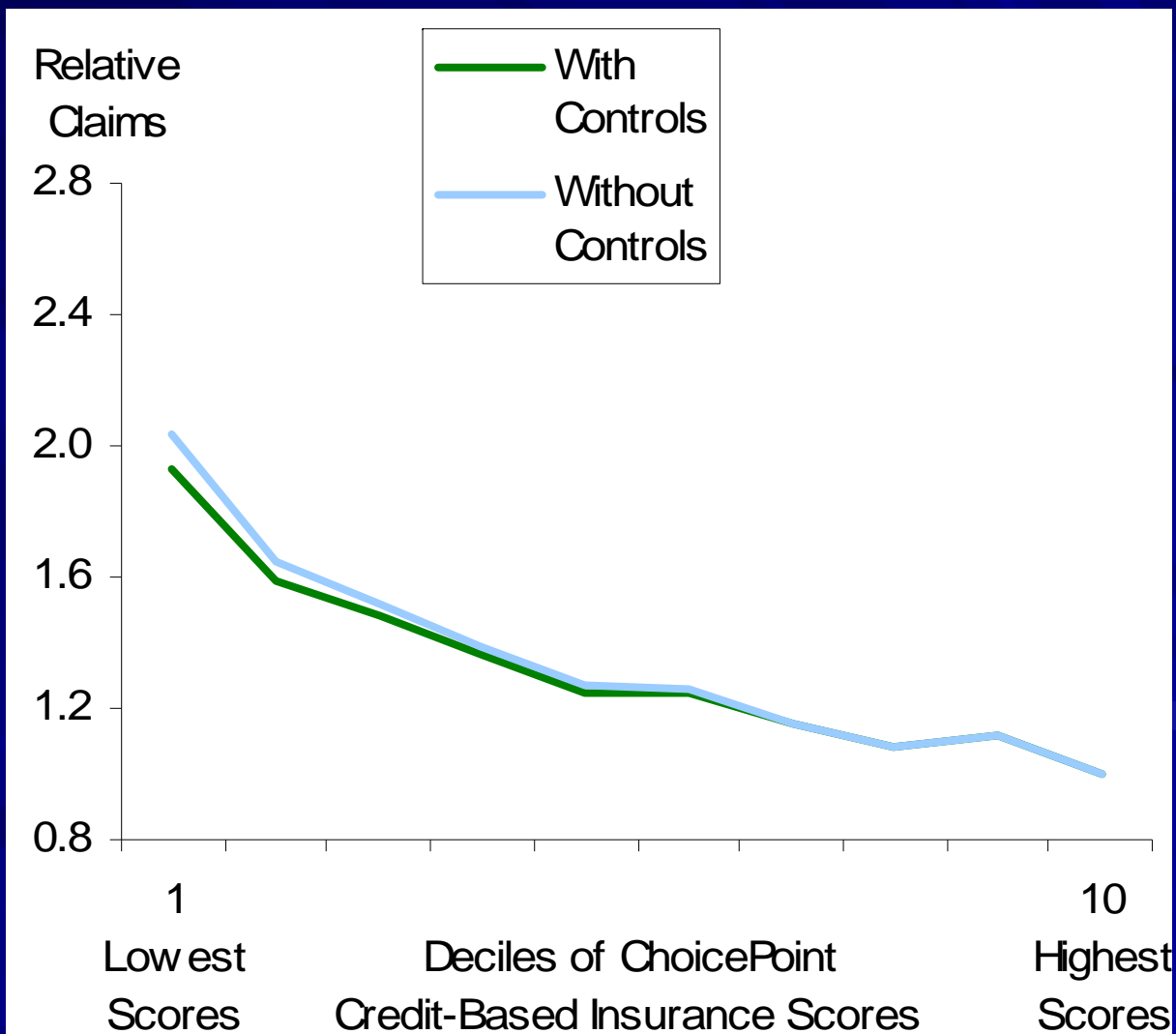
Consumer Protection

- Authority under FTC Act to protect consumers against fraud, deception and other “unfair business practices”
 - Truth-in-advertising laws (e.g., claims for food, over-the-counter drugs, dietary supplements, alcohol, and tobacco)
 - Marketing practices (Internet, telecommunications, and direct-mail fraud; deceptive spam; fraudulent business, violations of the Do Not Call provisions of the Telemarketing Sales Rule)



Estimated Average Amount Paid Out on Collision Claims, Relative to Highest Credit Score Decile.

Controls: Race, Ethnicity and Income











Concluding Remarks

- Job opportunities
 - Ph.D.'s and undergraduates
- Visiting opportunities, sabbaticals
 - Largest concentration of microeconomists on the planet, huge stock of theoretical, empirical, and industry knowledge
 - Excellent place to learn things about the real world and to get research ideas
- Lecturing opportunities
 - Guido Imbens & Jeffrey Wooldridge
- First Annual FTC Microeconomics Conference
 - November 6 and 7, 2008
 - Scientific Committee: Susan Athey, Pat Bajari, John List, Carl Shapiro, and Scott Stern
- Research that is useful for the policy questions we face